



SAWABONA AFRICA

2025

Annual Report

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Support Education. Deliver Hope.

Sawabona Africa was founded to give children in under-resourced communities in southern Africa the opportunity for a brighter future – one in which they are not only free from hunger, but able to learn, thrive, and develop the skills they need to secure employment and build a better life for themselves and their families.

We partner with charities in South Africa and Lesotho that focus on key priorities aligned with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals – a framework established in 2015 as a global blueprint for peace and prosperity. Our work includes fundraising, monitoring project standards, reporting on impact, and raising public awareness through our communication channels.

We guarantee our donors that 100% of all donations go directly to our projects.



2025

A message from the Board



4 years and counting, and we are on an incredible path.

Our footprint in the education space has even become stronger - funding infrastructure to **provide safe and dignified spaces to learn, fueling learning** and development through **nutritious meals**, supporting tutoring programs and tutors, **sponsoring** children to attend school, and funding necessary **workshops** that focus on the development of the whole child.

Skills development is a necessary component to education. We have funded workshops and provided resources to skill pre-school caregivers preparing children for school.

Through supporting skills in **gardening** and **urban farming**, we are tackling food security in under-resourced communities and fueling the kitchen with healthy ingredients.

We have strengthened our partnerships through improving our reporting and fostering skills within teams. We are incredibly grateful for those who have volunteered time to support us.

Thank you everyone for your trust and helping us achieve our mission to provide quality education in the communities we serve. We hope you stay on board - it is an exciting and rewarding journey.

Sawabona Africa Board
Heidi Schneider, Claus Kaltner, Zilla Stekhoven



our focus areas

Quality Education and skills delivered through our partner charities:



Strengthen early childhood development to support school readiness



Afterschool programme support: tutor funding, workshops and resources



Child sponsorships to attend school



School feeding to improve learning and growth



Funding educational infrastructure



Gardening and urban farming skills to reduce food insecurity



our year at a glance

26,231

Meals served through the **PYMA** and **The Pebbles Kitchen**

3112

Children supported by **PYMA** through training of **72 ECD practitioners** and distribution of educational kits and books

70

Urban farmers trained by **Abalimi** with our support via **Uthando (love)** - and **10 tonnes of compost**

50

More children attend afterschool with new classrooms at **PYMA**

14

Sponsored children with **Help Lesotho and Bright Start**

3

Pre-Schools received buildings with **Impande** and **Uthando (love)**





Phakamani Young Minds Academy

PYMA is an afterschool academy empowering young people in Freedom Park, Soweto. It provides a safe, supportive space where learners grow academically and personally through tutoring, homework support, exam preparation, and extracurricular activities that prepare them for tertiary education.

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Outcome / Impact</i>
Kitchen and Garden Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18,584 meals served to 243 children and 13 staff • 2 garden workshops • Bountiful harvest • 60 garden ambassadors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No child learns hungry • Direct exam support contributed to a standout 94% pass rate • Cost savings through garden harvests • Agricultural skills
Train and equip ECD Early Child Development Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip & Train 50 ECD centres with educational toys and books • Support 72 centres with 4 ECD Workshops: Training, Fun Literacy, Principals Capacity Building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved school readiness and literacy foundations for thousands of young learners • Empowered caregivers with better skills and resources • Reached 3112 children
Sexual Health Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 244 learners reached • 6 interactive workshops: Empowerment, Psychosocial Support, Mental Wellness, Child Protection, Self Defence • Sanitary Pad Distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of sexual health, safe practices, and healthy relationships • Improved mental well-being and created safer, more supportive environments for learners • Fostered a culture of support
Afterschool Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered 2 Classrooms • Tutor Sponsorships • Maths and Science Tutoring for girls • Equip tutors with learning aids • Visit to Animal Shelter • Establish a Reading Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminated overcrowding, creating a dedicated, conducive learning environment • Boosted academic engagement • Increased participation and performance in STEM subjects • Support high school completion and access to tertiary education • Enhanced literacy



The kitchen and garden provide nutritious meals and stimulate learning



New classrooms, reading clubs and tutoring support better learning outcomes



Sexual health and self defence workshops build resilience



Early Childhood Development trainings and provision of toys to under-resourced pre-schools



Visits to animal shelter and art classes stimulate the whole child

Help Lesotho provides life skills training, mental health support, and child sponsorships that enable rural children to attend school, helping communities build resilience and healthier futures.

