

the imibala trust

The Imibala Trust

Digital Brochure







Turning grey todays into colourful tomorrows

CONTENTS

LEADERSHIP
a message from our founder
meet the team

OUR WORK

INTERNATIONAL
Imibala's international offices

GET INVOLVED

MAKE A DONATION

GOVERNANCE
board of trustees
a message from our CEO

GET IN TOUCH

OUR WORK IN ACTION



a message from our FOUNDER

Imibala is about giving disadvantaged children a happier childhood. Besides the school uniform they receive, they also have access to an array of programmes which include art, pottery, ballet, modern dance, hip hop, coding, literacy, life skills and many others.



This then impacts positively on the lives of the parents and grandparents, often in families with no one employed.

We now have four Imibala's, one in Somerset West, one in Graaff-Reinet and two newly acquired spaces in Hermanus and Moorreesburg.

In time we hope to open more satellite Imibala's and to fill a need for the many children in our country.

- Mrs Gaynor Rupert I Imibala Founder



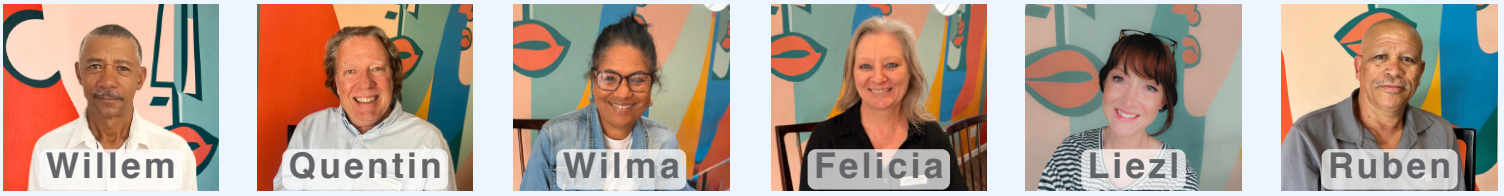


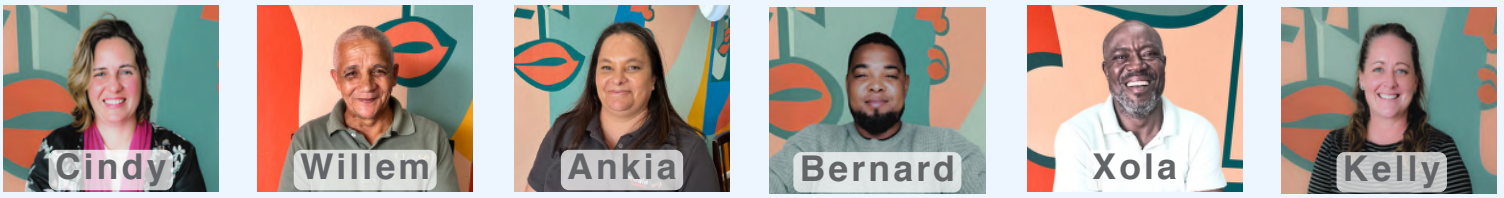


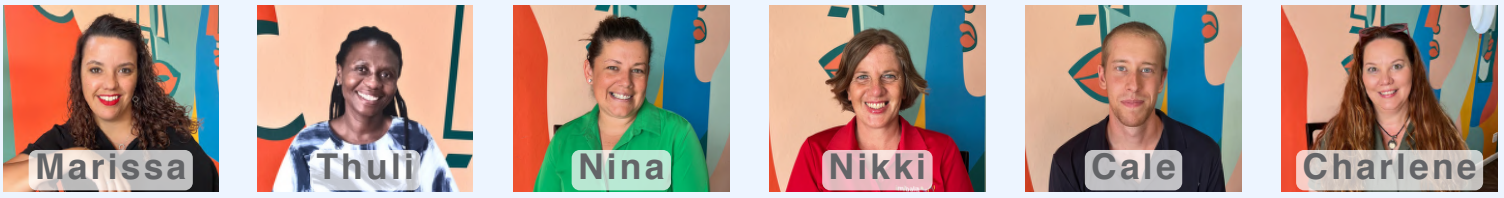


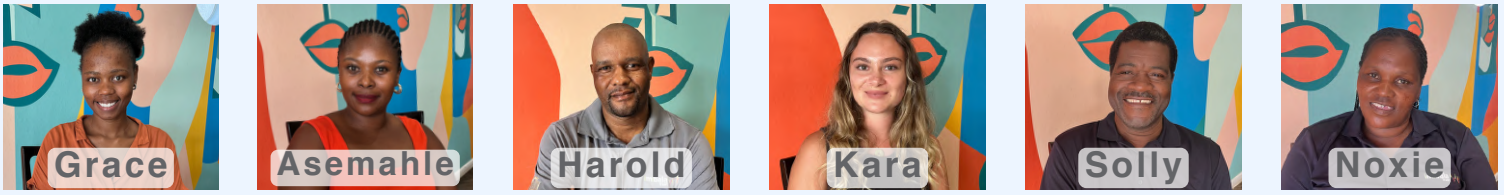
MEET THE IMIBALA TEAM

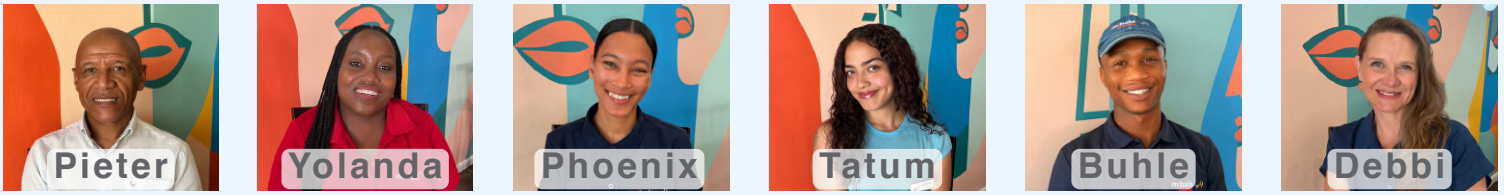


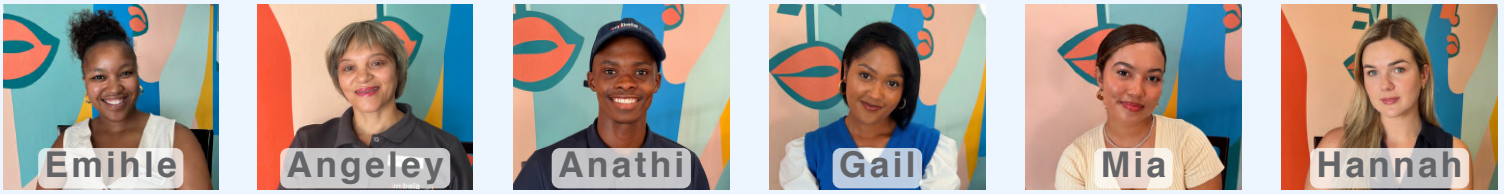


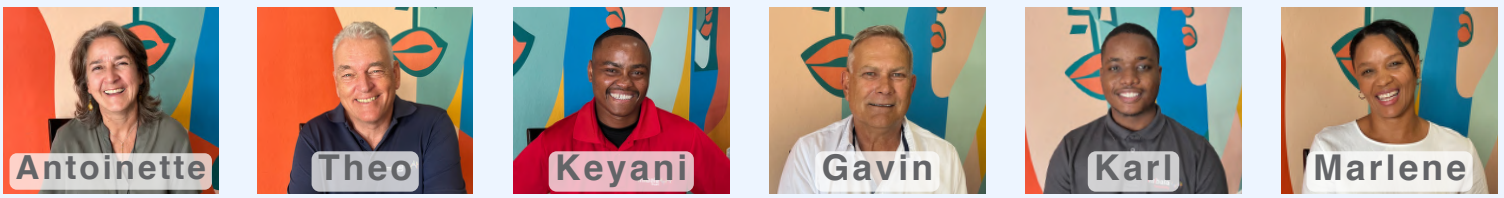


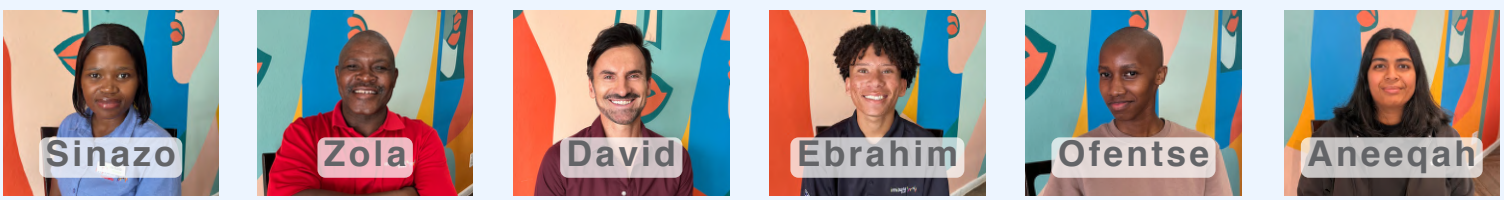












OUR MISSION

