



excellence out of poverty



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

www.sepheo.org

OUR VISION

excellence out of poverty;
that Lesotho's poorest will become
Lesotho's best

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From the directors

We are proud to present to you our 2018 Annual Report. As we continue to grow and expand our impact to more and more people, the Sepheo team has remained focused on deep, noticeable change in everyone that we help.

We have the pleasure of meeting graduates and former beneficiaries years after they have moved on from us. They are different people altogether than the ones we originally met and their lives are on a new path. We have seen that they can keep the momentum of success going all on their own. As a team, we can confidently say that what we do works.

Thank you to everyone who joined with us to bring *Excellence out of Poverty*.



Josh Groves



Belinda Groves



2018 in Review

**1000
+**

Total beneficiaries since founding

Children in Sepheo School's educational programs in 2018

250

85%

Of new arrivals on the street back in homes

Standard 7 examination pass rate

100%

21

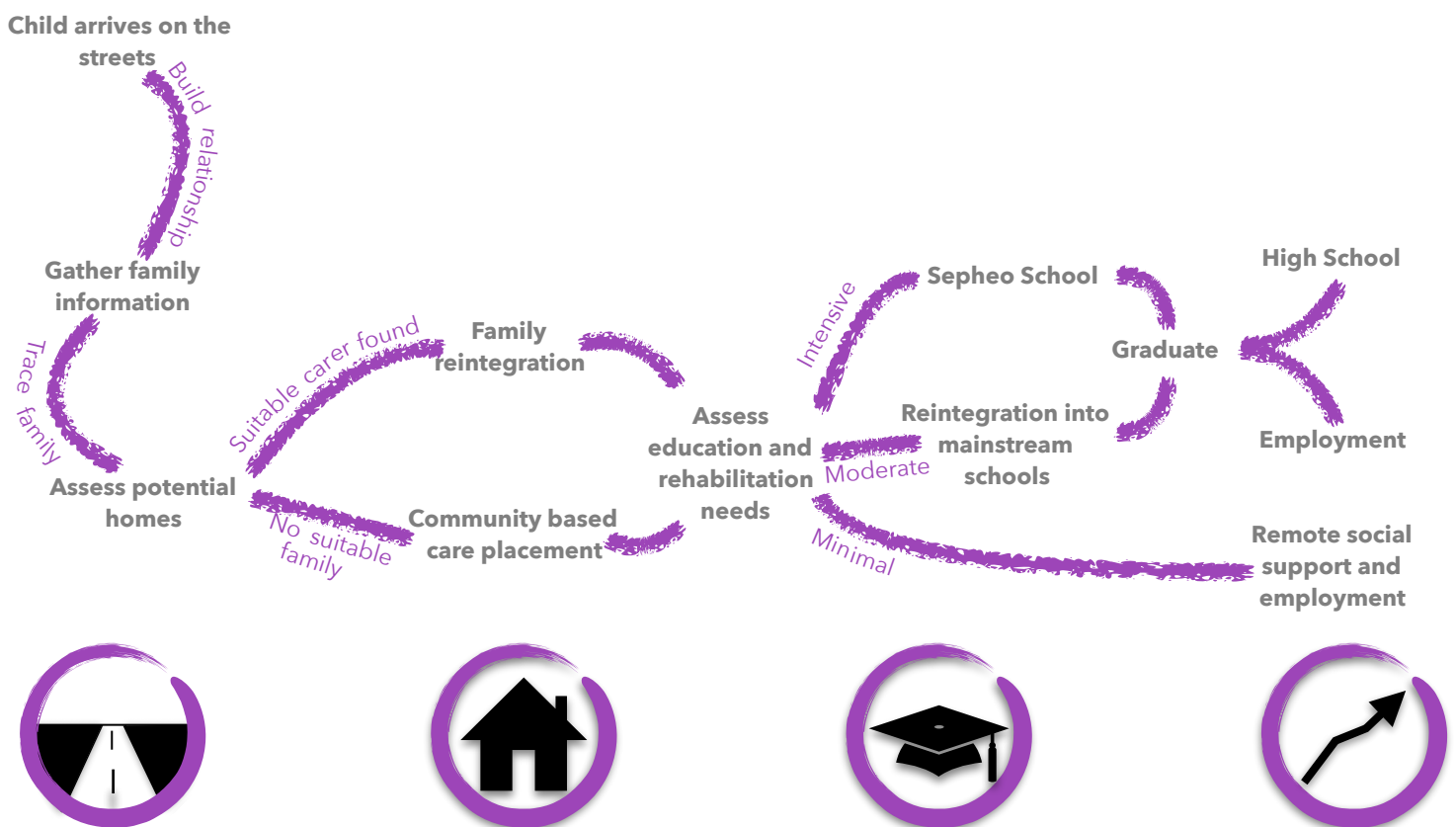
Out-of-school children integrated into mainstream schools

The streets

In 2018, Sepheo has continued to help children off the streets, trace family and to reintegrate them into a home environment, where they can experience safety and care.

