



UMAZISI

Sculpting Character





Background

The Umazisi Project finds its roots in the **Alvira Foundation** which is a non-profit organisation that aims to broaden the scope of education in South Africa. Umazisi aims to enable youths to create lasting change by focusing on sculpting character, developing essential life skills and enabling mentees to flourish regardless of perceived ability or social background. The **Umazisi Project team** consists of young professionals and

university students who embody **dedication, inspiration and empathy**. All of our team members and volunteers are passionate about South Africa's youth and have the skills and experience in content creation, education, critical thinking and mentoring that add value to the project and to the team. This, coupled with the youth's passion for social change, provides the foundation upon which the Umazisi Project is built.



"Umazisi" is the Zulu word for *'identity'* and here at Umazisi we firmly believe that creating lasting social change means learning who you are and how to bring the best of yourself to moments of influence with others. The Umazisi Project aims to be the vessel which carries the drive of the youth, towards sustainable social change, further than just awareness.

What inspired the project?

Throughout 2020 and the past few years, it has become very evident that the youth are passionate about social issues which our society faces. Various movements have demonstrated the youth's desire to question the status quo of society at a global level, by vocalising their frustration at social injustices which in the past have been silenced.

Through observation, think tanks, questionnaires, and conversations with **young people** and **relevant professionals**, we realise that the youth's authentic intention and desire to make a difference lies within them. They have an incredible capacity to use their voices to bring to light and raise awareness about many social issues. Whilst the South African youth's empathy and connectedness enables them to engage in local and global movements, due to unspoken personal influences and barriers, many of the youth do not progress further than awareness and merely become passive supporters. **Their passion for helping and the actions they take to create change are disproportionate.** Further to this, the current schooling curriculum's are focused purely on intellect which although vital, unintentionally excludes nourishing the character and social values of its students.



“
Sometimes it falls upon
a generation to be
great, you can be that
generation. ”

- Nelson Mandela

Without a broader scope of education (intellect, character and social values) youths don't have a clear understanding of their identity (who they are, the meaning and purpose of their lives) and as a consequence the identity of others. Without an authentic understanding of their own identity, youths lack the capability, energy and self knowledge to create the change they desire.



Sculpting Character

A mentor meets with the mentees once a fortnight to follow progress in his or her studies, as well as character, moral and social development. The meetings are informal conversations that help each mentee grow in self-knowledge, set personal and academic goals and bring out his or her full potential. The mentors are available to meet the parents once a term to contribute their own insights about the mentee's progress.

If the youth better understand 'Umazisi' - the identity of themselves and the identity of others - they will enable them to better navigate the obstacles to their authentic intention. The Umazisi Project believes that by focusing on self awareness and other key skills, the youth can better align their passion for change to who they are, increasing their level of conviction to take persistent and more impactful action, which will ultimately promote sustainable difference.

The Umazisi Project creates a space within schools to support youths, who already value individual expression and creating social change, in developing critical thinking and other skills necessary to create lasting change.

Implementation

Over a 3 year cycle, workshops, one-on-one mentorship and service to the community are the platforms through which the project imparts the skills necessary to empower our mentees starting in grade 8 and ending in grade 10.

WORKSHOPS



Series of non-formal, stimulating and fun educational activities aimed at broadening the mentees scope of understanding in various topics through critical thinking.

MENTORSHIP



Intentional bonding with the goal of helping each mentee grow in self-knowledge, set personal, social and academic goals and bring out his or her full potential.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Service is integral to the Umazisi ethos. Involved in a variety of community service experiences, mentees develop a spirit of generosity and the joy that comes from giving to others.

Sustainability

The Umazisi Project has the potential to scale up its activities to a larger base of beneficiaries, thereby having a greater impact on the social issues in the country. This is made possible through our iterative approach to developing the project which allows for growth that is built on past learning.



By exposing young people to positive mentors they will want to pass the effect on to the next generation. Mentees who have gone through three years of the project can become a mentor and therefore the project instills a 'pay it forward' mind-set which perpetuates the running of the project.

Alvira Foundation guarantees the economic sustainability of the project by providing qualified and experienced staff and volunteers with many years of experience in the field of education. The goal is to formulate a program that is flexible and will ultimately benefit each party by reflecting their input.



The Umazisi Project is also based on a mentorship model and undertakes an iterative approach that has been successfully implemented in many countries around the world. By working closely with its affiliated partners Alvira Foundation also guarantees that its project will always be relevant to the needs of their beneficiaries.



