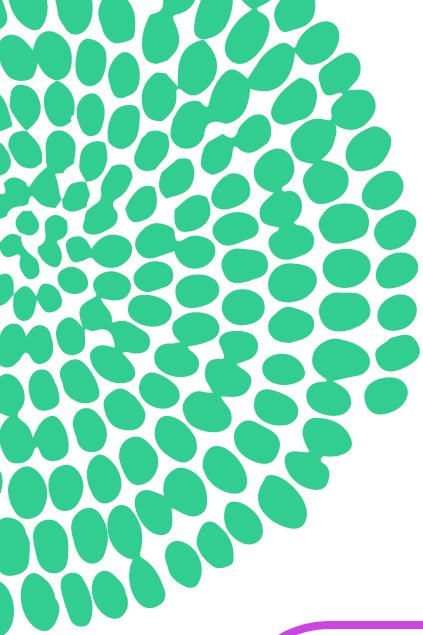


Masifunde
Sidlala!



LITTLE ZEBRA BOOKS™

2024 Annual Report



OUR VISION

**Little Zebra Books
exists to inspire children
in Africa to grow
in their love for reading
and love for the Lord.**

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

2024 has been a positive and encouraging year for LZB, leaving us in a strong position from which to launch a new strategic plan, focused on growth and sustainability.

A significant development for LZB was the appointment of a Managing Director, Robyn Beere, to take over leadership of the organisation in October. Robyn's appointment has been a great investment for Little Zebra Books, as she brings not only experience of the education sector but also strategy, financial and donor understanding. She is a great asset to Little Zebra.

Our flagship South African project, Masifunde Sidlala is growing from strength to strength. We are currently reaching 4000 children each receiving 10 books of their own each year. Our partners in Mozambique have been through a very difficult election cycle marred by rioting and civil violence. Although things have settled down somewhat, we continue to pray for the situation in Mozambique and our programme partners situated there.

Congratulations to the Team at LZB for their hard work and dedication towards ensuring more children have beautiful books to read in their own home language.

Minah Koela



FROM THE DIRECTORS' DESKS

When I started Little Zebra Books, it was with the simple belief that children in Africa deserve the most beautiful books in the world. Each and every child is packed with potential, and growing up as a bookworm is a key factor in unlocking that potential.

Now I look around me and see children reading books in dozens of languages, in multiple countries across Africa, thanks to our accessible and affordable folding books. I believe that in this decade we can see this model duplicated in many, if not all, of the 3,000 languages spoken by children in Africa.

To help make that possible, I am delighted to hand over the leadership reins to Robyn Beere, our new Managing Director. Robyn joins Little Zebra Books with over 15 years of nonprofit management experience, with an emphasis on education and social justice.

