

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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Social Media

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Linked In	: Church Alliance for Social Transformation	
YouTube	: CAST (Church Alliance for Social Transformation)	
Blogs	: CAST Voices Devotions	https://castvoices.wordpress.com/

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The Church Alliance for Social Transformation (CAST) is a registered **NPO (085-077 NPO)** operating in 10 communities in KZN with the mission to mobilize and align local churches to reach out with practical compassion to empower, transform and redeem communities.

Board of Trustees: John Benn, Peter Clark, Patricia Sibanyoni

Board of Directors: Marietjie Schulz (Chairperson), Neville Dunn (Treasurer), Chris Lee, Andre Ludik, Sibusiso Mkhwanazi, Kercy Pillay, Emmanuel Zondi, Terri Clapperton, Debbie Austwick



CAST CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

As another year of change and adapting passed I must commend the staff of CAST who continued to serve the Kingdom of God in sometimes trying circumstances.

I am pleased to tell you that Debbie Austwick and Terri Clapperton have joined the Board. They are both passionate about the impact CAST can have on transforming communities through the CAST partner churches.

The Interim CEO, Nathan Wit, assisted with the CAST management team and staff, worked with the CAST partner churches and communities in identifying where and what their needs were. With the support of the CAST Trustees, CAST Board and Home Ground Church, an approach of short-term, medium-term, and long-term projects were introduced. This assisted us to learn and understand the greater impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the churches and their communities.

The National Lockdown affected many of the programmes and services CAST normally provides and several of the programmes CAST offer had to stop, however, the need is always there to build and maintain relationships with the partner churches.

Funding from various donors, local as well as international, was affected and Nathan Wit and George Mwaura worked at identifying and obtaining the necessary funding for CAST. As always, the Lord works wonders and we received the necessary food supplies and funding to continue providing for the needs in the communities. The volunteers from Home Ground Church and other areas have been a blessing to CAST. This enabled CAST to implement the short-term projects to make immediate and effective changes in people's lives while we continue to work on the medium- and long-term projects.

CAST received an unexpected clothing donation from Retailability, a local clothing manufacturer for Edcon. This allowed the churches to assist their entrepreneurs with their small businesses selling clothes and get desperately needed funds for the churches.



The focus for the last year was mainly to build stronger relationships with the leaders of the partner churches, provide relief in the form of food relief and the GET farming project. The projects steered by Sandy Reid has produced the necessary food crops as well as created a sense of well-being and pride in the people in the communities.

Amidst all this activity of building a strong and sustainable organisation, we had to say farewell to the Interim CEO, Nathan Wit. The Trustees and the Board thank him for his dedication and hard work. He leaves behind a healthy organisation for the CAST management team to build further on.

This means the search for a new leader and manager has started and the Interview Committee has received several applications to review and find the suitable appointee in 2022.

The CAST Trustees, Board Members and Staff are thankful for all the support and prayers we received as servants of God in fulfilling the task He has given us.

My prayer for CAST is that we will continue serving the people of God's Kingdom as tasked by God.

- Marietjie Schulz
Chairperson



CAST INTERIM CEO'S ADDRESS

When I think back on the 2021 year there are 3 words that come to mind that encapsulate the year for Church Alliance for Social Transformation (CAST)

1. **Consolidation**
2. **Relationships**
3. **Relief**

Consolidation:

The first quarter was a challenging and difficult time, CAST went through a restructure and a decision made by the Board to focus on relief temporarily as many of CAST previous programs were unable to be implemented effectively due to the restrictions enforced due to the Covid pandemic. As in many business restructures, there were a few staff members whose positions became redundant and we were unable to retain many valuable employees. I would like to thank each and every person who contributed to CAST and helping it to become the organization it is today. The focus was on relief and how to effectively implement relief projects in a time when there were so many uncertainties with covid was not an easy task, but with teamwork and grace we achieved many great things.

