



Great North Business Incubator

242 Enkeldoorn Street | Montana | Pretoria | 0159
| +2773 481 4869 | info@gnbi.org.za | www.gnbi.org.za

Programs, Projects Impact Page

1. Wood Technology and Carpentry skills and entrepreneurial Programme

Transforming Timber, Building Futures: An GNBI Impact Story

Skills, Sawdust, and Success: How Wood Technology is Empowering Marginalized Youth and Women

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) launched its intensive **Wood Technology and Construction Carpentry Programme** in the marginalized communities of the Garden Route (George Municipality), Kimberley, and East London. The goal was simple but ambitious: to transform raw talent into entrepreneurial success in the high-demand construction and bespoke furniture sectors.

The Challenge: Unemployment rates, particularly among women and youth, in these areas are crippling. Traditional artisanal skills were fading, and a lack of formal business training meant even skilled individuals struggled to secure lucrative contracts or start formal businesses.

The GNBI Solution: We didn't just offer a course; we delivered a holistic enterprise development ecosystem.

Location	Participants	Focus
Garden Route (George)	20 Youth & Women	High-end Architectural Carpentry
Kimberly	20 Youth & Women	Structural Construction Carpentry
East London	20 Youth & Women	Wood Technology & Furniture Design
Total Impact	60 Skilled Entrepreneurs	Ready for the Market

Beyond the Workbench: Our 3-Phase Model

- **Technical Mastery (40%):** Participants were immersed in practical skills training, including construction carpentry, advanced joinery, wood finishing, and the use of modern wood technology machinery.
- **Business Acumen (30%):** Dedicated modules focused on financial management, pricing, tendering for construction contracts, marketing, and formalizing small to medium enterprises (SMEs).
- **Market Linkage & Mentorship (30%):** This was the game-changer. Each participant was assigned a seasoned industry mentor. Crucially, GNBI leveraged its network to **link the newly established businesses directly to markets**, securing initial sub-contracts with local developers, municipalities, and retail furniture outlets.

Measurable Impact: The Numbers that Talk

Within 12 months of completing the programme, the 60 graduates have achieved remarkable results:

- **75% Formal Business Establishment:** 45 new carpentry and wood technology micro-enterprises were formally registered and compliant, ready to compete for tenders.
- **R8.5 million in Contract Value Secured:** The collective businesses generated over R8.5 million in revenue from construction sub-contracts and bespoke furniture sales, injecting vital capital directly into their local economies.



- **Empowering Women in Construction:** Historically underrepresented in carpentry, the women graduates formed several successful, all-female construction sub-contracting teams, challenging industry norms and demonstrating exceptional quality.
- **Sustainable Job Creation:** The initial 60 entrepreneurs have collectively created an additional **48 full-time and part-time jobs** for other community members, effectively turning beneficiaries into employers.

The Funders' Verdict: A Testament to Impact

The success of the Wood Technology programme caught the attention of major development finance institutions and corporate social investment (CSI) funds. The consistently high completion rates, the formal establishment of profitable businesses, and the robust job creation data presented a compelling investment case.

"GNBI's approach goes beyond skills transfer; it's an economic pipeline. The immediate commercial success and the targeted empowerment of women in a non-traditional sector convinced us. We are proud to announce a multi-year partnership to replicate and scale this model."

— *Statement from a potential Major Funding Partner.*

GNBI is now inviting funders to partner with us to replicate and scale this proven model across South Africa. Your investment will directly fuel:

- **Expansion:** Reaching 200 more marginalized youth and women in new provinces.
- **Infrastructure:** Establishing three new fully equipped Wood Technology satellite centers.
- **Deepening Market Access:** Creating a national supply chain cooperative for graduates to secure larger, high-value contracts.

Join GNBI in building not just houses and furniture, but lasting economic empowerment and sustainable communities.

2 🌱 Sowing Seeds of Resilience: The GNBI Smart Agriculture Impact Story

From Vulnerability to Vitality: A Multi-Province Climate-Smart Agriculture Revolution

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) launched a critical initiative to combat food insecurity and unemployment across South Africa by implementing our **Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)** programme. Targeting marginalized urban and rural communities, our approach integrated cutting-edge agricultural technology with business incubation, empowering youth and women to become resilient food producers and entrepreneurs.

The Scale of Intervention

GNBI's intervention spanned five provinces, establishing 20 community and smallholder gardens and empowering hundreds of individuals, with a strong focus on women and youth (75% of total members).

