



SOUTH AFRICA

Christel House — Forging partnerships between marginalised and privileged schools



More information on un.org

The youth unemployment rate in South Africa is over 50%. Born into poverty, young South Africans lack the perspective to build a life different from what they know.

The SIMUNYE (“We are one”) project by the Julius Baer Foundation and the non-profit school Christel House builds partnerships between schools from different backgrounds. Through jointly organised activities, privileged and disadvantaged children get to be together. Recognising the similarity between each other, they can form long-lasting relationships which lay

the basis for personal networks and social mobility – the ability to move up in society.

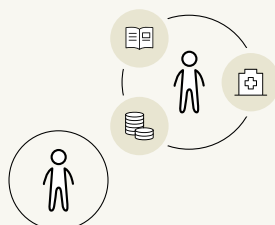
The annual ‘Derby Day’ brings children from four different schools together. Four ensuing full-day events per year connect over 1,210 students. A two-day Indaba – where parents, principals and partners connect – proved to be another valuable element. In 2024, a two-day event will take place, connecting parents, principals and partners. It will launch a replication template to other school leaders, and will display the potential impact the concept of SIMUNYE could have nationwide.

Quick facts

- South Africa, Cape Town
- Project support: 2020–2023
- Grant amount: CHF 200,000 per year
- Establishing school partnerships between schools from privileged and marginalised areas.
- Goal: Providing holistic education scholarships and bringing together privileged and disadvantaged students to create long-lasting relations across the wealth divide, improving economic connectedness and mutual respect in South Africa.

From a dividing youth ...

In unequal societies, children grow up within the separating social perception of ‘their world’ and the ‘other world’ to which they have no access, and also lacking adequate education opportunities.



... to an empowering social network.

With personal connections between the two worlds and equal education opportunities, South Africa’s young can build social networks that reduce disparities and can lead to more diverse workplaces, healthier communities, and a stronger economy.





Children from different schools meet during one day to form new friendships regardless of their social backgrounds.

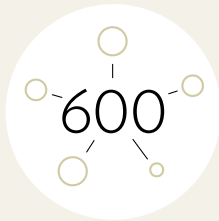
“My realisation today was that there are other learners who are not as fortunate as myself and my peers, but that does not define us as learners, because we all got along very well, and our common ground is education.”

Isabella B., student at St. Cyprians School, Cape Town

“Today was special because children from different backgrounds were taught in one classroom. It’s unheard of. We all got along and I realised that we are not so different after all.”

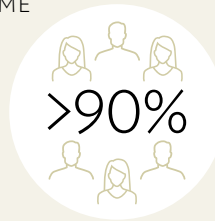
Libonile X., student at Christel House School, Cape Town

OUTPUT



Christel House **mobilises** 350 children, 200 parents and 50 teachers from **5 schools** to build social capital by discovering the worlds of the others.

OUTCOME



Through discovering the world of others, **over 90% of learners said, they feel more confident, and their relationship building skills improved** in multicultural settings – key elements in building social capital.

HIGHLIGHT



In the SIMUNYE school exchange, ten children from each of the five schools visited each other’s schools. By sharing lessons, lunch and play-time, they **shared each other’s environments**, a life-altering experience.

Equal education for equal opportunity

- Christel House South Africa implemented a holistic educational approach built around a clear mission: A world where poverty does not limit potential.
- The school offers free scholarships to students from 23 of the most marginalised communities in Cape Town.
- In addition to the character-based, career-focused teaching approach, the students and their families benefit from poverty mitigation services such as daily transport to school and back, professional health care, nutritious meals, psychosocial counselling, family assistance as well as career planning and support.
- Normally only 52% of South African students finish school. At Christel House, 99% of students attain the national matric diploma, with 93% being placed into tertiary education, apprenticeships or their first jobs.
- Through the SIMUNYE school exchange, connections and perspectives across the wealth divide are broadened whilst opportunities are created for all.

About Christel House

Running nine schools around the globe, Christel House applies a holistic human development model to address the root causes of poverty.



More information about Christel House and their project in South Africa: sa.christelhouse.org



Watch the video about the ‘SIMUNYE’ project here.

Do you feel inspired by the Christel House project and would like to support it?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us! We would love an exchange.



Find out more about us and our projects online or write us at foundation@juliusbaer.com

Julius Baer Foundation

Established in 1965 by Walter J. Bär (1895–1970), the grant Foundation of Bank Julius Baer is focused on reducing wealth inequality. It convenes leading thinkers and actors on the topic and supports projects around the globe where the privileged and disadvantaged work together towards a world of equal opportunities.

Contact

Julius Baer Foundation
Bahnhofstrasse 36, P. O. Box
8010 Zurich, Switzerland
Tel.: +41(0)58 888 4422
foundation@juliusbaer.com
www.juliusbaer.com/foundation
IBAN: CH 94 0851 5072 8789 4200 9