The streets are different to what they were years ago. Now, when a child comes to the street for the first time, there is not a gang to join and there is no prevailing street culture. This makes it easier for our team to identify these new arrivals and make a plan to get them in a home and in school within a very short period.

SEPHEO HAS HELPED OVER
115
CHILDREN/YOUTH OFF THE STREETS



WHY ARE CHILDREN ON THE STREETS?

Children who come to the street are poor, but money alone does not usually cause a child to end up on the streets.

Approximately 60% of children/youth that Sepheo moved off the streets initially came in response to social factors, the most common being: **lack of supervision; poor relationships between children and their caregivers, family chaos, boredom; and poor coping skills.**

While cases do exist, only a small number of children came to the streets because they are expected to contribute financially to the family (10%) or because no family member took responsibility for them after the death of their parent(s) (15%). 15% of children/youth came by their own choice, without an apparent compelling reason.

Children are not generally on the street because no family members exist. Lesotho's family and community structures are incredibly strong, and finding a child with no relatives willing to stay with them is extremely rare.

.....
For nearly every child/youth on the street, Sepheo has found at least one relative prepared to care for them.
.....

What we do works

Sepheo staff spent years building relationships with every child on the street. We have researched and documented their family situations. We have traced and visited relatives of every child/youth who expressed a desire to leave the streets or who was too young to make this decision on their own (< 18 years old). This has led to a thorough understanding of the causes of child homelessness in Maseru. Everything we do is targeted to address these causes.

There are four main ways we help children/youth on the streets:

- **Relationship.** We have a weekly presence on the streets, looking for new children and checking on those who remain. It is through our continued presence and repeated positive interactions that we have built trust with children/youth on the streets and can influence their choices.
- **Family Tracing.** Our team is expert at building networks across the country in order to find relatives. Using established structures such as chiefs, community counsellors, police stations, and teachers as well as informal networks such as neighbours and taxi drivers, we can usually identify a child's relatives within two to three weeks.
- **Sepheo School.** This has been, by far, the most effective solution. Sepheo School was designed to fulfil the social and emotional needs of children not met by their caregivers. More than half of our students only left the streets because it was a requirement to attend Sepheo School. For the rest, this requirement has kept them in homes through the conflict, boredom or chaos that would have ordinarily driven them back to the streets. Extended relatives are far more willing to live with a child whose educational needs are taken care of at no cost to them. Enrolment in Sepheo School has enabled us to negotiate with numerous families that were initially hesitant to accept a child back from the street.
- **Love.** We genuinely love them. We believe they were created for a purpose. We refuse to run programs that pity them or reinforce helplessness. Every interaction seeks to build their identity as someone who has something to contribute, who cares for others, who can overcome and who is going somewhere.

Sepheo will never incentivise the street over a home, or handouts over hard work.

Community-based care

In 2018, Sepheo placed 5 children in community based care. This program is especially for children with no existing suitable family option. These children are highly vulnerable and are statistically more susceptible to exploitation. Historically, these children have extremely broken relationships and are thought of as too troublesome by their extended family.

In an effort to keep children out of institutional care and to help them re-integrate into their own communities, Sepheo found homes and carers for children who were on the streets or had experienced multiple breakdowns in family placements.

Children belong somewhere - as a normal child, in a home and in a village - that their road to healing is accelerated.

All those in community based care attend Sepheo School and are supported by our dedicated social work team.



Training interested emergency carers

Sepheo School

Sepheo School is a place of love and a second chance. Our educational response is tailored to the needs of each child. Some require full time rehabilitation and intensive academic remediation. These students are usually years behind their peers and have been connected to the streets. In 2018, we were able to expand our enrolment to include victims of abuse, abandonment, exploitation or neglect, and children at high risk of going to the streets.

This new initiative provides a part time school for children who need additional social supports to stay in mainstream school while our team works with families to deal with the treatment and protection of the child

It's a place they belong and are celebrated.

IN 2018, THERE WERE

250

**STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
SEPHEO SCHOOL**

FOR EVERY CHILD IN SEPHEO SCHOOL



HOMES

Every child is off the streets and in a home.



CURRICULUM

An international standard primary curriculum.



TRANSPORT

Free transport to and from their village each day.



