



ISSUE 12 • APRIL 2022

SIHAMBAM SONKE

Term One Newsletter

The fast and furious 2022!

REMEMBERING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN AGAIN

Now that Covid has calmed down, the pace of life took off with an incredible speed. And goodness has it been fast! Most people I speak to confirm that this year feels like we are moving faster than ever, trying to catch up with what we lost out on the last two years. Consequently, the start of the year feels a little like a 3-in-1 year, squeezing the most out of every second.

Still, we are human. Humans with only 24 hours a day, where sleep, exercise, family, friends and rest all fight for their spot in between the whirlwind of work commitments, life, and catching up. But what a gift... The gift of limitations! The gift that forces us to stop...

As we stop, we get the rare opportunity to look back and celebrate how far we have already come this year. Take this moment right now, to close your eyes and enjoy what it feels like to be human again. Take a few DEEP breaths and stop to ponder your own year so far. Enjoy this moment!

Before the next adrenaline rush of your day, we invite you to celebrate a few of our moments and strong starts to the year with us. I trust that you will be encouraged to know that you are not alone when life feels a little fast and that every now and then you can allow yourself to be human, stop and enjoy!

Ruan Cilliers (Founder of Sihamba Sonke)

Newsletter Guide

Chess Programme | P02-03

Agriculture | P04

Work 4 a Living | P04

Computer Programme | P05

DGMT Fellowship | P05

Sakha Ikamva | P06

Internship Programme | P06

Global Challenge | P07

Project Impact | P07

Get Involved

SIHAMBAMBA SONKE

Our first ever organisational video



**CLICK
HERE**

To watch our new video giving an oversight of who we are.

Sakha Ikamva PROGRAMME

We have selected our new Sakha Ikamva participants for our Skills Year programme in 2022, with a few exciting changes! A big need voiced by our alumni is the need for exposure. This led to partnering with Heartwood Homestead near East London, which runs a permaculture programme paired with small business development. All three of our Sakha Ikamva participants are going to spend 3 months at Heartwood Homestead for training, after which they will return to Zithulele for 3 months to continue with our programme here and apply what they have learned. After spending another 3 months in Zithulele, they will return to Heartwood, for the final part of the programme, where they will teach and showcase their new skills at the local schools.



Chess PROGRAMME

In-School Chess Programme Gets Going for 2022

With the start of the new year, we launched our chess programme with a fresh cohort of grade 7 students at 3 local schools for the year. Together with the 2 groups of Skills Year participants from our community, our chess programme already serves a total of nearly 120 new learners. We are preparing to start our chess programme at one more school in the community, which will extend our impact even further.

Community Chess Club

Our weekly community chess club is one of the cornerstones of our programme, and with a strong group of long-term members and a number of passionate new learners joining the chess club, our attendance is between 40-60 members per week and growing. A great challenge is to learn to manage larger groups without compromising on our impact. It is a privilege to see how our community is using our chess club as a platform to integrate and build relationships and how hungry the young ones are for mentor engagements.



End of Term Chess Tournament

To keep motivation levels high and encourage some healthy competition, we are hosting a chess tournament at the end of every term. We have just finished hosting our first tournament for the year, allowing the best in our community to play it out for some cash prizes. We saw history being made in our Juniors category, with a girl winning first place overall. As for the seniors, our chess programme manager, Bhekisisa, managed to showcase his talent and take the overall win!

Chess Park Upgrade

In order to create a more friendly and welcoming space for our youth to come together and play chess, we decided to upgrade our chess park, putting up walls, a brick floor, and a roof. This entire project was done by members and alumni of Sihamba Sonke along with the help of volunteers from Global Challenge. Soon, we will be doing further upgrades to the chess park, such as painting and putting shutters around the sides. If you would like to contribute financially, or otherwise, towards the rest of this project, please find the details at the end of this newsletter.



Agriculture PROGRAMME



After seeing the success of our community garden, members from a neighbouring community approached our team with the aim to learn how to apply our farming skills in their community. As a result, our Agriculture team started with their first training in April for these local farmers. The last celebration is that our team started to harvest their first maize produce, where they will soon be harvesting spinach and peanuts as well, selling the produce in our community.

Internship PROGRAMME

In 2021 we started with our brand new internship programme. This year we appointed 4 new interns to join our team.

