

Our purpose is to transform the lives of vulnerable children in rural Zimbabwe. Part of our vision is to ensure that no child is without a birth certificate and that no child is turned away from school. We support & protect the children through child safeguarding, the scholarship fund, bereavement counselling & good nutrition.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Sethule Orphans' Trust
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Thabbeth Cotton

Sethule 
Orphans' Trust

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1 FOREWORD FROM THE DIRECTOR: THABBETH COTTON

This year has been marked by spill over lockdowns from the previous year as a result of the alarming and devastating spread of the Covid-19 pandemic across Zimbabwe and Southern Africa at large, as well as ongoing food and water insecurity, high living costs, and economic recovery anxiety.

The annual inflation rate had fallen to 50% by August, but the cost of living had continued to rise, threatening impoverished people in both urban and rural regions in 2021. The cost of food and the overall cost of living grew by 3.1 and 3.7 percent, respectively, in August. Prices in Zimbabwean dollars for staple commodities and most products and services have continued to rise, owing mostly to higher parallel market exchange rates.

Despite last season's normal rainfall, water supply and access in semi-arid sections of Zimbabwe's southern, western, and far northern regions have remained critical, hurting home and livelihood usage. Grazing land and livestock conditions, particularly for cattle, continue to worsen. All of these characteristics are the result of prior droughts, particularly poor grass regrowth.

The Covid 19 shutdown also contributed to an increase in cases of child and women's abuse, as well as the exposure of arranged child marriages. In August, Zimbabwe made news with the heart breaking story of a 13-year-old girl who died while giving birth. The case exposed the absolute need for Child Safeguarding and the vitality to expose & prosecute cases of child abuse.

On a brighter note, your extraordinary support for Sethule Orphans' Trust has enabled us to make significant contributions that resulted with positive life changing and developmental aid to remote rural communities. Founded 17 years ago, Sethule Orphans' Trust has worked with

remote rural villages sharing in community development. Since 2005 we have assisted in child protection and education; we have been involved in various project implementation procedures and joined forces with different partners to fight for better quality of life of rural people.

Our successful birth certificate campaign has helped many families obtain birth certificates for children. You stood with us during a COVID 19 lockdown and thus enabled us to help more than 150 families with 450 food packs.

In 2022, our focus will be to improve children's rights through different educational programmes of education and campaigning against all types of child abuse. We will continue to work with different communities to combat hunger, provide excellent education for children, and provide access to clean water.

2 ORPHAN CARE

Children in Zimbabwe, like the rest of the globe, are among the most vulnerable population in our communities. Throughout the year, Sethule assisted in food aid to communities, especially the marginalized families with children. We were pro-active in child safeguarding and worked with community leaders in child protection awareness campaigns.

2.1 GROCERY BASKETS

Despite getting normal rainfall, food shortages continue to be a threat to people, especially those in villages. Poverty and the country's economic condition also makes it impossible for most rural residents to buy basic food supplies.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, throughout 2021, we worked together with other NGOs helping the needy with hampers. Sethule assisted 150 families with 450 food hampers that contained basic but essential food such as maize-meal, beans and dried fish.



Mother & daughter happily pose for a photo after receiving their grocery hamper.



Children walking home after collecting monthly food packages.

2.2 CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Child abuse (like in all places in the world), is a thorny issue in protection rural villages. Amongst many adults, there is lack of understanding and sensitivity to issues impacting children. Throughout the year, Sethule continued to raise awareness about child safeguarding. This included holding workshops with teachers of four different schools. These workshops examined public service laws such as the code of conduct, the child protection policy, child legislation, and the repercussions of child law violations. Our seminars were well received and that we were able to provide room for important comprehensive dialogues.

All our staff members have had an intensive child safeguarding training and they receive refresher safeguarding courses.

As part of our campaign against child abuse, we have created many relevant Pamphlets and Posters in both Ndebele and English. These are distributed in schools, within villagers and to the children.



