

# Education, Jobs, An Inclusive, Empowered Society & Human Rights

**Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation** celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Established as Shanduka Foundation in 2004 – the corporate social investment arm of the Shanduka Group – the foundation changed its name in 2015 following Cyril Ramaphosa's divestment from the Shanduka Group.

Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation has had a meaningful impact on the people and communities in which it works. As at April 2018, it had contributed over R343-million and leveraged an additional R913-million through its partner entities to effect real change in education and enterprise development, the focal areas of its work.

South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) indicates key capabilities that individuals need to live decent lives. Of these, it notes that education, skills and work opportunities is where progress is most needed. For the foundation, education and enterprise development are strategic foci. Progress here would be the most direct means of improving the quality of life for South Africa's people and promote the foundation's purpose to develop an inclusive and empowered society. This purpose is contributed to more broadly by the foundation's positioning to contribute to the NDP's goals, including on the economy and empowerment, education, training and innovation, social protection, and transforming society and uniting the country.

In education, the foundation implements a Whole School Development model through its partner entity, Adopt-a-School. With the support of the private sector, it is active at 223 disadvantaged schools to improve governance, academic, infrastructural, social and security environments. A further 251 schools are worked at through KST, the foundation's partnership with Kagiso Trust that leverages the best practices of each organisation's Whole School Development programmes.

The foundation's Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) further provides bursaries for tertiary study and holistic support for disadvantaged students, as well as work experience opportunities for young adults.

Education is seen as critical to the development and self-fulfilment of people, including to function in society, earn livelihoods and contribute to social, economic and psychological wellbeing. Education is believed to be significant in interrupting the cycle of poverty and reducing inequality of opportunity and income.



However, access to quality education does not guarantee employment, because job opportunities in a challenged economy are limited. Many young people are unable to find work. The need to create work opportunities is an imperative that the foundation addresses through its development of small- and medium-enterprises (SMEs).

The foundation's partner entity, Black Umbrellas, develops SMEs through a nationwide incubation programme. It partners with the private sector, government and civil society to address the low levels of entrepreneurship and high failure rate of 100% black-owned emerging businesses in South Africa.

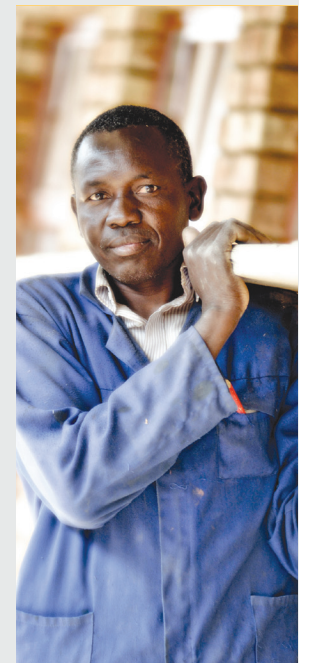
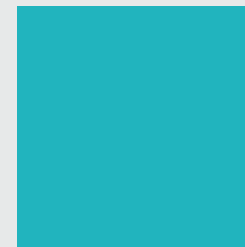
Creating an enabling environment for SMEs to prosper increases job opportunities. Black Umbrellas' 1 458 SME clients, since inception in 2009, have created well over 11 000 jobs.

Access to quality education and employment is impacted on by social and economic inequalities. Poorer and marginalised members of society, which in the South African context is overwhelmingly

coincident with race, experience greater structural barriers. Factors of inequality like poor health and housing facilities, under-resourced schools, lack of finances, the technological divide, race and gender discrimination and the like, impact on educational and employment access and fulfilment.

While everyone has the constitutional right to basic and further education in South Africa, the fulfilment of this right is stymied by poor standards and facilities and by factors of social and economic inequality and exclusion. This makes education and its relationship to employment a human rights issue, to the extent that they are impacted on by other socio-economic, "second generation", human rights. A human rights standard of education would, as some have argued, empower people to acquire and sustain livelihoods and escape poverty.

For Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation, overcoming unemployment, poverty and inequality through education and SME growth and development, both promotes and is dependent on an inclusive and empowered society in which all people fully and equally enjoy all human rights and freedoms.



*Creating an enabling environment for SMEs to prosper increases job opportunities.*

*Cyril Ramaphosa*  
FOUNDATION

Fostering an inclusive, empowered society

[www.cyrilramaphosafoundation.org](http://www.cyrilramaphosafoundation.org)