



Through the collective efforts of our Sethule Board of Trustees and staff members, our partners, and the support of generous donors like you, we have been able to make a meaningful impact in the lives of children, individuals and communities. The stories and achievements shared in this report demonstrate the positive changes that have been brought about by our initiatives.

Annual Report 2023

Sethule Orphans' Trust
January 2024
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1 Foreword from the Director



Photo 1
Thabbeth Cotton (centre)
giving a prize to a girl at
Emarika ECD

As we approach the end of another fruitful year, it is with great pleasure that I present to you our annual report, highlighting the empowering and positive changes our organization has spearheaded within communities. This year, our main theme has been to empower the orphans and vulnerable children who are our champions of positive change in the village communities.

Throughout the past twelve months, we made efforts to address various social and economic challenges faced by communities that we work with. By leveraging our resources, partnerships, and the collective strength of our supporters, we strived to create sustainable solutions that uplift individuals, families, and communities.

Within the pages of this report, you will find a number of stories and achievements that illustrate the impact of our efforts from educational initiatives, psychosocial support, self-help projects, and supplementary feeding.

I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support in our mission to empower positive change. Your generous contributions have enabled us to make a lasting positive difference on the lives of children and communities we serve.

2 Education

The work of Sethule has had an incredible impact on the lives of many orphaned and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. Through our educational initiatives, we have empowered these children by providing them with access to quality education and the necessary tools to build a bright future. Sihle is a shining example of how access to quality education can transform the lives of vulnerable children and provide them with the tools they need to build a bright future.

2.1 Positive Impact: Sihle's Story

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible change you've had on my life. From the darkest shadows of my childhood to the fulfillment of my dreams, Sethule became a beacon of hope and support.

My parents died when I was 8 years old and from then on, faced constant hardships. I was passed from one relative to another, never finding a place where I truly belonged. But everything changed when I discovered the power of education. Despite facing different problems, with the help of kind teachers, I excelled in school. When I was 12 years old a women's church group brought my first school uniform. This simple act instilled a sense of pride and belonging within me.

I was never idle. I worked tirelessly in people's fields and herded cattle in order to provide for my educational needs. With the help of kind-hearted individuals like my teachers, I managed to pass my senior school examinations. Ready for university, I moved to the city (Bulawayo), where I secured a job as a house cleaner. The salary was however not enough to cover my university fees and transport. Daily, I walked 16km to and from university. It was with great joy and relief when Sethule Trust offered me a scholarship that covered my tuition as well as all educational materials. Sethule also provided me with clothes and other daily essentials. The support from Sethule was a tremendous relief as it took away the daily long walks to college meaning that I was not always tired and therefore could focus on my studies. In November 2023, I completed my university course and received a Bachelor of Art in Records & Achieves management and I graduated with Honours!

I am eternally grateful for Sethule's unwavering support, which has inspired me a wish to help others in need. Sethule has had an immeasurable impact on my life.

I am currently writing a novel titled "It's All Because Of Him," which tells the story of my life, and Sethule Trust fills a lot of pages in my book!

With heartfelt gratitude,
Sihle



Photo 2
Sihle at her Graduation

Sihle received a job offer with the City Council and will start work in January 2024. This is a major achievement especially in a country where the unemployment rate is high.

The transformative power of quality education cannot be understated when it comes to vulnerable children. Sihle’s story is a testament to the transformative power of knowledge and how education can enhance positive change in the lives of individuals and communities. It has the ability to change their lives and provide them with the necessary tools for a brighter future. Through access to quality education, children like Sihle have the opportunity to break free from the cycle of vulnerability and empower themselves. It equips them with knowledge, skills, and confidence to overcome barriers and challenges they may face.

2.2 The Scholarship Fund

The Sethule Scholarship Fund supports marginalized but deserving children in primary, secondary, and college/university levels. We award scholarships to children from 12 years old and continue to support them until they finish their university education.

In 2023, 55 deserving students were able to pursue their academic goals without the burden of financial constraints. The fund has not only enhanced accessibility and affordability but has also contributed to the personal growth and development of these students. The fund has paved the way for success stories and transformed lives. The positive results of the scholarship fund goes beyond just this year; it also sets a precedent for future support and encourages more students to strive for excellence in their education.



