



2022

annual report



www.pebblesproject.org

Dear Friends of The Pebbles Project,

In my previous reports as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I have always mentioned what an honour and privilege it has been to present my report. Whilst that honour and privilege remain, this year it is also tinged with sadness as it is my final report as Chairman. Due to our personal circumstances, Alison and I are repatriating to the UK shortly, but secure in the knowledge that Pebbles is in excellent health, and continues to grow from strength to strength. This is, of course, in no small measure, thanks to the dedication of my fellow Trustees, the Senior Management Team, every individual staff member, and our wonderful sponsors and donors. My untold gratitude goes to every one of you for your unfailing support. I am also secure in the knowledge that the reins of Chairpersonship have been handed to Leigh Adams, under whose guidance I know that Pebbles will continue to flourish and grow. Leigh, may you experience as much pleasure and satisfaction as I did, from the amazing work that Pebbles achieves in improving the lives of so many! I look forward to continuing my contribution to Pebbles in England.

Stephen Digby
Chairperson 2014-2022

Allow me to thank the outgoing Chair for the important work he has done over the past years. We will miss you Stephen and wish you all of the best with your future endeavours. Being a Pebbles Project Trustee over the past few years has not only presented me with the view of our contribution in growing and adding value to our beneficiaries, but continually surfaced what exceptional staff, sponsors and donors we have. It is therefore an honour to step into the role as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. I look forward to embarking on this journey ahead, together.

Leigh Adams
Chairperson 2022

"If your vision is for a year, plant wheat. If your vision is for ten years, plant trees. If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people."














- Chinese Proverb

As Pebbles enters its 18th year, we look back with pride on what we have accomplished and we look forward in anticipation for what is yet to come. Eighteen years ago, a tiny seed was planted and we have invested time, energy, passion and love into nurturing that seed. The children who started their journey with Pebbles as tiny toddlers are now confident, successful young adults, living their best lives and giving back to their own communities.

So many people ask me, "Did you ever think Pebbles would grow so big?" and the answer is no. I never imagined that one day we would work in partnership with over 80 farms, impacting the lives of thousands of children, with an incredible team of nearly 100 staff members and an eye-watering annual budget of over R30 million. This has only been made possible by the commitment of our Board of Trustees in South Africa and the Board of Directors in the UK, the dedication of our staff and the trust our donors place in us when they contribute financially to our project. Our vision is for a lifetime and for the time when we can sit back and truly say, "Together, we made a difference."

Sophia Warner
Founder & CEO



 R 31 MILLION RAISED		 489 000 MEALS COOKED AND DISTRIBUTED FROM THE PEBBLES KITCHEN	
 4512 APPOINTMENTS AT THE CLINIC	73	 106 STAFF EMPLOYED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR	
1646	LEARNERS ENROLLED AT THE PEBBLES ACADEMY	 38 PARTNER FARMS	 126 PRACTITIONERS TRAINED MONTHLY
    17 VEHICLES IN THE PEBBLES FLEET	 16 BABY BOXES HANDED OUT TO EXPECTANT MOTHERS	 37 CHILDREN RECEIVED SPECTACLES	
 5 MOMS & BABIES BENEFITED FROM INFANT MASSAGE WORKSHOPS			

Pebbles Project Trustees 2021 – 2022

Stephen Digby (Chairperson), Peter Blaine (Treasurer), Zanele Xaba, Lucy Warner, Leigh Adams, Peter Koch, Sophia Warner

Senior Management Team 2021 – 2022

Sophia Warner (CEO), Estée Heyns (Chief Administrative Officer), Samantha Davids (Chief Operations Officer), Michael Petersen (Financial Manager), Angela du Plessis (HR Manager)

Pebbles Project UK Directors 2021 – 2022

Ray Abercromby, Elizabeth Clifton, David Wainwright, Sophia Warner, Edward Powell

"Pebbles drives the bus and brings the yoghurt"
- Ethan, 5 years old

The Pebbles Vision

Pebbles is a unique organisation as it offers holistic support through its programmes and services – every aspect of the child's life is addressed, including academic support, special educational needs assistance, health, nutrition, social and emotional support, and parent and community engagement.

Pebbles commits to a long-term partnership with, and investment in, each farm community, as it believes that real lasting change can only happen over time.

