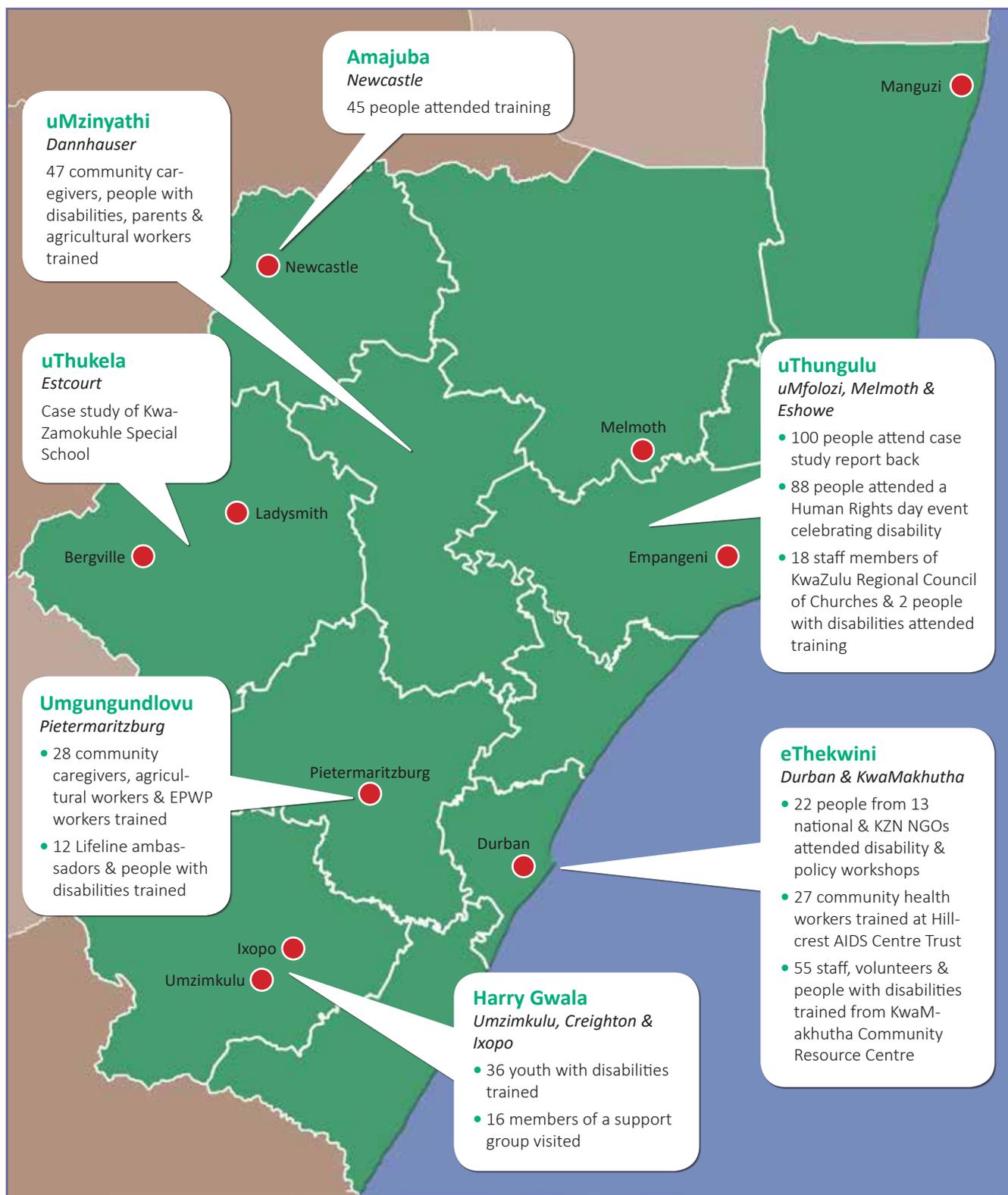


**CREATE**

CBR Education and Training for Empowerment

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

# CREATE's areas of involvement in KwaZulu-Natal in 2014/15



# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

***Bawinile A. Mdunyelwa***

**It is my pleasure and privilege to be part of CREATE and to submit this report for inclusion in the 2015 report. It needs to be stated at the outset that CREATE has been facing enormous challenges since disabled people in the past and still today do not form part of rehabilitation and empowerment programmes, especially the services provided at government level.**



The services provided by CREATE are one of the first steps of providing independence and empowerment training to disabled people's development at community level in KwaZulu-Natal. These services also assist parents of disabled people to promote the quality of life of their children. It also assists institutions to review their own situations in terms of inclusion of people with disabilities in all processes and empower disabled people to actively participate in societal activities. A large number of people with disabilities have benefited from the empowerment programmes offered by CREATE.

