



Annual Report 2023





FOUNDED: **2007**



PBO: 930032635

NPO: 062-936

OVERVIEW

Earthchild Project operates in disadvantaged primary schools in the Western Cape.

Working with children and teachers, our educational programmes focus on providing practical skills that compliment the academic curriculum.

Earthchild Project aims to inspire a new generation of confident, conscious and responsible young leaders.

CHILDREN REACHED





TEACHERS REACHED



DEMOGRAPHIC
100% BLACK & COLOURED

FOCUS AREAS

EDUCATION HEALTH

ENVIRONMENT LEADERSHIP BUDGET (2023)

R6 159 200



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2023 was like a breath of fresh air after the challenges we overcame in 2022! Thinking back on the year, the words that come to mind are Stability, Growth, Quality, Impact and Gratitude.

STABILITY - for the first time in our 17 years, we experienced a year with full funding. This gave us the space to attend to many of those 'important but not urgent' goals, to start looking ahead and developing a long term strategy for growth, as well as to start building a much needed financial reserve. Not to mention, that doing this work from a position of stability, is significantly less stressful and far more fun and inspiring!

GROWTH - after many years of wanting to share our tools and approach to education with a wider audience, we were thrilled to develop and then launch our online Resource Hub.

We are very proud of the training videos we produced and excited to start finding creative and effective ways to share what we do with more teachers, facilitators and parents interested in holistic and experiential education.

QUALITY - After many delays during and after the pandemic, in 2023 we built four new ECP classrooms! Spacious, colourful, safe and beautifully kitted out, these much needed classrooms have ultimately enabled our team to offer a higher quality programme to our earthchildren and teachers.

IMPACT - After three years of investing in our monitoring and evaluation tools and systems, we really saw the potential for learning that can come from doing this well. In 2023, we conducted focus groups with both our facilitators and the children, and it was very powerful to

get this insight into the ways the children experience our programmes, and how we can adapt and improve our interventions moving forward.

It has been a complete gamechanger to work from this place of stability and has given us space to reignite our passion, creativity, and dedication towards the vision and mission of Earthchild Project.

GRATITUDE x2 - None of the above would have been possible without the support, wisdom and guidance of the ECP Board, and without the amazing individuals that make up the ECP Team. In 2023, we came a long way and with courage and intention, have grown into a strong, supportive, connected, united team. What an honour it is to work with these special, talented, committed, big hearted human beings!

With gratitude

Janna Kretzmar | ECP Director

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In today's challenging world, the Earthchild Project (ECP) offers hope to young people in Khayelitsha and Lavender Hill. It is rare to find an organisation that creates a safe space for children to relax, connect with themselves, and access their true nature.

Working within the existing school structures, ECP creates meaningful and sustainable change by providing practical skills for a holistic, balanced lifestyle, emphasising self-awareness, health, and the environment. ECP's goal is to nurture a new generation of conscious, confident, and responsible Earth children. The children in our project are living proof of this transformation, demonstrating how a nurturing environment can foster personal growth and resilience.

For the past 17 years, Janna and the entire Earthchild team have remained steadfast in their vision to support these communities, even amid increasing challenges.

Their unwavering commitment to supporting these children despite difficulties is what makes the Earthchild Project a unique and impactful organisation. This strong sense of community and support is evident in every team member and event, reflecting the true spirit of Ubuntu.

The official launch of ECP Germany last year highlights the growing international recognition and support for our mission. This achievement is a testament to Janna's dedication and the project's purpose.

incredibly The team are adaptable, always willing to extend their reach to a broader community. ensuring that more children benefit from their programmes. Over the past year, it has been an honour to support Janna and her team. witnessing their deepening impact on children's lives and extending their influence in the schools they support.

Their dedication and hard work have transformed not only the children but also the teachers and school leaders, creating a more positive and supportive school atmosphere.

On behalf of the ECP board, we express our heartfelt gratitude and excitement for the transformative work of the organisation. The progress we have seen is truly inspiring. As we continue to grow, we remain committed to making a positive impact on the children and communities we serve.

Thank you for your unwavering support in creating a brighter future for the children of Khayelitsha and Lavender Hill.

