



**EMPIRE PARTNER
FOUNDATION**

YOUTH-TECHNOLOGY-ENTREPRENEURSHIP

2023/4 ANNUAL REPORT



011 084 1100



info@empirepartnerfoundation.org



www.empirepartnerfounddation.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Stakeholders

This year has unfolded as an extraordinary odyssey in an environment marked by the dual challenges of the ever-increasing cost of living and sluggish economic growth.

The confluence of these factors has created a situation where financial strain has become a pervasive concern for many individuals and families. From increasing prices of goods to the strains on small businesses, the economic climate has presented formidable obstacles.

Adding to the complexity of this situation is the unprecedented levels of youth unemployment that continue to plague our country. Our Youth, eager to contribute to the workforce and build their careers, are grappling with limited opportunities, creating a sense of frustration and disillusionment. This not only hampers individual prospects but also poses a broader risk to the country's economic vitality, as the potential of an entire demographic remains untapped.

Despite encountering these headwinds, we remain committed to advancing our mission of empowering youth, harnessing technology and creating entrepreneurs of the digital age. Our dedication is evident in our efforts to ensure that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are not left behind in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Pule Mokoena
Empire Partner Foundation - Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pule Mokoena'.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Stakeholders, Partners, and Supporters,

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones achieved by the Empire Partner Foundation (EPF) during the fiscal year 2022/23, it is with immense gratitude and a profound sense of purpose that I address you in this annual report.

In a year marked by unprecedented challenges, EPF remained resilient, driven by our unwavering commitment to empowering youth through technology and entrepreneurship. Our dedication to creating tangible social impact has been the guiding force behind every initiative, project, and collaboration we undertook.

Our leadership, in collaboration with our Board, Regional Managers, and the entire EPF team, steered the organization through a dynamic landscape. Each member's dedication and passion have been instrumental in achieving significant outcomes and propelling EPF toward new horizons.

From hosting impactful hackathons to the impact of the EPF Innovation Campus, our initiatives have not only equipped youth with in-demand skills but have also fostered innovation and entrepreneurship. The transformative power of these endeavors is evident in the stories of the beneficiaries we have supported, the jobs created, and the lasting impact on communities.

As we navigate the future, EPF remains committed to adaptability and innovation. We will continue to leverage technology and collaborative partnerships to address emerging challenges and create sustainable solutions. Our focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion will persist as we strive to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of all those we touch.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our stakeholders, partners, and supporters who have been integral to our success. Your unwavering belief in our vision and commitment to youth empowerment have been the driving force behind our achievements.

As we embark on the next phase of our journey, let us carry forward the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and impact. Together, we can shape a future where every young person has the opportunity to unlock their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

Thank you for being part of the Empire Partner Foundation family.

Joanna Jacqueline Govender

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JG', located below the printed name of Joanna Jacqueline Govender.

INTRODUCTION

Empire Partner Foundation (EPF) is pleased to present the Annual Report for the year 2023, reflecting our dedication to fostering positive societal change through technology-driven initiatives. This comprehensive report highlights the impact of our diverse programs, aligning with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The narrative is accompanied by impactful visuals and graphs to provide a nuanced understanding of our achievements.

CSI - Visible Social Impact

EPF continues to be a catalyst for positive change across various domains. The year 2023 witnessed impactful outcomes in our major programs.

Hackathons - Solve for 'X'

- Successfully organized 40+ hackathons, impacting over 5000 youth.
- Developed 50+ digital solutions addressing real-world challenges.
- Formed 50+ partnerships, creating over 100 internships and 100 permanent jobs.
- Awarded 30 bursaries and incubated 17 teams.
- Featured in 40+ IT Web articles.

Youth Skills Development

- Trained 300+ young individuals in technology disciplines.
- Achieved a 100% employment rate for program graduates.
- Focused on social development, training 120 youth.
- Established AI Academy training 35 Youth in Data Science, Block Chain, Machine Learning.

Township Development Model - Micro-Enterprise Development Program

- Created 1000+ jobs (65% female, 35% male).
- Developed 400+ micro-enterprises (57% female, 43% male).

EPF Innovation Campus

- Developed 50 solutions and empowered over 300 young individuals (56% female, 44% male).

EPF Studio - Beyond the Bottom Line

- Empowered 6 media and motion picture interns (5 female, 1 male).
- Created global brand awareness through diverse media channels.



KEY INDICATORS

EPF's performance against key indicators, showcasing the organization's commitment to transparency and accountability.

Corporate Social Investment Projects

EPF focuses on Education, Technology, ESG, Rural Development, and Youth Development under its CSI Division.

Operations

Internal operations are designed for efficiency, impact, and scalability. Key areas include program implementation, resource management, and stakeholder engagement.

Program Implementation

- Strategic Planning

EPF conducts regular strategic planning sessions to align program objectives with its mission.

- Monitoring and Evaluation

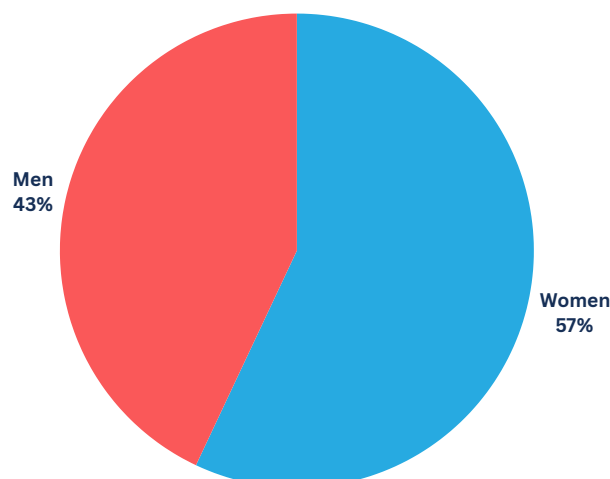
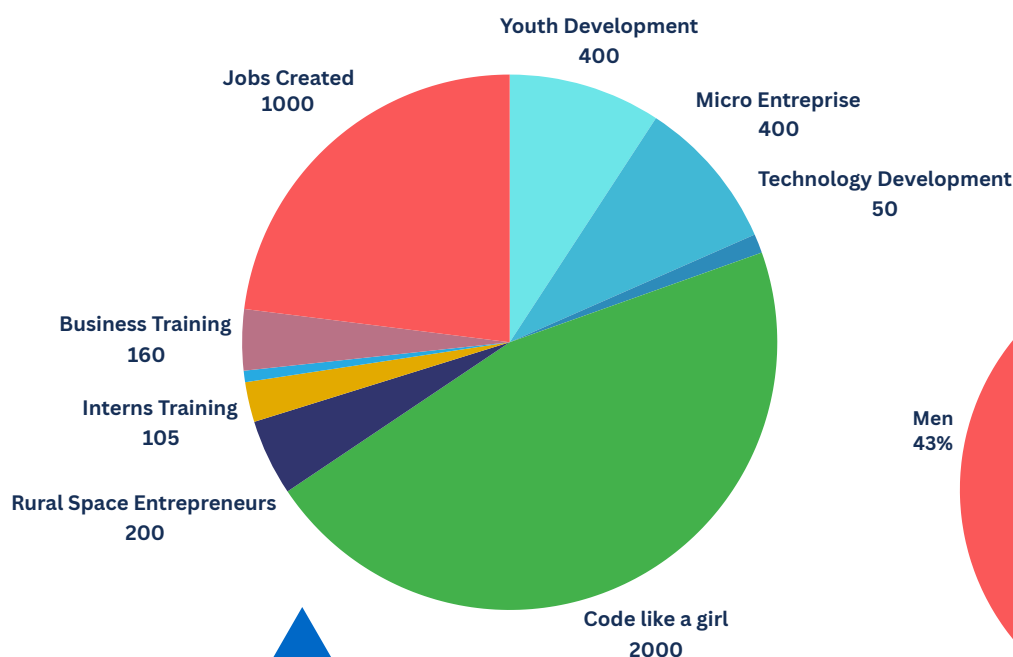
Rigorous monitoring and evaluation frameworks ensure the effectiveness and impact of each program.

