



www.startingchance.org.za

## Starting Chance – Donor Report

General details			
<i>Name organisation</i>	Starting Chance	<i>NPO no.</i>	IT2472/2015
<i>Contact person</i>	Ali Corbett	<i>Report compiled by</i>	Starting Chance Team
<i>Contact no.</i>	0824911171	<i>Feedback period</i>	Jan – March 2024
<i>Contact email</i>	<a href="mailto:ali@startingchance.org.za">ali@startingchance.org.za</a>	<i>Date of submission</i>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Executive summary and comments

#### Executive Summary 2024

Starting Chance has enjoyed a great start to 2024. We welcomed Bulelani Futshane as our Programme Manager, and he shares his impressions below. We also welcomed our fieldworker team in their new positions.

Five new schools met the necessary criteria and joined our Training Teachers in Township Programme. They have all settled in well, and good progress has been made.

The workshops have started well, and we are excited to see the high attendance figures from the parents, practitioners, and principals. This shows commitment and interest, and ultimately, it means a better learning environment for our children in the Starting Chance Programme.

It's lovely to open our Co-use Space at Lonwabo Special Needs School. It was always our dream to reach out to the parents of children with special needs. We have some specialists offering their expertise, and we look forward to a dynamic and exciting year.

Shack to Chic has some exciting projects for 2024 as we ensure that good learning environments remain one of our key focus areas. We are seeking to raise significant funds to accelerate infrastructure delivery due to the risk of closure by the Department of Basic Education to unregistered education from the end of 2025.

We are very grateful to our Friends of Starting Chance for their encouragement and ongoing support. Without you, none of this work would be possible.

We look forward to a great year together.



In my initial three months with Starting Chance, I've experienced significant personal and professional growth. The warm welcome from staff members facilitated my transition, providing essential support as I acclimated to my role. Working with Starting Chance in the Mfuleni and surrounding areas revealed a pressing need for excellence within the early childhood development (ECD) community.

The 2 Trainings of Teachers in Townships (TTinT) workshops held during the first quarter proved instrumental in familiarising me with Starting Chance's content and training methodologies. The positive relationship between Starting Chance staff and beneficiaries was evident, reflected in the high attendance at workshops. A highlight was the Parent Support Workshop, boasting an impressive turnout of 96 parents despite typical reluctance to attend school-related events.

A key focus of my initial tenure was revitalising Lonwabo Special Care, particularly activating the co-working space. Substantial progress has been made, with plans to reignite Jacqui's (Occupational Therapy) engagement with Lonwabo Special Care children and staff. Additionally, Jacqui will extend support to the broader Mfuleni community in understanding how to create enriching environments for children with special needs.

These three months have provided invaluable insights into community development. I've recognised the importance of building strong relationships and partnerships with beneficiaries, fostering a sense of ownership over programs. Starting Chance has solidified its presence in Mfuleni and surrounding areas, earning the trust of the community and increasing participation in related activities.

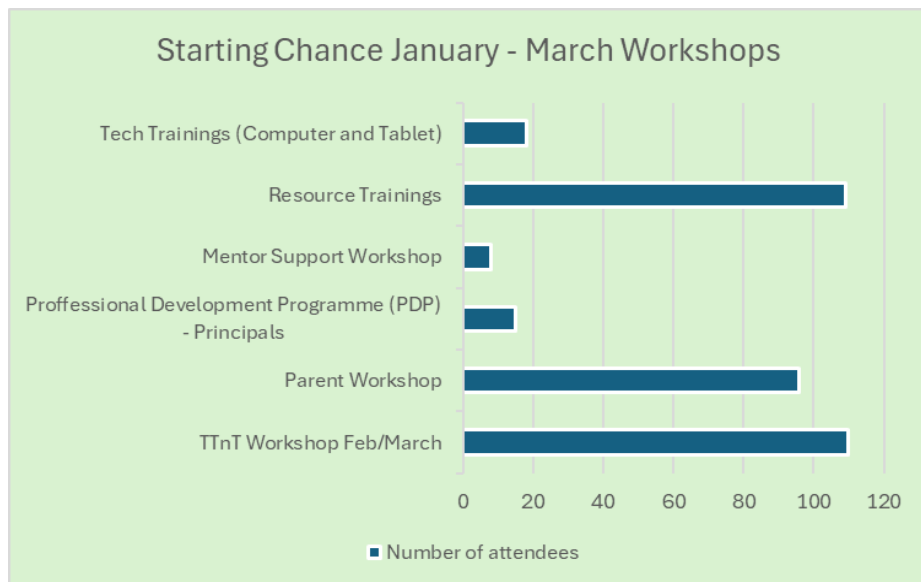
Looking ahead, our focus shifts to ensuring compliance among Alumni schools and encouraging principal attendance at the Professional Development Programme workshops. While the first three months have been both humbling and exciting, the journey forward demands continued dedication and diligence.