Relationships:

One of CAST success are the relationships with local churches that are the influence and vehicle in which CAST implements programs into their respective communities. A core focus in 2021 was spent on nurturing and developing the relationships with CAST 9 partner churches and really understanding the needs and areas of development to focus on in each community. CAST is incredibly blessed with the partner churches it has existing relationships with. I personally was humbled and learnt so much from the Church leaders in the course of the year.

CAST is also unbelievably blessed by the numerous donors who contribute to CAST on a monthly basis. It was a fantastic year meeting so many of CAST donors and key stakeholders in providing such necessary resources to CAST. There are too many to mention by name, but to each and every person or business who contributed time, money or products to CAST in 2021, THANK YOU!

Relief:

So many people in the communities were and still are so desperate for relief from the living conditions they find themselves in, many are without employment and some losing employment as the result of COVID-19. With little or no income buying food is a daily stress and worry. CAST

primary relief focus in 2021 was the sourcing and delivering of food to those who were so desperate for it. We distributed 1000s of food buckets in the course of the year. Food distribution is a necessity but without wanting to create dependency on CAST, we implemented a farming project called Grow Eat Thrive in 2 of our communities in Noodsberg and Chibini. This project included theoretical and practical training on how to grow your own vegetables.



As part of implementing effective relief projects, we also implemented short term projects for basic needs, for example a new door for safety, fixing of a tap to allow a family water in their home, screeding of a floor so a gentleman with disabilities is able to move around his home without tripping and falling. There are times when the simplest solutions create life changing moments for others.

I am saddened that my time with CAST was only a year as I am moving abroad in the start of 2022. CAST is a unique organization and God has had his hand on the organization from inception to today. An organization that feeds the physical but as importantly brings nourishment and food for the soul. I was honored to be offered the interim CEO position and thank everyone who had involvement with CAST in 2021. God Bless.

- Nathan Wit

Interim CEO

Golf Day Fundraiser

In July 2021, CAST planned to host a Golf Day Fundraiser to assist the families most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, due to the civil unrest in KZN, we ended up postponing the Golf Day to August which, despite a decrease in attendance, was a great success. We were able to host 98 golfers and raise R50 000 through the auction and additional donations. We really appreciate all the support we received from the golfers and businesses that made this day a special event. The funds were used to help our rural sites in Noodsberg and Chibini which were badly affected by the looting that left the local stores destroyed and empty. There were families having to travel as far as 40km to buy food in Tongaat.



Sowing Smiles Campaign

CAST was invited to be part of Kirchhoffs' Sowing Smiles campaign with the message of uplifting people through sowing sunflower seeds. The campaign encouraged supporters to grow the sunflowers, harvest one of the bright blooms, and give it to someone that needs a little love. Kirchhoffs sponsored 100 branded Sowing Smiles sunflower seed packets, a kids colouring-in competition, and a garden hamper worth R1000.

Through the sale of the seed packets, we were able to raise R8000 towards our Grow Eat Thrive farming project. The project started in August 2021 to supplement the food shortage in our rural sites, namely Noodsberg and Chibini. The campaign ran during the month of September and helped us to raise more awareness of the food crisis in KZN.



Westville Super Spar Food and School Shoe Drives

CAST has always worked closely with the Westville Super Spar in gaining support for local initiatives. This partnership grew stronger during 2020-2021 as there were so many people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and loss of employment. CAST was allocated a donations trolley at the front of the store where people could make donations of food items throughout the year. These were packed into food parcels and distributed to the destitute families.

In December, Spar ran a campaign for shoppers to purchase Bata school shoes at a heavily discounted price when spending over a certain amount. Shoppers generously bought and donated over 50 pairs of school shoes into our CAST trolley which were distributed to children before the start of the school term in January. As a result of the drives at Westville Super Spar, we have been able to reach more people and CAST has received more support from the community of Westville.



