



God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbour does.

Martin Luther



HOSTED BY DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOL | 64 BOOM STREET, BELGRAVIA

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We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our funders who have made our work possible this year.

Your generosity and commitment to the Three2Six project and our families have enabled us to achieve remarkable milestones and bring about significant positive change in our community.







HARRIS MATTHEWS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION















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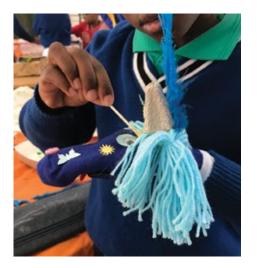
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We would like to thank
Debbie Yazbek, David
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Africa for the wonderful
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of our activities and
that are featured in this
report. Your support is
greatly appreciated.

16-YEAR OPERATION NUMBERS













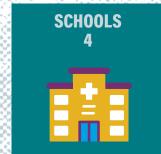














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PREFACE

HEAR OUR STORY...

Given the same opportunities, resources and a conducive learning environment, any child can develop the potential that is within. The changes that Three2Six children experienced in 2023, moving from the three campuses to Dominican Convent School, meeting new friends, new teachers and having longer learning day was so huge but provided more opportunities to explore what they can achieve. The children have shown courage, resilience and determination to face all these challenges.

Efforts have been made to have a conducive learning environment for the children but it has also been challenging. The increasing cost of living worldwide has also affected the cost of providing education especially to these children. The increased demand for resources to humanitarian aid, to victims of war, natural disasters worldwide has also affected what we receive as donations towards such a noble project.

However, the stories of transformed lives that we get from the children who have passed through the project warm the heart and give energy to still continue with this project even in such difficult times.

I invite you dear readers to take your time to participate in this project, through donations, visits to our campus and hear our story!

Br. John Bwanali

Chairperson, Marist Schools Council

TOWARDS A RESTRICTION OF REFUGEE RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA?



South Africa's immigration proposals are based on false claims and poor logic – experts

Published: November 23, 2023

Written by Loren B Landau and Rebecca Walker, University of the Witwatersrand



The South African government recently issued a long-awaited policy statement – called a White Paper – outlining proposed changes to the country's asylum and immigration system. More than 20 years after its first post-apartheid immigration legislation in 1998, immigration remains a pressing concern. Getting this policy right could help with South Africa's economic recovery, increase regional prosperity, and heighten security for citizens and migrants alike.

A general election is due in 2024 and the issue is at the heart of political debate.

Immigrant rights advocates and anti-immigrant activists will welcome the far-reaching efforts to reform frameworks that currently work for none but a few rent-seeking bureaucrats. Most will embrace proposed initiatives to better train officials and reduce corruption but will agree on little else.

Human rights advocates will decry proposals to relocate the processing of asylum applications to the border and to narrow immigrants' channels to permanent residency and citizenship. The stated imperative to "develop a well-coordinated strategy of tracking down illegal foreigners" will raise their hackles. Anti-immigrant activists and leaders will say the proposals do not go far enough.

Collectively we have studied immigration policy and practice in South Africa and elsewhere for almost 40 years. Based on this experience, we find that the White Paper does not provide an empirical foundation for effective, developmental policy reform.

Instead, it offers vague proposals to address problems that are less about immigration than bureaucratic and political mismanagement. It provides a smokescreen to hide government faults. Perhaps it's intended to distract voters in the 2024 elections from the increasing inequalities and socio-economic challenges in South Africa.

False claims and lapses of logic

What is most unsettling about the paper is how the government invents its own social reality, and then offers vague and poorly considered proposals to solve nonexistent problems.

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Case in point: the document states that 150,997 people in South Africa have been granted citizenship by naturalisation (presumably since the 2002 Immigration Act). This number is used to justify radically narrowing pathways to citizenship. Yet, this figure represents less than 0.2% of the country's population of 62 million.

The suggestion that citizenship is easily accessed – especially through the asylum process – is bizarre. This could only happen if asylum cases were effectively processed. They are not.

Since the Refugees Act was passed in 1998, only about 300,000 people have been granted refugee status. Many of these have since left South Africa or needed to reapply (so they may have been counted more than once). Of these 300,000, only a small percentage have become permanent residents, let alone citizens.

The White Paper reaches its tragi-comic apex by including a substantial list of legal cases that civil society has won against the Department of Home Affairs for not enforcing its own laws. The cases are supposedly so numerous that

there are several instances wherein the DHA has been slapped with court orders of which it has not been aware of the proceedings.

Rather than bring itself into line, the department wants the law altered to prevent these court challenges. And it argues that without legal reform, scapegoating and violence against immigrants will continue.

The White Paper reasons that excluding immigrants from South Africa will protect them by making Home Affairs more legally compliant, and South Africans more tolerant and welcoming.

The paper's most remarkable self-delusion is in its estimates of between 5 million and 13 million immigrants. These estimates have been debunked. The most reliable source of information on population data, Stats SA Census 2022, indicates that the percentage of immigrants in the country has declined in the last decade. The numbers may not be perfect, but the total number of foreign-born residents (including exiles, spouses, investors, and others) is close to 2.4 million – somewhere around 4% of the total population of 62 million. The previous census (2010) put the figure at 4.4% of a total population of 52 million.

The White Paper suggests that strict laws are needed "to protect the rights" of South African citizens against "the harsh realities" that there are simply not enough resources for everyone. Yet the question is: what exactly do South Africans need to be protected from?

Misplaced blame

Immigration can be a challenge. But this does not explain why South Africans spend days without light, water, jobs, or hope of addressing economic inequality. Immigrants are not the reason why the health service is failing or infrastracture is crumbling. And immigrants are not responsible for most of the country's crime.

Missing too from the White Paper is a grounded discussion of how mobility and immigration schemes can meet skills gaps, promote investment, and create jobs across the region. Whether in the US or South Africa, most careful research suggests immigration has positive economic effects.

Nowhere is there reference to the careful analysis of connections between immigration and development, or research involving the Department of Labour, the International Labour Organisation, unions, and scholars.

Instead, the White Paper offers an almost Soviet style programme where experts will designate entry requirements based on predictions of needed skills. The unpredictability of the regional economy, the high economic and human costs of state-managed labour systems, and the diplomatic benefits of a more regionally integrated labour market suggest another model is needed.

It is another illusion that a government that cannot identify and respond to citizens' basic needs – water, electricity, education, or healthcare – can somehow predict and carefully manage a regional migrant labour system. It is equally fantastical to think that it should.