Tara Casey
Earthchild Chairperson





Earthchild Classrooms

For a number of years, ECP has been working hard to raise funds to build dedicated ECP classrooms at our schools in Khayelitsha and Lavender Hill. Numerous delays due to the pandemic meant that this project was put on hold time and time again, but finally in the second half of 2022 building began, and by the end of 2023 we had six dedicated ECP classrooms open. It has been wonderful to see the huge benefits that these new classrooms are bringing to the schools and the ECP programmes as a whole. The classrooms are well insulated, fully kitted out and importantly are safe and secure. They are an inviting, positive space where our facilitators can now properly implement our programmes. We have also seen the positive impact that these classrooms are having with regard to our relationships with the schools, with principals, teachers, and children expressing their excitement and pride at having these beautiful classrooms at their schools. Our goal now is to have dedicated ECP classrooms and food gardens at all eight of our schools.





In September 2023 we were thrilled to launch the Earthchild Project Resource Hub, a significant expansion in our mission to connect, cultivate and inspire young minds through holistic and experiential education. With a focus on life-skills. wellness, environment, and leadership, we aim to broaden our reach and impact with these exciting new digital resources. Designed to support teachers, parents, and facilitators, our Resource Hub offers a thoughtfully curated library featuring practical facilitation tools such as songs, games, and more, as well as step-by-step training videos, comprehensive lesson plans reflecting the ECP values, and additional resources designed to amplify the impact of our mission.



Programme Report



1. LIVING CLASSROOMS

We're turning existing classrooms into 'living' interactive learning environments. Working together with the teachers during class time, we're bringing our holistic and experiential approach to education into the classroom.

There are two main components to the Living Classroom Programme:



Yoga & Life Skills



Worm Farming & Container Gardening



Yoga & Life Skills

Through interactive processes, yoga postures, relaxation exercises, games and songs, our weekly yoga lessons are equipping children with practical life skills and knowledge in how to be healthy, confident and resilient.

IN 2023:

Y

107
Living classrooms



4544
Children reached



1184 Lessons taught

"The learners seem to have acquired skills and vocabulary to express their feelings, and to know that the bad days don't last forever. They are able to acknowledge their feelings, and let them go, and don't often harbour grudges and pettiness. I like to think that we're all one happy family (even though some days are not as easy as others and we all, myself included, need to be mindful of our words and actions towards one another)." ~ Living Classroom teacher



Improved Behavior & Discipline

- Better listening and following instructions.
- Positive behavior and conduct in the classroom.
- Increased discipline and respect for others.



2

Calmness & Relaxation

- Children are more calm and relaxed after yoga sessions.
- Ability to switch from hyperactivity to calmness.
- Improved focus and concentration.

LC Yoga: Most significant change

These are the top 5 themes identified by the teachers.

Social & Emotional Development

- Increased caring and empathy for each other.
- Enhanced language development, vocabulary, and confidence.
- Improved understanding of feelings and emotions.

4

Health Awareness

- Children are more conscious of their health and practice healthier habits.
- Positive changes in fitness and well-being.

5

Positive Affirmations and Mindfulness

- Use of positive affirmations in daily life.
- children practice breathing exercises for calming effects.
- Mindfulness and relaxation techniques are applied.



"My children are kinder and more aware of one another, and they are more considerate towards one another. The lessons with Nosi have emphasized what a community is amongst people and how to treat ourselves and one another and I guess the lessons push for confidence in our learners and selfcare." - Living Classroom teacher

Worm Farming

Our Earthchild Facilitators set up a worm farm and container garden in each Living Classroom. We then use them as a practical resource to teach bimonthly lessons about the environment in a way that is fun and engaging.

IN 2023:



107
Living classrooms



4544
Children reached



1289
Lessons taught

"My learners are more aware of the impact they have on the environment around them. They now know everything they do has an effect whether good or bad. They're more conscious of littering and the well-being of school structures." ~ Living Classroom teacher



Caring & Responsibility

- Children developed a sense of care and responsibility, not only for the worms but also for each other and the environment.
- Themes under this category include expressions like "caring," "responsibility," "love for nature," and "taking care of the worm farm."



Environmental Awareness & Consciousness

• Subthemes include understanding the impact on the environment, awareness of recycling, consciousness of littering, and general concern for the well-being of the surroundings.

LC Worm Farming: Most significant change

These are the top 5 themes identified by the teachers.

Respect for Nature & Living Beings

• Subthemes include respect for mother earth, understanding the importance of worms in the soil, and recognizing the value of every little creature in the circle of life.



Interest & Engagement

- Children showed a heightened interest in the lessons, engaged actively in activities related to worm farming, and participated eagerly in discussions and role plays.
- Subthemes include curiosity about the life cycle of worms, interest in farming, and enthusiasm for the lessons.



Academic & Behavioral Improvement

- Teachers observed positive changes in academic performance, discipline, and behavior among children.
- Subthemes include improved listening skills, positive changes in behavior and discipline, and increased academic interest and performance.