Overall, my initial experience with Starting Chance has been transformative, setting the stage for ongoing impact and collaboration in the pursuit of quality education and community empowerment.



Details of Training and Development activities.

### Training and Development 2024:



#### 1. Training of Teachers Workshops:

Starting Chance hosted two of the eight planned Training of Teachers workshops in the Township (TTinT) series during the first quarter. These workshops were met with great enthusiasm, with both sessions being well attended by an average of over 50 participants per workshop. We are thrilled to see such engagement and dedication from the educators in our community.

## **2. Mentor Capacity Building Workshop:**

We are proud to announce the successful execution of the Mentor Capacity Building Workshop. This event was designed to enhance the effectiveness of our Mentorship Programme. All mentors were invited to participate in this training session, which was led by Starting Chance staff with invaluable support from Starting Chance volunteer Belinda Inglis. The workshop aimed to further empower our mentors, equipping them with the necessary tools and knowledge to better support our TTinT schools.

## **3. Professional Development Programme (PDP) for Principals:**

As part of our ongoing commitment to professional growth and development, Starting Chance implemented a Professional Development Programme tailored for the principals of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres supported by our organisation. This initiative aimed to enhance the principals' leadership skills and capabilities, thereby enriching the overall quality of education provided in our partner ECDs.

## **4. Parental Support Workshop:**

In line with our dedication to holistic child development, Starting Chance hosted its first Parental Support Workshop of the year. The workshop, themed around health and safety, attracted an impressive turnout of 96 parents. This experiential learning-based event provided parents with valuable insights and practical skills, fostering a deeper understanding of creating safe and healthy environments for their children. The workshop's interactive nature was well-received, with parents actively engaging in hands-on activities and discussions.

## **5. Resource Training:**

Hosted by the Starting Chance team these serve as a vital component of the follow-up initiative to the TTinT workshops. By providing educators with practical skills and strategies to utilise recycling materials and other resources in their classrooms, these sessions enhance teaching quality and student learning outcomes in township schools. The Resource Trainings are closely linked to the site support visits conducted by the Starting Chance team. These visits provide valuable insights into the specific needs and challenges educators face in their classroom environments. The training content is tailored to address these needs and bridge any gaps identified during site visits, ensuring maximum impact and relevance.

## **6. Starting Chance Tech Training:**

Conducted between February and March 2024 represented a significant effort to enhance computer literacy and integrate tablets into classroom instruction. Through a combination of computer training, tablet integration sessions, and classroom demonstrations, participants gained valuable skills and knowledge to support the use of technology in education. Moving forward, continued support and resources will be essential to sustain and build upon the momentum generated by these trainings, ultimately empowering educators and students alike to thrive in the digital age.

