



# THE EQUALITY COLLECTIVE



Annual Report 2022



# CONTENTS

- 01** INTRODUCTION
- 02** MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD
- 03** MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
- 04** 2022 HIGHLIGHTS
- 05** ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 06** BUILDING A TEAM
- 07** EQUALITY COLLECTIVE STRATEGY
- 08** OUR THEORY OF CHANGE
- 09** ACCESS TO JUSTICE
- 10** RIGHT TO WATER
- 13** RIGHT TO ECD
- 17** OUR BOARD
- 19** FINANCIAL SUMMARY



# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

Very few organisations that work to ensure access to, and fulfilment of, socio-economic rights extend their scope of work to South Africa's deep rural areas. The rights in our Constitution have provided millions with hope for a more equal country based on dignity and freedom, but the context the Equality Collective works in reinforces a perception that constitutional rights are 'paper rights' (i.e. worth no more than the paper they are written on). In addition, our rural communities are far from centres of power with no direct access to a fabric of organisational support. The Equality Collective was founded to address this gap so that our rural communities can have access to justice and equity.

## WHO IS THE EQUALITY COLLECTIVE?

The Equality Collective is a community-embedded organisation located along the central Wild Coast in the Eastern Cape. Our offices are situated at the Bulungula Incubator—a non-profit organisation that started its work in Nqileni village in 2004.

We are committed to meeting the immediate needs of our community as well as building the capacity of community members to shape their own lives and the world around them.

Part of our work is to build and network power in support of campaigns for greater socio-economic equity.

The Equality Collective promotes the rights in our Constitution with an understanding that reliable access to quality socio-economic rights will advance greater equity in South Africa. Many of the problems we are tackling in our communities, such as poor service delivery and failing municipalities, are ubiquitous. What makes the Equality Collective unique is that we seek to improve the quality of livelihoods by working together with traditional leaders, community leaders, community members, researchers, and the government.

We help build consensus and understanding of the challenges identified and offer well-researched solutions. Most importantly, we support avenues for people to participate in the democratic system and galvanise progressive change.

The Equality Collective began work in 2020, and years later, we run human rights training workshops, facilitate paralegal services and outreach, and help coordinate two big campaigns to advance the right to early childhood development (ECD) and the right to water.

## MISSION

**The Equality Collective is an activist and community-centred law project based in the rural Eastern Cape. We are innovative in the advancement of access to justice, build the capacity and infrastructure for collective participation and action, and share research and learning to create a more just and caring society.**

## VISION

**Thriving communities collectively participating in a just and caring society.**

## PEOPLE

**Our work centres on our communities and their lived struggles. It prioritises the needs of marginalised communities, especially women and children.**





# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

I have the privilege of sharing the Chairperson's report for the past fiscal year. 2022 is the third year since the Equality Collective was formally established, and it gives me great pleasure to present some key highlights of our work over this period.

First, the Equality Collective has adopted several policies to strengthen governance this past year. As an organisation, we had to be both flexible and agile whilst maintaining oversight and ensuring compliance. In keeping with this principle, the Board passed several organisational policies including finance, sustainability, and privacy policies. These policies will serve as a critical guide for how the organisation functions going forward.

Second, the Equality Collective grew its budget from half a million in 2020 to over R2.7 million in the 2022 fiscal year. This was largely made possible by the tireless efforts of the management team, and like-minded partners who have a keen interest in supporting our advocacy and community-centred work, in particular our Collective Action and Public Participation pillar. The increase in budget also made it necessary for the organisation to increase its staff complement to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of activities.

In 2022, the organisation thus recruited four staff members: a communications head, a right to ECD coordinator, a right to water coordinator, and an intern researcher. Together with the Director, these staff members represent the first staff complement of the Equality Collective, and we are proud of this achievement as an organisation.

Third, the organisation approved its strategy for the period 2023–2027. This five-year strategy has been distilled to provide an overarching theory of change for the organisation, with clear objectives, activities, and outcomes by pillar (Access to Justice, Collective Action and Public Participation, and Research and Learning). The focus in 2022 was on solidifying the enormous amount of work done under the Collective Action and Public Participation pillar, specifically work on the right to ECD and the right to water. As we move forward, we aim to increase our Access to Justice work, in particular to increase our community outreach and provision of walk-in paralegal services. Furthermore, we want to build evidence through research, service delivery monitoring, and community-level data for advocacy purposes.

I wish to thank my fellow Board members, who have volunteered their time and efforts to make the work of the Equality Collective's work a success over the past year. The Equality Collective would not be where it is today if it wasn't for all your individual efforts. I also wish to thank Tess Peacock, our Founding Director, for her strategic, inclusive, and compassionate leadership. In the same vein, I wish to thank all the staff of the Equality Collective who have individually and collectively grown the organisation to great heights.

I also wish to thank Kudrat Virk, who stepped in as Acting Director towards the end of 2022 and held the ship steady for a three-month period. On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank you for your invaluable time and effort providing leadership during the Director's sabbatical. We wish you all the best as you take on a new journey.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to our partners, stakeholders, and community of Nqileni and surrounding villages for their invaluable support towards making the Equality Collective an initiative we can all be proud of.

