Creating value for our communities

Community development initiatives for social change
At the heart of SAEC’s operations is its commitment to making a difference and bring long-term benefits to our host communities

South32’s SAEC takes the needs of its host communities into account when identifying programmes that will best benefit them

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Our contribution to healthy communities
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CSI: Changing lives in the community
Changing lives in the community
Food parcels for the Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete communities
South32 SAEC’s Khutala Colliery donates 250 pairs of school shoes to underprivileged learners
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Social Impact & Opportunity Assessment
Complaints Process
At the heart of SAEC’s operations is its commitment to making a difference and bring long-term benefits to our host communities

SAEC creates jobs, housing, skills and training opportunities as well as better living conditions through the provision of portable water and sanitation for communities within its host communities.

SAEC’s purpose is to make a difference by improving people’s lives now and for generations to come. As such, we have deliberately geared up our corporate social investment efforts to address socio-economic challenges faced by the Mpumalanga host communities, in which we operate. We endeavour to have regular, open and honest conversations on projects that we have undertaken in the community to better understand what our communities need and expect. Working together allows us to achieve shared goals and value, and to have a positive impact on our local communities.

We believe that this is an opportunity to significantly change the face of business for all our operations and to change the terms of engagement with employees, communities and with government stakeholders at all spheres while sustaining investor confidence through operational stability and reduced discords.

This booklet showcases the initiatives to provide information on the various programmes we have embarked on in the communities in efforts to fulfil our goal of making a positive difference in the communities in which we operate.

We are committed to working together to create a stable environment, ensure safe execution of mining activities in all our operations and to create a lasting positive legacy beyond our mining operations.

Ultimately, we recognise that there is always more that can be done and commit to continued engagement with our host communities to understand their specific socio-economic needs and to find ways to address them.

Our goal is to improve the community with projects aimed at skills development, improvement of access to health and education, and poverty alleviation through growing local businesses. In all we do, we intend to help improve local lives and empower local community members to ensure that they are well equipped to continue the work.

We believe that, when done sustainably, the development of natural resources can change people’s lives for the better. By providing jobs and business opportunities, contributing to governments through paying taxes and royalties, developing local suppliers and supporting community programs we can make a significant contribution to the way people live and work.
South32’s SAEC takes the needs of its host communities into account when identifying programs that will best benefit them

Taking our role as a South African Mining Company and a local champion in our surrounding communities seriously

At South32 SAEC we understand that what our communities think of the role our operations in Mpumalanga play, as well as our efforts in helping to uplift and develop our host communities is of strategic importance, not only from a sustainable business continuity perspective but also because it is the right thing to do. As a mining operation, we have a social compact to contribute to reversing the cycle of economic poverty and providing opportunities to our host communities to create better futures for themselves and future generations.

Our commitment to being a local champion extends further than financial investment and job creation opportunities. Our aim is to also achieve the shared goals for employees, our host communities and government stakeholders.

We have set objectives that we aim to achieve and we measure these through the South32 Community Standard, a social impact and opportunity assessment (SIOA). This past year we included a social baseline study and community perception survey.

During this process, we conducted door-to-door household engagements in nine areas across two municipalities namely five areas in eMalahleni Local Municipality (ELM) and four areas in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (STLM), reaching 5 284 family members across 1 402 households. This provided us with valuable insight into the challenges experienced and positive as well as negative sentiments that we will be addressing moving forward.

In understanding our community on a more personal level, we learnt that of our host communities across the nine areas in the two municipalities, basic services including flush toilets, electricity, piped water and refuse removal were accessible and there was good access to health facilities. Out of the households surveyed, 61% were younger than 36 years of age with half having been born locally. Of the youth, 68% in ELM and 78% in STLM graduated Matric with 19% going on to pursue further education. However unemployment is high with 49% of adults having no work and 57% of young people in ELM and 66% in STLM being unemployed.

