



GIVING LIFE TO COMMUNITIES

Socio-Economic Infrastructure Development Programme



The Transnet Foundation Socio-Economic Infrastructure Development Programme (SEID) illustrates a sustainable, eco-conscious approach to benefit under-resourced communities in South Africa. This creative infrastructure development model brings safety, health and social services to these communities. Adaptable, cost-efficient and environmentally friendly, the SEID has improved the quality of life of thousands of people across South Africa for more than a decade.

WHEN INNOVATIVENESS MEETS SUSTAINABILITY

'Upcycling' steel shipping containers for community use is a highly sustainable construction technology. By using the containers as 'Lego-style' building blocks, the SEID recycles and combines them with fixed buildings to provide essential infrastructure to communities. It aims to minimise the environmental effects while maximising the sustainability and usefulness of old structures. This unique model has transformed numerous communities and enables people to live healthier, safer and more fulfilled lives.

MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFE AND SECURE

Disadvantaged communities are often hit the hardest by crime, because they don't have the necessary support and services to combat crime. Through the Transnet Foundation's partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS) we can fight crime more aggressively. The SEID uses containers to erect satellite police stations in areas critically impacted by crime, or where security services are lacking.

- The container centres serve as an extended office of the SAPS, which makes it easier to

get help from the police.

- The containers are fitted with solar energy and air-conditioning and have all the necessary technology – like telephones, faxes and computers – to ensure a more responsive and better quality service.
- It serves as a meeting place to discuss safety and security issues.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Because of a lack of infrastructure in many rural communities, there are no professional services to address people's social and health needs. The support provided by the SEID goes a long way towards creating a stable community environment where the youth can dream of a bright future.

- Professional social workers provide social services like helping people to apply for a welfare grant or an ID document.
- HIV/Aids-related services help manage all aspects of the virus and disease, including trauma counselling.
- Health workers even visit patients at their own homes and provide special care to the elderly and the frail.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Started in 2001
- About R34 million has been invested in the SEID so far
- More than 48 container structures have been built across the country – 19 satellite police stations and 2 in progress, 25 multi-purpose centres and 4 Transnet community centres with 2 more in progress
- About 134 000 people's lives have been improved by the SEID
- 35 000 jobs have been created by putting up and staffing the various projects

"Not only are the containers recycled and given new life, but people no longer have to travel great distances to find secure infrastructure." - **Cynthia Mgijima, Transnet Foundation Head**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS ONE OF OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

Recycle, restore, respect – these are the keywords that characterise the philosophy of the SEID. We believe that sustainable development can encourage communities to identify, meet and sustain their needs in society, the environment and local economics.

- The container centres enable communities to be economically active by creating a safe environment.
- It supports climate change mitigation through the use of solar power and reducing the use of construction materials by recycling containers.
- It creates jobs directly and indirectly by setting up the containers and bringing in service providers that weren't there before to serve the community.

Through this initiative, the Transnet Foundation seeks to restore pride and encourage self-starting initiatives within communities.

POWERED BY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships help us achieve outcomes that we would not have been able to achieve on our own. We believe it's by joining forces with like-minded organisations that we can truly make a lasting difference. Our partners for the SEID include:

- The provincial Departments of Social Development, Health and Education
- The South African Police Service (SAPS)
- Local municipalities
- NGOs, involved in child welfare, health, HIV/Aids work, and victims of abuse

MOVING TOWARDS ESTABLISHED INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Our ultimate goal is to establish quality infrastructure in communities throughout South Africa. Working towards this goal through the SEID, we project that, by 2017, the container structures will be phased out and the community structures will consist of buildings only.



GIVING HOPE TO A NATION, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

Some of the successful SEID projects are:

Perth multi-purpose centre in Kgalagadi, Northern Cape:

Perth is a cluster of villages that can only be reached by a rural gravel road. The centre has given this community access to a range of social services with social workers and various income-generating projects that are run from the centre.

Nkomazi multi-purpose centre, Mpumalanga:

The people of this community previously had to travel over 60 kilometres for basic social services. Now they have immediate access to 19 social workers. This centre also houses a project that provides services to orphans and those suffering from HIV/Aids.

Dundee satellite police station,

KwaZulu-Natal: This station serves over 30 000 people in a high crime zone consisting of 14 rural villages. The container station houses 22 police officers of whom 7 are new appointments made possible by the extension.

Galeshewe-Kagiso satellite police station,

Northern Cape: We've done an impact study that shows the streets in the area are now much safer for community members.

Mambuka satellite police station,

KwaZulu-Natal: The Mambuka police station near Richards Bay supports the SAPS with critical infrastructure. Approximately 24 000 people previously had to travel over 30 kilometres to the neighbouring police station to report a crime.

Nikela Primary school, KwaZulu-Natal:

Three containerised classrooms have eased the pressure on the space constraints, giving students a dedicated space for learning.

Tenteleni Pre-primary school, Mpumalanga:

The school received R200 000 to refurbish a container into a much-needed classroom.

Lentegur and Langa, Western Cape:

Red Cross satellite clinics have been successfully established and are making a huge impact on the health of these communities.

Transnet Community Centre, Ireagh, Mpumalanga:

More than 14 000 people have been able to access social and safety services.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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