*Khaya Tyatya*

**Chairperson**



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

'The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now.'—African proverb

Elona xesha lifanele ukutyala umthi ku ngamashumi amabini eminyaka edlulileyo. Kodwa nangoku kuselithuba—Iqhalo lesiNtu

This annual report tells the story of the Equality Collective, a tree we officially planted three years ago.

At the end of 2022, we had the official launch party of the Equality Collective—an organisation that I dreamt about in 2016. Rural justice is non-existent in the remote parts of the Eastern Cape where I live because public interest or social justice organisations are too far removed from the deep rural communities along the Wild Coast. After living in Nqileni village for three years and experiencing the lack of access to justice, I found the courage to eventually set up the Equality Collective.

The Equality Collective is now over three years old and we are a team of five people. I would like to extend my gratitude to this team who are dedicated to building a caring organisation and to ensuring our skills and resources can best impact the communities we partner with. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors who continue to serve the organisation with notable commitment, playing a critical role in guiding our work.

I am very grateful to our partners who celebrated our launch with us. Our launch was a time for us to pause and show gratitude to our community for their partnership and support. We had community members, councillors, and traditional leaders present as well as Board members, friends and family, and representatives from several close partner organisations. It was a celebration of connection, joy, and radical love for radical transformation. A memorable day for us all.

Finally, I want to show my appreciation to the people of Nqileni and neighbouring villages, for welcoming us into your community and trusting us with this important work. I hope that we will continue to work hand-in-hand to ensure that our village and its people are well respected and are empowered with the tools to thrive and grow, despite the economic realities. Thank you!

This annual report provides a picture of the Equality Collective's work in our third year in operation. Over the period of the report, we have continued to provide leadership and coordination support to Real Reform for Early Childhood Development (RR4ECD) (a movement made up of over 200 ECD organisations and practitioners) as well as provided technical support to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) on legislative amendments for progressive change to advance greater access to ECD services.

A special mention over the reporting period must be given to the start of our Amanzi Kumntu Wonke project—a project that sees over 30 volunteers monitoring our water scheme every day in a joint effort to improve water service delivery. We also started

various outreach events to expand access to our paralegal services. This is an area of crucial support where we have provided advice to more than 100 clients already. Significant progress has been achieved in all the areas of our work.

However, we continue to confront sizable challenges in respect of government service delivery. The state of local government is an area of extreme concern. We face issues of bankruptcy in local government, poor financial management, labour unrest, and political faction fighting that severely impact service delivery and the provision of basic human rights. The Equality Collective will continue to work hard to monitor the delivery of services, build a stronger civil society, and strengthen government accountability so we can turn this tide.

The Equality Collective sits at the nexus of grounded, community advocacy work and influencing policy and legislation at the government level. It is this combination that uniquely situates us to play a valuable role as a new civil society organisation in South Africa. We are driven and resilient and look ahead to a productive year in 2023.

*Tess Peacock*



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## PEOPLE

- We have reached just over 600 early childhood development practitioners through Real Reform for ECD workshops.
- We have had 102 weekly paralegal walk-in clients and hosted two outreach days.



## ACTIVE CITIZENRY

- We have a team of 32 trained and active Water Ambassadors who are voluntarily monitoring water reliability and reporting incidents across 40 villages every day.
- We held 21 workshops with ECD practitioners on how to get ECD into municipalities' Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).
- We supported 30 submissions made by ECD practitioners on the Local Government Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations.
- We supported nine submissions made by ECD practitioners on the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill.
- We held a human rights and water advocacy training workshop for local community leaders and activists.



## PARTNERSHIPS

- We provide backbone secretariat support to 11 Steering Committee member partners of the Real Reform for ECD movement, which is supported by over 200 organisations.
- We have strong partnerships with nine ECD forums across seven municipalities.
- We set up a functional Mncwasa Advisory Committee consisting of the Equality Collective, Viva con Agua, Community Development Workers, traditional leaders, and three ward councillors.



## RESEARCH

- In partnership with Ilifa Labantwana, we produced a comprehensive study on the regulatory framework for health, safety, and environmental standards for ECD programmes.
- We conducted detailed comparative research on the right to ECD across four countries, in partnership with the University of Oxford.



## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

- RR4ECD has written three press releases and three op-eds, hosted five webinars, and made seven media appearances.
- The Equality Collective has appeared in four media outlets, written one op-ed and two press releases, and hosted two webinars, one of which was hosted in collaboration with Pathways Institute and Zabalaza Socialist Forum.
- Three episodes of the Amanzi Kumntu Wonke radio programme have been produced and aired on Bulungula Community Radio.