A Sethule teacher talking with teenagers about child safeguarding.

*Ukuvikela
ukuhlukunyezwa
kwabantwana
ngumlandu wethu sonke*

Abantwana bahlukunyeza ngendlela ezehlukeneyo. Uyazazi na?

UKUHLUKUNYEZWA KOMZIMBA
Yikulinyazwa komtwana okungasi ngozi, lokhu kubalisela ukutshaya, ukukhahlela, ukutshisa, ukuncweba loba ukuluma umtwana.

UKUHLUKULUZWA EMOYENI
Izenzo, amazwi lo kwenza empilweni yomtwana kulakho ukuba lempumela enhle loba enganhle. Impumela enganhle ilakho ukumphambanisa umtwana ekucabangeni.

UKUNGANAKEKELI
Ukwehluleka komzali loba ogcina umtwana ukunakekela umtwana, kugoqela, okhuphathelene lokudla, okokugqoka, indawo yokuhlala lokuhanjiswa esibhedlela nxa egula. Lokhu kungacina kuhlukumeza impilakhle lokucabanga komtwana.

UKUHLUKULUZWA NGENKULUMO
Kulapho umtwana ehlukunyezwa ngenkulumo loba ngamazwi. Umtwana uyabe ebizwa ngamagama angamnandi, esethuselwa kumbe ethethiswa njalonje.

UKUHLUKULUZWA NGENKULUMO
kugoqela ukubamba umtwana iganyavu, ukubambabamba izitho zangasese kanye lokutshengisa imifanekiso yabantu abanqunu, Ukutshintsha izigqokophambili komtwana.

A child is any person under the age of 18

See it. Stop it. Report it!!!

CHILD LINE: 116 | SETHULE TRUST: 60048
VICTIM FRIENDLY UNIT: 8004224453

Sethule
Orphans' Trust

This poster talks about the different kinds of child abuse and how to report.

3 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Sethule Scholarships have helped many underprivileged pupils and students who are academically sound. The fund allows poor students and orphans opportunities to attend good schools and enjoy better learning conditions.

Our scholarship fund ensures that many rural village children receive a decent education. Some students are sent to schools where they not only have essential learning materials but are also are not disrupted by multiple domestic chaos.

In 2021, the Scholarship fund had 51 students receiving full scholarship: 14 Primary school, 32 Secondary school, 5 College/University. 17 of the 51 recipients are in boarding schools.



Sethule aims at uplifting underprivileged rural children by providing them with equal opportunity to access school good education.

3.1 MESSAGE FROM CAROLINE

I've been a recipient of the Sethule Scholarship since the age of five years. My parents died then, and my grandmother raised me. EMARIKA, (the first Sethule preschool), opened its doors to children in 2006 and I was one of the pioneer pupils.

I've been on scholarship for the past 15 years. My amazing journey with Sethule began, when I was enrolled in the Early Childhood Development programme and afterwards, Sethule placed me in different schools where I received an excellent education. Sethule not only covered my school & basic expenses, but they offered me emotional support too.

I am now 20 years old. In April 2022, I am going to university to study law and Sethule has pledged to pay my tuition. I am very grateful for the affection I have received during my whole life's journey.

Thank you so much for your kindness and affection. May you continue to make a difference in people's lives. One day, when I am done with school, I too wish to make a difference in the lives of children.



3.2 OUR ACHIEVERS

Most of our academic achievers are in boarding schools where they will have access excellent tutors and learning tools. The boarding school environment guarantees daily school attendance. The students can concentrate better because they do not need to travel great distances to and from school. There also are not laden with the ever present home chores such as herding cattle, fetching water and firewood.