Imagined problems, impractical solutions

The White Paper does not outline an approach to improve immigration policy. Its proposals are vague and the problems it seeks to solve are not about immigration.

This appears to be part of a trend: the poorly researched and largely unsubstantiated 2017 South African Law Reform Commission's Report on Adult Prostitution similarly overlooked robust evidence-based research in favour of "data" from religious NGOs in the US and personal blogs.

Both examples point to a government lacking capacity to empirically analyse the world and develop solutions to real problems. If not that, they suggest a government wilfully deceiving its citizenry: making immigrants the scapegoat for its own failings. Given the content of the White Paper, it is likely both.



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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A NEW JOURNEY

2023 was a watershed year for the project as we transitioned from an after-hours school (hence our wonderful name) to a full-time educational intervention. The children were able to adapt in record time and have made Dominican Convent School (DCS) their home.

Full-time education has enabled us to work much closer and with more precision, addressing areas of individual educational enhancement. In addition, the project has been able to mobilise some remarkable medical screening and support. Being a full-time project, as part of a larger school community, has enabled us to integrate some exciting and meaningful sport and recreation activities into the daily curriculum.

Our children now have a school that is theirs.

We continue the important work of awareness and advocacy as we strengthen our links with other likeminded local, regional, and international bodies. We continue to engage with the South African Government around the needs and rights of refugee children and families.

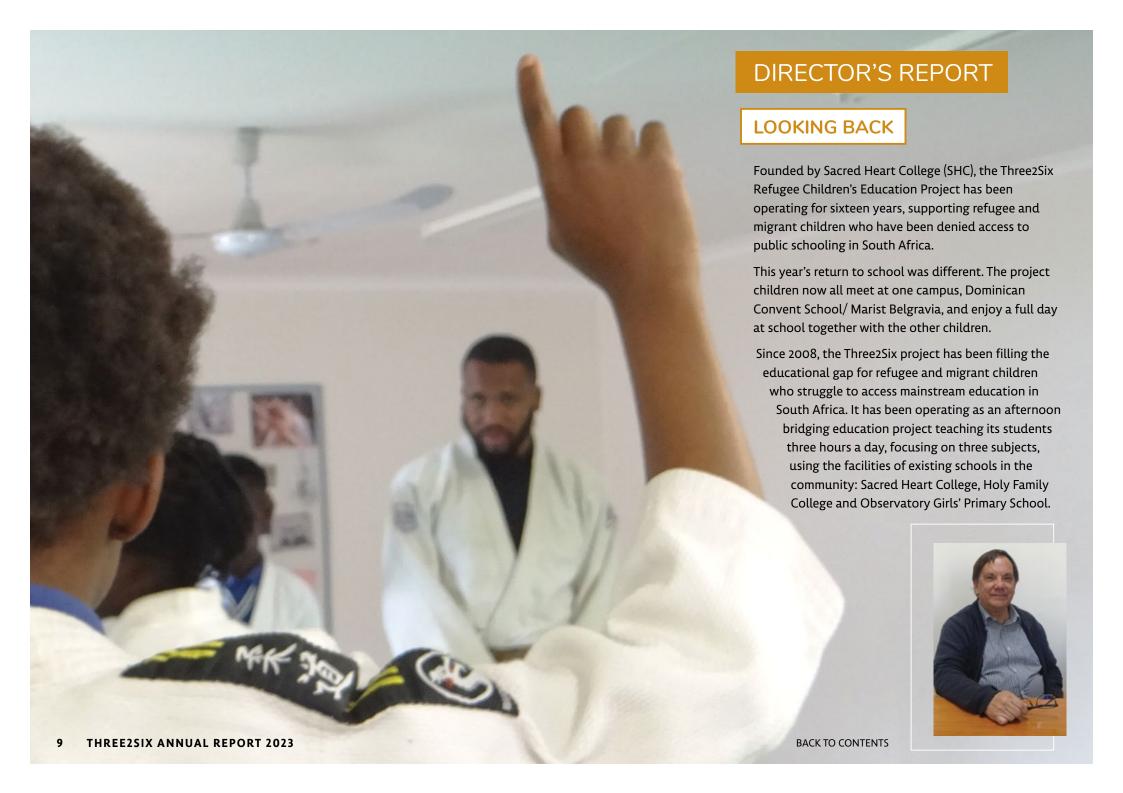
Through the unwavering support of the Marist Schools' Council and our wonderful funders, DCS is beginning its new journey as an inner-city Johannesburg school where refugee and undocumented children can thrive side by side with their South African classmates and friends.

I remain humbled by the incredible work of the staff, teachers, volunteers, and supporters who are so focused on delivering full time and focused education, unquestioning care and love, and the space and creativity of the DCS campus to our treasured children.

Roddy Payne

Chairperson





LOOKING FORWARD

Although this model has successfully prepared thousands of children for transition into public schooling over the years, the Three2Six project has embarked on an exciting new chapter to further support its students and their educational outcomes. The project children now benefit from a full day at school and a comprehensive curriculum. The limited teaching time in the previous setup could eventually hinder the children's transition into mainstream schooling and their integration and success at school.

In addition to a full curriculum, the Three2Six children also benefit from a comprehensive extra-mural programme which includes netball, soccer, basketball, and judo with our partner Judo for Peace.

Another exciting development is the integration of the Three2Six children with the students at their new host school, Dominican Convent, with whom they learn in the classroom. This has fostered social cohesion between local and refugee children, which is critical in the context of rampant xenophobia in the country.

The Three2Six children have adapted extremely well to their new school environment at Dominican Convent School. They have made new friends and are very eager to come to school every day. Their parents are thrilled to know that their children are now receiving a full education, like any other child.

The other services offered to the Three2Six students haven't changed. They still receive meals every day, are safely transported to and from the project, and are given textbooks, stationery and uniforms. Where needed, the children will also benefit from psychosocial support from the project to ensure their emotional welfare and to support their learning. This will be done through our partner Johannesburg Parent & Child Counselling Centre (JPCCC).

To increase its students' prospects of integrating into mainstream schooling, Three2Six has added a year before the children exit the project, which allows for a smoother transition.

Transitioning to a full-day school has been challenging for some children and the project has had to provide additional support for some students. We have also had to address some of the backlogs caused by the Covid-19 years.



Parent baking course



Drs Fareea Mohammed

This year we ran an extensive **health screening project** in collaboration with a team from the Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) and the Department of Nursing at the University of the Witwatersrand. Over a week, the children were screened for any hearing, dental, vision, respiratory, and general medical issues. Referrals to relevant health specialists were made. This project was followed up with eye assessments, and dental treatments run by 14 dentist volunteers who facilitated the treatment of over 200 of our students. This was done through the incredible help of our community supporters who donated funds towards these screenings.