## **Update on shack to chic builds**

### **Shack to chic 2024:**

The first quarter of 2024 has been marked by significant achievements and milestones for the Shack to Chic Programme at Starting Chance. The initiation of a potential partnership with Bluemoon Projects, progress in ECD centre construction, advancement towards the realisation of Hluma Academy, and the update of infrastructure status reports reflect our unwavering commitment to improving early childhood education in disadvantaged communities. Moving forward, we remain dedicated to pursuing our mission and creating lasting impact in the lives of young children and their communities.

### **Progress towards Hluma Academy:**

The construction of Hluma Academy has moved closer to realisation, with substantial progress made during this quarter. A crucial step in this process was convening a meeting with community leaders and officials from the City of Cape Town. This meeting aimed to finalise the community buy-in process, ensure smooth implementation, and mitigate potential conflicts.

### **Partnership with Bluemoon Projects:**

One of the major highlights of the quarter was the initiation of a potential partnership with Bluemoon Projects, a specialised organisation focusing on the construction of ECD Centres in the Western Cape region. This partnership holds the promise of a long-term collaboration aimed at improving infrastructure for early childhood education.

### **Pipeline of ECD Centre Construction:**

As a result of the partnership with Bluemoon Projects, Starting Chance has identified three ECD centres in the pipeline for construction. Among these, Tangram Academy, a newly recruited school for young children with autism based in Eerste Rivier, stands out. Additionally, significant strides

have been made towards upgrading Shining Stars Educare Centre, which is part of our alumni cohort.

**Tech**

**Computer training:** The computer training is for all Principals, including the Alumni principals. The training turnout was good, and the training went well as I introduced the Microsoft manuals, and we took time to understand the content of using Word through the manuals. With that understanding, we were able to connect them to ChromeOS Flex and use Google Docs and complete a training exercise that links to their school needs. Google Sheets was also introduced - similar to Excel, participants made a fee register aiding understanding of how one can use the online platform to also keep their documents safe.



**Tablet Training:** We have had tablet training with 4-6 practitioners in the Alumni schools. This training equips practitioners to support children in their schools in using tablets on a regular basis.

**Tablet Fun:** Once a month, I go to each school to do tablet fun with the children to embed the use and understanding of the apps and how they link to Literacy, Numeracy and life skills. I will not forget how cute they are when they have so much fun using the tablets.

**Achievements & challenges**

- Successful Execution of Planned Training:
  - All planned trainings including TTinT workshops, Professional Development Programme (PDP), Parent Workshops, Resources Training, and Tech-related trainings were conducted as scheduled.
- High Attendance at Parent Workshop:
  - The Parent Workshop witnessed a remarkable turnout with 96 parents (including dads) actively participating.
- Activation of Lonwabo Special Care Co-working Space:
  - The Lonwabo Special Care co-working space was successfully activated, fostering a productive relationship between Starting Chance and Lonwabo management.
- Commencement of Occupational Therapy Engagement:
  - Jacqui, the Occupational Therapist, has commenced her engagement with the Lonwabo children and staff, initiating crucial therapeutic support and services.
- Expansion to Tangram Special Care:
  - Tangram Academy (specialising in autism) in Eerste River has been included in our network, broadening our reach and impact within Mfuleni and the surrounding communities.



Focus points 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the fieldworkers in their new leadership positions.</li> <li>• Training and Development Programme to continue to support schools in the Starting Chance Programme</li> <li>• Develop the Alumni Programme to encourage sustainability.</li> <li>• Accelerate Shack to Chic delivery and fundraise for large-scale builds and quick-win projects.</li> <li>• Aim to get the SC programme material accredited.</li> </ul>
Fundraising	Thanks to the generosity of our rapidly growing family of Starting Chance supporters 2024 fundraising has got off to a great start. Not only do you enable us, but you encourage us, too!



### Finances

Received:	
Donations	Thank you for your ongoing support and donations to Starting Chance. We really appreciate your support.