According to the perception survey, the negative sentiment and impacts associated with SAEC outweigh the positive impact and contribution made by SAEC, however this provides us with a solid blueprint in how we can refoce our efforts and our projects aimed at:

- Skills development through our skills and human resources development programme
- Improvement of access to health and housing infrastructure and education opportunities through our community development programme
- Poverty alleviation through growing local business enterprise development programme

We have therefore committed our efforts across our host communities that will focus on the following:

- Undertake sustained and transparent stakeholder engagements on a regular basis
- Increase open and transparent communication and responsiveness with host communities and deliver on commitments
- Unlock enterprise development opportunities for local businesses, particularly in Phola and Ogies
- Address community divisions in Phola through increased engagement levels with the community and working together with other mining operations to seek solutions for the broader community
- Support ELM with infrastructure development to address service delivery challenges as a result of an increase of job seekers within the communities
- Align criteria for similar positions and recruitment practices between projects and permanent positions
- Identify ways to incorporate contractor employees into the permanent workforce where possible
- Collaborate with peers and with activists and prominent NGO to improve environmental impact due to mining operations
- Investigate the entry level requirements of Maths and Science for unskilled and semi-skilled workers
- Continue with Supplier and enterprise development initiatives to increase local suppliers
- Make training and skills development application processes accessible to local communities
- Contribute to education in neighbouring communities by engaging with schools to participate in Maths, Science and Technology Academy programmes working closely with municipalities and the area
- Consider programmes to address drug and alcohol abuse as well as HIV/Aids awareness to mitigate community health and wellness challenges

We thank all participants for their contribution in helping South32 SAEC to address areas where we can make a real and lasting difference by working closely with our stakeholders, including local government and our peers in improving the communities surrounding our operations and providing opportunities for upliftment. Our aim is to leave a lasting legacy in the communities in which we operate.
Community development initiatives for social change
Our contribution to healthy communities

SAEC’s decision to invest in the construction and equipping of the 24-hour clinic was taken after extensive participation in the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, which is a legislated process of community needs identification in consultation with communities. The IDP process also ensures that projects sponsored by mining companies are linked to government’s development priorities.

More than R32.1 million was spent on the project, testimony to SAEC’s commitment to support initiatives geared at enhancing government’s delivery of primary healthcare and other social aspects of community development, specifically focusing on community health, wellness and improvement of the quality of life.

A local project management company (100% owned by a Black disabled woman) as well as local construction company (100% owned by Black women) were appointed to manage the delivery and execution of the project. The project created 80 temporary job opportunities for the local community members with over 50 percent of them being young people.

SAEC expedited the completion of the clinic to assist with the management of the Coronavirus within the community, even after the national lockdown has been lifted. The clinic was also enabled with access to water to enable the clinic staff and the community to adhere to the hygiene standards required to minimise the spread of the virus.

The clinic will provide healthcare services across the continuum of care in three streams of care:

Acute - Chronic -Maternal and Child Health. It also has a dental facility, and it consists of living quarters which has two units, a two-bedroom and three-bedroom to accommodate the staff.
Investment

R321 million

SAEC Partnership
Integrated Development Planning process with Steve Tshwete Local Municipality for local communities around Rockdale

SAEC partners
Local project management company (100% Black disabled woman-owned) Local construction company (100% Black woman-owned)

Job opportunities
80 job opportunities, 50% taken up by young people

Benefits to community
Primary healthcare facility (24-hour clinic) for community health and wellness

Beneficiaries
Rockdale community consisting of population of 10,874
Making a difference now and for Generations to come

We’re committed to creating value through environmental and social leadership. We work hard to be responsible stewards of the environment and treat natural resources with care so that they are available for future generations. We care about the people and groups who are interested in what we do and want to have a say, or who are impacted by our operations.
SAEC recognises that the South African mining industry is fraught with challenges which are brought on by policy uncertainty, labour issues, increasing operational costs and challenges with power supply, amongst others.

Our commitment is to enable a stable environment for our operations, and to communicate achievements and progress in the areas collectively identified by our communities and other key stakeholders, including Government, as areas of priority for development. The initiatives outlined within this booklet are in response to priorities as outlined in the municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

SAEC uplifts local communities through its development programmes

SAEC contributes water to the Emalahleni Local Municipality

180 households in Phola get running water

Access to clean running water and sanitation is a basic human right and as such SAEC has invested more than R5 million towards the water reticulation and sewer connections at BufferOyco Extension in Phola community.