The project has continued to advocate for the right

to education of all children in many ways and where possible assists its parents and students with the other obstacles they may face when trying to join a high school.



Malibongwe Dlamini

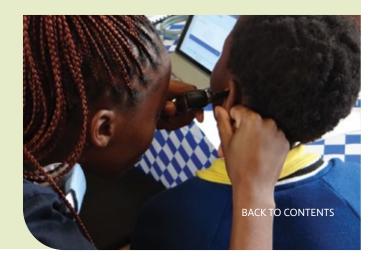
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The project continues to make a difference in children's lives as this extract from the new book **Dust in our Hair** shows:

"Patiance's life changed when she got into the Three2Six programme...

Being in my class makes me feel safe. My friend Alisha is a sister to me. She likes writing and we like reading together. I love learning, reading and writing. I feel less lonely here. I'm not that shy. The teachers are good, but sometimes they are strict. My favourite teacher is Mrs Moyo. I like the way she teaches, the way she explains. She is so caring. This is the only school I have ever been at. Before I went to school life was so boring."

Peter [her father] adds: "I don't know where to start explaining how important the school is to me. Right now, some children didn't get into this school and are at home. This school took our children when we did not know what to do and where to go. When you come here, everyone is seated. It teaches the children to be disciplined and smart.""



OUR TEAM



Justine Kimbala

Three2Six project coordinator



Charlotte Margerit Byrne

Three2Six advocacy, communications and stakeholder engagement officer



Kelsay Corrêa

Three2Six development officer



Precious Mareya

Teacher



Randry Bigirimana

Teacher



Mthulisi Tshuma

Three2Six monitoring and evaluation officer The positive and long-term impact that the project has on the many children it helps is due to the unwavering commitment and tireless dedication of our team members. They too have had to adapt to a lot this year which they did successfully. We extend our sincerest appreciation to them.

In 2023, a total of five of our former students were on scholarships to pursue their studies at two of our past host schools, Sacred Heart College and Holy Family College. Three were already recipients of scholarships, while the remaining two received scholarships for the first time. We are immensely thankful to the Breadsticks Foundation and to the Jell Foundation for their invaluable support, which has enabled these students to continue their education and unlock new opportunities.

Three2Six and its partners not only make a difference in the lives of its students but also positively impact their families. In addition to the donations received this year, which helped alleviate some of the hardships they face, a group of Three2Six parents benefitted from English lessons, courtesy of our loyal partner Turquoise Harmony Institute, to support their integration in South Africa. Furthermore, others participated in a fiveday baking course to acquire new skills for self-reliance.

SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT

The full-day project is considerably more expensive than the original Three2Six model and we have a much bigger fundraising target. We are extremely grateful to the partners who have continued to support the project, as well as to the Dominican Convent School community for their ongoing support in so many big and small ways.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE 2023 HEAD OF DCS

As the project evolved, so did its vision. It became evident that a mere supplementary education wouldn't be enough; full-time learning opportunities were required. Since 2023, the Three2Six Project has provided 225 learners with a comprehensive primary school education at Dominican Convent School in Belgravia. This transition marked a pivotal moment, offering these children a consistent and structured learning environment vital for their growth and integration into society.

The holistic approach of the Three2Six Project extended beyond academics. The students were enveloped in a nurturing environment where extracurricular activities thrived. Through a diverse extramural programme, the learners were enriched with experiences that transcended the confines of traditional education. These activities not only honed their talents but also instilled confidence and resilience, essential traits for navigating the challenges ahead.

Integration into any new setting can be daunting, but the students of Three2Six found solace in the warm embrace of their peers at Dominican Convent School. Existing learners welcomed them with open arms, facilitating their assimilation into the Christian-Catholic ethos of the school. Weekly Mass attendance became a cherished ritual, fostering a sense of community and spirituality among the diverse student body.

The transition to full-time schooling was almost seamless, thanks to the unwavering support provided by the project. From meals to stationery, textbooks to uniforms, every aspect of the students' educational journey was meticulously catered to, ensuring they could

focus wholeheartedly on their studies and personal development.

Central to the success of the Three2Six Project was the adaptability and dedication of its educators. Faced with diverse learning needs and social challenges, teachers embraced differentiated teaching methods, fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment. As the students acclimated to their new surroundings, barriers dissolved, and bonds of friendship and camaraderie flourished.

Dalene Rostovsky





For World Refugee Day in June, Three2Six released a new advocacy booklet called "**Dust in our Hair**". This booklet consists of testimonies from the project's current and past learners regarding their family's lives in their countries of origin, the significant hurdles they face in South Africa — especially concerning access to education — and the impact Three2Six had on their lives. It is accessible **here**.

Another resource developed with the help of Three2Six alumni is a sequel to the stop-gap animated videos called Precious 1 and 2, which depict the experiences of refugee children fleeing to South Africa and their lives after arriving in the country. The creative process was guided by André Croucamp and his team, who dedicated several weeks to crafting this new animation with our alumni. The new video tells the story of Precious and her family members a few years later, and the challenges they keep facing. Stay tuned next year to ensure you don't miss the release of this new video.

As mentioned earlier, some of the Three2Six advocacy activities and partnerships this year were aimed at our indirect beneficiaries. In May, a parent meeting was organised where various presentations were delivered, including one focused on child safeguarding. For this meeting, the project partnered with the Outreach Foundation whose team conducted individual assessments for all the parents who attended the event, reaching a total of 140 beneficiaries. After identifying the issues faced by these families, particularly related to documentation, the Foundation's team offered individualised assistance to address their challenges. In August, the Foundation visited the project again and successfully assisted the parents of the children exiting Three2Six at the end of the year to register into mainstream schools.

Our alumni also benefited from some of our activities. Three2Six entered into a partnership with the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives (REPSSI) on a project that aims to strengthen the capacity of duty bearers and improve access to quality mental health and psychosocial support services for forcibly displaced children and youth in Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa. Throughout the year, Three2Six fostered close collaboration with REPSSI, Outreach Foundation and Sophiatown Community Psychosocial Services, organising events that benefited the populations served by our organisations, including our mothers. During Youth Month, a dialogue was held with approximately 45 children and young adults, including Three2Six alumni. It was an empowering day where facilitators delivered presentations to demonstrate to the youth that they can effect change in their lives, despite facing challenges. Before the year concluded, another event gathered 40 migrant and local youths. In collaboration with Judo for Peace, the event provided a fun introduction to judo, and discussions on mental health-related issues prompted self-reflection among the youth, and offered them insights into basic coping mechanisms. An educator training was also organised, aimed at equipping participants with strategies for addressing the mental health and psychosocial needs of their migrant students. Three2Six host school teachers and others involved learnt how to provide stable and nurturing care to their migrant students, to prevent them from experiencing further stress.

