



Schools Development Unit
School of Education

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Changing schools for good



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TEACHER PROFESSIONAL & SCHOOL ORGNISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Who we are & what we do

Since its inception in 2000, the Schools Development Unit (SDU) at the University of Cape Town, has been working in the field of continuing professional teacher development (CPTD) and school organisational development, with a specific focus on mathematics, the sciences and languages.

While based in the Cape Town Metropole, we work across all eight education districts in the Western Cape as well as in the Northern Cape.

We are particularly proud of our reach, not only for the work across all grades and phases of formal schooling, but also for our range of interventions which vary from working in individual schools, to spanning the entire Western Cape.

With respect to the latter, the unit has been the service provider for the provincial Grade 3 & 6 Systemic Mathematics and Language tests – a programme which saw us test more than 188 000 learners in over 1 000 schools across the province in 2017. We also provided implementation support to the Western Cape Education Department in a provincial rollout of its Grade R mathematics programme.

We are the lead service provider in the Zenex-funded Siyazakha project, operating in 10 secondary schools in the Cape Town Metropole. We also work closely with the Eden and Central Karoo (ECK) Education District in a number of primary and secondary schools in the Southern Cape, through the UCT-in-Eden Schools Project.

Our school-based work supports teachers, both individually and collectively. Our professional development modus operandi features a combination of university-approved courses, and over 50 SACE registered short courses of varying lengths. These are applied in tandem with school-based support, to help teachers apply what they've learned in the classroom.

By working at an individual, collective and province-wide level, we focus on the promotion of quality teaching and learning across all grades and phases of formal schooling – a critical area for South Africa's long-term wellbeing and economic development.



Our Projects

#1 Siyazakha

This five year project commenced in 2017; the primary aim is to improve participation, retention and performance in mathematics and physical sciences in Grades 10-12.

Siyazakha is operational in 10 working class secondary schools, five each in Metropole North and Metropole East Education Districts. The SDU is one of a number of implementing partners working in the schools and is directly responsible for providing school organisational and teacher professional development, including classroom-based support.

During the course of the year the SDU ran a school-based learner programme which had as its primary aim to encourage learners to enroll in the mathematics and physical sciences stream in Grade 10. Besides a mathematics and science competition involving all Grade 8 and 9 learners at each school, learning skills workshops were run for a selected group of learners in the third term school holidays. These learners also participated in a Reading Club.

5 YEAR
PROJECT

Gr 8-12
PRIMARY AIM
IS TO IMPROVE
PERFORMANCE
IN MATHEMATICS
AND PHYSICAL
SCIENCES

10
SECONDARY
SCHOOLS



FUNDER: Zenex Foundation

#2 Schools Improvement Initiative

In 2017 the initiative was awarded the university's prestigious Social Responsiveness Award, in acknowledgment of its work.

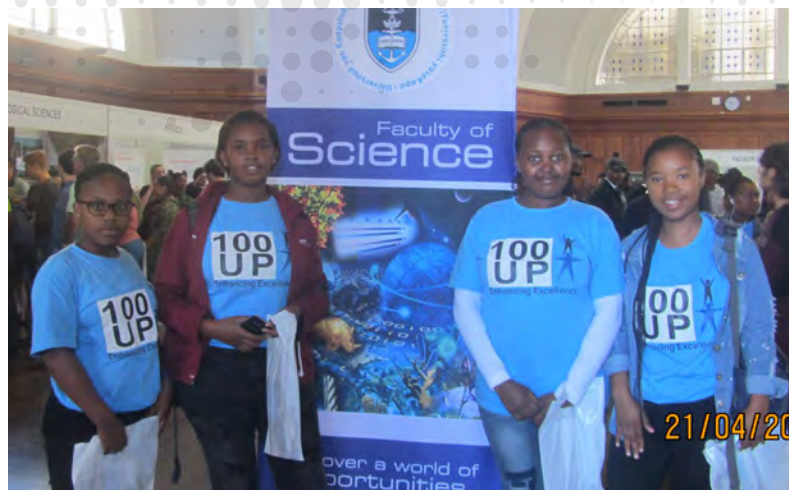
During this year, fully functioning libraries with full-time library assistants continued to flourish in all five SII partner schools. With regard to Teacher Professional Development, the SII extended its mathematics and science support to involve an additional four primary schools in Khayelitsha. This newly introduced 'Bridging Programme' aims to tighten the links between the primary and secondary schools, to help prepare primary school learners for secondary school mathematics and science. School leadership support has continued through individual mentoring as well as the principals' Community of Practice, which meets regularly to provide a forum for sharing best practice.

