



# 2025

annual report

**PEBBLES**  **PROJECT**

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



## // LETTER FROM OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON

Dear Friends of Pebbles,

As I sit down to write this, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey that being Chair of the Pebbles Project Trust has taken me on. It's hard to put into words the depth of pride and gratitude I feel - for the people, the purpose, and the possibility that Pebbles represents.

Serving this organisation has been one of the most meaningful chapters in my life. What makes Pebbles unique is not just what we do, but how we do it - with heart, with integrity, and with a deep understanding of the communities we walk alongside. I've seen children flourish, families strengthened, and futures reimaged. And at every step, I've been reminded that real change is built on consistent, quiet commitment - the kind that our team shows every single day.

As I hand over the baton, I do so knowing that this organisation is in the most capable hands. The vision is clear, the leadership is strong, and the foundation we've built together is solid. To my fellow board members - thank you for your wisdom, partnership and friendship. To our supporters - thank you for your trust. And to the Pebbles team - you are the soul of this organisation, and I am endlessly inspired by you.

Though I may be stepping back from this role, my belief in the work and the mission of Pebbles remains unwavering. I will continue to cheer you on, quietly and proudly, from the sidelines.

With heartfelt thanks.

**Leigh Adams**

*Outgoing Chairperson 2024*

## // LETTER FROM INCOMING CHAIRPERSON

It is with profound humility that I have accepted the responsibility of serving as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of this amazing organisation. Twenty years ago, Sophia Warner planted a modest seed that has grown into an organisation which has now touched more than 3,000 children and their families and mobilised close to R270 million in resources.

I, and my fellow board members, pay tribute to Sophia and to every member of her leadership team whose vision, diligence and compassion have made the Pebbles Project a beacon of opportunity in South Africa's farming communities.

My involvement with the Pebbles Project has given me a fresh perspective on what stewardship should mean. In 2023 alone, the Pebbles Project cooked and distributed over 793,000 meals, provided 6,015 primary healthcare consultations, and supported 1,339 learners across 52 education centres.

I am honoured to join and to learn from and work with my fellow non-executive trustees Peter Koch, Mark Tobin, Ruth Johnson and Lucy Warner. As chairman of the board I recognise that good governance is not an administrative necessity but an ethical imperative that safeguards the trust placed in the organisation by donors and partners and most importantly the children and families we serve.

The continued existence of the Pebbles Project is not possible without the extraordinary commitment of its staff, volunteers, donors and the farming families who open their lives to the organisation. As the incoming chairman and

we as a board will listen, learn and work with our partners and, the leadership team to ensure that every child who is touched by the Pebbles Project programmes can have confidence in the future.

**Adrian Montzinger**

*Incoming Chairperson 2024*



## // LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

As I look back on the last 20 years of Pebbles, I consider the questions that I have been asked on a regular basis since we began, so I thought I would use this opportunity to answer some of them.

The name '**Pebbles**' came to us during an evening brainstorming session with friends (fuelled by some delicious South African wine...), when we were looking for a name for the organisation that did not limit us to any geographical area or beneficiary demographic, or align us with any political or religious affiliation. Just as every pebble is worn smooth by its environment, our beneficiaries are shaped by the support that they receive from our team of dedicated professionals. Just as every pebble on the beach is different from the next one, every beneficiary that we support has his/her/their unique potential to be unlocked.

According to AI, "Pebbles are often seen as symbols of grounding, connection to the earth, and perseverance. They can represent luck, energy, and even long life, depending on the culture and context. Lastly, a pebble thrown into a pond creates ripples travelling outwards, just as the support that we give our beneficiaries impacts not only on their own lives, but that of their siblings, parents, communities and society as a whole.

Another question that I get asked a lot is, 'Did you ever expect Pebbles to grow so big and successful?'. The response to that is a simple 'no'. When I landed in South Africa in 2003, my intention was to stay for just a couple of years, but Africa has a way of getting under your skin and creeping into your soul, and 22 years later I love this country and its people more than ever. While growing up, my father continually reminded me that "if something is worth doing, it is worth doing properly" and I believe that our donors and supporters appreciate our approach.