The project has created job opportunities for local community members, while the water supply will benefit 180 households in the area. The water reticulation and sewer connection installations included fire hydrants, bulk infrastructure and water meters.

This is one of SAEC’s projects that are aimed at contributing to the development of communities surrounding its operations beyond compliance. The water project will further assist the municipality to collect revenue from the new installations and reduce illegal water connections.
Drilling of boreholes in Sondagvlei and Springboklaagte

The Sondagvlei farm which consists of seven households and 26 dwellers used to share water with their livestock from a nearby stream during the rainy season, while the Springboklaagte community consisting of 12 households and 93 dwellers only survived by asking for water after their borehole was removed.

SAEC’s Khutala mine used to send trucks to deliver water to the communities, but this year the company decided to drill boreholes to provide relief for the two communities.

SAEC continues to work to create positive social impacts in the communities where we operate by mitigating human rights related risks, leading improvements and promoting respect for human rights across its mining operations and beyond.

SAEC helps with crime surveillance and law enforcement for residents of Steve Tshwete Local Municipality

SAEC donated four light delivery vehicles (LDC) and three motorbikes to the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality to ensure the safety of residents and law enforcement visibility in the Steve Tshwete Municipality. This donation has helped create safer neighbourhoods for the residents of Middelburg and surrounding areas in Mpumalanga.

The initiative will benefit more than 220 thousand residents of the municipality and will go a long way towards restoring investor confidence in the municipality and surrounding areas, and thus attract investment for further development.

SAEC supports local communities in areas of need and develops projects to deliver positive outcomes for future generations. The stronger our communities, the better we can work together, thrive together and create a positive legacy for future generations together.

SAEC’s contribution to the disabled community

SAEC’s business has prioritised opportunities aimed at people living with disabilities and has focused its efforts to helping address issues faced by the community. SAEC previously identified and contributed R2 million towards the construction of the Tholulwazi Centre for the Disabled in Phola community. Aurecon which is a service provider partnered with South32 to donate wheelchairs, food parcels, fridges, tables, air conditioners and television sets to the centre.

Tholulwazi centre provides homebased care, food and a safe place for 45 people with disabilities. People with disabilities deserve equal career and entrepreneurial opportunities to participate in their communities and in growing the economy and the centre is assisting in developing and training people with disabilities.

SAEC and Aurecon are confident that these resources will assist with rehabilitation programmes and provide much needed relief. This intervention is in line with one of SAEC’s core principles that talks to claiming our place as a leading coal producer in SA and an enabler of socio-economic growth.

Tholulwazi centre provides home-based care, food and a safe place for 45 people with disabilities.
SAEC invests in rehabilitating critical road infrastructure

SAEC invests over R10m in rehabilitating road infrastructure in Phola

SAEC officially handed over the recently rehabilitated Vulindlela and Mashaba access road, covering a distance of 1.9km of Phola township which forms part of the Emalahleni Local Municipality (ELM). This project forms part of SAEC’s Social Labour Plans (SLP) commitments aimed at contributing to the development of communities surrounding our operations beyond compliance. SAEC invested R5 million on this initiative.

The road rehabilitation work carried included amongst other work, the reconstruction of the damaged roadway, re-surfacing, marking, construction of the sun-surface drainage systems, potholes repair and erecting traffic-control signals and road signs. This project created in access of 30 temporary jobs including on the job training opportunities for local community members, and a total of five local SMME businesses benefited through sub-contracting opportunities.

Safety is a key priority for SAEC, and as a company we always strive for a safer working environment for all our employees, but equally important is the safety and wellbeing of our community members. We believe that our contribution will go a long way in helping to create safer road infrastructure for both the road users and the community at large, especially vulnerable people, including the elderly, people with disabilities and children.

As a company and a local champion, we are committed to improving the living conditions of communities in the areas where we operate and to create a lasting legacy for future generations. We consider ourselves residents of these community and as such, we are committed to providing quality infrastructure to the benefit of the people and local businesses in the area.

SAEC donates road repair and maintenance machine to help the Emalahleni Local Municipality with road infrastructure repairs

SAEC donated a road repair and maintenance machine – a ‘jetpatcher’, to help the Emalahleni Local Municipality (ELM) with road infrastructure repairs. This donation will help create safer road infrastructure for the residents of Emalahleni and surrounding areas in Mpumalanga.