- Cross-Functional Collaboration

Collaboration between different departments enhances the synergy of EPF's operations.

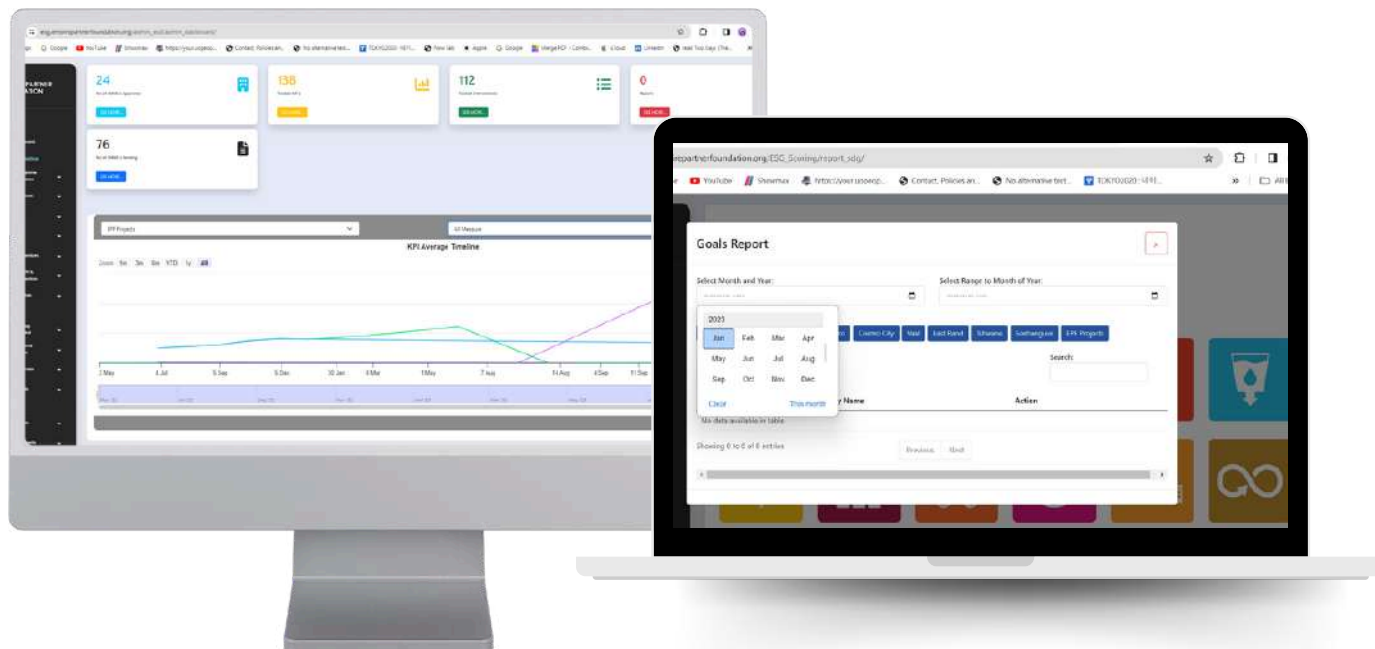
Operations and Services

In the process of creating EPF Tech Hubs in Zimbabwe, Nigeria and China.



VISIBLE SOCIAL IMPACT ESG PLATFORM

All EPF Projects are recorded on our ESG Platform.



Resource Management

- **Financial Controls:** EPF employs robust financial controls to ensure judicious resource allocation and management.
- **Technology Integration:** Leveraging technology for internal processes streamlines operations and enhances productivity.

Stakeholder Engagement

- **Transparent Communication:** Regular communication channels are maintained to keep stakeholders informed about EPF's activities.
- **Community Involvement:** EPF actively engages with communities to understand their needs and adapt programs accordingly.

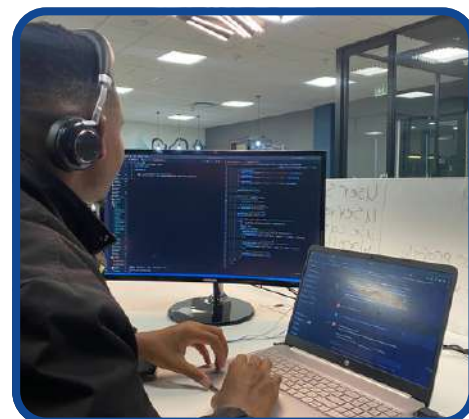


LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

Human Capital and Legal Services

Human Capital Initiatives:

- Training and Development: EPF invests in continuous training and development programs for its employees.
- Diversity and Inclusion: EPF fosters a diverse and inclusive workplace, promoting equal opportunities for all.
- Employee Well-being: Initiatives to support employee well-being, including mental health programs and wellness activities.



Legal Services

- Compliance: EPF adheres to all legal requirements, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations.
- Contractual Governance: Stringent contractual governance measures are in place to protect the interests of the organization.
- Legal Advisory: Collaboration with legal experts ensures EPF's initiatives align with legal standards.



Executive Leadership

The executive leadership, led by the Founder, Nathan Mariemuthu, and CEO, Joanna Govender are responsible for implementing the strategic directives guided by the Board. This team ensures operational efficiency, program effectiveness, and the prudent management of resources. Regular communication and collaboration between the Board and executive leadership foster a cohesive approach to achieving EPF's goals.

