Our Mission

Grassroot Soccer South Africa is an adolescent health organisation that leverages the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilise youth across South Africa to overcome health challenges, live healthier, more productive lives, and become agents of change in their communities.

“\textit{It takes a healthy person to change the world.}”
- Zandile Mkhize, Grassroot Soccer South Africa Youth Leader

In South Africa, girls’ status is inferior to boys’ across almost all domains; girls have less social and economic power, and face disproportionate risks rooted in systemic gender inequality. These rigid gender norms and behaviours influence girls’ health outcomes around HIV and sexual and reproductive health-related issues, including early and unintended pregnancy, STIs, gender-based violence, and maternal conditions.

Adolescence therefore presents an opportunity to introduce health programmes that explore normative behaviours around gender and power that are youth-friendly and non-threatening. In addition, it is critical to engage adolescent boys and young men in the promotion of gender-equitable attitudes and norms, positively influence their health-seeking behaviours, and develop programmes that engage with men and boys as agents of change. Empowering adolescent girls and young women can only be successful when their male counterparts have tools to challenge the status quo. There is a tremendous opportunity to improve the world’s health by promoting gender equitable and health-seeking practices during adolescence, and taking steps to better protect all youth.

This is where Grassroot Soccer comes in. Through awareness, mentoring and participation in sport, our programmes seek to build young people’s comprehensive sexual and reproductive health assets, provide them with access to youth-friendly health services, create a safe space that encourages adherence to health-seeking behaviours, and address gender norms and power imbalances as causes of the HIV and gender-based violence co-epidemics in South Africa. We use the power of soccer to build adolescents’ confidence and resilience so they can take control of their lives and health, on and off the field.

The key to our success is evidence-based and adolescent-friendly curriculum that uses soccer metaphors to provide adolescents with knowledge, health, and life skills; trained coaches who come from the same communities as the adolescents we work with; and a safe culture for learning and improving adolescents’ knowledge of health issues. Over the last two years, Grassroot Soccer has expanded its programmes, including those for adolescent boys and young men, adolescent girls and young women, and young people living with HIV, and strengthened its partnerships, in order to better reach families and community members.
Grassroot Soccer provides youth with information about what is happening in our communities, and how to deal with the challenges we face. I am truly grateful for the fun and informative sessions, and I like that my Coaches are not much older than me. It makes it easier for me to open up to them and talk freely. They share information in an exciting way, and cover topics that are harder for me to talk about with adults.

KARABO NATASHA MARINGA
Grassroot Soccer Participant (Soweto)
SKILLZ Core (for adolescents ages 9-15) uses soccer-based activities and discussions to develop positive life skills that help youth adopt healthy behaviours and gain comprehensive knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and HIV.

SKILLZ Girl (for girls ages 11-14) combines soccer metaphors with information about SRHR and healthy relationships, life skills, HIV Testing Services (HTS), and access to community health services. SKILLZ Girl is also implemented as part of DREAMS, Girls Achieving Power (GAP) Year, and Ending Sexual Violence in Schools in South Africa (SeVISSA).

SKILLZ Boy (for boys ages 11-14) combines soccer metaphors with information about SRHR, gender equality, positive masculinity, violence prevention, HTS, and access to community health services.

Generation SKILLZ/SKILLZ Utshintsho (for youth ages 15-18) uses soccer-based activities and discussions to address the key issues related to HIV and SRHR: multiple partners, substance abuse, age-disparate relationships and gender-based violence.

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In addition to our three core sites in Alexandra, Khayelitsha and Soweto, Grassroot Soccer works with 12 implementing partners across eight provinces in South Africa to deliver SKILLZ programmes.
In 2017-2018, with the help of partners and funders, we have:

- **129,700** supported over adolescents living with HIV
- **500** trained over coaches and facilitators as health educators, mentors, and community agents of change
- **40%** male and **60%** female empowered
- **51,200** referred over adolescents for HTS, SRHR, VMMC, STIs, contraception and post-violence support services
- **8** provinces with Grassroot Soccer’s SRHR, HIV and violence prevention programming
- **129,700** reached youth in with life-saving HIV, SRHR and life skills education, access to health services, and support for adherence to treatment
- **46,600** provided over adolescents with access to HIV Testing Services (HTS)
- **51,200** referred over adolescents for HTS, SRHR, VMMC, STIs, contraception and post-violence support services
- **1,530** supported over adolescents living with HIV
- **77,800** graduated over 77,800 girl participants in female-only SRHR programming
- **67** collaborated with partners providing HTS, SRHR and other health services across South Africa
- **8** provinces with Grassroot Soccer’s SRHR, HIV and violence prevention programming
Research and Evaluation

Evaluation is integral to Grassroot Soccer’s learning and growth, and includes external and internal evaluations that drive and inform improvements to our programmes and organisational strategy. In collaboration with research institutions and funders, Grassroot Soccer South Africa utilises a variety of research methods to learn more about our work and partnerships. We are currently partnering on three studies to evaluate the impact of our work with adolescent girls.

**The Ending Sexual Violence in Schools in South Africa (SeViSSA) programme**, a five-year pilot intervention in collaboration with Grassroot Soccer, Soul City Institute, HSRC, and Comic Relief, addresses sexual violence in relation to the individual and the environment that supports violence (communities and wider society). SeViSSA includes baseline, midline and endline quantitative and qualitative research to determine how effective and appropriate programme activities are, and whether the joint intervention is able to change the climate at schools by empowering girls and boys to remain safe and secure.

**Girls Achieve Power (GAP) Year: Using Sport to Empower Girls at a Critical Time of Adolescent Transition**, a two-arm cluster RCT study in collaboration with Grassroot Soccer, Wits RHI, PATH, Sonke Gender Justice and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Gauteng and Western Cape, aims to assess learner dropout as adolescent girls transition through high school, and if girls’ access to social, health and educational assets increase.

**Goals for Girls: Evaluating the Feasibility, Acceptability and Impact of Integrating an In-School SRH Education Programme with an After-School Sport-Based Programme on SRH Health Outcomes Amongst Adolescent Girls in Cape Town, South Africa** is a cluster RCT study in collaboration with Grassroot Soccer, the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation and ViiV Positive Action, uses biomedical, quantitative and qualitative methods to determine programme feasibility and acceptability, impact on SRH outcomes (including pregnancy, HIV and STIs), school attendance and uptake of health care services for adolescent girls.

For details on Grassroot Soccer’s global research, have a look at the 2017-2018 Research & Insights Report, available at [www.grassrootsoccer.org/research](http://www.grassrootsoccer.org/research).

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**CHANGING THE GAME FOR GIRLS**
Results from a Mixed Methods Longitudinal Study of a Soccer-Based HIV and SGBV Prevention Programme for Adolescent Girls in South Africa
- 2017 South African AIDS Conference, Durban
- 2017 International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science, Paris

**YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND LEADERSHIP**
A Response to the Youth Unemployment Crisis in South Africa
- 2017 Commonwealth Youth and Development Journal
- 2018 International Social and Behaviour Change Communication Summit, Nusa Dua

**BRIDGING THE GAP:**
A Sport-Based Delivery Model to Increase HIV Prevention, Testing and Treatment Amongst Adolescents
- 2017 South African AIDS Conference, Durban

**KICK STARTING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES**
Results from a Mixed Methods Study on a Sport-Based Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and HIV Education Programme for Adolescents
- 2017 South African AIDS Conference, Durban
- 2017 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Summit, Bloemfontein

**DON’T FORGET THE YOUNG ONES**
Alarming Levels of Violence Amongst Primary and Secondary School Learners in Cape Town: Baseline Data for the Grassroot Soccer and Soul City SeViSSA Intervention
- 2017 South African AIDS Conference, Durban

**LESSTON FROM IMPLEMENTING SKILZZ FOR LIFE**
A Sport-Based HIV and Life Skills Programme for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities in Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa
- 2018 International AIDS Society Conference, Amsterdam

**HIV PREVENTION & SRH EDUCATION ON THE FOOTBALL PITCH**
Results from a Mixed Methods Evaluation of a HIV Prevention Programme Delivered to Adolescent Boys by Football Coaches
- 2018 International AIDS Society Conference, Amsterdam
I grew up in a township, where violence is very common and became a normal thing for us. These experiences influence what boys think it means to be a man. But, we all can be better men of our own choice. I tell my participants to never use their power to oppress anyone, but rather use it to become a positive role model for others. Ever since I joined Grassroot Soccer I have become an agent of change, and I try to put a stop to gender-based violence.

