

Annual Impact Report 2024

THE HOPE FACTORY AND SAICA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



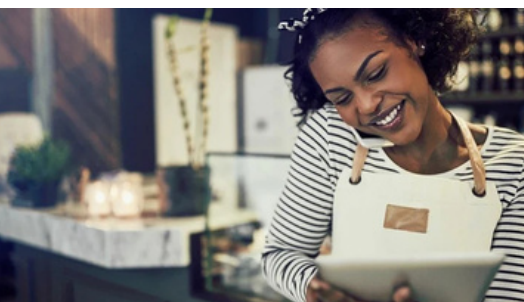
 **SAICA**
DIFFERENCE MAKERS™

 The Hope Factory
20 Years
DEVELOPING BUSINESSES
IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

 **SAICA**
Enterprise Development

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REFLECTING ON 2024: ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE HOPE FACTORY & SAICA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

By Annie McWalter, Group CEO

As we look back on 2024, we reflect on a fairly significant milestone that we have achieved, that being the 20th year of The Hope Factory (NPC). We celebrated this with a well-attended celebration with key Corporate partners, Stakeholders and SMMEs in Gqeberha last September as a testament to our unwavering commitment to supporting Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) across South Africa. Our efforts have not only contributed to economic growth but has also brought about positive change in diverse communities throughout the country.

Achievements in 2024

SAICA Enterprise Development (SAICA ED) and The Hope Factory as a group, has successfully managed 28 projects, providing vital support to 737 individuals and Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) across South Africa. Our impact reached various regions, which included Gauteng, Northwest, Western Cape, Northern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Eastern Cape. The positive impact of our work was evident in the diverse communities we have touched and the success stories we have shared throughout the year of 2024.

We forged valuable partnerships with 75 Associated Small and Medium Practices, enhancing our capacity to support SMMEs. Our team was bolstered by 36 coaches, industry experts, and facilitators who played a crucial role in our successes. We welcomed 75 various industry experts who volunteered their time and expertise to further strengthening our efforts to support Financial Excellence in SMMEs. An additional 356 women-owned businesses were empowered, and 262 youth driven businesses were supported through various initiatives of SAICA ED and The Hope Factory.

SAICA Enterprise Development has continued to strengthen the trust from Corporate clients who contribute significantly to the South African economy in the Renewable Energy, Manufacturing, and Mining and Resources sectors. We ensure that the impact of our Customised Financial Excellence and Enterprise and Supplier Development programmes meet the ESD strategies of our Corporate partners.

The Hope Factory's diverse offering of Skills Development and Socio-Economic Development initiatives have proven to be trusted with CHIETA (The Chemical Industries Education and Training Sector Authority).

We remain committed to not only focus on providing positive impact to our current clients but encourage companies who have objectives of prioritising economic transformation and develop businesses to get in touch.

Celebrating Two Decades of Excellence

The Hope Factory's success over the past 20 years displayed strong reputation and trust with corporate South Africa, focusing on economic transformation, business development, and community impact. We have been consistently evolving to meet industry demands through impactful Enterprise and Supplier Development (through SAICA Enterprise Development Pty LTD), Socio-Economic Development, and Accredited Skills Development Solutions.

Since 2004, our core mission has been to develop financially sustainable individuals through various capacity building initiatives and business skills development. In the last six years, The Hope Factory (NPC) has promoted Socio-Economic Development for Corporate South Africa, launched Micro-business Development projects, and introduced programmes for unemployed youth to develop job readiness and start-up businesses.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As we look forward to 2025, our commitment to our mission remains steadfast. We will continue to expand our reach and deepen our impact. Our focus will be on sustaining the momentum we have built, strengthen new partnerships, and exploring opportunities to further support SMMEs across South Africa.

Gratitude and Acknowledgments

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our board of directors and to SAICA (South African Institute of Accountants) whose governance, support and guidance has been invaluable. We also would like to acknowledge and celebrate our dedicated staff, whose hard work and passion drive our success in SMME empowerment and economic transformation.

Together, we have made a significant difference in 2024. We are confident that we will continue to achieve great things in 2025 and in the years to come.