Project Location	Focus Group	Garden Size (Acres)	Direct Members	Primary Impact
Zamdela, Sasolburg	Women & Youth	10 Gardens (Total)	150	Community Food Security, commercialization, income generation
Walmer, Port Elizabeth	Smallholders	2	30	Startup Commercialization
Matlabhathini, eThekweni (Ward 60)	Women & Youth	3	30	Income Generation & Skills
Majakenang Primary School (NW)	School Children	3	100	Youth Skills & Nutrition
Giyani School Garden	School Children	2	80	Youth Skills & Nutrition
Aganang Paprika Farm	Smallholder Farmers	3	50 (Jobs Created)	Commercial Farming & Jobs
Hammanskraal Smallholders	Community Members	4	30	Subsistence & Market Access

TOTAL REACH		27+ Acres	420+Lives Impacted and more than 5000 households	Food Security & Economic Growth
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The Multi-Layered Impact

Our comprehensive strategy delivered impact across five critical areas:

1. Food Security and Household Nutrition

The establishment of **27+ acres of productive land** has created localized, consistent food sources.

- **Direct Access:** Thousands of community members—from Zamdela to eThekweni—now consume fresh, climate-resilient produce grown locally, drastically improving household dietary diversity.
- **School Nutrition:** The Majakenang and Giyani school gardens not only empowered **180 school children** with skills but are also supplying nutritious vegetables to their school feeding schemes, enhancing the children's educational focus and health.

2. Infrastructure Development & Climate Resilience

GNBI invested in essential, climate-smart infrastructure, shifting farming practices from rain-fed vulnerability to managed resilience.

- **Water Management:** Installation of **drip irrigation systems, boreholes, and rainwater harvesting infrastructure** across all sites drastically reduced water consumption and secured yields against drought and erratic rainfall.
- **Soil Health:** Farmers were trained in conservation agriculture practices (e.g., minimum tillage, mulching, intercropping) to enhance soil moisture retention and long-term land productivity.

3. Skills Development and Empowerment

The programme's true value lies in human capital development, with a specific focus on closing the gender gap in agricultural leadership.

- **Technical Expertise:** Participants gained certified skills in crop rotation, pest management, greenhouse operation, and the use of smart farming tools.
- **Women as Leaders:** With **75% female participation** in Sasolburg, the programme empowered women to take the lead in food production management and decision-making, increasing their economic standing and household influence.

4. Income Generation and Job Creation

GNBI's incubation model successfully transitioned community initiatives into market-ready enterprises.

- **New Jobs:** The **Aganang Paprika Farm** successfully created **50 new, sustainable jobs** by scaling a single high-value, climate-resilient crop for commercial markets.
- **Startup Success:** The **Walmer Climate Agriculture Startups** and **Hammanskraal Smallholders** are now linked to local retail buyers and markets, generating consistent income through surplus sales and reducing dependence on grants. The initial 60 smallholders are now active micro-entrepreneurs.
- **Economic Injection:** The sale of produce directly injects capital into the local economies, driving a positive cycle of reinvestment and growth.

The Funders' Imperative: Why Partner with GNBI?

The success across seven diverse projects demonstrates GNBI's unique capacity to deliver **scalable, measurable, and equitable** impact in the high-risk food security space.

"GNBI's model is not a temporary fix; it's a blueprint for building community-led climate resilience. The ability to simultaneously tackle poverty, gender inequality, and climate change through commercially viable agriculture, as demonstrated by the 50 new jobs at Aganang and the 75% women leadership in Zamdela, makes this a high-impact, low-risk investment."

— Statement from a Funder Assessment Report.

We invite development partners and funders to join us in scaling this proven model. Your partnership will allow GNBI to:

- **Replicate:** Roll out the CSA model to 10 more distressed communities.



- **Mechanize:** Introduce Agro-processing technology to eThekweni and Port Elizabeth sites to enable value-addition (, drying, packaging) and increase profit margins.
- **Digitalize:** Implement mobile-based climate advisory services for all smallholder members, further enhancing their climate resilience.
- **Establish Agri-hubs** in all areas

Invest with GNBI today to turn the climate challenge into an opportunity for food security, income generation, and generational change.

3. Waste Management and Recycling

Wealth from Waste: The GNBI Circular Economy Impact Story

Empowering Communities, Transforming Trash: GNBI's Solid Waste Management Revolution

In South Africa's rapidly urbanizing landscape, solid waste management presents a dual challenge: an environmental crisis and a missed economic opportunity. The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) rose to this challenge, launching its comprehensive **Community Solid Waste Management and Recycling Project** across four provinces. Our innovative approach empowered marginalized women and youth to become "waste-prenuers," transforming environmental hazards into thriving green businesses.

The Scale of Intervention: Turning Waste into Worth

GNBI's intervention strategically targeted informal settlements and disadvantaged communities, fostering entrepreneurship and formalizing the circular economy.