By leading the way and providing services that would otherwise be inaccessible and by empowering communities to take responsibility for themselves, Pebbles believes sustainable change can take place.

Where we work

Stellenbosch Wellington Citrusdal
Clanwilliam Hemel-en-Aarde Grabouw

*"Pebbles makes
me clever"*
- Warren, 5 years old

Early Care and Education Programme (ECEP)

This programme aims to provide holistic support and education to all Pebbles beneficiaries from conception to age five. It is divided into three age cohorts - **conception to 3 months, 3 months to 2.5 years and 2.5 to 5 years.**

Education takes place at the Pebbles Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres located on individual partner farms. The programme runs daily from 07:00 - 17:00 (depending on individual farm needs). Having access to quality early education in a safe and loving environment ensures that all Pebbles beneficiaries have a solid foundation for lifelong learning and well-being.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 The programme supports 29 different ECD centres across 5 geographical areas.
- 👉 The Bonding and Attachment Training Initiative trained 5 mothers in Infant Massage techniques which assist with positive bonding and attachment between mother and baby. Pebbles hopes to increase the number of mothers participating in this initiative in 2022 as attendance during 2021 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 👉 138 ECD learners received a school pack consisting of age-appropriate stationery and a Pebbles beanie.
- 👉 Pebbles expanded the ECD services to three Fruitways farms in Grabouw in August 2021, ensuring an additional 85 children under the age of 5 have access to quality early education.



School Enrichment Programme (SEP)

The School Enrichment Programme provides educational support to school-going children between the ages of 6 and 18 years. It is implemented at the Pebbles After-School Clubs and runs daily from 14:00 - 17:00. The aim is to provide a safe space for children to receive academic support when they return from school each day.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, schools in South Africa have been closed for a total of 60 weeks. To ensure children were able to continue their studies, Pebbles provided internet to the communities located on nine farms, opened the After-School Clubs in the mornings, printed resources for learners to take home, implemented a shared Google classroom and provided transport for some learners.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 The use of a shared Google classroom was implemented across all After-School Clubs so that the practitioners could access resources and support at a click of a button.
- 👉 The learners attended the Pebbles After-School Clubs on a rotational basis in accordance with COVID-19 protocols.
- 👉 To offset time lost at school, some of the After-School Clubs were opened in the morning to assist learners with homework and assignments on days they were not attending school.
- 👉 The FACET Mobile Library provided After-School Clubs with hundreds of books via a rotational crate system, ensuring that learners, practitioners and parents had access to new and exciting reading material.
- 👉 A number of extra-curricular activities were implemented at the After-School Clubs. Learners participated in the following activities: football, rugby, karate, rope skipping, surfing, marimba band, choir and recorder lessons. Exposing the learners to new and exciting activities kept them engaged, active and improved their self confidence.
- 👉 Pebbles hosted its first-ever music Eisteddfod in Citrusdal in partnership with Stellenbosch University and Ceceila Foundation. The learners had the opportunity to showcase their amazing talents.
- 👉 The Pebbles After-School Club services were expanded to three Fruitways farms in Grabouw in August 2021, ensuring 109 additional children have access to homework and academic support.



Early Adulthood Programme (EAP)

Young adults who live on farms often lack the opportunity to attend institutions that could positively impact their lives. The Pebbles Project Early Adulthood Programme supports young adults from agricultural communities to study further, find internship opportunities, and gain important life and practical skills to enable them to be gainfully employed.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 14 young adults enrolled for tertiary studies at Boland College for the 2022 academic year.
- 👉 The programme assisted 2 learners to rewrite matric subjects by supplying them with laptops and weekly tutoring sessions. They passed their exams and obtained their matric certificate.
- 👉 One student completed a plumbing course through Stellempley and received a second-place prize for his performance and grades.
- 👉 The programme assisted six learners in finding internships and part-time work placements.
- 👉 Five young adults enrolled in the 2nd Chance Initiative. This is a path for those who are unable to reach their full potential in a mainstream school. The course currently consists of beading and life skills workshops. A future goal of this programme is also to offer barista training.

