


Thari

PROGRAMME

Supporting Women and Children

A PROJECT OF *Cyril Ramaphosa*
FOUNDATION



A young girl in a school uniform is playing with a yellow ball on a colorful checkered mat. She is looking down at the ball. In the background, there are other children and a fence. The scene is outdoors under a clear blue sky.

“By providing a stable, supportive environment for children, we give them a much better chance of remaining healthy and happy, and becoming active contributors to the economy later in life.”

**Donné Nicol, Board Member,
Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation**

About the Thari Programme

In 2017, Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation (CRF) launched the Thari Programme as a pilot school-based initiative. The Thari Programme emphasises the holistic support of women and children as its primary function. As part of the pilot, the Programme is facilitated in eight schools in Botshabelo (Motheo District) in the Free State and at Diepsloot Combined School in Diepsloot, Gauteng.

The word 'Thari' is a Setswana word to describe a blanket that is used to carry a baby on its mother's back. It is a physical representation of a safe, loving and supportive space. Similarly, the purpose of the Thari Programme is to strengthen the school community by creating a safe and empowering environment that is free from violence, is academically effective, inclusive, gender sensitive and promotes health and well-being for all.

The Thari Programme was formed in response to the prevalence of social ills and violence within communities. There is an increased concern, within South Africa, that schools are the sites of widespread violence. Through the National Violence School Study (2012), it was found that 22, 2% of high school learners have been threatened with violence or have been the victims of assault, robbery and/or sexual assault. The study recommended that the Department of Basic Education's School Safety Framework (NSSF) be prioritised and rolled-out to schools.

It is well acknowledged that a child's ability to learn is not only affected by the quality of teaching and access to resources. Learning outcomes are also influenced by their health, well-being and emotional state of mind. Unless children are properly nurtured and protected from harm, no amount of improvement to the schooling environment will yield better educational outcomes.

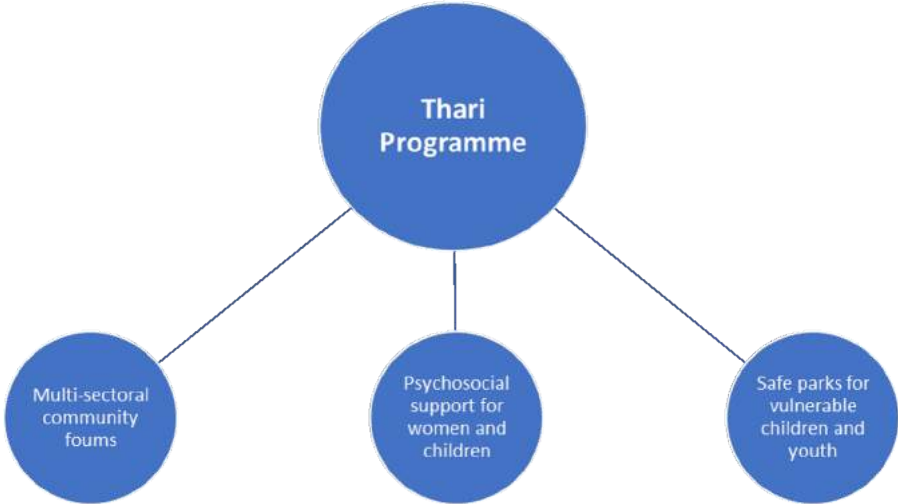


These views are informed by thorough findings and the learnings of programmes undertaken by CRF partner entity, Adopt-a-School Foundation (AASF). Adopt-a-School Foundation has been providing Social Welfare support services to learners at various schools across the country for a number of years, as a key pillar of its Whole School Development model.

Through these Social Welfare interventions, CRF and AASF have been exposed to a range of serious social challenges that affect learners and their families, especially caregivers – most of whom are women. On a daily basis within schools and at a community level, learners are exposed to violence, abuse, neglect, gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy, alcohol abuse, substance abuse and gang-related crimes.

From these experiences, CRF acknowledged that a strategic, sustainable and holistic approach was needed. It was from this critical need that the Thari Programme was launched to provide support to vulnerable children and women. The Thari Programme is funded by CRF and managed through AASF. The Programme is implemented in partnership with the Department of Basic Education and other key stakeholders to ensure that psychosocial support and safety services are strengthened within our schools.

The three pillars of the Thari Programme are psychosocial support, multi-sectorial community forums and safe parks for vulnerable children and women.



The objectives of the Thari Programme

- To provide psychosocial support services for children and their families at adopted schools.
- To establish formal and informal Safe Parks at adopted schools for therapeutic sessions, life skills training and aftercare services.
- To facilitate workshops and awareness campaigns on issues of abuse and exploitation for children and women at schools.
- To facilitate dialogue sessions with men and boys in order to address issues of masculinity and the protection of women and girls at schools.
- To establish stakeholder forums in the communities that will advocate on the plight of women and children and sustain such services.
- To keep evidence-based records on vulnerable women and children who benefit from the Programme.

The three pillars of Thari Programme

1. Psychosocial support services

Psychosocial support services are aimed at creating a caring and safe learning environment for children. Psychosocial support services focus on addressing, through various interventions, the emotional and physical well-being of a learner. The services address learner ability safety and access to basic needs including food, shelter and healthcare.