The success of the COSAT Wellness Centre resulted in psychosocial support being extended to an additional two SII partner schools.

The coordination of the UCT Health Science students' professional practice programme, saw students once again undertaking their service learning in Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language Pathology and Audiology in the SII partner schools.



FUNDERS: UCT Alumni; The Aurum Trust (UK); Office of the Vice-Chancellor



#3 100-UP

The SDU's flagship university access programme is now in its seventh year. 100-UP is committed to working in all 20 secondary schools in Khayelitsha; with every school assigned 15 places on the programme – five each in Grade 10-12. The focus is on developing both academic and life skills. In addition to Saturday school programmes, the learners participate in a range of workshops and activities, many of which are run by UCT staff and students. The highlight of the year is the on-campus residential camps run in the winter vacation.

Matriculants are encouraged to pursue degrees in all fields of study at UCT or at one of our neighbouring universities. Since its inception, over 1 000 learners have participated in the programme and a measure of its success is that of the 963 matriculants who obtained B-Degree passes, 88% have gone on to study at university.

7 YEARS IN OPERATION

1 000 LEARNERS PARTICIPATED SINCE INCEPTION

963 OBTAINED B-DEGREE PASSES

88% STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY



FUNDERS: UCT Alumni; AfriSam; Primedia; Cadbury Trust (UK)



#4 UCT-in-Eden

The project extends UCT's vision of contributing to social upliftment and development in the Southern Cape, by working in 26 primary and secondary schools in Oudtshoorn, Knysna and George/Thembaletu.

Professional development workshops were run for mathematics, natural sciences and English First Additional Language teachers; and culminated in a seminar that provided a forum for teachers to share their best practice.

As part of the Grade 7-9 learner programme, a mathematics and science competition was run and book clubs were established at a number of schools. In Grade 12, a selected group of learners was given additional tuition, career guidance and assistance with all aspects of the tertiary application process, including writing the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs).

The project was also responsible for running the first off-campus iteration of the ever popular UCT Mathematics Competition.

26 PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OUDTSHOORN, KNYSNA & GEORGE

REGIONAL UCT MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

LEARNER MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE FOR GRADE 7-9



FUNDER: Fancourt Foundation



#5

Grade R Early Mathematics Programme

77

AMOUNT OF SUPPORTED GRADE R AND FP SUBJECT ADVISORS

44

TRAINING HOURS CONSISTING OF (SACE) APPROVED COURSES

1 400

TEACHERS ACROSS THE PROVINCE WERE TRAINED

The SDU developed a Grade R Early Mathematics Programme (R-Maths) in partnership with the Western Cape Education Department (WCED). Training consists of a 44-hour South African Council of Educators (SACE) approved course that was delivered over six cluster meetings and one five-day block. During the course of 2017, over 1 400 practitioners/teachers across the province were trained in Grade R mathematics content, which is aligned to the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS).

R-Maths is underpinned by a set of seven teaching principles that inform classroom methodology. The development of concepts that underpin the Grade R CAPS Mathematics Content Areas are presented with play-based activities, problem solving and investigation opportunities.

SDU Education Specialists in partnership with ECD/FP NGO specialists, ORTSA-CAPE and The Primary Science Programme (PSP), supported 77 Grade R and Foundation Phase Subject Advisors in each Education Districts in their training of Grade R teachers, WCED registered public schools and community sites in 2017.



