



 Lunchbox Fund

2017 Annual Report



“Overwhelming scientific evidence attests to the tremendous importance of the early years for human development and to the need for investing resources to support and promote optimal child development from conception. Lack of opportunities and interventions, or poor quality interventions, during early childhood can significantly disadvantage young children and diminish their potential for success.

This [National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy](#) is aimed at transforming early childhood development service delivery in South Africa, in particular to address critical gaps and to ensure the provision of a comprehensive, universally available and equitable early childhood development services.”

- UNICEF

Contents

4. Introduction: Vision and Mission
5. How We Work
7. Founder's Note
9. Pilot Impact Evaluation Program
10. 2017 Achievements
11. The Geography of LBF
 - Where We Work
 - Where We Serve
13. Meal Costs
15. 2017 Financial Summary
16. Sustainability
17. Board of Directors
 - Charity Registration Information
 - Contact Information

Introduction

The Lunchbox Fund is a Non Profit Organisation that focuses on fostering education via nutrition by providing a daily meal at school for vulnerable and food-insecure school children in township and rural areas of South Africa.

Our simple intervention provides a behavioural incentive for children to attend school and stay in school, as well as an economic incentive for their impoverished and/or unemployed caretakers to keep them there.

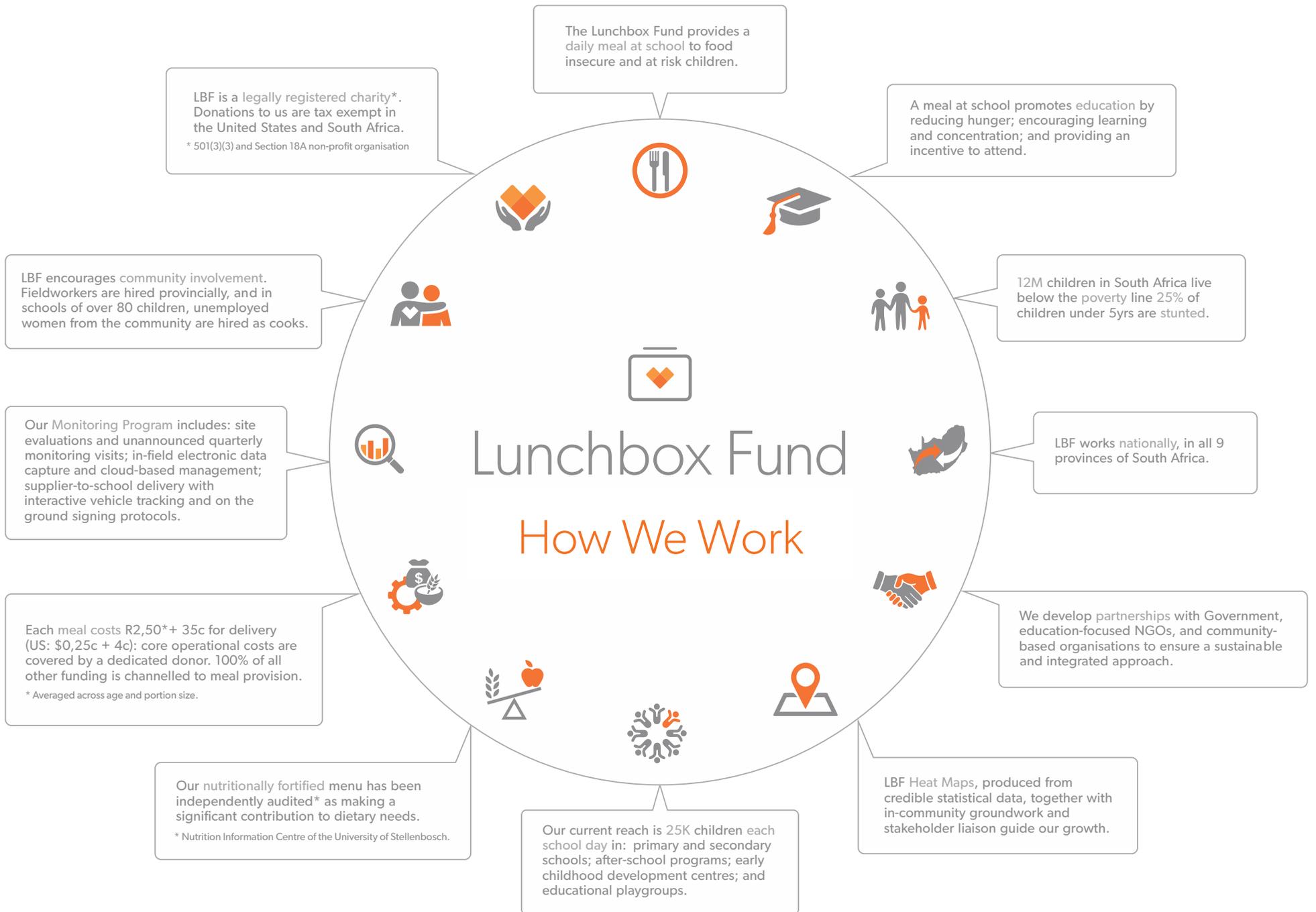
Children who suffer lack of nutrition don't have the stamina, health or capacity to work towards a proper education. We provide a varied, daily, fortified hot meal at school. This gives children a strong incentive to be at school. Once a child is in class and no longer hungry, he or she is in place to receive an education.