George Murauna

Public Relations & Fundraising Manager

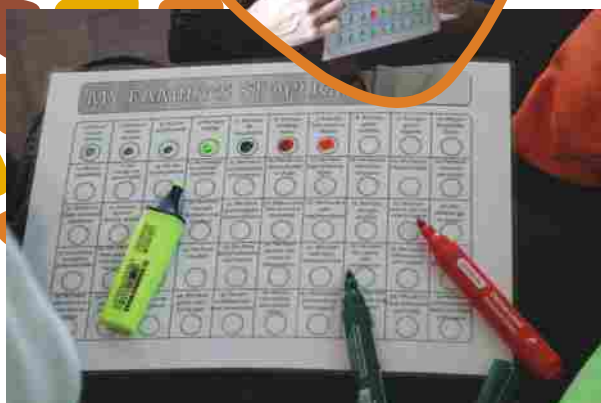
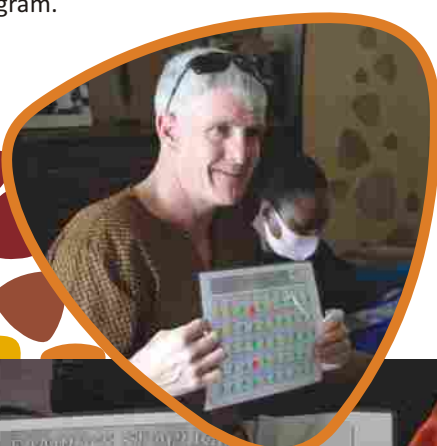
RELIEF PROGRAMME REPORT

Greenlight Movement Poverty Assessment

The Greenlight Movement is an online survey that measures aspects of multi-dimensional poverty in the households of the beneficiaries. This tool helped us assess the needs and quality of life for families after the impact of Covid-19. Each of the 9 partner churches identified 25 families to be surveyed. Surveys were conducted by the CAST Community Facilitators accompanied by a member of the partner church.

Once surveys were completed, feedback was given to the Pastors which helped map a way forward with each partner church to target and prioritise the real needs in the community.

The results showed that due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions imposed, there was a rise in unemployment. In some communities, 33% of the families we interviewed were going to bed hungry and over 96% of the families in some communities did not have 2 meals a day. These results helped the churches to understand the need for extra support for the food parcel program.



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Food Distribution

A total of 11 805 people received food through CAST's partner churches. This would not have been possible without the generous donations and support of many donors.

The need for food escalated during the civil unrest in KwaZulu-Natal in July 2021. People who would not normally need help became desperate for food and a whole new vulnerable group was identified. We saw this time of crisis as an opportunity to assist our partner churches to help so many desperate families.

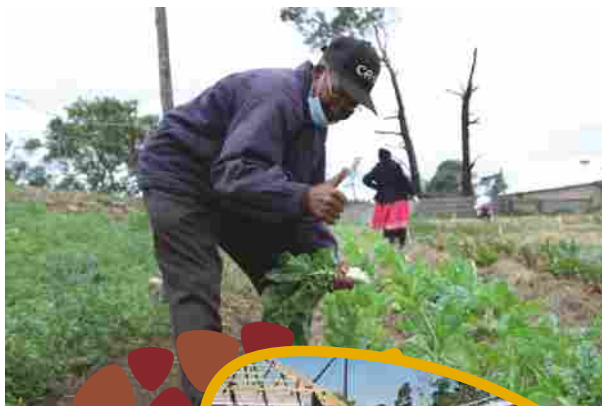


Once again, the support from donors was unbelievable, as they provided fresh fruit and vegetables, nappies and tons of food. At times, it was too dangerous to go into some of the communities. The partner churches were able to work with the police and security companies to ensure that the donated food could be safely distributed to the families who were so desperate.