Ethical Conduct and Integrity

EPF places a high premium on ethical conduct and integrity. The organization's Code of Ethics guides the behavior of all employees and stakeholders, emphasizing honesty, transparency, and fair practices. This commitment to ethical standards creates a positive organizational culture and establishes EPF as a trusted entity within the communities it serves.

Risk Management

EPF acknowledges the dynamic nature of the sectors it operates in and is dedicated to proactive risk management. A comprehensive risk management framework is in place to identify, assess, and mitigate risks. Regular risk assessments are conducted, and risk mitigation strategies are implemented to safeguard the organization's interests and stakeholder value.

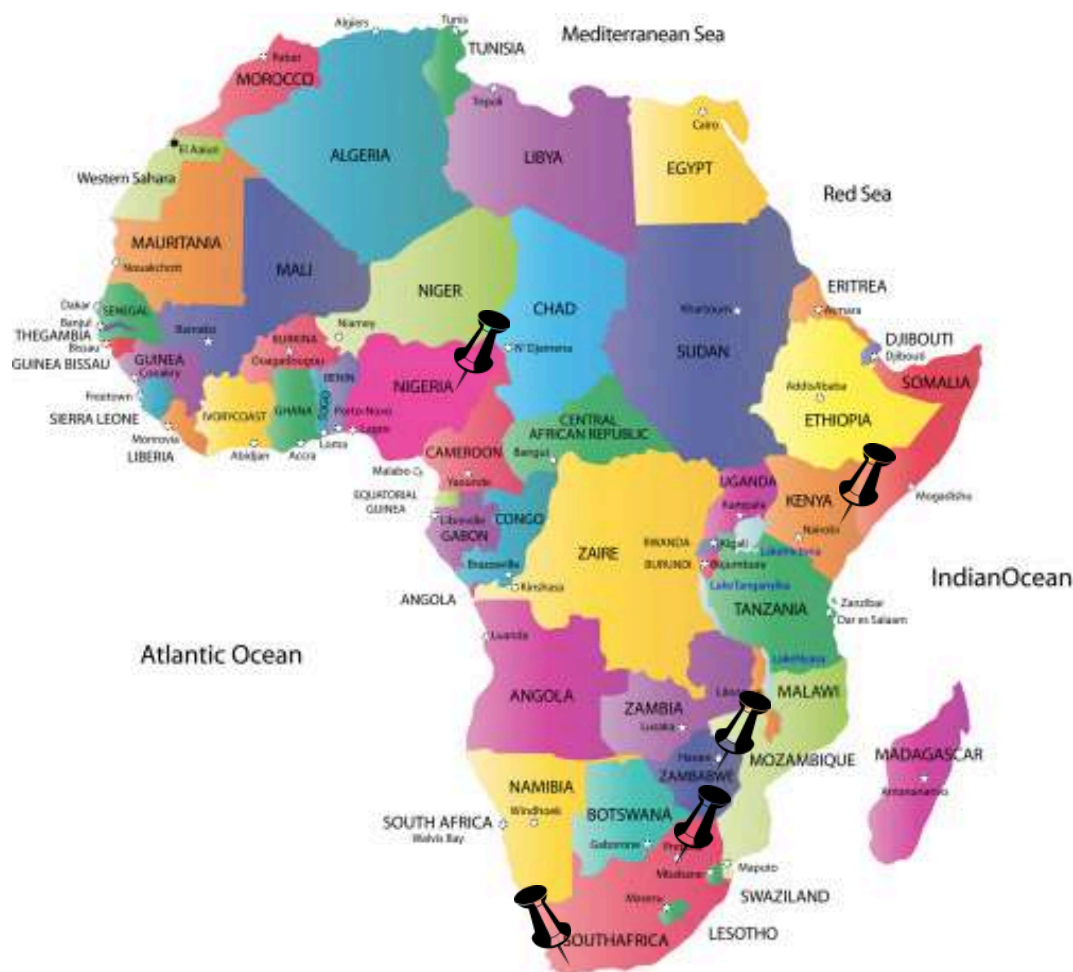
Financial Accountability

EPF maintains financial accountability through sound fiscal management practices. The organization adheres to strict financial controls, regular audits, and transparent reporting. Financial statements are prepared by applicable accounting standards, providing stakeholders with a clear understanding of EPF's financial health.

Stakeholder Engagement

EPF values the input and perspectives of its stakeholders, including beneficiaries, partners, and the communities it serves. Regular engagement activities, feedback mechanisms, and inclusive decision-making processes ensure that EPF remains responsive to the evolving needs of its stakeholders.

GEOGRAPHICAL REACH



Corporate Governance

Empire Partner Foundation (EPF) recognizes the pivotal role that robust corporate governance plays in ensuring transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct. The organization is committed to upholding the highest standards of governance to build trust among stakeholders, foster sustainable growth, and fulfill its mission of empowering youth through technology and entrepreneurship.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Board of Directors

EPF's Board of Directors is composed of seasoned professionals and experts in various fields. The Board provides strategic oversight, guidance, and ensures that EPF's activities align with its mission and values. The Board convenes regularly to review organizational performance, assess risks, and make informed decisions to steer EPF towards its objectives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors and the Leadership of EPF are committed to high standards of corporate governance and endorse the four governance outcomes: an ethical culture, good performance, effective control, and legitimacy. The Board must act in good faith, with due diligence, and in the best interests of the Foundation.

The Board and Leadership have the appropriate balance of knowledge, skills, experience, diversity, and independence to discharge their governance roles objectively and effectively.

The Board and Leadership achieve high standards of governance through compliance with relevant legislation, regulations, and voluntary codes thereby ensuring the sustainability of the Foundation.

The Board's duties performed during the reporting period included the following:

- Monitored operational performance.
- Ensured that structures are in place to maintain effective corporate governance.
- Continuously identified risks that could impact the Foundation's sustainability.
- Ensured that structures are in place to monitor and manage these risks and related internal controls.



