



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO THESE PAST MONTHS?

The past quarter was a period of meaningful impact, steady service delivery, and renewed community engagement at Masithandane. Across all programmes, we continued to support children, families, the elderly, and vulnerable individuals through integrated services in nutrition, education, health, skills development, and psychosocial care.

Despite ongoing socio-economic challenges, the organisation remains a vital pillar in the community – responding to real needs with compassion, consistency, and collaboration.

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION SUPPORT

- Ensuring access to food remains a central foundation of our daily work. Nutritional interventions scaled up steadily across the quarter to meet growing demands from local families, school children, and clinic patients.
- Quarterly Meal Tracking:** A total of 2,674 meals were served across core institutional programs during April alone.
- Monthly Operations Breakdown:**
 - February:** A total of 1,468 cooked meals were served through the Targeted Feeding Program, reaching 136 registered beneficiaries and 87 walk-in clients daily. Over 25 vulnerable families received monthly food parcels.
 - March:** Operations through the Sustainable Livelihoods – Targeted Feeding Programme expanded to serve 1,718 meals, comprising 1,130 meals to core beneficiaries, 458 to walk-ins, and 129 specialized meals to children.
 - April Sub-Program Deliveries:** Direct monthly meal distributions included 1,458 for Targeted Feeding, 388 at the Early Childhood Development Centre, 542 through Safe Park, 216 for the Older Persons Programme, and 70 at the Care & Respite Centre.
- Holiday Food Allocations:** To secure household food safety during extended public holiday closures in April, targeted feeding beneficiaries received substantial take-home food parcels on April 2nd, April 24th, and April 30th.
- Awareness & Outreach:** Kitchen staff, programme beneficiaries, and Community Health Workers successfully distributed promotional flyers across the neighbourhood, welcoming several new individuals in need into the daily feeding loop.

- Menu & Waste Optimization:** Carefully planned menu adjustments drastically boosted programmatic attendance and reduced food waste. Early Childhood learners enjoyed a refreshed menu featuring additional tuna-mayo, cheese, peanut butter, and jam sandwiches, paired with juice and canned fruit desserts. The afternoon sandwich preparation at Safe Park was recalibrated to align precisely with daily child arrivals to eliminate bread wastage.
- Donor Alliances & Global Impacts:** Essential nutrition was sustained through community goodwill. A major donation from FoodShare provided bulk canned fruit, biscuits, baby food, and fresh vegetables shared across multiple programmes. While food supply drops from Food Forward SA remain an operational lifeline, the team noted a visible reduction in overall bulk supply volumes. Concurrently, our team participated in a provincial food security engagement to map out local food insecurity hotspots aggravated by macro-economic inflation and rising fuel prices.
- Easter Celebrations:** Local private donors blessed the centre with 8 boxes of Easter eggs, supplemented by sweet treats from Shoprite Checkers George, ensuring that staff, older persons, and all ECD children shared in the holiday excitement.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Operating from our dedicated Ikhaya Lemfundo ECD Centre, our learning programmes prioritize building robust educational foundations, safety awareness, and healthy habits among young learners.

- Enrolment Expansion:** The Centre actively nurtured 32 young learners during the quarter. To proactively address local enrolment competition, management successfully aligned registration guidelines to accept children turning 4 years old by mid-year, securing a solid educational foundation for the coming cycle.
- Curriculum Progress & Term 2 Themes:** Following a successful focus on foundational writing and counting, the classroom launched into Term 2 themes including *My Family*, *My Home*, and *Safety at My Home, School and Road*. Children explored household roles and participated in vital interactive discussions regarding fire hazards, electrical outlets, chemical cleaning products, water safety, sharp objects, and stranger danger protocols.
- Strategic Screenings & Collaborations:** Bi-weekly classroom teaching assistance thrived with the support of Year Beyond youth students. The centre welcomed educational screening teams from *Blocks for Growth (Knysna Education Trust)* to conduct developmental evaluations for 4-to-5-year-olds, while assessors from KET implemented Optima school readiness testing for the Grade R group. Additional highlights included interactive story hours hosted by the Sedgfield Library team and local writers.
- Staff Professional Development:** Reflecting our commitment to institutional sustainability, our ECD Principal attended an intensive workshop presented by the Knysna Education Trust titled *How to Run a Sustainable ECD Centre: Business Owner ECD Accelerator Programme* gaining invaluable structural insights into facility governance.
- Seasonal Attendance Challenges:** Shifting weather patterns led to an increase in childhood illnesses, causing attendance fluctuations that teachers are actively managing within daily educational timelines.