Grow Eat Thrive (GET) Farming Project

The food garden program was set to expand in 2021. In the aftermath of the unrest, the need for food gardens became more evident. The GET (Grow Eat Thrive) program was rolled out at Chibini Baptist and Noodsberg Baptist in partnership with Rod and Enock from Deep Rural. This program went beyond teaching people how to plant and grow vegetables, it also equipped them with skills to provide for their families, how to market and sell produce, and encouraged them to bless those in need in the community. A total of 45 people attended the training. It was so exciting seeing the pastors and their wives laying out their fields and planting and reaping.



Grow Eat Thrive Farming Project Feedback

The farming program was good, we learnt a lot from it. Most of us did not know how to plant vegetables like cabbages, spinach, carrots, etc. After the training, we got the knowledge we need for how to plant them and how to do spacing in between the lines and the crops and using of mulch to prevent weeds and to keep the garden moist. We also learnt how to do straight rows by using the strings and the markers for the spaces.

We usually use the chemical manure sometimes together with animal manure but, at the training, we learnt how to use the manure from different animals by mixing it together to get the different minerals that are necessary for the crops. We even learnt how to use fresh cow manure to help our growing crops to be healthier and for the making of compost. We were also happy to be supported with seedlings and working tools. I see the impact of the training because even now, there is a group that is using the church garden to plant. We enjoyed our fresh produce, and we will carry on planting the gardens. Thanks to CAST for organizing such a good training.

- Pastor Ephraim Mzobe

Noodsberg Redeemed Baptist Family Church

We are so grateful for the opportunity we had last year. We learnt so many things that were an eye opener. Most of the time, we used to think we know how to plant but, during the training, we learnt a lot that we did not know before, like using grass to protect our soil and plants from weeds and to keep it moist all the time. I liked the way the trainer was explaining to us. It was clear he knew what he was talking about, and he was answering our questions very well. We learnt how to use things that we usually treat as rubbish and never thought that they are useful, especially when we made dip trench and compost.

We were also happy to receive the tools and Hippo Rollas as well as the seedlings. We are looking forward to using our church garden and get more training, if possible, from CAST. We are a poor community that is mostly dependant on farming, so if we get more knowledge, we will use it for our benefit.

- Pastor Amos Khumalo

Chibini Baptist Church



CAST assisted two families in Chesterville with short-term home renovation projects. Nokulunga Manzini was happy to receive a new bunk bed. This item added more floor space in the home where 7 family members were sharing 2 beds. Two of the children were happy to receive a brand new bed to sleep on.

Mumsy Zulu, a long-time member of West City Fellowship and CAST programmes, desperately needed repairs at her home. CAST provided a new front door and window panes.

In addition, CAST has also provided an ongoing supply of food parcels to recipients of Ward 24. We are grateful to our partners, like CAST, and our church family in making it possible to touch the lives of people in distress caused by the pandemic and looting last year.

- Pastor Kersey Pillay
West City Fellowship



Short-term Home Renovation Projects

When doing the surveys, we realised many families needed assistance with basic repairs to make their homes safe and liveable. We worked very closely with the church and the church members to assist families. We called these short-term projects.

Some of the projects were: putting in water pipes so a family could have running water in their house; repair of broken windows and doors; provision of beds for families sleeping on the floor; levelled cement floor for a disabled gentleman; and organised school uniforms for children who did not have a uniform. These projects were such a blessing to so many families.

Clothing Ministry

Since 2017, we have been receiving sample clothing from a local clothing manufacturer. Some of these new clothes are cut and some are in sellable condition. Previously, we would receive a few boxes a year as most of the samples were sold at their staff sale. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, they were no longer able to hold staff sales, so in 2021, we received a huge amount of the sample stock! We very quickly needed to put a system in place for collecting, sorting and then distributing the large amount of donations. This became a full-time project and has had a huge impact for so many people.



The clothes are sorted into cut and uncut. The cut clothes are distributed to the sewing groups in the partner churches. These clothes are repaired and sold in the community. The uncut clothes are distributed to the churches as sales bags or used for market days held in the community. This has assisted many people in being able to sell the clothes in the sales bags and bring in a small income at a time when unemployment is at its highest. It has also assisted some of the churches with a small income when they have held markets with the clothes.



