



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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Lillian Masabenza, Founding Director:
Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network

Founding Director's Message

Lillian Masabenza, Founding Director: Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network

Making A Difference

Year-end always provides an opportunity for reflection; 2021 for Mhani Gingi is no different. It has been an extremely difficult year for all of us – our beneficiaries as well as our stakeholders. The pain has been exacerbated by the fact that 2021 is a follow on from 2020 when COVID-19 pandemic hit our shores and caused a lot of grief all over the world. We are still engulfed by this pandemic. People in our communities have lost loved ones, jobs and livelihoods. Children face bleak futures. However, in the midst of all the pain we do not lose hope.

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” – Desmond Tutu

After surviving 2020 – ‘the year that was’ – we set ourselves a goal for 2021: to attack chronic hunger and reduce poverty in the communities in which we work, especially amongst the vulnerable groups, children, the elderly, People with Disabilities (PWDs) and survivors of abuse. We use as our gauge the shrub, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. It produces flowers which are deep purple the first day; the same flowers become light purple the following day and very white on the third day. “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow – The important thing is not to stop questioning,” said Albert Einstein. We have improved our performance on each of the 17 years that Mhani Gingi has been in existence – like this flower, which ends up being pure white!

2022 goal

While we are cognizant of the fact that our people are still faced with chronic hunger and generational poverty, there are milestones that we are highlighting in our Annual Report which are worth celebrating. Join us in celebrating these milestones, which form the foundation of our 2022 goal. The goal will contribute towards achievements of the South African National Development Plan (NDP) and the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over and above the chance to reflect, the end of the year gives us the opportunity to thank our sponsors, both from the public and private sectors, without whose financial support we would not have managed to deliver on the mandate of our Board of Trustees. These include the Department of Social Development; the Western Cape Department of Agriculture; the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning; the National Development Agency; the Ackerman Pick n Pay Foundation; Ciolli Readymix Pty. Ltd, facilitated by We Can Change Our World and Siyakha; Ladles of Love; Pegasys facilitated by LEAP Science and Maths Schools; Soroptimist International Cape of Good Hope; and those who supported us in the past. We thank all our stakeholders, who have supported us, attended our events and promoted Mhani Gingi in more ways than one. We thank all our partners and collaborators without whom we could not have achieved our goals. We also thank the Mhani Gingi Board of Trustees, the Management and Staff both at Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence and those whom we support at various community gardens of urban agriculture.

“Our human compassion binds us the one to the other – not in pity or patronisingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.” – Nelson Mandela

Lillian Masebenza
Founding Director: Mhani Gingi



Peter Sampson is a community gardener from Uitsig Community.



Mhani Gingi 2021



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub

A unique private-public partnership delivers social benefits for the community while protecting the environment

The highlight of 2021 for Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network was acquisition of a state-of-the-art Agri-Processing Hub which allows the organisation to add value to agricultural produce while creating further income-generating opportunities for beneficiaries from vulnerable communities. The project also aligned perfectly with the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Green Jobs & Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) who supported the project in a productive 'people-public-private partnership'. Mr. Ronald Mukanya, Director: Sustainability Management in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, took time to explain the benefits that result for all stakeholders.

The annual Women in Environment conferences convened by the National Department of Environmental Affairs have brought together women who play a role in the environmental sector and green economy to network, exchange knowledge and learning and opportunities – and to showcase to national government what is taking place at provincial and local level with grassroots stakeholders.

Mhani Gingi is one of the women-led organisations who participated in these dialogues and so came to the attention of the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. Mhani Gingi promotes sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities in the Western Cape through urban agriculture and social entrepreneurial activities, which promote food security and income generation.

Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub project

During 2020-2021, an opportunity arose to recycle and refurbish a pre-used shipping container to create the Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub. Activities that can be undertaken in the hub add value to the produce from the 10 community gardens and other ground food gardens managed by Mhani Gingi in the greater Cape Town area, so extending the product range on offer to clients. Mhani Gingi's beneficiaries will also benefit from training in new skills such as packaging, cutting, processing, baking, bottling and drying of foodstuffs, which can be conducted in the hub. The Western Cape Department of Agriculture has already provided training to Mhani Gingi staff in these skills and has pledged further support.

Mr. Ronald Mukanya, Director: Sustainability Management in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, explained the benefits of supporting and partnering with Mhani Gingi in the initiative. "First and foremost, what for me was the biggest achievement was that we were able to respond to the demand and to work as a team on the project which benefits the community, in a way that is not service delivery supply led, but instead service delivery demand led," Mukanya said.

Technical innovation

"The opportunity also takes forward the mandate of innovation (with) some of solutions the Directorate would like to see and has been talking about," he said.



Ms. Bongiswa Matoti, Director: Agricultural Economic Services, Western Cape Department of Agriculture, left and Mr. Ronald Mukanya, Director: Sustainability Management in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, at the opening. Kenneth Fransman in the Agri-Processing Hub.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning provided technical advice on the project, in which AfriCube Box Solutions at Hope Africa Collective, in Philippi, undertook the refurbishment of the steel container with state-of-the-art technologies and solutions. The design and fittings in stainless-steel are environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, and sustainable. Moreover, the facility provides access for wheelchairs and enables persons with disabilities to work in the hub.