Projects

Details

Outcome / Impact

Child Sponsorship

- Sponsored 5 **rural children** to attend high school
- Sponsored learners attend an annual **leadership camp**
- Sponsors received **letters** from their sponsored children

- Enable children to attend high school
- Improved life-skills
- Increased resilience to navigate challenges
- Increased time spent at school
- Attend tertiary education

**Child Sponsorship costs:
35 Euro per month or 425 Euro per year**



Meet a few Sponsored Learners



Some impressions from the Annual Leadership Camp in 2025





Bright Start

Bright Start provides quality education to children living in under-resourced communities of Hout Bay. Children are supported from early primary to completion of secondary school with school fees, uniforms, safe transport, extra curricular activities, tutoring, and a learning centre after school.

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Outcome / Impact</i>
<p>Child Sponsorship Programme</p> <p>9 children supported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time education at quality schools • Weekly academic and mentorship program • School reports review and reflection • Performance tracking • Provision of digital learning platforms • After school activities, safe transport, medical check ups • Cooperation with parents • Workshops and personal development enhancement e.g. time management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children supported through their entire school journey • Economically empowered individuals enabled to break the poverty cycle for themselves and their family. • Learners continue to tertiary education or skilled employment

The tutor programme supported 47 learners in Grades 4 – 7 in 2025 and achieved an average increase of 19 % in Mathematics and 17% in English.



Career Workshop and a Goal Setting Workshop held for learners



Hiking trip and a Bush Camp were highlights for children



A drive through the community with Johann – the driver for Bright Start who celebrated 10 years of service



Tutoring and homework support at the learning centre



Uthando (Love) South Africa

Uthando (Love) South Africa is focused on sustainable community development by connecting responsible tourism with social initiatives. Their mission is to uplift communities by addressing social challenges in education and ECD Early Childhood Development. By partnering with community projects, Uthando enhances access to quality ECD services for children and provides adults with skills for job creation and food security.

Projects

Details

Outcome / Impact

Goal 50

- Built a **sustainable** Pre-School for 50 children out of recycled materials, provide meals and implement an ECD curriculum
- **Trained** Shiloh Montessori Practitioners

- School readiness
- Job creation and skills development through employment of locals for teaching and building

Pebbles Project

- 7647 **healthy meals** delivered to ECD and afterschool facilities

- Reduced food insecurity at education facilities
- Support childhood development with adequate nutrition
- Enable children to learn and focus in classes

Abalimi Bezekahya

- **Urban Farming** training for 70 farmers
- Provided **10 tons composted manure** to farmers