## CAMPAIGNS

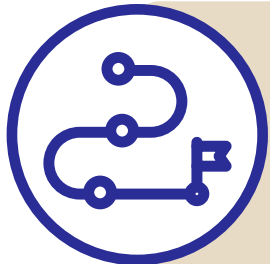
- Right to Water: We successfully assisted Amathole District Municipality (ADM) to apply and obtain R8 million from a national conditional grant, the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), for the refurbishment of the Mncwasa Water Scheme.
- RR4ECD—Make the Bill Better: We were appointed to a Technical Team, led by the DBE, and helped prepare draft amendments to the Children's Act and its Regulations that, if passed, will provide a much more enabling legal landscape for ECD.
- RR4ECD—Local Government Campaign: Of all the municipalities, Breede Valley Local Municipality made strides in how ECD was represented in their IDP. The IDP is now clear on the role of the local municipality in providing for, and expanding, ECD services. We now have a working example for other municipalities.

# ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT



## ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- In 2022, we finalised our [first Annual Report](#) and our [first Annual Financial Statements](#) for the year ended 31 December 2021.



## STRATEGY

- With the support of Genesis Analytics, we deepened our strategic planning and developed a [theory of change](#) for our organisation. We are putting strong monitoring and evaluation systems in place to ensure that our theory of change and strategy are properly implemented and continuously support achieving our vision.
- We started developing theories of change and logic frameworks for our two streams of work—Right to Water and Right to ECD. We will complete this process in 2023.



## LAUNCH

- We hosted our launch celebration at the Youth Centre in Nqileni in November 2022. The event was a true reflection of the Equality Collective's ethos of being an embedded organisation that works with and for our community.



## COMMUNICATIONS

- We developed a communications strategy that reflects our principles of communications for social change. These include developing branding and marketing materials in collaboration with our community members, rather than for them.
- We produced organisational branding and marketing materials, such as presentation slides, letterheads, posters, banners, T-shirt designs, and brochures, amongst others, to solidify the Equality Collective's brand.



## POLICY

- We finalised a Finance Policy, Sustainability Policy, and Privacy Policy in 2022.



# BUILDING A TEAM

In its third year of existence, the Equality Collective has grown and expanded in a number of ways. The appointment of an additional four staff members in 2022 was one of those crucial expansions that allowed the organisation to broaden and deepen its work.

Meet Tess Peacock (middle left), our Founder and Director. Tess has a Bachelor of Social Sciences in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics as well as an LLB from the University of Cape Town and an LLM from Harvard University. Having worked as a passionate lawyer and advocate of education and early childhood development rights and services, Tess is committed to challenging power in the pursuit of greater equity and justice.

Meet Zoe Postman (middle), our Head of Communications for Social Change. Zoe is a social justice activist and writer. She has an undergraduate degree in media theory and practice and an honours degree in film and media production. She previously worked as a journalist and was best known for her work at GroundUp News—an online, social justice publication. Zoe was excited to join the Equality Collective team to empower and support communities in her home province of the Eastern Cape.

Meet Tshepo Mantje (middle right), our Right to ECD Coordinator. Tshepo is an education and child rights activist. He has an LLB and Bachelor of Arts with Honours focusing on child psychology. Through his work at the Equality Collective, he intends to contribute to the collective effort to reimagine, and bring to light, the expression of Africa by investing in its children.

Meet Noluvo Mandukwini (far left), our Right to Water Coordinator. Noluvo was born in Tshezi village (in the Xhosa Mouth Administrative Area where the Equality Collective is based). She is a former Site Manager for the Bulungula Incubator and is studying law through the University of South Africa. She is interested in working at the Equality Collective because she wants to help people know and understand their rights.



Meet Tinotenda Muringani (far right), our Intern Researcher. Tino is a young human rights activist. He is currently finishing his LLM in Transnational Criminal Justice at the University of the Western Cape. Tino holds an LLB and an LLM from Walter Sisulu University as well as a master's in human rights from the University of the Free State. He is passionate about getting local government to work for its communities.



# EQUALITY COLLECTIVE STRATEGY

In 2022, the Equality Collective developed and adopted its 2023–2027 strategy. The organisation is working to achieve 1) improved access to socio-economic rights; 2) enhanced responsive governance and accountability; and 3) a stronger, more active citizenry.

We aim to achieve these objectives through the following pillars of work:

1. Access to justice
2. Collective action and public participation
3. Research and learning

We have three streams of work that support these objectives: our Legal Advice Office, our Right to Water work, and Right to Early Childhood Development work. Under these streams of work, we coordinate two campaigns:

- Real Reform for ECD
- Amanzi Kumntu Wonke (Water for All)

Our model for collective advocacy sees us acting as a small dynamo by providing secretariat, research, and monitoring support to the campaigns where we work in a coalition or alliance and where we assist with both coordination and implementation of our joint strategy.

In other words, the Equality Collective is a powerful backbone organisation that always works in a ‘collective’ across all its campaigns.