Founded by Mrs. Gaynor Rupert in 2001, The Imibala Trust provides children and youth from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds with the support, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive. Through education and enrichment programmes, Imibala aims to remove barriers to give every child the chance to grow with confidence and hope for the future. Imibala's flagship Sponsor-a-Child uniform programme provides full school uniforms to children in need, helping keep learners in school. Since Imibala's establishment, over 25 years ago, more than 96,000 children's lives have been transformed with the Trust's support.



Provide quality educational & enrichment programmes



Create a safe space for children to learn & grow



Keep learners in school, by providing school uniforms

OUR VISION

The Imibala Trust envisions a South Africa where every child has access to quality education and fair opportunities to reach their full potential. By creating safe spaces for young people to thrive, Imibala strives to transform the lives of children today and equip them to shape a brighter tomorrow.









OUR REACH

AT IMIBALA: SOMERSET WEST, GRAAFF-REINET, MOORREESBURG, HERMANUS & HOEDSPRUIT

1,285

WEEKLY PROGRAMME VISITS

60

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

96,000+

CHILDREN'S LIVES TRANSFORMED

41

SCHOOLS SUPPORTED

3,642

CHILDREN DRESSED IN 2026

DID YOU KNOW?



The soundbar in Imibala's logo is inspired by children's laughter, with each colour representing one of Imibala's initiatives.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Learner Testimonials