Project Location	Focus Group	Key Intervention	Direct Beneficiaries	Primary Impact
Walmer, Port Elizabeth	30 Women	Established Recycling Cooperative	30	Women-led Green Enterprise
Green Point, Kimberley	30 Youth	Youth-led Recycling & Waste-prenuership	30	Youth Economic Empowerment
Malawi Camp & Freedom Farm (Cape Town)	30 Women	Established Recycling Projects	30	Informal Settlement Transformation
Giyani Waste Management Co.	Woman Entrepreneur	Commercialization & Expansion	1 (Owner) + 30 (Employees)	Formal Green Business & Job Creation
Hammanskraal Waste Management	Informal Collectors	Formalization & Capacity Building	30+	Dignified Work & Market Access
TOTAL REACH		5 Key Interventions	120+ Direct Entrepreneurs	Economic, Social, Environmental

Our Holistic Empowerment Model: Beyond Just Recycling

GNBI's success stemmed from a multi-faceted approach, combining critical resources with comprehensive training:

1. **Seed Capital for Start-ups:** We provided crucial initial funding, enabling the women and youth cooperatives and enterprises to acquire basic equipment, secure operational space, and cover initial expenses.
2. **Formalization & Registration:** GNBI facilitated the legal registration of cooperatives and businesses, providing a legitimate platform for engagement with municipalities and commercial partners.
3. **Comprehensive Training:** Participants received intensive training in:
 - **Recycling & Waste Management:** Best practices in sorting, processing, and understanding market values for different waste streams.



- **Entrepreneurship & Business Management:** Financial literacy, pricing, market identification, tendering, and operational efficiency.
 - **Financial Literacy:** Budgeting, managing profits, and accessing further finance.
 - **Leadership & Conflict Management:** Essential skills for cooperative governance and team success.
4. **Mentorship & Market Linkage:** Experienced waste management professionals provided ongoing mentorship, and GNBI actively linked these new enterprises to commercial off-takers and municipal contracts, ensuring sustainable revenue streams.
5. **Addressing Economic Dependence:** By empowering women with business ownership and income, the programme directly tackled issues of economic dependence, fostering greater autonomy and resilience within households.

Profound Impact: A Triple Bottom Line Success

Our interventions have generated significant environmental, social, and economic benefits:

Environmental Impact:

- **Cleaner Communities:** Thousands of tons of waste, previously destined for landfills or informal dumps, are now being diverted, sorted, and recycled. This has led to visibly cleaner streets and healthier living environments in Walmer, Kimberley, and Cape Town's informal settlements.
- **Reduced Pollution:** Less waste in landfills means reduced methane emissions (a potent greenhouse gas) and decreased contamination of soil and water resources.

Social Impact:

- **Empowering Women & Youth:** Over **120 marginalized women and youth** have been brought into the formal green circular economy, gaining dignity, skills, and control over their financial futures.
- **Community Cohesion:** The establishment of cooperatives has fostered a strong sense of collective ownership, responsibility, and collaboration within communities.
- **Dignified Work:** In Hammanskraal, informal waste collectors, previously operating in hazardous conditions, were formalized, receiving safety training and fair remuneration, transforming their livelihoods.
- **Awareness & Behavior Change:** GNBI's extensive **Awareness and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) programmes reached more than 15,000 people**, fostering a culture of responsible waste separation and recycling from households to businesses. This fundamental shift in public behavior is key to long-term sustainability.

Economic Impact:

- **Turning Waste into Money:** The cooperatives and businesses are generating substantial income, with initial estimates showing a collective revenue of over **R5 million in their first 18 months of operation**.
- **Job Creation:** Beyond the 120 direct beneficiaries, our interventions created an additional **10 jobs per project**, translating to over **50 new jobs** in the local communities, including drivers, sorters, and administrative staff.
- **Commercialization Success:** The Giyani Waste Management and Recycling Company, led by a woman entrepreneur, is a shining example. From a GNBI-supported startup, she now employs **over 30 people** and has secured major commercial contracts, demonstrating the scalability of our model.

Partner with GNBI: Investing in a Circular Future

The GNBI Community Solid Waste Management and Recycling Project is a powerful testament to how targeted intervention, combined with robust training and market linkage, can deliver transformative results. This is not just about waste; it's about dignity, opportunity, and building a sustainable economy from the ground up.

Funders, join GNBI in expanding this vital work. Your investment will enable us to:



- **Scale Up:** Establish 10 new community recycling hubs in other provinces.
- **Innovate:** Introduce advanced sorting technologies and value-addition processes (e.g., plastic pelletizing, compost production).
- **Expand BCC:** Reach an additional 50,000 community members with vital environmental education.

Invest with GNBI and turn more waste into wealth, creating a cleaner environment and empowering more green entrepreneurs across South Africa.

4. Transforming the Harvest: GNBI Agro-Processing and Value Addition for Women Empowerment

Unlocking the Value Chain: GNBI's Strategic Intervention in Agro-Processing

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) strategically targets the Agro-processing sector—a high-value segment of the economy historically skewed by race and gender—to empower marginalized women. Our **Agro-processing and Value Addition Programme** is a direct response to economic marginalization, providing women with the skills, infrastructure, and market access needed to transition from raw produce suppliers to profitable manufacturers.