- Skills to grow vegetables and alleviate food insecurity
- Job creation



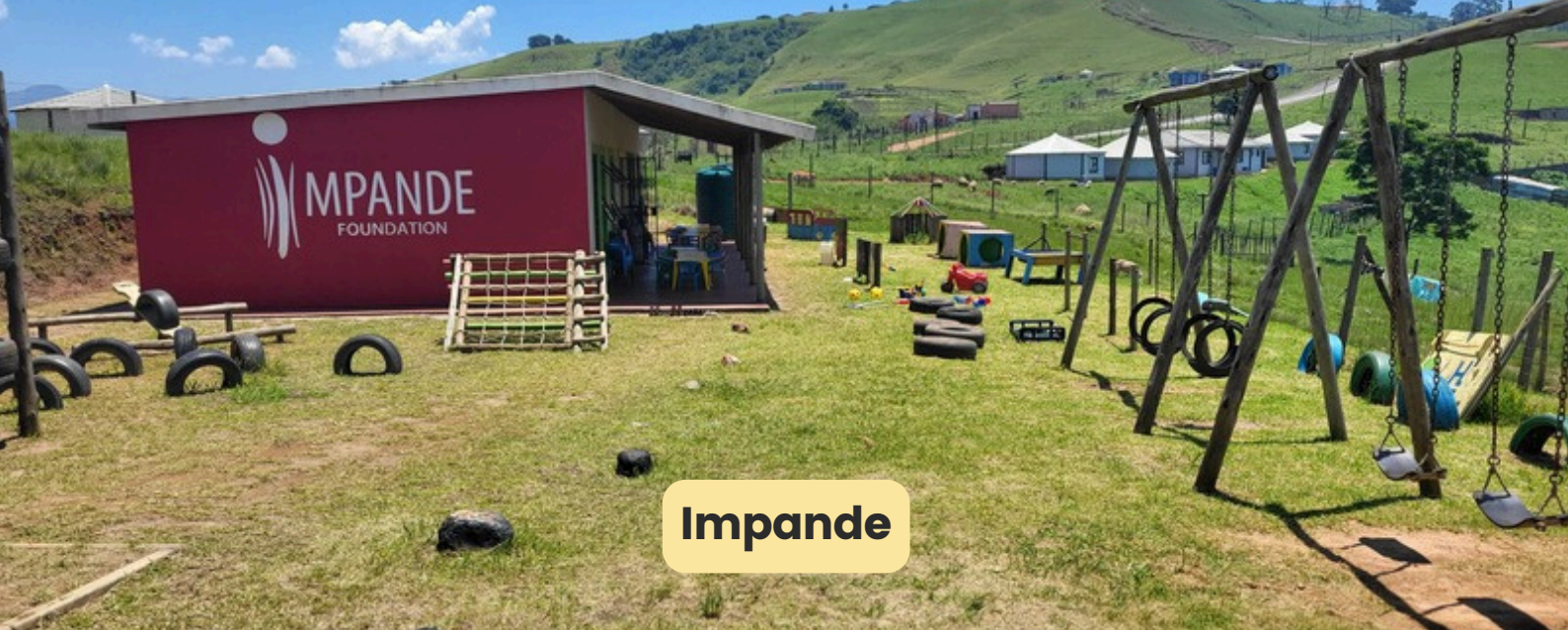
Goal 50 is built out of recycled tyres, bottles, building rubble



Abalimi Bezekhaya urban farmers



Visit to The Pebbles Kitchen



Impande

Impande supports grassroots Early Childhood Development for children aged 0 to 5 in South Africa's most marginalized communities. Its mission is to provide high-quality early learning services, improve access to classrooms and infrastructure, and offer resources like meals for children and caregivers.

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Outcome / Impact</i>
Lukhanyiso Pre-School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built a new classroom for 20 children with integrated kitchen and toilets A new playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable more children to learn Improved learning environment: Children grouped based on age to support age-appropriate learning activities
Ukhanyo Pre-School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built a new Pre-School for 45 children with integrated kitchen and toilets A new playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children have access to a new early learning facility that is safe for children and provides an environment that is conducive to early learning
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built 2 new toilets at Pre-School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dignity and Safety



Lukhanyiso Before



Lukhanyiso After



Ukhanyo Before



Ukhanyo After

Impressions of the new schools and classrooms



Events

Our work is funded by direct donations and through fundraising and team-building events



Sawabona 4th Birthday

Once again PR-Com very generously hosted our annual birthday party at their offices in Munich. The event was attended by 55 people and featured an unforgettable mix of African sounds from Pamizinda and local Bavarian music from Hühnerbach.

Company Team Building and Volunteering Events



Crafting Educational Toys

Our team hosted an in-person employee volunteering event facilitated by Visit.org, where volunteers created hand-made learning games to help make reading and maths fun. Partnering with Visit.org offers visibility and includes a generous donation.