Empowering women in the sector

Mhani Gingi's work is especially aimed at empowering women, including survivors of gender-based violence at shelters. Through community gardening initiatives, Mhani Gingi aims to equip these women with skills that will enable them to gain financial independence and rebuild sustainable lives once they leave the shelters. "For us that is also a big achievement – taking forward women empowerment in the environmental sector," Mukanya said.

Income generation and jobs for communities

Equally important is stimulating income generation and job opportunities in the community through implementation of the project. This objective of the project speaks to the huge challenge government faces of service delivery to the people and is a direct response to the demand from local communities for jobs. "So, we are also stimulating what we call the green economy and local employment.

"From my point of view this is a win-win situation, with economic activity coming out of the project and, by virtue of the livelihoods that are secured for women, (also fulfilling) a social part to the project."

A journey of co-creation

The partnership with Mhani Gingi illustrates the community-centred approach underlying the Directorate of Sustainability Management's work undertakings, to ensure that that they get it right and that initiatives remain relevant and answer to the demand from the people. "This is why we start with the person/people, to make sure we are responding to their demands," Mukanya said. The Directorate calls it the 4Ps approach: People-private-public partnerships. "I think we have been fortunate to be able to undertake (such) a journey of co-creation with Mhani Gingi, as a practical example of what partnerships can achieve." The result is that all parties have benefited from the outcomes.

Environmental sustainability

Anything that takes forward the agenda of protecting our natural environment for future generations is a significant achievement and will squarely align with the mandate of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Mukanya said. Mhani Gingi's Flagship Programme, incorporating the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery, promotes environmental sustainability. All agricultural activities undertaken implement organic food production, with beneficiaries receiving training in organic cultivation methods.

There is also alignment with the objective at the core of what the Directorate of Sustainability Management is working towards: Sustainability. Generally, sustainability is pursued through three spheres – environmental, economic and social. "Looking at these three areas and the outcome of work done, I think we are kind of pretty much achieving it all," Mukanya said. Moreover, the delivery of income generation and job creation through a project while addressing environmental challenges, delivers a good message that alerts people to the benefits of looking after our natural environment, he added.



A community gardener, left. The Agri-Processing Hub interior.

Recycling and organic composting make good sense in the context of COVID-induced hunger

Organic composting and recycling practices reduce volumes of illegal dumping and result in a cleaner environment – which is better for everyone, according to Mr. Ronald Mukanya, Director: Sustainability Management in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. “Waste is a big problem.” With us running out of landfill (land and space for dump sites), it makes sense to recycle, as the project undertaken in partnership with Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network demonstrates. The recycling of a pre-used steel container into the Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub prevented it landing up in a landfill site. “We know the climate is changing; and changes on the planet of climate variability are going to become more immediate and severe. We know one of main drivers is our greenhouse emissions, and that in part stems from our organic waste. We need to find solutions, amongst others, using different kinds of waste management tools and methods, like composting.”

Alleviating COVID-induced hunger

An immediate problem at the heart of Mhani Gingi’s activities is that of food security. “Within the Western Cape province there is a lot of COVID-induced hunger,” Mukanya said. “So, my opinion is that it is a no-brainer to say organic waste is a problem on one hand; and yet we have hunger on the other. We should be composting – then using that to cultivate food. By doing this small step, we can be doing our bit to contain COVID-induced hunger, and the hunger that existed before that, while on the other hand mitigating some drivers of climate change.”

It makes good sense, then, to promote the use of organic fertilizers to grow food. “By doing that you are looking after the soil; and by having healthier soil in our homes and our regions – you are also preventing the use of chemical fertilisers polluting the soil and our water bodies beneath those soil surfaces, so it makes for me a win-win scenario.”

“From the what we can tell, we’ve got a huge problem, not only with COVID-induced hunger. Even without COVID, there is a hunger problem that is just being exacerbated by the pandemic. So our initiative (with Mhani Gingi) also responds to that, and for me, growing more organic vegetables is an important intervention.” A householder in the community who is growing vegetables is producing food to eat, while any excess grown can bring in a little income to buy other necessities. “These interventions look minute,” Mukanya said. But they can make a significant difference to alleviate hunger and improve lives at a local level.

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Mhani Gingi’s soup stations, which are linked to the organisation’s community food gardens, served hundreds of meals weekly to hungry communities in the Athlone/Mannenberg, Uitsig, Langa, and Retreat areas of the Cape metropole. Supplies for the food stations are boosted by donations from Ladles of Love. The Agri-Processing Hub will enable the pre-packaging and processing of produce for use in the soup stations.



Agricultural activities by Mhani Gingi follow organic principles.

Organisational Management and Staff

Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network



Lillian Patricia Masebenza:
Executive Director
and Social Entrepreneur



Nonhlanhla Penelope Jali:
Trustee — Strategy Consultant



Joan Helen Wright:
Trustee — Teacher, KUMON



Tabisa Mahlathi:
Flagship Programme Co-ordinator



Dr Earl Jeffrey Starr:
Trustee — Quality Management
Consultant, SIMCON

Board Members

1. Lillian Patricia Masebenza: Executive Director and Social Entrepreneur
2. Joan Helen Wright: Trustee - Teacher, KUMON
3. Nonhlanhla Penelope Jali: Trustee - Strategy Consultant
4. Dr Earl Jeffrey Starr: Trustee - Quality Management Consultant, SIMCON

Staff and Senior Programme Managers

1. Lillian Patricia Masebenza - Founding Director and Flagship Programme Manager
2. Joan Helen Wright - Social Responsibility Programme Manager
3. Tabisa Mahlathi - Flagship Programme Co-ordinator

Mhani Gingi Organisational Profile

The Power of The Collaborative Collective — Creating Human and Economic Wealth Together

Who we are

The Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network was established in South Africa in August 2004 by Founding Directory launched in April 2006. Lillian sees her social entrepreneurial organisation becoming a renowned leader in providing innovative solutions and business opportunities aimed at alleviating poverty within the global society.