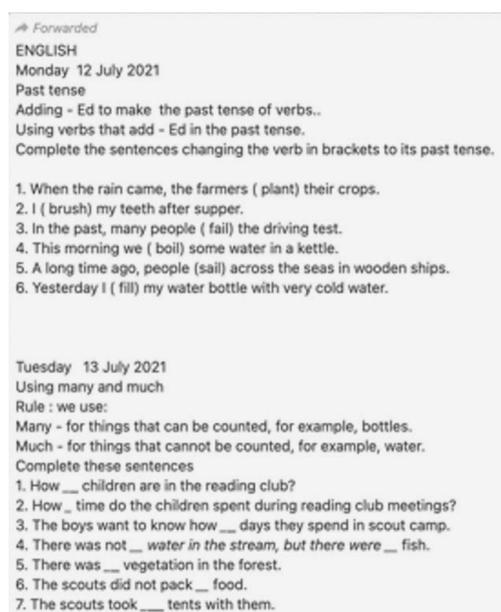
In 2021, we had 17 students in different boarding schools. There are 15 on the waiting list and we hope that in the next two years, these would be accommodated too.



3.3 ONLINE LESSONS

For pupils in rural Zimbabwe, 2021 was a very difficult year. With the closure of schools, online lessons became the norm. Sethule tutors faced challenges such as: poor network, expensive data tariffs, and lack of computer equipment. The WhatsApp method proved to be the best and most popular method for our online lessons.

Sethule loaned smart phones to families of our students, and these were charged using solar energy. Despite occasional network failure, our students were able to learn almost as if it were at a normal regular school day.



Screenshot of a lesson conducted on WhatsApp during the lockdown.

These brothers share one smart phone for their WhatsApp lessons.

3.4 EMARIKA PRE-SCHOOL

Established in 2006, the Emarika pre-school has an enrolment of 34 children. The Preschool is registered with the Ministry of Education and certified to teach the two-year Early Childhood Development Syllabus.



4 SETHULE SKILLS CENTRE

The aim of the Skills Centre is to provide our students with essential day to day skills that would boost their confidence, give them positive self-esteem and enable to better integrate in affluent society.

More than 80% of rural Zimbabwe is without electric power. Many of our students therefore do not know how to use domestic appliances such as stoves, irons, microwaves, fridges and televisions. They also cannot navigate the city's busy streets and have never been to a restaurant or used an ATM bank machine. At the Skills Centre, students acquire all the simple but essential skills/knowledge.

Following lockdown and the closure of schools, the Sethule Skills Centre opened its doors to students accommodating 13 students at a time. Apart from academic lessons, students were also taught; cooking, gardening, knitting and sewing, and woodworking. Our extensive grounds allowed the students to enjoy sporting activities such as volley- ball, netball, athletics and tennis. Positive mentoring and counselling were offered too.



Students pause for a quick photo after baking.

Thoko was taught to sew. Here, she displays the skirts that she made.



5 THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE PROJECT

For a variety of causes, there are many children in Zimbabwe without birth certificates. Despite the obstacles of the Covid 19, Sethule was able to restart the Birth certificate project in three villages with a total population of around 5000 people. Through help from Sethule Trust, 298 vulnerable children were able to get birth certificates. Sethule also made an impact by raising awareness of the need of birth certificate. This was done by: door-to-door visits, mobilizing the villagers, speaking at schools, and working closely with village leaders.

Parents and guardians were made to appreciate that a birth certificate is both a right and a requirement for every child. As a result, many parents took the initiative and got birth certificates for their children.

The process of obtaining birth certificates was however not easy for everyone: 3 out of 5 families needed assistance.

The common 3 main obstacles were:

- Ignorance of the correct documents needed
- Absence of the correct documents
- Lack of finance to travel to the registration office



This woman has been unable to get birth certificates for her children. Here she is showing the Sethule officer the important family documents which were burnt by a fire that destroyed all her property.

Our Birth Certificate team travel to remote villages to meet with parents/guardians. Most of the obstacles faced by parents are true and genuine. Damage of important documents by fire or rain is very common. Part of our campaign includes looking at where best to keep all important documents.

