



all about SCAT

SOCIAL CHANGE ASSISTANCE TRUST



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About SCAT

The Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT) is an independent fund-raising and grant-making development agency. Established in 1984 to facilitate access to resources for marginalised communities, SCAT operates in the rural areas of the Eastern, Northern and Western Cape provinces, and in neighbouring parts of Free State and North West Provinces.

Our Vision

A South Africa with vibrant sustainable rural communities.

Our Mission

To partner with rural community owned agencies in order to improve the quality of life in these communities.

- Supporting local agencies working for development and human rights in rural communities.
- Offering support in organizational development and capacity building.
- Mobilising and facilitating access to resources.
- Respecting existing rural resources and appreciating the diversity of our partnerships.

How We Work

SCAT works with rural community owned development organizations, especially those focusing on human rights, HIV and AIDS, local economic development, and the empowerment of women and other groups subjected to discrimination. SCAT raises funds from funders – corporate, government and civil society – who support such work but do not have or wish to create the infrastructure necessary to monitor and support small and remote initiatives. SCAT provides core funds for running costs, and additional special development funds, on-site support and training opportunities to rural community owned organisations.

Programme Details

Scat is based in Cape Town but has developed a model of how to service the projects it funds. Through its fieldwork support SCAT provides financial and development assistance to 60 local CBOs. Scat does this through the following programmes.

Financial Support

Core grants: Small grants to cover salaries and administration costs of each partner are transferred into the Local Development Agency (LDA) banking account on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on the capacity of each organisation to manage their finances. All grants are based on LDAs budgets and its objectives for the year. Grants enable organisations to ensure that the telephone bills and rent are paid and that some staff earn salaries. SCAT believes that grants are developmental because they enable LDAs to make their own decisions and create the opportunity to leverage other resources.

Fundraising Incentive Scheme (FRIS)

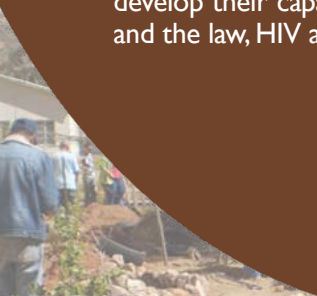
An incentive is paid to LDAs which manage to raise funds in the local community in the ratio of R5 for every R1 raised. The types of events for which rewards are paid are carnivals, dances, cooking competitions, football and rugby tournaments, food sales, clothing. LDAs are innovative and these events are often the main social event in the community.

Development Fund for Training

LDAs may apply for funding for training their staff and volunteers so that the organisation may itself run workshops in the community or develop their capacity. A budgeted allocation is claimed as needed and claims are approved according to criteria set by SCAT. The types of training which are funded include paralegal training, driver's licence training, development facilitation skills training, gender workshops, local government roles and responsibilities, small business development, etc. These workshops are also run in the community and can be funded by this fund.

HIV and AIDS Fund for Development

Similarly, LDAs may apply for an allocation from a fund for work related to HIV and AIDS, according to the needs and plans of the community. LDAs claim for their prevention, awareness programmes and attend training events which develop their capacity to implement their programmes such as HIV and AIDS and the law, HIV and AIDS and the workplace, HIV and TB, etc.



Field and Capacity Building Support Fieldwork

A fieldworker is allocated to each LDA who is the primary inter-face with SCAT. The field worker is a development practitioner who provides guidance, monitors and evaluates progress and assists LDAs in their linking, brokering and advocacy roles. All SCAT fieldworkers speak the language of the community they work with. The relationship between SCAT and its LDA partners is based on an annual contractual agreement which is derived from the LDAs' own internal evaluation, planning and budgeting.

Capacity Building

Capacity building and training is offered by SCAT's fieldworkers and covers committee skills, fundraising, financial management, project management, community research, HIV and AIDS related issues and Local Economic Development (LED).

Brokering Partnerships

SCAT believes that in order for there to be sustainable development there must be partnerships in communities between civil society, government and business. The SCAT fieldworker works with the LDA to promote understanding of partnerships, identify partners and make linkages with potential partners. Of critical importance to the development of the community are partnerships with local government.



HIV and AIDS

As a response to a request from project partners, SCAT initiated an HIV and AIDS Activator Programme. The programme focuses on assisting the development of local responses to HIV and AIDS in a rural development context, according to the specific needs of a community.