One of the advocacy highlights of the year was undoubtedly the project's first ever photographic exhibition, conducted in collaboration with the French Consulate of Johannesburg, Alliance





Française of Johannesburg, and visiting French judoka Gevrise Emane, an Olympic medallist. A joint event was held in May with partners and members of the French community. The exhibition entitled "Leaving no child behind – the experiences of refugee children in Johannesburg" featured a collection of photographs depicting our students and their living environments, to tell the stories of numerous refugees in Johannesburg who endure dire conditions and are denied their basic human rights. Through these photographs, the support offered by Three2Six to some of the many refugee children in the city who are in need of an education was also portrayed. The catalogue of the exhibition, which was up for more

than two months, is available here.

The project was pleased to enhance the scope of its advocacy activities by engaging in initiatives that extended beyond South Africa's borders. Thanks to Sophia Cowx, an alumnus of our founding school, Sacred Heart College, and founder of The Poppy Collective, we were able to share our work in the United Kingdom. Our children had the fantastic opportunity to contribute to the "Sunflowers: growing the seeds of sunshine" exhibition at the Dorking Museum in June. The Three2Six learners created artworks with their host school friends which were exhibited at the museum. The purpose of the event was to highlight the plight of refugees across the world and to celebrate their





A global initiative involved a group of our children who shared their understanding of "inclusive social protection", and the difficulties children in their community face to experience a safe, healthy, happy and fair childhood. They also suggested what governments could put in place to make sure children can experience that. Their input was used by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Office in the writing of a report to the UN Human Rights Council. Here is the **final report** of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights.

contributions, and their resilience.

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Another significant aspect of the advocacy work undertaken this year revolved around coalition-building efforts. The project's advocacy team actively participated in numerous meetings and events throughout the year which aimed at expanding advocacy networks to amplify messages from organisations working with migrants, and collaborating towards addressing issues facing migrants through joint advocacy work. These included meetings with the National Inter-Agency Working Group on unaccompanied and separated children and other vulnerable children (NIAWG), the Protection Working Group cochaired by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Psychosocial Rights Forum, and the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) that the project was thrilled to join as a member.





In November, the children took charge and engaged in activities aimed at raising awareness about their environmental rights were part of the annual celebration known as "Global Action Month", where youth from the Terre des Hommes International Youth Network get together to advocate for their rights. Activities at the project included discussions on littering and environmental protection, the creation of a collective artwork using bottle tops collected from home, as well as crafting models and toys using various recyclable materials. demonstrating practical ways

> peers. The students also learnt about the benefits of growing fruits and vegetables at home for self-reliance and to mitigate food



MEDIA COVERAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The articles written on Three2Six this year supported the work done by our team to sensitise the general public on the right to education of migrant and refugee children and the challenges they face in South Africa.

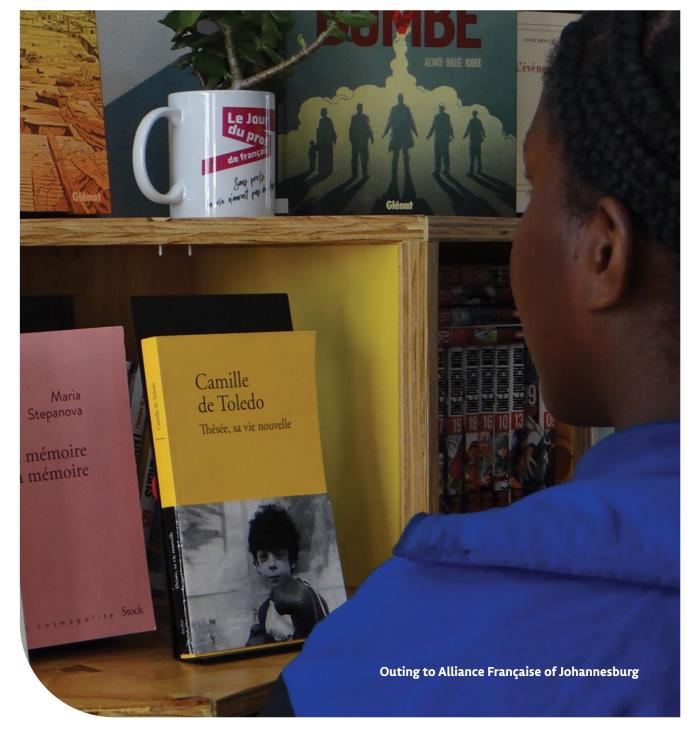
Marists of Champagnat published an **article** early in the year which looks at the educational support Three2Six has been providing to marginalised children since 2008, and at the positive changes that have taken place at the project this year.

Created by multi-award-winning photographer Thom Pierce, "The Actionists" profiles actors of change within their community in South Africa. Thom visited the project on several occasions to meet with various of our team members and beneficiaries. The article that arose from this encounter was published in South African newspaper Daily Maverick. You can read it here.

The word about Three2Six spread beyond the South African community thanks to Lepetitjournal Johannesburg, a newsletter aimed at French expatriates who live in Johannesburg. The journalist behind this initiative, Maeva Dewas, paid a visit to the project where she interviewed our team and some of our students to get a better grasp of our work. The article is available **here**.

Towards the end of the year, "America the Jesuit review" magazine released an **article** on the impact that Three2Six has been having on refugee children's lives since the project's inception in 2008. Current and past Three2Six learners were interviewed for this article by Fr Russell Pollitt.

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In addition to this media coverage, it's important to note how social media serves as an extension of our communication strategy. Platforms like Instagram allow us to engage directly with supporters, share updates in real-time, and build a vibrant community around our mission.

In 2023, the project was able to maintain its online presence and to keep expanding it, thanks to our supporters.

+ 29

+ 59

FACEBOOK

Total page likes increase: from 1260 in 2022 to 1289 at the end of 2023, an increase of 29 page likes.

Followers increase: from 1348 in 2022 to 1407 at the end of 2023, an increase of 59 followers.

