

LITERACY

ISIXHOSA - ENGLISH

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Spend a few minutes reading
Don't forget to answer
after each story to
understand the story

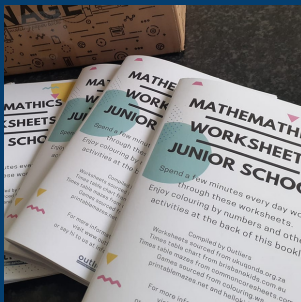
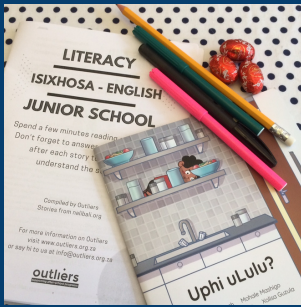
outliers
supporting after-school programs

ANNUAL REPORT

1 MARCH 2020 TO 29 FEBRUARY 2021

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1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Outliers is a network of after-school programs, creating safe spaces for learning for thousands of students across Cape Town. Together, we build our capacity to provide academic support to students so that they develop a love for learning, stay in school, and progress to the next grade. As a collective of 200 after-school programs, we mobilized training and resources to provide support for more than 25000 students last year.

The COVID-19 pandemic placed an even greater burden of care on the facilitators of after-school programs, as students and families turned to these leaders for support during the ensuing lockdown and school closure. Despite many programs not being able to operate in their physical location due to lockdown restrictions, our network continued to find creative ways to support their students.

Through constant communication with each after-school program, we were acutely aware of their concerns for the learning gaps that would result due to lack of schooling, as well as their concerns for food security and safety of communities during a pandemic. Our primary response was the distribution of printed resources to help students remain engaged in learning activities during lockdown.

We also responded to requests for psychosocial support, food security and safety by mobilizing training and resources. Our appeals for support were met by generous donations and collaborative responses by so many across the city, forging new pathways for people to use their social capital for common good.

This network of after-school programs is made possible thanks to the commitment and support of all the child and youth care workers in the after-school programs, the Outliers Board of Trustees, our collaborators and donors and, of course, our amazing families and friends.

With much gratitude

Team Outliers

Heidi Segal, Laura Singh, Janine Minnaar, Toni-Lee Williams,
Mimi de Meyer and Vulisango Mtshikwana

2. OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

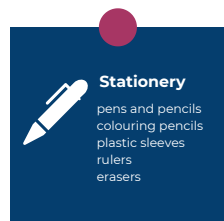
During lockdown, we checked in regularly with all after-school programs in the network, to ensure that we remained connected, and provided a safe space for people to voice concerns, feel heard, and combat feelings of isolation and despair. Many expressed concern that the progress made by their students in previous years would be compromised due to lockdown. Without access to academic materials, libraries, or tutors, students would lose motivation to learn. They feared that once schools reopened, students would likely not return to school. This was the key driver in our response to serve the network through provision of printed academic materials to keep learners engaged during the extended school closure.

2.1 DISTRIBUTION OF ACADEMIC RESOURCES

For those able to access online learning, schooling continued at home during lockdown. However, a staggering 80% of students did not have access to online learning and were left with no support. It was therefore essential to mobilize printed academic materials such as workbooks and textbooks to these students.



We collated grade-specific numeracy and literacy workbooks based on the condensed curriculum as communicated by the Department of Basic Education. We are grateful to the many schools, churches and companies, especially TopCopy and 2U, for helping us print in excess of 25000 copies of these workbooks.



We ran stationery drives across the city to ensure that workbooks were packed along with pens and pencils to enable students to complete the worksheets. Other donations such as Bookdash books, Nal'ibali readers, even Lindt chocolates, were included with workbooks when available.



Many community action networks that emerged during lockdown assisted with distribution of edupacks to after-school programs. This helped to ensure that students engaged with curriculum content during lockdown and were more prepared to return to the classroom when schools reopened.

"Thanks to Outliers, we were able to distribute maths and literacy workbooks with complimentary stationery to our Grade 4 - 7 learners, as well as some fun Nal'ibali pamphlets for the younger children. Believe it or not, children are missing school and these worksheets are received with great enthusiasm. Thank you for putting these packs together."