The Hemel-en-Aarde Education Project - Pebbles Academy

The Pebbles Hemel-en-Aarde Education Project ensures that the children and families living in and around the less accessible Hemel- en-Aarde Ridge region have access to quality education services. The project is located on a non-working farm and consists of an ECD centre and the very first Pebbles Academy.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 112 children attended the project daily split between the ECD centre with 39 children and 73 learners at the Pebbles Academy.
- 👉 The Academy learners received a comprehensive Primary School education.
- 👉 In 2017, the First Thousand Days classroom opened for the first time. These little ones are now in Grade 1 at the Pebbles Academy!
- 👉 The project has a vegetable garden that complements the meals served to the children and care for the garden was also incorporated into the daily curriculum. Any extra produce was sold to local restaurants in the area which created an additional stream of income for the project.
- 👉 Plans are in place for establishing a Skills Centre to provide services and workshops for young adults in the area.



Pebbles Kitchen and Nutrition Services

The Pebbles Nutrition Programme ensures that all beneficiaries attending a Pebbles centre receive wholesome, nutritious meals and snacks daily. All meals are prepared in the Pebbles Kitchen, which produces approximately 2500 meals daily. The meals are delivered to all the centres for the practitioners to heat and serve to the children.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 In 2021 the Pebbles Kitchen cooked and prepared pureed meals for infants in the First Thousand Days classes. The puree is stored as ice cubes, defrosted, reheated and then fed to the babies. 30 000 of these mini-meals were delivered during 2021 - 2022.
- 👉 Meals were made available to learners at all After-School Clubs during the 3rd COVID-19 wave in June/July 2021 when schools shut down. According to The World Food Programme, 9.2 million learners missed out on meals due to their schools being closed. Pebbles ensured the learners still received a warm cooked meal during the winter months despite the After-School Clubs being closed.
- 👉 The Pebbles Kitchen sold additional meals to other NPOs and education centres, which provided a steady income stream for the kitchen. The goal is to grow and supply nutritious meals to many other NPOs, education centres and clinics in the greater Winelands area.
- 👉 The kitchen has 8 full-time employees, many of whom live on local neighbouring farms.



Pebbles Health Service

Children who are sick are unable to learn optimally. By addressing their health and wellness needs, Pebbles is able to maximise each child's academic potential. The Pebbles Health Clinic provides quality healthcare services to all Pebbles beneficiaries as well as their parents, community members and the general public.

Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 4512 appointments took place at the clinic, of which 59% were clients under the age of 18 years who received healthcare, medication and transport free of charge.
- 👉 Pebbles ensured the clinic remained open during the 3rd COVID-19 wave for emergency appointments, especially for those receiving family planning services. The clinic referred patients with COVID-19 symptoms for testing, provided support and checked in with those who tested positive.
- 👉 In partnership with the Western Cape Department of Health, 319 people received COVID-19 vaccines at the Pebbles Clinic.
- 👉 The Oral Hygienist ensured all beneficiaries at Pebbles ECD centres had their own toothbrushes and toothpaste. She also trained practitioners on how to introduce a "sippy cup" to the over 1-year-olds rather than a bottle and explained the benefits of using sippy cups.
- 👉 The clinic team hosted outreach visits to the Pebbles centres in Citrusdal and Hemel-en-Aarde and referred urgent cases to local service providers.
- 👉 The Special Educational Needs team strengthened relationships with hospitals and clinics in the Citrusdal area to ensure multidisciplinary intervention could take place.
- 👉 13 Baby Boxes were gifted to new mothers who completed the series of maternal health workshops.
- 👉 51 eye examinations were conducted and 37 pairs of spectacles were prescribed to patients.
- 👉 139 clients accessed social work services (this included adults and children). 25 parents and 34 children located on 5 farms also attended parent training sessions.



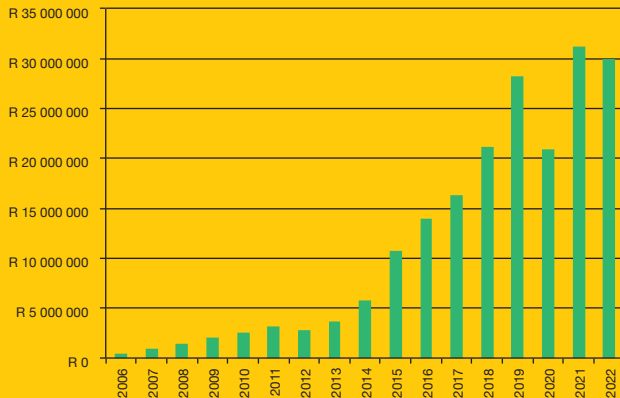
Twinings Mobile Health Clinic

The Twinings Pebbles partnership consists of a Mobile Health Service which provides farmworkers and their families with healthcare services across a number of UTZ-registered rooibos tea farms in the Clanwilliam and Citrusdal area. This is made possible through the Twinings 'Sourced with Care' ethical programme.