Key impactful interactions 2024

The Hope Factory, delivers impactful Socio-Economic and Skills Development initiatives resulting in mobilising economic activity, by enabling Unemployed Black South African citizens (with a key focus on youth and women) to generate their own income and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of 'No Poverty' (SDG 1), amongst others.



183 Individuals and start-up businesses supported through SED and Skills Development Interventions



5 Small and Medium Practices involved in interventions



29 Volunteer Coaches supported interventions



13 Other coaches, industry experts and facilitators involved



121 Women Owned businesses supported



133 Youth Owned businesses empowered



8 Projects implemented nationally



2 SETA Interns were provided employment opportunities

Key impactful interactions 2024

SAICA ED provides strategic Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) programmes and customised projects that grow South Africa's entrepreneurial sector. We aim to foster Financial Excellence in entrepreneurs through the Chartered Accountancy profession, and to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the creation of 'Decent Work and Economic Growth' (SDG 8), amongst others.



554 SMMEs supported through Enterprise and Supplier Development interventions



70 Small and Medium Practices involved in interventions



46 Volunteer Coaches supported interventions



23 Other coaches, industry experts and facilitators involved



235 Women Owned businesses supported



129 Youth Owned businesses empowered



20 Projects implemented nationally



2 SETA Interns were provided employment opportunities

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



THE HOPE FACTORY CELEBRATES TWO DECADES OF DEVELOPING BUSINESSES AND IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

Celebrating a 20-year anniversary is a significant milestone for any organization but, marking two decades of consistently creating initiatives to be at the forefront of economic transformation, developing businesses, championing entrepreneurial individuals, and positively impacting communities is a testament of The Hope Factory's achievements.

Radisson Blu hotel in Gqeberha was the venue where THF hosted close to 100 guests coming from various parts of the country. The attendees consisted of past SMME participants that have been supported in their journey of growth, stakeholders that have partnered with THF to witness this momentous occasion, and key partners who have made it possible for THF Group to achieve their vision in playing an active role in economic transformation through advancing the sustainable growth of entrepreneurial Black-Owned Businesses.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



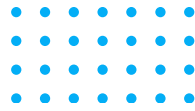
The L+EARN #BIZ Programme Empowers Youth-Owned Micro Enterprises in Rustenburg

An initiative of the ASISA Foundation, was implemented by The Hope Factory for 63 youth owned Micro Enterprises in and around Rustenburg, Northwest. The programme started in November 2023, concluded on the 14th of August 2024 with a close-out function, where 54 micro-enterprise owners successfully graduated after 63 participants completed the programme.

Due to all the challenges facing SA Youth, it is extremely beneficial that ASISA Foundation, Ninety-One and The Hope Factory combined their resources and efforts to uplift and support the youth. The programme concluded with the following impact:

- 52 businesses are actively trading.
- 34 businesses have improved in sales.
- 30 have increased business profitability.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



The Hope Factory and InnoVenton Launch Transformative Training for 50 Start-Ups!

The Hope Factory implemented a training programme for 50 start-up businesses in partnership with InnoVenton and their Cosmetic Formulation Training, through their Technology Station at Nelson Mandela University.

SAICA NPO LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO EMPOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

SAICA NPO was excited to announce the launch of the 4th Supplier Development project, that is proudly implemented by SAICA Enterprise Development (An entity of SAICA). This initiative is designed to enhance economic empowerment and drive transformation within SAICA's value chain.

We're excited to empower six exceptional women led SMMEs to enhance their skills in leadership development. SAICA NPO aims to create opportunities for women entrepreneurs to thrive and succeed! Stay tuned for more updates and inspiring stories from this project!

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



CHIETA - East London 2024/2025

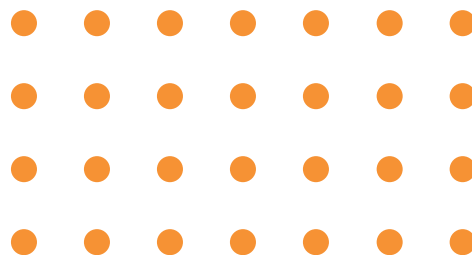
The Hope Factory secured a CHIETA project co-funded by Tsogo Sun in East London to develop 10 female start-up businesses in the chemical industry, by manufacturing and selling perfumes. The programme will include the QCTO, New Venture Creation Short Skills Programme and Perfume Manufacturing training commencing February 2025.