SAEC committed R3.9 million to procure the machine which will be used for pothole repairs, repairing road edge-breaks, road crack sealing, resealing roads, road rejuvenation, road marking and general road rehabilitation. This will help improving and repairing the damaged road infrastructure currently making it impossible for drivers to drive without damaging their vehicles.
In celebration of Women’s Month in August, Mine Closure Operations in partnership with ICAS, SAEC’s employee assistance program, hosted a Gender Based Violence (GBV) Awareness Training Programme aimed at Grade 12 learners, both boys and girls, from Lehlaka Combined School in Rietspruit. The initiative was aimed at empowering and equipping learners with basic self-defense skills, GBV and safety awareness information, as well as emotional impact guidance.

In the month following the training, because of the sensitivity of GBV and the emotional burden it can cause for victims and their loved ones, counselling sessions were made available through ICAS to learners who needed support.

One of SAEC’s investment objectives is to assist in alleviating poverty and to create job opportunities for the mining communities through its Social and Labour Plan (SLP) projects.

The company invested R3.8 million in the Rietspruit Poultry Farming Project for the Sidlasonke Cooperative and the provincial Department of Agriculture. The project consists of provision of 2000 chickens and the necessary infrastructure including chicken enclosure structures, cold storage, solar energy installations, Jojo tanks, one hectare of fencing and an office block as well as training for beneficiaries and security officers.

Additionally, water was connected through the municipal water network and a solar system was connected and will provide interrupted electricity to the farm. The project was handed over to the beneficiaries who have already started selling eggs to the local market.

The initiative is aimed at supporting the community by increasing the availability of basic food necessities to boost their food security and create jobs opportunities for local community members. SAEC is acutely aware that food security is a major challenge, particularly in less privileged communities and among the elderly people living in Rietspruit.

As a company, we are fully committed to community development and embrace every opportunity aimed at creating social value for the people of South Africa, thus helping to eliminate poverty, unemployment and inequality.
SAEC heeds the call to help fight the coronavirus pandemic

PREVENTION EFFORTS
To date we have successfully procured these items in support of local government and community organizations in the fight against this pandemic.

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<tr>
<th>PREVENTION</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>PREPAREDNESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 500 Face Masks</td>
<td>40 Thermometers</td>
<td>8 Portable Water Trucks, for clinics, food parcels and groceries for centres housing the vulnerable (homeless people and persons with drug addiction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 000 Surgical Gloves</td>
<td>50 Infrared Thermometers</td>
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<td>20 456 Pamphlets &amp; Posters</td>
<td>6 875 Aprons</td>
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<td>1 600 Sanitizers</td>
<td>900 Medical Isolation Gowns</td>
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<tr>
<td>200 Bio-Scrab</td>
<td>300 Infection Control Face Shields</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Medical Sanitizing Liquid (20L)</td>
<td>300 Isolation Eye Protection</td>
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<td>2 015 Soaps</td>
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In the early days of the Coronavirus reaching South Africa, immediate steps were taken to support local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic with donations made to local government and the Mpumalanga Department of Health (MDoH) clinics.

These included the provision of critical hygiene implements such as masks and sanitisers to prevent and limit the spread of the COVID-19, as well as food parcels to identified temporary shelters across our communities. The awareness campaign was also supported by printing and distributing more than 20 000 copies of pamphlets and posters on COVID-19 information amongst the communities.

Extensive engagements with the MDoH and other arms of provincial and local government were held to understand the areas where critical support was most needed.

Over 450 food parcels were distributed through the various community structures across both the Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities. The Rietspruit Clinic was supported with hygiene products, posters, pamphlets and a backup water supply to ensure readiness to respond to the pandemic.

