



South Africa Siyasebenza

OVER A DECADE OF INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIP



Ushintsho Olughakazile

Jobs Fund Webinar

Community Keepers:

An Innovative Approach to Mental Health First Aid in Schools

16 August 2024

The event will start at 11h00



national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Opening Address

Najwah Allie-Edries

Deputy Director-General: Employment Facilitation
(Head of the Jobs Fund)

Background to the Jobs Fund

Facilitator: **Zaid Motala** (Jobs Fund)

- The **Jobs Fund** is a R9 billion challenge fund seeking to:
 - **Support sustainable job creation** in the short to medium term, and
 - **Identify scalable, replicable and sustainable job creation models** that lay the foundations for longer term employment.
- The Fund works with implementing partners (intermediaries), sharing risk and leveraging their networks, funding and technical expertise to access and provide support to the targeted market segment.
- It plays a complementary role in the social protection and employment landscape.
- The Jobs Fund was established with knowledge sharing as one of its foundational pillars and has a rigorous monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning framework.
- To this end, the Jobs Fund regularly hosts and participates in knowledge exchange sessions, together with its partners and the public.

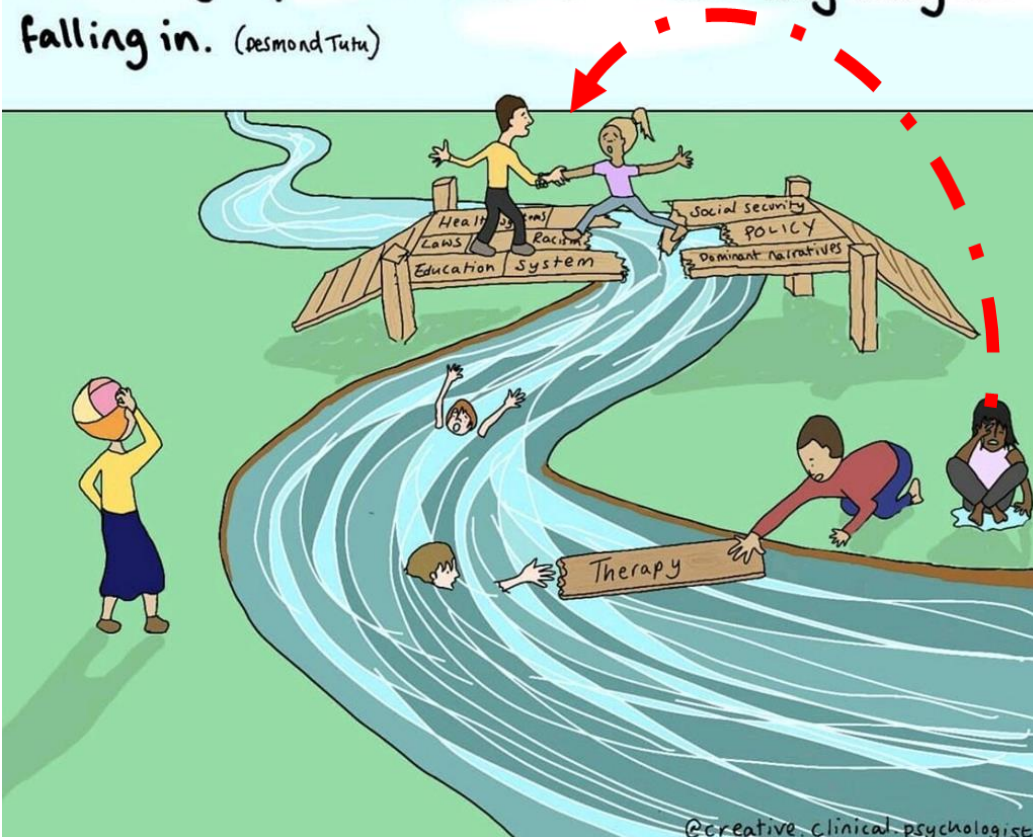
Community Keepers: An Innovative Approach to Mental Health First Aid in Schools

Gerrit Laning (CEO – Community Keepers)

Amanda vd Vyver (Educational Psychologist – Community Keepers)

Motlatso Modubi (Area Manager - Community Keepers)

There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. Some of us need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in. (Desmond Tutu)



Two-thirds of children (63%) in South Africa live below the upper-bound poverty line.

Nearly one in two children (42%) have experienced violence, including physical violence (35%) and sexual abuse (35%).