CHIETA/Peco Power 2024/2025



The Hope Factory secured a new collaboration partnership with Peco Power, funded by CHIETA in Gqeberha to develop 10 youth start-up businesses in the green energy industry with the potential to become Peco Franchise owners offering an off-grid electricity solution for township communities. The programme will include the QCTO, New Venture Creation Short Skills Programme and Electrification and Commercialization training commencing February 2025.

KEY INITIATIVES



CHIETA /Cennergi Small Business Support Programme

The programme is supporting 10 small businesses to manufacture household chemical products in the Eastern Cape (Tsitsikamma Region).

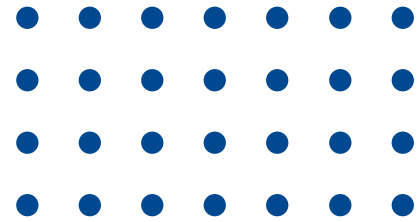
- To date all participants completed 5 manufacturing training workshops.
- All participants are manufacturing their own house-hold chemical products and perfumes independently.
- All participants received assistance with Back-Office Accounting which included: updated CIPC, SARS Tax Pins, and BBBEE Affidavits.
- Collectively the participants made a combined profit of R79 994,96 for July - September 2024.

AMAKHALA Small Business Programme Year 2

The Hope Factory implemented a CHIETA/Cennergi Small Business Programme for 14 start-up micro businesses in the Bedford, Cookhouse region in 2023 assisting them to start their own household chemical manufacturing business. Year 2 of the programme, sponsored by the Amakhala Windfarm Community Trusts specifically aimed to assist them to become more independent and self-sustainable in their business operations through consistent sales and good financial management practices. The programme will conclude in April 2025.

- All compliance was checked and updated as per business needs.
- Two participants received a SEDA voucher to have their products SABS tested.
- 6 participants have increased sales since April 2024.

KEY INITIATIVES



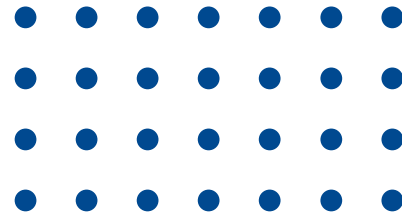
Socio Economic Development 2024/2025 Flagship Programme

The 2024/25 Socio-Economic Development Entrepreneurship Flagship Programme commenced September 2024, supporting 15 start-up entrepreneurs in and around Gqeberha with a strong focus on youth and women. The programme aims to enhance product development, sales and marketing, digital literacy and financial management skills through training workshops and one on one mentoring sessions.

- 15 entrepreneurs were successfully onboarded as programme participants.
- 15 volunteers were successfully onboarded as facilitators and business/finance mentors from Futureworld and KPMG.
- 4/7 workshops have successfully taken place.



KEY INITIATIVES



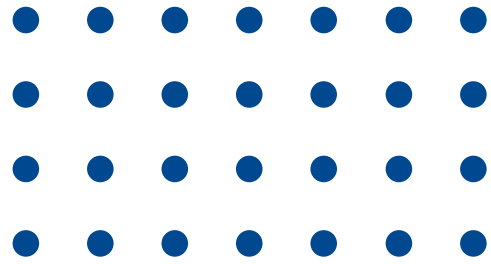
ACCIONA Project

SAICA ED / THF is implementing a programme for 11 SMME's located within a 50km radius from the Gouda Wind Energy Facility situated in the Western Cape with the assistance of 2 SMP's. We are providing an enabling programme for the growth and development of sustainable businesses, to advocate the importance of Financial and Business Excellence in running, managing and growing the business and to enhance financial literacy and business capability through the transfer of knowledge and skills.

- Monthly One on One Finance Coaching sessions achieved.
- Back Office Accounting Support in progress.
- All participants receiving assistance with their management accounts.



KEY INITIATIVES



Innovention Small Business Support Programme

The Hope Factory is currently training an initial 46 start-up businesses in partnership with InnoVenton and their Cosmetic Formulation Training, through their Technology Station at Nelson Mandela University. The programmes started in September 2024 and will conclude in October 2025.