The MEC for Health in Mpumalanga, Ms Sasekan Manzini, after her visit to Klipspruit Colliery, gave positive feedback on SAEC’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She commended the team and encouraged them to share their best practice with other mining companies, especially regarding the fixed medical thermographic body temperature cameras which are used for the screening of all personnel entering the premises.
SIMPLE MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK

STAY THE COURSE
USE ALL THESE SIMPLE, SPECIFIC INVENTIONS TOGETHER TO REDUCE AND MANAGE YOUR RISK OF COVID-19

- Clean Environment
- Good Ventilation
- Hand Hygiene
- Wear a Mask in Public
- Daily Screening at the Mine
- Stay at Home if You Feel Unwell
- Social Distancing
- Coughing & Sneezing Etiquette
- See a Medical Practitioner When You Feel Unwell
- Minimise Social Gatherings
Enterprise and Supplier Development
Empowering Local Businesses through Enterprise Supplier Development Opportunities, creating jobs

SAEC’s business sustainability plan is invested in the economic growth of communities where it operates through sustainable socio-economic development initiatives.

Enterprise and supplier development programmes are increasingly becoming a core focus for transformation, due to its significant impact on broader socio-economic development, and its ability to enable sharing of value within a company’s operational ecosystem. As such, the business has intentionally increased the procurement of goods and services from local and transformed businesses in the Mpumalanga area.

The SAEC Enterprise and Supplier Development initiative (ESD) is in line with the South African government’s broad-based black economic empowerment (B-BBEE) strategy to eliminate poverty and support community enterprise development and is aimed at helping Small, Medium and Micro enterprises to participate in local and mainstream economy. The strategy plays an essential role in ensuring that local businesses are supported to become sustainable and provide employment opportunities for local communities.

However, the value created in the lives of local business owners and their communities reaches far beyond the legislative and compliance achievements gained by SAEC.

SAEC has structured its ESD programme to provide support based on the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) stage of maturity and existing operating gaps. While the ESD programme is already providing beneficiaries with funding assistance, the company is in the process of acquiring the capabilities to provide beneficiaries with both interest-free loans and interest-bearing loans. This will further diversify the method in which SAEC can provide funding for a larger variety of beneficiaries and in turn make a greater impact for businesses and communities.

SAEC’s fit-for-purpose ESD framework not only improves compliance performance regarding identifying and implementing ESD initiatives in line with associated net profit after tax on which compliance spend requirements are set, but it also increases the value that is added to SAEC’s host communities across the Nkangala region.

Since implementing the improved framework, the company’s B-BBEE recognition points have increased significantly with its ESD spend of 150% resulting in a 10-point B-BBEE scorecard increase; while the increase in preferential procurement spend resulted in a 4.62-point increase.

Over the years, SAEC’s involvement in ESD has been instrumental in growing several Black-owned companies from small enterprises to businesses with a turnover of more than R50 million a year.

Ruby’s and Olwethu Projects

The Phola based civil, construction and mining projects company was started in 2013. Since its inception, Ruby’s and Olwethu Projects, has constructed over 150 houses in Phola on behalf of SAEC for its Social Labour Plan commitment.

Prior to receiving funding from SAEC, the business experienced cash-flow challenges with the owners unable to pay operational expenses, and furthermore lacked strategic entrepreneurial and management skills needed to expand and grow the business.

Ruby’s and Olwethu Projects owner Samuel Maswanganne said “The funding from SAEC has assisted the company to venture into the mining sector. This programme has not only benefitted me, but the community members in the area for who we were able to create job opportunities.”

After it was awarded the Klipspruit mining contract, Ruby’s and Olwethu Projects used the funding to upgrade its water bowsers that are needed for the mining conditions at Klipspruit.

“The funding from SAEC has assisted the company to venture into the mining sector. This programme has not only benefitted me, but the community members in the area for who we were able to create job opportunities.”

Samuel Maswanganne
SAEC has empowered a wholly Black-owned Entlearolo Trading company based in Middelburg with the procurement of assets to the value of R6 million in funding, as well as incubation and training. The enterprise which is 80% Black women-owned, was established in 2013 and offers civil engineering, construction and opencast mining services to mining companies.

Entlearolo operates in the Middelburg and Emalahleni areas servicing the coal industry. The business was awarded a three-year contract with SAEC which commenced on 28 May 2018. Prior to receiving SAEC’s assistance the business experienced financial difficulties as well as trouble with its fleet of assets.

The funding has helped the company procure specialised equipment which helped the company immensely to grow and be sustainable as well as increase its work force under the tough economic environment that the mining sector is currently operating under.