Through interacting with teachers, fellow-students and food preparers, the child stays connected, cared for and involved. With education a child's risk of HIV infection and abuse is greatly reduced, and children's ability to generate income after graduation is significantly increased.

Our Vision

No child in South Africa should be deprived of an education because of hunger.





23% of South African Children
live below the upper bound poverty line.

2 736 000
have inadequate access to food.

936 000
are further characterised as having
severely inadequate access to food.

Fruit and vegetable
prices in SA
increased over
18% in 2017.

The overall basic 'food
basket' cost
increased by
10%.

Between 2015 and 2017, South Africa's
unemployment rate reached 26.7%
– the highest in 11 years.

Unemployment has a devastating effect on people's
ability to access healthy food. While there is a system
of social grants to provide relief, child hunger is still
most prevalent in the poorest households.

– [STATS SA](#)



Founder's Note

A Year of Growth and Evaluation

In 2017 LBF focused on expanding into grassroots educational interventions targeted at children younger than 5 years of age. Our work in Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programs supports the National Integrated Plan for ECD (Govt. and Civil Society) which aims to converge basic services to ensure improved childcare, early stimulation and learning, health and nutrition, water and sanitation in a child's first 1000 days.

The approach targets young children, expectant and nursing mothers and community groups and seeks to create an environment where children can



grow, thrive and be better prepared for their future roles and responsibilities in society.

Lunchbox Fund widened our involvement in this initiative by offering a hot meal each day to children in deep-rural Educational Playgroups.

While the Department of Social Development (DSD) does offer funding assistance to Playgroups - these are usually interventions that have sound financial and physical infrastructure, that are registered and able to meet the criteria required by the DSD.

Playgroups that are not able to meet registration requirements often educate the most vulnerable children in the most remote areas. Reaching these schools has been our focus. The provision of a breakfast or a lunch enables the women who run the groups to provide a nutritional incentive into a community often characterised by families headed by young, school-going mothers, older caregivers or food-insecure parents.

Through partnerships with education focused NGOs, LBF was able to welcome 3 525 children under 5 years of age onto our program. A year has passed and we are delighted to report that our provision of a hot breakfast, served early in the day, combined with educational play and learning, has helped ensure dedicated and fast-growing attendance. Many groups have doubled in size, progress we are proud to be part of and work we plan to continue through 2018.

On the operational front, LBF continues to evaluate the integrity of our program. During 2017, we implemented a Pilot study aimed at gauging improvements in the heights and weights for age

(anthropometrics) among children receiving our meals in ECD Centres. We also tracked learner registrations and attendance, and principals were interviewed at the end of the study to learn their views on the program.

The Pilot, run in KZN and Eastern Cape (two of the most food-insecure areas of the country) demonstrated clear evidence of the power of a meal offer in encouraging parents to send their children for pre-school education. Through the study we confirmed that our nutrition has enormous impact on registration and attendance, and a positive impact on children's ability to participate during the school day.

Through maintaining a lean, stable and fluidly implementable program model, LBF was not only able to provide sustained support to our current beneficiaries but also increase program reach by 54% on prior year. We served over 4,6 million meals to 25 309 children in 691 schools throughout the country - and we didn't miss a single delivery.

It's a wonderful achievement — one of which our incredibly hardworking team are all proud; whilst being ever-mindful that there are more schools to support and more children to reach. This knowledge gives us both impetus and focus as we move toward our ultimate goal of a country where no child is deprived of the fair chance to education because of a lack of nutrition.

– Topaz Page-Green



1 in 4 preschoolers is overweight/obese while 1 in 5 is stunted.