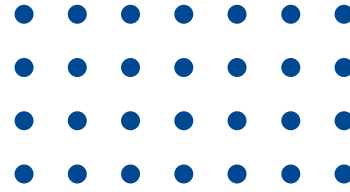
- Registered 25 new businesses and assisted 18 businesses to file annual returns and have an up-to-date CIPC document.
- The New Venture Creation Short Skills Programme NQF level 2, it was our first time implementing the 15-day accredited training programme under QTCO.
- 15 New Venture Creation Accredited training workshops were completed.
- 30 participants wrote the Final Integrated Summative Assessment.

Socio Economic Development 2023/2024 Flagship Programme

The 2023/2024 Socio-Economic Development Entrepreneurship Flagship Programme commenced February 2024, supporting 14 start-up entrepreneurs in and around Gqeberha with product development, sales and marketing, digital literacy, and financial management skills with the assistance of 14 volunteer coaches. Participants received monthly training sessions and 11 of the 14 participants received bi-monthly mentoring sessions since the start of the programme.

- 14 completed programme interventions.
- 11 businesses are now trading.
- 14 workshop interventions were completed.

KEY INITIATIVES



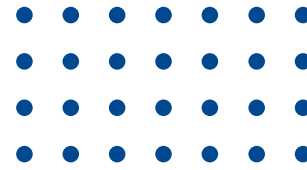
Anglo Cohort 2

Anglo American Zimele (AAZ) and SAICA Enterprise Development (SAICA ED) ran a project in the period 2023-2024 to render its Financial Excellence Offering (FEO) programme for a selected cohort of business within Anglo's Enterprise and Supplier Development strategy. SAICA ED's intent for this programme was to mobilise all designations of the SAICA profession to assist AAZ in promoting Financial Excellence in SMMEs located within the main sites of Platinum and Kumba. 6 SMP coaches were on the programme. The programme supported 65 SMMEs in Northern Cape (Kumba, Sichen), Rustenburg, Mogalkwena, Polokwane and Far Eastern Limb (Burgersfort).

- 6 SMP coaches were on the programme.
- A total of 24 companies supported new jobs from the beginning of the programme.
- 18 companies secured new contracts.
- 38% increase in revenue of the overall participating businesses.



KEY INITIATIVES



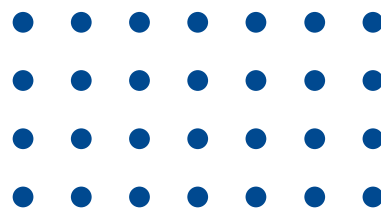
Exxaro Cohort 2

Exxaro and SAICA Enterprise Development (SAICA ED) ran a project in the period 2022-2024 to render its Financial Excellence Offering (FEO) programme for a selected cohort of business within Exxaro's Enterprise and Supplier Development strategy. SAICA ED's intent for this programme was to mobilise all designations for the SAICA profession to assist Exxaro in promoting Financial Excellence in SMMEs located within the main sites of Belfast, Grootgeluk, Leeuwpans, Matla and Durnacol. 30 SMMEs were supported 2 SMP coaches on the programme.

- The programme achieved 40% Increase Overall Turnover.
- There was a 33% Increase in Overall Net Profit.
- 10 companies secured new contracts.
- 15 Jobs were created from the programme.



KEY INITIATIVES



Exxaro Cohort 3

Exxaro and SAICA Enterprise Development (SAICA ED) entered its third iteration within the period of 2023-2024 to render its Financial Excellence Offering (FEO) programme for a selected cohort of business within Exxaro's Enterprise and Supplier Development strategy. SAICA ED's intent for this programme was to mobilise all designations for the SAICA profession to assist Exxaro in promoting Financial Excellence in SMMEs located within the main sites of Belfast, Grootgeluk, Leeuwpan, Matla and Durnacol. 27 SMMEs were supported with 3 SMP coaches on the programme.

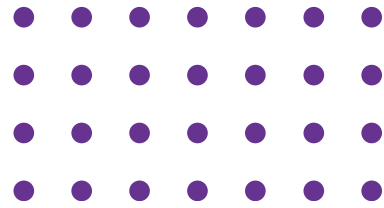
- 44% Youth owned and 48% Female Owned Businesses were empowered.
- 9 companies supported 33 new jobs from the beginning of the programme.
- 21% Increase in Turnover for the SMME participants.
- 25% Increase in Net Profit for the SMME participants.