Vision

To be a renowned leader in providing innovative solutions towards eradicating poverty within the global society, aligned to the South African National Development Plan guidelines, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Mission

Empowering individuals to make informed decisions and improve the quality of their lives through the 'Power of the Collaborative Collective'.

What we do

Mhani Gingi focuses on collaborative, collective impact to tackle social challenges for sustainable change. We understand that large-scale social transformation comes from collaboration and better cross-sector co-ordination rather than from the isolated intervention of an individual organisation. We actively partner with communities, like-minded organisations and government to generate true alignment and powerful results.

The 'Power of the Collaborative Collective'

By leveraging the 'Power of the Collaborative Collective' Mhani Gingi empowers individuals to realise that through working together they become more — in respect of social impact, relationships, skills, and negotiating power!

Who we work with

Primary target group: Marginalised women; youth who are unskilled, under-skilled or unemployed; vulnerable groups such as children, people living with disability, and the aged.

Secondary target group: Businesses and corporations, locally and internationally; individuals running their own businesses; governments; academia; international collaborators and partners; sponsors, grant makers and philanthropists locally and internationally; social entrepreneurs.

We link the latter to our primary target group, which represents a considerable and untapped market of opportunities.

What is unique about us

Mhani Gingi provides tailor-made training modules, coaching and mentorship to help change people's mindsets and improve their skills set. Network members are encouraged to apply their newfound skills to 'use what they have' to improve their relationships, businesses and the communities they live in.

Mhani Gingi's programmes

Mhani Gingi leverages its three programme areas to address the social challenges at their source. Programmes are focused on three main initiatives:

1. Flagship Programme — Environmental Sustainability: The Flagship Programme promotes better nutritional practices at all levels to enhance direct and immediate access to food by the most needy. Through the development of community gardens and environmental awareness initiatives, it is hoped that as communities are taught how to produce and eat healthy food, more and more opportunistic diseases, caused by lack of nutrition, will be eradicated. Hence promoting living by the mantra of 'Prevention is better than cure!'

2. Network Member Initiatives — Enterprise Development: The Network Member Initiatives strive to eradicate chronic poverty through the provision of business and technical skills necessary for members to produce high quality products and services. Mhani Gingi actively promotes these products and services and provides linkages to institutions,

both nationally and internationally, to open up new markets, strategic partnerships and funding opportunities.

3. Social Responsibility Programme — Social Upliftment: To ensure that we grow an adult society where there is self-belief and self-esteem, we need to start with the youth. Our Social Responsibility programme has an ambitious mission to implement practical initiatives at *every* stage of a person's life, from *"infancy to tomorrow's independent society"*. We focus on caring for our vulnerable groups, particularly on Early Childhood Development and the youth, to equip young people of all ages to listen to their heart, believe in themselves and their voice.



Mhani Gingi Values

Branch: Programme
Network Initiatives
(Enterprise Development)
Skills, Training, Networking

Branch: Programme
Flagship (Environmental Sustainability)
Mhani Gingi Nursery
Mhani Gingi Centre of Social
Entrepreneurial Excellence

Branch: Programme
Social Responsibility
(Social Upliftment)
Childcare, Education, Aged

Seed: Vision
To be a renowned leader
in providing innovative
solutions towards the
eradication of poverty



Trunk: Organisational Structure
Communication, HR, Finance etc.

