



Annual Report 2021-2022

Solidarity Fund partnership

We received a letter of thanks from the Solidarity Fund for helping to distribute vouchers to 6 175 SaveAct farmers, to mitigate the impact of Covid. Below is an extract from the letter:

“Thanks to partners such as yourself, the Fund has been able to raise and disburse almost R4 billion in assistance across the pillars of Health, Humanitarian Relief, Behaviour Change and the more recent Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund and Solidarity Fund Floods Response. As you know, the tasks set for us were often seemingly impossible. We operated in challenging times, with limited resources and funds, to deliver impact across the length and breadth of our country. All the while ensuring that it was done to the highest standards of governance and transparency. It is due to the professionalism, integrity and expertise of our partners that we, as a team, prevailed.”



Top: Youth participants at a stall at the job symposium held in Gauteng in 2022

Bottom: Buyelani Jiyane from Msinga has created several enterprises, including making pillows.

On the cover: 2021 was the year we started engaging seriously with youth as a separate demographic. Under the Women and Youth in Sustainable Enterprise project there were outputs specifically for youth employment and engagements in different job-seeking activities. Four hundred and sixty youth were involved. The photos shows participants at a jobs symposium for youth organised by SaveAct.



Q&A with Anton Krone, SaveAct Executive Director

1. One word that sums up this year?

I would say 'pivoting'. It was about pivoting off the resilience of savings groups (SGs) who continued to operate without significant disruption in 'Covid times.' This took SaveAct into working with members concerned with achieving improved food security using agroecological methods and building sustainable enterprises.



It was a period of transitioning out of Covid and into organising for reconstruction. We shifted from relief into working with SGs who needed to secure these critical outcomes.

We had an intensive engagement with GIZ, a donor with an interest in working with SaveAct because of our extensive national reach into rural communities. They saw an opportunity to leverage that reach, to enable disadvantaged people to rebuild by drawing on resilience they had as members of SGs.

Our partner GIZ emphasized the strategic benefits of working with established SGs. They saw the opportunity to help those members move into sustainable livelihood pathways that included addressing their food security and farming for local markets as well as enterprise development.

The economic development approach was quite radically different, and informed by the Covid experience. There was a deliberate move away from promoting production for large retail outlets, towards local markets and the promotion of diversification. The focus was on a 'circular economy', encouraging members to consider what they could do with their assets.

Left: Msinga farmer

2. How was the transition from Covid to taking on a very large project?

The Women and Youth in Sustainable Enterprise project (WAYSE) was very ambitious and the process of designing was demanding. We adopted some new activities which we would like to use again, so that was worth it,

The big shift was back to community-based development. We introduced a more holistic livelihoods and resilience design that included using the ABCD methodology, working more broadly with stakeholders in each region, encouraging members to step up and lead on such engagements.

3. What were the biggest challenges – and how did SaveAct overcome them?

The biggest challenge was finishing off another important project with the national Jobs Fund and partners: the SAB Foundation, Misereor and IDC. That initiative was also responding to the impacts of Covid on SG members. This meant it was a time of intense pressure. Staff were still recovering from the Covid period, and some had lost relatives. Quite a few SG members had died. But thanks to the resilience of staff and SG members we found ways of working together that exceeded expectations.

On the plus side, hardly any SGs had closed, which is a testament to how valuable SGs are to their members and how they keep their livelihoods intact despite significant odds.

With WAYSE came no less than nine or 10 activities in five provinces, with very large outputs attached to each activity. We were under pressure to meet these targets. It was stressful. We held it together but at times it felt like we might push people over the edge. In the end the staff proved to be very resilient and found ways of complementing each other and getting things done. There is no doubt that working in the NGO sector can be grueling!

4. What were some of the positives?

ABCD facilitation with stakeholders and Livelihood Pathway facilitation with youth were very motivating and energising for the staff. Many staff were upskilled in new methodologies. This helped to locate SaveAct's other work in a broader context.

Savings groups continue to be a valuable socio-economic development and learning hub for its members in unlocking access to basic financial services particularly for the marginalized.



Above: Saving group in Underberg

5. What were the lessons?

Though something we are well aware of, there are significant risks to smaller organisations in depending on project funding. Most large donors have a very different way of working and their rhythms of partnering bring significant risk to smaller organisations. There is a definite need for a dialogue on improving how donors and NGOs can work in ways that are more enabling.

For example, SaveAct had to invest a lot of its limited reserves in preparing the WAYSE project.

Attractive as it is to be able to scale with larger grants from northern donors, the stop-start nature of these makes for an awkward fit. Designing for local conditions with more flexible and decentralized arrangements are needed to achieve efficiency and innovation.

Extracts from the Annual Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position as at 28 Feb 2022

	2022 R	2021 R
ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1 210 637	637 610
Inventory	–	9 575
Cash and cash equivalents	12 925 726	4 363 281
Trade and other receivables	228 995	251 856
TOTAL ASSETS	14 365 358	5 262 322
TRUST FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	11 100 131	3 085 373
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11 100 131	3 085 373
FUNDS		
Trust capital	100	100
Maintenance reserve	232 000	232 000
Accumulated Surplus	3 033 126	1 944 849
	3 265 226	2 176 949
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	14 365 357	5 262 322

Statement of comprehensive income

01 March 2021 to 28 February 2022	2022 R	2021 R
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Grant income	15 267 254	9 805 246
Interest and dividends	52 049	89 545
Sales of kits and Zis'ukhanyo	229 674	269 175
Less: Cost of sales	–173 809	–205 349
Sundry Income	215 624	280 051
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	15 590 792	10 238 668
EXPENSES		
Programme and operational costs	4 940 409	1 943 577
Programme management and administration	4 328 545	4 279 887
Equipment and supplies	–	299 760
Project staff	5 233 561	4 846 496
TOTAL EXPENSES	14 502 515	11 369 720
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	1 088 277	–1 131 052