Glencore

Glencore partnered with SAICA Enterprise Development (SAICA ED) for a bespoke Financial Excellence programme to assist Glencore ESD participants. This programme consists of a 'deep dive' Financial Diagnosis and Assessment of all 10 SMMES, Financial Coaching interventions, Accounting and Back Office Support and Financial Boot camps supported by 3 Small and Medium Practices. SAICA ED is rendering a Enterprise and Supplier programme that aims at improving the Financial Management aspects in small businesses in the mining sector.

- 100% of coaching sessions attended in the last quarter.
- 100% of management accounts received.

KEY INITIATIVES



SASOL Cohort 1 & 2

SASOL and SAICA Enterprise Development (SAICA ED) ran a pilot project in the period 2023-2024 to render its Financial Excellence Offering programme for a selected cohort of businesses within SASOL's Enterprise and Supplier Development strategy to assist SASOL in promoting Financial Excellence for 78 SMMEs located within the main sites of Sasolburg, Secunda, Ekandustria and the greater RSA regions with the help of 8 SMP's.

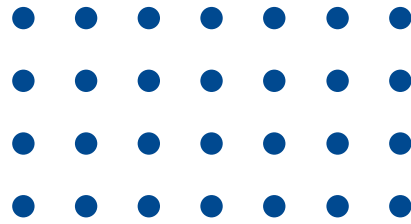
- 84% of those SMME's that took up Back-Office Accounting Support also had a set of Annual Financial Statements prepared.
- 42% total increase in overall turnover.
- A total of 11 companies supported 22 new jobs from the beginning of the programme.
- 6 SMMEs received loan funding.
- 33% of SMME's have secured contracts or PO's outside of SASOL while 18% have secured SASOL contracts/PO's.

SASOL Cohort 3

SASOL had identified 30 SMME's that require assistance for prior years' clean ups in terms of record keeping and management accounts.

- 100% Annual Financial Statements Concluded.

KEY INITIATIVES



SASOL Cohort 4

SASOL and SAICA Enterprise Development ran a 4th project rendering its Financial Excellence Offering (FEO) programme to business within SASOL's Enterprise and Supplier Development strategy. Supporting 71 SMMEs located within the main sites of Sasolburg, Secunda, Ekandustria and the greater RSA regions with financial coaching, finance boot camps and affordable accounting services to ensure that SMMEs are equipped with the necessary skills and tools to become sustainable SMMEs through the help of 8 Small and Medium Practices.

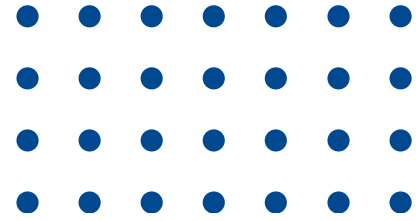
- 91% Diagnostics completed.
- 61% of SMME's have opted to use the services of a SAICA ED accountant.
- 8 new SMME's signed up on the Women in Engineering programme and will be included in the 2025 programme.

SASOL Cohort 5

SASOL had identified SMME's that require assistance for prior years' clean ups in terms of record keeping and management accounts. The completion of management accounts will enable the SMME to achieve compliance and also assist the SMME in making valuable decisions in their business and preparing the financial information from a correct base for the current year.

- 17 SMME's from the Secunda region were empowered.
- 4 SMP's involved.
- A total of 17 Diagnostic sessions completed.
- 5 companies requiring a total of 90 months of financials were completed while a further 8 companies required their financials to be reviewed.

KEY INITIATIVES



SAICA Enterprise Development Flagship cohort 6

This was our 6th collaboration with independent coaches to deliver a 9-month ESD program. The program supported 26 SMMEs, and with the help of 10 volunteer coaches, 18 of the SMMEs successfully graduated.

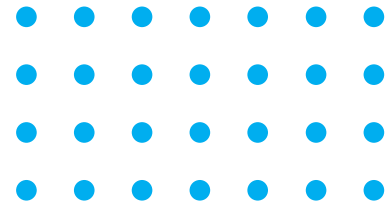
- 15% increase in Revenue after completing the 9-month programme amongst 18 SMMEs.
- 13 new jobs were created by the SMMEs during the programme.