I'd like to say thank you once again on another year for coming through not for me but for my mother who is a single parent. Thank you for your blessing.

I shall make the best of it and make my name great as you intended.

Sincerely,

-Someleze Baduza I 17 years old

I thank you for the nice clothes and I would like to tell you how grateful I am to be in The Imibala. Thank you for the shoes, thank you for everything I get from you.

Ek is dankbaar vir al die klere en goed wat ons kry en al die mense wat dit koop.

I love you so much.

-Tayden Moses I 14 years old

Greeting to my lovely sponsor...I wrote this letter to inform you that I've received my uniform and thank you for giving me a wonderful gift in time of need.

I appreciate you and thanks for giving me so much which I couldn't afford and thank you for all these years that you have been sponsoring me.

-Sisipho Ndzeku I 14 years old

I'd like to thank you all guys for the school uniform that you offer us as the children can't buy the uniform for their self.

And I also want to say to you...you don't just help us you also help our parents. Thank you very very much this means everything to us. May you always keep on doing this.

-Neliswe Yengiwe I 16 years old

OUR PROGRAMMES

Sponsor-a-Child Uniform Programme

The Sponsor-a-Child uniform programme is one of the most meaningful ways to make a direct and lasting difference through The Imibala Trust. It is often the first point of support for children entering Imibala's care and remains the programme that reaches the greatest number of children each year.