- Alungile - a Sakha Ikamva participant in 2021. He has a passion for agriculture and chess.
- Ziyanda - Our very first female intern! Ziyanda completed the Masiphakemeni programme in 2021, and she is very interested in agriculture and starting her own business. She assists with teaching computer classes.
- Luvuyo - another Sakha Ikamva participant in 2021. Apart from successfully running his own small business, he is involved in the Agriculture and IT programme and also assists our chess team with their school sessions.
- Khangelani - a 2016 Sakha Ikamva (then Jump Start programme) alumni. After completing his BSc in Agricultural Economics and graduating in 2020, he completed his Post-Graduate Certificate in Education in 2021. He is responsible for supporting the IT Programme with computer classes and is also passionate about chess, assisting wherever he has the opportunity.



Global Challenge VOLUNTEERS



In March we once again had the privilege of welcoming a team of Global Challenge volunteers who served our community for 3 weeks as part of their year-long expedition. They assisted us with a number of projects, including building, painting, and much more. It is always inspiring to work with a group of passionate and motivated young people such as the Global Challenge team. The 3 weeks they spent here made a huge impact on our team and enabled us to make a deeper impact going forward. A massive shout-out to each one of them, and a big thanks for serving our community in the way you did!

Work 4 A LIVING 2022



In March, our team member Siya attended the Work 4 A Living facilitator training course in George as he will be responsible for running the Zithulele center. We hosted our first Work 4 a Living course for the year, and Siya will be hosting the second group of training within the next month.

DGMT FELLOWSHIP



Sinethemba, Pieter, and Ruan recently travelled to Cape Town for the final session and graduation of the DGMT Fellowship for Organisational Innovation. This was a year-long fellowship and we have gained invaluable wisdom from the decades of experience from DGMT investing in our two young leaders. All the fellows from the fellowship along with their organisational leaders gathered in Cape Town to celebrate the year and reflect on the process of innovation in their specific organisation.

Computer PROGRAMME

Sihamba Sonke's IT programme is currently running more than six Computer Training classes a week. We are reaching various community members at our computer lab, with participants ranging from school learners, teachers, Skills Year participants and neighbouring community members. We are excited about a new computer literacy programme that we are piloting, called Skill-wise. This innovative programme will help community members study at their own pace, and use the lab more effectively, with rural limitations.



Project IMPACT

In September 2021, Sihamba Sonke started with a 7-month training course called Project Impact run by Dialogues in Action. The training sessions are done alongside one of our donors, The Mergon Foundation. We are using our Chess programme as part of the training to evaluate and measure the impact that we are making in our community, and it has been a major learning experience for our entire team. Each of our programmes will go through the same process in the next few months, to ensure that our operations are guided by our impact evaluation to align with our vision and make the necessary adjustments as needed.

TERM ONE GALLERY



Want to DONATE?

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE BUT NOT SURE WHAT FOR? SEE BELOW A FEW OF OUR BIGGEST FUNDING NEEDS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR 2022

- Funding Opportunities to Expand & Sustain our Impact:
 - Chess tournament (Lastest in Makhanda - 30 April)
 - Renovating our local chess park
 - Development costs for our chess workbook to enable us to expand our impact in other communities
 - Building of volunteer accommodation to host volunteers
 - Internship/Skills year stipends (Help to give more local youth the opportunity to gain employability skills)
 - Our skills year programme is not fully funded yet. Please support us to help cover the outstanding budget
 - Agriculture Programme (Help with fencing of local gardens in the community, to help with food security)
- An excellent funding opportunity that will cost you nothing is the MySchool MyVillage initiative. **Just swipe your MySchool card or link your Woolies Card to Sihamba Sonke and THEY will contribute to our project.** Just go online on your MySchool or Woolies profile to activate up to three beneficiaries. If you want to apply for a MySchool Card, all you have to do is to follow this link, bit.ly/myschoolform, and e-mail the completed signed copy to finances@sihambasonke.org
- It's in the little amounts too! We particularly want to thank our partners that consistently gave us a small donation each month. Your R200 a month seems little, but ten people cover a salary of a local mentor. These are the funds that helped us over the line and are never unaccounted for!



Acc name: Sihamba Sonke
Bank: First National Bank
Account Type: Cheque
SWIFT Code: FIRZAJJ

Account No: 62759245676
Branch Name: Umtata Mall
Branch Code: 210643
Reference: Donation – Name

Banking
DETAILS