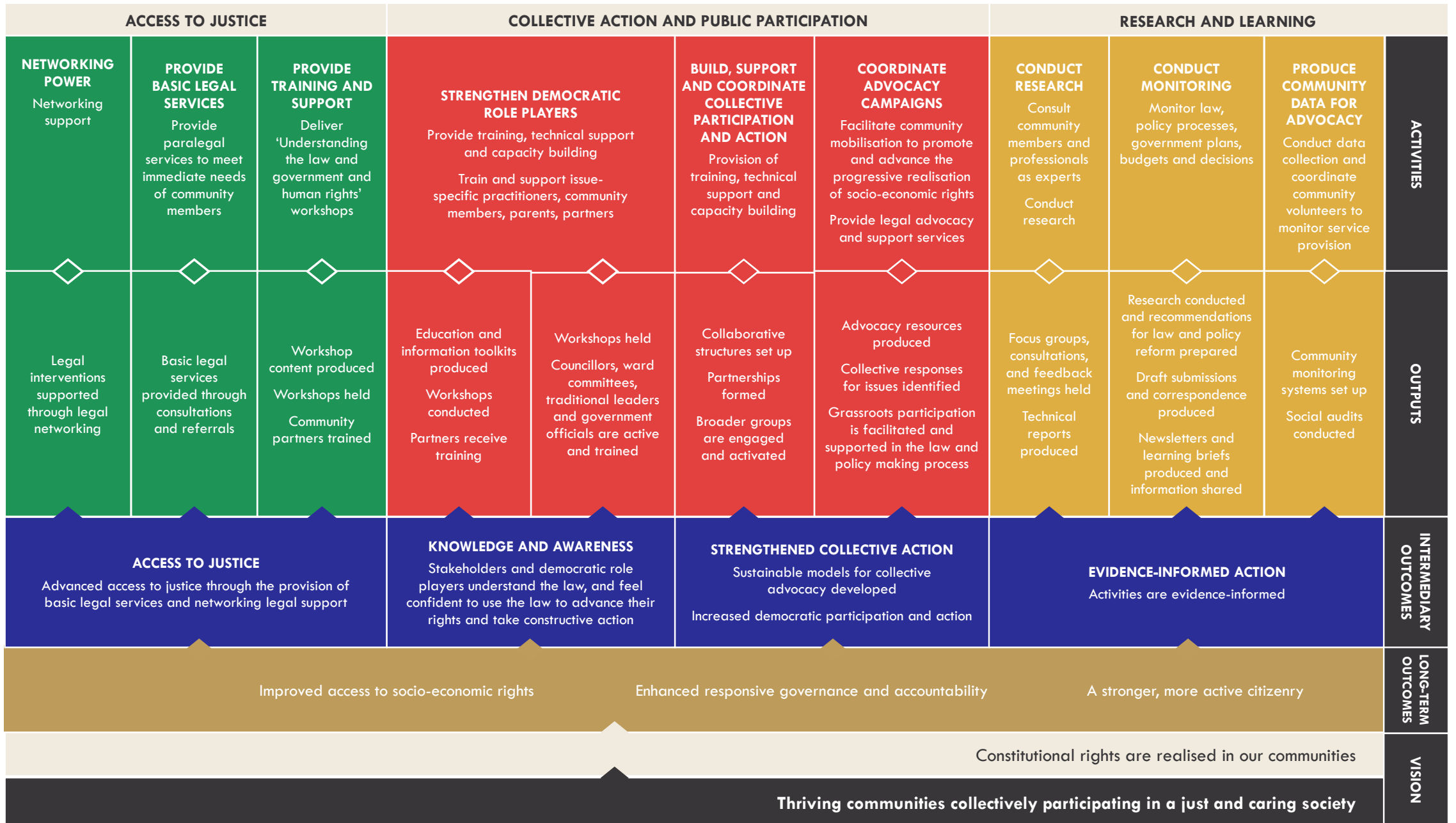
## The Equality Collective model for collective advocacy towards a just and caring society:



## EXPLANATION

1. Collective advocacy starts with awareness campaigns that have a broad focus while also targeting specific, important role players. As awareness of rights grows, some individuals and groups will be motivated to take action.
2. Individuals and groups who want to become advocates are trained, coordinated, and supported to take collective action and to use the democratic processes available to them.
3. Any collective advocacy is steered and directed by a strong and engaged group of partner representatives that actively engages to coordinate, advance, and support the objectives and activities of a joint strategy.
4. Secretariat and backbone support is provided to ensure that collective advocacy remains organised, focused, and on track. Currently, the Equality Collective fulfils this role in all its projects.
5. Research and social monitoring ensures evidence-informed awareness campaigns, advocacy actions, and legislative proposals.

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE





# ACCESS TO JUSTICE

## NETWORKING LEGAL SUPPORT

A learner from Mgojweni (one of the villages in our region) was unable to move into grade 8 as she is wheelchair-driven and lacked transport support or placement in a special school. Supporting the Nosintu Gwebindlala Foundation, we garnered media advocacy for her and organised legal representation from the Equal Education Law Centre. She has since been successfully placed in a special-needs school in East London.

**PARALEGAL SERVICES:** We had 102 weekly paralegal walk-in clients and hosted two outreach days.

**TRAINING AND SUPPORT:** We conducted our annual four-day human rights workshop with a focus on self-advocacy, community mobilisation, and the right to water. The workshop was held at the Bulungula Lodge in Nqileni and was attended by 15 participants from various villages.