BRENDA CHETTY
BOARD SECRETARY



PULE MOKOENA
CHAIRPERSON



ISMAIL SADEK
BOARD MEMBER



MIKHIAL MARIEMUTHU
BOARD MEMBER

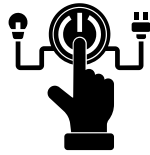


VINESH SUKRAJ
BOARD MEMBER

EPF VISIBLE IMPACT



Global
Partnerships
9



Start-ups under
Incubation
17



Solutions
developed
50+



Jobs
Created
1000+



SMME Companies
Created
400+



Have contributed
to more than 300M in gross
value add(GVA)
to the South African economy



Companies
Supported
Overall 50+



EPF Tech hub
locations
4



Business Mentors engaged
10



Creating
Tech Enterprises
50



Partner with Higher
education Campuses
10



African Partnerships
17



Total investment into running
the Tech Hubs
60M



Industries Impacted
10



New Venture
Creation
50+



Minimum of Tech
Investments in Africa
5



Finance, Admin/ Back Office

ESG AND SDG ALIGNMENT

The Empire Partner Foundation (EPF) emerges as a promising force in aligning its mission with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EPF prioritizes technology as a key driver, applying innovative solutions across sectors such as unemployment, healthcare, agriculture, water, energy, and transportation.

EPF particularly focuses on empowering youth through entrepreneurship and innovation, contributing to **Goal 4 (Quality Education)** and **Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**. Additionally, emphasis on technology and infrastructure development aligns with **Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**. EPF's commitment to addressing challenges in ten key sectors, including education, unemployment, healthcare, and agriculture, further indicates alignment with **Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 15 (Life on Land)**. EPF's overarching approach resonates with various SDGs, showcasing a multifaceted commitment to sustainable development.



SPECIAL PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Overview

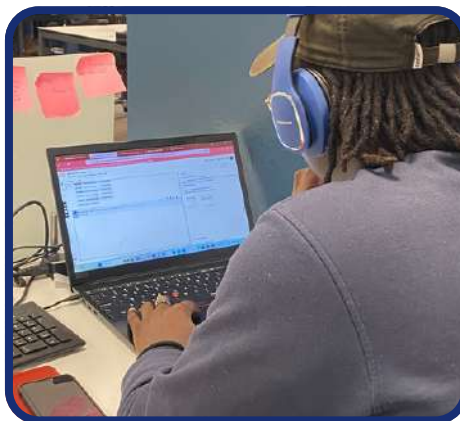
EPF undertakes special projects aimed at addressing specific challenges or opportunities in alignment with its mission.

Projects

- Digital Literacy Campaign

An initiative to enhance digital literacy among underserved communities.

Collaboration with Young African Innovators Hub (YAIH) to train **100 000** youth across Africa



- GreenTech Innovation

Supporting environmentally sustainable technology solutions through collaboration with startups. EPF Launched a Greentech division

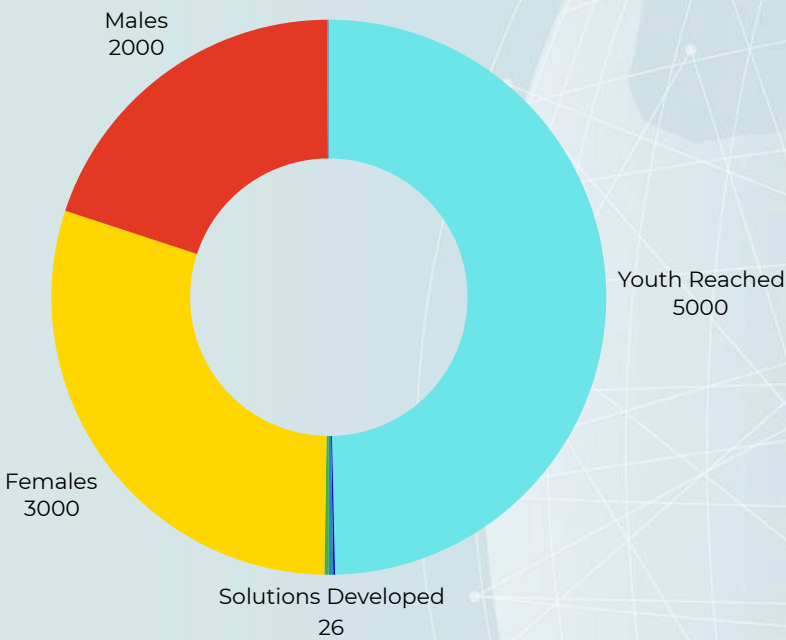
Impact and Outcomes

- Measurable Results: Each special project is evaluated based on predefined metrics to gauge its impact.
- Collaborative Partnerships: Special projects often involve partnerships with other organizations to leverage collective expertise and resources.

HACKATHONS

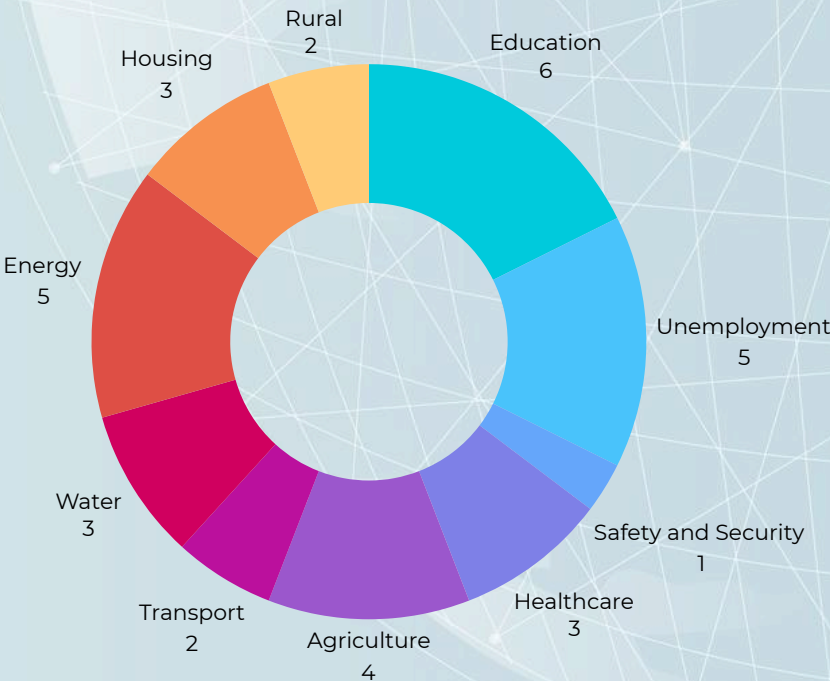
In 2023 we shifted our focus from coordinating hackathons to delivering hackathon services for corporations, known as Hackathon-as-a-Service (HaaS). This shift has expanded our market presence, raised awareness of our brand, and enhanced our reputation in the market.

We coordinated the following hackathons during the period under review.



HACKATHONS IMPACT

SECTORS



BAYER PHARMACEUTICAL

Theme: RISE for Women - Let's Rise for Women and Hack for a Purpose.

Raising awareness and Information on women's health and Sexual and reproductive Education. The primary objective of this hackathon was to foster the development of innovative approaches to engage young women from diverse cultural backgrounds in discussions surrounding awareness and education on topics such as contraceptives, hormone basics, fertility, and menstruation.