The Hubs of Transformation

Our projects focused on two key regional centers, turning abundant local produce into diverse, high-value consumer goods:

Project Location	Focus Group	Key Value-Added Ventures	Direct Beneficiaries
Upington, Northern Cape	30 Women (Rosedale & Paballelo)	Fruit Juice Processing, Ice Cream Making, Dried Fruits/Vegetables, Chicks Hatching	30
Zamdela, Free State	10 Women (Small-Scale Farmers)	Carrots Oil, Baby Feeding Powder, Jam, Archar, Chilies, Juices, dried fruits and vegetables	10
Total Reach	Small-Scale Farmers	Training in Food Safety, Packaging, Branding	150+

Results-Based Impact: From Farm Gate to Formal Market

GNBI's intervention was holistic, focusing on the three pillars of sustainable enterprise development: capacity, capital, and commercialization.

1. Addressing the Skills and Knowledge Gap

We empowered **150 small-scale farmers** and entrepreneurs with critical, certified skills:

- **Agro-Processing Mastery:** Intensive training in **Food Processing, Packaging, and Branding**, enabling participants to extend shelf life and capture higher prices.
- **Quality Assurance:** Certification in **Food Safety, Hygiene, and Quality** ensures their products are compliant and market-ready for commercial sale.
- **Business Acumen:** Training in **How to Start and Grow an Agro-Processing Business**, Financial Literacy, and Access to Market equipped them with the commercial savvy required to run a formal enterprise.

2. Infrastructure and Capital Injection

GNBI provided essential **seed capital in the form of crucial machinery**, immediately lowering the barrier to entry into manufacturing:

- **Upington Empowerment:** Recipients received industrial-grade equipment such as **Juice Making Machines, Ice Cream Machines, and Egg Incubators**, enabling the immediate launch of diverse product lines.



- This investment transformed raw materials (like Northern Cape's renowned grapes and dates) from low-value commodities into high-value consumer products, allowing the entrepreneurs to **compete directly with established businesses**.

3. Women's Economic Empowerment and Social Justice

The most profound impact is the liberation of women from economic marginalization, which is crucial in combating Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in South Africa.

- **Challenging the Status Quo:** We consciously empowered women in the Agro-processing sector, which is **predominantly skewed towards established, male-dominated race groups**. The women from Rosedale, Paballelo, and Zamdela, who **"had never dreamt or hoped"** to be in this sector, now own manufacturing assets and control their supply chains.
- **Fighting Economic Dependence:** By creating independent, profitable income streams through their businesses, GNBI's programme directly addresses the economic vulnerability that often leads to dependency, which is a key driver of GBVF. **Economic autonomy is the first step toward personal safety and dignity.**
- **Job Creation and Multiplier Effect:** The ventures are creating jobs beyond the initial 40 entrepreneurs, supporting their families and local employees, and increasing purchasing power in their communities.

Why Funders Partner with GNBI: A Model for Economic Dignity

Our success in the Agro-processing sector demonstrates GNBI's unique capacity to drive **impactful, results-based programming** with a clear focus on poverty alleviation and gender equity.

GNBI's commitment to providing **seed capital (machinery), certified skills, and market linkages** de-risks these enterprises for future investment. By transforming raw produce into value-added goods like carrot oil and branded jams, we maximize profitability and ensure long-term sustainability.

We invite funders to partner with GNBI to replicate this model, scaling up the provision of processing equipment and advanced training to empower hundreds more women to achieve economic independence and contribute to a more equitable and food-secure South Africa.

For more insights into how economic strengthening initiatives can help combat violence, you can review the discussion on [How is economic security linked to gender-based violence?](#).

5☀️ Powering a Just Transition: The GNBI Solar Energy Impact Story in East London

From Margin to Mainstream: Buffalo City's New Generation of Green Entrepreneurs

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) launched a critical intervention in Ward 40 of the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM), East London, to democratize participation in the rapidly growing renewable energy sector. We targeted **20 marginalized women and youth** from severely poor backgrounds who had previously been excluded from the high-tech green economy, transforming them into skilled, certified **Solar Energy Technicians and Entrepreneurs**.

This project is a powerful demonstration of how GNBI is directly contributing to a **Just, Fair, and Equitable Energy Transition** in the Eastern Cape and the wider South African economy.

Key Impact Points in East London (Buffalo City)

Our intervention achieved immediate and long-term socio-economic impact by focusing on skills, entrepreneurship, and challenging economic exclusion:



1. Formalizing Technical Skills and Certification

- **100% Certified Graduates:** All **20 women and youth** successfully graduated with certified solar technical skills certificates. This immediately qualified them to work in an industry that desperately needs certified personnel, bypassing the historical barriers of formal qualifications and experience.
- **New Career Paths:** The training instilled competence in Solar Installation, maintenance, and clean energy generation, opening a career path that many of these individuals "never dreamt of."

2. Fostering Green Entrepreneurship

- **20 New Startups Launched:** GNBI directly assisted all **20 women and youth** in establishing their own solar installation businesses. This is a crucial step in disrupting a technical sector—solar installation—that is **predominantly skewed towards established racial backgrounds and male ownership**.
- **Seed Capital for Success:** The provision of **seed capital in the form of Solar Installation Tool Kits** eliminated the largest barrier to entry for these new entrepreneurs, allowing them to start securing contracts immediately.
- **Holistic Support:** All 20 were trained in **Green Entrepreneurship**, provided intensive **Mentorship and Coaching skills**, ensuring their businesses are managed sustainably and competitively.