This is an important reporting period. It is important not only in its historic significance to people with disabilities in South Africa, but also in the opportunity CREATE offers disabled people for empowerment and to celebrate dedication and excellence of the organization. This report is written in the context of South Africa's 21 years of democracy and the time of economic downturn, which has an impact on literacy, empowerment and rehabilitation for disabled people in this country, coupled with financial difficulties. During this time, we need to do a critical evaluation of literacy and rehabilitation programmes both as government, NGOs and/or DPO initiatives. As CREATE we also need to look at where to take the

issues for empowerment of disabled people and organization's financial sustainability in the next 10 years. We need to remember that the training must benefit disabled people and it should be in line with parameters set out by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

This report is aimed at proposing strategies to link people with disabilities to economic activity. People with disabilities are unlikely to be in a position to use their social grant income to invest in wealth creating ventures. Instead, developing programmes into the possibilities of creating opportunities for disabled people to participate in economic activities should become a key focus if CREATE is to meet the UNCRPD objectives.

## **Staff**

I would like to thank the CREATE staff Bongi, Lungi, Hlengiwe, Sarah Roberts, Nompilo and Mr. Zungu, who in many times commit themselves to uplifting the lives of people with disabilities through their dedication and excellence in their work in the organization during this period. I would also like to extend my thankfulness and appreciation for the contribution of the number of people who have supported CREATE by providing advice. These numerous people have enriched the services offered by CREATE. Our grateful gratitude goes to Dr. Sarah Rule CREATE managing director for her unlimited dedication and commitment to the growth and development of disabled people in the province.

## **Funding and finances**

It should be noted that NGO's are experiencing a challenging time in funding and sustainability of the organisations, especially concerning funding for



running costs. It should be noted though that during this difficult times for NGOs, CREATE has been very fortunate to have had financial support from Oxfam, DG Murray Trust, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) Ilifa Labantwana and KNH. This funding is putting CREATE in a good financial position at present. We hope for success in the attempts made for new proposals. We would like to thank all the funders for seeing the need to support these types of initiatives. The challenge will always remain for the long term financial sustainability. I would like to commend CREATE staff for properly managing the finances.

### Board members

I would like to express the word of gratitude to the board members for their support, especially for attending meetings and participating in various CREATE activities. I hope that CREATE will continue to strive to have a board of directors that is reflective of South African demographics, including quality self representation by persons with disabilities. It needs to strive for empowerment that will result in consumers of the service taking responsibility for what concerns their improvement and quality of their lives. I hope that the organization will continue to have a diverse committee that includes professionals and consumers of the services.

### Challenges

Despite the progress made during the reporting period, it should be noted that CREATE is operating within the broader context of disability struggles in the country and abroad. Some of the challenges include:

- Specific funding for disability is relatively shrinking. This necessitates new innovations to attract private sector in the work of disability.
- Budgetary issues within the government pose a great challenge for the NGO sector.
- Empowerment of persons with disabilities is steadily growing. However, it is negatively impacted by the lack of commitment to its full implementation by various stakeholders.

### Conclusion

CREATE has gone a long way in the field of rehabilitation, empowerment and training. It has made a mark in the lives of children, person with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and the community in general. It is hoped that its programmes can be intensified to reach the neglected communities and marginalized communities in far and deep rural areas.



# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Sarah Rule*

**T**he strategic planning process CREATE engaged in in 2013 has guided our work even in the current year, with our Theory of Change map reminding us to look beyond the activities that each of us is engaged in, to understand how we are working towards our goal. In this annual report we share with you this Theory of Change map and how each of our projects is linked to and motivated by the desire to reach our goal. As in so many other years, CREATE has been very busy with a wide range of projects and it is our goal and our mission that binds us together and gives us direction.



As part of our plan to achieve our goal, we aimed to have strong financial and administrative systems in place. I think we are well on the way to achieving this and I would like to express my gratitude to our book-keeper, Tracey Meier and to Hlengiwe Mpila, our admin officer, for their assistance in this regard. Our donors have contributed to our financial sustainability during a period when many NGOs are struggling and their various financial reporting requirements have helped us to tighten up our systems. We are truly grateful to our donors who express their confidence in our work by their continued financial support as well as the capacity building they offer.