Photo 3
Our students were rewarded for achieving Academic excellence

2.3 Celebrating Academic Achievements

One student recently graduated from University with a BA Honours in Record and archives management. The remaining 6 students are still at university studying:

- + Electronic engineering – 1
- + Medicine – 1
- + Law – 2
- + Social Work – 2

2.4 The Importance of Sethule Skills Centre in Transforming Lives

The primary purpose of the Sethule Skills Centre is to offer hands-on training and instruction to help individuals develop the day to day life skills. The Skills Centre provides a unique opportunity for our students to gain valuable life skills that may not be taught in schools or at home. They learn a wide range of practical skills that are essential for everyday life. These include sewing, personal hygiene, cooking, social and professional etiquette, financial education, personality enrichment and confidence building.

This year the skills centre accommodated 21 students in a total of 3 sessions. Each session is a week-long and has unique curriculums that are designed to suit each particular group.



Photo 4
It is not all work at the SSC. Here Students are seen practising traditional dancing

2.5 Early Child Development Centres (ECD)

The Sethule ECD Centres cater for children between the ages of 4 to 5 years. Our focus is on providing a nurturing and stimulating environment that supports children's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. In order to increase parental involvement, we introduced play-based learning as well as the "Continuous Assessment Learning Activity". This gave parents/guardians an opportunity to be instrumental in helping their children with tasked projects.

At Emarika ECD centre, a total of 39 students were enrolled in 2023.



Photo 5

These children have been with us for two years. It is their last day at Emarika ECD.

Next year they move to a new school.

At Sethule Hope Centre, a total of 26 students were enrolled this year. We believe that our early child development centres play a crucial role in the future of our children and the community. Therefore, we are committed to providing the best possible environment and resources to support their growth and development.



Photo 6

Fun day at Sethule Hope Centre

3 The Benefits of Nutritional Gardens for Preschool Students

Our nutritional gardens have been thriving, providing a sustainable source of fresh fruits and vegetables for our community. We are particularly proud of the positive impact our gardens have had on our pre-school students. They have thoroughly enjoyed the fresh produce, which is essential for maintaining a well-balanced diet.



Photo 7
The Sethule garden showing off its lush produce

The benefits of our nutritional gardens are numerous and far-reaching. Firstly, our gardens have contributed significantly to improving food security. Primarily the garden is for Emarika children but whenever we have excess, we offer it to the community in exchange for the manure from their cattle or chickens.

Secondly, our gardens promote healthy eating habits. By providing fresh, locally-grown produce, we are encouraging our community members to make healthier food choices.

Finally, our gardens reduce the ecological footprint associated with food production and transportation. By growing our own food, we are reducing the amount of energy and resources required to transport food from distant locations.

4 The Bicycle Project

We are proud to be part of a project that is making a positive impact in the lives of children by providing children with a means of transportation that is both safe and reliable. The Bicycle Project has been successful in improving access to education for children in the community. With the availability of bicycles, children are now able to travel to school faster and more conveniently. This has led to an increase in school attendance and an improvement in academic performance.

One of the key factors contributing to the success of the Bicycle Project is the collaboration between parents and schools. Parents are actively involved in ensuring that the bicycles are well-maintained and kept safe at all times. This level of community involvement is inspiring and highlights the importance of working together towards a common goal.

This year, we have been able to purchase 10 more bicycles, bringing the total number of bicycles to 33, distributed within 4 schools. We hope to reach even more schools and provide bicycles to more children in need.



Photo 8
These bicycles were distributed to students

5 Child Safeguarding Sessions Conducted by Sethule

Child safeguarding is a crucial aspect of any organization that works with children. As such, Sethule has been conducting regular workshops and sessions with stakeholders, partners, employees, and volunteers to emphasize the importance of protecting children from all forms of abuse and harm. A total of 136 people took part in our child safeguarding sessions. A two-day long child safeguarding workshop was held for teachers from various rural schools.

It was attended by over 55 teachers representing 20 schools. In addition to teachers, representatives from Childline, a child abuse reporting hotline, the Ministry of Education and other community organizations also participated.