6 THE SETHULE GARDEN



Our gardener used the lockdown period to revamp the Sethule garden. The result was a very green nutritious garden and a bumper harvest. When schools opened, we had enough crops to feed all our 34 Pre-scholars.

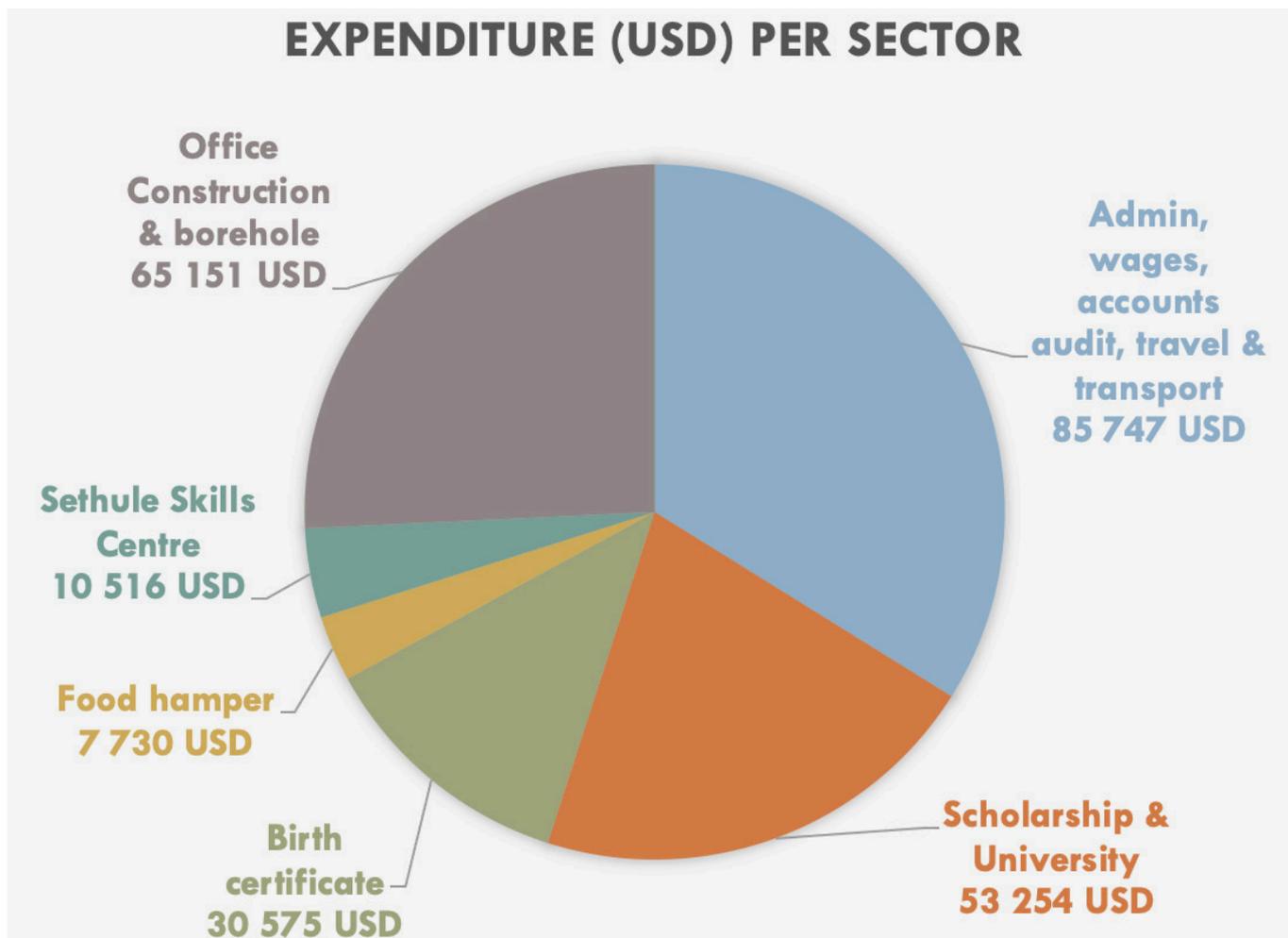


7 OUR 2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Introduction of child safeguarding programme schools
- Introduction of mental health programme to schools
- Introduction of online lessons for scholarship students
- Sethule skills Centre became fully functional
- Scholarship support increased from 11 to 17 boarding students
- University students support increased from 2 to 5
- 150 families received 450 food hampers
- 298 birth certificates obtained for orphans & vulnerable children
- Construction of the new Sethule head office
- Extension & renovation of the Skills Centre
- Installation of the solar power at the Sethule head office & Skills Centre
- Receiving acknowledgment for services from the Umguza District Council.

8 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The pie chart shows amounts expended in 2021. The new Sethule headquarters was our biggest expense, but the Birth Certificate programme has grown enormously. Note the salaries & transport are included in Administration costs; if inserted into programme costs (as they will be in 2022), the proportion drops significantly to c. 10% of the total expenditure only.



1. Sethule skills centre	10 516 USD
2. Admin, wages, audit & transport	85 747 USD
3. Head of office construction & borehole	65 151 USD
4. Scholarship and University Program	53 254 USD
5. Food hampers	7 730 USD
6. Birth certificate	30 575 USD
Total	252 973 USD

9 OUR PARTNERS