Some of the clothes are also allocated to the CAST clothing warehouse which provides clothes for those who do not have clothes or lost their clothing in fires and floods. In our surveys, we identified that in some communities 84% of the families interviewed have clothing but are not able to change their clothes every day. The donation of clothing has really impacted so many lives.





Clothing Donation feedback

It is with great joy to give feedback for the above-mentioned Ministry. Here are the following success stories:

Church Financial Benefit: There is a financial relief to the Church as we were able to keep our staff since our finances were strained post-Covid-19.

Job Opportunity: As a Church, we were able to offer a job to one of our Church members who has part-time employment in selling Ministry Clothes.

Giving to the Needy Church & Community: As a church, we are able to freely give packs to our needy Church and community members so as to go and sell for themselves. Hence, we have an opportunity to share the Gospel in the process.

Attraction To Christ and Church Membership: Apart from the clothing ministry and food parcels, our partnership with CAST has enhanced our membership growth, even to our out-stations like Ngwelezane and KwaDlangezwa Baptist Churches.

On behalf of Esikhawini Baptist Church and our Outstations (Ngwelezane & KwaDlangezwa), we wish to express our sincere appreciation to the CAST Board and all involved. Stay Blessed

- Rev Sibusiso E. Mkhwanazi
Senior Pastor Esikhawini Baptist Church



Sandy Reid

Relief Programme Co-ordinator

As we all know, the year 2021 had been difficult and challenging following the global impact of COVID - 19 in 2020. Despite many challenges that came along through the year, 2021 is the year of God's favour, goodness and provision for CAST Kenya. As I write this, my heart is filled with gratitude and praises! Our Father God enabled us to achieve so much in the year. Five things stand out for me that are most memorable in the year:

The Profile of the Organisation

Since our inception two years ago, CAST Kenya's profile has grown significantly. Our name is now recognized by many beneficiaries, community leaders, churches and organisations in the target communities that we serve. This is just after we began providing food relief services during the pandemic. Our annual budget increased from under one million Kenyan Shillings to over two million Kenyan Shillings. This is a significant jump!



Staffing

As we were coming to the end of 2021, the workload had also significantly increased and it was necessary to have additional staff. Two staff members joined me later in the year on part-time contracts. They are: Elsay Chulo and Mercy Nganga. We are now a three-staff organisation. We are grateful to God for general funding we had received from Home Ground Church (South Africa), Mission Hills Church (USA) and Andrea & Wolfgang Kuckertz (Germany). Their generous funding enabled us to employ Mercy and Elsay.



Programming

We successfully managed to implement two programmes in the year, namely, Local Economic Development (LED i.e. entrepreneurial skills training) and Nutrition and Health Services (NHS i.e. food relief). Through the LED programme, we managed to serve 326 entrepreneurs who went through our trainings. With NHS, we managed to assist 10,450 people with food hampers during the pandemic.





Partnership

An African proverb says “.... *If you want to go far, go together*”. We believe in partnerships and engaging with like-minded churches, community organisations and other institutions that believe that the poverty cycle can be broken. During the year, after many partnership engagement meetings, we officially signed a Partnership Agreement with a second church Gachui Baptist Church. This is super exciting and we are looking forward to working together with this church in the next two years.



Asante South Africa

We love the Home Ground Church family. They have continuously prayed, encouraged and provided financial support for our family (The Bode Family) over the past four years. Because of their unfailing support, our family is fully focused on serving Jesus and the people in our lovely country Kenya. We are absolutely grateful to the church and those individuals who have rallied behind us. Tunasema Asante Sana.

We are also grateful to the CAST South Africa staff for their continuous support in the year. We value your moral support insights, wisdom and counsel you provide for us. We feel we are connected to each other in a special way. “You have half our gifts. We the other. Together we make a whole. Together we are much more powerful.” There would be no CAST Kenya without CAST South Africa. Asante Sana.