Mandla Ngwenya

Established in 2015, Divestec Mining Services provides innovative industry related services and solutions to various mining companies. Divestec prides itself on its capacity and expertise to provide a variety of plant services and maintenance as well as its approved consultancy solutions to maximise production, efficiency and profit for mining operations. Based in Ogies, Divestec is part of an Enterprise Supplier Development (ESD) program run by South32’s South Africa Energy Coal (SAEC) which is helping support transformation in South Africa by making a meaningful contribution to the country’s social and economic development.

In the past three years, Divestec has grown from a company of 54 people to 119, with more than 100 people working at SAEC’s Khutala Colliery. Its employees also work for other mining operators in the Ogies area and Divestec recently secured a three-year contract extension from Khutala Colliery.

In the past three years, Divestec has grown from a company of 54 people to 119, with more than 100 people working at SAEC’s Khutala Colliery.

The company has grown their employee base from 4 employees in FY17 to 10 in FY19.
Skills and Human Resource Development

SAEC invests in education for future generations

Access to quality education is still a challenge for the majority of learners and students from disadvantaged communities. This is often discouraging and deprives them of participating in opportunities that can help improve the quality of life and break out of the poverty cycle.

SAEC has furthered its commitment to education and skills development in the Mpumalanga Province and other Provinces by awarding bursaries valued at R3 million in 2019-2020 to 95 deserving applicants.

The bursary programme seeks to assist children from disadvantaged communities in Mpumalanga to be able to further their studies. This is in line with SAEC’s transformation commitments in the communities we operate in.

The programme is part of our mandate to develop our host communities. SAEC previously awarded bursaries for medical studies, accounting, graphic design, IT, law, agricultural studies and mining engineering.

The bursaries are awarded on the basis of academic ability, and the financial needs of applicants. The students must be interested in studying a three or four-year degree or diploma with an accredited institution, and should preferably be from the local community.

**SAEC currently has three types of bursary schemes:**

- **Child of Employee Bursaries** for any disciplines which are allocated to the children of full-time employees
- **Community Bursaries** for any discipline which are allocated to people from SAEC’s local communities
- **External Bursaries** which focus mainly on core disciplines and feed into SAEC’s Graduate Programme

**The bursaries cover**
- Full payment of tuition fees;
- Payment of meals, accommodation and books;
- A laptop;
- Basic medical aid cover

SAEC also offers internship programmes which provide young people from our communities with the opportunity to learn operational and technical skills through an accredited training programme within our mining operations as well as a Graduate programme where young graduates gain crucial technical, professional and workplace experience.

Our Graduate programme currently has 47 graduates of which 42 are core to mining and six fall within the Human Resources (HR) or humanities area. From February 2019 to March 2020, 10 graduates were permanently employed in different positions within our operations as Senior Surveyors, A&I Specialists, Geologists, Junior Metallurgists, Miner and Production Supervisors.
All these programmes reinforce our conviction that, as a company, we care deeply about our youth, especially in communities where we operate, and we recognise the role we can play as a business in the socio-economic development of the youth as the future generation.

**SAEC assists members of the community in Emalahleni to obtain driver’s licences**

As part of its Technical Skills and Community Development programme, SAEC has assisted 30 learners from the impoverished farming communities in Emalahleni, to obtain Code 14 driver’s licences which will help them to become employable in mining logistics as well as in other industries.

With the large movement of coal from the various collieries in Mpumalanga and other areas, having a Code 14 driver’s licence has proved to be a ticket to accessing job opportunities, not only at the mining houses but also at some companies in other sectors.

This programme reflects our commitment to developing our future talent to access entry level opportunities in order to develop work experience.

This will enable locals to meet the requirements for employment and ensure that contractors have a wide pool of local candidates to appoint when job opportunities arise. SAEC has paid all the costs including costs for applying for a learners licences, driving lessons, bookings, photos, transport and accommodation for the duration of the programme.

**The bursary programme seeks to assist children from disadvantaged communities in Mpumalanga to be able to further their studies.**

**Skills and Human Resource Development**

All these programmes reinforce our conviction that, as a company, we care deeply about our youth, especially in communities where we operate, and we recognise the role we can play as a business in the socio-economic development of the youth as the future generation.
SAEC educates learners from local schools on World Wetlands Day

Learners from Mabande Comprehensive High School, Mehlwana Secondary School in Phola, as well as the Ogies Gekombineerde Skool enjoyed an educational lesson at a wetland situated at SAEC’s Khutala Colliery where they were educated about the value of wetlands and the surrounding ecosystem in celebration of World Wetlands Day.