During 2014 we took some steps towards improving our writing skills for various purposes. Shelagh McLoughlin, a well-known journalist in Pietermaritzburg, taught the staff how to write articles for newspapers. Lungi practised this skill by writing several articles on disability for publication in Durban newspapers. We are fortunate that the Fulton Trust gave us funds to convene a writing workshop to learn how to write articles for publication in academic journals. Two lecturers from the University of KwaZulu Natal have worked with us to develop two articles. We still need to have a follow up workshop. However an article that I co-authored with Willene Holness, a lawyer who worked with us on our advocacy project, was published in the Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal in January 2015.

## OUR GOAL:

**For CREATE to be a sustainable, independent, reflective, rights-based organisation that makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities through supporting individuals and promoting an inclusive society.**

As well as the ongoing projects of CREATE (documented later in this report), we have successfully been contracted by two different donors to do work for them during this financial year. The DG Murray Trust requested CREATE to assist 6 organisations to work towards having their training courses on cerebral palsy accredited by a relevant Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA). We also won a contract from the Norwegian

Association of Disabled to conduct research into the feasibility of institutionalising CBR training in Zambia. It is pleasing to see that our approach, as well as our experience and expertise is recognised by donors and that such work can help contribute to the sustainability of CREATE.

During this year, with funding from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund, we were able to employ a new member of staff, Nompilo Mntungwa, and we were all excited to attend her wedding in December. We have also been able to formalise the employment of our driver, Mr Thulasizwe Zungu, which has made a big difference for both Nompilo and Bongsi, who do not drive.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of CREATE's board of directors who have overseen the growth of the organisation and who have given willingly of their time to guide me and to conduct an extensive salary review for CREATE.

# THEORY OF CHANGE MAP



# INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

In mid-2014, Ilifa labantwana commissioned a pilot project to develop an approach to inclusion of children with disabilities in ECD services in the Ugu district of KwaZulu Natal. In addition to training of ECD practitioners from nine “inclusive hubs” in the district, a key component of this was the running of workshops for parents of children with disabilities in each of the six local municipalities.

The aim was to strengthen the role of parents of children with disabilities to support their own child’s development and as advocates of the rights of their children. Each workshop had approximately 20 parents and took place over three consecutive days, with the first day focusing on sharing experiences of our own children as well as disability rights and cultural beliefs about disability, the second focusing on ECD and the third looking at inclusion in ECD and advocacy messages of parents regarding the rights of their children.

During the training of the parents CREATE could not focus on inclusion of children with disabilities in ECD. Parents had a lot of emotional pain and for some of them it was their first time to talk about their children’s disabilities and the difficulties of raising a child with a disability. The first day was difficult because parents were crying. They were crying because most of the children with disabilities are not supported by their fathers. Mothers of children with disabilities are being blamed for doing something wrong to the ancestors or God. Some are left by their husbands. Because of all the pressures from the fathers, negative

attitudes of the community members, cultural myths and beliefs towards children with disabilities some mothers wanted to kill their children.

## Thank you letter from a mother of a disabled child

*I am writing this letter to thank you about ECD project. I know that one of the aims of the project is to ensure that children with disabilities are included in ECD. Truly speaking I don't know if parents know what ECD is and other things about the project, I really do not know. If there is one big thing that we know as parents and this project has done is to save the lives of children with disabilities.*

*I was one of those parents that wanted my child dead. I know it is bad for me as a mother. I was tired, had no one to talk to, frustrated and did not know what to do with my child. I remember when we started crying at the workshop because of the difficulties that we have as parents. For the first time I felt that someone understand what I am going through. Someone understands my pain. I thank God for sending you at a right time. I have started to speak to my church Minister and the Social worker in my church. There are so supportive because of the lack of knowledge I nearly killed my child. I did not know that there was help in my church and it is free of charge.*

*This project has changed my life and I know that one day I will motivate other parents. Thank you Lifa Labantwana.*



# SUPPORTING OXFAM PARTNERS

**W**e as CREATE continued working with different OXFAM partners. In 2014 we supported Woza Moya with development of a support group that was formed after disability training that we provided. It is an inclusive support group because it is made up of people with HIV, elderly people, people with disabilities and parents of people with disabilities.