Tap Root System: Values

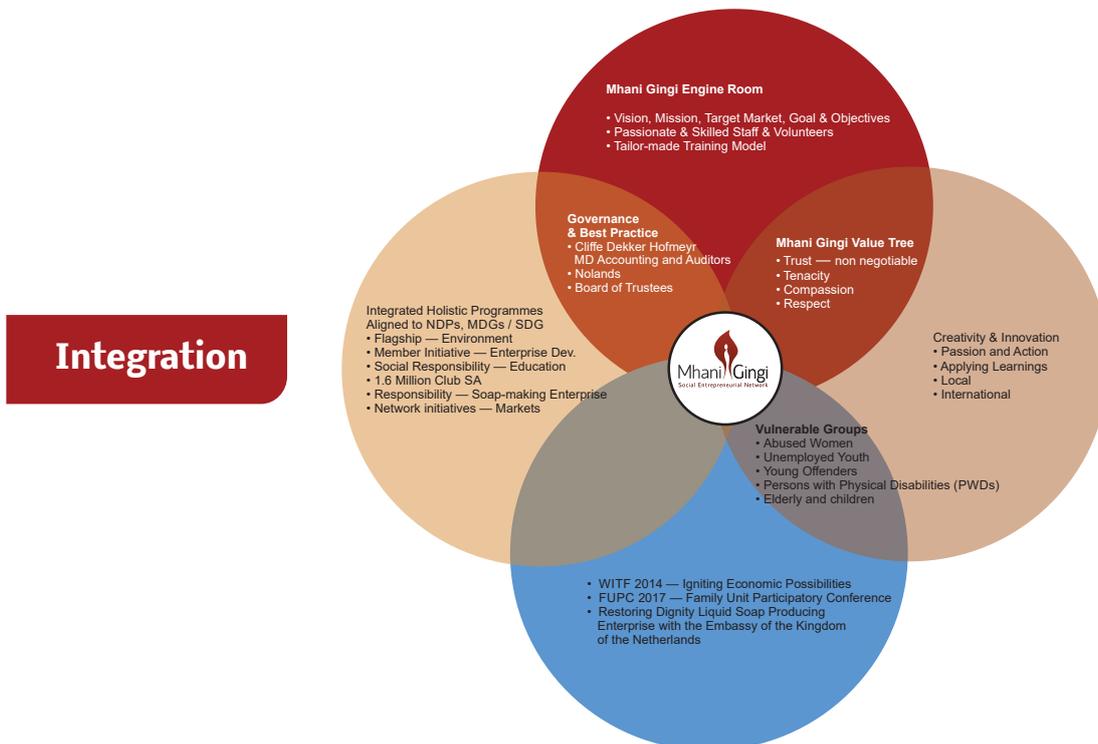
Trust

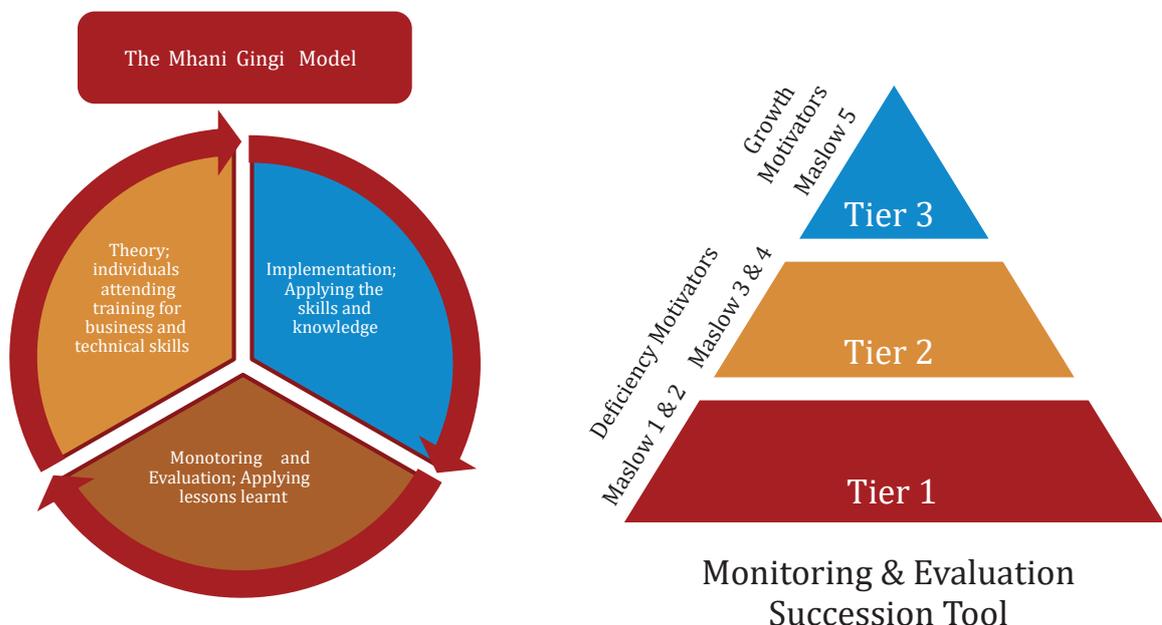
Tenacity

Compassion

Respect

Organisational Diagram





Mhani Gingi Organisational Structure and Business Models

Flagship Programme

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

'A RAY OF SUNSHINE'

Sustainable food garden continues to inspire as it delivers hope and food to share with residents in Zone 17, Langa

A sustainable community gardening project undertaken by LEAP Science and Maths Schools and Mhani Gingi in Zone 17 in Langa, Cape Town, continues to deliver hope and food to share with the surrounding community just a year after its establishment. Both young and old benefit from the project which employed five beneficiaries from the area initially to create and maintain the garden. Many other opportunities have arisen from the food garden and it inspires people who see it.

The project is funded as a corporate social investment initiative of Pegasys consulting firm. The site of the community garden in Langa is leased from the Cape Town City Council by LEAP Schools, for after-school classes for learners, conducted there over the past 20 years. The garden project has now enabled the revival of a soup kitchen to support elderly residents in the area. They have been under added strain from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to LEAP Schools volunteer, Colleen Hodge. Many other activities to emanate from the garden project include the baking of muffins and spinach pies which incorporate produce harvested from the garden.

Nosisa Nduna continued as co-ordinator of the garden project during 2021, while Yonela Mnyombolo was able to be re-employed to support her, with funding from the Western Cape Department of Social Development. The donation of a growing tunnel by the Ackerman Pick n Pay Foundation in August 2021 created more space for cultivation as well as creating a more comfortable and manageable environment in which to work.

So much has developed from the garden

To try and document the day-to-day life at the facility in Zone 17 would be very difficult, as so much happens at this space, Hodge said. "As the garden has developed so many other things have emerged."

The soup kitchen is now an integral part of the week and provides nutritionally balanced meals provided by a sponsor. Freshly picked spinach, beans and carrots from the garden are added to the meals.

