

# 2022 Annual Report



# Our Mission

Grassroot Soccer South Africa (GRS South Africa) is an adolescent health organisation that leverages the power of soccer to equip young people with the life-saving information, services, and mentorship they need to live healthier lives.



## Our Model **3C's**



### **Curriculum**

Our Curricula are activity-based and provide accurate and actionable health information.



### **Coaches**

Our Coaches care about and connect with adolescents so that they are inspired to take action.



### **Culture**

Our Culture creates a fun and safe environment that is optimal for engaging young people around the most important, difficult, and often taboo health topics.

## Our Impact **3A's**



### **Assets**

We build Assets (health knowledge and the confidence to use it).



### **Access**

We improve Access to high-quality health services.



### **Adherence**

We increase Adherence to crucial treatments and healthy behaviours.



# Organisational Information

***GRS South Africa is a non-profit organisation registered with the Department of Social Development.***

## Geographic Coverage

Grassroot Soccer South Africa (GRS South Africa) is an independent, locally registered non-profit organisation with a South African Board of Directors. Grassroot Soccer first began programmes in South Africa in 2006, and has since trained 1,000 young adults as Coaches and reached more than 360,000 adolescents with SKILLZ programmes across South Africa's nine provinces.

In addition to the two centres in Alexandra and Khayelitsha where GRS SA worked directly with the community, in 2022 GRS's footprint covered Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, and Western Cape provinces.

## GRS South Africa Board of Directors

- Enzo Scarcella; Chief Consumer Officer, MTN Group
- Risana Zitha; Managing Director, DAI Magister Africa
- Christopher Todd; Partner and Attorney, Bowmans
- Fiona Shanks; Vice President, Grassroot Soccer Inc.
- Mbulelo Malotana; Managing Director, Grassroot Soccer South Africa

**2022  
Impact**

**21K+**  
Youth Reached

**100%**  
Graduation Rate

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Dear Friends of GRS South Africa,

As we reflect on the past year, I am pleased to present our 2022 Annual Report. This document serves as a comprehensive overview of our organisation's performance and achievements over the past year.

The year 2022 was marked by a multitude of challenges, including local economic uncertainty, continuous load shedding (electrical power cuts), and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these obstacles, our team demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to our mission.

In this annual report, you will find detailed financial statements, performance metrics, and insights into our strategic initiatives. We have successfully navigated these turbulent waters through a combination of prudent financial management, innovative solutions, and a focus on strengthening our technical assistance partnerships to scale our SKILLZ programming in the country.

GRS South Africa (GRS SA) reached more than 21,000 adolescents and young adults across four provinces in South Africa with our SKILLZ curricula and other evidence-based interventions, including USAID programmes in two provinces. Our programmes were delivered in the Western Cape, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and Kwazulu Natal via direct implementation by our GRS SA Coaches and our technical assistance implementing partners.

I am also happy to report that we attained an unqualified audit report with no material findings for the second year in a row given our continued strengthening of our internal systems and protocols, which have been a pivotal part of our organisational efforts.

I want to express my gratitude to our Coaches, staff, partners, and beneficiaries for their trust and support. We are proud of what we've accomplished in 2022 and look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in the coming year.

### 2023 Outlook

In 2023, our focus remains on scale, innovation, partnerships, and sustainability. We will continue to invest in adolescent and young adult programming (including on mental health) and research to be at the forefront of our health initiatives in South Africa. Our commitment to enhancing beneficiary health outcomes and delivering evidence-driven solutions will be unwavering.

As we navigate an ever-evolving socio-economic landscape, we are dedicated to fostering a workplace culture that promotes employee engagement and well-being. Our talented and resilient team will be the driving force behind our success. The year 2023 holds numerous opportunities for us to expand our reach, form strategic partnerships, and engage with our stakeholders.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have contributed to our organisation's success in 2022. Together, we will continue to build a brighter and healthier future for our organisation and the beneficiaries whom we serve.