Facebook greatest post reach: 3732, in May

INSTAGRAM

Instagram followers increase: 490 to 574, an increase of 84 followers.

Greatest post reach: 422, in May

+ 34

+84



LINKEDIN

LinkedIn followers increase: 261 to 295, an increase of 34 followers.

Top post: January – 134 impressions

+ 11



Followers increase: 172 to 183 an increase of 11 followers.

Tweet impressions over the year: 8537

Top tweet: 375 impressions, in February

YouTube

YouTube subscriber's increase: from 96 in 2022 to 105 in 2023, an increase of 9 subscribers.

Total number of views over the year: 1158

Videos posted: 9 new videos

+ 9

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

An evaluation of the funding cycle was carried out by Benita Pavlicevic – an independent evaluator – in 2023 for Misean Cara (a full report is available) and we publish a synopsis here:

The project has provided a holistic education programme for 2 597 children over those years, and during the period of this evaluation, from 2020 - 2022, the project provided approximately 225 children each year with bridging education provided by refugee teachers and supplemented by holiday programmes. During these holiday programmes children have produced poetry and art and participated in filmmaking and other creative activities which empowered them to tell their stories. The programme as a whole provided the children with a strong sense of confidence, identity and optimism, which is remarkable given their situation of abject poverty which impacts the ability of adults to parent adequately and to provide a stimulating environment.

Almost all of the children gained entry into local high schools, both government and private low-fee schools, and the project has an ongoing relationship with about 50 alumni who are in high school and post-school. According to the alumni, the high school environment is often very challenging, with poor teaching, violence and drug dealing being a feature of the big high schools serving poor children. A limitation of the project is that it cannot keep track of all the alumni, as refugees and migrants are a transient group, and so long-term outcomes are difficult to assess.

Despite the difficult realities they live in, the impact of the project on the children is profound, allowing them to develop resilience and hope for the future and to see the possibilities beyond the challenges.

The project objectives included providing an opportunity for refugee teachers to gain South African qualifications and it did this by hiring approximately 24 refugee teachers over the years and supporting their education. The impact on the teachers was more complicated – having a job and being part of teaching refugee children restored dignity and was very meaningful and satisfying for teachers.

Their ability to understand the children in turn made the children feel safe and supported in Three2Six, contributing to the sense of family that the project fostered.



However, an unintended consequence is that they brought into the project traditional, whole group teaching methods which were not suitable for teaching children learning in a second (or third) language, and to some extent this compromised the quality of education the children received. The project identified poor reading and comprehension skills as a concern, and from 2020 onwards worked with educational experts to assess the children's progress, identify problems, and provide workshops and guidance to improve teaching methods. This proved difficult to achieve, and the ongoing poor educational outcomes were a contributing factor to moving to a full-time school. With this move, most of the refugee teachers were retrenched, with only two teachers and a teaching intern being employed by DCS. The change to DCS was difficult because of not enough preparation for the DCS teachers who were faced with a cohort of migrant and refugee children who now make up 57% of the school, who had not experienced formal schooling before arriving at DCS. The DCS teachers found this particularly challenging but are being supported to adapt to the new reality. It is important that the Three2Six team continues to provide them with ongoing educational and psychosocial support to help them to meet the needs of the Three2Six children in their school.

During the COVID pandemic, the project tried to continue teaching using WhatsApp and delivering teaching materials, and with the help of donors and SHC, parents packed and delivered food parcels to families to ensure they could survive during repeated lockdowns.

The project also provided psychosocial support to families and children who needed it and have conducted health assessments and assisted children to access spectacles, hearing aids and medical care. A safeguarding policy is in place, and children in need of assistance are identified and assisted by staff and social workers. The project has built a strong network of service providers, including psychosocial and social work support services.

In addition to this project evaluation, in the second half of the year, a gender analysis was conducted by two volunteers from Brazil, both students of the European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR). Marina Aragão Santos and Mariana Lopes explored the issue of gender and the potential related disparities at the project, investigating whether they have an impact on education. This research project involved group discussions with our mothers as well as with a group of predominantly female students, and one-onone interviews. These interviews aimed to gain insight into topics such as gender roles at home, girls' safety outside of school, cultural expectations regarding boys and girls, and the level of girls' participation in the community and at home. The conclusions of this report will be used in the new year to improve the project's offering and enhance gender equality where needed.



VOLUNTEERS

This section features testimonials from the passionate volunteers we have had with us this year, providing insight into their diverse experiences and contributions. These narratives offer a glimpse into the invaluable role volunteers play in our mission, and into the impact they've had on the communities we serve.



Marina Aragao Santos, a Brazilian volunteer said: "My [volunteering] at Three2Six has profoundly shaped my professional and academic paths. I applied my research skills to explore gender dynamics in migration, directly engaging with

migrants and refugees. These experiences were enlightening and expanded my understanding. The supportive team inspired me with their dedication, fostering a collaborative atmosphere that enriched my experience. I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such an impactful organization and eager



to apply my newfound knowledge and skills in the future."

Mariana Lopes, a Brazilian volunteer said: "Doing an internship at Three2Six was one of the best parts of being in Johannesburg! The team was very supportive during the

whole time. I learned from the organisation, the children, and the parents daily, it was very meaningful to me, personally and professionally speaking. I am

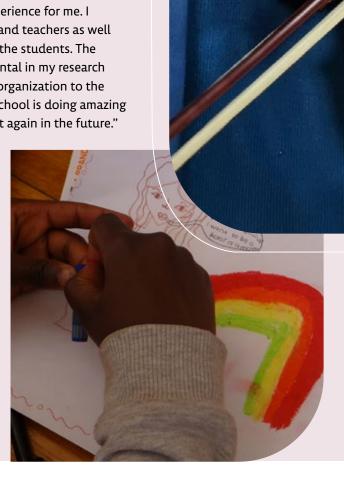


very happy to say that I was part of the Three2Six for a while. Thank you!

Lauren Payne, an American volunteer said: "I had an amazing experience with the Three2Six Program last summer!

It was a truly transformative experience for me. I was able to shadow classrooms and teachers as well as attend school functions with the students. The Three2Six Program was instrumental in my research project and it's an instrumental organization to the Johannesburg community. The school is doing amazing work and I hope to be a part of it again in the future."

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every volunteer who generously shared their knowledge, talents and time with our children this year. Their testimonials not only inspire us but also serve as a testament to the transformative power of collective action. Thank you for your invaluable contributions.