How is our impact measured?

IMPACT

The aim of the Umasizi Project is to create lasting social change by:

- Enabling the youth to be more self-aware
- Stimulating a critical way of thinking
- Providing the tools to take lasting action
- Inducing positive behaviour
- Creating a safe, happy and engaged community

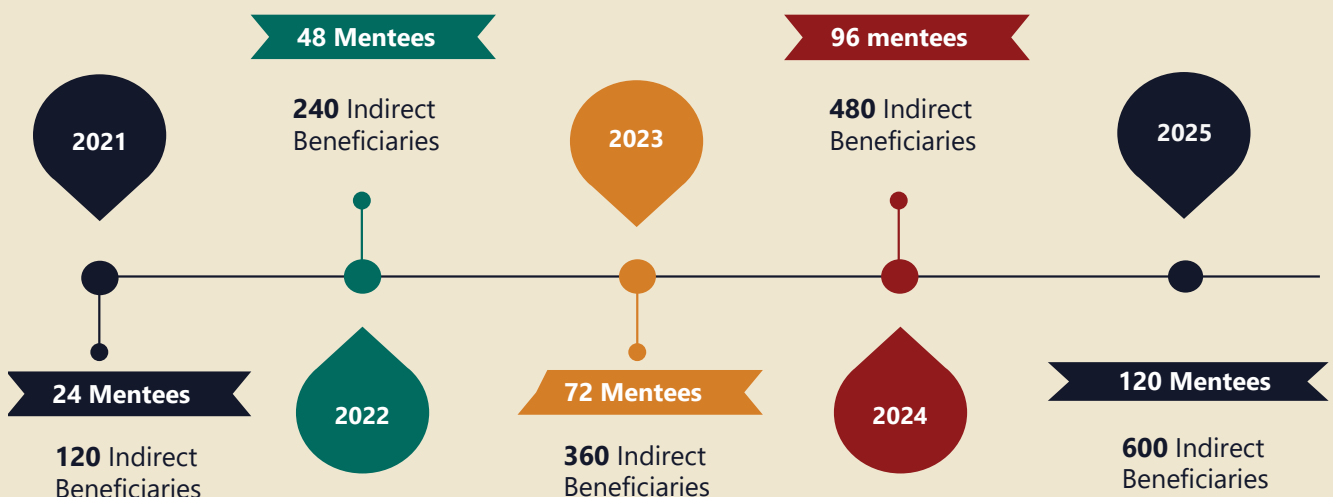
INDICATORS

The Umasizi Project can gauge its levels of impact by recording and analysing the feedback received from:

- One-on-one mentorship on a fortnightly basis
- Parental and teacher evaluation questionnaires
- Bi-annual meetings with the school
- Beneficiaries of the social project that each mentee will implement during the third year

OUR PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

Below is a projection of the total estimated direct and indirect beneficiaries over the next 5 years (assuming an average of 5 immediate and extended family members per beneficiary):



Why should you join us?



SCHOOLS

This project is a concrete response to social issues that youths are facing. The project would be a way for high schools to discover prefects/leaders, it will also provide a platform for community service and a support platform of dialogue between grade 8, 9 and 10 learners.



MENTEES

As a mentee you will have a space to grow character not only academic skills. Through character development and personal accompaniment you will understand yourself, others and how to create lasting change in your community. At the end of the project, you will receive a certificate of completion and a letter of recommendation which is valuable for your resume and applications for university.

How to start?



STEP 1: Book a presentation with our team via alvirafoundation@gmail.com or call at 0826028877.



STEP 2
Sign an agreement regarding the conditions and terms of the project.



STEP 3: Be **Umazisi** ready for grade 8 in March 2021!

FAQ

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The project costs R100 per student per month. The costs include expenses for community service, materials needed and the general running of the project.



WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT OF EACH STUDENT?

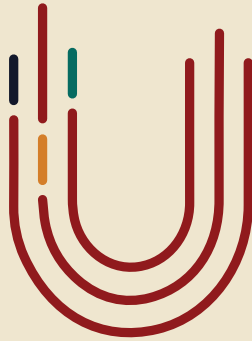
There are one hour weekly workshops and then half an hour one-on-one mentorship every two weeks. Each mentee will receive a certificate on completion in their third year.





WHO ARE OUR MENTORS?


Our mentors are made up of a group of young professional and university students that have experience in mentorship. They have gone through a rigorous process of selection.






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**ALVIRA**
FOUNDATION