The sessions covered various topics, including:

- + Child abuse and its different forms
- + Signs of child abuse
- + Reporting mechanisms for child abuse cases
- + Child protection policies and procedures
- + Safety measures to protect children from harm

Some of the key findings from the sessions are as follows:

1. Most parents were not aware of the different forms of child abuse and how to identify them.
2. The staff members and volunteers were already familiar with child abuse and protection issues. However, they noted that the refresher sessions were helpful in reminding them of their responsibilities and the importance of adhering to child safeguarding policies and procedures.
3. The school teachers found the sessions particularly useful in identifying signs of abuse and reporting cases promptly.
4. All participants emphasized the need for continuous training, awareness campaigns and education on child safeguarding.



Photo 9
Teachers participating at a child safeguarding workshop for teachers

6 The Mental Health Program

As part of our commitment to the children we work with, we at Sethule prioritize their mental health. Our psychosocial support pillar is designed to cater to the emotional needs of these children, many of whom come from rural communities where economic and social challenges can negatively impact mental wellbeing. Our mental health program aims to raise awareness of mental health issues and provide timely information on how they can affect an individual's emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing.

Over the past year, we have held regular sessions with students from six different schools. During these sessions, we have discussed a range of topics, including understanding mental health, identifying potential causes of mental health problems, recognizing the signs and effects of mental health issues, and different types of mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Additionally, we have provided guidance on when and how to seek help. Our program has been well-received by both students and teachers..

This year, we reached out to a total of 1127 students. Extensive one to one counselling was offered to 6 students and 3 of these students were referred to further expertise assistance.



Photo 10
A Sethule counsellor having a one to one discussion with a student

7 Child and Youth Program

7.1 Dare To Be Different: Empowering youth through life lessons

Our program, Dare to be different (DTBD), successfully reached out a total of 3313 students. Our main objective is to equip youths with timely information that will help them make informed decisions. Our mission is to raise awareness and provide accurate information to help students make informed choices about alcohol and substance abuse, sexual health, and other important issues.

Through engagement of life lessons, we are able to deliver a curriculum that is both impactful and empowering.

The main focus in 2023 was:

- + The Importance of a Positive Mindset
- + Partnering with the Government and other organisations for Drug and Substance Abuse Awareness Campaigns.

7.2 Reject and Expose All Child Trauma (REACT)

This year, the program made a significant impact by reaching out to a total of 2,221 pupils.

The REACT program is designed to educate pupils on the myths and facts surrounding child abuse. The teaching methods used in the program are captivating, making it easier for students to understand the issue. One of the teaching methods used is a drama that highlights the myths and facts about child abuse. This approach helps students to distinguish between what is real and what is not when it comes to child abuse.

Additionally, the REACT song “touchy touchy” has been an effective tool in creating awareness among students. The song is catchy and has a fun beat that students can sing along to. It reinforces the message that no one has the right to touch them inappropriately.

Another teaching method used in the REACT program is the my network drawing. This method helps students to understand the reporting procedures for child abuse. It is a visual representation of the people and organizations that they can turn to if they suspect that someone is being abused. This method has been effective in empowering students to take action and report any suspected cases of child abuse.

By educating students on the myths and facts surrounding child abuse, we are creating a culture that values the safety and wellbeing of children. This is a crucial step in preventing child abuse and ensuring that children are safe.



Photo 11
Our REACT lessons are fun and interactive

7.3 ATTIC Youth Camp

In August, we hosted a week's Youth Camp which accommodated 120 teenagers and 43 adults. The youth displayed an impressive level of enthusiasm and energy throughout the week-long camp, and we are proud to have provided them with an opportunity to learn and grow.

The teams competed against each other in various activities, including sports, arts, and educational stations. The participants particularly enjoyed the educational stations, which are interactive and encourage them to be positive agents in their communities. The camp was a great opportunity for the teenagers to learn new skills, make new friends, and build self-confidence..



Photo 12
There is always joy and enthusiasm at the ATTIC Camp

8 Orphan Care

8.1 Birth Certificates & Birth Registration

Birth certificates are crucial documents that provide proof of a person's identity and citizenship. They are essential for accessing basic services such as education, healthcare, and social welfare. However, many children in Zimbabwe do not have birth certificates due to various factors such as poverty, lack of awareness, and inadequate documentation.