74% of children in rural settings are underweight.

More than 50% of primary school children tested below average for motor control skills. Motor proficiency is linked to academic performance.

Less than 50% play sport and few do physical education at school; often environments aren't conducive.

Most children eat less than 1 of the recommended 5 portions of fruit or vegetables per day.

– *The Healthy Active Kids South Africa Report Card (HAKSA)* grades various aspects of physical activity and eating behaviour in South African children and youth (6-18 years).
Read the full report [here](#).

Pilot Impact Evaluation Program

During 2017, Lunchbox Fund implemented a study to assess the impact of our work. We wanted to ascertain whether anthropometric measurements, attendance, and interview data could provide evidence of positive impacts of the LBF nutrition programme. The Pilot was designed to exploit existing monitoring processes within LBF, and to be longitudinal and reflexive in nature, with programme participants at year-end being compared to themselves at baseline prior to the start of the nutritional intervention. Anthropometric measurements were taken four times - once per school term.

Findings in Brief

At baseline, 17 ECDCs were included in the study; eight in KwaZulu-Natal and nine in the Eastern Cape. In total, 322 children were measured at baseline. LBF withdrew support for two participating centres during the study (due to Nutrition Program non-compliance), leaving 15 participating schools in Term 4. There was a 40% attrition of participants between baseline and those captured in the final fieldwork block.

A total of 53 (13%) children were found stunted or underweight at baseline. This is below the six year national average of 25%, which was surprising given the impoverished areas that were targeted. No children who measured within the normal range at baseline became stunted or underweight during the study. Of the 53

children, data from 30 was captured again after baseline. Seven of these 30 children showed clear improvements in nutrition status.

Centre registration increased by 33% between baseline and the final block, and attendance was on average 29% higher. This is clear evidence that the provision of LBF nutrition at ECDCs provides a strong incentive for parents to enrol their children in schools where, along with a hot meal, they are receiving supervised stimulation and education.

Qualitative interviews with ECDC principals reveal consistent perceptions that the nutrition programme has a marked impact on the children's ability to concentrate, play and participate during pre-school, on their primary school readiness, and on their overall health and wellbeing. At almost all the participating centres it is clear there are specific children who are surviving particularly challenging home environments and who are dependent on the programme for their ability to attend school, receive a guaranteed meal, and participate.

An important and more nuanced impact of the LBF programme is its influence on the ability of ECDCs to become less marginal in terms of viability. The food offered and the increased child registration numbers contribute to an ECDC environment in which the teachers are heartened, children more engaged, and the

parents more motivated to register their child and send them to school. Saved funds are also deployed into school improvements.

Challenges

One of the biggest challenges of working in small ECDCs in deep rural areas is that daily attendance is heavily affected by factors such as wet or cold weather, illness of the child or another family member, and the family's ability to pay the nominal school fees. Centres are small and often must close for a day or two if the principal needs to attend to other matters – such as training or family illness. These challenges were among those that limit the value of repeated measurements of weight and height for age as indicators of LBF's programme impact in a relatively small study.

Looking Ahead

LBF is continually seeking better ways to track our impact. There are many considerations in developing rigorous impact assessments relevant to LBF's work, but we continue to liaise closely with key stakeholders and are looking to strategic collaboration with external experts to develop new ways to achieve this.

For a full copy of the Pilot Impact Evaluation Report, please contact [The Lunchbox Fund](#)



2017 Achievements

In 2017 Lunchbox Fund served:

25 309
children

4.9 million
meals

691
schools

Where We Work

Lunchbox Fund Works Nationally in South Africa's Nine Provinces



Where We Serve

Lunchbox Fund Provides Meals to:



Early Learning Playgroups:
3 525 children



Early Childhood Development Centres:
11 005 children



Primary and Secondary Schools:
8 266 learners



After-School Programs:
2 513 learners

(Homework Assistance, Tutoring, Sports and Skills Development)



Our Average Meal Cost*

\$0.25¢

remained constant throughout the year

Breakfast:

\$0.20¢

Lunch:

\$0.30¢

*Averaged across meal provided/age groups/portion sizes. Includes delivery.

“There is need to consider extending the National School Nutrition Programme (Government’s Primary/Secondary School Feeding Scheme) to accredited early childcare centres, and to offer training and improve knowledge regarding healthy eating for small children among parents and carers. The monitoring of growth and development should be routine...”