The donation of a new stove for the kitchen has allowed the women to resume the baking of muffins and towards the year-end they made 500 vetkoek for a charity. "The ladies are becoming fine cooks as they now make the most delicious spinach pie, obviously with the freshly picked spinach and spring onion from the garden."



Many activities have developed from the garden project.

Africanised growers for vertical cultivation in the tunnel

“One of the biggest highlights was that Pick n Pay approached Mhani Gingi to identify projects that deserved to benefit from a gardening tunnel. We had just the spot for the tunnel and this was installed by African Green Thumbs Growers – Fresh Life Produce. We received this gift in August and already have harvested beautiful spinach and some lettuce,” said Hodge. The Ackerman Pick n Pay Foundation also funded The African Growers vertical plant containers for cultivation in the tunnel.

“We are managing to sell some of the (garden) produce outside Langa, but we have to keep the balance as we do like to support the community as we are very mindful that there is huge unemployment still and a healthy meal goes a long way,” Hodge said.

There is also a spekboom project underway, and beading and other activities take place at the site. “I share all this with you as the garden which started less than a year ago has created so many opportunities. When people come and see the garden they are so inspired by what they see and they want to add value,” she said.

Many people in Zone 17 were struggling pre-COVID

“COVID has not been kind to the elderly pensioners who used to come and enjoy this space each week. We are so happy that it is now Level 1 and will be able to start the meetings again. We also hope to be able to have (more) food to share with the pensioners.



Nosiwa Nduna and Yonela Mnyombolo learned to knit.

“At this stage the garden looks beautiful – waiting for a harvest of cabbage and spring onions and our continual successful spinach.” The carrots and turnips are delicious to add to the meals.

“We had a wonderful opening of the garden where many of the stake-holders were able to attend. It was so good that Caroline Solik, from Pegasys, could share the moment with us and the spinach pie... and a fresh garden salad,” Hodge said in her report. Dr. John Gilmour, Founder of LEAP Science and Maths Schools, amongst others, also attended.

“Many people in this zone were struggling pre-COVID.

“Children in this area still do not attend school every day so this puts a lot of strain on families, as well as not having a routine – (and) the fact that many children are fed at school.

“The project has enabled both Nosisa Nduna and Yonela Mnyombolo to be productive and they have learnt so much. Their children and families have embraced the garden as have so many people from the community.

“We are so grateful to Mhani Gingi – Lillian Masebenza, Dr. Earl Starr and Tabisa Mahlathi for their continued inspiration and support and to Pegasys who planted this seed for us. The garden project continues to be a ray of sunshine and we want to work hard to keep this alive.”



Blankets are given to vulnerable children and elderly people.

The story of the sustainable food gardening project in Zone 17, Langa



Mhani Gingi and Fresh Life Produce deliver 150 African Grower systems to households in the Western Cape to help vulnerable communities combat food insecurity

150 vulnerable households in the Mannenberg, Crossroads and Heideveld areas of Cape Town received The African Grower space-saving food systems in March 2021, to help them to produce their own food to eat and so to combat food insecurity. The initiative, which is a partnership between Fresh Life Produce, developers of The African Grower, and Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, was supported by the Department of Agriculture in the Western Cape Province to assist indigent households.

Another 80 households, this time in the Matroosfontein, Kuils River, Grassy Park and Ottery areas of the metropole, will be identified early in 2022 to receive the compact, Africanised growing kits designed for cultivating food in urban environments. The roll-out will again supported by the provincial Department of Agriculture, with Mhani Gingi serving as the implementing agent for Fresh Life Produce at local level.

The recipient families receive training from Louis-Gillis Janse van Rensburg, Director of Fresh Life Produce. Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery provides the seedlings for planting in the containerised gardens and the Mhani Gingi Nursery staff provide support and supervision as well as following up on community recipients.

“Mhani Gingi have very good links with the community. To go into communities, we need a local establishment with a good footprint and track record to help, and that is exactly what Mhani Gingi have,” said Janse van Rensburg. The African Grower systems can stand in a small space, such as a balcony, and accommodate 24 plants each.

The opportunity to deliver African Growers to vulnerable households in the Cape Town metropole formed a significant part of Mhani Gingi’s activities during 2021 that were dedicated to promoting food security in local communities.

Urban agriculture

Mhani Gingi and Fresh Life Produce pursue urban agricultural initiatives that promote meaningful economic participation for vulnerable groups, and especially women. Beneficiaries are empowered with skills, technology and support to improve their lives and their communities through food gardening and agri-processing.

Small scale producers

Fresh Life Produce maintain that decentralised home farming is an alternative to the belief that a few large-scale producers are needed to feed households and entire cities. “We lead the way in showing that we all need to become our own mini-producers that work together and take the strain off our monthly vegetable bill,” said the organisational website. The African Grower is also available commercially.



Vuyiseka Tekwana of Mhani Gingi Nursery demonstrates what the African Grower systems look like when planted.

Launch of the State-of-the-art Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub adds value to produce from our urban agricultural activities and further benefits marginalised communities and women entrepreneurs in the Western Cape

The full-equipped, state-of-the-art agri-processing container delivered in June 2021 enables Mhani Gingi to add value to agricultural produce from its gardening activities and significantly extends the range of products and quality of services provided to retail customers. The launch of the Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub on 31 August 2021 during Women's Month will also benefit further the vulnerable communities and women social entrepreneurs assisted by Mhani Gingi in the Western Cape metropole to make sustainable livelihoods for themselves and to achieve food security from urban agriculture and food production.