In some parts of the country, almost all children have either witnessed or experienced violence in their homes, schools and/ or communities.

Early experiences of adversity ripple out across the life course and generations at great cost to individuals and society.

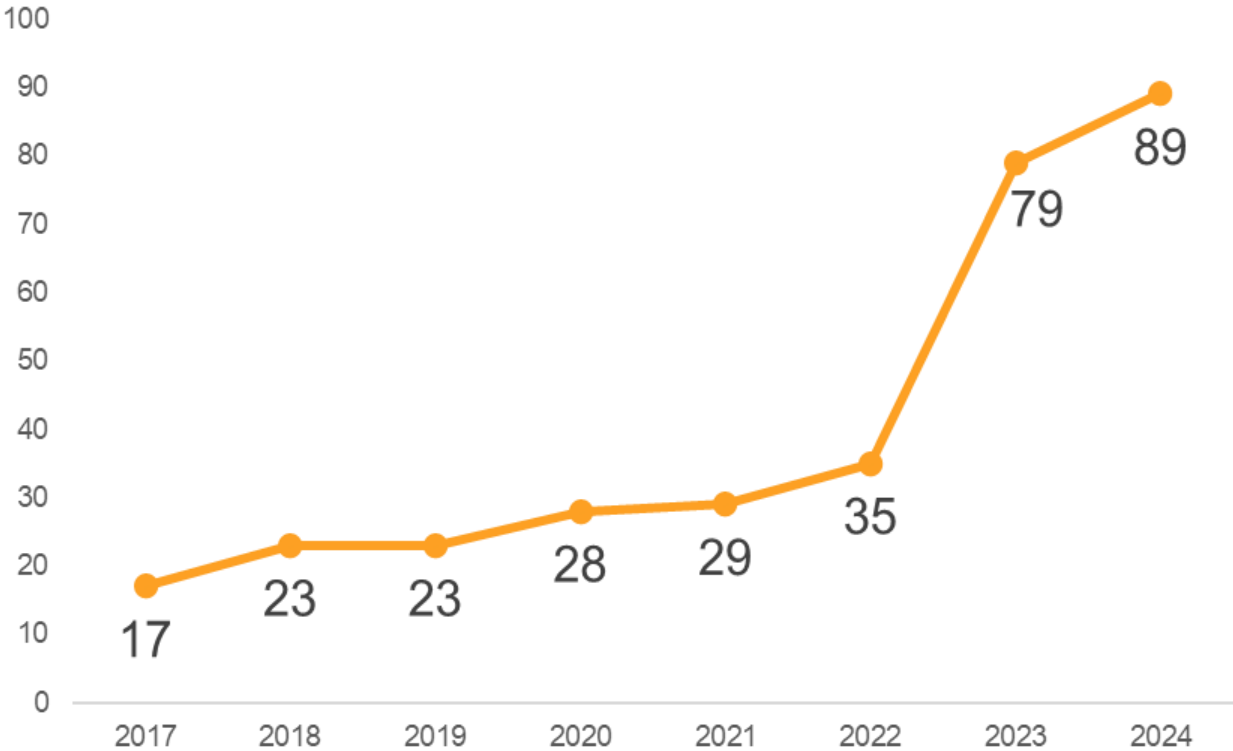
South Africa Child Gauge, UCT 2022

- Strained and broken relationships
- Poverty, loss, grief, neglect, abuse
- Symptoms of anxiety and depression
- Bullying & GBV
- Gang violence, gang recruitment
- Substance use, substance abuse
- Child trafficking



The Catalytic Effect of the Jobs Fund Intervention

Catalytic Growth



Impact 77 535 (2024) learners and their caregivers annually

2023

BUILDING A CULTURE OF WELL-BEING
WHERE EVERYONE CAN THRIVE

32 000 + 36 000

Learners and their caregivers
(Parents, Guardians and Educators)

35 + 40

Partner Schools

community
keepers 

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



35 + 18

Social Workers, Registered
Counsellors and Psychologists

16 + 40

Community-based Care Facilitators

6 + 6

Support Team



It is difficult to access scarce public funds. The involvement of the Jobs Fund has enabled us to impact exponentially more at-risk children.

32 000 learners → now 77 535 learners

35 schools → now 89 schools

Western Cape → now National

The Jobs Fund's robust reporting structure has strengthened our internal processes.