The Sethule Birth Certificate team partnered with the District Mobile Registration Unit to mobilize parents and guardians whose children needed birth certificates. Before the arrival of Mobile Registration, the Sethule Birth Certificate team worked tirelessly to raise awareness on the importance of birth certificates and the required documentation for birth registration. The team met with community leaders in different villages to discuss measures that could be taken to prevent the emergence of new cases of children without birth certificates.

In addition to the partnership with Mobile Registration, the Sethule Birth Certificate team conducted three workshops in two villages to educate parents and guardians on the processes of birth registration, the documents required, and the safekeeping of national documents. The workshops reached out to 205 people.

The team also worked closely with community leaders to identify families who needed support in obtaining birth certificates for their children. This approach helped to ensure that no child was left behind, and all families had equal access to the birth registration process.

However, during the National electoral period, the political climate made it impossible for us to visit the villages and hence we could not easily reach out to the communities. Nevertheless, we continued to work closely with community leaders to ensure that our future work was not hindered.

At the end of October 2023, the restrictions were lifted and our team was able to resume the birth certificates quest in full. We hope to continue working closely with Mobile Registration and community leaders to ensure that all children have access to birth registration services.

In 2023, the partnership with Mobile Registration enabled the team to obtain 258 birth certificates.



Photo 13
These children are happy to receive their birth certificate

8.2 Food Supplements

Our program aims to address nutritional deficiencies that can hinder the physical and cognitive development of children, particularly in Matopo and Umguza Districts.

Throughout the year, we provided essential support to 45 families who needed it most. The families received monthly food hampers. These hampers are carefully designed to meet the nutritional needs of families. They consisted of the basic necessities such as maize meal, beans and soap.



Photo 14
It is easy to smile when there is food for your family

9 Women's Health

The issue of menstrual hygiene has been a significant concern, especially in poor rural communities. Limited resources, social stigma, and lack of access to proper sanitary products are some of the reasons why menstrual hygiene is a challenge. In response to this issue, sanitary pad drives have been organized. The program not only provides women and girls with sanitary pads but also raises awareness about menstrual health. Through the Sethule Skills centre, girls are taught how to sew/make reusable pads. A total of 440 reusable and disposable sanitary pads were distributed during the drive.



Photo 15
Sewing reusable pads

10 Livelihood & Self Help Products



Photo 16 + 17

The garden and fowl run at the Sethule Integrated Chicken & Vegetable site

10.1 Gradual substitution of monthly food packs

We have been working hard to find sustainable solutions that can empower families to become self-sufficient. We have been providing monthly supplemental food packs to families in need for a long time. However, we have realized that this approach is not sustainable in the long run. We believe that teaching families to grow their own vegetables and rear their own chickens would be a better alternative. Farming is a vital source of income and livelihood for many families in rural areas, and we hope to help them succeed by providing them with the necessary knowledge and resources.

10.2 Integrating chickens and vegetable farming

Recently, we established an experimental site near the Sethule Office. Our primary goal was to experiment and establish easier, effective, and sustainable ways of farming that can be easily adopted by villagers in rural communities. Integrating chickens and vegetable farming has proven to be a sustainable and effective method of farming. Chickens not only provide eggs and meat but also produce manure that can be used to fertilize vegetable gardens. By combining these two farming practices, families can achieve greater yields and financial stability. We have also noticed that this approach not only benefits individual families but also contributes to the overall growth and development of rural communities. When families are able to produce their own food, they become less reliant on external sources of support. This, in turn, frees up resources that can be used for other projects that benefit the community as a whole.

We have been inviting villagers to come and learn from us, copy and improve on our methods in order to succeed with their own farming projects. Our gardener John has been accepted to train at an Integrated Agricultural Institute. The training will equip him with the necessary skills and knowledge to guide the villagers through Integrated Farming.

11 Infrastructural Development

We are pleased to share with you the major infrastructural developments that were made this year.