Mr. Ronald Mukanya, Director: Sustainability Management in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning handed over the Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub while the official opening was performed by Ms. Bongiswa Matoti, Director: Agricultural Economic Services, Western Cape Department of Agriculture. The launch event on 31 August was also a celebration of the achievements of women in agriculture, to mark Women's Month, and was attended by dignitaries from both the public and private sector as well as by representatives from grassroots organisations.

Re-purposed and recycled container

The Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub is created out of a recycled steel shipping container. The National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), through the Extended Public Works Programme being implemented by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Western Cape, funded the acquisition of the 3m x 12m second-hand steel container and its refurbishment in stainless steel by Hope Africa Collective of Phillipi, Cape Town.

A team of 'constructors' from AfriCube Box Solutions at Hope Africa Collective completed refurbishment and installation of the fittings, including the unique design to allow wheel-chair access so that persons with physical disabilities can work in the space. The interior of the recycled container is lined with stainless steel for better cleaning and hygiene, and fitted with a gas stove, oven, and cold storage.

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture has provided training to Mhani Gingi staff in packaging and processing of foodstuffs, hygiene, and food safety practices, and has offered further support to beneficiaries.

Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi, said: "The value of the Agri-Processing Hub is that we will be providing a better service to our customers, the restaurant chefs, who will save time chopping and preparing vegetables by receiving better quality, pre-cut, shredded, and packaged produce from Mhani Gingi's gardens. This will also benefit our other targeted retail customers and those who buy our produce at markets. Moreover, it will assist the soup kitchens of the Mhani Gingi Satellite Community Food Station, where we prepare meals for the hungry every week.



Guests at the launch, left. Adrian Fransman at work in the Agri-Processing Hub

Processing and packaging of agricultural produce

"Another benefit is that we will be providing further employment and skills to the women and persons with physical disabilities whom we support. They will be able to make additional income from processing and packaging the harvests from their community and domestic gardens," Masebenza said.

"The Hub also allows us to provide jams, juices, chutneys, preserves and dried herbs from our vegetables and herbs. They can be packaged to give them added value and extended shelf life in dried and powdered forms," Masebenza said. "Mhani Gingi is excited to add more value to our activities in urban agriculture and providing food for the hungry, especially after COVID increased the demand."

The deep sinks for cleaning vegetables, cupboards and work surfaces enable Mhani Gingi to cut, pare, process, bottle, bake and cook the organic produce grown at the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery and from the 10 community gardens managed in the metropole.

Access for wheelchair users

Crucially, the Agri-Processing Hub has been fitted with a ramp to allow wheelchair access and work surfaces accessible to people in wheelchairs. This will ensure maximum accessibility and usability of the Hub by the persons with physical disabilities supported by Mhani Gingi.

Energy efficient, state-of-the-art community upliftment resource

"Hope Africa Collective was pleased to partner with Mhani Gingi in developing their new Agri-Processing Unit," said Kent Bowen, Economic Development Mentor at the organisation. "This project, completed by our AfriCube Box Solutions team, re-purposed a previously-owned shipping container destined for the scrap yard into an energy efficient, state-of-the-art community upliftment resource."

Among guests at the launch event was Ravi Naidu, owner of Simply Asia in Heritage Square, Cape Town CBD, who sponsored the catering.

Saartjie Baartman Centre

The launch took place at the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence at Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in Athlone. Another welcome donation during 2021 was the wellpoint and sprinkler system sponsored by Soroptimist International Cape of Good Hope, for irrigation of food gardens at the Mhani Gingi Nursery. The installation was completed by CA Wellpoints and Boreholes. This donation will benefit the clients of the Saartjie Baartman Centre. A section of the garden is made available for their exclusive use, where Mhani Gingi teaches them how to propagate vegetables and herbs. Mhani Gingi also teaches them marketing skills. The aim of this food security initiative is to empower the women with skills to achieve sustainable livelihoods and to generate independent incomes for themselves once they leave the centre.

Mhani Gingi works with the Saartjie Baartman Centre as a collaborative partner and donates vegetables to the centre's kitchen weekly.



Ravi Naidu, left, and Khuthala Xametshata, of Simply Asia, Heritage Square, Cape Town. Peter Sampson, far right, at the Hub entrance.

Social Responsibility Programme **SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT**

Honourable Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, visits the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence

Honourable Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, visited the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence in Athlone for the second time, in February 2021, as part of her department's outreach programme ahead of the State of the Nation Address 2021.

Ms. Zulu handed over a cheque for R337 676.81 to Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network. The honourable Minister also toured the food gardens and growing tunnels at the Centre of Excellence. It is the base for Mhani Gingi's work in empowering survivors of gender-based violence with entrepreneurial skills and the means to rebuild their lives, and also the site of the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery which manages the 10 food community gardens supported by Mhani Gingi in Cape Town.

Ms. Zulu also visited the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children. The visit to Mhani Gingi was organised by Mr Ardiel Soeker, Provincial Manager of the National Development Agency (NDA).

The NDA has funded two growing tunnels at the Mhani Gingi Centre of Excellence and sponsored 20 African Grower compact food systems, developed by Fresh Life Produce for growing vegetables and herbs in urban spaces, for distribution among Mhani Gingi's projects. These include community food gardens at Blouville School for Learners with Special Needs (LSN) in Retreat; a sustainable community garden project with LEAP Science and Maths Schools in Langa; two food gardens maintained by people with disabilities in Uitsig; and other food gardening projects at shelters for youth, women and children.