Furthermore, the event aimed to address the challenge of keeping healthcare professionals well informed in the realm of contraceptive methods, in light of the limited face-to-face interactions.

RISE, which took place on 8th-9th July, was a remarkable event that united 70 passionate participants dedicated to addressing the challenges surrounding women's health, and sexual and reproductive education. It provided a platform for innovation and collaboration, and a fertile for participants to explore creative solutions that can make a real difference in the lives of women.

The Winning Solution,

FemmeInfo-Empowering Women's Health and Well-being is a cutting-edge solution that addresses gaining valuable information about the feminine body, covering everything from sex education to menstrual literacy. The App, FemmeInfo, is designed specifically for women. It has a range of features aimed at enhancing women's understanding and control over their health.

- Cycle Tracking
- Guide to Contraception
- Engaging in Safe and Supportive discussions .
- Finding nearby pick-up spots (Sanitary Pads)

The EPF-Bayer Hackathon was not just a once-off event, but a stepping stone for future initiatives. The innovative solutions develop during this hackathon have the potential to be further refined, scaled, and piloted to bring about lasting and impactful change in women's health.



AMERICAN SPACES SOWETO

American Spaces Soweto, in partnership with Maponya Mall Community Hub collaborated with the Empire Partner Foundation to host the Green Energy Skills and Advancing Entrepreneurship Hackathon at the recently launched Maponya Mall Community Hub in Soweto.

This event was initiated and supported by the US Consulate in Johannesburg and was held on 26th-27th September 2023.

In alignment with the hackathon overarching theme of Green Energy, the primary focus was articulated through a pivotal question: How can local tech start-ups empower young people to advance skills and entrepreneurial opportunities in the green energy space?

This question served as a guiding principle encouraging participants to explore innovative solutions and strategies that not only contribute to the growth of sustainable energy practices but encourage the development of a new generation of skilled and entrepreneurial individuals. Throughout the hackathon, the Maponya Mall Community Hub buzzed with vibrant activity as participants immersed themselves in collaborative endeavours.

The atmosphere was dynamic, with participants actively engaging with both their fellow peers and mentors present, working collectively to generate solutions with real-world relevance.

- Amid intense competition among the teams, the **Dream Team** emerged triumphant, securing the highly sought after prize of R20 000.
- Their solution, an innovative approach using an online course delivered through a **Learner Management System**, targets primary and high school learners to disseminate information and expose them to the green economy.
- This initiative has the potential to propel substantial positive change towards a more sustainable and equitable future in the green economy.



NATIONAL CREDIT REGULATOR (NCR)/INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION(IFC) TECHSPRINT

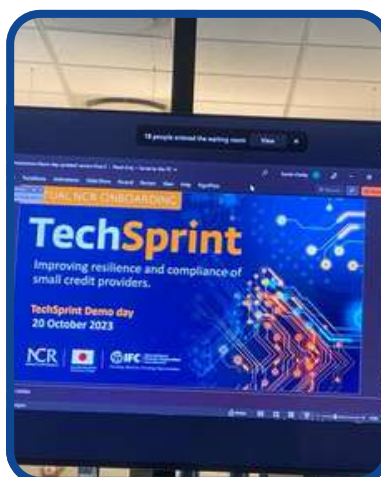
The National Credit Regulator (NCR) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) recently joined forces to orchestrate a highly successful TechSprint event with a central theme dedicated to exploring groundbreaking solutions for enhancing the **resilience and compliance of small credit providers in South Africa**.

This collaborative initiative, conducted in partnership with the Empire Partner Foundation (EPF), united a diverse group of visionary companies, organizations, and individuals, all sharing a common goal of ideating and constructing innovative solutions tailored to address the unique challenges faced by small credit providers in the South African financial landscape.

The TechSprint spanned five days, with a total of 53 participants, including 23 females and 30 males. The winning team comprised both male and female members, reflecting the event's commitment to diversity.

The outcome of the NCR & IFC TechSprint was the development of a cutting-edge solution specifically designed to address compliance challenges for small credit providers in South Africa. Beyond innovation, the event served as a unique platform for collaboration and networking, allowing participants to exchange ideas, seek guidance, and establish potential partnerships for future TechSprint engagements.

The TechSprint also prioritized skills development, incorporating peer learning and mentorship sessions facilitated by industry experts. Notably, the solutions generated during the event placed a strong emphasis on real-world relevance to the challenges faced by credit providers, underscoring the practical impact of the collaborative efforts.



MOSHAL PROGRAM URBAN MOBILITY HACKATHON

The Moshal Program in Cape Town, in partnership with the Empire Partner Foundation, hosted the the Urban Mobility Hackathon on the 29th September to 1st October 2023 at their offices in Cape Town.

EPF took charge of all facets of the hackathon, delivering a seamless orchestration from inception to execution. Our involvement spanned social media marketing, program creation, conducting webinar sessions for training, providing mentor assistance, and offering technical support to the hacking teams.

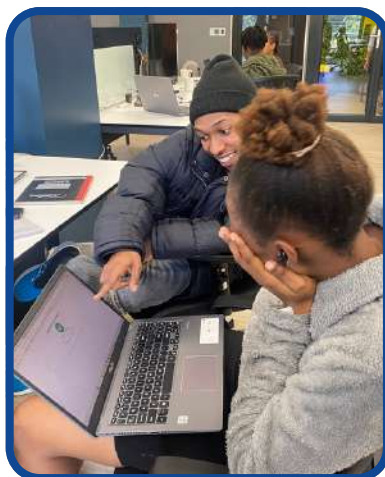
Theme: The overarching theme of the Hackathon, Urban Mobility was broken down into two distinct challenges, with each challenge serving as a focal point, guiding participants to explore and develop innovative solutions within specific facets of Urban Mobility.

Challenge: Empowering Communities with Real-Time Transportation Information. In this specific challenge participants were tasked with conceptualizing and designing a tech solution aimed at addressing the prevalent issue of limited access to real-time updates and essential information covering routes, schedules, delays, and disruptions within the transportation system.

The primary objective was to facilitate a seamless and instantaneous exchange of reliable information between passengers and transportation services, the goal being to empower commuters with the tools to make informed decisions thereby enhancing their overall travel experience through improved accessibility to timely and accurate information.



HACKATHON GALLERY



INNOVATION CAMPUS

The software development division of EPF, which creates a vibrant space where ideas converge, fostering innovation, connections, and opportunities for growth. The EPF Innovation Campus actively fosters skill development, empowering youth, and generating employment opportunities. Throughout this time, their focus has been on creating innovative technological solutions that have a significant impact on youth and economic development.