With these brief highlights, I wish to thank everyone who partnered with us in 2021: our supporters, Home Ground Church and CAST South Africa and most of all, to God who provides, sustains, empowers and inspires us every day.



Joseph Bode

CAST Kenya Executive Director



FINANCIAL REPORT

Year ended 31 December 2021

2021 was an incredibly difficult year for both CAST and South Africa. The deep impact of Covid-19 on the organisation and our ability to run 3 of our 4 programmes with any consistency resulted in CAST starting 2021 in financial difficulty.

Carrying the full overheads of all departments and programmes, whilst donor funding for 3 of the programmes completely drying up resulted in significant financial deficits each month. As a direct result of this and with no end in sight of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trustees and Board decided to rationalise CAST to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Sadly, this resulted in a number of staff retrenchments, stopping programmes and refocusing the organisation on rebuilding relationships within the organisation as well as with partner churches. All our financial and human resources were redirected to building relationships and on relief efforts.

Shortly after concluding the organisational restructure, KZN and its communities were deeply impacted by riots. The tragedy resulted in food shortages throughout the province. With our renewed focus on relief and ability to get aid to people in desperate need of food, donors supported our efforts to make a difference.

As a result, our much lower cost base and increased donor support resulted in the second half of 2021 producing a surplus for the first time in almost a decade. The surplus at the end of 2021, enabled CAST to continue supporting our partner communities throughout the December, January and February months when we traditionally receive lower donor funding.

Summarised Income Statement for the year ended 31 December 2021

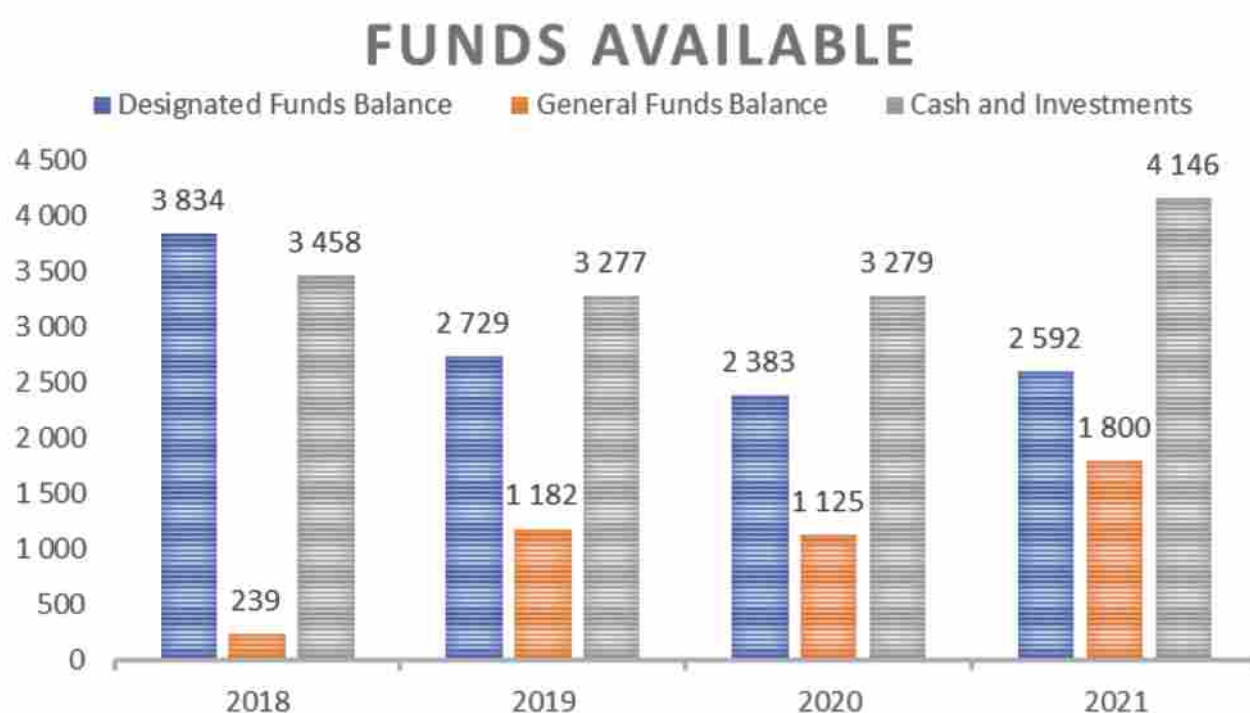
	2021			2020	Growth
	Designated Funds	General Funds	Total	Total	
Income	1 346	3 060	4 406	3 921	485
Expenses	1 137	2 385	3 522	4 324	-802
Net (Deficit) / Income	209	675	884	-403	1 287
Accumulated Incoming beginning of year	2 383	1 125	3 508	3 911	
Accumulated Income end of year	2 592	1 800	4 392	3 508	884