1. A classroom block was built at Hope Secondary School. This project has significantly increased the number of classrooms available to students, which has helped to reduce overcrowding and improve the learning environment
2. The Sethule Hope Centre shade was rebuilt. The shade provides a safe and comfortable space for children to play and learn.
3. The Sethule Hope Centre swings were renovated. The swings provide a fun and engaging activity for children, and their maintenance ensures that they remain safe and functional.
4. The Sethule Hope Centre classroom and shade were painted. The new paint has brightened up the learning environment, making it more welcoming and conducive to learning.
5. The Emarika Kitchen was renovated. The new kitchen is equipped with some facilities and appliances, which have greatly improved the quality of food provided to children.
6. The dormitory at Emarika was renovated, ensuring that students are safe and protected at all times.



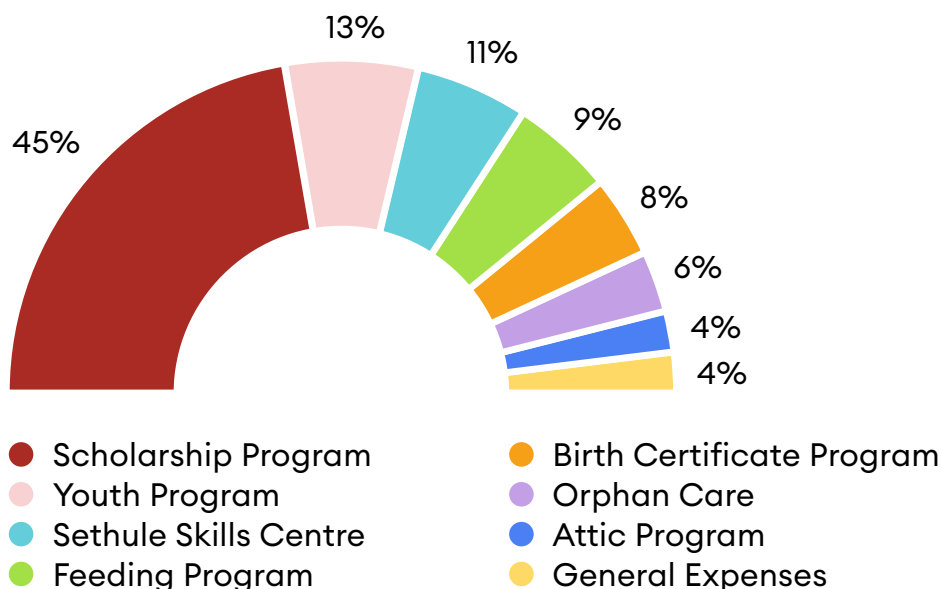
Photo 18 + 19
Classroom block almost completed and Hope Centre after Renovation

12 Finance

Because we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and accountability, our financial records are transparent and easily accessible.

We have implemented an internal control system for our accounts department, which is designed to ensure transparency, accuracy, and accountability in all our financial transactions. Our efforts have been recognized by the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority and the National Social Security Authority. We have received a Certificate of Compliance from both organizations, which is a testament to our commitment to following regulations and best practices.

Program	Total used in \$
Scholarship Program	85 049
Birth Certificate Project	15 752
Youth Program	23 745
Orphan Care	11 840
Feeding Program	18 171
Sethule Skills Centre	20117
Attic Program	6 828
General Expenses	8 271
Total	189 773



All of our work is made possible through donations from organizations and individuals. In addition to financial support, we also rely on the support of volunteers and partners who share our vision and mission. In 2023, the majority of our financial support came from the Swiss Friends of Sethule Orphans' Trust.

13 Our Achievements

Throughout year 2023, we made significant strides in achieving Sethule goals. Our efforts have been geared towards improving the lives of disadvantaged communities in Zimbabwe. We have made remarkable progress in various areas, including education, sports, and food security.

1. All our Scholarship students passed their examinations.
2. We successfully completed the construction of a classroom block at Hope Secondary School.
3. The ATTIC youth program has grown to include 120 teenagers.
4. Two of our scholarship students, participated in athletics at a national level.
5. Three of our scholarship students were chosen by their schools to be part of board of the “Responsible Future Leaders’.
6. We made significant progress in our food distribution project increasing the number of families receiving monthly food donations from 20 to 45.
7. The Sethule Hope centre increased its enrolment from 18 to 26 children.
8. Through our educational and food security initiatives, we have also made strides in community engagement.
9. We hosted the first ATTIC stakeholders meeting and successfully hosted the teachers’ child safeguarding workshop in Bulawayo Club. These initiatives have enabled us to engage with stakeholders, share our progress, and collaborate.
10. We established an experimental site for the Integrated chicken and vegetable farming.