Teacher Training & Wellness

Our aim is to empower and inspire teachers with the knowledge and tools to extend the reach of our Living Classroom Programme. Through quarterly workshops, hikes, and weekly yoga classes, we are equipping teachers with facilitation skills and resources they can use with their learners, as well as supporting their own personal development.

IN 2023:









"The workshops are always about you personally and it gives me the space to actually reflect on myself as a teacher and how I feel about myself and my space and how I can grow and how I look at things and it's really nice to actually sit and reflect."

Stress Reduction & Emotional Well-being

- Yoga was consistently mentioned as a tool for staying calm during stressful times, with a focus on breathing exercises and meditation.
- Participants expressed feeling more connected to themselves and creating a calm and relaxed mental space.

Physical Health & Flexibility

- Physical benefits, such as improved flexibility, boosted confidence, and a sense of feeling healthy and young.
- Some mentioned the release of stress from their bodies and the positive impact on their physical well-being.



Teachers' Yoga: Most significant change

These are the top 5 themes identified by the teachers.

Positive Impact on Teaching & Relationships

- Positive changes in their interactions with children and colleagues.
- Contributed to building closer relationships among teachers, fostering a supportive environment, and creating a bond with colleagues.



Mind-Body Connection & Self-awareness

- Teachers described an increased awareness of their bodies, triggers, and the ability to calm down using learned tools.
- The yoga classes helped in learning to prioritize self-care, listen to their bodies, and understand their physical and emotional needs.

5

Lifestyle & Holistic Well-being

- Participants mentioned lifestyle changes, such as adopting healthier habits and paying attention to self-love and self-care.
- Yoga was seen as a holistic approach to well-being, not just a physical exercise but also a practice that positively influenced thinking, attitudes, and overall lifestyle.

Physical & Mental Well-beingSubthemes include improved physical

- Subthemes include improved physical health, feeling revitalized, and increased energy.
- Responses highlight the positive impact of hikes on mental well-being, stress reduction, and the importance of taking time for oneself.



Connection with Nature

- Participants express a deep connection with nature during hikes, citing benefits such as feeling closer to the environment, appreciating nature, and finding tranquility in natural surroundings.
- Nature is seen as a source of stress relief, providing a refreshing change of scenery.

Teachers'
Hikes:
Most
significant
change

These are the top 5 themes identified by the teachers.

Social & Professional Growth

- Participants note the opportunity to network with colleagues from other schools, share ideas, and build unity.
- Team-building aspects are highlighted, along with the positive impact on relationships and the sense of belonging within the teaching community.

4

Self-Discovery & Personal Growth

- Teachers describe gaining insights into their own capabilities and strengths during hikes.
- The experience is seen as a form of self-discovery, helping individuals overcome challenges, build confidence, and manage stress.

5

Work-Life Balance & Time for Oneself

- The hikes are recognized as a valuable means of achieving work-life balance.
- Teachers emphasize the importance of taking time for oneself, fostering a positive mindset, and gaining perspective on work-related stressors.

2. EXTRA MURAL CLUBS

Our Extra Mural Clubs are held weekly after school. They are an opportunity for us to work with smaller groups of mixed aged children, giving them more focused attention and deepening the learning that takes place during the Living Classroom sessions.



Yoga Clubs



Through interactive processes, yoga postures, relaxation exercises, games and songs, our weekly yoga lessons are equipping children with practical life-skills and knowledge in how to be healthy, confident and resilient.

IN 2023:



8

Clubs



134

Children reached



Extra mural sessions



Yoga Club Focus Groups

Physical Benefits

Yoga improved flexibility, strength, and fitness, aiding in other sports and contributing to overall physical well-being.



Mental & Academic Focus

Yoga practice led to better focus and reduced nervousness, particularly noted in academic settings and test-taking scenarios.



Behavioral Changes & Social Interactions

Less bullying, increased respectfulness, and improved interactions with peers and teachers.



What the children said...

We asked the children what their favourite part of the club was and how they have changed as a result of being in this Club.

Self-Awareness & Personal Growth

Participants developed greater self-awareness, respect for self and others, and a commitment to personal development through yoga.



Emotional Regulation & Anger Management

Children experienced enhanced calmness and anger control, shifting from reactive aggression to peaceful responses after yoga participation.





Friendship, Support & Mutual Respect

Children becoming comfortable with each other, relying on one another, respecting each other, and forming close friendships. The development of friendship among children from different grades.

What our facilitators said...

We asked facilitators what the most significant change was that they saw in children in this Club.