*Top:* In September 2022, we hosted our annual human rights workshop for community members in and around Nqileni. The aim of the human rights workshop was to develop the knowledge of community members on human rights, local government, and community mobilisation.

*Bottom:* Our first ever outreach day for paralegal services coordinated jointly with Chief Nobandla in Mkatazo.

Since we are embedded in our community, there is an element of the Equality Collective that seeks to serve the direct needs of community members. We therefore provide paralegal walk-in services once a week at our offices. We also host paralegal outreach days across the villages in our region to ensure that we are reaching people outside of our village as well. Where necessary, we network legal support services and we conduct annual human rights workshops for community members.





# RIGHT TO WATER

## BACKGROUND

The Amanzi Kumntu Wonke (Water for All) project forms part of the Equality Collective's collective participation focus area and our right to water stream of work. This work is implemented in partnership with Viva con Agua. It emerged because our regional water scheme (Mncwasa Water Scheme), built by Amathole District Municipality in 2015 to provide water to 6,100 households and over 30,000 people across 40 villages, is not delivering consistent and reliable water.

To address this increasingly pressing issue, we started the Amanzi Kumntu Wonke project, which has four components:

First, we use a community monitoring system that works with Water Ambassadors across 40 villages who monitor water services daily (the availability of water and whether there are any leaks) and use this information for ADM's response as well as for advocacy purposes.

Second, we build informed communities through workshops, community radio programming, and the provision of popular education material. This is intended to equip activists, councillors, and community members with the information they need to hold ADM officials to account.

Third, we support the active and informed participation of community members, councillors, and ward committees in existing democratic processes. This includes, amongst other things, participation in ADM's Integrated Development Planning processes.

Fourth, we are building a broad-based coalition of communities, organisations, businesses, and resident associations across the district who want to see a functioning Amathole District Municipality.



*Bottom: The Mncwasa Water Scheme water treatment works in Mndwaka. Amathole District Municipality uses cleaning chemicals to clean the water so that it is safe to drink and then pumps it to the Tafalehashe reservoir.*



## FIRST COMPONENT

A sustainable model for community water monitoring in partnership with ADM

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We have full buy-in and support for this project from ADM, councillors, ward committees, and traditional leaders. We now have a team of 32 trained and active Water Ambassadors who are voluntarily monitoring water reliability and reporting incidents across 40 villages every day. We have built a simple but effective and accurate data monitoring system, and with it, a strong evidence base on the state of the Mncwasa Water Scheme. In 2022, we produced four comprehensive monthly reports for ADM.

- Between March and July 2022, we conducted a pilot of the Amanzi Kumntu Wonke project covering about 7—10 reservoir supply areas. In July, we began ramping up to cover all reservoirs across the scheme. This was achieved in August when we collected data for all 32 reservoirs and reached 100% data completeness.
- In 2022, we logged 24 incidents, of which 14 (58%) have been resolved.

The scheme needs to be urgently refurbished, otherwise reliable provision of water will continue to deteriorate. Therefore, we assisted ADM with applying for the Water Services Infrastructure Grant for the Mncwasa Water Scheme. Early in 2022, we received written confirmation from ADM that the Mncwasa Water Scheme had been included as one of the projects to be prioritised as part of the WSIG, with R8 million allocated to the scheme.

## SECOND COMPONENT

Building informed communities

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2022, we attended 17 community meetings, across three wards, and engaged over 1,000 community members. At these community meetings, we advise people on their rights and responsibilities and the responsibilities of local government. We have produced three radio episodes out of a 20-part series for Bulungula Community Radio on the right to water and the Mncwasa Water Scheme. To help ensure greater impact of our work, we have produced infographics on how the scheme works and on the survey we conducted in 2021.



*This is the logo for our Amanzi Kumntu Wonke project in which we are working to ensure that we have reliable and consistent water in our villages. This logo is very special to us because the Water Ambassadors designed this logo themselves at our training workshop. (Digital design: Khanya Peacock)*



*Top:* The Equality Collective introducing its Amanzi Kumntu Wonke project to community members from Tshezi village in ward 28, one of the communities that gets water from the Mncwasa Water Scheme.

*Bottom:* This community meeting we attended was held in Manz'amnyama on 6 August 2022. We introduced our Amanzi Kumntu Wonke project, informed people about our work and the responsibilities of the community in this project, and recruited Water Ambassadors for the community.



## THIRD COMPONENT

Coordinating, supporting, and strengthening the active participation of community members and democratic role players

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We have a functional Mncwasa Advisory Committee consisting of the Equality Collective, Viva con Agua, Community Development Workers, traditional leaders, and three ward councillors. We collectively 1) made a joint submission on ADM's Integrated Development Plan; 2) made a joint submission concerning challenges at ADM to the Auditor General; 3) sent letters to Eskom to address the phase imbalance issue affecting water service delivery; and 4) engaged with ADM. We continue to actively monitor the planned refurbishment of the Mncwasa Water Scheme, which was allocated R8 million. We met with all 30 ward committees at least once in 2022 and continue to work together with them in implementing the Amanzi Kumntu Wonke project.