SAFE PARK & AFTER-SCHOOL SUPPORT

Our Safe Park initiative remains an invaluable sanctuary for school-age children, offering structured academic reinforcement, emotional regulation, and secure recreational play outside normal school hours. Daily attendance ranges from 40 to 70 children from Monday to Thursday, peaking significantly at 100 to 115 children during Friday sessions and unified holiday programmes.

- **Academic and Creative Enrichment:** Structured, informal English literacy lessons were provided to Grades 2 & 3 by dedicated volunteers using board games, puppets, and story dramatization. Mathematical repetitions were driven by experienced educators, while weekly craft and arts sessions were expanded to Grade 6–7 cohorts due to massive popular demand. Physical activities encompassed free play, soccer, netball, hoops, and dedicated Wednesday tactical chess lessons introduced by volunteers.
- **Hygiene and Health Drive:** In April, our child development team launched a highly successful hygiene awareness campaign, rolling out practical health sessions for Grade R and Grade 1 learners. The interactive sessions received wonderful engagement, and plans are underway to expand the health drive to the older grades in May.
- **Infrastructure & Facility Upgrades:** The classroom environment received a major boost through the arrival of 6 premium plastic tables and 24 colourful chairs explicitly deployed for Grade R and Grade 1 classes. This was supplemented by additional donor tables and chairs for Grade 2 learners, and 19 new puzzle sets. Maintenance also advanced significantly; through community connections, a volunteer completed security upgrades and organizational restructuring in our primary storeroom, with urgent plumbing repairs lined up next to resolve a water leak near the classroom block. Plans are underway to relocate the Grade 1 group into the refreshed mosaic workshop section as soon as possible.

HEALTH, WELLNESS & HOME-BASED CARE

Our passionate network of Community Health Workers (CHWs) and institutional care professionals executed extensive home-based healthcare, chronic disease surveillance, and clinic tracing linkages across Sedgefield, Karatara, and surrounding farming areas.

- **Field Care Metrics (April Snapshot):** Field operations yielded incredible outreach numbers during the quarter, including 858 household visits in February and 983 in March. In April alone, our home-based care network conducted **106** intensive household visits, managed 5 high-priority clinic tracing recalls, and completed 44 direct healthcare referrals. Diagnostic screenings and support metrics across the month included:
 - **Diabetes Screenings:** 116 | Diabetic Foot Screenings: 112
 - Hypertension Screenings: 114 | Epilepsy Screenings: 112
 - STI Screenings: 112 | TB Screenings & Symptom Tracing: 120
 - Distributed Contraceptives: 900 Male Condoms & 24 Female Condoms.
 - **Maternal & Infant Care:** 15 Mom-Connect registrations, 13 initial '1000 Days' infant checks, and 26 comprehensive Antenatal care visits.
 - **Chronic Care Clubs:** Active monitoring and medication support for 135 HIV Care Club patients.

