

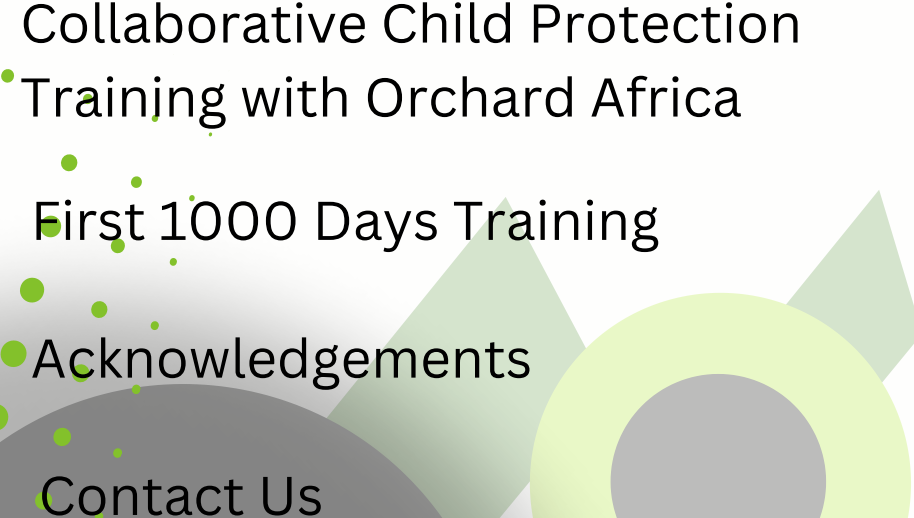


QUARTERLY REPORT:
**CHILD EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMME**

APRIL 2024 - JUNE 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	02
Vision, Mission and Values	03
Focus Areas	04
Quarterly Highlights	05
Stakeholder Meetings	06
Child Protection Month Celebrations	07
BuildSmart Parent Mentoring Training	08
Collaborative Child Protection Training with Inceba Trust	09
Collaborative Child Protection Training with Orchard Africa	10
First 1000 Days Training	11
Acknowledgements	12
Contact Us	13



INTRODUCTION

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for a jam-packed quarter filled with joyful collaborations and fun-filled workshops to advance children's best interest!

At EzraH, having meaningful impact lies at the core of what we do. Therefore, we are so grateful for the shared vision and strong collaborations that we have with multiple organisations, NPOs and government departments alike. Through various platforms and training initiatives, we are collectively able to reach parents and children at risk and to change the child protection landscape for the better.

Our BuildSmart parenting programme is only one example of our child-focused initiatives that is successful in building resilience within families and communities as Nanine Steenkamp, CEO from RealDeal Trust shares:

"The BuildSmart parenting programme has sparked great hope, joy, healing and understanding. Beneficiaries and facilitators have been able to find a safe space with each other and are empowered to build connection."

This type of impact would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors, collaborators and EzraH friends. Therefore, we salute every person and organisation who shares this child protection empowerment journey with us. Together, we can create safe spaces where children matter.

Mariette Jacobs
Managing Director

22 July 2024



VISION

Promoting ethical service delivery and quality education where children matter.

MISSION

We empower the next generation as leaders of change.

VALUES

- **Integrity:** Aiming for the highest ethical and professional standards.
- **Competence:** Creating a culture of growth and innovation.
- **Stewardship:** Caring for our resources and nurturing our relationships.
- **Transparency:** Providing accurate information promptly.
- **Accountability:** Inspiring trust with all our stakeholders.

FOCUS AREAS

✓ Investment in people

We value and care for people with a strong focus on children's best interest.

✓ Strategic clarity

We implement our redemptive purpose with clarity and endurance.

✓ Ethical commitment

We promote value-based education and disciplined, ethical service delivery.

✓ Collaborative solutions

We achieve social cohesion with a solution-focused attitude.



SOME QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS



- Many of our empowerment tools, games and activities are now available in Afrikaans, including the BuildSmart Play Challenge. New creative projects are in the development process, so watch this space.



- In May, our MD facilitated an online webinar on *Strategic planning from a Biblical perspective* in collaboration with Strong Schools South Africa.



- The EzraH staff team implemented several child-focused workshops in collaboration with Orchard Africa, Inceba Trust, the Department of Social Development and YearBeyond, including the launch of our First 1000 Days training.



- EzraH's child protection steering group celebrated child protection month in May with wonderful initiatives to advance child safety through creative activities.



"Thank you for the impact you have on us all."

**-Daleen Labuschagne
(Programme Director: Khula
Development Group, 2024)**

CHILD PROTECTION STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

✓ Steering Group Meetings

At our quarterly steering group meeting in April, Ezra shared creative ideas, tools and activities to equip our steering group delegates in preparation for child protection month in May. We also provided our child-focused organisations with a broad overview of our BuildSmart parent mentoring programme.

✓ Working Group Meetings

At our quarterly working group meeting, we learned more about the mandate of FCS (SAPS): Forensic Social Work. Col. Jonkers and Lt. Col. Dampies from the Western Cape FCS Forensic Social Work Department facilitated an excellent session on the training and role of forensic social workers within the child protection system. This session was attended by a variety of NPOs and government departments within Cape Winelands.