SAICA Enterprise Development Flagship cohort 7

The 7th cohort of the SAICA ED volunteer programme assisted 27 SMMEs to become financial savvy in their business. This was achieved through the help of 17 Volunteer coaches who invested their time to coach and develop SMMEs on the programme.

- 22 new jobs were created amongst the 27 SMMEs.
- 7% increase in average revenue overall.
- 10% increase in average net profit margin overall.

KEY INITIATIVES



SAICA Enterprise Development Flagship cohort 8

The SAICA ED volunteer program assisted 36 SMMEs improve their financial skills, guided by 19 independent volunteer coaches and supported by industry experts who generously volunteered their time to develop the SMME's on the programme.

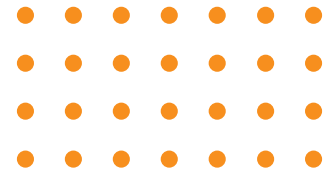
- 15% increase in Revenue after completing the 9-month programme amongst 18 SMMEs.
- 13 new jobs were created by the SMMEs during the programme.

SAICA Supplier Development Cohort 3

The goals and objectives of the programme are to support economic empowerment and transformation through the implementation of a sustainable Supplier Development programme and proactively prioritize the inclusion of Black-Owned small businesses within SAICA's value chain. 7 SMMEs were on the programme, 4 SMPs are assisting the SMMEs with financial coaching and conducting various workshops on financial management.

- 31% increase in overall net profit.
- 29% Increase in overall revenue growth.
- 3 new jobs were created from the 7 SMMEs that participated.

KEY INITIATIVES



Lilitha Solar Cohort 2

5 SMMEs were supported on the programme of which three were returning participants and two were newly on-boarded participants. The initiative provided comprehensive assistance to help these businesses strengthen their foundations and operational capabilities. 2 SMP'S assisted the SMMEs with the Back Office Accounting support for the SMMEs. Through a multifaceted support model, Lilitha Solar aims to contribute meaningfully to the success and expansion of the participating SMMEs company, fostering long-term economic inclusion.

- 12 New jobs were created.
- Graduation took place in May 2024.



KEY INITIATIVES



Lilitha Solar Cohort 3

Supports 5 small business owners from the Emthanjeni district and greater Pixley Ka Seme region of the Northern Cape to improve their capacity, to manage and grow their businesses, by generating income and employment that enables them to participate in the broader economy in various industries such as Transport, Hospitality, E-commerce, Health and Wellness sector supported.

- Deep Dive, Diagnostic & Development plans completed.
- SMP/Business coach has been on boarded.
- Business Coaching, Back office & Accounting support and Masterclasses/Workshops in progress.
- Grant funding opportunity in progress.

SYGNIA ASSET MANAGEMENT 2024

Over the course of a 6-month engagement, the SAICA Enterprise Development programme has provided substantial support to an SMME, fostering both enterprise and supplier development.

- Grant Disbursement Support - A total of R 240 000,00 has been disbursed to a SMME.
- SMME shortlisted by ISUZU Motors South Africa for a potential deal to become their preferred supplier of marketing services for three years, pending sample approval.
- 1 SMP supported the SMME with coaching, business and financial coaching and Back Office Support. Annual Financial Statements were also concluded successfully.
- 1 New job created.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



6 Featured Articles

4 Adverts Published

Magazine



Implemented Social Media campaigns and increased Followership by:

1300



9 PR, Featured Articles, and impact stories published on various media platforms

Sunday Times

4 THE HOPE CHRONICLES

The Hope Factory and SAICA Enterprise Development's Stakeholder Newsletter

Secured **2** Radio Interviews at

4 Virtual & Face to Face Marketing Events Attended



2 SMME's Featured on the SAINC Programme on

BusinessDay
TELEVISION

Successful Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) partnerships empowers SMME'S

Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) refers to initiatives aimed at fostering the growth of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and build the capacity of suppliers within a business ecosystem. This concept is particularly significant in the context of economic transformation and empowerment.