- **Wellness Centre & Respite Operations:** Our Wellness Centre coordinator continues to do an exceptional job building trust in the community, securing regular, weekly attendance from 11 registered chronic care clients every Monday. Clinic patients received daily sandwiches, fruit, and nutritional containers, supplemented by weekly fresh produce distributions to prevent medication default rates. At the HUG Care and Respite Centre, capacity was reinforced by introducing a second dedicated night care provider. Following a professional site visit from Board of Health Care Funders leadership, a strategic recommendation was made to formalize HUG House as an official *Transitional Care Centre* in the upcoming financial cycle to help secure sustainability in the long-term.
- **Staff Wellness & Operational Milestones:** In a wonderful structural victory, our hard-working CHWs received a formal 20% salary increase from the Department of Health, which officially came into effect on April 1, 2026. To maintain administrative compliance, the Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) Addendum for 2026–27 and the updated Work Plan have been signed and submitted to the DOH, officially introducing community health talks as a core requirement. Staff members also enjoyed restorative Body Stress Release (BSR) wellness sessions to support their physical health amid demanding care schedules.



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PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT & CASE MANAGEMENT (RISIHA)

Providing emotional security, trauma processing, and protective childhood interventions remains a vital cornerstone of our community integration work.



RISIHA
From Vulnerability to Resilience

- **Vibrant Holiday Programme Success:** On March 31st, Masithandane collaborated with the Knysna Initiative for Learning and Teaching (KILT) to host a massive, high-energy holiday programme that brought together 115 local children and our CYCWs, for a day centred around teamwork, fun, and specialised learning. The event integrated Kids Hub activities, Lego Robotics, drumming circles. Older youth engaged with advanced electronics and digital learning games, while the counselling team facilitated a specialised personality and strength-building workshop.
- **Child Protection & Family Support:** Working closely with formal social services, our team executed vital crisis interventions in April. This included supporting legal documentation for a complex custody extension and facilitating an emergency placement into Temporary Safety Care. Across April month, our CYCWs enrolled 11 vulnerable new families into our protective pipeline, conducted 120 home visits, and compiled 6 comprehensive family case studies.
- **Social Work & Family Advocacy Victories:** Our counselling team achieved life-changing breakthroughs for multiple families this quarter:
 - **Substance Abuse Support:** Close monitoring and rehabilitation counselling sessions were maintained. Parents attending our support group successfully stopped substance abuse. A youth was successfully reintegrated into the formal school system and placed under structured observation to prevent substance dependency.
 - **Dignity and ID Restoration:** The team successfully assisted three vulnerable families with applications for vital state documents. Two families successfully received their official South African identity documents (including a young mother whose ID had been uncollected at Home Affairs for three full years), and another received a missing birth certificate, immediately empowering them to unlock child support grants and register for school.
 - **FAMSA Counselling:** In April, specialized relationship and marriage counselling was extended to two local couples facing severe domestic and relationship challenges.
- **Professional Growth & Qualification Status:** Our Child and Youth Care Workers continue to demonstrate exceptional responsibility, recently completing a national mock examination. Management is actively coordinating with NACOSA and HWSETA to resolve the administrative delays regarding historic NQF Level 4 certificates. Looking ahead, the team is making financial and logistical arrangements to support two dedicated CYCWs traveling to Bloemfontein to sit for their formal NQF Level 5 national examinations.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Masithandane focuses intensely on fostering economic resilience, specialized skills transfer, and building institutional self-reliance among community members.