## FOURTH COMPONENT

Building a broad-based coalition in ADM

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We set up a meeting with the Auditor General to discuss the findings on ADM and how we can make a submission for the next report. The Equality Collective created a submission template, which we shared with the coalition to use for their individual submissions.



*Top:* Meet our Water Ambassadors— We can't do the Amanzi Kumntu Wonke project without you. Thank you for fighting for your rights and the rights of your community!

*Bottom:* Khululwa Dodwana is our Water Ambassador for Nqileni village. Community members report any broken or leaking taps, reservoirs, BP tanks, and water outages to her.



# COLLECTIVE ACTION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## RIGHT TO ECD

The Equality Collective's offices are on the site of Jujurha Creche—a rare site of early learning and care excellence in our rural region. Our vision is to ensure an enabling policy, legal, and regulatory environment that guarantees all young children in South Africa access to quality and holistic early childhood development programmes like the one where we are based.

We believe that progressive change in the country's ECD laws and policies is only possible if the sector stands united around its challenges and solutions, and maintains collective pressure for change. That is why we helped found the Real Reform for ECD movement in 2020.

As the Secretariat of RR4ECD, we provide coordination, strategic, technical, and advocacy support to the movement to maximise collaboration around our common goals and campaign efforts. We build the capacity of our partners, provide workshops, develop advocacy tools, build consensus and public support around our campaigns, and advance policy and legal change.

The Movement is continuously being coordinated, advanced, and supported by a representative, active, and engaged RR4ECD Steering Committee consisting of 11 members made up of ECD organisations and practitioners in the ECD sector.

Our achievements listed here are collective achievements made possible through our coalition work.

**We would like to give special thanks to Ilifa Labantwana for continuing to be a key partner in supporting the Equality Collective's Real Reform for ECD work.**

## FIRST COMPONENT

A representative, active, and engaged RR4ECD Steering Committee that continuously coordinates, advances, and supports the objectives of the RR4ECD movement

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Real Reform for ECD Steering Committee is active, engaged, and critical in coordinating, advancing, and supporting the Movement's objectives. We had our first in-person meeting in 2022 and worked on our strategy and work plan. The Steering Committee met virtually at least every three–four weeks throughout the year, and as the Secretariat, Equality Collective played an essential part in ensuring the Steering Committee remained focused.



*Top right:* Kayin Scholtz, Chairperson of the Real Reform for ECD Steering Committee, led us in a session at our in-person meeting where each organisation spoke about what it can contribute to the committee and the movement. Photo credit: Makhulu Media. *Bottom:* Our first in-person Steering Committee meeting was held at Viva Villa in Cape Town on 5 and 6 September 2022. Considering that Real Reform for ECD was launched during Covid-19, we had been unable to meet in person. It was incredible to celebrate our wins in person and experience the great minds and passion that our Steering Committee members have. Organisations in the Steering Committee include the Do More Foundation, Ilifa Labantwana, Equality Collective, DG Murray Trust, Save the Children South Africa, SmartStart South Africa, Ubunye Foundation, Bridge, Legal Resources Centre, TREE-eed, Sisonke Orange Farm, and New Ithambalabatwana ECD forum. Photo credit: Makhulu Media

## SECOND COMPONENT

An informed ECD sector with individuals and groups ready to become active in RR4ECD campaigns

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Submissions

**COGTA Regulations:** The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) called for public comment on the Local Government Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations, which address municipalities' IDPs. RR4ECD prepared a template for submission, which proposed that municipal strategies should always include a focus on ECD. We helped galvanise over 30 submissions made to COGTA and we have already received confirmation that COGTA supports our proposal.

**BELA Bill:** Parliament called for public comment on the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill, which proposed that grade R be compulsory and parents whose children are not in grade R face possible jail time. RR4ECD supported the call for compulsory grade R on the condition that it is appropriately resourced, it emphasises play-based learning, and there are adequate wages and training for practitioners. RR4ECD further proposed that instead of criminalising parents, a holistic approach be taken whereby the causes of non-compliance by the parents are identified and support is provided. We helped galvanise nine submission made to Parliament.



*Right:* Pictured here is Tshepo Mantje (Right to ECD Coordinator) leading a workshop with Angel Lovers ECD Forum in Worcester, Western Cape, about how to make submissions to their municipality's Integrated Development Plan. Photo credit: Makhulu Media



As part of our work with ECD practitioners, we host workshops with ECD forums, at which we explain the importance of local government in getting ECD prioritised in their municipalities and provide a toolkit that gives practical steps on how to participate in the municipality's IDP consultation process.

A Total of **21** Workshops Held  
 Across **4** Provinces  
 In **7** Municipalities

# of forums: We built strong relationships with nine ECD forums in 2022.

# of practitioners: We reached just over 600 ECD practitioners through our workshops.

### THIRD COMPONENT

The Real Reform for ECD movement is rooted in evidence-informed disruptive knowledge, strategies, models, and proposals to make the government work for ECD.