David Ker

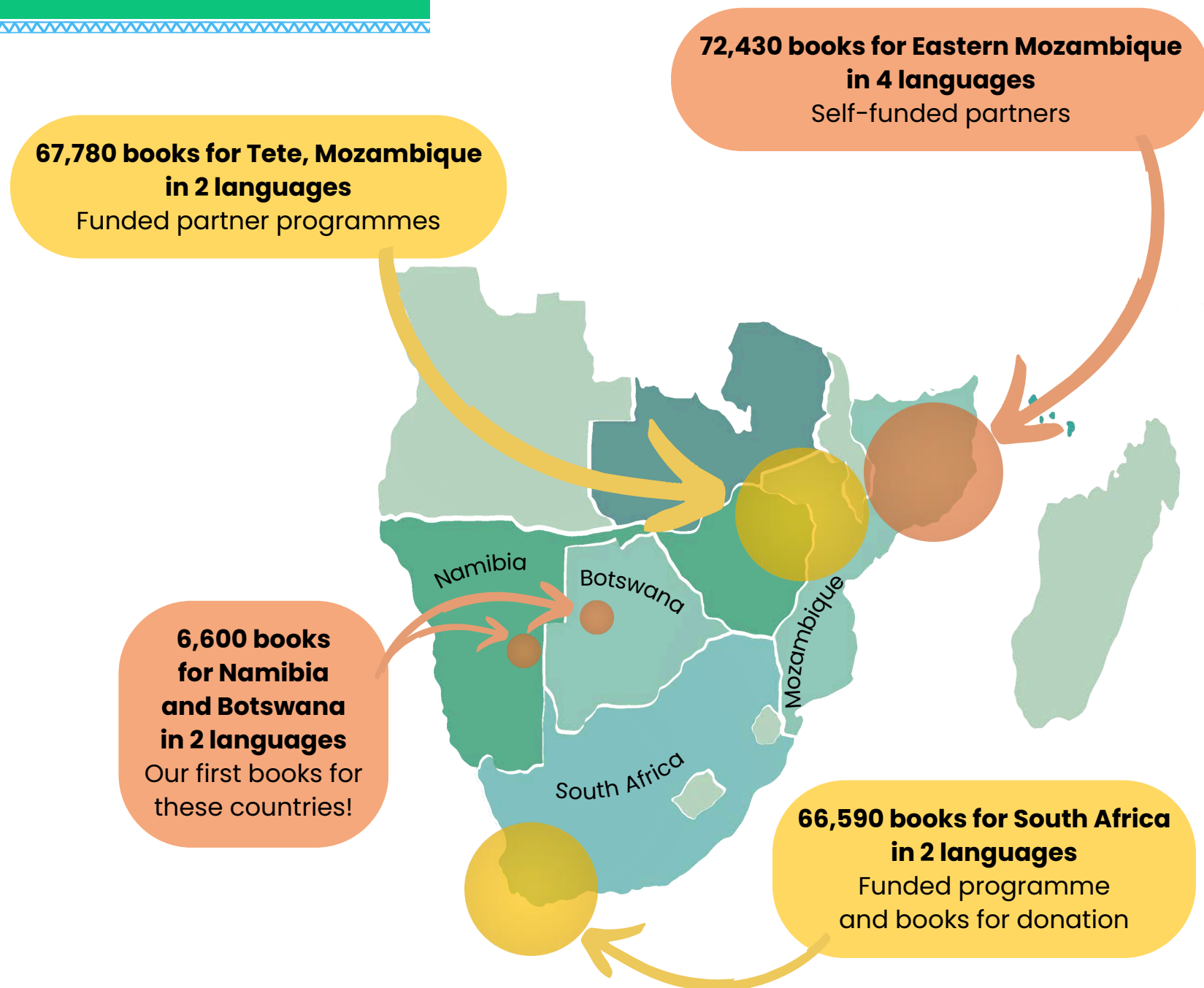


I feel enormously privileged to take over leadership of Little Zebra Books. Seldom does one come across an organisation with such clarity of vision and passion for what they believe in. I am proud to be associated with an organisation that has been so unwavering in their support for children reading in their mother tongue and their commitment to producing beautiful, quality, affordable children's books.

I am so excited about the journey ahead of us and the launch of our new three-year strategic plan in 2025.