The last question that I am asked is 'What next?'. Every year I promise the team that we will not take on any new projects, but then an incredible opportunity comes our way which I just cannot refuse, and so each year Pebbles introduces new initiatives to uplift our beneficiaries and their communities. Over the last 12 months, we have added a soap recycling project, entrepreneur hubs, a re-imagined Youth Development Programme and in-school educational support. Looking forward, we have our hearts set on our own Community ECD Centre and youth development training facility, as well as deepening our investment in all of our regional areas...so watch this space.

My deepest gratitude goes to everyone who has walked this path with us and who will remain by our side in the future.

**Sophia Warner**

*Founder & CEO*



# // PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES



## // EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Early Care and Education Programme (ECEP) provides holistic support and education to all Pebbles beneficiaries from conception to age five. The programme is divided into two age cohorts - conception 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 and runs daily from 07:00 - 17:00 (depending on individual farm needs).

- The programme provided 642 beneficiaries access to quality early education in a safe and loving environment and ensured that all Pebbles beneficiaries had a solid foundation for lifelong learning and well-being.
- The programme supported 32 ECD centres across all geographical areas.
- We are proud that 47% of our ECEP Practitioners now hold an NQF Level 4 formal qualification, improving the overall quality of teaching provided.
- Play-based learning was actively encouraged in all Pebbles ECD centres.
- 95 learners attending a Pebbles education centre received Special Educational Needs (SEN) support.



## // PRIMARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Primary Education Programme (PEP) is delivered at the Pebbles Academy, an independent primary school established in 2019 after the local government school closed down due to a lack of funding. The Pebbles Academy provides a nurturing learning environment for children from surrounding farming communities.

- The Pebbles Academy provided education and after-school care to 79 children from the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley.
- A total of 10 qualified Educators provided learners from Grade R to Grade 7 with a comprehensive primary school education.
- The Pebbles Academy supported learners from close to 40 farms providing them with daily transport, nutritious meals and extra-curricular activities.
- A joint healthcare and therapy room was launched to provide on-site support and care to learners and staff.
- The Pebbles Academy's cross country team proudly placed in several local tournaments.

## // SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The School Enrichment Programme (SEP) provides educational support to school-going children between the ages of 6 and 18 years. The programme is implemented at the Pebbles After-School Club centres located on individual partner farms and runs daily from 14:00 - 17:00 (depending on individual farm needs).

- The programme supported 641 learners across all seven geographical areas.
- A total of 365 learners received support through literacy enrichment activities to strengthen their comprehension and reading. 24.9% of the learners Grade 2 - Grade 7 who were tested, were reading above their age level.
- To encourage learners to develop an interest in and appreciation for books, the Pebbles Mobile Library provided 454 learners with access to quality reading materials. Practitioners also received training to implement library skills.
- 310 learners received Computer Literacy Support, equipping beneficiaries across 11 After-School Club centres in Stellenbosch with essential digital knowledge.
- The programme also features seven Graff Mobile Learning Centres, which travelled to communities to bring learning directly to the learners. These mobile centres provided vital educational support, helping to enrich the learning experience for learners who might otherwise have limited access to resources.
- A number of extra-curricular activities were implemented at the After-School Club centres where learners participated in the following activities: football, rugby, karate, rope skipping, surfing, marimba band, netball and dancing. By exposing the learners to new and exciting activities it helped to improve their self-confidence.





## // YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Youth Development Programme (YDP) supports young adults aged 15 to 25 years to secure meaningful employment through a wide range of skills development workshops and training sessions.

- The programme provided support to 59 young adults across two geographical areas and was implemented at the two Youth Development Centres located in Stellenbosch and the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley with a key focus on skills training and work readiness programmes.
- An average pass rate of 71.15% was achieved by the 20 young adults who completed the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Level 1 course opening doors to specialist roles in the wine industry.
- Six young adults were placed in short-term employment opportunities, providing them with practical work experience. In addition, four young adults completed internships or work placements and gained valuable skills and professional exposure.
- Four young adults were employed through the Pebbles Recycled Soap Project (Soap For Hope™ Project), launched in partnership with Dow and Diversey. This initiative recycles discarded soap into new bars, which are distributed to underserved communities, addressing sanitation challenges while creating job opportunities.
- Support was provided to sixteen young adults who were enrolled in tertiary education.

## // SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SERVICE

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service ensures that every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full academic potential.

- 138 learners attending a Pebbles education centre received SEN support.
- The SEN Support Educators and Trainers conducted 229 farm visits across all geographical areas.
- 77% of SEN beneficiaries accessed the Pebbles Mobile Resource Centre, which travels to the educational centres on a rotational basis, providing learners with additional support and access to educational resources.
- 62.3% of SEN beneficiaries received occupational therapy to help address barriers to learning.
- Pebbles Practitioners received monthly or bi-monthly training, and weekly on-site guided support from the SEN Support Educators and Trainers in the classroom to enable them to apply the knowledge and skills acquired.

*"Without Pebbles, I honestly wouldn't be where I am now. When Diepgat Primary closed, they were there. No one expected it, and no one knew what to do, but Pebbles did. They came to save us."*

**Jay-Lee**  
Pebbles Academy Head Girl - 2019

*"Pebbles gave me opportunities I never thought I'd have. They gave me more than I ever expected."*

**Colen**  
Youth Development  
Programme  
(YDP) Beneficiary - 2024



## // HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICE

The Pebbles Health and Wellness Service provides essential healthcare support to our beneficiaries and the wider community. The programme offers medical consultations, dental care, health education, and social work support.

- The Pebbles Social Workers carried out 124 individual client visits providing support to the communities.
  - 49 young adults attended Sexual Health Education workshops which has resulted in a reduction in teenage pregnancies.
  - 25 Baby Boxes were handed out to new mothers who completed the series of maternal health workshops. These boxes contain essential items for both mother and baby.
  - The Dental Health Service expanded and provided 1,362 dental consultations which is a 12.4% increase from the previous year.
- 6,223 appointments were managed through the Twinings Mobile Health Clinic, which provided farmworkers and their families with healthcare services across the Clanwilliam and Citrusdal areas.
  - 2,371 appointments were conducted at the Pebbles Health Clinic, where clients received healthcare, medication and transport.

## // NUTRITION SERVICE

The Pebbles Nutrition Service ensures that all beneficiaries attending a Pebbles education centre receive wholesome, nutritious meals and snacks daily. All meals are prepared in the Pebbles Kitchen.

- The total number of children who received daily nutritious meals increased with 30% from the previous year.
- The Pebbles Kitchen prepared 2,480 meals daily, which were distributed to the Pebbles education centres across all geographical areas.
- 10,287 is the average amount of monthly meals sold through the Pebbles Food Truck initiative across 11 local areas.
- A total of 1,142 meals per day were delivered to other organisations and charities, generating a steady income for the kitchen.





## // OUR YEAR IN A GLANCE

**48** EDUCATION CENTRES



**R1,461,096**

VALUE OF IN-KIND DONATIONS RECEIVED



**11,755** CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED THROUGH THE HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICE

**1,389** BENEFICIARIES SUPPORTED



**22** VEHICLES IN THE PEBBLES FLEET



**R48** MILLION TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED



**90** FARMS SUPPORTED

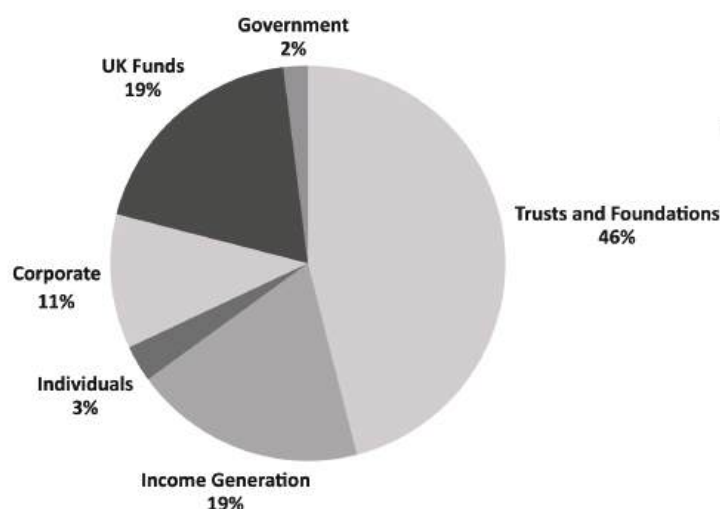
**119** STAFF EMPLOYED FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR

**557,819** MEALS COOKED & DISTRIBUTED

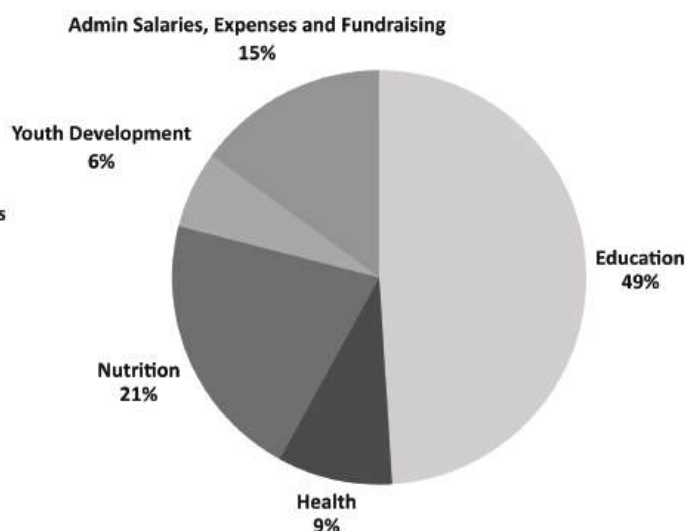
**7** GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS SUPPORTED

## // FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

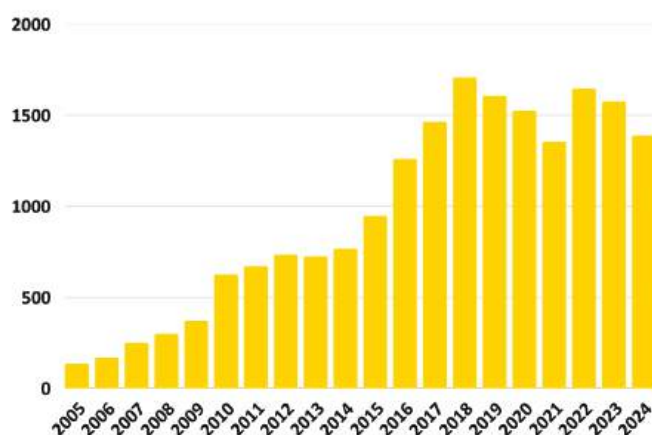
### INCOME SOURCES JAN - DEC 2024



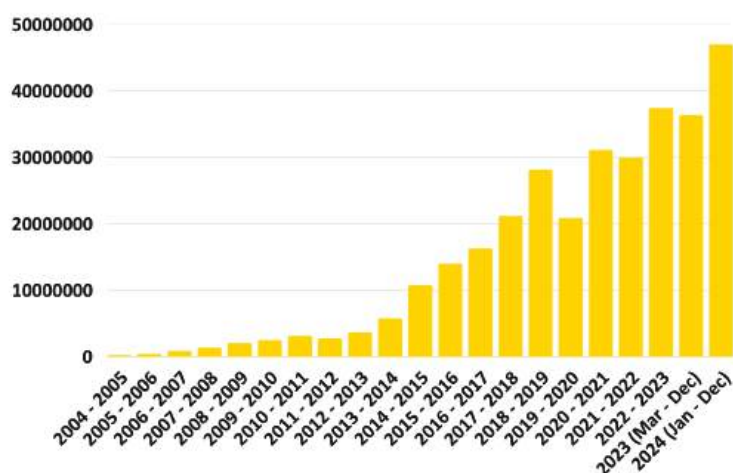
### PROGRAMMES, SERVICES AND ADMIN EXPENSES (SA AND UK) JAN - DEC 2024



### BENEFICIARY NUMBERS 2005 - DEC 2024



### SA AND UK INCOME 2005 - DEC 2024







# PEBBLES PROJECT STAFF

## TRUSTEES 2024

Leigh Adams (Chairperson), Peter Koch (Treasurer), Zanele Xaba, Lucy Warner, Peter Blaine, Sophia Warner (CEO & Founder)

Board resignations - We give our sincere thanks to Leigh Adams, Zanele Xaba and Peter Blaine for their many years of commitment to the Pebbles Project and for their invaluable input to the success of the organisation.