Through careful annual verification, the Trust ensures that support reaches the children who need it most, while creating safe, welcoming spaces for new children to join the programme.

With the support of loyal sponsors and donors, Imibala provides brand-new school uniforms to children from 21 schools in the Helderberg region, 11 schools in Graaff-Reinet, 3 schools in Hermanus, 3 schools in Moorreesburg, and 3 newly added schools in Hoedspruit. A school uniform does far more than simply clothe a child, it restores dignity, creates a sense of belonging, and most importantly, helps keep a child in school.







To sponsor a child for a year, with a full summer and winter school uniform, leather school shoes, a jersey, rain jacket, socks, underwear, t-shirt and school bag stocked with essential stationery, for R1,650, visit www.imibala.com

Join Imibala's mission in changing children's school experiences, one uniform, one child, one future at a time.

In 2002:
53 children from 2 schools received school uniforms

→

In 2026:
3,642 children from 41 schools received school uniforms

Creative & Performing Arts

Every year, Imibala's Creative and Performing Arts Department offers more than 600 children the opportunity to explore creativity, build confidence, and develop essential life skills in ways that are not always possible within the classroom. Guided by dedicated Imibala facilitators and volunteers, children are encouraged to express themselves and discover hidden talents, while growing in self-belief.

Imibala's programmes are designed to complement each child's school journey. Most activities provide enriching exposure over the course of one year, while ballet and art offer longer-term development for children with commitment and potential. All sessions are carefully coordinated around school hours, ensuring learning and creativity go hand in hand.

This department creates safe, inspiring spaces where children can imagine new possibilities for their future, supporting them not only during their school years, but as they prepare for life beyond the classroom.

By supporting Creative and Performing Arts at Imibala, you help unlock confidence, creativity, and opportunity for children who need it most.

Programmes include:
Art, **Drama**, **Modern Dance**, **Ballroom Dancing**, **Traditional African Dance**, **Ballet**, **Music** and **Pottery**.









Learner Advancement

Imibala's Learner Advancement Department empowers over 440 learners every week, with programmes that complement the school curriculum and enrich personal development. By focusing on academic and life skills, children gain confidence, independence, and the tools to shape their own future.

Programmes include: English Literacy, Lego Play, Lego Coding (computer skills), Primary School & High School Mathematics, Chess, Imibala Awards and Little Lions.

The Imibala Awards Programme supports high-potential learners through focused academic and personal development. The programme operates on a structured two-day-per-week model, providing meaningful academic support while maintaining a balanced workload. Learners receive targeted assistance in Mathematics, Coding, English and Afrikaans. Enrichment activities during school holidays further support these learners' holistic development, encouraging growth beyond the classroom.

Emotional wellbeing is integrated across all Learner Advancement programmes through the Little Lions Child Mental Health Programme. Imibala staff are trained to become facilitators, ensuring consistent and supportive delivery. Sessions focus on emotional literacy, goal setting, peer relationships and self-reflection.







The Learner Advancement Department embodies a learner-centred approach where children are encouraged to take charge of their growth, building the skills, knowledge, and self-belief they need to thrive both at school and beyond.

Skills Development Programme

The Imibala Skills Development Programme equips children with practical, hands-on skills that support everyday life and long-term independence. Through activities such as hospitality training, textile arts, cooking, sustainable gardening and woodworking, learners gain valuable abilities that are immediately useful while also opening pathways to future opportunity.

These programmes extend beyond technical training. Children are encouraged to explore creativity and problem-solving as they design and create projects of their own. Whether sewing, preparing food, tending a garden or working with wood, learners experience the pride of creating something meaningful while building confidence and a strong sense of achievement.

For many learners, these skills become a foundation for entrepreneurship, offering opportunities to produce and sell handmade or home-grown goods and imagine a future of self-reliance and independence.