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In partnership with Ilifa Labantwana and supported by Nurina Ally, we produced a comprehensive study on the regulatory framework for health, safety, and environmental standards for ECD programmes. The study recommendations have already been used to inform proposed amendments to the Children's Act and Regulations supported by the DBE
- We conducted detailed comparative research on the right to ECD across four countries, in partnership with the University of Oxford.



*Top left:* Members of Angel Lovers Forum showing their joy and excitement to continue working with Real Reform for ECD at our workshop held in Worcester, Western Cape. Photo credit: Makhulu Media.

*Top right:* Greater Soweto Association for ECD is one of Real Reform for ECD's local partners. It brings a collective of ECD forum chairs together and provides for a widespread network of ECD champions across Soweto. Pictured here are a few of the members of the Greater Soweto Association for ECD after receiving their Real Reform For ECD branded T-shirts.

*Bottom:* Makana ECD Forum and Ndlambe ECD Forum participated together in a workshop conducted by Real Reform for ECD in Makhanda, Eastern Cape. These ECD forums are supported by Ubunye Foundation, which is represented on RR4ECD's Steering Committee. Photo credit: Nape Mapahlele.

# RR4ECD CAMPAIGNS

## 1. #MakeTheBillBetter

Aim: Evidence-informed reforms are adopted in the Second Children's Amendment Bill.

## 2. Make Local Government Work for ECD

Aim: Local government creates safe and vibrant care and learning spaces for young children by prioritising, planning, and budgeting appropriately for ECD and removing municipal barriers to registration and expansion of ECD services.

## 3. Right to Nutrition

Aim: Nutritional support is provided by the Department of Basic Education to all early learning programmes regardless of registration status.

## #MakeTheBillBetter

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Equality Collective has had representation on the Technical Team appointed to draft a Second Children's Amendment Bill (SCAB) since 2021. In March 2022, the Technical Team finalised a draft Bill that, if enacted, will simplify the registration process, allow for greater flexibility depending on the type of ECD programme, and clarify the government's obligations to support ECD programmes to register. We actively supported the legal subcommittee of Real Reform for ECD to prepare a submission on the draft SCAB Regulations. In addition, the Equality Collective is now represented on the Technical Team set up to draft the Norms and Standards for ECD. We had our first meeting in early November 2022.

### Make Local Government Work for ECD

We are currently working comprehensively with nine ECD forums (the Greater Soweto Forum represents an additional 23 forums) across seven municipalities and our work has reached over 600 ECD practitioners.

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Of all the municipalities, Breede Valley Local Municipality made strides in how ECD was represented in their IDP. The IDP is now clear on the role of the local municipality in providing for, and expanding, ECD services. The IDP commits the municipality to supporting ECD centres with infrastructure, identifying land/plots for ECD facilities to use, and easing the process of ECD registration. The IDP goes on to say that an awareness drive must be conducted in all communities to help educate communities on starting an ECD centre and commits to hosting an annual ECD summit. Lastly, the IDP sets timelines for certain interventions, which will allow ECD stakeholders in the municipality to hold their local government officials to account. We hope this can be a model for other municipalities.

## Right to Nutrition

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through the Real Reform for ECD movement, we coordinated four research streams to drive and inform a campaign around the right to basic nutrition for all children in ECD programmes. Research partners for this project are from the DG Murray Trust, Equal Education Law Centre, Legal Resources Centre, University of Cape Town, and Ilifa Labantwana. The DBE has already shown support for this work. This campaign will launch in 2023.

We have noticed that having a local organisation partner who can support with government engagements brings about greater success. For us, the LIMA Rural Development Foundation and the Do More Foundation have been instrumental partners in Breede Valley.



# OUR BOARD



## **KHAYA TYATYA** CHAIRPERSON

Khaya was formerly a Director of Programmes at Zenex Foundation. He is currently a consultant at Iqhawe Consulting. Khaya has extensive experience in the area of education and grant-making, having previously worked for Tshikululu Social Investments where he held numerous roles including Client Relationship Manager and Education Specialist. Khaya has also worked as an education specialist at the National Education Collaboration Trust and JET Education Services. Khaya has expertise in the areas of programme design, strategy development, and stakeholder engagement, amongst others. Khaya is a PhD candidate in the Department of Educational Leadership and Management at the University of Johannesburg. His research focuses on understanding factors that affect student academic success in post-school education.



## **RÉJANE WOODROFFE** TREASURER

Réjane is an economist and a CFA charterholder. She completed her undergraduate degree in business science at the University of Cape Town and her master's degree in development economics at the University of Sussex, UK. She has previously held the positions of Chief Economist and Head of International Portfolio Investments at Metropolitan Asset Managers and Research Analyst at US investment bank Merrill Lynch in the economics and fixed-income sales and trading departments. Réjane was a Trustee and the National Treasurer for TCOE, the Trust for Community Outreach and Education. She has previously served as a volunteer counselor and a member of the Board of Directors of the Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust. She is a fellow of the Africa Leadership Initiative (ALI) and the Aspen Global Leadership Network (AGLN). Réjane is a founding member of the Bulungula Incubator.