SASOL aims to identify, develop and sustain a pipeline of future fit qualifying small enterprises (SME's) by enabling them to scale up into sustainable businesses through investment in innovative, sustainable, and socially relevant development solutions and funding. In support of this vision, SAICA Enterprise Development (ED) aims to leverage the expertise of SAICA (South African Institute of Chartered Accountants) members to guide SMEs towards financial excellence, ensuring they have the financial management capabilities needed to thrive.

SAICA ED partnered with SASOL for the SAICA ED Financial Excellence programme selecting 80 SMEs to participate. Of these 68% were female entrepreneurs and 23% youth owned. Each participating SME underwent a comprehensive financial diagnostic assessment conducted by a registered accountant and coach, followed by a tailored development plan. SMEs then met with their coaches on a regular basis thereafter in order to ensure developmental milestones were achieved. It is encouraging to note that over 80% of the SMEs supported by the programme have either already reached their financial excellence goals or are well on their way to achieving them.

Back Office Accounting Support is an integral part of the programme as it ensures monthly accounts are maintained, business tax and payroll services are properly managed, company secretarial duties and the compilation of Annual Financial Statements are completed. This drives SMEs' understanding of their financial standing and enhances their ability to use the information to make informed decisions. To date, the programme has assisted 63% of participating entities in obtaining their latest Annual Financial Statements, while 74% have achieved CIPC compliance. Additionally, 64% of participants are now fully tax compliant, with a further 14% partially compliant.

The SASOL and SAICA ED partnership created further impact through the following:

Job Creation: SMEs are significant contributors to employment. They have the potential to reduce the high unemployment rate, which is a persistent issue in South Africa. The programme directly contributed to the creation of 22 new jobs across 11 companies.

KEY FEATURED ARTICLE

(Continued)

Economic Growth: SMEs drive innovation and competition, both essential for a thriving economy, while also contributing to GDP and overall economic growth. As a result of the programme, 31 SMEs recorded a 42% increase in turnover, and 27 SMEs achieved a 37% increase in net profit.

Resilience and Adaptability: SMEs are often more flexible and can adapt quickly to changing market conditions. This resilience is vital for economic stability, especially in

times of economic downturns. To date, 33% of programme SMEs have secured contracts or purchase orders (POs) outside of SASOL, while 18% have secured contracts or POs directly with SASOL.

Community Development: SMEs often operate within local communities, contributing to local development and providing essential services to products tailored for community needs. Aligned with SASOL's objective to uplift SMEs in regions where they operate, the programme was rolled out in their host communities including Sasolburg, Secunda and Ekandustria.

Compliance and access to Funding: SMEs often struggle with their compliance and to access funding. Currently, 63% of the participating SMEs are SARS-compliant. **Partnerships:** ABSA has partnered with one of the SMEs from the programme as a financing partner, further supporting their growth and sustainability.



Monitoring and Evaluation was carried out throughout the programme, ensuring participating SME's, finance coaches and the SMP's (Small Medium Practice) had met their objectives for the programme. While the statistical figures are wonderful to achieve, the feedback from several participants highlights the programme's significant individual-level impact, as evidenced in the following testimonials:

Balraj from Shisaforklift and fleet services- "I must admit that I was a bit afraid as I was always insecure when it came to financial management. However, you made it seem so easy and the results of this work has made me so much more confident in the management accounts of my business. I now see and value the importance of your intervention. Your patience and ability to make me understand the financial management aspects of the business was really impressive, thank you for this. " (Sasolburg)

Directors at Nkhuthobano- "The programme helped us very much in getting our financial matters in order. It also put into perspective the real performance of the company. We also learned how to manage the finance and what to focus on. The workshops also helped and equipped us "(Secunda)

We would like to express our gratitude towards SASOL for their valued support and believing in the importance of the Financial Excellence programme. The success of this rollout would have not been possible without SASOL's full support and commitment to the upliftment of SME's in South Africa.

KEY FEATURED ARTICLE

The Hope Factory celebrates two decades of developing businesses and impacting communities

Celebrating a 20-year anniversary is a significant milestone for any organization but, marking two decades of consistently creating initiatives to be at the forefront of economic transformation, developing businesses, championing entrepreneurial individuals and positively impacting communities is a testament of The Hope Factory's (THF) achievements.