NUTRITION

Two healthy and filling meals each day.



ACCELERATED

Kids complete primary school as fast as they are able



BI-LINGUAL

Instruction in both English and Sesotho



TECHNOLOGY

Regular access to the latest technology and online learning.



ONE-ON-ONE

Weekly individual tuition



SOCIAL WORK

A dedicated liaison between home and school.



COUNSELLING

Time to heal is part of the schedule.



CHARACTER

Trained for success and team work.



MEDICAL

Checkups and treatment

OUR SENIOR CLASS

All our graduating class passed their national Standard 7 exams. They have all progressed to high school and are pursuing their new futures.

PROJECTS

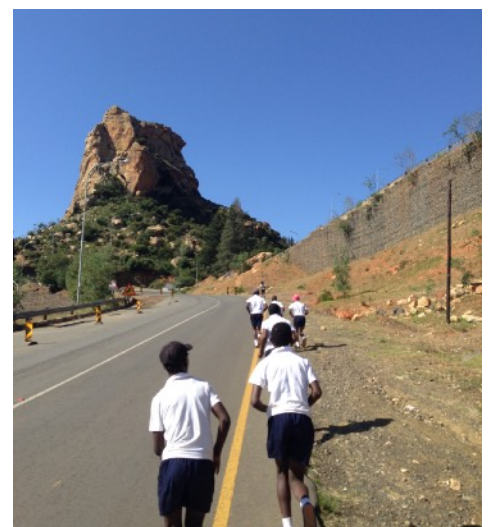
Part of the national assessment includes a project. Students were required to research tourism and produce something that could generate income within the tourism sector.



MALEALEA MONSTER

Our annual entry in the Malealea Monster race is the most anticipated event of the year. Only senior students can attend after months of serious training and a proven record of attendance and classroom behaviour.

After three days in the Lesotho mountains and pushing themselves through a difficult, steep 28km bike course and 8km run, Sepheo students return to Maseru with new belief in their abilities to achieve.



PRIZE DAY



In December 2018 we held Prize Ceremony. Caregivers were invited for teacher interviews and to celebrate their child's achievements. It was the first time many children felt that their caregivers took an interest in them and gave them dedicated time. For most of our prizewinners, it was the first public affirmation they had ever received that they were excellent. We awarded students who had reflected Sepheo's values, in spite of all the obstacles in their personal lives.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING



Sepheo opened its gates to children who had started going to the streets, or those at high risk of becoming street-connected, including those who had dropped out of primary school and those suffering abuse, abandonment, exploitation or neglect.

Through this landmark initiative, Sepheo has been able to prevent the next generation becoming street children.



Our education team and social workers ensured children were enrolled back in school, improved their literacy, started healing emotionally, were socially connected and that their homes became nurturing places.

We were able to address the issues that normally drive children to the streets before these children became entrenched in street life.

Value & Courage

All children that come through our gates participate in our life skills curriculae. For boys, that means they learn how to make their families and communities better in our *Khotatsong* course. They learn how to make choices that will lead to the future they want. For girls, our *Mohalalitoe* course magnifies the inherent value that is within each of them. They learn to overcome feelings of inadequacy and to discover their amazing purpose through identifying their unique talents and passions.

“ I have value.”

“ I will use my
strength to
protect and not
to harm.”

“ I have a future!”

Special project grants

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DIRECT AID PROGRAM

The Australian High Commission in South Africa, contributed to the construction of a multi-function community hall, allowing for the expansion of our interventions in Motimposo.

LESOTHO MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SUBVENTION

The Lesotho Ministry of Social Development provided financial support to Sepheo that allowed for distributions of essential food, clothing , medical treatments and household items to vulnerable children and families in desperate need;

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES SMALL GRANT

In support of our holistic social interventions, Catholic Relief Services Lesotho allowed for a 6-month pilot of tutoring and reading groups for children in our community suffering extreme exclusion.

CANADA FUND FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES

The Canadian Embassy in Pretoria funded a program to reduce the prominence of factors and predictors that lead to abuse, neglect and exploitation of adolescent girls and women through interventions addressed at men, women and children. This funding will provided for the first phase of library construction.