- All Saints Church, Vevey, CH
- Calsto Care, Bulawayo, ZW
- ChildLine, ZW
- Däster-Schild Stiftung, Bern CH
- Department of Social Development, ZW
- EE Brian Smith, Dorton, UK
- Emarika Foundation, Geneva, CH
- Emotional Logic, Tavistock, UK
- E'Pap Foundation, ZW
- First Church, Wenham, USA
- Friends of Sethule Worldwide
- Greendale Foundation, Geneva, CH
- Kirchgemeinde Münsingen, CH
- Kirchgemeinde Muri-Gümligen, CH
- Leysin American School, CH
- Living Well Church, Rotorua, NZ
- Lowes Wong Junior School, Southwell, UK
- McCabe Charity, London, UK
- Mudgeway Community, Plymouth, UK
- Nango, ZW
- National Foods, ZW
- Pfarrei Dreikönigen, Zürich, CH
- Riverside Church, Southwell, UK
- Rotary Club, Aigle, CH
- Rotary Club Chablais, Bex, CH
- Save the Children, ZW
- Schellenberg Stiftung, Frauenfeld, CH
- Swiss Friends of Sethule Orphans' Trust
- TMR Welfare-Stiftung, Arbaz, CH
- Westlake Church, St-Sulpice, CH
- Whitelands Ladies, Roehampton, UK
- Zimbabwe Aids Network, ZW
- National Association of
Non-Governmental Organizations, ZW
- Zimbabwe Aids Network, ZW

And other Swiss foundations that do not wish to be named.

10 ADMINISTRATION

Zimbabwe Trustees

- Chairperson: Dr Noma Ndiweni, PhD
- Treasurer: Mr Thulani Ndlovu, BAccSci
- Community Advisor: Rev Clopas Ncube, BA
- Education Advisor: Mrs Gladys Njaya, M Ed
- Legal Advisor: Mr Bheki Nhiliziyo, LLB, LLM
- Director: Mrs Thabbeth Cotton, BA

Sethule Staff Members



This photo shows 10 of the 18 staff members.

*Top: Terence Donga, Thobeka Sola, Nomcebo Mlotshwa, Skhu Tshuma, Perpetua Sibanda & Kenneth Ndlovu.
Bottom: Ntombiyothabo Ndlovu, Nonhlanhla Green, Thelma Hove & Caroline Tembo.*

Report written by Thabbeth Cotton