Radisson Blu hotel in Gqeberha was the venue where THF hosted close to 100 guests coming from various parts of the country. The attendees consisted of past SMME participants that have been supported in their journey of growth, stakeholders that have partnered with THF to witness this momentous occasion, and key partners who have made it possible for THF Group to achieve their vision in playing an active role in economic transformation through advancing the sustainable growth of entrepreneurial Black-Owned Businesses.

Guests were welcomed by a vibrant marimba band and awed by the award-winning Westering High School youth choir, who made sure that hearts were touched for the next generation. The overarching theme of the event was a 'strategies of hope' journey, which was perfectly articulated by all the speakers. The first of the speakers was Ernest Carelse – the Chairperson of the Hope Factory and SAICA Enterprise Development who gracefully opened the event with a synopsis of three areas that have led to the success of THF and further words of encouragement and inspiration. Robert Zwane, former Executive Director: Learning, Development and National Imperatives of SAICA, followed as the second speaker of the day and touched on the Hope Factory's transformation practices and growth opportunities.

KEY FEATURED ARTICLE

(Continued)

Annie McWalter, The Hope Factory and SAICA Enterprise Development Chief Executive Officer, was the third speaker who elaborated on The Hope Factory's business journey by mentioning both the highs and lows, but ultimately the wonderful triumphs that have been achieved within the 20 years. Annie continued, "We believe that we are about to pivot once more as we want to explore with key partners how to continue expanding our national footprint of entrepreneurship development to

bring about financial excellence in SMMES together with SAICA associated Small and Medium Accounting practices; Professionalising the space of SMME development from Micro businesses all the way up to established Small businesses; and assisting Corporates with their ESG strategies".

Annie also led a panel discussion that included past SMME participants, who were positively impacted by our programme offerings (Eschel Liesering, founder of Plateau Solutions and Mosa Dikobo, Founder of Citrus Green Solution) and Nicolette Liberty (The Hope Factory and SAICA Enterprise Development, Human Resources Manager), who took the guests through her professional growth journey (coming to The Hope Factory first as a programme participant herself) and her passion now for placing unemployed graduates in job opportunities and involvement in the programmes for job-readiness.

We are proud to have the track record that we have had so far; but we would like to build an even bigger impact driven footprint. Since inception we have empowered 3024 SMME's; we have impacted 2593 Social Economic Development Participants (both entrepreneurship and unemployed youth streams); 472 Youth graduates have been impacted with work experience; we have partnered with 147 SAICA associated Small Medium Practices to bring the Financial Excellence Offering to SMMES and we have undertaken 401 projects across South Africa, as at the end of 2023.



OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

As we look to the future, our commitment to driving economic transformation and empowering entrepreneurs remains unwavering. We recognize that the key to sustainable growth lies in fostering strong partnerships with Corporates who share our vision for a prosperous and inclusive economy.

Our journey so far has been marked by significant milestones, achieved through collaborative efforts with our corporate partners and key stakeholders. These partnerships have not only fueled positive impact but has also created opportunities for countless entrepreneurs to thrive, by leveraging the strengths and resources of our Corporates and stakeholders.

In the last two decades we have been able to provide the necessary empowerment initiatives for startups and small businesses to succeed significantly. We will continue to invest in initiatives that promote financial inclusion, skills development and socio-economic development.

THANK YOU

We believe by working together, we can drive economic growth that benefits everyone. Our Corporate partners play a crucial role in this mission, and we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

Thank you for the continued support and partnership of achieving positive impact in 2024.



Above shown are some of our strategic partners for 2024



3578

SMEs/Entrepreneurs
empowered



2776

Socio-Economic
Development
Participants



476

Youth graduates
impacted with work
experience



429

Number of
Projects



222

SAICA Small
Medium Practices
Involved

SAICA Enterprise Development and The Hope Factory are committed to driving sustainable entrepreneurship development



Transforming Communities, Driving Growth

Our efforts contribute to economic growth and bring positive impact in diverse communities throughout the country.

Email us to find out how you can contribute to making a difference:

Cheryl-Ann Blignaut: cherylann@saicaed.co.za





Contact us



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www.thehopefactory.co.za

<https://www.saica.org.za/initiatives/enterprise-development/saica-enterprise-development>



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