Programmes that fall under the Skills Development umbrella include: Cooking, Craft-it (arts & crafts skills), Build-it (wood-work skills), Earth Buddies (garden skills) and Hospitality Training.

Hospitality Training Centre

the imibala café

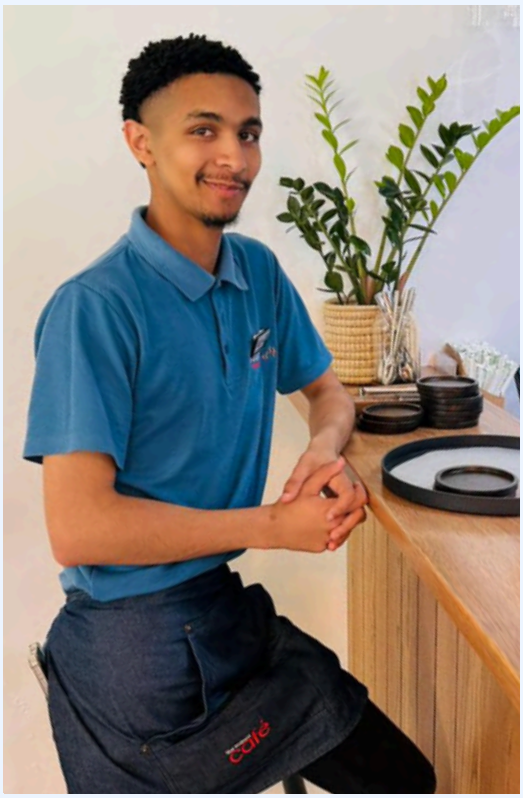
The Imibala Trust's Hospitality Training Programme supports young adults with a passion for hospitality by providing practical skills and real world experience. Training takes place at Imibala's Hospitality Training Centre, a working café that serves as both a community space and a hands-on learning environment.

Within this real café setting, learners gain experience in kitchen operations, front of house service, barista skills, hygiene and safety, customer care, and workplace readiness. By rotating through different roles, students develop technical ability, teamwork, professionalism, and strong work habits, alongside essential life skills such as communication, time management, and responsibility. With guidance from experienced mentors, students build a solid foundation for a future in the hospitality industry.









After completing the 6-month programme, the group of 24 learners are supported into further studies through accredited hospitality or culinary programmes, with selected students receiving bursary assistance, or into employment through internships, learnerships, and entry level roles with partner restaurants and cafés.

By combining real world experience with personal development, Imibala's Hospitality Training Programme helps young people step confidently into the world of work and build sustainable careers.

Yes-Ya-Yebo! Productions

Yes-Ya-Yebo! was founded in 2023 as part of Imibala's Creative & Performing Arts Department. Initiated as a performing arts group, made up of young talent from the Helderberg area and surrounds. Yes-Ya-Yebo! produced a high-energy, proudly South African show that visited the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2023, 2024, and 2025. To increase the reach and uplift even more South African youth, Yes-Ya-Yebo! Productions was born.

In 2026, The Imibala Trust is proud to introduce Yes-Ya-Yebo! Productions, a 360° talent incubator that nurtures emerging creative talent from South Africa. The programme gives Imibala scholars a structured space to develop professional skills, explore their passions, and prepare for careers in the performing arts locally and internationally.









Over 6 months, students receive integrated training in musical theatre, dance, technical production, recording, media, and artist development. They gain hands-on experience in acting, vocal and movement training, sound, lighting, studio recording, digital media, and content creation, all supported by mentoring and real-world performance opportunities. Students then showcase their growth through both intimate and large-scale productions, allowing supporters to witness their talent and progress firsthand.

Led by award-winning artist David Fourie, Yes-Ya-Yebo! Productions transforms raw talent into confident, globally competitive performers, setting a new benchmark for professional creative training in South Africa.

Golf Development Programme

Launched in 2022, the Imibala Golf Development Programme introduces learners to golf as a tool for academic support and personal development. The programme works with learners already receiving mathematics support from Imibala's Learner Advancement Department, using structured sport to build confident, disciplined young golfers.