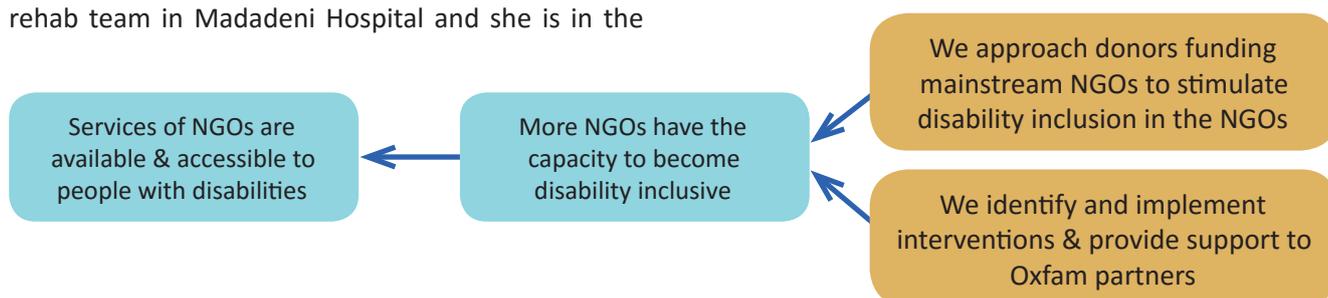
We visit the support group of 16 members with Woza Moya staff to provide support that they need. A 32-year-old woman with disability who spent her whole life at home doing nothing has joined this group and because of the knowledge she got there she is now attending physiotherapy in Creighton. She has gained self-confidence and she is willing to make her life better. "I'm happy to meet with other people and have some conversation. It's a pity that my age does not allow me to go to school but I am willing to do sewing and bead work. I also need to get myself a boyfriend, get married and start a family," she says.

The other OXFAM Partner that we have worked with is Lima where we trained 17 participants, some were from Community Work Program (CWP), Extended Public Work Program (EPWP) and the Gardening Project. We also trained 26 Community Care Givers (CCG's), 2 people with disabilities and 2 parents of children in one of Lima sites in Dannhauser, some of whom were from Catholic Church and others were supported by the Department of Social Development. After this training CCG's suggested that we train 12 parents of children with disabilities because they felt it would be good for the parents to gain this knowledge. When training the parents, we involved a mother of a child who is multiply disabled and who has a lot of knowledge and experience. The parents in Dannhauser have formed their own support group. They are now supported by the coordinator from the Department of Health who is also supporting HIV/AIDS Support groups. Parents benefited a lot because this coordinator has introduced them to the District rehab team in Madadeni Hospital and she is in the

process of integrating them in a gardening project that is being done by HIV/AIDS Support group.

In September 2014 we trained 15 staff members, 38 volunteers and 2 people with disabilities at Kwamakhutha Community Resource Centre (KCRC). It was a two days training where we did disability awareness and Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD's). Again in September we conducted a one day sensitisation workshop at Hillcrest Aids Centre with 27 Community Health Workers (CHW).

In November 2014 we worked with 16 staff members and two people with disabilities at KwaZulu Regional Council of Churches (KRCC) where we conducted two days' workshop where we covered disability awareness and the CRPD. After the training they have now involved 3 people with disabilities in their water, sanitation & hygiene project in school. In March 2015 together with JAW we had a human rights day event that was attended by 88 people where we invited different government departments, namely, Dep. of Education, Dep. of Health, Dep. of Social Development, district and local municipality and the Office of the Premier to explain programs that are in place for people with disabilities in their departments. Disabled People Organizations (DPO's) were also invited. Participants benefited a lot because some of their problems were solved there and then by DSD and Dep. of Education and they were motivated by a disabled person from Umfolozi local municipality who has worked successfully with government departments and the municipality.



# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

*"I just want to thank you CREATE for the efforts you did in my life, I thought I wouldn't be something in life but with you people you open my eyes n directed my destiny I thank you so much I'm now finishing my degree at Howard College. I started in 2012 and most of guys whom we were with had progressed n others married we thank you guys may God bless you. Continue to workshop youth with disabilities because your training have good impact in people's lives who are hopeless."*

*– SMS from youth with disability previously trained by CREATE*



**CREATE continues to work with youth with disabilities in the economic empowerment project funded by KNH. 36 youth from Umzimkulu and Centocow attended the workshops to prepare them for the world of work.**

Support visits for youth who have attended these workshops since 2011 has been ongoing with Careers By Design giving a motivational talk at one of these support visits. We congratulate one of the youth with disabilities from the 2011 training on his marriage!