Creating Maths Learning Cards

We hosted an online event for the Embrace employee resource group of FitchGroup Financial services. Participants created maths challenges for school-children in South Africa.

If you know any companies interested in hosting team-building sessions for their employees, please contact us directly

Finances

TOTAL RAISED IN 2025

171.255€

INCOME

Memberships	330 €
Donations	170.925 €

EXPENSES

Administration, Marketing, Bank Fees, Website Hosting <i>covered by membership and admin donations</i>	395 €
Event Materials <i>covered by event donations</i>	721 €



Donation summary



119.500 €

Grant
Funding

41.841 €

Individual and
Corporate
Donations

1.065 €

Donations
Associations

8.399 €

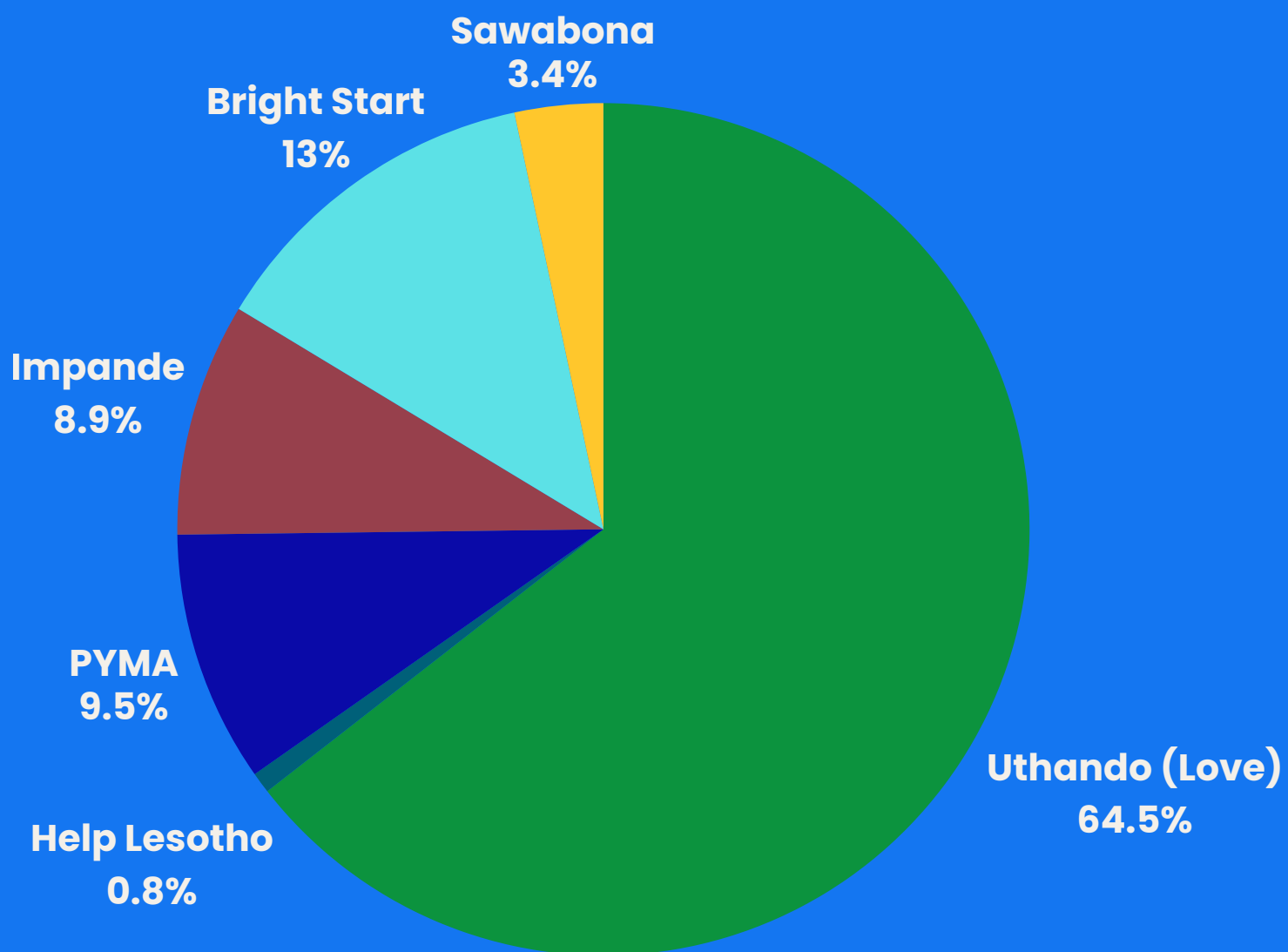
Events

450 €

Membership
and Admin
donations

Grant Funding: Donations from Foundations based in Germany for specific projects. Grant funding requires detailed reporting

How the donations were distributed



Notes:

- Income received at the end of 2024 was distributed early 2025
- Grant funding for 2025 projects received in 2024
- 'Sawabona Decides' donations. Donations can be made via our Website to any of our partner projects. With 'Sawabona Decides' donations the allocation of the donation remains at our discretion and is distributed to projects where it will be most useful to cover funding gaps

Impact story from Bright Start



Likho Mchaza

Bright Start graduate

Likho Mchaza was amongst Bright Start's first intake of learners when founded in 2008. She was 3 years old and living with her parents and grandmother in a very humble home, in Imizamo Yethu, an informal settlement in Hout Bay, Cape Town.



Likho age 3

Likho thrived during her two years of pre-school and continued to Kronendal Primary School – a partner school of Bright Start. She excelled at school and sports. Bright Start, and her committed sponsor in Switzerland supported her through her High School education, and she was recognised with the Best Effort Award honoring her dedication to do her best.

With her incredible determination, Likho completed her High School journey and achieved a Matric pass from Camps Bay High School in 2024.

This year, Likho will start a 3 year Bachelor Degree in Marketing and Business Administration and working as a tutor to cover her transport costs.