Thank you.

**Mbulelo Malotana**

Grassroot Soccer South Africa Managing Director



## Programming Overview

# Assets

### **Sport-based HIV, Gender-Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Life Skills Programmes in Alexandra and Khayelitsha:**

In 2022, GRS continued delivering SKILLZ programming in Alexandra and Khayelitsha. GRS continued to collaborate with local football associations, community-based organisations, schools, and youth groups to train near-peer mentors called "Coaches" as community change agents. Coaches reach adolescents with evidence-based curricula and health information to build young people's knowledge and confidence (ASSETS), generate demand for and uptake of health and social services (ACCESS), and promote sustained healthy behaviours and retention in care (ADHERENCE). GRS implemented its range of age- and gender-sensitive, sport-based SKILLZ curricula for comprehensive HIV and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) promotion, and life skills development.

### **Primary HIV Prevention Among Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Mpumalanga:**

During 2022, in partnership with mothers2mothers, the GRS-Mpumalanga team successfully engaged another 16,262 orphans and vulnerable children and adolescents through GRS's SKILLZ Core curriculum for primary HIV prevention under the USAID Children and Adolescents are My Priority (CHAMP) Project (2018- 2023). The commitment shown and successes achieved by the SKILLZ Coaches and District Coordinators across the rural, semi-rural, and urban implementation areas were characterised by strong district level partner engagement and cooperation between the GRS team, prime partner, individual schools, and both the Departments of Basic Education and Social Development — collaborating on a number of community events through the course of the year. These included sessions and tournaments where health information was shared, community dialogues discussing sexual and gender-based violence, as well as LGBTI rights.

### **Sport for Development Programme with UNICEF and The Department of Basic Education:**

In 2022, GRS continued its partnership with UNICEF to deliver the Girls and Boys Education Movement (GBEM) Program. GBEM integrates GRS's innovative sports-based SRHR and life skills programming with digital and financial literacy to support the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) Care and Support for Teaching and Learning Programme. The program continued its virtual delivery approach, with GRS trainers and Coaches supporting youth mentors to engage their peers in a program that augments the content taught during life orientation in schools. In 2022, the GBEMS program reached 500 learners, 50 educators, 25 DBE officials, and 30 alumni in five provinces.



## Programming Overview

# Access



### Adolescent-Friendly Health Services:

GRS Coaches facilitated community and health facility linkages to quality integrated HIV and SRHR services via meaningful engagement and youth-friendly approaches. GRS was able to engage schools and other youth-serving organisations to bring accessible SRHR and HIV information and services directly to youth. In 2022, GRS promoted access to high-quality, youth-friendly, psychosocial and SRHR services through interactive sports events including soccer tournaments. At these events, GRS was able to provide adolescents with HIV counselling and testing, PrEP, and other SRHR services in a non-threatening environment.

### Partnering to Promote Linkages to Care:

GRS is deeply entrenched in the communities it serves and has formed lasting partnerships with local government departments, community-based organisations, local gatekeepers, and local health service providers. GRS routinely participates in local forums and technical working groups. Through these partnerships, GRS was not only able to promote an enabling environment for adolescents, but also advocate for service providers to take up youth-friendly approaches in their service provision.



# Adherence

### Follow-Up Support:

GRS Coaches are trained to build trust with adolescents during SKILLZ programs. As a result, adolescents feel safe and confident to disclose adverse experiences and seek support from GRS. GRS has a well-established referral and linkages process that ensures that adolescents receive the care and support they require. Through these strong community links with partners, GRS ensured that participants were adequately supported and tracked across a continuum of care that prevents adolescent loss to follow up.



## Programming Overview

# COVID-19 Response

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, GRS continued to stay alert to the changing context and adolescents' evolving needs and challenges. As such, GRS made regular updates to the open-source SKILLZ COVID-19 RESPONSE Curriculum, including the most recent fourth edition (which incorporates COVID-19 vaccine demand generation), to effectively respond to COVID-19 in the communities in which GRS works. GRS widely shared this open-source resource with partners across South Africa as a youth-friendly tool to reach adolescents with essential COVID-19 information.