Innovation

A culture of innovation, constantly seeking new ideas and approaches to deliver creative and effective solutions that exceed expectations.

Excellence

Dedicated to delivering excellence in all aspects of our work, from the quality of our solutions and programs to the level of service we provide to our clients and learners.

AI ACADEMY INTRODUCTION

We have created a supportive and collaborative space that empowers learners to develop their skills and knowledge:

- **Individualized Learning:** We provide various resources and tools to cater to different learning styles and preferences.
- **Mentorship and Collaboration:** We pair learners with mentors and encourage collaboration to foster a supportive learning environment.
- **Our key resource:** Orcaa.ai, a learning assessment tool that improves skills development programs for corporates, universities, and post-doctoral academics.
- Orcaa.ai has five key pillars: **Placement, Learning, Tracking, Monitoring, and Marketplace.**

INNOVATION CAMPUS IMPACT



Internal skills training
105 interns
through Orcaa.ai
with MICT SETA



Developed a
skills
development
model with
MEDITECH SA



Automated the
bond pre-
approval
process from **2**
weeks to 4
minutes



Automated
tenant
application
process,
11 clients using
our KYC.



Advanced lead
generation, call
customers.
Clients using lead
gen are **Absa, King**
Price, Discovery.



Job
Placement
30



Entrepreneur
Development
330



Roll out of **5**
Skills
Development
Programs since
2021.



Automated mall
management
manual processes
onto **1 central**
platform



Automated
Customer
behavioural analysis
for improved
investment
opportunities.



Automated the
investigation
process in fraud
cases to just
under
4 minutes.



Clients
engaged
17



Jobs
Created
100+



Business
Training
160

WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL) PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MICT SETA

In 2022, EPF, in collaboration with MICT SETA and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), initiated a WIL program involving 30 learners for a 12-month duration.

The program's distinctive and innovative methods earned EPF the prestigious Institute of Sectoral and Occupational Excellence (ISOE) recognition from MICT SETA. Building on the success of the 2022 program with 30 interns, and 40 interns in the 2023 to 2024 intake.

EPF Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programs are an educational approach that blend academic learning with practical work experience, addressing the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom and the skills needed in the workplace.

EPF's WIL programs aim to furnish students with real-world exposure, augment their employability, and facilitate a seamless transition into the professional workforce. These opportunities encompass various forms of occupationally directed learning interventions, such as internships, learnerships, candidacy, cooperative education, apprenticeships, and industry placements.

THE BENEFITS OF WIL:

- **Skill Development:** WIL provides students with the opportunity to develop practical, hands-on skills that are essential in the workplace. This includes problem-solving, teamwork, communication, critical thinking, and industry-specific technical skills.
- **Real-World Exposure:** Students gain firsthand experience of the professional work environment, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world situations. This exposure helps them understand the practical implications of their academic learning.
- **Employability Enhancement:** WIL programs enhance students' employability by making them more attractive to potential employers. The practical experience gained during WIL makes graduates more marketable and better prepared for the demands of the job market.



MICTSETA

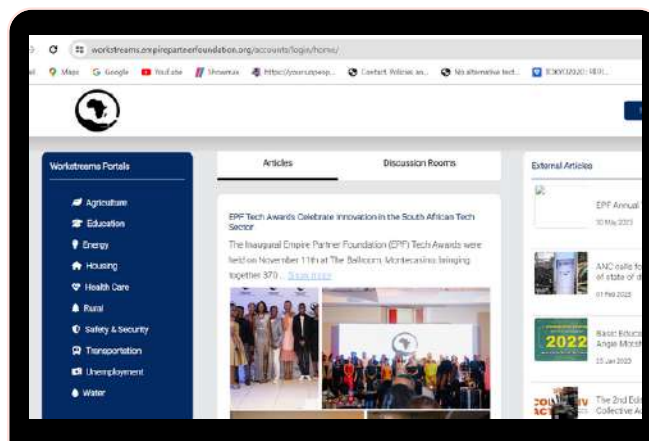


TECHNOLOGY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

EPF Innovation Campus: Technological advancements.

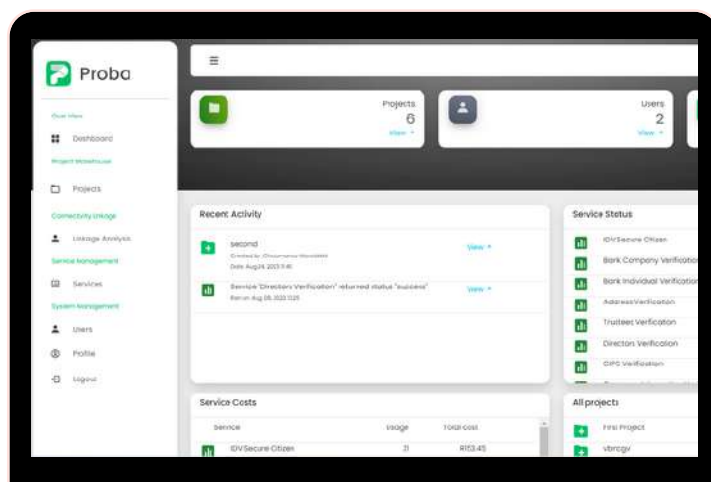
Workstreams A Social Engagement Platform

It's a catalyst for meaningful change. The platform serves as a powerful engagement tool to shape national discussions, creating heightened awareness and facilitating targeted interventions for identified challenges.



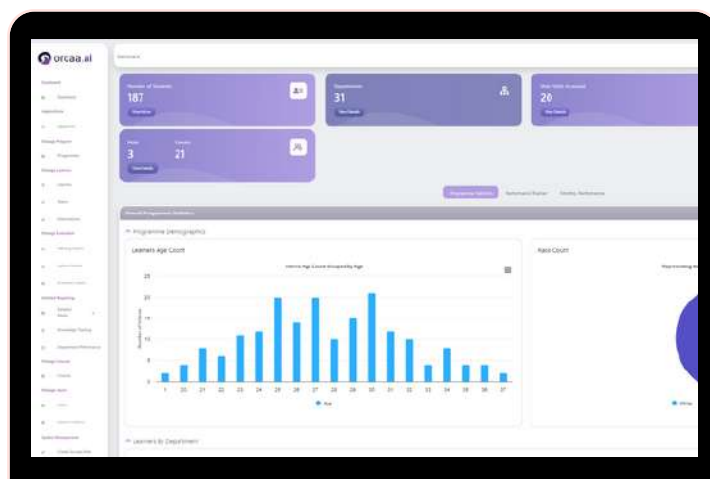
Proba Risk Governance Platform

Designed to help organizations and individuals by offering services that help in investigating and finding personal and professional connections between individuals. Proba identifies key patterns and shared interests amongst individuals by providing insightful reports based on the data found.