NEO MALEMA
Grassroot Soccer SKILLZ Coach (Alexandra)
In 2017, the Foundation for Sport, Development and Peace conferred its first Sport and Peace Awards for exemplary commitments to Sport, Development and Peace, honouring organisations that set an example for their work contributing to sport and peace, development, community development, leadership reconciliation, human rights, overcoming of discrimination and social inclusion. Grassroot Soccer South Africa was honoured to be recognised for exemplary work as an organisation in the field of Sport for Development.

2017 Classy Awards
Grassroot Soccer – SKILLZ Street

The Classy Awards is the largest awards ceremony of its kind recognising excellence in social innovation. The winners are determined as part of a yearlong initiative by the Classy Awards Leadership Council, an honourary board of leaders and experts whose unique perspective and valuable insight establishes this recognition as one of the highest honours in the social sector. Selected from 100 finalists – and more than 3,600 applicants! – to become one of 10 winners, Grassroot Soccer took home a Classy Award, for its girls-only comprehensive SRHR programme in South Africa, SKILLZ Street, at the 7th annual celebration.

2017 Western Cape Government Awards
Encouraging Self Expression - Sports, Arts and Culture

Grassroot Soccer South Africa was honoured to be recognised at the 2017 Western Cape Government Department of Social Development Ministerial Youth Excellence Awards with Minister Albert Fritz, as an outstanding organisation contributing towards youth excellence and best practice in their fields.

2017 Sport and Peace Awards
Extraordinary Contributions of an Organisation

In 2017, the Foundation for Sport, Development and Peace conferred its first Sport and Peace Awards for exemplary commitments to Sport, Development and Peace, honouring organisations that set an example for their work contributing to sport and peace, development, community development, leadership reconciliation, human rights, overcoming of discrimination and social inclusion. Grassroot Soccer South Africa was honoured to be recognised for exemplary work as an organisation in the field of Sport for Development.
Grassroot Soccer provides a safe, supportive space for youth to be heard, and to thrive. They may face challenging circumstances but these boys and girls are so determined to pursue their goals. I can’t wait to see where life takes these future stars!

QUINTON FORTUNE
Grassroot Soccer Global Ambassador

On 19 February 2018, former Manchester United star and renowned South Africa soccer player Quinton Fortune returned home to South Africa and visited Grassroot Soccer’s adolescent health and soccer programmes in Khayelitsha, Cape Town.

Fortune visited our SKILLZ Boy SRHR intervention for adolescent boys from Eluxolweni Primary School, and participated in innovative, sport-based activities that challenge harmful gender norms and seek to prevent HIV and violence.

Quinton Fortune is an advocate for education and gender equality, and speaks out against gender-based violence. Grassroot Soccer is honoured to have him join the SKILLZ team in 2018, as one of our Global Ambassadors!
In addition, Grassroot Soccer South Africa would not be where we are today without the generous support of our past and in-kind supporters:

- ABSA
- Africare
- American Corner Cape Town, US Consulate
- Audrey Irmas Foundation
- Barclays Spaces for Sport
- Bohemian Foundation
- British Airways
- British Council
- Castrol
- City Year South Africa
- DelBeers
- Exxon Mobil
- FIVES Futbol
- Imago Dei Fund
- National Institute of Health
- Nike Football Training Centre, Soweto
- One World Play Project
- Positive Tracks
- PUGG Goals
- Rotary International
- Slingshot Media
- UNAIDS
- United Nations Foundation
- UNCF
- US Consulate of Cape Town
- US Embassy of South Africa

Thank you for teaching me that women are strong, and for showing me that the problem with gender norms is that they prescribe how we should act as girls, rather than accepting who we are and who we can be in the future. I am proud to be a phenomenal woman.