## **MEGAN BRYER** SECRETARY

Megan is a Director in the Economic Policy Division of South Africa's National Treasury. She has worked since 2012 in development economics, in the private sector for Genesis Analytics, in the academic space for the Universities of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand, and as an independent researcher. Though she had the misfortune of studying economics at the height of the neoliberal project, she has been on a journey of recovery, wading into feminist economics, economic history, and heterodox economic ideas. Her work for the Equality Collective shifts her away from her focus on urban poverty, inequality, and joblessness to a rural expression of these challenges; re-orientating her from the abstractions of policymaking to the practice of community-centred change. Megan has an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics.

*The road leading into Nqileni, where the Equality Collective is based.*



**TESS PEACOCK**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER

Tess has a BSocSci in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics as well as an LLB from UCT and an LLM from Harvard University. She completed her articles at Webber Wentzel Attorneys before moving to the Legal Resources Centre for human rights experience. She also spent a year clerking at the Constitutional Court after being appointed by Justice Skweyiya. Tess has experience working in the education and early childhood development sectors at the grassroots, grant-making, and policy levels (having worked at the Bulungula Incubator, for Tshikululu Social Investments, and as a consultant for Ilifa Labantwana and the Nelson Mandela Foundation). She serves as the Treasurer of Equal Education, is a 2019—2020 Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity, and a Salzberg Global Fellow.



**LUNGA SIYO**

Lunga was admitted to the Eastern Cape Society of Advocates, Grahamstown, where he began his career in December 2013. He was admitted to the Johannesburg Society of Advocates in 2015. He holds an LLB and an LLM in Constitutional Law. Lunga is a member of Thulamela Chambers. Lunga is also in-house counsel at the Constitutional Litigation Unit of the Legal Resources Centre. His areas of interest include constitutional law, administrative law, land rights, mining law, customary law, medical negligence, personal injury law, and general litigation. He has appeared in the High Court, Land Claims Court, and the Constitutional Court.



**YANA VAN LEEVE**

Yana commenced her career in constitutional litigation at the renowned Legal Resources Centre, founded by Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson. She later specialised in education law and policy. Following a year of clerking at the Constitutional Court for Justice Edwin Cameron, Yana joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as an associate in 2016 and worked there as a senior associate until 2021. She then moved to Ilifa Labantwana, an organisation that focuses on early childhood development, as their Policy, Advocacy, and Communications Director. Yana recently completed her LLM from Queens University, Belfast and is now an executive in ENSafrica’s public law practice. Yana is also the former Chairperson of Equal Education.



**HOMBAKAZI MERCY NQANDEKA**  
(ADVISORY MEMBER)

Hombakazi was born in Mqele location in Elliotdale (Xhorha) in the Eastern Cape. She is a driven young woman who takes pride in the betterment of the preservation and promotion of Xhosa culture. She is passionate about rural development and Africa at large. She has authored and published three books: *The Dissonant Rainbow* (2019), *To My Young Self* (2020), and *Don’t Upset ooMalume: A Guide to Stepping Up Your Xhosa Game* (2022). She founded and leads a bead-making business, Homba Crafts. She holds a double master’s degree in agricultural climate change transition from the National University of Ireland, Galway and SupAgro Montpellier, France. She previously worked for Viva con Agua on their water and sanitation projects in local schools in the Xhora Mouth Administrative Area. Hombakazi is now a PhD candidate at Stellenbosch University.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Balance sheet at 31 December 2022

31 December 2022

### ASSETS

#### Current assets

Bank and cash R1,462,884

**Total Assets R1,462,884**

### EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

#### Equity

Retained income R212,740

Sustainability fund R83,546

#### Current Liabilities

Trade and other payables R67,780

Income received in advance R1,098,818

**Total equity and liabilities R1,462,884**

## Income statement for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

**Income R2,989,131**

Less: Operating expenses (R2,776,391)

**Net surplus R212,740**

*Below: The Equality Collective team, with the help of Genesis Analytics and our community members, developed the organisation's theory of change.*





# THANK YOU!

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Tel:** 047 577 8908

**Email:** [tess@equalitycollective.org.za](mailto:tess@equalitycollective.org.za)

### Physical address:

Nqileni Village  
Xhora Mouth Administrative Area  
Elliotdale District  
Eastern Cape, 5080

## WAYS TO SUPPORT US

### DIRECT DEBIT

**Bank:** First National Bank (FNB)  
**Account name:** Equality Collective  
**Account number:** 62850173528  
**Branch:** 210621  
**SWIFT code:** FIRNZAJJ  
**Reference:** Your name

### PAYFAST

Donate Now



### SNAPSCAN



*Left: This is the Mndakwa Dam, which supplies water to the Mncwasa Water Scheme. It was built in 2015 and is one of the biggest and highest dams built in South Africa. The water goes from the Mndakwa Dam to a levelling dam, after which it goes to the water treatment works to be cleaned. It then goes to the Tafalehashe Reservoir and from there, using gravity, is distributed to 32 reservoirs in various villages.*





THE EQUALITY  
COLLECTIVE