Robyn Beere

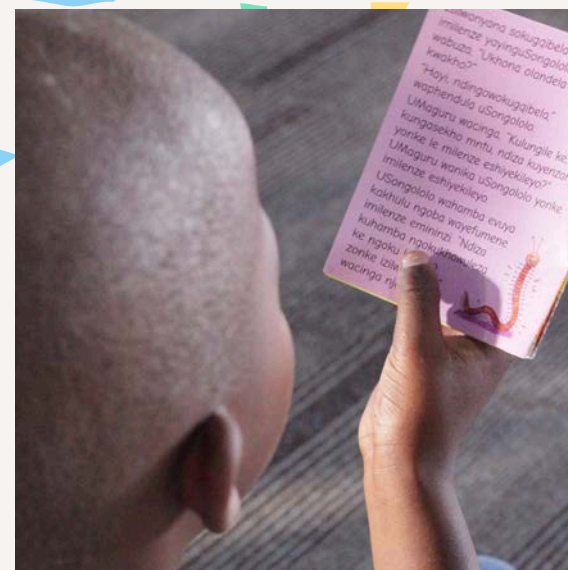
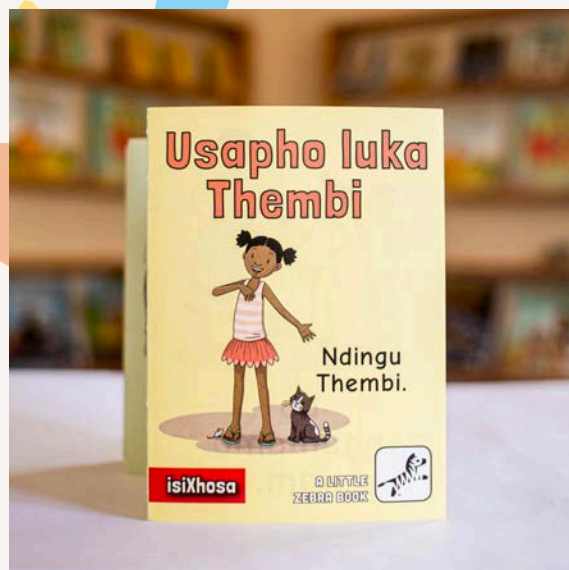
2024 AT A GLANCE



MASIFUNDE SIDLALA

After evaluation of our pilot project, we officially launched our **Masifunde Sidlala** programme in July 2024. We onboarded eight partner organizations with a reach of over **2,700 children** in isiXhosa-speaking communities. Partners selected ten book titles for translation into isiXhosa, with 4000 small books and 40 large books printed per title. The small books were given to children to take home to build their own home library, and the large books were used by practitioners in their reading programmes.

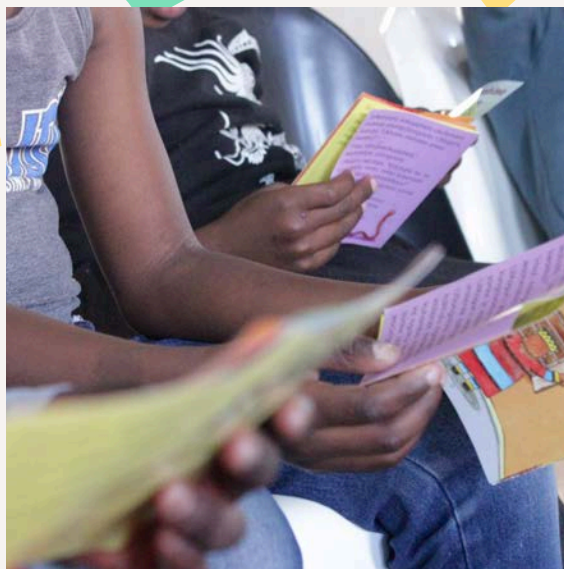
We also held monthly Community of Practice meetings, where partners shared feedback and learned new skills, including translation practices and reading activities. Site visits were conducted regularly to observe reading activities, offer support, and address challenges.



The response to Masifunde Sidlala has been overwhelmingly positive, with partners reporting significant improvements in children's reading skills and confidence. Many children developed a love for reading and requested more books. Partners also valued the Community of Practice as a space to share ideas and learn from one another.

We have also helped partners understand the importance of learning to read in mother tongue. Partners have reported how this has led to increased confidence and improved reading skills in children.

Following such positive feedback, we are excited to continue expanding the programme and inspiring young children on their reading journeys.



THE IMPACT OF OUR BOOKS

As part of our support to partners, Ntsikie Sicgu, our community facilitator, regularly visited our programme partners, observing reading activities and engaging with the children.

During one such visit, she encountered Amahle*, a Grade 2 learner who joined the programme to improve her reading skills. Amahle proudly told Ntsikie how much she loved the book *Usapho luka Thembu* (Thembu's Family) and that she carried it with her everywhere she went. When Ntsikie asked her why she kept it with her, Amahle responded, "This is how I can show everyone who is in my family."