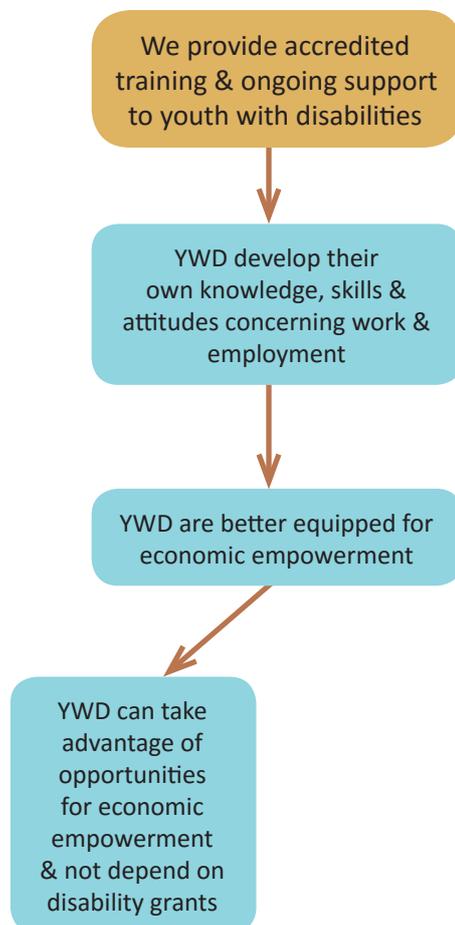
CREATE has linked with SaveAct – an organization working with savings schemes and financial education. An introductory meeting was conducted in December 2014 to prepare two groups in Umzimkulu to start savings plans and since then the first group of 15 people with disabilities has been meeting to learn about managing their finances and also to start their savings.

The youth are involved in moving towards attaining their economic goals of which some include:

- Two youth with disabilities are currently enrolled in learnerships.
- One youth with a disability was able to save his money and build his house. He is on the iNkosi's Committee where he is the treasurer.
- One youth is working in a community tender to clean a school.
- One youth is selling Tupperware to save towards capital for her goal.
- One youth got an order from a school to sew track-suits for the local school.
- One lady is continuing with her carpentry work and CREATE assisted with ideas on how to label

her furniture / use a communication board with her customers as she is deaf.

- One man is working part time with a group in his community, clearing alien plants.
- Two youth will continue with their own businesses – one selling sewing work and one selling paving stones.