FUNDERS: The ELMA Foundation; Investec Philanthropies (Private Charitable Foundations); The Maitri Trust; The Zenex Foundation; HCI Foundation

#6

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

**BIODIVERSITY
COURSE FOR GRADE
10-12 TEACHERS IN
KWAZULU-NATAL**

**TEACHING WATER
COURSE FOR
GRADES 4-7
TEACHERS IN
NORTHERN CAPE**

The SDU is strongly committed to advancing the cause of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In support of this goal in 2017, the Unit produced a range of teaching and learning resources, targeted at Senior Phase (Grades 7-9) Natural Sciences. Four blended-learning, certified short courses, one for each strand of the natural sciences curriculum, were adapted for use on an eLearning Moodle Platform. The first of these courses was run for teachers and subject advisors in the Western Cape during the course of the year.

As part of the national Fundisa for Change initiative, the SDU's science team ran a biodiversity course for Grade 10-12 teachers in KwaZulu-Natal and the Teaching Water course for Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-7) teachers in the Northern Cape.



FUNDERS: Department of Environment And Development Planning (DEADP); Fundisa for Change



#7 Systemic Testing

193 000

SUCCESSFULLY
ADMINISTERED
TESTS TO
GRADE 3 & 6
LEARNERS

1400

AMOUNT OF
SCHOOLS WHERE
TESTING TOOK
PLACE

For the past 15 years the SDU has been closely involved in the Western Cape Education Department's annual language and mathematics systemic testing.

In October 2017 language and mathematics tests were successfully administered to almost 105 000 Grade 3 and 88 000 Grade 6 learners, in over 1 400 schools across the length and breadth of the province. Following which, the learners' tests were marked, results analysed and comprehensive reports submitted to the Education Department.

The successful undertaking of such a large-scale project requires strict quality assurance at each stage of the process, from planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, through to completion. This involves management of the over 1 200 people who supervise, administer or mark the tests.



FUNDER: Western Cape Education Department



#8 Experimento

Experimento, an initiative of the Siemens Stiftung, provides teachers with the instructional materials, web-based resources and pedagogic strategies to encourage independent, creative thinking in young learners in the science classroom.

During the course of the year, in collaboration with the Stiftung, the SDU developed and ran certified short courses based on the Experimento kits, for primary and high school teachers in both the Western and Northern Cape.

These courses exemplify the unit's preferred model of professional development, which sees course work followed-up by school-based support – the visits allow SDU staff to observe and assist teachers as they implement new teaching strategies in their classrooms.



FUNDER: Siemens Stiftung



#9 Carnarvon School Development Project

Based in the town of Carnarvon in the Northern Cape, the SDU worked closely with the staff of Carnarvon Primary School to improve teaching and learning in mathematics, natural sciences and language. Organisational development support was also provided to the school's management team.

As in our other projects, certified short courses, backed up classroom-based support formed the basis of our intervention at the school. The classroom support took the form of demonstration lessons, co-teaching, and lesson observations.

The two-year project culminated with a short course certification ceremony held at the school in August.



FUNDER: SKA

Professional Development

Advanced Certificate in Teaching (ACT)

As part of the university's School of Education, over the years the SDU has been responsible for running a number of Continuing Professional Teacher Development (CPTD) qualifications. The university has now chosen to register a number of Advanced Certificate in Teaching (ACT) courses, in line with the new national policy on teacher education qualifications.

ACTs are NQF Level 6 qualifications and are structured specifically to improve in-service teachers' content knowledge and pedagogy, with a more explicit focus on classroom teaching. Whereas no programmes were offered in 2017, the ACT Foundation Phase will be run in 2018.

Short Courses

The SDU's short courses programme continues to provide teachers with an opportunity to improve their content and pedagogical knowledge via certified non-credit-bearing short courses. Between 6 and 36 hours in duration, these courses are mostly delivered to groups of educators upon request.