- **Culture of the Brave (COBA):** A highly successful, intensive COBA training course was conducted from March 17th to 20th, drawing 27 passionate community attendees—including 4 of our own internal staff members—equipping them with critical emotional resilience and life-navigation tools.
- **Professional Development & Digital Literacy:** To modernize administrative workflows, staff members were introduced to Google Drive database training, successfully transitioning our operational records onto centralized cloud platforms. Looking ahead, Masithandane will partner with a retired Human Resources Director to launch a community workshop in May covering professional CV writing, interview preparation, and live mock practice. Furthermore, our partnership with Launch has finalized dates for an upcoming Computer Course; to maximize dedication and completion rates, students will pay a R200 deposit that is refunded 100% upon successful graduation.
- **Learner's Licence Programme:** In partnership with the Soul Buddies Driving School, our learner's licence training track registered 11 local beneficiaries from our Targeted Feeding pool to open clear paths toward formalized employment. While April classes faced shifting attendance challenges and scheduling conflicts, the team is actively restructuring the intervention format to restore consistent engagement.
- **Local Craft and Vocational Initiatives:**
 - **Needlework & Design Course:** A brilliant new skills opportunity has been unlocked for local youth aged 18 to 35. Masithandane hosted the formal registration for a specialized three-month Needlework and Design course run by Hands Designs in Knysna. The inaugural cohort officially launches in June, running twice weekly with complete transport provided by Masithandane. Concurrently, our localized community needlework project—supported by volunteers from the Sedgefield Community Church and NG Church—is thriving with highly committed participants who also receive regular donations of sanitary pads for school-going girls.
 - **Weaving Project:** The weaving initiative remains temporarily paused as the organization actively seeks a suitable, dedicated physical workspace to house the looms and materials safely. The community is urged to please be on the lookout for available space to assist with this project!!



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OLDER PERSONS PROGRAMME (OPP)

Our Older Persons Programme continues to ensure premium access to quality social development, recreational, and health services for 70 registered vulnerable elders aged 60 and older.

- **Media Highlights & TV Visit:** The programme experienced massive excitement when a professional Christian TV Crew visited the centre to showcase Masithandane's local impact. The elders were photo-ready and full of joy, and one of our long-time volunteers was formally interviewed on camera.
- **Recreational & Fitness Triumphs:** The men's group enjoyed a vibrant basketball competition filled with cheering and laughter, where one of our core feeding beneficiaries demonstrated exceptional hand-eye coordination by sinking 12 consecutive shots. Activities also included memory games, puzzles, pebble painting, and creating arts and crafts (such as decorative butterflies and leaves) using recycled materials.
- **Crafts & Clothing Support:** Fabric arts remain a massive favourite among the ladies. Under expert volunteer guidance, participants are actively learning to transform sample crochet squares into beautifully styled bags. We express our deepest gratitude for a generous donation of 3 bulk bales of wool, knee blankets, and a regular clothing shipment from the Dutch Reformed Church in George.
- **Operational Updates & Challenges:** Attendance patterns continue to fluctuate heavily on SASSA pay days, which create planning difficulties for food preparation and volunteer schedules. We issue an urgent appeal for male volunteers to help lead the men's group, as members have expressed a keen interest in learning basic woodworking, mosaic creation, and vegetable gardening.



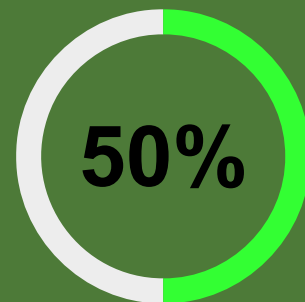
**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARTNERS!
YOUR TIME, FUNDING, RESOURCES, AND PRAYERS MAKE OUR DAILY
SERVICE DELIVERY POSSIBLE.**

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VEHICLE FUND TRACKER

Our vital community transport vehicle is the absolute lifeblood of our daily operations. They enable us to deliver emergency food parcels, transport vulnerable patients, and coordinate remote farming outreach across distant terrain.



Currently, our vehicles require urgent operational attention; our primary community transport van requires essential structural re-welding on its rear passenger seating rows to ensure safety compliance. Financially, we are sitting at **only 50% of our targeted funding** required for essential vehicle maintenance, licensing, and eventual acquisition. We desperately need your help to bridge the remaining 50% gap and keep our wheels turning in the community!

- **Target Status:** 50% Achieved | 50% Remaining
- **Asset Notice:** Through recent fundraising efforts, our donated lounge carpet and television unit have been successfully sold, with all proceeds funnelled directly into our care programmes. However, we are still seeking a buyer for a beautifully donated, fully functional HS295E electronic mobility scooter. If you or anyone you know is interested in purchasing this mobility vehicle, please reach out to our office immediately!



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