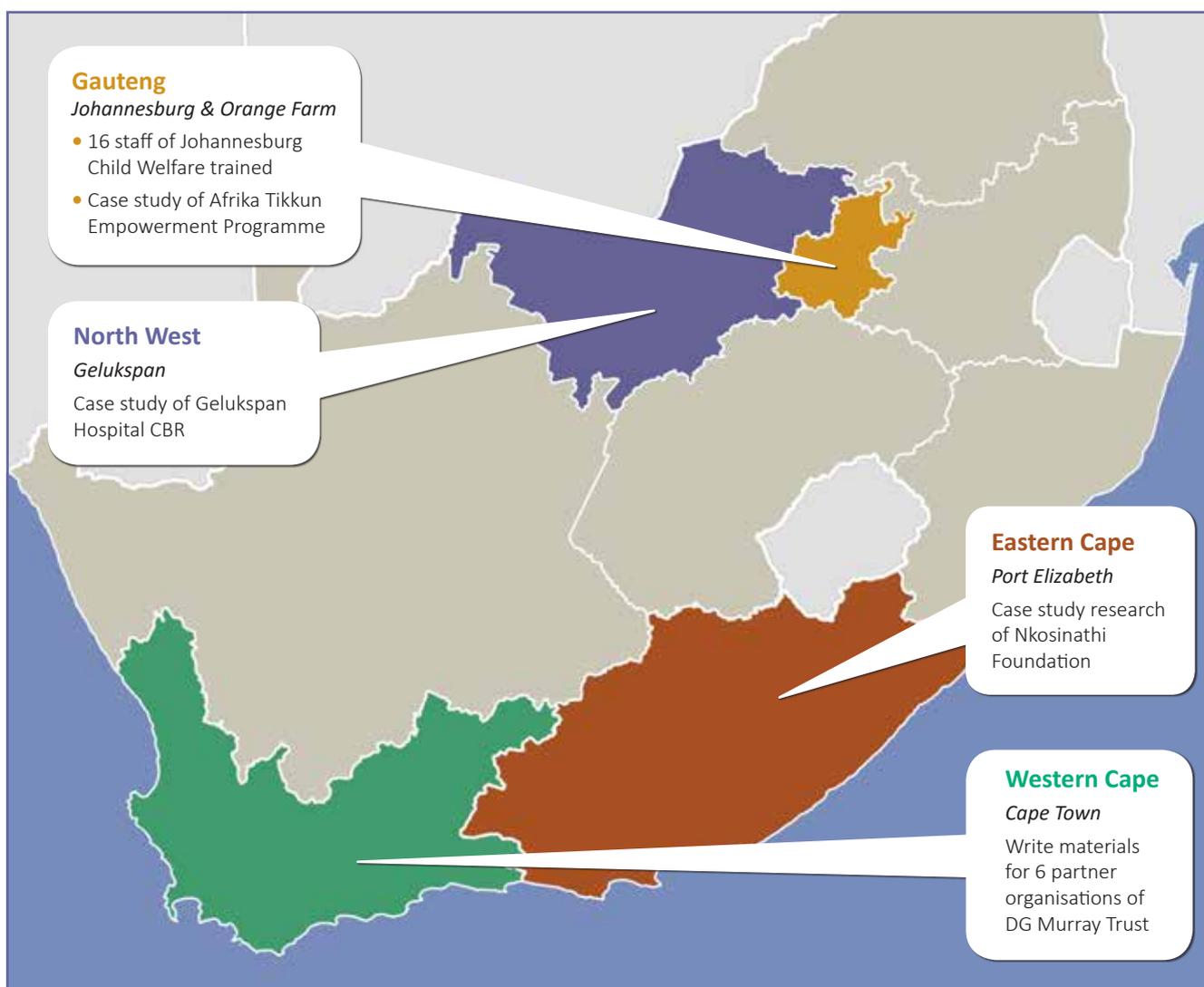


# UMFOLOZI MUNICIPALITY CASE STUDY

CREATE was funded by Oxfam to conduct research on the experiences of people with disabilities in uMfolozi and the response of the municipality and traditional leaders. When the research was done a case study feedback event was organized. The feedback event was attended by the representatives from Oxfam, the Office of the Premier, uThungulu District Deputy Mayor, uMfolozi Mayor, traditional leaders and members of the disability forum and the community members. There were about 100 people who attended and the event was broadcast in 1KZN TV.



## CREATE's areas of involvement in South Africa in 2014/15



### Beyond the borders of South Africa:

Research conducted in Uganda and Zambia for Norwegian Association of Disabled

## CREATE's Mission Statement

*CREATE strives to promote Community Based Rehabilitation and disability rights in southern Africa and to train people in rehabilitation and disability issues in a way that empowers them and their communities.*

## CREATE's Goal

*For CREATE to be a sustainable, independent, reflective, rights-based organisation that makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities through supporting individuals and promoting an inclusive society.*

## Directors as at 31 March 2015

Mrs Bawinile Mdunyelwa (Chairperson), Mrs Barbara Watt, Mr Mthinteni Nzuza, Mrs Sue Philpott, Mr Emmanuel Ngubane, Mrs Peta Diack, Mr Mgcineni Lembethe

## Donors

CREATE expresses its grateful thanks to the following donors that supported us during the 2014/15 financial year:  
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Kindernohtilfe e.V., DG Murray Trust, Oxfam Australia, Norwegian Association of Disabled, National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund, FNB Trust

## Staff

Sarah Rule (Managing director), Bongwiwe Zuma (Advocacy officer), Sarah Roberts (CBR trainer), Nokulunga Radebe (Trainer), Nompilo Mntungwa Dlamini (Assistant trainer), Hlengiwe Mpila (Administration officer), Thulasizwe Zungu (Driver)



Tel: +27 (0) 33 345 5088

P O Box 100275, Scottsville, KwaZulu-Natal 3209, South Africa

[www.create-cbr.co.za](http://www.create-cbr.co.za); e-mail: [create3@telkomsa.net](mailto:create3@telkomsa.net)