According to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, wetlands provide habitat and breeding areas to more than 40 percent of the world’s plant and animal species. They are important because they protect and improve water quality, provide wildlife habitats, store floodwaters and maintain surface water flow during dry periods. Wetlands absorb carbon dioxide which helps to slow global heating and reduce pollution, which is why they are referred to as the ‘Kidneys of the Earth’.

The education session was carried out in line with the theme for World Wetlands Day titled Wetlands and Biodiversity; Life thrives in wetlands. Learners were taken on a wetland discovery and identified a variety of insects and plants in the environment, ticking them off a checklist as they went. They were then treated to a picnic to relax after a long day of learning.

One of our key focus areas is building local champions through life-long relationships with our host communities by alleviating issues that may hinder the upliftment of our future leaders. By stimulating our children’s interest in environmental care and biodiversity now while they’re young, we help expand their knowledge and play a role in their future career decisions.

Mr Aubrey John Mngomezulu, Life Sciences teacher at Mabande Comprehensive High school in Phola said: “The learners really had a great time in the wetland. The most interesting part was when they got to see the different types of plants in the wetland and that the wetland is home to and a source of food for lots of other animals. Catching all kinds of organisms and worms to identify was the best part for the day!”

“The learners really had a great time in the wetland. The most interesting part was when they got to see the different types of plants in the wetland and that the wetland is home to and a source of food for lots of other animals. Catching all kinds of organisms and worms to identify was the best part for the day!”

Aubrey John Mngomezulu
Rietspruit Community Development and Partnership

SAEC invests R3m to help alleviate poverty and support education

SAEC has committed R3 million towards community investment initiatives within the Rietspruit community. The initiative is part of SAEC’s commitment to invest in its host communities to alleviate poverty and support education in order to leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

A total of 23 temporary employment opportunities were created during the course of the Rietspruit Mine Closure project, one of the Rietspruit community development and Partnership initiatives undertaken between SAEC, the Rietspruit Mine Closure Team and local contractors.

The project has benefited the community by creating opportunity for skills development, empowering local residents to access future employment opportunities. Thirteen Rietspruit learners were sponsored to enroll in a Technical Matric Programme at Circle Way College in Kriel. SAEC funded the tuition, learning material, meal and transport allowance for all learners.

SAEC is aware that many young people in the community don’t have matric certification, while others don’t have maths and science subjects to qualify for job opportunities offered by the company. The next phase of this programme will be to sponsor the obtaining of driver’s licence training for learners who don’t have licences.

Furthermore, the Mine Closure Team installed a greenhouse food garden at Lehlaka Early Learning Centre which will be used to provide vegetables and improve nutrition for the children who are part of the learning centre. The centre has approximately 65 children between the ages of two and six years.

The Rietspruit Mine Closure team thanks the following contractors for their contribution in making this extra special: Blitz Electrical, Amanzi Projects, Ekhula, Linment Landscaping, Creative Value Concepts and DW Building.

SAEC is proud to support development programmes, facilities and infrastructure, and to promote local employment and business opportunities in the communities where it operates.

A total of 23 temporary employment opportunities were created during the course of the Rietspruit Mine Closure project, one of the Rietspruit Community Development and Partnership initiatives undertaken between South32 SAEC, the Rietspruit Mine Closure team and local contractors.
After School Programme – tutors provide extra classes for learners during lockdown

Education is a basic human right and is important for enabling individuals to access opportunities that can change their lives. As a company that cares about its employees and their communities, SAEC remains committed to assisting disadvantaged learners to realise their full potential and ultimately, their dream careers.

SAEC appointed five tutors and supplied stationery, catering as well as venues for learners in Phola, Witbank and the surrounding farming communities to attend extra classes during the lockdown period as schools were closed.

The project assisted 164 learners to get extra lessons and improve their marks in subjects such as maths and science from Grades 8 to 12. SAEC encourages learners to choose maths and science subjects as they are some of the company’s minimum requirements for the selection in the learnership and training programmes.