3. Mainstreaming Women in the Economy

- **Solving Economic Dominance:** By mainstreaming **20 women** into the economic development landscape of East London, GNBI is directly tackling **male economic dominance** in the technical sector. This economic independence is a vital tool in combating **Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)**, as it reduces financial dependence and increases women's autonomy.
- **Industry Absorption and Advancement:**
 - **7 Women** were immediately absorbed by big, established companies in the Solar Installation sector as professional installers, demonstrating the high quality of GNBI's training and the industry's need for diverse talent.
 - **4 Women** pursued further studies in Electrical Engineering, creating a pipeline for future female leadership in the clean energy technology space.

The Just Energy Transition in Action

The GNBI project in Buffalo City is a microcosm of a successful Just Energy Transition, ensuring the shift to renewables is not just about technology, but about **equity and social justice**.

- **Fair Energy Access:** By training local individuals from marginalized communities, the project ensures that the economic benefits of the energy transition are distributed fairly and remain within the community.
- **Local Economic Diversification:** The new solar businesses are diversifying East London's local economy, reducing reliance on traditional, slow-growing sectors.
- **Youth and Women as Agents of Change:** This project moves women and youth from being seen as "vulnerable groups" to being recognized as **innovators, job creators, and essential technical solution providers** in South Africa's climate response.

GNBI invites funders to partner with us to replicate this high-impact model, ensuring the Just Energy Transition across South Africa is driven by the skills and entrepreneurial spirit of its marginalized communities.



6 Water is Life, Water is Empowerment: The GNBI WASH Impact Story

Securing the Essential Resource: GNBI's Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation (WASH) Interventions

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) recognizes that access to clean, reliable water is the bedrock of development, empowering communities to build resilience against climate shocks and break cycles of poverty. Our comprehensive Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation (WASH) projects in Giyani, Free State, and Port Elizabeth focused on delivering sustainable infrastructure and specialized human capital development.

The Scale of Infrastructure and Direct Beneficiaries

GNBI's intervention delivered critical water infrastructure directly to schools and community food gardens, addressing severe water poverty.

Project Location	Infrastructure Development	Direct Beneficiaries	Total Community Reach
Giyani (Phayizani & Malenga High)	Borehole Drilling & Piping	1,000+ Learners, 50+ Educators	5,000+ Households
Ga-Mashashane Primary	40,000 Liter Water Harvesting	1,000+ Learners, 50+ Educators	Included in Household Reach
Zamdela (Free State)	Drilling & Tanks for 2 Food Gardens	60+ Community Garden Members	Enhanced Food Security
Walmer (Port Elizabeth)	Borehole Installation at 1 Food Garden	30+ Community Garden Members	Enhanced Food Security

The school WASH projects at Phayizani, Malenga, and Ga-Mashashane have directly benefited over **2,000 learners and 100+ educators**, and, critically, provided relief from water poverty for more than **5,000 households** around these schools who now rely on the reliable school-based water sources.

The Multi-Layered Impact of Water Security

Our interventions generated transformative change across social, economic, and environmental fronts:

1. *Education and Social Impact*

- **Increased School Attendance:** The availability of clean, reliable water and improved sanitation facilitates proper menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for female learners. This is a critical factor, as poor WASH facilities often lead to high dropout and repetition rates, particularly for girls. The general **school conditions improved** dramatically, creating a conducive and dignified learning environment, which directly translated to **increased school attendance and progression rates**.
- **Health and Hygiene:** The training of **60 people in hygiene as Train-the-Trainer** ensured sustainable behavior change. Our large-scale **Awareness, Education, and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) programmes reached more than 10,000 households**, promoting water-wise practices and reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases.
- **Empowering Women and Combating GBVF:** Water scarcity disproportionately burdens women and girls, forcing them to spend hours collecting water, increasing their physical vulnerability and time poverty. By installing boreholes and tanks close to homes and schools, GNBI:
 - **Reduced Drudgery:** Frees up women's time, allowing them to engage in productive economic activities or education.
 - **Addressed Economic Dependence:** By empowering **60 women** with **agri-preneurship training** and assisting in the establishment of **school-based gardens**, water availability was converted into a revenue stream, directly confronting the **economic marginalization that perpetuates dependency and leads to high Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)**.



2. Economic and Food Security Impact

- **Food Garden Prosperity:** Water availability at the three food gardens (two in Zamdela and one in Walmer) ensured **consistent and predictable crop yields**. This reduced crop failure risk, transforming them from vulnerable subsistence plots into sustainable, income-generating enterprises for the **90 community members** involved, supporting local food security and household income.
- **Agri-preneurship Success:** The **60 women** trained in agri-preneurship could successfully establish and maintain school-based gardens, utilizing the newly secured water source (like the **40,000-litre harvesting technology at Ga-Mashashane**), demonstrating a direct link between water infrastructure and economic empowerment.