ACHIEVEMENTS

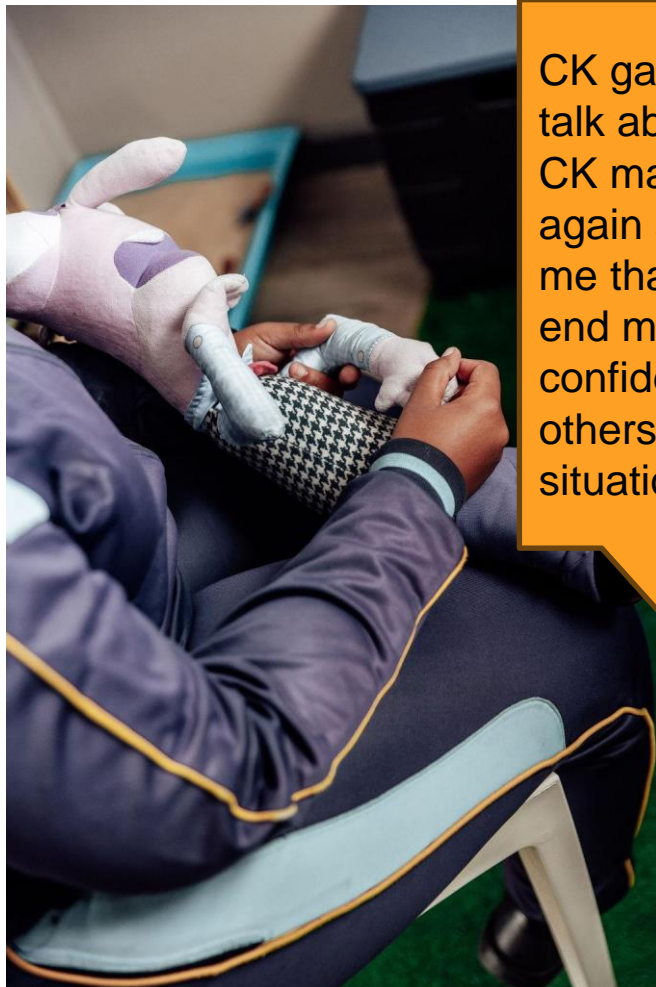
Ushintsho Oluqhakazile



"We needed this when we were young and now I want to give this chance to someone else."
CK JF new recruit



"We are so thankful for the CK offices at schools as we are not always able to provide the extensive support that they do."
Education Department Staff



CK gave me a place to talk about how I feel. CK made me strong again and encouraged me that I don't have to end my life. I am now confident and I can help others in the same situation.

**NATIONAL
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY
FORUM 2023
AWARD
'SCIENCE OSCAR'**



**CSI LEGACY
AWARD
FINALIST 2024**



Challenges during Expansion Project



- Growth is stretching.
- Transferring company culture is challenging for an all-new team.
- Be agile! 2 senior staff members had to relocate unexpectedly, and mobile pods were introduced when there was no space in schools.
- We can not compete with state salaries and lose valuable staff to DSD.
- Two years is a short investment - job creation vs job retention.
- JF outboarding of projects to funders would be a more sustainable model e.g., DSD called for 3-year grant proposals, then withdrew.

We were unemployed and eager to contribute but some of us had been unemployed for some time, so – although we have a qualification and experience – we are not necessarily “8-5 workday fit”, yet we had to hit the ground running.

Learnings from Expansion Project



- The capacity required for funder reporting should not be underestimated.
- Enter new areas with established partners.
- Expand an existing service (blueprint) not an innovation.
- Train first, and then recruit.
- JOBJACK, introduced to us by JF, was key to our success.
- Caring for the Carers is vital, for wellbeing and retention.
- A close, transparent, open funder relationship is critical.



In 2023 and 2024
JOBS FUND
&
COMMUNITY KEEPERS
implemented the

1:23 000

SOCIAL WORKERS : LEARNERS
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUILD BACK BETTER MAC Advisory
recommendation (May 2022):

*“The implementation of non-professional
interventions within a framework of
psychological first aid. Such interventions
involve **training community members** to
identify mental health signs and symptoms, are
cost-effective and lend themselves to
task-shifting models.”*

SCALE:

There is an opportunity
for CK to become the
**incubator to scale
and embed this into
the system.**



Pause for Questions

Closing Address

Najwah Allie-Edries

Deputy Director-General: Employment Facilitation
(Head of the Jobs Fund)



national treasury

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you



Jobs Fund:



jobsfund@treasury.gov.za



<http://www.jobsfund.org.za>



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Ushintsho Olugqokazile

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