She continues to be an incredible ambassador for Bright Start, assisting as a tutor and sharing her story to inspire our younger learners.



Impact stories *from Help Lesotho*

Sponsored learners from Help Lesotho

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be like other children and go to school to be educated and be a good leader for tomorrow. At the leadership camp I explored new things and this was inspiring.

The sessions were amazing as well as the facilitators



The sponsorship helped me go to school confidently. It helped because there was no opportunity for me to attend school. You have supported me with cosmetics and uniform which made me the same as other students. It made me more confident than before.



Impact stories from PYMA



PYMA Learners

"After the Green Explorers workshop, I started showing my classmate how to plant beans, and it feels amazing to be the one teaching. We're all learning together, and it's our garden now"- Buhle, Grade 10 Ambassador



Shirley Ngcobo - awarded top Student 2025

"I'm thrilled to be starting my Engineering studies at South West College,

For the past two years, PYMA has helped me see my potential and push myself further than I ever imagined. I Now feel ready to tackle university life and all the challenges that come with it.

The support from Sawabona Africa makes a real difference. It's the belief in me that motivates me to keep going. I can't wait to learn, grow, and one day use my skills to inspire younger students at PYMA to dream big and work hard.



Impact stories

from PYMA



Bokang Mokoena - Executive Director

Phakamani Young Minds Academy started in a back room with a small group of children and a big sense of responsibility. We did not begin with resources or infrastructure—we began with commitment. The scale of impact we see today has only been possible through partnerships like the one we share with Sawabona Africa.

Together, we have ensured that children do not have to learn while hungry. Thousands of meals have been served to learners and staff, improving concentration, attendance, and dignity. Our food gardens are now learning spaces, while producing a strong harvest, reducing food costs, and equipping young people with basic agricultural skills that will stay with them beyond the classroom.