Learners receive professional coaching and golf education at Somerset West Golf Club and Erinvale Golf Club, including instruction in the rules and etiquette of the game.

By combining education and sport, with constant support from mentors and teachers, this programme creates meaningful opportunities for learners to grow and succeed both on and off the course.

Imibala Play Therapy

"Play is children's language and toys are their words." - Garry Landreth

The Imibala Trust recognises that a child's emotional wellbeing is as important as academic growth. Imibala's Play Therapy Department uses play as a natural way for children to express emotions, process experiences, and build resilience.

Trained therapists support children facing emotional and behavioural challenges and stressful life circumstances, helping to develop essential socio-emotional skills and overall wellbeing.

As part of its commitment to holistic development, The Imibala Trust has expanded its Play Therapy Department. Renovated playrooms provide safe and welcoming spaces, with children referred through partner schools for weekly individual sessions.

71-83%

of children show positive emotional & behavioral improvement after play therapy

60-70%

reduction in emotional distress symptoms over the course of play therapy sessions

Imibala Satellites

In addition to the Imibala Village in Somerset West, the Trust operates three satellite offices in Graaff-Reinet, Moorreesburg, and Hermanus. Each site mirrors the programmes at Somerset West, providing vulnerable children with school uniforms, as well as access to cultural and extra-mural programmes.

Imibala has opened a 'hub' in Hoedspruit to support schools in the Thornybush region. The hub currently focuses on providing school uniforms to children in need, with the long-term vision of developing more programmes.

These satellite's aim to extend Imibala's reach, ensuring that more children across South Africa benefit from education and opportunity.

Graaff-Reinet



126+ WEEKLY PROGRAMME VISITS

11 SCHOOLS SUPPORTED

Moorreesburg



85+ WEEKLY PROGRAMME VISITS

3 SCHOOLS SUPPORTED

Hermanus



98+ WEEKLY PROGRAMME VISITS

3 SCHOOLS SUPPORTED

Hoedspruit



3 SCHOOLS SUPPORTED

Partnerships

The Imibala Trust has entered into an exciting and meaningful partnership with the Serondella Foundation.

Based in the Hoedspruit / Thornybush region and supported by Serondella Safari Lodge, the Serondella Foundation focuses on community support and outreach in their local area.

Through this partnership, The Imibala Trust co-ordinates the procurement of school uniforms, made possible by the generous donations and sponsorships received by the Serondella Foundation.









In February 2026, Imibala and the Serondella Foundation provided brand-new school uniforms to 101 learners from Welverdiend Primary School, just beyond the Thornybush boundary. With 2 additional schools now added, this partnership proudly supports 3 schools in the region.

This special partnership not only equips children with what they need to attend school with confidence, but also helps ease the financial burden on their families.

For more information on The Serondella Foundation and partnership with The Imibala Trust, visit https://serondella.co.za/serondella-foundation/