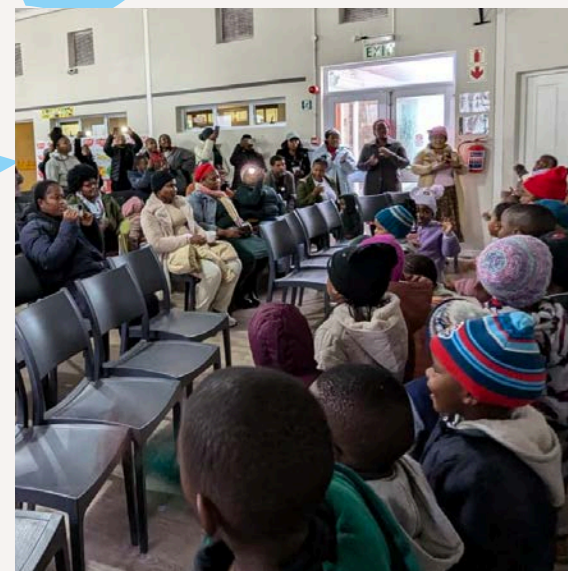
For Amahle, this book was more than just a tool for learning to read—it was a source of pride. She was excited to share her family story with others, showcasing how the programme has not only improved her reading skills but also helped her connect with her identity in a meaningful way.



OUR IMPACT – ECD

iThemba School in Fish Hoek, one of the few Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres to join Masifunde Sidlala, has embraced the challenge of ensuring that parents actively read with their children. To foster this, the school created a special WhatsApp group for the parents of all 60 learners. After the children have story time at school, the books are sent home, where parents are encouraged to read with their children and engage in related activities. All updates, instructions, and activities are shared via the WhatsApp group, keeping parents involved and informed.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with parents eagerly anticipating each new book every month. This initiative has not only helped improve reading at home but has also strengthened the connection between the school and parents, creating a supportive community focused on the children's literacy development.



LITASA CONFERENCE 2024

Little Zebra Books sent 5 representatives to the 2024 Literacy Association of South Africa Conference held at UCT in Cape Town from 13-15 September. The LITASA Conference once again offered exciting input on current research and thinking in the South African education and literacy space. We were particularly drawn to the presentations concerning multilingual Education and new research showing the importance of mother tongue in child's learning.

Little Zebra Books had an opportunity to present on the success of the Masifunde Sidlala Pilot Project, which was well received. Our emphasis on the benefits of reading in a child's home language were supported by the positive results of our pilot. We are proud to report that our presentation was specifically named as one of the most appreciated of the conference!



SIL – PARTNERSHIP

As a global faith-based nonprofit, SIL is committed to empowering communities through language development, grounded in the belief that all people are created by God and given language as a means to flourish. In this mission, Little Zebra Books has been a vital partner, offering high-quality, accessible content through the SIL Bloom Library platform.

The Bloom Library features the “Little Zebra Bookshelf,” a curated collection of engaging, easy-to-translate titles. These resources make it possible for local communities to access and produce meaningful content in their own languages.

In March 2024, SIL conducted a training workshop in Angola, equipping local writers to develop early literacy materials in seven national languages. Using selected Little Zebra titles, they created foundational word books and new derivative stories based on existing illustrations. The project resulted in 13 new books, now part of the Angolan language children’s library.

In Tanzania, our team adapted Little Zebra Books to develop a Sunday School curriculum, integrating biblical stories with themes such as God’s love, prayer, and Christian living. These lessons help children engage with the gospel in a culturally relevant and accessible way.

Little Zebra Books continues to demonstrate innovation and faithfulness in providing content well-suited to African contexts. Their partnership has strengthened our efforts to promote literacy, support spiritual growth, and make local language resources widely available.

We are grateful for their collaboration and look forward to continuing this impactful work together.

Jeni Bister



OUR TERRIFIC TEAM

They say dynamite comes in small packages and that is certainly true of our team at LZB. Our small team of dedicated and passionate staff and volunteers have been able to achieve amazing results in 2024. Thank you!



