



Education Programme



Every child has the right to the highest standard of education.

This commitment is at the heart of the Sanlam Foundation Education Programme's strategy for 2022–2026. Using a pipeline approach - from Early Childhood Development (ECD) to primary and secondary school education, interventions are focused on reading and home language development for primary schools, while at the secondary level, the focus is on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), and language.

The programme is designed to develop and enhance teaching and learning practice and implemented in the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape provinces.



Sanlam

Foundation

Programmes

Early Childhood Development to Secondary School Education

Early Childhood Development (Ages 3–5)

Focused on children aged 3 to 5, this pillar strengthens early learning through structured play, developmental support, and cognitive interventions.



Home language and numeracy skills development



Teacher development training and classroom support in Home Language



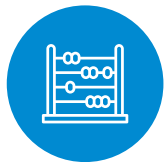
Interactive learning tools and classroom resources

Remedial Intervention

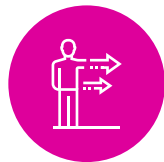
Specialised support for developmentally at-risk children, especially in KwaZulu-Natal, delivered to address cognitive challenges and learning delays

Foundation Phase (Grades R–3)

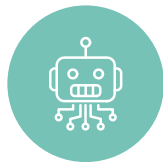
Literacy and maths interventions for learners



Literacy and maths interventions for learners



Curriculum support in Home Language and Maths content knowledge for teachers



Coding and Robotics unplugged development and support to learners and teachers, including establishing school hubs

Targeting Foundation Phase learners (Grades R–3), this includes literacy in home language, numeracy, STEM education (with emphasis on robotics and coding), and teacher training to improve classroom outcomes.

Nutrition & Arts

This initiative provides a daily nutritious meal to learners in participating ECD centres and primary schools, significantly improving school attendance and learner engagement in four provinces.



Guaranteed meal per learner, daily



Creative development through arts programmes

Secondary School element



Grade 9 aptitude testing and career guidance



STEM support (Grades 10–12): Remedial + advanced content



Holiday retreats: Science, Maths, English



Psychosocial focus: Gender equality, resilience, career readiness



Targeted events to expose all Gr 10–12 learners to visual art, museums and performing arts (dance and theatre)

Impact



Increased youth confidence, personal development, and pathways into creative and performance-related careers.



Improved language competencies, greater enthusiasm for language learning, and enhanced public speaking skills among learners.



Improved matric results, increased content mastery, and broader access to quality education for underserved learners.



Improved academic outcomes and increased access to higher education institutions (HEIs) for learners from low-income communities.

Education portfolio outputs achieved 2023-2024

The Sanlam Foundation advances socio-economic development through education interventions, youth and community programmes and environmental initiatives. Guided by the group's socio-economic transformation strategy, which seeks to drive empowerment in the regions and communities in which we operate.



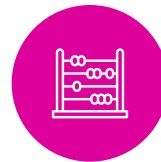
Early numeracy and literacy support

1 035 learners supported in 2024
(2023: 583 learners)



Remedial intervention

86 learners enrolled in 2024
(2023: 97 learners)



6 986 Foundation Phase learners supported
(2023: 5 200)



230 Foundation Phase teachers trained in pedagogy in home languages, mathematics and robotics and coding (2023: 105)



3 176 736 meals served reaching 16 228 learners (2023: 1 300 200 meals served reaching 8 391 learners)



6,725% increase in learner engagement

Primary and Secondary Phase Education Programmes



WOW Spelling Festival (Words Open Worlds)

Objective

To broaden language skills and promote literacy among learners and educators across South Africa.

Description

The Sanlam WOW Spelling Festival is South Africa's largest national spelling competition. Learners have the opportunity to participate in Afrikaans, English, and isiXhosa.



377,000
learners



Matric Live Educational App

Objective

To enhance high school learner performance by providing accessible, high-quality digital learning tools.

Description

Matric Live App is a multi-award-winning mobile app that encapsulates a wide range of learning features to make education fun and intuitive for Grade 10 – 12 learners. The Programme aims to address the digital learning divide by ensuring that learners from quintile 1-3 schools in four provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and the Western Cape) have access to high-quality, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS)-aligned learning content via a digital platform.



Over
20 000
learners supported



SciMathUS University Preparation Programme

Objective

To empower learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to access and succeed in tertiary education, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) fields.

Description

This collaborative programme with Stellenbosch University offers a second chance to National Senior Certificate (NSC) graduates who narrowly missed university entrance criteria. It focuses on academic enrichment in Mathematics and Physical Sciences.





Youth Alternative Development



Zip Zap Circus Youth Development Programme

Objective

To empower youth through performance arts training, promoting social cohesion and career opportunities in the creative industry.

Description

Zip Zap Circus offer free, transformative circus programmes to children and youth from all walks of life. Every participant receives training, transport, and a safe, joyful space to grow, dream, and thrive across three programmes:

- Isiseko – Laying the Foundation, for children aged 7–10
- Ukwanda – Growing Together, for youth aged 11–17
- Zappers – Unlocking Potential, for committed youth aged 18–24



116

learners trained
(ages 7–23)



Education Portfolio Outcomes 2023 - 2024



Subjects offered include
Maths, Life Sciences,
Physical Sciences, History,
Geography, and more



All registered learners
completed the
programme



University application
support and mentoring
provided



Average improvement:
9,3% in Maths,
11,5% in Physical Sciences



Skills in performance, physical
assessment, and team
collaboration developed



Trainers empowered and
connected with employment
pathways



1,508
schools



7,540
teachers participated