Local Economic Development

SCAT has developed a response to LED which enhances the efforts of our LDA partner organisations. Through our fieldworkers, SCAT provides specialist skills in LED to support LDAs with their LED projects. These fieldworkers assist in assessing the feasibility of projects, helping the LDA to find markets for products and do capacity building in small business development. Grants are also provided for capacity building, business plans and capitalisation of projects.



HIV and AIDS programme



strengthening capacity

Vision

A South Africa with vibrant sustainable rural communities.

Rationale

The programme was conceptualised against the backdrop of the devastating impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

SCAT recognizes that the following aggravating circumstances apply in most of the rural communities that its mission serves and that many of these factors have diverse implications:

- Poor healthcare facilities
- Poor educational opportunities
- Poor roads and communications
- Poor infrastructure
- Inadequate provision of housing and land



Our Approach

Based on our vision, SCAT follows a rights-based approach to address structural factors that lead to vulnerability and increase the impact of HIV and AIDS. It is our understanding that development is a process of change and transformation whereby individuals, communities and institutions are empowered through:

- Access to resources and services based on principles of equality, justice and respect for human rights.
- Enabling women, men and children to live meaningful lives.

Our Model

The HIV/AIDS programme is based on the SCAT model of ongoing field support, fundraising and capacity building. It seeks to:

- Strengthen the response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic of rural communities in North West and the Eastern, Western and Northern Cape provinces, by drawing together civil society, NGOs and government institutions.
- Support effective prevention, treatment, care and advocacy initiatives for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS to mitigate the personal, social and economic impact of the pandemic.



How We Work

SCAT focuses on rural communities, by working with community based organisations. We aim to:

- Raise awareness and build a body of knowledge among SCAT staff and rural communities.
- Mainstream HIV and AIDS within our model of development.
- Fundraise and provide grants to rural communities to initiate HIV and AIDS programmes or assist others in strengthening existing programmes.
- Assist rural communities to conduct baseline studies to identify and prioritise issues around HIV and AIDS and subsequently to:
 - Facilitate community-specific responses to the pandemic.
 - Provide funding for developing community responses in collaboration with other community stakeholders.
 - Increase political commitment, combat stigma and discrimination and improve national and provincial responses to HIV and AIDS by supporting the advocacy and policy work of civil society, NGOs and government.
 - Document lessons learnt.
 - Share best practice models through information sharing and to encourage exchange and support programme visits.
 - Provide ongoing training through sectoral and cluster workshops and seminars.

local economic development



brokering partnerships

Local Economic Development (LED)

The SCAT LED programme is aimed at developing the capacity of LDAs to initiate and manage community owned income-generating enterprises that are viable and sustainable.

Goal

The overall goal of the programme is to facilitate community development, food security, and better access to services by rural communities, for the improvement of their socio-economic conditions.

Our Approach

Our approach to local economic development is based on the commitment to advancing;

- Equal opportunities and participation in rural economies and leadership structures;
- Rural empowerment based on ownership and wealth creation for rural communities in the agricultural value chain;
- Strong partnerships with stakeholders in addressing the challenges faced by rural communities;
- Sustainable engagement of youth and women in the development of local rural economies;
- Economic empowerment of persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, through the promotion of food security, positive sustainable livelihoods and healthy lifestyles.

OUR MODEL AND INTERVENTION STRATEGY

Sustainable Food Security

At this level the LED programme focuses on providing support to LED projects solely to promote sustainable food security and improved nutrition. The aim is to assist rural communities to utilise their productive resources and build their capacity to produce food. Communities that don't have access to productive resources (e.g land, access to water, and other natural resources) are supported to initiate any income-generating activity, for the purposes of ensuring that they at least have income to purchase their food.

Enterprise Development

At this level, projects initiated for food security are graduated into becoming businesses through the provision of enterprise development support. These projects are assessed for their potential to expand, and access to productive resources which will sustain their growth and unlock their ability to generate profits and create sustainable income and employment for community members involved. Enterprise development support is mobilized and activated to facilitate production and market development, provision of technical support, and the strengthening of management and control systems. A radical shift, from a project mindset to business thinking, is instilled in an effort to unleash the individual profit motive, within a collective community development initiative.