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Madelaine Wank, an
American volunteer said:
"In the Spring of 2023,
I developed a research
proposal for my school,
Fordham University, in
which I was interested
in understanding the
complicated ways English
language education is

carried out in the multilingual and multicultural city of Johannesburg. Luckily, my advisor for the project had extensive knowledge of the city and connected me with the Three2Six program which, as a school that serves primarily children who are, or whose parents are, refugees, asylum seekers, or other migrants, would serve as the perfect focus for my interests. Through collaboration with the programs administration, we developed a plan where I could gain a better understanding of language education at the Dominican Convent School— a host school for Three2Six— while volunteering to help students and teachers where they needed it. I planned to spend a month and a half working with the program.

I arrived in South Africa in early June. As suggested by the team there, I focused my research on the foundation phase classrooms: year one through three. In these classrooms, there is heavy emphasis on language education since many of the students are new to the school and may have had little experience with the English language. The teachers in these classrooms helped me find ways that I could help: I taught vocabulary lessons, helped students with spelling, led reading groups, and helped with math.

I also spent a good amount observing daily lessons. Through this experience, I learned about the day to day concerns and considerations of the teachers.

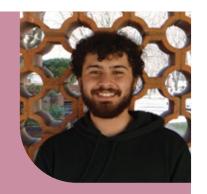
I also had the opportunity to help another volunteer from Fordham University with after school music lessons. Abdual was able to recover around thirty violins and two cellos that were stored at the school. The Three2Six students showed enthusiastic interest in the instruments. Abdual taught lessons during lunch breaks and after school. I grew up playing the cello and was happy to help with teaching lessons. When I had time, I helped with tuning and teaching. By the end of our stay, we put together a small orchestra and held a performance for the school. This experience was wonderful and gave me insight into the personalities and experiences of the students in Three2Six. It also opened up my understanding of the program as it introduced me to faculty members working in other areas of the school.

During the time that I volunteered, the Three2Six program was in a transition from their previous host school, Sacred Heart College, to the Dominican Convent School. The program was not only working

through a locational move, it had also recently integrated their students into an already established student body and lengthened their school day from three hours to an entire day. Although I volunteered during a time of great change, both the students and faculty were exceedingly welcoming and joyfully helped guide me to a better understanding of the program and city."

Abdual Yousef, an

American volunteer said:
"Recalling my summer
at the Dominican school
and working with the
Three2Six program fills
me with a unique and
sentimental nostalgia.
The great memories,
experiences, and people



the Dominican school fosters give real weight to Mrs. Marx's affirmation that the school is magical. In the month and a half that I spent with the Three2Six program, I've learned much about the dedication the teachers, volunteers, and organizers have in providing efficient education to students with incredible potential, manners, and skills.

My work as a violin teacher was an unforgettable experience. Regardless of the children's lack of familiarity with the violin, the limited resources, and my inexperience with teaching at such a volume, the students and I, with great assistance from Lucky

(Ntlhane Ratlhagane, the DCS music teacher), were able to achieve incredible things together. I

weeks I will never forget."

am proud of the music we were all able

to create together and hope that
one day, I may be able to return
to see a bustling music program
that the children may enjoy.
I can never fully express my
gratitude towards the organizers
of the Three2Six program, the
students, and the teachers for
giving me those six meaningful

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ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

Our past students continue to amaze us and to make us proud. Their successes in life are particularly laudable as they continue to face major challenges after leaving the project, but somehow succeed in navigating them in a country that generally remains hostile towards non-South Africans. A proud example of this is our alumni Exaucé who accepted to be a part of our new publication "Dust in our hair". Here is an excerpt from his story. Exaucé

"Finally, in March 2014, the family arrived in Johannesburg. When Exaucé left the Congo he had had a brochure called "A Portfolio of Places" with luxurious places to stay in South Africa. He has kept it to remind him of how his illusions of South Africa were shattered. Initially the family shared a room with a friend of their father. [...]

is now a 20-year old student at the

University of Johannesburg:

Exaucé's mother was given asylum seeker status, but he and his siblings did not get any papers. This meant that they could not enrol at a public school. Luckily, Nene managed to get her children into the Three2Six programme. Exaucé was put into Grade 5 and his classmates from the Congo helped him to integrate.

Three2Six has showed Exaucé the good things about South Africa. Outside the school he experienced xenophobia and racism but the school taught him to stay positive about life. It also offered him a peaceful space in a turbulent life [...]

With the help of his school and human rights lawyers, Exaucé and his siblings finally got their papers in 2017. After he finished at Three2Six he went to Yeoville Boys and Barnato Park, and in Grade 11 and 12 he received a scholarship to attend the National School for the Arts.

During COVID Exaucé managed to get a volunteering position to fumigate the courts and other spaces at the Department of Home Affairs. Last year he worked

in shopping malls, saving enough money to pay for his studies.

Even though most of his friends have left the country and there is still civil war, Exaucé dreams of returning to the Congo and building a business with his uncle." Read the full story here.

To help our past students in their difficult transition into mainstream schooling, the Marist network has been organising monthly reunions for many

years. This is a platform where the children can

reconnect with their friends from Three2Six and receive the support they need to succeed at school, paving their way to success.

In 2023, Angel Zondo and Nyasha Bowora were the main facilitators of this monthly reunion. We are extremely grateful to them for their love and determination to help our alumni succeed at school and to offer them a space where they can safely explore their potential and talents.



JOHN, 17 years old

"Alumni [days] last year were great, helpful with schoolwork that we needed help with, we had fun with each other, we met new volunteers from across the world, played games and were taken on trips to places we haven't been before. It's like home for us who have been part of the Three2Six family. Somewhere where we all reunite and share new experiences of the schools we have all been placed and learn new things from each other."

MOSES JAMES – 16 years old

"My experience during the alumni day was good and kinda great to me, for me it helped me learn how to care for others. What I have experienced last year was that we have found new ways of learning and understanding each other and getting to know each as a person, and the thing I liked about alumni day is that we become one as a family, for me it just helped me and changed [how] I understand things. To me I may say it helped us all and showed us what was missing in our heart."

From Angel: "The concept and structure of alumni day were dual, both academic and practical. A natural balance of playfulness and formality was established by the pupils. During the exam season, the pupils gravitated towards the academic structures set up by the facilitators such as revision papers, tutorial sessions and recommended study methods. The pupils showed an interest to extracurricular activities such as drama, poetry, quizzes, yoga, swimming, and creative writing which were offered by the facilitators throughout the year.