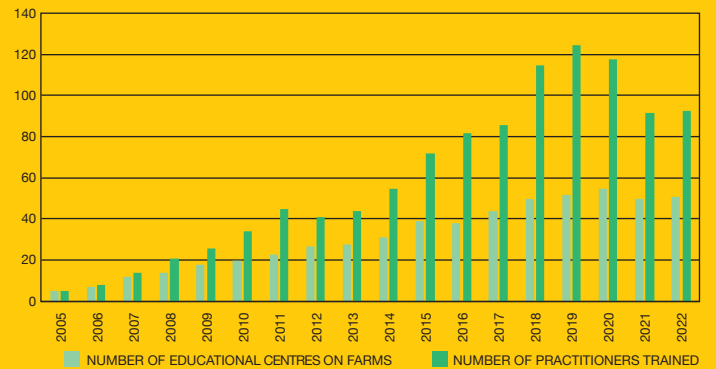
Achievements & Interesting Facts:

- 👉 The project celebrated its first very successful year of operations thanks to the hard work and dedication of the team.
- 👉 The team assisted farmworkers with registering on the Electronic Vaccine DataBase for their COVID-19 vaccines, as well as arranging transport with farm owners to the vaccination sites.
- 👉 3283 children and adults were educated through a number of Educational Health workshops. Topics covered included lifestyle diseases, healthy eating, COVID-19, TB, HIV/AIDS and skin cancer prevention.
- 👉 Three new mothers received a baby box full of much-needed items through the Maternal Health Initiative. This was the first of its kind in the Cederberg area.

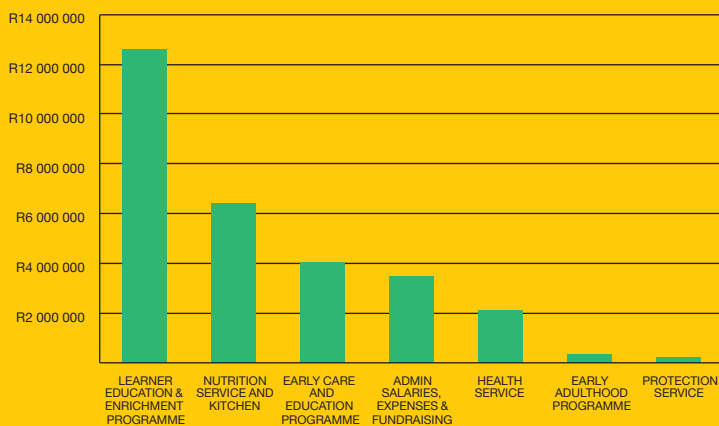
SA and UK Income
2006 - 2022



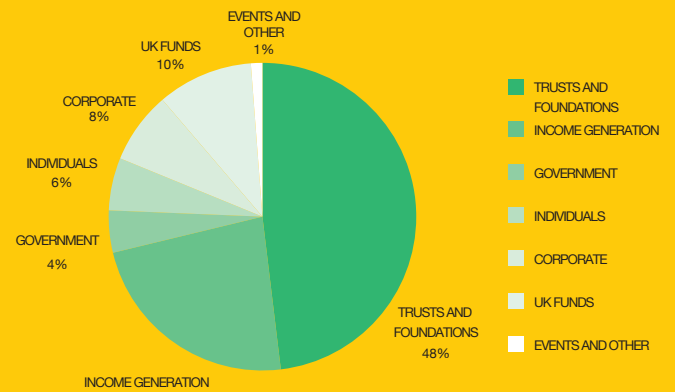
Number of Centres and Practitioners Trained
2005 - 2022