Orcaa.ai Learning Evaluation Platform

Improve skills development programs, in corporate, universities, and postdoctoral academics. It shapes the trajectory of future-ready professionals by following the five key skills development pillars: Placement, Learning, Tracking, Monitoring, and Marketplace.



EPF STUDIO

The EPF Studio, aptly named Beyond the Bottom Line, has experienced remarkable expansion propelled by its enriched portfolio tailored for both public and private sectors, including the general public. The Studio provides a dedicated creative haven meticulously crafted to cultivate innovation and encourage collaborative endeavours.

- The EPF Studio proudly features cutting-edge videography and recording facilities, harnessing state-of-the-art technology to ensure top-tier quality in content creation. The space is perfectly suited for hosting webinars, interviews, and podcasts.
- In 2023, it successfully hosted a diverse array of engagements within these categories. Notable entities including Kagiso Trust, Tech DAILY Post, Dame Concepts, MiDesk Global, Harvey World Travels, Sfiso Tshabalala and Tech Financials, just to name a few, have all chosen our platform to showcase their initiatives.
- The presence of the Studio significantly magnifies the influence of the EPF ecosystem's creative initiatives. We take great joy in providing a platform that empowers potential partners to showcase and cultivate their innovations.



INAUGURAL EPF TECH AWARDS

The EPF Tech Awards emerged as a transformative and impactful event, leaving an indelible mark on various facets of the technological landscape. At its core, the awards ceremony was a dynamic showcase that went beyond mere recognition, encapsulating the essence of technology's profound influence on social development, economic growth, and entrepreneurship development.

- **Tech Innovation:** The Awards unfolded as a celebration of technological innovation, featuring a diverse array of groundbreaking projects and solutions. The EPF Tech Awards provided a stage for the brightest minds in the industry to showcase .
- **Catalyzing Social Development:** Notably, the EPF Tech Awards underscored the pivotal role of technology in driving positive social change. Several projects showcased during the event demonstrated how tech solutions could be harnessed to address pressing social issues, from unemployment, education to environmental sustainability.
- **Economic Growth Catalyst:** The event also served as a catalyst for economic growth, showcasing how the tech industry is a key driver of prosperity. By highlighting successful startups, entrepreneurial ventures, and job creation within the tech sector, the EPF Tech Awards spotlighted the industry's ability to foster economic development and generate employment opportunities.
- **Sponsors:**



science & innovation
Department
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EPF TECH FUND
FUTURE-PROOFING AFRICA

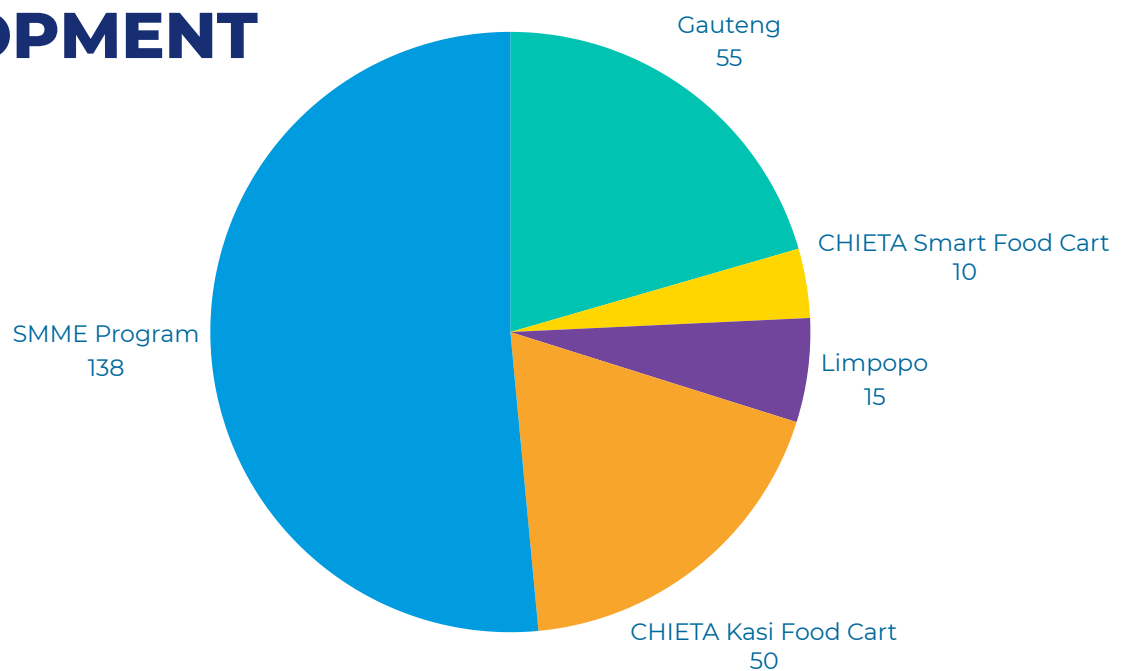
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

EPF recognises the profound importance of collaboration and partnerships as integral pillars in the pursuit of sustainable development goals. During the year under review, we have been able to strengthen our partnerships with diverse stakeholders, including government institutions, academia, key decision-makers in the private sector, and non-profit organizations.

With a dedicated emphasis on building strong and mutually beneficial relationships, our objective is to cultivate an inclusive ecosystem that not only fosters innovation but also promotes the exchange of knowledge and mobilisation of resources.

Our strategic focus revolves around spearheading collaborative initiatives that draw upon the unique strengths of each partner, working cohesively to maximise our collective impact on societal development. Through this concerted effort, we endeavour to create lasting positive change, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of sustainable development.

TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT IMPACT



REATEC



Reatec is dedicated to addressing the critical issues of skill shortages, limited opportunities, and inadequate development of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). Within the scope of this initiative, 678 SMMEs were identified as key beneficiaries.

Reatec initiated an ongoing National Soup Kitchen Drive across South Africa serving over 40 000 meals. This initiative provided nutritious meals to vulnerable communities, with a focus on reaching marginalized populations facing food insecurity.

Environmental sustainability is a key priority for Reatec, and 3 SMMES Recycling Initiative exemplifies its commitment to addressing environmental challenges while creating economic opportunities.

DIGICATION

**DIGICATION**

In a proactive effort to bridge the digital gender gap and empower girls with essential skills, Digication has initiated a transformative program called "Code like a Girl," aimed at providing basic computer training to **2000 girls** in their private capacity.