✓ Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking Forum

Apart from facilitating multiple meetings, Ezra also shared a blog on the work of the Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking Forum. This collaborative forum works closely with the National Freedom Network and also supports the Western Cape Provincial Task Team on Trafficking. To read the full article, please visit our website at <https://ezrah.co.za/collaborations-and-resources-to-respond-to-child-trafficking-in-south-africa/>.



“To walk this journey with Ezra, assists our mentors working with children to live out their calling. That is invaluable to me.”

- **Stephanie Henderson**
(Executive director, Ma's vir Wellington, 2024).

CHILD PROTECTION MONTH CELEBRATIONS

May is child protection month in South Africa!



IMPACT OF OUR CHILD PROTECTION EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

“Being part of Ezra’s child protection programme assist social workers to keep abreast with the latest research, relevant Acts and new information regarding child protection. The collaboration with different organisations and stakeholders create opportunities for networking and sharing of ideas to protect our children. Different ideas are shared every year to use for child protection week/month, to create awareness in the communities that we serve.” - **Mineke Toerien (Social Work Manager: Pebbles Project, 2024).**

To read the full article on how we collectively celebrated child protection month, visit <https://ezrah.co.za/organisations-in-the-cape-winelands-unite-to-advance-child-protection/>.



Organisations collaborating on child protection

BUILDSMART PARENT MENTORING TRAINING

“The BuildSmart training offered by Ezraah provides facilitators working with parents with everything needed to empower parents with knowledge and practical skills. The content of the course is essential information, presented logically and simply. We have seen how parents gain a greater understanding of what their children need, and this motivates them to be parents who can build strong relationships.”

Carien de Klerk (Director: Good Hope Psychological Service, 2024)

20

BuildSmart facilitators trained and 440 BuildSmart Play Challenge Card Packs ordered



CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING: INCEBA TRUST

Ezrah in collaboration with Inceba Trust hosted the second workshop in our child protection series with the theme of screening.



IMPACT OF THIS COLLABORATION

"Ezrah's training plays a crucial role in equipping ECD centres with vital skills and knowledge, especially empowering them on child protection and emphasizing the importance of dealing effectively with such issues to ensure the safety and well-being of young children.

By providing comprehensive training, Ezrah enables ECD practitioners to identify and respond to child protection concerns promptly and sensitively, creating a safer environment where children can thrive.

This training not only enhances the professionalism and capacity of ECD centers but also underscores the fundamental rights of every child to a secure and nurturing learning environment."

- Irma Duvenage (Project Manager: Inceba Trust, 2024)

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING: ORCHARD AFRICA



IMPACT OF THIS COLLABORATION

“The following words come to mind as I reflect on our collaboration with Ezra as an organisation that equips churches to care for the vulnerable. Words such as: excellence, integrity, quality, meaningful training, empathy, experience, compassion and capability all describe what we've experienced with Ezra in helping us to equip churches and leaders in ministry with the essentials of protecting children in their daily programs and ministry.

Ezra has the ability to help each organisation to design their own roadmap to reach this important outcome at their own pace and within their own capacity. It's a pleasure working with and collaborating with Ezra.”

Theuno Swart (National Director of South Africa: Orchard Africa 2024)

17

ministry leaders trained

FIRST 1000 DAYS TRAINING

Ezrah in collaboration with the Department of Social Development and YearBeyond facilitated a very engaging First 1000 Days workshop for social workers and the Yeboneers interns in Paarl.

The First 1000 Days Project is a new Ezrah project based on the research that was done by our senior social worker, Carien van Zyl when she completed her Masters Degree in Social Work. This project equips community facilitators with practical tools to advance the building blocks of the First 1000 Days.

48

Persons trained



“The First 1000 days training has made an impact on assessments and court report writing. Professionals were reminded about the impact of play, nutrition and also safety on the growing child. There is a motivation towards more support of the teenage pregnancy to promote wellbeing and prevent generational neglect and substance abuse issues. Young people were present in both training sessions and reported they are now aware of the importance of child development.”

- **Annerie van der Made (Social Work Supervisor, Department of Social Development, Paarl-East, 2024).**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With gratitude, Ezrah acknowledges the generous contributions of the following persons and organisations in support of its mission to empower the next generation as leaders of change:

Ezrah Directors

- Lesley Anne Huysamen (Chairperson)
- Maarten Pelsler Meyer (Treasurer, Risk and Ethics Officer)
- Mariëtte Jacobs (Secretary, Information Officer)

Ezrah Team Members and Consultants

- Mariëtte Jacobs (Managing Director/Programme Manager)
- Carien van Zyl (Senior Social Worker/Project Coordinator)
- Janique Amber Oliver (Marketing and Communications Coordinator)

Businesses

- *Website and IT support:* Shine the Way 366cc
- *Legal advice:* Maarten Meyer Attorneys and Mediators

**All Ezrah's donors, collaborators,
supporters, beneficiaries
and friends.**





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