SAEC continues to invest in initiatives that enhance the quality of education for our host communities. This is our contribution towards ensuring that access to education is available from early childhood, leaving a lasting positive legacy for future generations.

Khonzakahle Primary School (Breyten, Ermelo)

SAEC relocated and rebuilt Khonzakahle Primary School. The school was situated next to one of our old mines which has now been closed. The company saw an opportunity to give back to the community of Breyten by relocating and rebuilding the school.

SAEC remains committed to investing in initiatives that will help provide quality education for our host communities. Education is an important right for any individual and it is truly rewarding for SAEC to be able to assist in ensuring that learners are able to access education from early childhood.
SAEC invested R100 million into the O.R. Tambo Maths, Science and Technology Academy in eMalahleni. It is aimed at training and empowering local teachers across Mpumalanga to deliver quality teaching in science and maths to approximately 10 000 learners annually. Through this programme, SAEC contributes towards the training of scarce or critical skill professionals in the country, such as engineers, medical doctors and scientists. The academy is equipped with technology and multimedia centres, and advanced maths and science laboratories. It also has transmission studios.
Corporate Social Investment
Changing lives in the community

Donation of essential items to the victims of sexual and domestic crimes

SAEC donated essential items to the South African Police Services Family Violence, Child Protection & Sexual Offences Unit (FCS) to support the victims of sexual offences, especially women and children in the Witbank, Delmas, Kriel, Vosman, Ogies and Phola areas.

The unit employs a network of highly skilled Forensic Social Workers who assist with the assessments of survivors, compiling of court reports as well as providing expert testimonies to the prosecutors.

Food parcels for the Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete communities

To help households during the COVID-19 pandemic, SAEC partnered with local government as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to support households across the Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete Municipalities with food parcels.

These beneficiaries included those who had lost their source of income during the national lockdown due to the pandemic, indigent families and child headed households.

Over 450 food parcels were distributed through the various community structures across both the Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities.

The food parcels consisted of: 12kg Maizemeal, 10kg rice, 2.5kg brown sugar, tinned food, jungle oats, instant porridge, milk, 2kg washing powder, concentrated juice, 2L cooking oil, tea bags, 2kg braai pack, a sack of potatoes, cabbage as well as stock cubes and packets of soup.

The initiative is in line with one of our business principles of being a local champion and our core values, which ensures that we partner with our stakeholders to support the various response initiatives aimed at fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. SAEC’s response to COVID-19 has been built around three key areas, keeping our people safe and well; maintaining safe and reliable operations; and supporting our communities.
South32 SAEC’s donates 250 pairs of school shoes to underprivileged learners

SAEC handed over 250 pairs of school shoes, to the value of more than R100 000, to learners from nine neighbouring farms in Emalahleni, who go to various schools in the area. Communities included, Klippoortjie, Tavland, Springboklaagte, Bombardie and Cologne. The initiative was in line with Mandela month celebrations.

The school shoes helped give dignity back to underprivileged learners from host communities, who were finding times difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic and the winter conditions.

Over 250 pairs of school shoes, to the value of more than R100 000, to learners from nine neighbouring farms in eMalahleni, who go to various schools in the area.

SAEC partners with the Emalahleni Local Municipality and Seriti Resources to address toxic waste pollution in the Phola community

The Phola community has been experiencing ongoing challenges with illegal dumping that pollutes the environment and is hazardous to the health of the residents, particularly children who play around the waste dumps. The objective of the joint initiative was to educate the community about the importance of maintaining a clean and sustainable environment by recycling, reusing and reducing waste.

SAEC together with Seriti Resources and Emalahleni Local Municipality joined forces on a clean-up campaign to raise awareness on illegal dumping of waste at the Phola township. This is part of the International Mandela Day initiatives and aligned to our endeavour of giving back to our local communities.
South32’s South Africa Energy Coal (SAEC) business cares about its host communities and recognises the importance of receiving feedback. SAEC’s community complaints process affords stakeholders, including the community members, the opportunity to raise complaints and grievances about issues related to mining activity impacting them negatively.

Report the complaint at the security office at our operations

community.complaints@south32.net