Recognizing the critical importance of digital literacy in today's increasingly technology-driven society, this initiative seeks to equip girls with fundamental computer skills, programming knowledge, and technological proficiency, thereby enhancing their employability prospects and facilitating their active participation in the digital economy.

Through hands-on training sessions, mentorship opportunities, and access to educational resources, participants in the "Code like a Girl" program are empowered to unlock their potential, pursue diverse career pathways in STEM fields, and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of society as confident, skilled, and empowered individuals ready to thrive in the digital age.

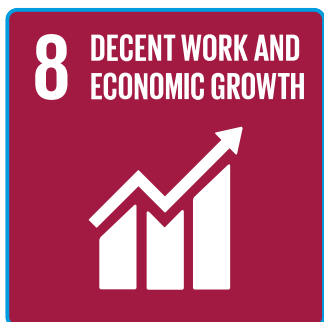
SMME MICRO ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS - TOWNSHIP DISTRIBUTION MODEL



EPF has forged impactful strategic partnerships with Township Distribution Model to develop innovative solutions with a singular goal: fostering entrepreneurship within townships and rural communities.



This concerted effort is driven by a commitment to addressing the pressing triple challenge of unemployment, poverty, and inequality. By combining resources, expertise, and a shared vision for social impact, these partnerships aspire to empower women and youth in underserved areas, unlocking economic opportunities, and contributing to the broader mission of building a more inclusive and equitable society.



To fulfil this objective, our collaboration has yielded the creation of SMME Micro Enterprise Solutions. These tailored solutions are designed with the explicit purpose of fostering sustainable livelihoods within our townships and rural communities.

They serve as a powerful tool for empowering start-ups by facilitating the establishment of registered entities and providing real-time business training and support. Through these initiatives we aim to catalyse the growth of micro and small enterprises, contributing to the development and resilience of local economies.

The SMME Micro Enterprise Solutions are strategically aligned to tackle UN Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, and 8.

To date, we have implemented 142 Micro Enterprise Solutions spanning across 9 townships and rural communities in the Gauteng, North-West, and Limpopo provinces.



PARTNERSHIP WITH CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY (CHIETA)

1 NO POVERTY



Through our partner-driven approach, we have achieved substantial strides in cultivating township economies by collaborating with the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) to address the skills gap. Together we are empowering aspiring entrepreneurs to embark on their entrepreneurial journey.

2 ZERO HUNGER



This impactful partnership has been dedicated to supporting 60 entrepreneurs, equipping them with essential skills and resources needed for their success. The CHIETA-EPF partnership serves as a beacon of hope, demonstrating the transformative impact of collaborative efforts in changing lives and uplifting communities.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial sustainability continues to be a problem for many NPOs, and we remain none the better for it.

The persistent challenges are exacerbated by factors such as donor fatigue, economic uncertainties, and the evolving landscape of philanthropy.

Despite these headwinds, we have been able to proactively adapt our fundraising strategies, diversify revenue streams, and cultivate innovative partnerships to secure a stable financial future.

We are forever grateful to our funders, Nathan Mariemuthu, and EPF Tech Fund who have played a pivotal role in supporting the Foundation with consistent funding since our inception. Their unwavering commitment has been instrumental in sustaining our initiatives and enabling us to make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve. Their generosity has not only provided financial stability but has also catalyzed innovation and growth.

As we express our gratitude, we recognize the profound difference their contributions have made, shaping the Foundation's journey, and allowing us to continue striving towards our mission with confidence and purpose.

EPF MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Empire Partner Foundation takes great pride in its diverse team, a dynamic assembly of individuals that not only possess a wealth of talent but also offers a mosaic of fresh perspectives and cultural richness that significantly enhances the Foundation's operations.

Comprising members from a wide array of backgrounds and areas of expertise, our team serves as a true reflection of EPF's commitment to inclusivity and the promotion of equal opportunity.

Our Team is made up of the following individuals:



JOANNA GOVENDER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



SIMBA MHLANGA
EXECUTIVE: INNOVATION



ISMAIL SADEK
EXECUTIVE: LEGAL



PULE MOKOENA
CHAIRPERSON



BRENDA CHETTY
EXECUTIVE : FINANCE



RENEAL SINGH
PROJECT MANAGER



MIKHIAL MARIEMUTHU
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



LOCADIA NCUBE
DIGITAL MEDIA ANALYST



PHAEDRA TANDY
EPF TECH HUB V&A MANAGER



EMILE MARIEMUTHU
EPF STUDIO MANAGER

Looking ahead, we aim to add impetus and unlock more opportunities for our beneficiaries. We are continually building and innovating to exponentially increase our social impact.

Finally, our heartfelt gratitude extends to our partners, sponsors, and associates. Their unwavering support not only sustains our endeavours but also steers our ship in the right direction. We express our thanks and eagerly anticipate ongoing success as we fulfil our mission with their invaluable backing.

FUTURE ROADMAP

Invest in High-Impact Ventures

- Prioritize ventures led by young entrepreneurs, focusing on scalability and positive social return on investment (SROI).
- Expand geographic reach beyond South Africa into 4 new African countries.
- Deepen focus on AI-powered solutions with the potential to address social concerns.



Foster Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

- Organize 2 industry events and conferences to connect stakeholders, share best practices, and drive innovation.
- Conduct 10 research studies on emerging technologies and their potential for social impact.
- Advocate for policy changes that support the growth of the impact investing ecosystem.

Empower Entrepreneurs and Communities

- Implement 10 programs focused on specific social impact areas impacting 500 entrepreneurs..
- Provide 300 hours of mentorship to aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Partner with 5 NGOs and community organizations to leverage their expertise and reach.
- Implement impact measurement tools and frameworks to track and demonstrate progress.
- Create 600 Jobs



Strengthen Organizational Capacity

- Recruit and retain top talent with a passion for social impact.
- Develop and implement a robust impact measurement framework for the organization.
- Secure additional funding to support the growth and sustainability of EPF's initiatives.



Metrics and Milestones

- Number of new investments, jobs created, and lives impacted.
- Increased access to technology, education, and financial services for underserved communities.
- Number of Youth Impacted
- Development and adoption of innovative solutions to social challenges.
- Growth of the impact investing ecosystem in South Africa and Africa.

Success Factors

- Strong commitment to the mission and core values of EPF.
- Effective collaboration with partners and stakeholders.
- Agile and innovative approach to program development and implementation.
- Clear measurement and evaluation of impact.
- Effective communication and advocacy efforts.





EMPIRE PARTNER FOUNDATION

YOUTH - TECHNOLOGY - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

2023/4 ANNUAL REPORT

 info@empirepartnerfoundation.org

 www.empirepartnerfoundation.org

 Ground floor 35 Ferguson Road, Illovo, 2196