# Technical Working Groups

- South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) Trust Adolescent Boys and Young Men Technical Working Group
- South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) Trust Adolescent Technical Working Group
- Secure the Future Project East and Southern Africa (ESA) Ministerial commitments on Comprehensive Sexuality Education Beyond 2020



## Success Story:

# Meet Xihlobo

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Hello, my name is Xihlobo Maluleke. I am 15 years old, and I am currently in grade 9 at Kwa-Bhekilanga High School. I used to be a very shy person. I didn't believe in myself. I believed that it was okay to not talk about what I felt. I felt I needed to always do what my friends said we should do because it is proved that we were still friends.

During the Life Orientation project assessment period, I heard some of my classmates saying they would be going to Grassroot Soccer, and I became interested because of "soccer". I felt like I made the best decision by joining the Grassroot Soccer program because I was able to learn more about HIV and teenage pregnancy. If you have tested positive for HIV, you have to go to the clinic and get your medication, according to what the nurse says. We should use condoms to avoid HIV. To prevent pregnancy, you have to go to the clinic and get an injection that prevents pregnancy.

I also learned that depression is a mental illness that a person has that can be cured, but it takes time. To remove it you need to sit down with a person, talk to him/her, and try to understand what the situation he/she is facing.

Peer pressure is an issue that teenagers face. I thought as friends, we should always do the same thing, but through the learnings I got at Grassroot Soccer, I know it is okay to be different from your friends because we are unique. Because I am a very short-tempered person, I am planning to use the power hand SKILLZ activity before I make a decision, and use the breathing exercises I learned to help me calm down. In this way, I will be able to control my emotions.

Joining Grassroot Soccer helped me a lot because I can now raise my hand whether the answer is wrong or right, without fearing that others will laugh at me. Our Grassroot Soccer Coach made us feel at home. I felt that I could tell her anything, and she didn't judge us; she was like a big sister to me.





## Success Story:

# Meet Johannah

*GRS is committed to strengthening linkages and referrals to ensure the best interest of the child. Through our professional and working relationships with local stakeholders and government departments, we make it our priority to safeguard the well-being of our participants. During one SKILLZ intervention, Coaches came across a participant whose physical well-being was not in the best condition. The Coaches used the Risk Vulnerability Assessment form to dig deeper and find out more about her background, support system, and to see if her basic needs were being met. After the assessment, it was clear that the child's hierarchy of needs was compromised. Coaches discovered that the participant attended school with an empty stomach and would go days without eating. GRS immediately made a household visit to assess her situation at home and meet her caregiver. GRS discovered that the caregiver's child support grant had been terminated, and she had not received it for months. The GRS team immediately escalated the matter to the Department of Social Development through our referral pathway, and today we are proud to say that Johannah Letlalo and her kids now receive the grant and go to bed fed daily. The DSD assured us that they will continue to support the family and will ensure that their basic needs are met.*

To Grassroot Soccer,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the immense assistance you provided to my children and me. The impact of your organization's support in helping us receive the grant and securing permanent land to reside on cannot be overstated.

Your unwavering dedication and commitment to improving the lives of families in need are truly commendable. The grant that we received through your organisation has been a lifeline for us, providing financial stability and enabling us to meet our basic needs. Moreover, the provision of permanent land for us to establish a secure dwelling has given us a sense of stability and belonging that we had longed for. This opportunity has not only offered us a safe and comfortable home but has also provided a foundation upon which we can begin rebuilding our lives.

The impact of your assistance goes beyond the tangible benefits; it has instilled in us a renewed sense of hope and optimism for the future. By supporting us in securing a permanent place to stay, you have given me the chance to create a stable environment for my children, allowing them to grow, learn, and thrive.

