



SOUTH AFRICA

Christel House — Building partnerships between schools across the wealth divide



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 to the one 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 socioeconomic backgrounds. Through jointly organised activities, children from across the wealth spectrum come together. Recognising the similarities between each other,

they can form long-lasting relationships which lay the basis for personal networks and social mobility.

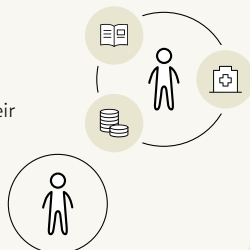
With twelve different schools from varying socioeconomic backgrounds, Simunye 2.0 will facilitate school exchanges, allowing students to experience different learning environments and cultures. Along with additional connections such as a camp, workshops and parent connecting initiatives, this will develop the necessary deeper understanding of wealth inequality, diversity and empathy for young leaders with a strong inclination towards positively impacting society.

Quick facts

- South Africa, Cape Town
- Project support: 2020–2029
- Grant amount: CHF 1,620,000
This project is co-funded
- Establishing partnerships between schools from diverse, socioeconomic environments.
- Goal: Providing holistic education scholarships and bringing together students to create long-lasting relationships across the wealth divide, improving economic connectedness and mutual respect in South Africa.

From a dividing youth ...

In unequal societies, children grow up with largely disconnected social perceptions of 'their world' and the 'world of others'. With South Africa's complicated geopolitical history and large wealth disparity, youth face a severe lack of opportunities to connect.



... 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.”

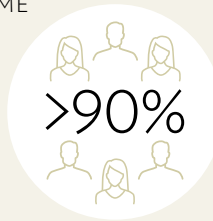
Libonile X., student at Christel House School, Cape Town

OUTPUT



Christel House **mobilises** 120 children, 120 parents, and 24 teachers from **12 schools** to build social capital by discovering the worlds of 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



Simunye brought together 50 principals, community leaders, university officials and researchers from various institutions across the Western Cape to craft solutions for the development of social capital for schools in an unequal society.

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 and from school, professional healthcare, nutritious meals, psychosocial counselling and 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% entering 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! foundation@juliusbaer.com



Learn more about our mission and our projects on the Wealth Inequality Initiative platform.

Julius Baer Foundation

Established in 1965 by Walter J. Bär (1895–1970), the Julius Baer Foundation has a long history of supporting diverse philanthropic initiatives. Today, our focus is on reducing wealth inequality by convening leading thinkers and actors on the topic and supporting projects worldwide that foster collaboration between individuals, groups and organisations across the wealth spectrum to create 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
www.wealth-inequality.net
IBAN: CH 94 0851 5072 8789 4200 9