IMIBALA INTERNATIONAL

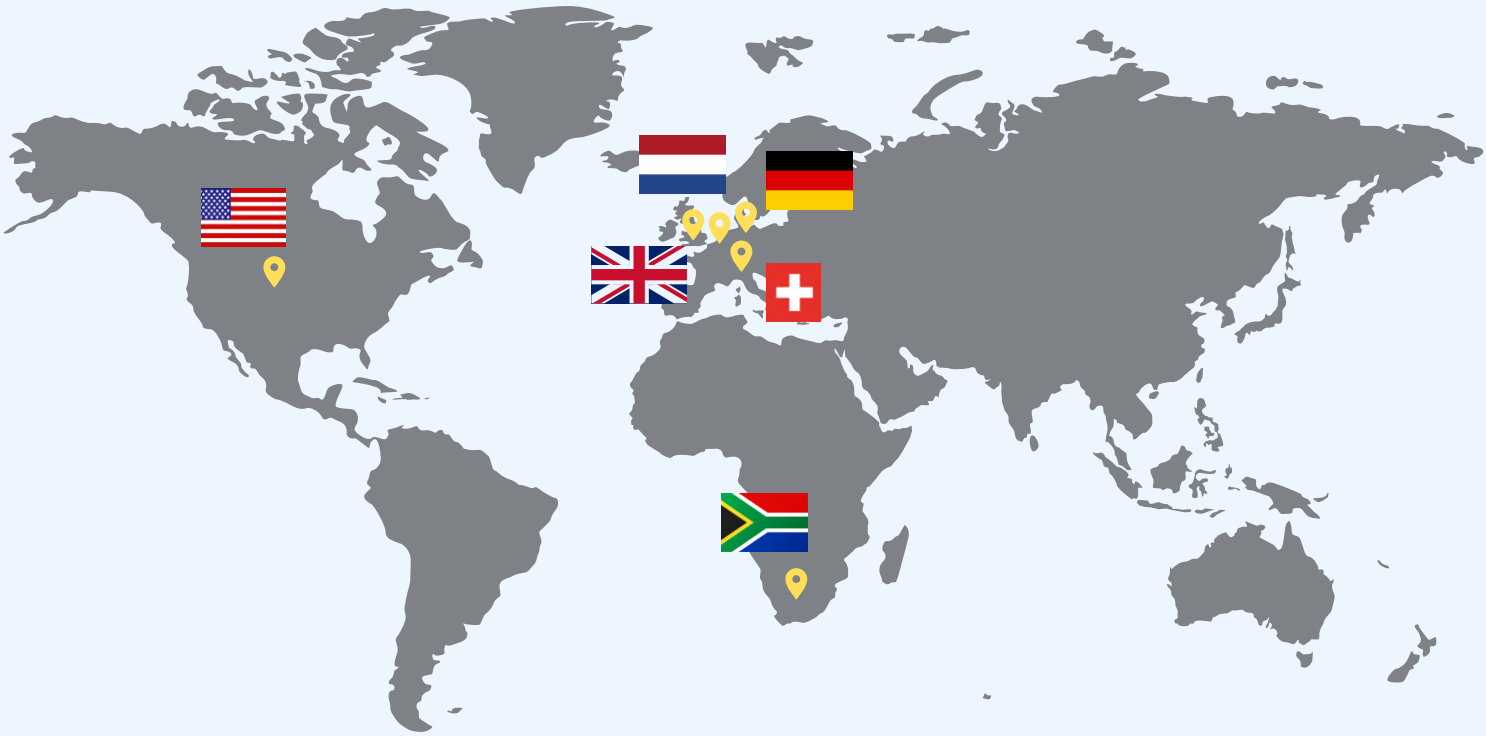
In addition to The Imibala Trust precinct in South Africa, Imibala has established a network of international conduit offices. Based in The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States, these offices provide dedicated fundraising and donor support channels for The Imibala Trust in South Africa.

The Trust hosts a number of annual international fundraising events, which are supported and facilitated through Imibala's conduit offices, helping to strengthen global engagement and support.

Operating on a zero-cost basis, all administrative and operational expenses are fully covered by The Imibala Trust South Africa, ensuring that 100% of all funds raised are directed to the children Imibala serves.

By donating to The Imibala Trust through either the South African or international conduit bank accounts, sponsors may be eligible for tax relief. For more information, visit www.imibala.com.

Imibala's International Office Locations



GET INVOLVED

How to Sponsor-a-Child OR Donate to an Imibala Programme

Visit https://imibala.com/donate/ to make a donation or sponsor a child's full school uniform, for the year, for just R1,650.





How to Volunteer

Visit https://imibala.com/become-a-volunteer/ or email info@imibala.com for information on how to become a volunteer.