Mhani Gingi wins WoW! Western Cape on Wellness awards as champion responder during COVID-19

Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network received Gold Level recognition at the 5th Annual WoW! Awards Ceremony of the Western Cape Government, and a special WoW! Wellness COVID-19 Responder Award for helping hungry communities in Cape Town during the viral pandemic lockdown in 2020.

Mhani Gingi's wellness champions, Founding Director Lillian Masebenza and Nursery Administrator Vuyiseka Tekwane, accepted the awards at the ceremony which was streamed live on Facebook and Youtube on 27 March 2021 because of the COVID-19 restrictions. WesternCape on Wellness is the healthy lifestyle initiative of the Western Cape Government.

The Mhani Gingi Satellite Community Food Station

During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, Mhani Gingi operated soup kitchens for stricken communities in Uitsig, Manenberg/Athlone, Langa and Retreat areas of greater Cape Town. These efforts were supplied from the 10 community food gardens managed by Mhani Gingi in the Cape Town area and boosted by donations of food from the Ladles of Love organisation. The Mhani Gingi Satellite Community Food Station, which opened in August 2020 to co-ordinate efforts, distributed thousands of meals to hungry residents weekly over the year through Mhani Gingi's beneficiaries in the communities. These Mhani Gingi soup kitchens continued through 2021 to dispense meals in communities.

The number of soup kitchens in operation and quantity of adults and children being supported with meals steadily increased over 2020, with five new community gardens being established at the year-end. This took place as vulnerable communities felt the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 lockdown. Ladles of Love organisation continues to provide supplies for the soup kitchens. The soup stations are also supplied by produce from Mhani Gingi's agricultural activities.

Physical and mental wellness

Dr. Frederick Marais, Deputy Director: Increasing Wellness at the Western Cape Department of Health, introduced the WoW! Awards Ceremony participants. Dr. Nomafrrench Mbombo, Minister of Health in the Western Cape Province, thanked the wellness champions for their efforts and emphasised the importance of physical and mental wellness to reduce the occurrence of chronic conditions in society.

The WoW! Annual Awards Ceremonies celebrate the achievements of a network of WoW! Health Champions who promote healthy lifestyles in communities and workplaces in the Western Cape. Mhani Gingi was awarded the Special Wow! Wellness COVID-19 Responder achievement award for prevention and control at community level during 2020.



Network Initiatives ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Goodwood CHC Fitness & Health Club visit the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence

Members of the Goodwood CHC Fitness & Health Club visited the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence in Athlone in October 2021 to view new developments at the site, including the state-of-the-art Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub. A surprise visit from Western Cape Minister of Community Safety, Mr. Albert Fritz, added to the occasion.

Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, explained how the activities in the state-of-the-art Agri-Processing Hub will enable Mhani Gingi to add value to herbs and vegetable produce grown at the Mhani Gingi Nursery and in the 10 community food gardens managed by Mhani Gingi in the Cape Town area.

The visitors also toured the Restoring Dignity Liquid Soap Producing Enterprise situated at the Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence, which provides skills and income opportunities for survivors of domestic violence. Organic hand soap as well as detergent are produced and packaged in the factory.

The guests were also able to purchase organically-grown vegetables harvested from the ground gardens at the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery.



From the left: Claudine Haupt, Sylvia Stevens, Delmarie Goliath and Claudine Reid touring Mhani Gingi.



Western Cape Minister of Community Safety, Mr. Albert Fritz, centre, with the Goodwood CHC Fitness & Health Club at Mhani Gingi.

Linkages and Partnerships

Mhani Gingi shares its business success story at the Women in Green Economy webinar

Mhani Gingi Founding Director, Lillian Masebenza, was invited to participate as a guest speaker in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning's Women in Green Economy webinar on 30 August 2021 to share the Mhani Gingi green business success story.

Mr. Ismail Wambi, from the Chief Directorate: Environmental Sustainability, and Mr. Etienne Basson, from the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, hosted the seminar in the heightened state of unemployment and predictions of food insecurity in the country.

The webinar was held as South Africa celebrated annual Women's Month, in August, to commemorate the march of more than 20 000 women to the union buildings on 9 August 1956. In 2021 the country celebrated Women's Month under the theme: 'Generation Equality: Realising women's rights for and equal future', which tied South Africa to global efforts, including Sustainable Development Goal 5 aiming to achieve gender equality by 2030.

The Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning committed in future to annually identifying influential Women in Green Business – both commercial and SMME sectors – to help encourage young entrepreneurs to take their businesses to the next level using their personal experiences from their journeys. The engagements taking place under the Women in Green Economy banner have hosted speakers beyond the provincial boundaries with case studies and expertise embedded in business innovation, waste economy, renewable energy, and community education solutions, according to the invitation.

The aim of the webinar was to provide peers and young female entrepreneurs with learning opportunities from shared experiences. The online event also offered networking opportunities with successful professionals in the green business sector, exploration of new ideas, and reflections on the following themes:

- How to start and grow a business
- How to become a certified women-owned business
- Future opportunities and market development
- How to increase productivity, and
- Other practical information for current and/or aspiring female entrepreneurs.



Oribi Village Food System Incubation Programme and the Industrial Development Corporation visit the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence

The Oribi Village Food System Incubation Programme and a representative from the Industrial Development Corporation visited the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence in Athlone in October 2021, to showcase Mhani Gingi's partnership in the programme and the impact of the organisation's work in Cape Town communities.