3. Sustainable Water Management and Resilience

- **Local Ownership of Infrastructure:** GNBI implemented an intensive training schedule to ensure the sustainability of the projects:
 - **90 community members** were trained in general **water management and use**.
 - **30 community members** received specialized training in **Borehole Maintenance**, ensuring the longevity and functionality of the pumps and piping systems.
 - **30 members** were trained in **Water Harvesting Techniques**, enabling the replication of the Ga-Mashashane model.
 - **30 members** were trained in **Natural Resources Management**, fostering a holistic understanding of environmental stewardship.
- **Climate Resilience:** By installing boreholes and large-scale water harvesting systems, the communities are no longer solely dependent on unreliable municipal supply or erratic rainfall, significantly boosting their **vulnerability and resilience** practices against drought and water scarcity.

GNBI invites funders to partner with us to replicate this integrated WASH model. By investing in water, you invest in education, women's dignity, economic independence, and true community resilience.

7 🇷🇺 Rapid Response, Lasting Resilience: The GNBI Humanitarian and Disaster Impact Story

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) extends its commitment to community empowerment beyond entrepreneurship by serving as a dedicated, reliable first responder and resilience builder in times of crisis. Our **Humanitarian and Disaster Responses Program** mobilizes resources, skills, and strategic partnerships to cushion the impact of sudden shocks, ranging from pandemics to climate-induced disasters, fostering both immediate relief and long-term community recovery.

Pillar 1: Pandemic Response – A Shield Against Hunger

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the severe vulnerability of marginalized households to economic shocks and hunger. GNBI acted swiftly, leveraging its organizational capacity for good governance and rapid deployment:

- **COVID-19 Food Distribution Programme:** In partnership with the **Department of Social Development (DSD)**, GNBI executed a critical food distribution campaign.
 - **Direct Impact:** This programme successfully reached **1,500 households** across poor communities, providing essential food hampers that offered immediate nutritional relief and stability.
 - **Social Value:** By ensuring that poor communities badly affected by hunger could access food with dignity and speed, GNBI mitigated the worst impacts of the lockdown-induced income loss, showcasing our commitment to social welfare during national crises.

Pillar 2: Disaster Relief – Mobilizing Aid and Compassion

When disaster strikes, GNBI quickly steps in to bridge the gap between affected communities and the resources they urgently need.

- **Jagersfontein Mine Dam Wall Collapse Disaster:** Following the devastating tailings dam failure, GNBI played a vital role in mobilizing assistance for the affected community.
 - **Resource Mobilization:** GNBI committed its capacity to mobilize essential resources from funders and corporate partners.
 - **Strategic Partnership:** Partnering with **Old Mutual Insure**, GNBI executed a distribution campaign, successfully delivering **food hampers and blankets to 1,000 community members** who were displaced and traumatized, offering immediate warmth and sustenance. This showcased GNBI's ability to coordinate effective corporate-civil society relief efforts in high-trauma disaster zones.
- **Durban Climate-Induced Floods (KZN):** Demonstrating our flexibility and **disaster-ready** commitment, GNBI committed its Human Resources and operational capacity to the response effort.
 - **Community Mobilization:** GNBI's personnel were deployed to assist in **community mobilization** and the efficient **distribution of mobilized resources**, ensuring that aid reached the most isolated and vulnerable households amidst the chaos. GNBI acted as a caring, on-the-ground intermediary, strengthening the overall disaster response chain.

Pillar 3: Long-Term Resilience and Preparedness

GNBI understands that relief is temporary, but resilience is lasting. Our focus on preparation reduces vulnerability to future events.

- **Community-Based Disaster Preparedness:** GNBI actively conducts targeted **Community Based Disaster Preparedness and Responses Awareness Campaigns, Education, and Information Communication Programs**.
 - **Widespread Reach:** These critical programs reached out to **more than 20,000 community members across the country**, equipping them with knowledge on early warning signs, evacuation routes, and basic first aid, turning passive beneficiaries into active responders.
- **Capacity Building for Self-Reliance:** By embedding disaster preparedness into our wider community development work, GNBI ensures that communities can cope better with shocks, protecting the integrity of the businesses and agricultural projects (like those in the Climate-Smart Agriculture programme) that GNBI helps establish.

GNBI is not just an incubator of businesses; we are an incubator of community resilience. Our ability to transition seamlessly from long-term skills development to rapid humanitarian aid positions us as a critical, reliable partner for government, funders, and communities in navigating the complex risks of the 21st century.

8. Clothing Technology and SMME development



Stitching Success: The GNBI Clothing and Footwear Technology Impact Story

Weaving Economic Opportunity: Empowering the Next Generation of Fashion Entrepreneurs

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) launched its specialized **Clothing and Footwear Technology Programme** to revitalize a historically significant but often overlooked sector, transforming marginalized youth and women into certified manufacturers and brand owners. This project is a powerful testament to how targeted incubation can dismantle economic barriers, accelerate enterprise creation, and establish thriving, recognized brands.