The facilitators made intentional efforts to erase the formal gap that exists between themselves and

the alumni and establish relationships with the pupils. Relationships that have transformed to camaraderies, sisterhoods and brotherhoods and most importantly initiated by the pupils. The facilitators managed to create a safe and open ambience which enabled the pupils to share their personal stories with them. Doing so was essential in understanding the needs of each of the pupils and structure each alumni day session to individually cater for each pupil.

Our biggest highlight this past year was getting the opportunity to travel to the North West Province. The alumni were invited to the Haphororo Retreat centre situated in Hartbeespoort near the dam.

The trip was an opportunity for the alumni to explore one of South Africa's most densely vegetated provinces. The retreat centre offered a meditative experience to the pupils which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The experience was coupled with breath-taking views, delectable food and an opportunity to interact with other young pupils from various parts of South Africa."



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GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Sacred Heart College Board met in terms of the constitution. The Board is responsible for policy and overall governance, with the day-to-day management delegated to the Head of College and her Leadership Team.

Members of the Finance Committee are appointed for the specific knowledge and skills they bring to the Committee. They are responsible for monitoring:

- financial spending according to the budget;
- implementing strategies and policies as approved by the Board;
- adequacy of resources and staff;
- o compliance with relevant legislation; and
- any special investigations undertaken by the organisation.

There are members of the Sacred Heart College Board on the Board of the Dominican Convent School, and during this transition, this Board was kept up-to-date on developments in the project.

The Board endorses the principles in the Code of Corporate Practices and Conduct recommended by the King Commission. The Board abides by the principles of openness, integrity, and accountability.

Systems of financial and internal control are in place to provide reasonable assurance that the assets are protected, and that liabilities and working capital are efficiently managed. The project is externally audited twice a year.

The Three2Six Board Subcommittee met once to contribute and provide guidance to the project.

CODE OF ETHICS

Three2Six Project employees and volunteers are required to observe the highest ethical standards to ensure that work practices are conducted in a manner that is beyond reproach.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

In the Three2Six Project, we have a duty of care to ensure that all pupils are kept safe from harm. We are committed to providing a secure and supportive environment in which children can develop and grow into mature and responsible people. Safeguarding children is an essential part of our holistic approach to ensure that children are protected from abuse and neglect and that every child reaches their full potential.

ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY

The project falls under the Dominican Convent School Health and Safety Policy. The Three2Six Project considers that reasonable precautions are taken to ensure a safe working environment and conducts its business with due regard for the environment.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE BOARD MEMBERS

Ashraf Dada (Chair) Lachlan Harris (resigned May 2023 due to relocation)

Zandile Mafata

Roddy Payne

Enver Groenewald

Faeza Adams (resigned July 2023 due to relocation)

Zeyn Angamia

Christine Smith

Nhlamulo Mvelase

Mark Potterton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Fortune Francis

Mark Bussin

Heather Blanckensee (Head of College)

Volente Naidoo

Pam Paton-Mills Shariffa Chetty Dhiraj Bharuth



DOMINICAN CONVENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Zeyn Angamia (Chair)

Phindile Nouse

Mark Bussin

Heather Blanckensee

Mike Thiel

Brother John Bwanali

Sister Katy van Wyk

Simon Morule

Rosa Calaça

Diana Messerschmidt

Roddy Payne

Patrick Munyembate

Mark Potterton

Volente Naidoo

Dalene Rostovsky

Jeffrey Malatji

THREE2SIX SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Roddy Payne (Chair)

Mark Potterton

Heather Blanckensee

Franc Sobreira

Lizzie Tjeane

Kelsav Corrêa

Volente Naidoo

Randry Bigirimana

Charlotte Margerit Byrne

Confidence Dikgole

Br John Bwanali

Nicole Fritz

Sr Maria Rissini

Zeyn Angamia



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

In 2023, Three2Six welcomed new donors to the project, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. We are grateful to these new donors for having the courage to support Three2Six and its vision. We are grateful to our loyal donors who continue to support the project year in and year out ensuring that some of our ongoing project costs are covered.

The expansion of the project in 2023 meant an increase in budget which placed great pressure on the team to source additional funding. This was no mean feat in the current economic climate as new demands were placed on European funding with the beginning of war in Ukraine and then the upsurge in the Israel/Gaza conflict later in the year. Many funding institutions diverted funding towards these causes to address the urgent military and humanitarian crises that they created.

Climate change is an increasing priority for international donors as they try to contribute towards efforts to save the planet. Many donors now require already restricted funds to be further channelled into efforts that will benefit the environment. Three2Six is in a strong position to make this happen as the children receive regular education on the effects of climate change and the benefits of looking after our God-given home. These and other energy conscious activities and strategies improve the chances of Three2Six accessing funding from organisations with similar concerns about the environment and looking after our common home.

Education continues to be a cause that is well supported in South Africa, but sadly many South African corporates are not able to support beneficiaries who are not South African. The strategy for Three2Six to support children from different parts of Africa who are not able to access public education does sadly exclude us from accessing some corporate funding. However, we have some loyal corporate partners, including the JSE and the HCI Foundation who passionately support the work that Three2Six undertakes in the refugee and migrant community.

Donors who have supported the project previously were approached during 2023. They have since reallocated their budgets and many share that their budgets have been reduced due to the effects of Covid 19, the unstable situation in Europe and funds being channelled to projects mitigating the impact of climate change.

Despite these challenges, the fundraising team continues to source funds from large and small donors alike. All contributions add up to the amount required to support the children on the margins who desperately need the education, care and support offered by Three2Six.

☐ The Breadsticks Foundation

☐ A private client trust administered by Investec
Wealth and Investment International

Kennedy Hanly Foundation

□ JSE

30

□ Misean Cara

Terre des Hommes

☐ The HCI Foundation

☐ Jell Foundation

□ SACBC

□ Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart

Harris Mathews Charitable Foundation Inc.

Thank you to Diana Messerschmidt, a member of the Dominican Convent School Board and of the Marist Schools' Council, for her great support with fundraising and for introducing us to new supporters for in-kind donations.

Kelsay Corrêa

Three2Six Development Officer

501(C)3 UPDATE

This year again, our USA organisation, Sacred Heart Marist Observatory, raised funds for the project. We are thankful to the supporters who have renewed their donations.

Harris Mathews Charitable Foundation \$ 25,000

Kennedy Hanly Charitable Foundation \$ 10,000

John and Carolyn Stremlau \$1500

The three Fordham University students who volunteered at the project mid-year received a \$12,000 grant to fund their visit.

To assist our American based team, contact Art Minson at aminson322@gmail.com

Sacred Heart Marist Observatory is a registered 501(c)3, its EIN is 82-1870902.