In 2017, 570 teachers registered for courses offered by the SDU. Of these, 520 completed the courses and a total of 435 certificates were awarded.

IMPROVING
THE QUALITY OF
TEACHING AND
LEARNING

570

TEACHERS
COMPLETED
COURSES

COURSES RANGE
FROM 6 TO 36
HOURS

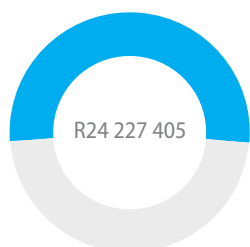
435

CERTIFICATES
AWARDED

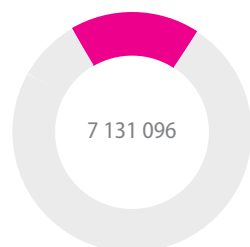


Finances

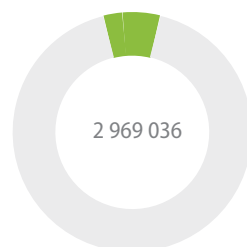
THE SDU'S OVERALL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR AMOUNTED TO **JUST UNDER R38 MILLION.**



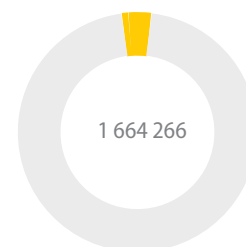
SYSTEMIC TESTING



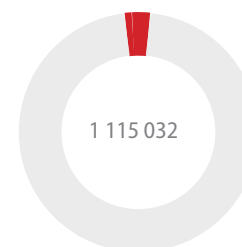
SCHOOL-BASED PROJECTS



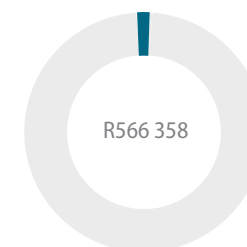
SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE



ROYALTIES



INVESTMENT INCOME



PGCE TEACHING

In terms of financial management, the operations of the SDU are fully integrated into, and compliant with, UCT's finance systems and procedures.

The direct operating costs of the Unit (staff salaries, office overheads and so forth) totalled just over R10 million. By far the biggest operating costs were incurred by the large-scale Grade 3 and 6 systemic testing exercise undertaken on behalf of the Western Cape Education Department.

In 2017, once again, a welcome source of income was royalties generated by sales of the Macmillan published textbook series: Solutions for All Mathematics (Grades 1–9) and Solutions for All Maths Literacy (Grades 10–12) written by the SDU.

Systemic testing	R24 227 405
School-based projects; teacher professional and school organisational development	R7 131 096
Schools Improvement Initiative (SII)	R2 969 036
Royalties	R1 664 266
Investment income	R1 115 032
PGCE teaching (UCT)	R566 358
Total income	R37 673 193

The SDU is essentially self-funding; therefore it is most grateful for the following funders/clients who have supported us financially over the past year:

Testing work	Western Cape Education Department (WCED)
iKwezi project	DG Murray Trust; Medicor; Metropole East Education District; UCT alumni (Australia; UK; SA; USA and Canada)
R-Maths project	The ELMA Foundation; Investec Philanthropies (Private Charitable Foundations); The Maitri Trust; The Zenex Foundation; HCI Foundation
SII	Aurum Trust (UK); UCT alumni (Australia, UK, SA, USA and Canada); UCT Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund
100-UP	AECl; Afrisam; Capitec; UCT alumni (Australia; UK; SA; USA and Canada)
UCT-in-Eden	Fancourt Foundation
Carnarvon	SKA
Experimento	Siemens Stiftung
Bonds-Bee	Metropole South Education District
Short courses	Albert Wessels Trust; ASSET; Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning; Fundisa for Change

The SDU would like to thank the University for its continued financial support of two posts, that of the Director and the Senior Finance Officer



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...it is the teacher who has the single largest positive impact on schooling outcomes. That is why the SDU remains committed to helping teachers to teach better.

Changing schools **for good**

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