Featured: Tamlin Jethro, Jeni Bister, Gillian Brucher, Nolusindiso Nokrayo, David Ker, and Hilary Ker



Featured: Ntsikie Sigcu, Jeni Bister, Robyn Beere, David Ker, Hilary Ker, and Gillian Brucher

To those who no longer work with us, we so appreciate your contributions to our story! And to those who have joined us, we look forward to the journey ahead together.

BEANS 123

Our counting book, also known as **Beans 123**, was translated into 16 additional languages in 2024, bringing the total number of languages to 66!

1



N/e'e

Ju/'hoansi

2



Kubili

Zulu

3



Sōmōk

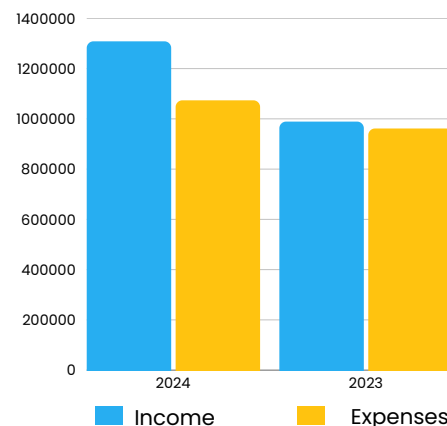
Kupsapiiny

FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position

| Figures in Rand | 2024 | 2023 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Non-current asset | | |
| Equipment | 16 748 | 1 131 |
| | 16 748 | 1 131 |
| Current asset | | |
| Inventory | 15 590 | 43 710 |
| Trade and other receivables | 10 320 | 21 845 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 417 609 | 112 539 |
| | 443 519 | 178 094 |
| Total Assets | 460 267 | 179 225 |
| Funds | | |
| Accumulated funds | 141 102 | 139 643 |
| Sustainability reserve | 233 334 | — |
| | 374 436 | 139 643 |
| Current liabilities | 85 831 | 39 582 |
| Accruals | 1 097 | 2 950 |
| SARS - employee tax | — | 4 953 |
| Funds received in advance | 76 060 | — |
| Leave provision | 8 674 | 31 679 |
| Total Funds and Liabilities | 460 267 | 179 225 |

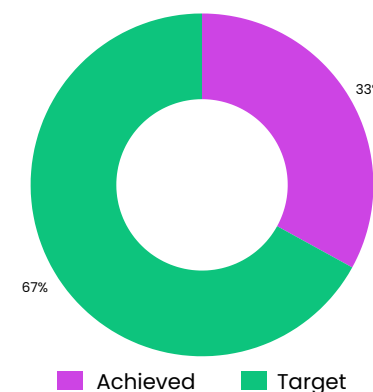
Income and Expenditure



2024 saw a welcome 33% increase in revenue from 2023. Expenses were up by 12%.

Sustainability Reserves

The Governing Board made a firm commitment to building sustainability reserves and in the 1st year were able to secure 1/3 of the targeted reserves.



In our continued efforts towards diversifying our donor base we received grants from an additional two new foundations in 2024.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many individual, family and corporate donors who give regularly to our work. Your generous support is impacting the lives of thousands of children who love to read their beautiful Little Zebra Books!

Special thanks to:
Visions Made Viable
Ackerman Family Foundation
Nussbaum Foundation
Bridge-Ed Foundation

We are especially appreciative of the individual contribution from **Tim & Torri Rhodes** which enabled us to significantly boost our sustainability reserves.

MASIFUNDE SIDLALA BENEFIT CONCERT

On 26 May 2024, Little Zebra Books hosted a benefit concert at the CHS Life Centre in Kirstenhof to raise awareness and funds for the Masifunde Sidlala programme. The Cape Town Concert Brass Band performed a lively variety of classical and popular pieces.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers, attendees, door prize donors, and especially the band for creating such a beautiful event that drew attention to the importance of reading books for children in Xhosa.



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