TIDIMALO
Grassroot Soccer Participant (Tembisa)
Grassroot Soccer has unique access to adolescents in challenging communities in South Africa. I am struck deeply by this every time I see our Coaches at work. What a privilege. The warmth and optimism of young people is powerful, and our programmes are able to harness this to produce extraordinary results with the youth they reach. Thank you to our donors, ambassadors, staff, Coaches and all of the many others who make this happen.
To be in front of these boys and get to know their personal stories, it is an awesome responsibility. As SKILLZ Coaches, we get to learn. We get to heal. It gives us hope and patience. At the end of the day, this is where I want to be.

SIPHAMANDLA THEMENI
Grassroot Soccer SKILLZ Coach (Khayelitsha)
## Financials

*The figures below represent Grassroot Soccer South Africa’s audited financials for 2017 and unaudited financials for 2018. Full audited financial statements will be posted on our website when available. We encourage you to take a look at our record of accountability and find more information on the website, www.grassrootsoccer.org/financials.*

### FINANCIAL POSITION

**FIGURES IN RAND**

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<tr>
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<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Non-Current Assets</td>
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<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
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<td>1,065,777</td>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
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<td>835,463</td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>6,936,593</td>
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<td>15,900,607</td>
<td>15,929,505</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td>Equity</td>
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<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued salaries and leave pay</td>
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<td>Due to related party</td>
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<td>9,926,697</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>7,625,651</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>16,108,571</td>
<td>16,170,679</td>
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<td>Balance at 01 January 2017</td>
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<td>Net assets for the year</td>
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<td>Balance at 01 January 2018</td>
<td>824,603</td>
<td>(140,776)</td>
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<td>Net deficit for the year</td>
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<td>Balance at 01 December 2018</td>
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<td><strong>CASH FLOWS</strong></td>
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<td>Cash flows from operating activities</td>
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<td>Cash generated from (used by) operations</td>
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<td>Cash flows from investing activities</td>
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<td>Purchase of property, plant and equipment</td>
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<td>Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL CASH AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>1,985,398</td>
<td>6,936,593</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>Grant income</td>
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<td>Contribution income</td>
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<td>Other income and donations in-kind</td>
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<td>Interest income</td>
<td>114,953</td>
<td>200,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>(38,672,060)</td>
<td>(46,987,208)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL GAIN (LOSS)</strong></td>
<td>(140,776)</td>
<td>53,467</td>
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Looking Ahead

In 2017 and 2018, Grassroot Soccer developed a comprehensive service linkage and layering strategy led by its Care Team of social workers, clinicians and Coaches, that strengthens community-facility linkages for all participants to health and social services. We also worked to adapt our enrolment strategy, to focus more heavily on identifying the most vulnerable youth. Both strategies have enabled us to deepen our partnerships with key service partners at the community, district and provincial levels, and ensure a full continuum of care for vulnerable youth in South Africa.

These collaborations also positioned Grassroot Soccer to contribute to new multi-year projects, and in late 2018, we began partnering with FHI 360 on the PEPFAR/USAID-funded DREAMS - Community Mobilisation and Norms Change II project in Johannesburg. Building on lessons learnt from our recent work on the PEPFAR/USAID Community Responses Programme, this initiative will work with different community groups to build toward zero incidence of gender-based violence, and foster an enabling environment in which adolescent girls and young women, and the broader community, can access SRHR and post-violence care and support services.

Through PEPFAR/USAID, in early 2019, Grassroot Soccer also launched our first ever dedicated programme supporting orphans and vulnerable children and youth: The Bridge Project - Support, Prepare and Engage Vulnerable Youth in Johannesburg under FHI 360, and the five-year Children and Adolescents are My Priority (CHAMP) Project in Mpumalanga led by mothers2mothers. The CHAMP project will expand our direct implementation work to Mpumalanga for the first time, and allow us to engage with new communities.

We believe in the lasting impact of this work, and that sport-based SRHR programmes can empower adolescents to level the playing field.

Sekunjalo Ke Nako
- Now is the Time!