– [The Healthy Active Kids South Africa Report Card 2017](#)



2017 Financial Summary

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2017 — Figures in US \$

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

Cash 368,312.54

PayPal 1,360.18

Total Bank Accounts: 369,672.72

Other Current Assets

Gala Receivables 2,744.85

Prepaid Expenses 41,945.82

Total Other Current Assets: 44,690.39

Total Current Assets: 414,363.39

TOTAL ASSETS: \$ 414,363.39

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable 628.00

Total Current Liabilities: 628.00

Total Liabilities: 628.00

Equity:

Opening Balance Equity 515,400.08

Retained Earnings 90,981.20

Net Revenue -192,645.89

Total Equity: 413,735.39

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY: \$ 414,363.39

Sustainability

The Lunchbox Fund's consistent fundraising strategy in 2017 included:

- Grants and Donations by Privately Held, Community or Family Trusts.
- Solid and long-term relationships with High and Ultra High Net Worth Private Donors.
- Consistent private donations via website and marketing.
- Successful Benefits and high-return Fundraising Events.

Donors

\$100,000+

Sir Christopher Hohn
Emmanuel Roman

\$39,999 – \$99,999

PRADA USA

\$20,000 – \$39,999

Nicholas Acquavella
Michael Stipe
Lance Uggla

\$10,000 – \$19,999

Linda Barnett — Simon Defoe — Aileen Getty — Balthazar
Getty — Paul Haggis — Emily Spitzer — Tidjane Thiam

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Bernard & Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust — Billy Crudup —
Michael de Paola — Clara Catherine Dowdle — Mala Goankar —
Victor Knaap — Suzanne Lopez — Robert and Kim Skaggs —
Angela Stone

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Frank Begalke — Maud Cabot — Caplan Family Foundation — Linda Carbone
— Rupert Friend — Alexander Gilkes — Jayshree Govender — Ed Herbst —
Bradford Hill — William Kliegman — Scott Lee — Julie Lerner Macklowe —
Kara Mann — Robyn Mewshaw — Michael & Susan Dell Foundation — Jon &
Alessandra Neidich — Marc Schneider — Wes Schultz — Shonda Warner —
Gregory Williams — Arden Wohl

\$500 – \$999

Sophie Barnett — Barry Burks — Robert Callander — Robbie Crawford —
Gary Flom — Rebecca Guiterman — Ruth Lingen — Deborah Roberts —
David Schwimmer — Jane S Wu

\$100 – \$499

Alex Barnett — Stacey Bendet — Jonathan Caplan — Angelica Carrion —
Choong Chang — Chuck Close — Ivy & Clara Dowdle — Monica Dyavanapalli
— Louis Epstein — Jenna & Quinn Fulk (in honor of Sarah Aiken) — Joseph
Grzelak — Tanu Jhunjhunwala — Russel Kayser — Olivia Marciano — David
Michael — Lisa Moore — Aasbir Patel — Maria Prentice — Jean Raby —
Anant Rathee — Cheryl Reding — Joseph Herbert Riley — David Roeske —
Lesley Gurkin Schulhof — Kimberly Scott — Peter Webb — Daniel Zabel —
Beth Zopf

TRAVEL PARTNER

South African Airways

THE LUNCHBOX FUND BOARD

FOUNDER

Topaz Page-Green

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Topaz Page-Green, Joaquin Phoenix, Rain Phoenix

ADVISORY BOARD

Chuck Close, Balthazar Getty, Felicia Mabuza-Suttle, Francois Pienaar, Salman Rushdie, Mickey Sumner

AUDITOR: RSM US LLP:

Tommy Chan (Audit Consultant)
Lynne Johnson (NFP Tax Consultant)

ACCOUNTANTS: CAREY LLC

Travis Carey (Accountant)
Tim Kellner (Accountant)

CHARITY REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Lunchbox Fund, Registration Number 2653536

Enterprise Type: Registered Public Charity 170(b) (1) (A) (vi) / 2370ld, Tax Exemption Status: 501 (c) 3



GUIDESTAR PLATINUM STATUS

CONTACT US:

LBF WEBSITE www.thelunchboxfund.org | EMAIL info@thelunchboxfund.org
PARTNERSHIPS partner@thelunchboxfund.org | VOLUNTEERS volunteer@thelunchboxfund.org | PRESS & MEDIA press@thelunchboxfund.org
FACEBOOK [/thelunchboxfund](https://www.facebook.com/thelunchboxfund) | TWITTER [@thelunchboxfund](https://twitter.com/thelunchboxfund)
POSTAL ADDRESS P.O. Box 10, New York, NY 10276, USA