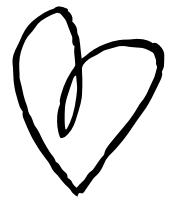
Our partnership has also strengthened learning outcomes. Focused academic and exam support contributed to a 94% pass rate, while the addition of classrooms and tutor sponsorships reduced overcrowding and created proper learning spaces. Learners are more engaged, attendance has improved, and participation in Maths, Science, and literacy—especially among girls—has increased.

Beyond academics, learners have been supported through practical workshops on mental wellness, empowerment, child protection, and sexual health, alongside dignity support that has helped create safer and more caring environments. Early childhood centres have been equipped and trained, improving school readiness and literacy foundations for thousands of young children and strengthening the skills of caregivers on the ground.

This partnership shows what works: steady support, shared values, and a focus on real needs. From a back room to classrooms, gardens, and reading spaces—Sawabona Africa has been part of turning small beginnings into lasting impact.



Impact stories from Uthando (love)



Goal 50

Ruan Grobler - Operations Manager Natural Building Collective



Labour Upskilling through Sustainable Building in Heideveld

Over an eight-month period in Heideveld, Cape Flats, this project used sustainable construction as a tool for community upliftment, skills development, and personal transformation. While the physical outcome was the successful construction of an Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre, the deeper and more lasting impact lay in the upskilling of local labour and the relationships formed throughout the build. Rather than relying on an external construction team, over 20 community members living in the immediate area were employed for the full duration of the project. This approach ensured that funding flowed directly into the community and prioritised people over materials.

Community members were trained in the use of recycled and natural building materials, including eco-bricks made from waste plastic, used tyres, recycled glass bottles, and natural cob mixtures of clay, sand, and straw. These skills are transferable, low-cost, and locally applicable, equipping participants with knowledge that can be used beyond this project for future employment or self-led initiatives. Many participants came from backgrounds marked by hardship and instability, and the project deliberately focused on dignity, trust, and shared responsibility rather than intervention or judgement.

By the end of the project, the team moved beyond simply working together and had formed a sense of shared ownership, pride, and brotherhood. This project demonstrates how sustainable building can function as a catalyst for social change. By investing in people, prioritising skills transfer and creating space for mutual learning, the project achieved impact far beyond the construction of a single building. It provides a strong foundation for future phases that continue to centre community empowerment, education, and human connection.



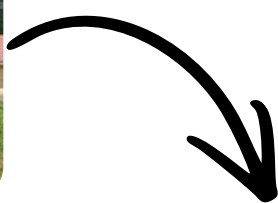
Impact story

from Impande Yotshani

Transformation of Pre-Schools

Diane Laugksch, Impande Yotshani

“We are utterly delighted with the transformation of uKhanyo Pre-school. When we visited with Sawabona Africa in November 2024, we found children using unsafe pit toilets, a rusty corrugated sheeting classroom structure that was not fit for purpose, and ill-equipped. Today, with help from our development partner, Sawabona Africa, uKhanyo Pre-school is able to offer a suitable, safe and stimulating learning environment for young children.”



A shout out to our partners and volunteers for your generous support



Thank you for volunteering your time:

Coco van Zandvoort
Claudette Igiraneza
Dominic Duval
Dheeraj Suthar
Lea Dobolski
Lea Mityagin
Sally Whitford and her team of girls
Silvia Burn

Thank you to our partners:

ACP Collection
Allianz Kinderstiftung
Blue Heron Wineshop
Climbers for Change e.V.
Duram Products
EOS GmbH
Fitch Embrace Team
Goodera
PR-COM GmbH
Visit.org
Wild-life-Culture Tours

And so we press on

to change more lives and support education in under-resourced communities of South Africa and Lesotho

This is only possible with every contribution we receive from each one of you.

Join us on this mission – every cent counts.



**Support Education.
Deliver Hope.**



www.sawabona-africa.com