I would also like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of your SKILLZ team in facilitating the entire process. Their professionalism, empathy, and attentiveness throughout the journey were truly remarkable. It is evident that your organisation's mission is not merely about providing preventative programmes but about transforming lives and fostering lasting change.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of your organisation. Your generosity and support have made an indelible impact on our lives, giving us a fresh start and the opportunity to build a brighter future. We are forever grateful for your unwavering commitment to our well-being.

With sincerest appreciation,  
Johannah Letlalo



# Our Supporters



# Poster Presentation at The International Workshop on HIV & Adolescence 2022:



## Sport-based SRHR Programming for Secondary School Learners in South Africa: Lessons Learned from Khayelitsha

Authors: Nkosi Z<sup>1</sup>, Kayi V<sup>2</sup>, Gubesa T<sup>2</sup>, Malotana M<sup>1</sup>, Lee D<sup>3</sup>

Affiliations: <sup>1</sup> Grassroot Soccer South Africa; <sup>2</sup> Independent; <sup>3</sup> Grassroot Soccer, Inc.

### BACKGROUND

Early pregnancy is a critical health challenge for adolescent female learners in South Africa, causing high school dropout, despite amended national policies that promote school re-entry post-pregnancy. Prevention of early pregnancy and comprehensive SRHR education is a high priority for school officials concerned with learner welfare.

In response to a request from the school principal, in early 2022, Grassroot Soccer South Africa (GRS) hosted a 3-day school holiday camp for grade 12 learners at Chris Hani Secondary School in Khayelitsha to facilitate sport-based SRHR programming for girls.

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

- GRS near-peer facilitators (Coaches) implemented the **SKILLZ Girl** program with grade 12 female learners aged 15-19.
- SKILLZ Girl** is an evidence-based, 14-session curriculum that uses soccer language and activities to build adolescents' SRHR **assets**, increase **access** to health services, and improve **adherence** to healthy behaviours and medical treatment.
- SKILLZ Girl covers topics including HIV risk reduction, reporting of GBV, contraceptive methods, and other SRHR services.

### LESSONS

Figure 1: Select Pre- and Post-Intervention Survey Results

Statement	Pre	Post	% Change
I know how to overcome challenges that I may face in life	70%	84%	20%
I can say no to sex, even if my boyfriend or friends pressure me to have sex.	98%	100%	2%
I can decide when is the right time for me to have a baby.	98%	98%	0%
I know where to get support services for me or someone else, for HIV-related issues.	96%	96%	0%
I know where to get support services for me or someone else, for gender-based violence or rape.	91%	98%	8%
I know where to get support services for me or someone else, for prevention of teenage pregnancy.	95%	100%	5%
As a girl, I have a greater risk of getting HIV than boys my age.	34%	93%	174%
If a girl is sexually violated, she can reduce her risk of getting HIV by taking Post-Exposure Prophylaxis.	77%	95%	23%
Are you or your boyfriend/girlfriend currently using any contraceptive or protective method?	92%	62%	-33%



Figure 2: Female Coach delivering SKILLZ Girl Session.

### LESSONS (Cont.)

- 60 female learners participated, and 56 (93%) completed 20-item pre- and post-intervention surveys, measuring SRHR knowledge, behavior, and communication.
- Average improvement in pre/post scores was 5%, below the routine 10% target **due to high baseline**. That is, for 14/20 items, over 90% of participants gave the desired/correct response in the pre-intervention survey.
- Most participants were not aware of the amended learner pregnancy policy, and believed if they fell pregnant, they must leave school. Many were concerned about falling pregnant while still studying.
- Learners requested mobile services be available at school: they reported that they cannot attend the clinic for contraceptives during school hours, and services are limited on weekends.
- Responding to learners' requests, GRS approached a local service partner (Wits RHI) to provide mobile services to learners at school. The initiative was introduced at a parents' meeting, and welcomed encouragingly by parents and school officials.