Vusa Rugby Academy, Langa

2.2 CARING FOR COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS

The uncertainty of living during an unprecedented pandemic impacted how community care workers, including child and youth care workers, operated. Lack of access to critical resources such as sanitizer and masks hindered their essential work in the communities. We were able to mobilize hand-sanitizer, masks, and personal protective equipment, helping to protect our invaluable frontline child and youth care workers.

In collaboration with the #BeThereCampaign, we hosted Psychological First Aid training for community care workers. These sessions, hosted via Zoom, gave many of us a chance to reconnect as a network. The training was met with joy and relief as care workers felt better equipped to handle the many difficult situations that they had to navigate each day. Outliers continued to share this training over WhatsApp, creating platforms for community care workers to debrief with each other.

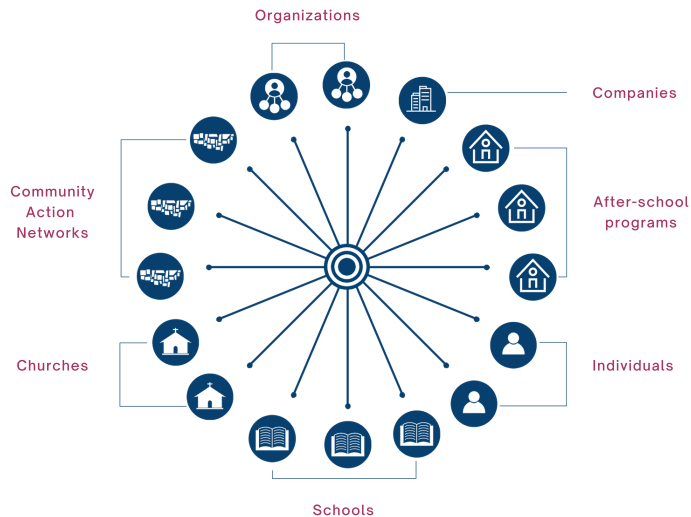


With an increase in unemployment levels and the absence of meals to students provided by the National School Nutrition Program due to school closures, there was a dramatic increase in hunger. Many community care workers found resourceful ways to start a community kitchen in their spaces as children continued to turn to them for support. In collaboration with Green Hands and ZenSar, we were able to support a few community kitchens with food vouchers and back-to-school stationery.

Once a year we gather to highlight and celebrate the amazing achievements of this network of after-school programs. This was especially needed in 2020, so we reconfigured our annual network celebration and invited community care workers to pause and reflect on their year as they walked around the Rondebosch Common. Thanks to donations received, we were able to treat our community care workers with goodie bags.

"I'm really, really super happy and we really appreciate what <Outliers> has done for us so far. I am so scared of waking up, and it's a dream. Thank you. Thank you, once again."
Mandi Adams
Bright Beginners, Kensington

3. THE POWER OF USING SOCIAL CAPITAL FOR GOOD



Our COVID-19 response to lockdown and school closure was amplified thanks to the many amazing people who responded to our calls for support. By pooling their resources with the Outliers network of after-school programs, many experienced the power of using social capital for good.

After-school programs distributed 25000 edupacks to keep students learning during lockdown.



Individuals donated finances and stationery and helped transport edupacks to after-school programs.



Schools printed thousands of workbooks and donated textbooks and stationery.



Churches provided financial support and helped with printing.

Community action networks ran stationery drives in stores and assisted with distribution.



Organizations hosted training sessions and sent books, literacy inserts, posters, and Fonzines.



Companies provided financial support and offered us deep discounts for workbooks and printing.