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If refugee education is a cause that is close to your heart, get in touch with us today. We will explore ways for you to get involved in the project. Here are some examples:

☐ Volunteering;

Helping us fundraise;

Organising events and/or activities;

 Advocating with us to amplify the voices of refugee children and their daily challenges;

Offering operational support with the various aspects of the project (e.g. communications, monitoring and evaluation). Be a change maker with us and contribute to a child's life tomorrow! Our advocacy, communications and stakeholder engagement officer will be happy to talk to you about these options. Get in touch with her at advocacy@three2six.co.za

Otherwise, something that you can do now in the comfort of your home is follow our activities on social media, sign up for our newsletter (www.three2six.co.za) and tell your friends and family about us.

You can also make a financial contribution to us in various ways:

☐ Via Snapscan by scanning this QR code

☐ On the Three2Six website

For people based in **South Africa**, via EFT, using the banking details below:



Bank: First National Bank

Branch: Eastgate | Branch code: 257 705 Account

number: 62312243405

Swift code: FIRNZAJJ

For people based in the **United States**, using the banking details below:

Bank: J.P. Morgan Chase

Bank code: 021000021

Account name: Sacred Heart Marist Observatory

Account number: 298386118.

We look forward to hearing from you!



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

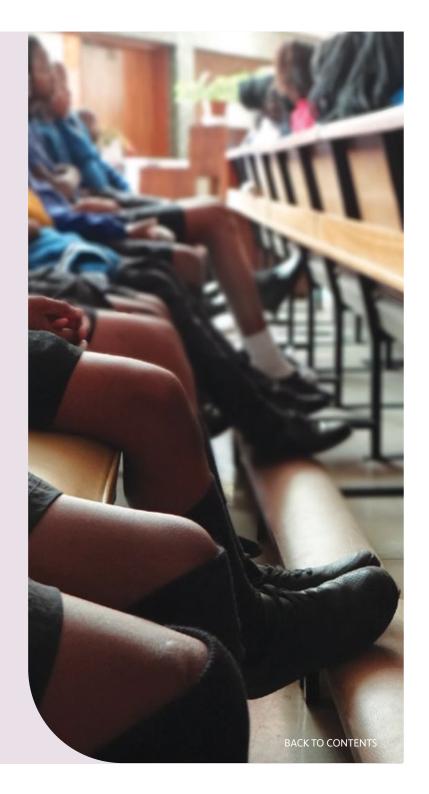
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

31 DECEMBER 2023	2023	2022
	R	R
INCOME		
A Private Client Trust administered by Investec Wealth and Investment International	800,00	1, 200,000
Caring Women's Forum	_	50,000
Diocese of Rottenburg – Stuttgart	708,429	_
Harris Matthews Charitable Foundation Inc.	464,580	402,340
HCI Foundation	200,000	200,000
Individual donations	63,339	1,351
Jell Foundation	500,00	_
Johannesburg Stock Exchange Limited	150,000	150,000
Kennedy Hanly Foundation Inc.	185,815	150,110
Marion and Markus Roth	63,200	_
Misean Cara	2,165,948	1,894,096
Raskob Foundation	_	416,973
Terre des Hommes	586,215	690,433
The Breadsticks Foundation	320,000	_
The Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives (REPSSI)	14,271	_
The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference	25,000	_
Zakaat funds received for the project	194,970	_
	6,441,767	5,155,303
Interest received	21,652	45,229
TOTAL INCOME	6,463,419	5,200,532
EXPENDITURE	10,245,379	5,757,321
NET DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(3,781,960)	(556,789)
BANK BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	1,330,654	1,887,443
OVERDRAWN BALANCE/ BANK BALANCE AT END OF THE YEAR	(2,451,306)	1,330,654



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	R	R
EXPENDITURE		
Administration fee	2,056,176	745,583
Advocacy	141,001	157,782
Audit fees	20,125	63,250
Bank charges	2,433	3,456
Bus drivers	138,125	152,750
Computer and IT equipment	253,092	43,347
Curriculum development	1,200	41,000
Evaluations	74,000	36,818
Events	8,640	3,179
Finance Officer	180,000	120,000
Food support — Children	1,036,596	1,239,050
Holiday programme	-	19,000
Medical expenses	79,281	3,448
Remedial support	30,646	30,500
Salaries	4,965,531	2,407,592
Special projects	19,546	6,750
Sporting activities	303,206	73,750
Staff development	53,670	38,380
Text books and stationery	408,485	58,095
Transfers and registrations (State Schools)	_	40,500
Uniforms	275,130	69,115
Vehicle expenses	140,976	149,347
Volunteer accommodation — rental expenses	-	100,000
Volunteer expenses	57,520	154,629
	10,245,379	5,757,321



OPERATIONAL COST

The Board of Governors resolved to accommodate Three2Six Refugee Children's Education Project learners on a full-time basis. Consequently, learners enrolled in the project were transitioned to commence regular schooling at Dominican Convent School in 2023. This increased the operational costs significantly.

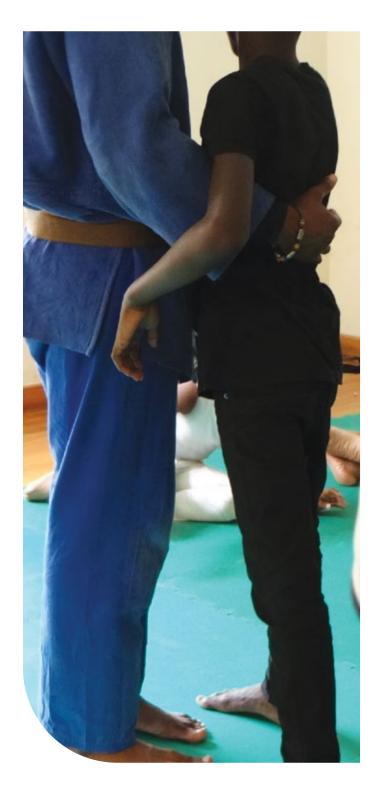
GOING CONCERN

The funders of the project have committed to continued funding for the 2024 financial year. The Board of Governors is satisfied that the project will have adequate funds to continue as a going concern for the year ending 31 December 2024.



Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more.

Pope Francis







DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:



ESWATINI: 1



CONGO BRAZZAVILLE: 1



ZAMBIA: 1



ZIMBABWE: 109



NIGERIA: 5



BURUNDI: 6



MOZAMBIQUE: 1



RWANDA: 2



KENYA: 1