Psychosocial support services interventions include the following:

- Fourteen Child and Youth Care Workers (CYCW) report to the eight schools on a daily basis. The School Based Support Teams (SBST) are a referral link to the Child and Youth Care Workers.
- For each child referred to the CYCWs, a home visit is conducted to engage parents and conduct assessments.
- For each child referred, development plans are prepared which highlight services relevant to the child and family.
- Children who require in-depth interventions including counselling or statutory cases (sexual abuse cases) are referred to the Social Workers from the Department of Social Development.



“Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation implements programmes to support and improve education, grow sustainable small and medium enterprises, promote youth development, and support vulnerable children and women in the schools in which it works.”

Mmabatho Maboya, Chief Executive Officer,
Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation

2. Safe Parks for vulnerable children and youth

Safe Parks provide the opportunity for the learners to learn life skills through play and receive necessary support. It serves learners after school, on weekends and during school holidays. It is at the Thari Safe Park, that Child and Youth Care Workers are often able to observe children who experience learning difficulties and emotional trauma.

A Formal Safe Park: Reentseng Primary School

The first formal Thari Safe Park was constructed at Reentseng Primary School. It was handed over during the launch of the Thari Programme on the 15 September 2017. The Safe Park activities compliment the psychosocial support services and aim to address and prevent the challenges faced in the school community.



The Thari Safe Park offers activities that are grouped into three categories:

- **Educational support activities:** which includes study and reading groups, homework supervision, peer support and storytelling.
- **Physical and sport activities:** which includes soccer, netball, volleyball and table tennis.
- **Free play and recreational activities:** which includes physical play and recreational activities include chess, morabaraba, painting, dancing, singing, board and card games.

3. The multi-sectoral community forums

Thari's approach to the facilitation of multi-sectoral community forums considers a model which involves all sectors of society including government departments, the business sector, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, community leaders, youth and learners.

These forums focus on the collaboration of stakeholders in both the Botshabelo and Diepsloot communities. It aims to incorporate the knowledge, expertise and scope of work of other stakeholders into collaborative dialogue and action.

The Thari Programme has established a working relationship with strategic partners to ensure harmony, sharing best practices and integrated techniques when addressing the social factors that affect vulnerable women and children in the school environment and community.

Schools supported through the community forums

Botshabelo - Free State

- Bolokehang Primary School
- Leratong Secondary School
- Nkgothatseng Primary School
- Ntumediseng Secondary School
- Popano Secondary School
- Rankwe Primary School
- Reentseng Primary School
- Seemahale Secondary School

Diepsloot - Gauteng

- Diepsloot Combined School

Key strategic milestones

2017

- Thari Programme launch.
- First Safe Park was set up in Reentseng Primary School and launched by Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation Chairperson Cyril Ramaphosa.
- 14 Child and Youth Workers appointed to provide psychosocial support services at the eight schools in Botshabelo, Free State.
- First Career Expo in Diepsloot in partnership with 17 institutions of higher learning, universities, TVET colleges and private institutions. The expo benefited over 1000 learners from all seven high schools in Diepsloot.
- Multi-sectoral stakeholder forums are established in both Diepsloot and Botshabelo to encourage collaboration of services.

2018

- The Programme developed a Theory of Change and Measurement Framework to ensure evidence-based recording that can articulate clear impact of the Programme.
- Hosted the second annual Career Expo in Gauteng.
- Dialogues and advocacy campaigns launched.

2019

- The Programme hosted a sports tournament for all eight schools in commemoration of Child Protection Week.
- Hosted the third annual Career Expo in Diepsloot, Gauteng.
- The first Thari Programme Biennial Conference is hosted by CRF in Botshabelo, in partnership with the National and Free State Department of Basic Education.



Thari Programme impact figures



2474

Beneficiaries reached through awareness campaigns



618

Beneficiaries who benefited from psycho-social support services



2366

Beneficiaries reached through Safe Park activities



4

Stakeholder forums established



Strategic and operational partnerships



Strategic partnerships

- The National and Provincial Department of Basic Education and the sub-Departments of Social Inclusion, Education Enrichment Services, Psychosocial Support, Sports Enrichment and School Safety.
- NGO sector - UNICEF, MIET Africa, and Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre.

Thari Programme is grateful for the support and collaboration of partners. The Programme implements the model in collaboration with a number of organisations who also participate in the multi-sectoral forums in both Botshabelo and Diepsloot communities.

Stakeholders in Botshabelo

- Department of Health
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Social Development
- Department of Justice
- SASSA
- Seed Foundation
- Mangaung Moral Regeneration Movement
- National Prosecuting Authority
- South African Police Services
- Khanya Community Based Organisation
- Khothatsehang Botshabelo Organisation
- Mangaung Men's Forum
- LoveLife South Africa
- Seed Foundation

Stakeholders in Diepsloot

- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Afrika Tikkun
- Hope World Wide
- South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA)
- Lawyers against Abuse
- SAPS Honeydew cluster
- SAPS Diepsloot Youth Desk
- School Principals
- South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG)
- Childline South Africa
- The Bear Foundation
- Men Ambassadors
- Diepsloot Youth Programme
- City of Johannesburg (Social Development)







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**For more information,
please visit:**

**www.cyrilramaphosafoundation.org
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