Guideline for Funding and Supporting LED Projects

- The project should demonstrate viability and sustainability.
- A business plan must be presented to demonstrate that the project is bankable.
- There should be some form of organisation and management or community governance structure in place to support the community members who are initiating the project.
- The project must agree to comply with SCAT's funding criteria.
- To promote accountability, the project must have a link to a Local Development Agency (LDA) that SCAT is supporting through a working agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by both parties.
- The project should be contributing to socio-economic development in the community.
- Possible grants that can be disbursed to the LED projects are between R10 000 and R50 000 per project, depending on the business plan or capital requirements of the project.

Areas for Rural Economic Development Opportunities

- Agricultural Development & Agribusiness
- Information and Communication Technology
- Renewable Energy
- Public Works
- Tourism and Environmental Conservation
- Arts and Crafts

fundraising incentive scheme (FRIS)



mobilising local resources

About FRIS (fundraising incentive scheme)

FRIS is one of SCAT's financial support programmes and an innovative tool for mobilising local resources, even in the poorest of communities. It is an incentive scheme for fundraising by a local development agency (LDA) in its community fundraising event. The current reward limits are between R 25 000 and R 120 000 per annum per rural LDA.

Aims

- To reduce dependence of LDAs on grant funding.
- To provide additional local financial resources to LDAs.
- To encourage interest and involvement in the work of the organisation funded within their community.
- To foster accountability and a sense of ownership of the organisation and its programmes.
- To provide an opportunity for sharing information and knowledge with the community.



Benefits of FRIS

Community mobilising

- Involves community
- Promotes participation
- Promotes networking

Citizenship building

- Promotes democracy
- Enhances quality of life
- Provides a sense of ownership

Community governance

- Promotes accountability
- Empowers community
- Promotes sense of responsibility

Financial sustainability

- Generates local resources
- Builds social capital
- Creates potential for endowment
- Building and reserve funds

Financial management tool

- Develops financial skills
- Promotes financial accountability
- Encourages planning and budgeting

Types of Activities

FRIS fundraising events offer many creative opportunities to involve communities, to promote local business and to support local artists and craftspeople. These events affirm cultural diversity and talent, thereby building community esteem.

Some Popular FRIS Events

Concerts/cultural events – offer financial opportunities to do the following:

- Collect entrance fees from performers and audience.
- Sell refreshments.
- Encourage local business people to contribute ingredients, prizes and other forms of material or in-kind support.
- Sports tournaments – offer many similar opportunities though these events tend to promote gender stereotyping.
- Dances – a popular, fun way of fundraising.
- Ad-hoc street sales – selling a variety of popular goods.
- Raffles – very popular.

Uses of FRIS Rewards

LDAs use their FRIS rewards for a number of community development needs including:

- Increasing staff salaries or paying bonuses.
- Providing costs to service outlying villages.
- Purchasing office equipment.
- Purchasing vehicles.
- Purchasing land.
- Generating more fundraising activities.

- Initiating community projects like literacy programmes or local economic initiatives.
- Building offices or upgrading existing premises.
- Developing a reserve or endowment fund.

Why We Value Your Support

- An outstanding reputation.
- A proven track record of managing huge donor funds.
- A long history of working in the rural development sector.
- An integrated approach to development.

FRIS

- A tried and tested model for sustainable development.
- Contribute to the government's rural strategy.
- A strong capacity-building focus.
- A unifying tool in communities.
- Strong elements of sustainability.

Ways to Support FRIS

- FRIS can be a way of providing start-up funding, instead of small loans.
- FRIS can be considered as a self-standing funding mechanism.
- FRIS rewards could be scaled down as a matching fund (e.g. R1 to R1).

Advocacy and Lobbying

SCAT is actively involved in formulating rural development strategies and implementation programmes at provincial, national and regional fora. This provides the opportunity for broader exposure and integration of SCAT's own practice.

Sustainability of the Organisation

To achieve sustainability, SCAT has positioned itself in the development sector through optimal management of SCAT's property, investments and human resources.

SCAT Governance

SCAT trustees are drawn from a variety of backgrounds, and are all respected in their fields of expertise. They are unpaid volunteers, who contribute their skills, contacts and experience to SCAT. They are involved in policy and strategy formulation and overall financial control. SCAT trustees make a vital contribution to the work of the organisation.



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