New board members - We welcomed new trustees Adrian Montzinger (new Chairperson), Ruth Johnson and Mark Tobin during 2024.

## UK DIRECTORS 2024

Ray Abercromby, Elizabeth Clifton, David Wainwright, Sophia Warner, Stephen Digby

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT 2024

Sophia Warner (Chief Executive Officer) Estée Heyns (Chief Administrative Officer), Michael Petersen (Financial Manager), Kulsum Moosa (Human Resource Manager)

## REGISTRATION DETAILS

Educational Trust: IT4088/2004

NPO Number: 049-950

PBO Number: 930017224

UK Charity Number: 1123172

Gift Aid Number: XT993

VAT Registration Number: 4570319188

## THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL DONORS, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Accolade Wines, Africamarine Ships Agency, Allan & Gill Gray Philantropies (advised by Ian Liddle), Angela Lloyd, American Elements, Amorim Cork, Anchor Oneology, André & Elsabé du Plessis, Baluta Trust, Barnsbury B.V, 2CChange, Cape Town Attorneys, Cedar Mill Mall, Clash of the Chefs, COFCO International, Cokethorpe School, Comersion, Coregeo (UK), Creation Wines, CWD Enterprise, Delaire Graff Estate, Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Development: Children and Families, Department of Education - Western Cape, Diepgat, Dollar Academy, Donkerhoek Data, dotNext, Dow/Diversey "Soap for Hope" TM, FACET Foundation, FirstRand Foundation, Forest 44, Fuchs Foundation, Garden Cities, Gerard Bassett Foundation, GCF - Grand Chais de France, Gielen Family, Haygrove Heaven, Haygrove Sunrise Trust, Harold Eedes Charitable Trust, Hazel Bothma, Hebron, Hermanus Rotary Club, Hillebrand GORI A Company of DHL, Herrmann & Vogel, HUG, Ian Wiegman, Iqraa Trust SA, Iwayini, Kaapzicht, Katherine Roach (Lugano Diamonds), Kevin & Cathy Marston, KFC Add Hope Foundation, Kleine Zalze, KVV, Kyle Walker, Lady of Lourdes School (UK), Le Arc Berries, Liyad Child Foundation, Lubanzi Wines, Lucia Walker, Maastricht University, Magda Venter, Maggie Knobel, Majestic Wines (UK), Marks & Spencer, Michael Cornish, Jannie Mouton Foundation, MySchool, Nation Builder, Nigab, Noble Property Fund, OMTOM, Project Wines, Ralph Pinckaers (Anfest Invest B.V.), Rohlig Logistics, SABRA Union, Sanctimonia, Sanjay International, Savinis, Sawabona Africa, Shiraz SA, Silkbush Mountain Vineyards, Singapore Wine Club, Souter Charitable Trust, Spookfontein Wines, Stichting Garcia Foundation, Sunbeams at St. Giles, Terebinth Capital, Tesco (UK), The Ackerman Pick 'n Pay Charitable Foundation, The Cape House, The Cape Wine Auction Trust, The DG Murray Trust, The Evolution Charitable Trust, The Relate Trust, Topiary Wines, Trish Boonzaier (Whitemills Ltd), Twinings "Sourced with Care", University Pre-Primary (Tracey Bannatyne), Uthando, Van Hunks, The Grier Family and Villiera Wines, Veritas, Warner Family Wines (Lucy Warner), Whittington Fairtrade, Wildebosch Wines (Dornier), Wilfred & Fay Back Charitable Foundation, wine.co.za, Wines2Whales MTB Challenge, Rhodes Food Group, Medallion Mushrooms, Wines of South Africa, Zuiderkruis Farm

Thank you to all the establishments that generously take part in the Hospitality Fundraising Initiative and the donors who support our Sponsorship Programmes.

Photo Credit: Anna Lusty (Made in my Camera) and Phoebe Clarke



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