Visit an Imibala Village

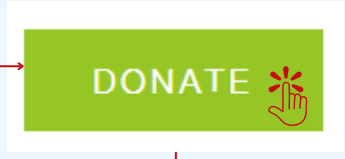


MAKE A DONATION

How to Make a Donation

Visit www.imibala.com and click the DONATE button:





Use one of Imibala's payment options to make your donation, including your name and programme as reference for your chosen allocation.

EFT DONATIONS

The Imibala Trust
First National Bank
Account number: 62173955918
Branch code: 260505
SWIFT Code: FIRNZAJJ

*PLEASE EMAIL INFO@IMIBALA.COM IN ORDER THAT WE MAY ACKNOWLEDGE AND ALLOCATE YOUR DONATION APPROPRIATELY.

PAYPAL DONATIONS

Please use the drop-down below.

PayPal Select Currency

SNAPSCAN DONATIONS

Snap here to pay

SnapScan

CREDIT CARD DONATIONS

Learn more Details

FRIENDS OF THE IMIBALA TRUST USA

Account Details
Account name: FRIENDS OF THE IMIBALA TRUST
Account number: 1505908976
Bank Details
Bank Name: Flagstar Bank
Bank Address: 1400 Broadway, New York, NY 10018
ABA Number: 026013576
SWIFT Code: SIGNUS33

IMIBALA SWITZERLAND

Account Details
Account name: Imibala Switzerland
Account number: CH61 0849 0000 2252 7300 1
Bank Details
Bank Name: Cornèr Bank SA
Bank Address: Rue de la Confédération 5, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland
SWIFT Code: CBLUCH22

IMIBALA STICHTING THE NETHERLANDS

ABN AMRO Bank
EUR-account: NL54ABNA0114676674
BIC: ABNANL2A

De Hulst 20
5807 EW Oostrum

IMIBALA UK TRUST

Hoare & Co. Bank
Account number: 39095490
Sort code: 15-99-00
IBAN: GB49 HOAB 1599 0039 0954 90

IMIBALA GERMANY E.V.

Vereinigte VR Bank Kur- und Rheinpfalz eG
IBAN: DE36 5479 0000 0001 9781 52
BIC: GENODE61SPE

MACHEN SIE EINE SPENDE

GOVERNANCE

The Imibala Trust, founded by Mrs. Gaynor Rupert and guided by a dedicated Board of Trustees: Mrs. Hanneli Rupert, Mrs. Lindy White, Mr. Sipho Puwani and Mrs. Gloria Theiler. Together, Imibala's trustees provide careful oversight of the Trust's income, expenses, and programmes, ensuring that every contribution is used responsibly to benefit the children that The Imibala Trust serves.

Imibala's accounts are independently audited each year by PWC, reflecting commitment to transparency and accountability. As a registered not-for-profit organisation with Public Benefit Organisation status, The Imibala Trust adheres to the highest standards of corporate governance.

Supporting Imibala means trusting that your gift is managed with integrity and directed where it matters most - to creating a meaningful and lasting impact for children in South Africa.

NPO number – 046-758-NPO I PBO number – 930017783

a message from our CEO

Under the leadership of our founder and chairlady, Mrs. Gaynor Rupert, The Imibala Trust is a beacon of hope and a space of creativity and happiness for children from impoverished backgrounds, for over twenty-five years.



The evident transformative power of education and creative expression at Imibala is truly remarkable. We have seen firsthand the profound impact that a new school uniform has on a child. Art, dance, music, drama, pottery and ballet classes positively impact children for generations to come. This is why we, at The Imibala Trust, strive to offer our children a number of opportunities.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors for their trust in Imibala. Your support is invaluable in helping us shape a brighter future for our children.

-Theo Willemse I Imibala CEO

GET IN TOUCH

Somerset West

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Hoedspruit

Theo Willemse I theo@imibala.com

Hermanus

Liezl Viljoen

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Moorreesburg

Quentin Du Plooy

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quentin@imibala.com

Contact number: +27 (0) 21 852 0418

OUR WORK IN ACTION

See the impact of The Imibala Trust's work in action by visiting "Imibala Trust" on YouTube.