Mhani Gingi participated in the pilot Oribi Village Food System Incubation Programme in 2019, which was aimed at supporting social entrepreneurs, organisations and innovators working towards a sustainable, collaborative and equitable food system. Oribi Village is an impact incubator which supports entrepreneurs working in the social, economic and environmental spheres.

The visit was led by Oribi Village Managing Director, Louis Prevost, and included Luana Malan, Corporate Social Investment Specialist at the Industrial Development Corporation. The remainder of the Oribi Village team were Nthakoana Maema, Programme Manager; Delicia Govender, Business Development and Partnerships Manager; and Kaylon Koeries, Communications Manager.

Women-led social enterprise

"Mhani Gingi is a women-led social enterprise and not only a great example of a systems-based or holistic approach to solving local community issues, but also one with high potential to replicate in other communities and marginalised contexts. Through their activities, they have managed to find an impactful model of solving complex problems such as food security, disability and inactivity of young people and women," Prevost said.

"It was amazing to see how Mhani Gingi has evolved as a social project," he added. "From the days when it was nascent ground, holding potential to a big vision, to arriving at a setup of beautiful community gardens, on its way to a full food value chain solution.

Inspiring process of change

"Seeing our entrepreneurs collaborating to solve big problems and impact more people, was a transformational learning and inspiring moment. It has been a privilege to be a part of this much needed process of change."

The visitors toured the Mhani Gingi vegetable garden and growing tunnels at the Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence as well as the newly-acquired Mhani Gingi Agri-Processing Hub for processing and packaging produce from the garden and from 10 community food gardens managed by Mhani Gingi.



Louis Prevost, Managing Director of Oribi Village, left, and Louis Janse van Rensburg, developer of The African Grower, centre, with Lillian Masebenza, Nthakoana Maema, Programme Manager at ORIBI Village, far right.

Image Credit: ORIBI Village

Mhani Gingi's initiatives in urban agriculture and agri-processing showcased at Rural Development Conference 2021

Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network's initiatives in urban agriculture and agri-processing with vulnerable communities in the Western Cape came under the spotlight when Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi, addressed the 12th Annual Rural Development Conference in South Africa on 8-11 November 2021. The virtual conference took place during Rural Development Week and showcased successful projects and case studies to increase the success of initiatives in the sector.

The theme of the 2021 Rural Development Conference was Unlocking Developmental Potential Within Rural Areas. Masebenza addressed delegates on the topic of Mhani Gingi's Flagship Programme as it relates to agri-processing and market access.

Ms. Lesego Ranchu of the National Development Agency (NDA) told Mhani Gingi: "Rural development initiatives are better understood through tangible practical case studies. The presentation by Lillian was one such which was very insightful to all those in attendance and it added value to the overall theme of Unlocking Rural Development Potential. The NDA also believes that it is viable to provide such platforms for funded projects for networking, linkage and profiling purposes."

A platform for unlocking potential

The conference was important in that it brought developmental funders and the communities together on one platform, Ranchu added.

- The NDA funded two growing tunnels at the Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Centre of Excellence and sponsored 20 African Grower compact food systems, for distribution among Mhani Gingi's projects at Blouville School for Learners with Special Needs (LSN) in Retreat; at a sustainable community garden project with LEAP Science and Maths Schools in Langa; and at other food gardening projects at shelters for youth, women and children.

The support received from the NDA and other funders has enabled Mhani Gingi to extend its activities to more beneficiaries and to reach more survivors of gender-based violence at shelters. The African Grower systems provide a means for the women to grow food for consumption and to earn an income once they leave the shelters. In addition to gardening skills that beneficiaries acquire from Mhani Gingi Nursery, the women will now be able to receive training in safety and food processing in the new Agri-Processing Hub.



Independent Auditor's Report

To the trustees of The Mhani Gingi Trust

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the annual financial statements of The Mhani Gingi Trust set out on pages 4 to 11, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 28 February 2021, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the annual financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effect of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section of our report, the annual financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Mhani Gingi Trust as at 28 February 2021, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Trust Property Control Act 57 of 1988.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with similar organisations, it is not feasible for the trust to institute accounting controls over cash collections from donations, grants and / or contributions prior to initial entity of the collections in the accounting records. Accordingly, it was impractical for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in South Africa. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the IRBA Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in South Africa. The IRBA Code is consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards). We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information the as required by the Trust Property Control Act 57 of 1988 and the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The other information does not include the annual financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the annual financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the annual financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the annual financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report

Responsibilities of the trustees for the Annual Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Trust Property Control Act 57 of 1988, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Annual Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the annual financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Nolands Inc.

Nolands Incorporated
Registered Auditors
Practice Number: 900583e
Per: Rafael Gomes CA (SA), RA
Director

15 December 2021
Cape Town

The Mhani Gingi Trust

(Registration number: IT4971/2007)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2021

Statement of Financial Position as at 28 February 2021

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2021	2020
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	2	2
Loan receivable		100	100
		<u>102</u>	<u>102</u>
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	363 800	139 522
Total Assets		<u>363 902</u>	<u>139 624</u>
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		<u>349 340</u>	<u>2 847</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	4	14 562	26 423
Loan payable	5	-	110 354
		<u>14 562</u>	<u>136 777</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities		<u>363 902</u>	<u>139 624</u>



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