Connection & Empathy

Increased connection among the children and a display of empathy towards each other.



Self-Trust & Confidence

Children gaining self-trust, challenging themselves, and becoming more confident in their abilities.



Calm & Improved Behaviour

Children becoming calmer, more co-operative, and exhibiting improved behavior.

Eco Warriors



Through positive, experiential and engaging sessions, our Grade 5 and 6 Eco-Warriors are learning about the role that each of them plays in our environment, as well as practical ways that they can take action within their own communities.

IN 2023:



8

Clubs



160

Children reached



190

Extra mural sessions



Eco-Warriors Focus Groups

Safe & Supportive Community

The club is valued for its safe, trusting environment where children can share openly without fear of judgment, fostering a supportive and understanding community.



Environmental Awareness & Action

Participants have grown more environmentally conscious, showing increased care for the environment and understanding the impact of their actions.



What the children said

We asked the children what their favourite part of the club was and how they have changed as a result of being in this Club.

Personal Growth & Confidence

Engagement in the club has boosted children's confidence and social skills, encouraging them to be more outspoken and empathetic.



Knowledge & Skills Development

The program has enriched children's knowledge about environmental conservation and the importance of individual contributions to environmental sustainability. They have also learned some. practical skills, like plant care.





Sense of Belonging & Ownership

Children feel a sense of belonging and ownership, making them feel special and engaged.

What our facilitators said

We asked facilitators what the most significant change was that they saw in children in this Club.



Positive Environmental Awareness

The children are more interested in eco-issues and some take responsibility for their environment at school.



Increased Confidence & Participation

Children gain confidence to participate and speak up during programme activities.



Improved Relationships & Reduced Bullying

The children have improved relationships with each other, and no longer bully each other.

Crown Sisters

Through our Crown Sisters Clubs, we are creating safe spaces for adolescent girls to discover new pathways to personal growth and empowerment. The weekly extra mural sessions and quarterly workshops include movement practices and themed processes that aim to build positive body image, confidence, and resilience.

IN 2023:





Crown Sisters Focus Groups

Improved Self-Confidence & Self-Expression

Girls reported feeling more confident and free to express themselves. They highlighted the importance of being able to share feelings and secrets in a trusting environment.



Personal Growth & Emotional Well-being

There was a notable change in the girls' personal growth, with mentions of learning to communicate better, set boundaries, and manage emotions.



Improved Knowledge & Awareness

Girls mentioned learning about important topics such as toxic relationships, puberty, and self-care.



What the girls said

We asked the girls what their favourite part of the club was and how they have changed as a result of being in this Club.

Sense of Safety & Belonging

The girls expressed feeling safe and comfortable in the programme environment.



Development of Positive Relationships

The girls spoke about feeling supported and listened to, likening some facilitators to mother figures.





Improved Self-Confidence

Girls become more confident about their bodies and boundaries.



Enhanced Communication & Conflict Resolution

The girls' ability to express themselves, understand emotions, and use Nonviolent Communication techniques



We asked facilitators what the most significant change was that they saw in the girls in this Club.



Increased body awareness

The girls have increased body awareness, especially around the changes their bodies go through during puberty.



Mutual Support & Accountability

The girls hold each other accountable for their actions, promoting mutual support and responsibility.



Enhanced Relationship Building

The girls build better relationships with their friends, family and each other.

3. ECO EXPLORERS

Through our Eco Explorer hikes and camps, we aim to inspire Grade 7 learners to connect with and learn about nature, as well as empowering them with life-skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication. Ultimately, growing future environmental leaders who become changemakers in their communities.



IN 2023:











4-day camps



Eco-Explorers Focus Groups

Personal Growth & Overcoming Fears

Participants overcame initial fears related to hiking, gaining confidence and a sense of freedom through their experiences in the club.



Social Skills & Teamwork

The club encouraged teamwork and social interactions, with children expressing a desire for more activities that promote getting to know peers from other



Physical Health & Wellness

Regular hiking improved children's physical fitness and awareness of health practices, like the importance of staying hydrated during exercise.



What the children said

We asked the children what their favourite part of the club was and how they have changed as a result of being in this Club.

Environmental Awareness & Responsibility

Children developed a deeper appreciation for nature and a sense of environmental stewardship, leading to behaviours like caring for plants and advocating for litter collection.



Knowledge Acquisition & Academic Interest

Engaging with the program sparked curiosity in environmental conservation, local flora, and the history of explored areas, enhancing their interest in learning.