### School Updates

Benefiting (totals)	<i>No. of schools:</i>	27
	<i>No. of children:</i>	1242
	<i>No. of teachers:</i>	126

### Pictures

		
	Resource Training: An opportunity for practitioners to add to their	Children using educational materials in quiet play.

classroom equipment by making resources from recycled materials



Toddlers exploring in the ball pit



Making equipment from recycled materials

## Some of the highlights for the Fieldworkers 2024



Joyce

**School visit:** This term, I have been observing the implementation of a classroom layout that shifts our school to different levels, how the practitioners adopt our program, and how they use our training to improve their understanding. Children's assessment is also one of my highlights. Some of the children are still young; however, they show how their gross motor and spatial orientation have developed.

**TTinT workshop:** Creative art workshop preparations were on standard and how the practitioners interact and support one another during small groups activities, especially the last activity of playdough activity. It was a great success. Especially for TTinT schools, it made a huge impact that they were able to get the opportunity to make their own class playdough.

**Resource training:** One of the highlights of this term is how practitioners use recycled materials to make their own resources for their classrooms.

**PDP workshop:** The feedback from the principals to appreciate the Curriculum workshop. Yes, it was done before. However, this time around, it was clear for them to understand how the CALM curriculum links with the NCF curriculum. The turnout of the principals was good.

**Team management:**

How teamwork cooperates and supports one another shows potential growth.







Noms

**Site visits highlights:** The visits were quite impressive this term. To see one of the new TTinT schools trying their best to teach out of nothing, i.e. no resources, and space to me was good sign and passion. The implementations to most of my hub +hub, TTinT has taken a step up. What has impressed me the most is the flexibility of practitioners and changes from the gaps that were pointed out in previous visits to all schools that are considered. The schools that have repeated the year in TTinT are showing excellent performance and improvement this year. Space for learning, Layout, teaching and learning creative art are showing good results in all my schools and are applied with understanding by practitioners. Both curriculums followed and implemented our **Calm** and **NCF**.

**TTinT Workshops:** Taking TTinT as a prioritized responsibility is growing me in the field. The two workshops that has had great outcomes in my TTinT workshops. I have witnessed that when the class was able to link the skills with learning areas from this 2nd, that made me happy and sure that it was clear .I was happy to see them doing all activities with joy learning about improvising when they have non resources for those who are new to our programme. The numbers are promising this year.

**Resource Training:** Very happy resource training. The numbers have grown this year by 5-6 people per training, a very cooperative group. They love the making of resources in the training; I always get awesome feedback and questions from implementations in class.

**Mentors:** The group of mentors are showing interest in the mentor programme. They enjoy being hands-on and interacting with kids during visit time; they are hands-on. I like that they have given themselves all to the mentoring programme.

*Mentor role demonstrating recycling usin yoghurt lids for ball scoops indoor gross play at Lithemba ECD*



Lebo

My highlights for this term- **Site visits:** It's the positive response children have in playing with the sand and water. It is so exciting, and this helps mainly with the schools that don't have resources. The classroom set-up was implemented, and practitioners are now using the areas with understanding and allowing children to use it—the support I gave to practitioners in implementing the creative art session appropriately. And making resources with recycled materials helps a lot with this age group because it lacks resources.

**Facilitating TTinT:** I have really grown in executing my workshop skills and also having to focus only on toddlers and going deeper in understanding the appropriate resources toddlers can use, and practitioners can make.

**Resource Training:** These weekly trainings are for Hub & Hub plus schools. They have a positive impact as they follow up on TTinT topics and support the implementation of our practitioners.

**Computer Training:** Turnout has been good.





Tandeka

My highlights for the first term:

There was a huge impact for the practitioners following the **classroom setup content** for the Practitioners. They now have an idea of how to set tables and layout the class for all learning areas to reflect. We see practitioners being creative especially for the new schools. This means the **TTinT training** is helping them a lot.

**Parent workshop** was amazing. The numbers for the parents were on above usual. Parents were excited about the plenary and the small group interacting and enjoyed working as a group and seeing the use of recycling.

**Resource Training** was very useful supporting practitioners to make resources for the class and implementing.



Parent workshop