### CONCLUSIONS

Responding to service needs of adolescents is key to prevent pregnancy and improve SRHR outcomes. Mobile service provision at schools, coupled with interactive SRHR programming, school leadership, and strong engagement of parents can increase successful outcomes. More interventions should cater to pregnant learners and ensure they receive support at school without judgment, in accordance with national policy.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was supported by FIFA Football Foundation. Special thanks to Chris Hani Secondary in Khayelitsha (Western Cape), Tony Gubesa, Vuyolwethu Kayi, former GRS Khayelitsha site staff, and Wits RHI Western Cape for providing HTS and mobile health services.

# Audited Financials

## Grassroot Soccer South Africa Non Profit Company

(Registration Number 2006/010913/08)

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Statement of Financial Position

Figures in R

	Notes	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	38,863	133,470
Other financial assets	6	-	870,020
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>38,863</b>	<b>1,003,490</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	5	1,023,223	2,673,856
Cash and cash equivalents	7	1,681,585	4,254,237
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,704,808</b>	<b>6,928,093</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>2,743,671</b>	<b>7,931,583</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		286,916	69,521
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Other financial liabilities	9	441,204	-
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	2,015,551	7,862,062
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>2,456,755</b>	<b>7,862,062</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>2,743,671</b>	<b>7,931,583</b>

# Audited Financials

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

Figures in R

	Notes	2022	2021
Revenue	10	11,346,115	18,943,927
Other income	11	175,841	92,144
Administrative expenses		(489,965)	(750,513)
Other expenses		(10,949,707)	(18,403,547)
Other gains and (losses)		96,841	12,270
<b>Surplus / (deficit) from operating activities</b>		<b>179,125</b>	<b>(105,719)</b>
Finance income	12	38,270	51,480
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>217,395</b>	<b>(54,239)</b>

<b>Balance at 1 January 2021</b>		123,760	123,760
<b>Changes in equity</b>			
Deficit for the year		(54,239)	(54,239)
Total comprehensive income for the year		(54,239)	(54,239)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>		<b>69,521</b>	<b>69,521</b>
<b>Balance at 1 January 2022</b>		69,521	69,521
<b>Changes in equity</b>			
Surplus for the year		217,395	217,395
Total comprehensive income for the year		217,395	217,395
<b>Balance at 31 December 2022</b>		<b>286,916</b>	<b>286,916</b>

# Audited Financials

## Statement of Cash Flows

Figures in R

	Note	2022	2021
<b>Cash flows (used in) / from operations</b>			
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>217,395</b>	<b>(54,239)</b>
<b>Adjustments to reconcile surplus / (deficit)</b>			
Adjustments for finance income		(38,270)	(51,480)
Adjustments for decrease in trade accounts receivable		1,650,656	1,014,501
Adjustments for decrease in trade accounts payable		(5,846,533)	(599,307)
Adjustments for (decrease) / increase in other operating payables		(1)	1
Adjustments for depreciation and amortisation expense		76,157	167,044
Adjustments for gains and losses on disposal of non-current assets		(96,841)	(12,270)
<b>Total adjustments to reconcile surplus / (deficit)</b>		<b>(4,254,832)</b>	<b>518,489</b>
<b>Net cash flows (used in) / from operations</b>		<b>(4,037,437)</b>	<b>464,250</b>
Interest received		38,270	51,480
<b>Net cash flows (used in) / from operating activities</b>		<b>(3,999,167)</b>	<b>515,730</b>
<b>Cash flows from / (used in) investing activities</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		136,159	16,999
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(20,868)	(13,912)
Purchase of other financial assets		870,020	(870,020)
<b>Cash flows from / (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>985,311</b>	<b>(866,933)</b>
<b>Cash flows from / (used in) financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from other financial liabilities		441,204	(1,042,129)
<b>Cash flows from / (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>441,204</b>	<b>(1,042,129)</b>
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(2,572,652)</b>	<b>(1,393,332)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		4,254,237	5,647,569
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,681,585</b>	<b>4,254,237</b>

# CONTACT US

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