Hope for the Future

Our efforts have yielded significant results, but we recognize that there is still much work to be done. We have identified the following areas where we can improve:

- + Expand our Scholarship Fund initiative to support students.
- + Increase the number of families receiving food donations.
- + Strengthen our sports program to enable more athletes to participate at a national level.
- + Host more stakeholder meetings to engage with partners and donors.

14 Visitors in 2023

This year we were delighted to be visited by:

- + 3 Committee members from the Swiss Friends of Sethule
- + 1 representative from the British – Sethule board
- + 10 students & 2 teachers from Leysin American school
- + 7 visitors from Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, Croatia and New Zealand.

All the visitors had the chance to visit our facilities and participate in various Sethule activities, including field visits. We also had the opportunity to share our challenges and seek feedback from the visitors on how we can improve our services. Their input was invaluable, and we are grateful for their insights and suggestions. We believe that such visits are crucial in promoting awareness and understanding of our organization's mission and activities.



Photo 20 + 21
Sethule visitors 2023

15 Partnerships

- + All Saints Church, Vevey, CH
- + BR Sirius Stiftung, Bern, CH
- + Calsto Care, Bulawayo, ZW
- + ChildLine, ZW
- + Department of Social Development, ZW
- + Emarika Foundation, Geneva, CH
- + Emotional Logic, Tavistock, UK
- + E'Pap Foundation, ZW
- + First Church, Wenham, USA
- + Friends of Sethule Worldwide
- + Imholz Stiftung, Zug, CH
- + Kirchgemeinde Bolligen, CH
- + Kirchgemeinde Münsingen, CH
- + Kirchgemeinde Muri-Gümligen, CH
- + Leysin American School, CH
- + Legacy car rentals, ZW
- + Lesaffre, ZW
- + Living Well Church, Rotorua, NZ
- + Mat Council Child Welfare, ZW
- + Megafest Holdings, ZW
- + McCabe Charity, London, UK
- + Mudgeway Community, Plymouth, UK
- + Mutter Bernarda Stiftung, Menzingen, CH
- + NANGO ZW
- + National Foods, ZW
- + Pfarrei Dreikönigen, Zürich, CH
- + Riverside Church, Southwell, UK
- + Roger Haus Stiftung, Uster, CH
- + Save the Children, ZW
- + Schellenberg Stiftung, Frauenfeld, CH
- + Sethule Orphans' Trust UK
- + Sethule Development Organisation, ZW
- + S. Eustachius Stiftung, Winterthur, CH
- + Swiss Friends of Sethule Orphans' Trust
- + The Phillida Nicholson Trust, UK
- + TMR Welfare-Stiftung, Arbaz, CH
- + Westlake Church, St-Sulpice, CH
- + WOTA, ZW
- + Zimbabwe Aids Network, ZW
- + Swiss foundations that do not wish to be named

16 Administration

16.1 Board of Trustees

+ Chairperson	Dr Noma Ndiweni, PhD
+ Treasurer	Mr Thulani Ndlovu, BAccSci
+ Vice Treasurer	Mrs Clementine Kumwenda
+ Community Advisor	Rev Clopas Ncube, BA
+ Education Advisor	Mrs Gladys Njaya, M Ed
+ Legal Advisor	Mr Prince Butshe-Dube, LLB
+ Trustee	Mr Godfrey Mhlanga BA
+ Director	Mrs Thabbeth Cotton, BA

16.2 Staff Members



Photo 22
Part of the Sethule Staff members

17 Conclusion & Focus for 2024

As we look towards the future, we remain committed to fostering sustainable communities and to bringing smiles to the children in rural Zimbabwe. Our efforts are centred around creating a world where every child has the opportunity to reach his/her full potential.

Our work has already made a positive difference on the lives of countless children and families. We have provided access to education, healthcare, and other essential services to those children in need. We have also worked to promote equality and social justice, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to succeed regardless of their background.

We are grateful for your continued support, your contributions have enabled us to uplift and empower vulnerable children, families, and communities.

Report written by Thabbeth S. Cotton