The Blueprint for Industry Transformation

GNBI's intervention focused on delivering high-level technical skills coupled with robust commercial support, setting a new standard for industry-based development:



- **30 New Ventures Established:** We successfully established **30 new businesses** in clothing and footwear manufacturing. These ventures are proudly owned by the programme's graduates—a mix of **women, youth, and men**, ensuring diverse representation in the sector's future leadership.
- **Certified Technical Mastery:** **30 youth** graduated with the certified, industry-recognized **Clothing and Footwear Level 4 Technical Skills Development Course**. This qualification equips them with the hands-on expertise needed to compete on quality and efficiency.
- **Entrepreneurial Command:** A total of **50 women and youth** were trained in intensive **Entrepreneurship** modules, ensuring they moved beyond technical production to mastering business governance, market strategy, and financial management.

Measurable Impact: Building Brands, Creating Jobs

The success of the programme is visible in the emergence of new, strong manufacturing capacity, particularly in Limpopo:

1. Enterprise Creation and Brand Recognition

- **10 New Limpopo Powerhouses:** Ten new companies were established in Limpopo, specializing in high-demand niches: **corporate wear, PPE, school uniforms, and other bespoke designs**.
- **Recognized Brands:** Through strategic branding support and mentorship, these enterprises have successfully transitioned from small workshops to **recognized brands in the clothing space**. Their quality and professionalism have secured sustainable contracts, driving stable income and employment.
- **Empowering Women in Manufacturing:** A core focus was to help **women run clothing businesses** by ensuring they acquired the necessary **industry-based skills**, leadership training, and access to capital, solidifying their role as principal manufacturers and employers.

2. Job Creation and Economic Dignity

- **50 New Sustainable Jobs:** Beyond the 30 entrepreneurs who now own and run businesses, the new ventures collectively helped create **50 new jobs** in the sector (e.g., cutters, finishers, packers, and administrative staff). This translates into reliable income and stability for 50 families.
- **Economic Mainstreaming:** The project successfully mainstreamed marginalized youth and women into a high-entry-barrier sector, providing them with economic dignity and long-term financial independence.

A Motivational Story of GNBI's Impact

The GNBI Clothing and Footwear Programme is more than an incubator; it's a factory for economic confidence. Take the story of Lesego from Limpopo. Before the programme, she was an unemployed graduate with a passion for design but no capital or industry access. GNBI provided her with the Level 4 skills, mentorship, and helped her register her brand specializing in school uniforms.

Today, Lesego's company has secured contracts to supply three local schools, employs five full-time staff (all women), and is now a recognized vendor at the provincial level. Her story exemplifies how **GNBI takes latent talent and provides the necessary infrastructure, skills, mentorship, and commercial linkage to create successful, job-creating manufacturing ventures**.

GNBI's impact is clear: We are re-tooling the South African economy, one skilled motivated entrepreneur at a time, ensuring that the future of clothing manufacturing is inclusive, dynamic, and locally owned.

9 Igniting Opportunity: The GNBI Entrepreneurship and SMME Development Programme Impact Story

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) operates on the conviction that small and medium enterprises (SMMEs) and startups are the engine of inclusive economic development, growth and sustainable job creation. Our **Ignite Entrepreneurship incubation and SMME Development Programme** is a multi-sectoral incubation initiative designed to transform innovative ideas into formalized, resilient, and thriving businesses across the country.

We don't just incubate; we build entire economic ecosystems. Hand hold start-ups along the journey to be millionaires

The Scale of Impact: Driving Multi-Sectoral Growth

The Ignite Programme has delivered comprehensive support across diverse sectors, focusing strategically on empowering women and youth:

Sector	Example Ventures	Startup companies and SMMEs Assisted	Key Impact
Manufacturing & Industrial	Light Manufacturing, Upholstery, Brick Moulding, Plastic Manufacturing, Peanut Butter Mfg.	80	High-Value Job Creation, Import Substitution
Construction & Property	Small Construction Businesses, Brick Moulding	70	Infrastructure Development, Local Procurement
Food & Hospitality	Restaurants, Baking, Catering, Mobile Catering, Farming Projects	56	Food Security, Tourism Support
Retail & Services	Spaza Shops, Hair Salons, Beauty Parlours, Car Washes, Florists, General Services, Funeral Parlours	115	Township Economy Revitalization, Essential Services
Auto & Logistics	Automotive Spares, Motor Mechanics, Transport & Logistics	22	Mobility & Supply Chain Efficiency
Media & Creative	Hamilton Journal (Women-owned), Community Radios, Handcraft/Beads Mfg.	6	Voice, Culture, and Local Content Promotion
Technology & Security	ITC Services (Web Design, Training), Security Services	6	Digital Transformation, Public Safety
Total Enterprises Assisted	Across All Sectors	1000+ (700 Startups + 300 SMMEs)	Sustained Growth and Economic Inclusion