As reflected in the table above, despite once-off retrenchment costs our cost base reduced by R802k, enabling a bigger portion of our costs to be allocated directly to assist in relieving poverty.





The improved financial position can be seen in our funds available:

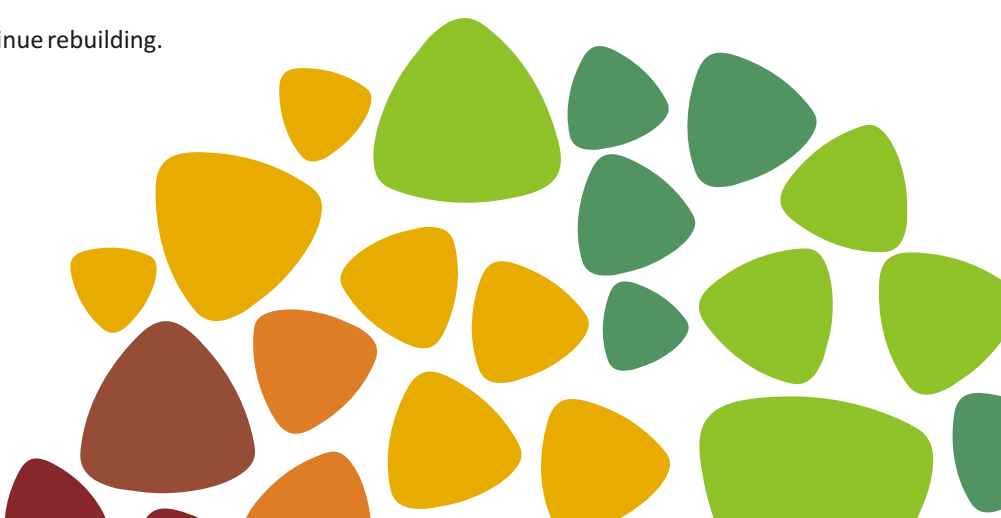


For the first time in more than a decade, our funds available increased. A welcome relief from the steady decline in financial wellbeing of CAST.

The more streamlined organisation and clear focus on relief has paid dividends and allowed CAST the opportunity to re-engage with our partner churches to redefine our future. Our improved donor support and financial position has continued into 2022 enabling CAST to provide more food aid than in previous years.

CAST is well positioned financially to continue rebuilding.

- Neville Dunn
Treasurer





2021 MAJOR DONORS

(Private individuals are not listed here as most request to remain anonymous)

The Trustees, Board, Staff and Clients of CAST wish to thank all our volunteers, donors and partners for every gift of time, resources and finances in 2021.

Every gift helps to lift a family out of poverty and offers hope to the next generation.



Churches and Missions:

Mission Hills Church (USA)

Home Ground Westville Baptist Church

Lake Pointe Church (USA)



Companies:

Hidden Treasure

Container World

SA Home Loans

RB Associated Logistics

CMS IT

Lovemore Bros

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