The first half of the year has swiftly gone by with much to be recognized and revered. In the past months, our provincial teams have been hard at work with implementing a series of interventions with accompanying evaluations across the Limpopo, Eastern and Western Cape provinces. These interventions target teachers and learners in grades R to 3 and are built around the core set of Funda Wande (literacy) and Bala Wande (numeracy) Learner and Teacher Support Materials (LTSM) with variations in the package of support. Namely, Teacher Assistance in LF, Teacher coaches in Eastern Cape and Subject Advisors in Western cape.

Some of our key take away points from our most recently evaluations reports released in the first quarter of the year are:

1. COVID-19 reared all learning gains made in our first year of interventions (2019) despite having made efforts to support both teachers and learners during school closure and rotational timetable.
2. Greater take-up in numeracy. When intervening in both literacy and numeracy, learners do better in numeracy than they do in literacy.
3. The earlier the intervention, the better! There is a statistically significant impact in our only Gr R Sopies intervention.

Find out more about our work and interventions in these reports below.

WE ARE AWARDS NOMINEES!

We have recently been nominated for a RISE (Research of Improving Systems of Education) Award! Hosted by the University of Oxford, these awards were designed by the RISE Directorate to celebrate the achievements of the RISE community. There are three RISE awards that capture the ways in which members of the RISE Community have supported various countries in overcoming the learning crisis: (i) capability development, (ii) research, and (iii) overall impact.

Other nominations included the Indian and Pakistani Country Research teams for their targeting instruction of foundational learning and all members of the Community of Practice for leading the global discourse on learning and education systems, and for shifting global paradigms.

Although we didn’t take the title home, it’s always such an honor to be recognized for our work and impact - even on a global scale! Congratulations to the members of the Community of Practice!

See the link to the ceremony here:

WATCH NOW!

In the month of June, I joined our Western Cape Intervention team and the Bonnivale 418 Trustees on a school site visit. We visited Lakes Gerwel Technical High School and Bonnivale Primary School. Funda Wande has partnered with the Trust to strengthen the foundation phases of the three high school feeder schools. Although Bonnivale 418’s core focus is creating pathways for youth in the community, they have been identified that critical need to start sooner rather than later. And here is where Funda Wande comes in! Our aim with this intervention is to deploy Afrokam grades 1 – 3 materials in the three feeding schools and work closely with the Bonnivale team in supporting the teachers through teacher content knowledge as well as pedagogical development

OUR TEAM IS EXPANDING!

We welcome the newest EXCO member, Holly Kutter CA(SA), who is joining us at Funda Wande and will be our head of Finance. Holly has over 10 years of experience in finance, team leadership, project management and so much more.

We are looking forward to working closely with Holly! I believe she will be a valuable member of the EXCO.

Yours in education,
Nangamso Mhatsa, CEO Funda Wande