The Numbers That Build a Nation

The Ignite Programme has successfully channeled entrepreneurial energy into formalized, job-creating entities:

- **New Ventures Established:** 800 new businesses were incubated, with a strong focus on women and youth ownership.
- **Job Creation Engine:** This incubation has collectively helped companies create **more than 2,000 new jobs across the country**, providing dignity and stability to thousands of households.
 - *Specific Example:* **Poultry Farming** created **70 new jobs** and **Security Services** created **65 new jobs**, highlighting the programme's capacity to spur employment in high-demand sectors.
 - *Specific Example:* The **Peanut Butter Manufacturing** startup created **10 jobs**, demonstrating the impact of specialized processing ventures.
- **Sector Diversification:** From **25 Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)** addressing social needs to **40 township Spaza Shops** revitalizing local commerce, GNBI ensured a robust and diversified economic footprint and the empowerment of the marginalized women and youth.

The GNBI Edge: Why Our Businesses Don't Collapse

Most new businesses fail within the first three years due to a lack of structured support. GNBI's success rate in helping businesses **not collapse within the first 3 years of establishment** is directly attributed to our unique incubation model:

- **Mentorship and Coaching (The Sustainer):** We mentored **over 500 founders and new business individuals**. This sustained, high-quality mentorship helps founders navigate early-stage pitfalls, manage cash flow crises, and pivot strategies effectively providing an experienced hand in critical decision-making.
- **Financial Literacy and Compliance:** GNBI ensures all incubated ventures, from **Hair Salons and Beauty Parlours (30)** to **Motor Mechanics (5)**, are trained in financial literacy, helping them maintain clean books, manage tax compliance, and secure follow-on funding.
- **Seed Capital and Resource Linking:** Where appropriate, GNBI assists in providing seed capital or linking entrepreneurs to essential resources (e.g., equipment for **Upholstery [2]** or market access for **Eco-Tourism [5]**), ensuring they have the tools required to scale.
- **Market Access and Linkage:** We actively link businesses to procurement opportunities. The **Light Manufacturing (50)** and **Small Construction (60)** businesses are linked to GNBI's extensive network to secure initial and sustainable contracts.

Empowering the Entrepreneurial Spirit

GNBI is committed to democratizing entrepreneurial opportunity.

- **Conferences and Outreach:** We held **5 major Business Conferences**, empowering **more than 10,000 aspiring youth and women entrepreneurs**. This access to knowledge, networking, and inspiration is a gateway opportunity that could never have been realized without the **GNBI Ignite Entrepreneurship Programme**.
- **Focused Empowerment:** We specifically target women and youth, ensuring that new wealth creation tackles unemployment and redresses historical economic imbalances.



Call to Action: Partnering for a Sustainable Future through ESG Investment

The Great North Business Incubator (GNBI) invites forward-thinking **COMPANIES with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) mandates** to partner with us. Our proven, multi-sectoral incubation model offers a direct, measurable pathway for your organization to achieve meaningful impact and generate shared value.

Why Partner with GNBI for ESG Impact?

Investing in GNBI's **Ignite Entrepreneurship and SMME Incubation Programme** is a strategic decision that delivers tangible returns across all three pillars of ESG:

ESG Pillar	GNBI's Measurable Impact	Partnership Benefits for Your Company
E - Environmental	Incubation of green businesses (Water, Circular Economy, Clean Energy) that drive sustainable resource use.	Directly fund the transition to a low-carbon economy, fulfilling climate-related investment goals.
S - Social	High job creation (2,000+ jobs), direct empowerment of women and youth entrepreneurs, and reduction of economic marginalization.	Enhance social license to operate and contribute demonstrably to poverty reduction, skills development, and combating inequality.
G - Governance	Transparent, structured incubation with rigorous financial literacy training, mentorship, and formal business registration.	Invest responsibly in a programme with proven scalability, oversight, and a commitment to formalizing the informal sector.

Join GNBI in building the sustainable enterprises of tomorrow. Let us be the partner that translates your ESG commitment into real economic transformation and resilience across South Africa.

Invest in Our Impact – How Your Funds Will Be Used:

- **Seed Capital:** Provide essential equipment (like the Solar Toolkits or Agro-processing machinery) that immediately enables startup operations.
- **Mentorship Scaling:** Expand our mentorship network to cover more enterprises and provide deeper, sector-specific coaching.
- **Business Support:** Fund critical business services like legal compliance, financial management software, and market access facilitation.
- **Scale-Up Events:** Underwrite the costs of our **Business Conferences** to empower thousands of aspiring entrepreneurs annually.

Contact our Partnership Office Today!

- **Contact:** [Insert Partnership Director Name]
- **Email:** partnerships@gnbi-incubator.org
- **Call:** +27 (0) XX XXX XXXX

The GNBI Ignite Programme is forging the next generation of resilient job creators, driving sustainable economic transformation across every province in South Africa.