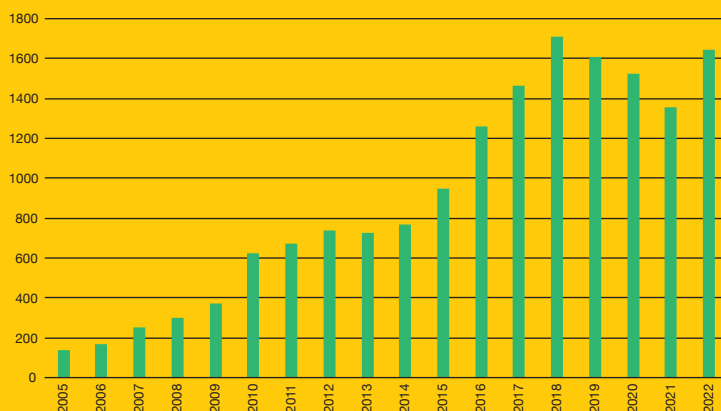
Expenditure
2021 - 2022



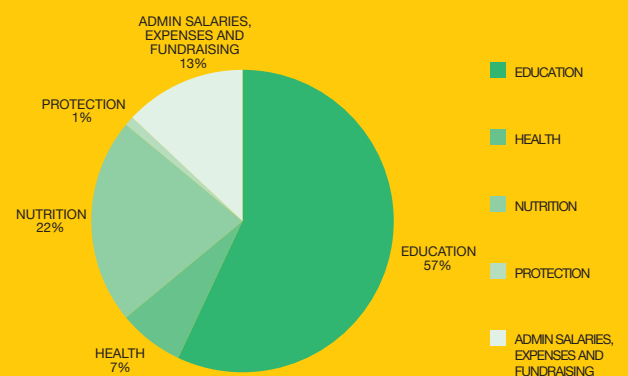
Income Sources
2021 - 2022



Beneficiary Numbers
2005 - 2022



Programme and Admin Expenses
2021 - 2022



Pebbles Project Registration Numbers

Educational Trust: IT4088/2004

NPO Number: 049-950

PBO Number: 930017224

UK Charity Number: 1123172

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Where are they now?

We are proud of all the learners who have been impacted by our programmes. Here are a few of their stories.



Bradley Kriel



"I definitely think that the younger children on my farm look up to what I've accomplished and I hope to inspire them."

- Bradley Kriel, Tasting Room Manager at Eikendal Vineyards and part-time BCom Law student.

Sandra Spogter



"Pebbles have literally changed my life. I can honestly say that I don't know where I would be today without Pebbles. I probably would have been stuck in the same place that I was during my teenage pregnancy...I would have given up on my dreams."

- Sandra Spogter, Commis Chef at Bellevue Wine Estate restaurant.



Damian van Kerwel



"When I try to explain to people what Pebbles has done for me, I always tell them to look at Pebbles' slogan: Changing Lives, because that is what they do, they change lives. Pebbles came into my life and I can honestly say that they have changed my life."

- Damian van Kerwel, Creditor Clerk at Eikendal Vineyards.

"Pebbles means a lot to me... If I think back to when I was still in school, the computer literacy classes for example, all of that contributed to what I know today and the person that I am today. I will encourage others, if they get the opportunity, to become involved at Pebbles, because Pebbles has truly changed my life for the better."

- Charlene van Ster, Financial Management Intern at Bellevue Wine Estate.

Charlene van Ster



Michelle van Wyk



"Pebbles is a life changing organisation, they make it their mission to assist you in achieving your dreams. Pebbles had a big impact on my life."

- Michelle van Wyk, Documentation Administrator at Hillebrand.

"Pebbles will always have a special place in my heart. Pebbles is like family to me, the Social Worker at Pebbles is like my second mother. I wouldn't be who I am today if not for Pebbles."

- Johnlin Plaatjies, Chef at Delheim Wines restaurant.

Johnlin Plaatjies



The Pebbles Project Team 2021-2022



Thank you to our loyal donors, sponsors and supporters:

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Thank you to all the establishments that generously take part in our Hospitality Fundraising Initiative.

Thank you to all our Sponsor a Child donors who contribute every month and to everyone who sponsored a school pack.

A special thank you to Haumann Smal Design Studio for the design of this Annual Report

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