Personal Growth & Self-Reflection



The program encouraged personal growth and self-reflection. The children became more curious, asked questions, and sought knowledge when faced with new experiences



Building Relationships & Making New Friends

The children's ability to connect and make new friends, even with peers from different schools, is a significant change.

What our facilitators said

We asked facilitators what the most significant change was that they saw in children in this Club



Impact of Leaving Community

Children are able to step away from their everyday problems and gain a new perspective.



Environmental Awareness & Respect

The program instilled a sense of environmental awareness and respect for nature in the children. They learned not to harm the creatures they encountered during hikes.



Education in a Playful & Fun Way

The children learn and retain information shared on hikes more than they would in a traditional classroom setting



4. ALUMNI PROGRAMME

This Programme focuses on nurturing the leadership potential of a select group of our primary school graduates throughout their high school years. Through quarterly skills development workshops, camps, and helping to organise and run our Holiday Programmes, they experience deep personal transformation and practical opportunities to implement their leadership skills.

IN 2023:









OUR TEAM



Janna Kretzmar Director



Phila Sopazi Operations Manager



Carly Appleby Communications Manager



Nokuphiwo Jada Schools Programme Manager



Athenkosi Khulu Environmental Programme Facilitator



Asemahle Ndodana Environmental Programme Facilitator



Tara Casey

Phindile Dhlamini-Motshegwa



Cheryl Cornelissen

Lisa Pantani



Abigail Peters

Schools Programme

Manager

Abongile Nonkondlo Environmental Programme Facilitator Education Facilitator



Romilly de Buck

Project Manager

Liya Mgudlwa Environmental



Nosiphiwo Moshilibane Yoga Programme Facilitator



Jadene van Neel Yoga Programme Facilitator



OUR BOARD

Deidre Baatjes



Anathi Phitinjazomlungu Yoga Programme Facilitator



Blanche Leukes Yoga Programme Facilitator

FINANCE REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
PERFORMANCE AS @ 31 DECEMBER 2023

REVENUE		2023	2022
	DONATIONS	7,094,331	4,813,395
OTHER INCOME			
	INTEREST RECEIVED	119,777	32,349
EXPENSES		5,909,519	5,123,250
	ACCOUNTING & AUDITING	175,510	136,879
	MARKETING & FUNDRAISING	256,708	213,267
	BANK CHARGES	66,345	83,844
	COMPUTER EXPENSES	15,978	20,738
	CONSULTATION FEE		6,628
	DEPRECIATION	107,313	14,021
	INSURANCE	21,858	17,774
	MONITORING & EVALUATION	197,236	147,442
	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	147,686	144,290
	PRINTING & STATIONERY	4,357	5,182
	OPERATIONAL SALARIES	825,251	620,722
	PROGRAMME SALARIES	2,841,452	2,626,428
	PROGRAMME COSTS	878,408	869,248
	RECRUITMENT	21,083	9,860
	STAFF TRANSPORT	117,212	95,194
	STAFF WELFARE	22,683	49,103
	TELEPHONE - INTERNET	2,689	2,630
	RENT	81,000	60,000
	SMALL ASSETS	126,750	
NET PROFIT / (LOSS	S) BEFORE TAX	1,304,589	- 277,506

FINANCE REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS @ 31 DECEMBER 2023

CAPITAL EMPLOYED				
Retained Income				
Other Long Term Liabilities	RETAINED INCOME NET PROFIT/LOSS THIS YEAR	-94,622 804,589	709,968	
	BUILDING CAPITALISATION FUND OPERATIONAL RESERVE	-2,282,154 500,000	2,782,154	3.492.122
EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL				
Fixed Assests				
	PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT	2,063,305	2,063,305	
Current Assets				
	TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,488,429 1,247,754	2,736,183	
Current Liabilities				
	TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES PREPAID INCOME	21,702 1,285,664	- 1,307,366	<u>3,492,122</u>

OUR DONORS

We are incredibly blessed to have a network of individuals, businesses, foundations and ambassadors who support us. We would like to thank all of our donors for their trust, generosity and for being part of our Earthchild Project family. Our work would not be possible without you!

Major donors of R50 000 and more for the 2023 calendar year include:







Inge van Reenen



ROLF-STEPHAN NUSSBAUM FOUNDATION



TRUWORTHS









Mordaunt Foundation



JOIN THE EARTHCHILD PROJECT FAMILY

Our dedicated team is passionate about inspiring positive change in society!

Join us in creating a new generation of confident, conscious and responsible young leaders!

Janna Kretzmar | Founder & Director +27 83 4099 185 | janna@earthchildproject.org www.earthchildproject.org