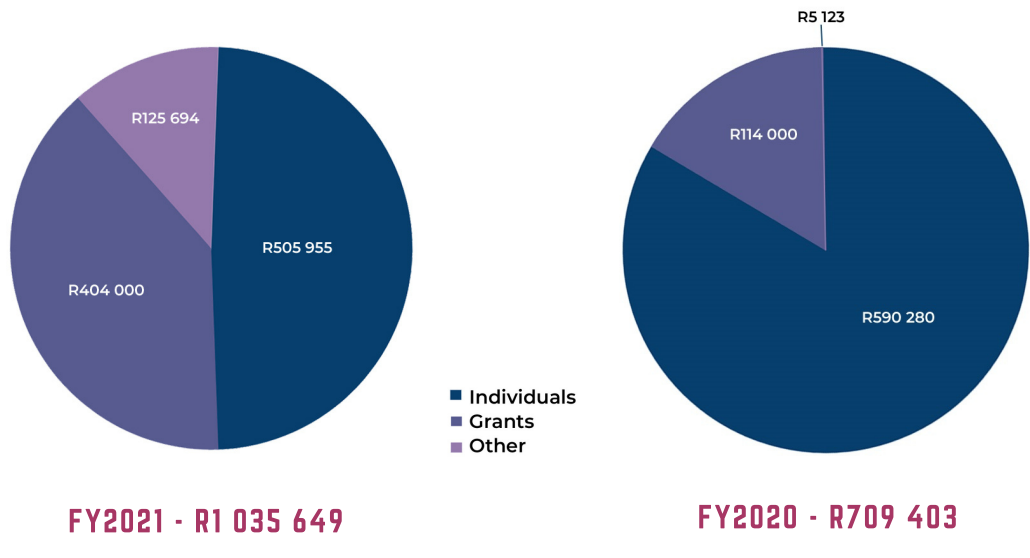


FRIENDS OF OUTLIERS

We are grateful to all who supported our network in achieving the remarkable task of distributing 25000 edupacks during lockdown. Please watch our [Gratitude Video](#) on our Youtube channel for a comprehensive list of all contributors. Special thanks to old and new Friends of Outliers, our collaborators, for donations, discounts and ongoing support.

4. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INCOME

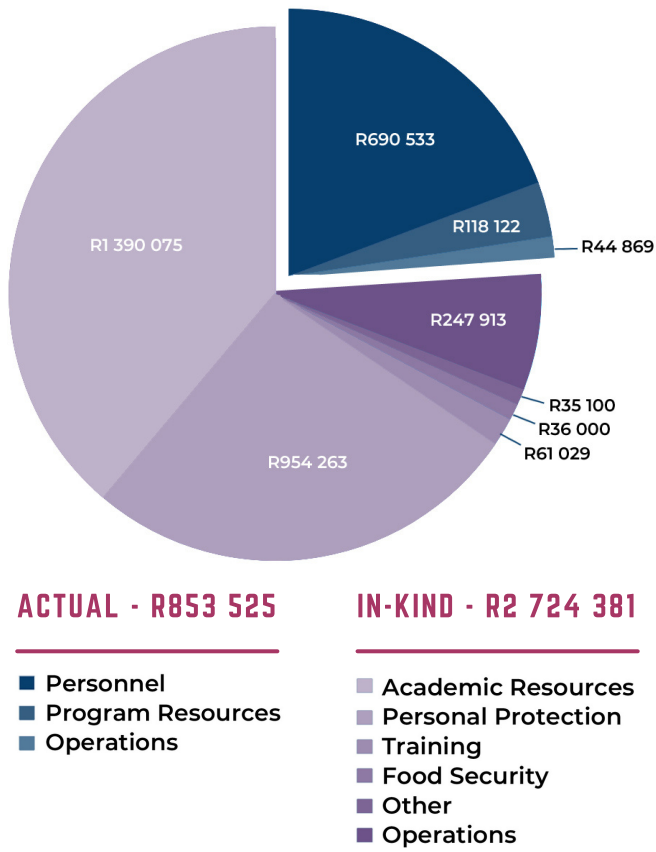


Donations from individuals comprised 48% of total income in FY2021 compared to 83% in FY2020. Income from grants increased to 40% versus 16% in FY2020, largely due to emergency grants awarded to assist with our COVID-19 response. We are sincerely grateful to each person who shares our vision and has committed to financially support us.

EXPENSES

Our expenditure comprises actual costs covered by financial contributions and in-kind costs. Donations of goods and expertise greatly reduce our actual costs.

By encouraging our social network to support the activities of the Outliers after-school programs, we mobilized R3 577 906 to our network at a cost of R853 525.



5. CONTACT DETAILS

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SOCIAL MEDIA

- FACEBOOK** • OutliersEduLab
- INSTAGRAM** • OutliersEduLab
- YOUTUBE** • Outliers after-school
- WEBSITE** • outliers.org.za

REGISTRATION

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BANKING DETAILS

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