The Minister of Social Development visits Sepheo



The German Ambassador, Motimposo's Chief and Motimposo's national Member of Parliament open new classrooms

Partnerships

In addition to the local and international individuals who support Sepheo every month through generous contributions, the following government, organisation and business partners joined with Sepheo in 2017:

Lesotho

Lesotho Ministry of Social Development	Vodacom Lesotho Foundation
Word of Life Maseru	Galitos
Catholic Relief Services	Maseru Business Machines Xerox
Lapis Lazuli Shoes	Lesotho Reinforcing
Office National	
Security Unlimited	

International

Australian High Commission, Pretoria (AUS)	Canadian Embassy, Pretoria (CAN)
Australian Christian Churches International Relief (AUS)	Substitute Families for Abandoned Children (UK)
Kinnected (AUS)	
Adfin Loans and Leasing (AUS)	

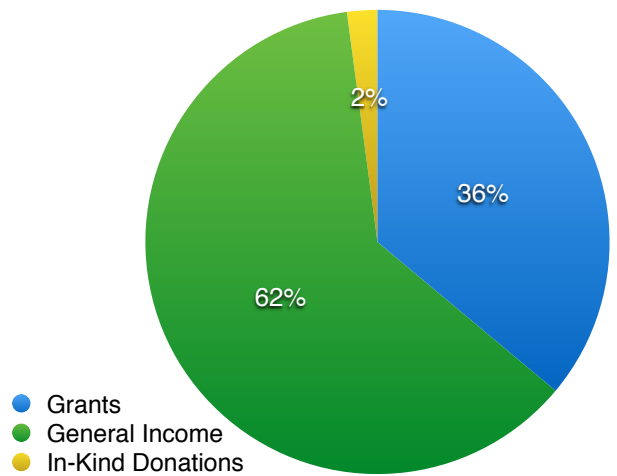
Finances

Income

In 2018, external grants made up 36% of income, with general operating income at 62%.

In-kind donations comprised food for school lunches and a monthly high-speed internet.

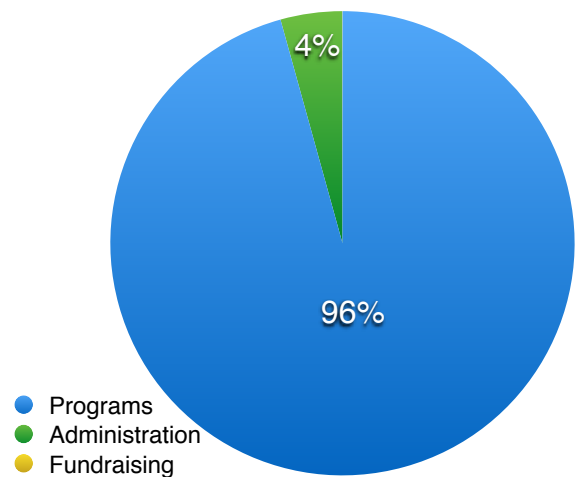
Sepheo's income is approximately 20% locally sourced.



Expenditure

Sepheo diligently directs as much of its resources to program activities as possible. In 2018, 96% of income was spent on delivery of programs and direct support to some of Lesotho's most vulnerable and isolated people.

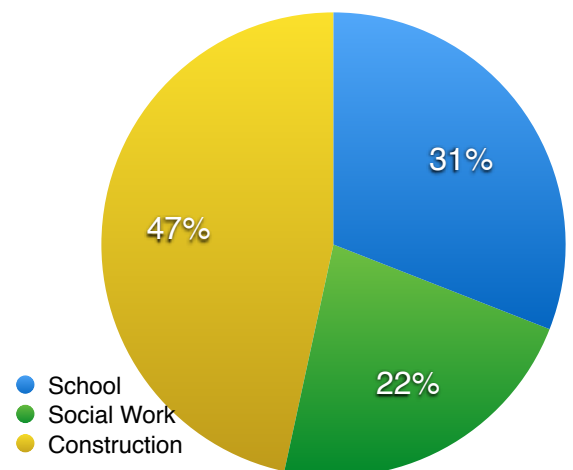
4% was retained for administrative expenses, below the normally accepted level for charitable organisations. 0.0003% was spent on fundraising.



Program breakdown

Sepheo continues to invest in facilities to make space for expanding intakes across all programs. Construction comprised 47% of program expenditure and was funded principally from grants for this specific purpose.

Sepheo School was 31% of project expenditure. Social Work, which includes all child and family welfare, plus community based care comprised 22% of project expenditure.



Staff

Both founding Directors did not receive salaries in 2018. These are the only two foreign staff.

The rest of the Sepheo team comprised:

- 10 full time staff
- 2 part time staff
- 12 volunteers

Assets

The following major assets are held by Sepheo:

- 6,500m² project site in Motimposo
- 2000 Toyota Grand Hiace (190,000km)
- 1995 Toyota Hiace 18-seat bus (100,000km)
- 400m² multi-use building (under construction)
- Site office
- 2 x classrooms
- Student iPads and server
- Staff computers
- Mobile classroom
- Library books and text books
- Classroom furniture

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