



COMPANY  
**PROFILE**  
2025/2026

**"THE POWER OF SPORT TO TRANSFORM LIVES"**



## PURPOSE

The Ria Ledwaba Foundation is dedicated to empowering society's most vulnerable by connecting opportunity with potential. We are committed to ensuring that disadvantaged individuals - especially young women and men in sports in rural areas - receive the support, mentorship, and resources needed to overcome systemic barriers. Through financial aid, advocacy, and empowerment, we strive to promote dignity, resilience, and long-term success, ensuring that no individual is left behind due to hardship or lack of opportunity.





## ABOUT RIA LEDWABA

She is the founder of Ifihlile Training Academy, which has been training technicians in refrigeration and air conditioning since 2008. A pioneer in male-dominated fields, she also founded Ria Stars Football Club, which competed in the Premier Soccer League (PSL), and played a key role in establishing South Africa's first Women's National League. She has held influential positions in South African football, including as a member of the SAFA National Executive Committee; Vice-President of SAFA; Chairperson of Women's Football at SAFA; member of the PSL Board of Governors; and Match Commissioner for the Confederation of African Football (CAF). She was also appointed by the Minister of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, to serve on the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to monitor sport transformation in South Africa.

A multi-award-winning businesswoman and sports leader, she received numerous accolades, including Shoprite-Checkers SABC3 Businesswoman of the Year in 1999, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 from the Gauteng Sports Awards.

After experiencing emotional and mental abuse in the boardroom, she founded her own foundation to combat gender-based violence and support women and youth in overcoming adversity. Her work focuses on empowering South African youth to pursue their goals in sport and education while helping women navigate and overcome abuse.

*“True leadership is not about power, but about purpose - lifting others, breaking barriers, and creating a legacy of resilience, dignity, and opportunity for those who need it most.”*

*– Ria Ledwaba*





## VISION

To build a South Africa where every young person, regardless of background, has the opportunity to thrive, compete professionally, and contribute meaningfully to society through sports.

We envision a future where education, empowerment, and equal access to resources uplift communities, unlocking the full potential of the next generation. This will foster a lasting legacy of excellence, integrity, and positive social change.

## MISSION

Our mission is to support disadvantaged individuals, particularly young women and men in rural areas involved in sports, by providing mentorship, resources, and guidance to help them overcome systemic challenges. Through financial assistance, advocacy, and empowerment, we aim to foster dignity, resilience, and lasting success, ensuring that no one is held back by hardship or lack of opportunity.





## OUR VALUE SYSTEM

- INTEGRITY & TRANSPARENCY
- EQUITY & INCLUSIVITY
- EMPOWERMENT & TRANSFORMATION
- EXCELLENCE
- RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY
- TRANSPARENCY
- PARTNER-CENTRIC
- AGILITY
- INCLUSIVITY
- LASTING IMPACT





## PROGRAMMES

- **BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAMME**  
Distribution of school supplies, offer scholarships to young women and men, with a focus on women from rural areas.
- **COACHES AND PLAYERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**  
Ensuring them the best opportunities in the world, offer coaching and training interventions to athletes, sports administrators.
- **SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**  
Empower the athletes with life skills, support women entrepreneurs and leaders with business and leadership skills.
- **GBV EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME**  
Provide survivors and at-risk individuals with education, support, and resources to break the cycle of gender-based violence, nurturing resilience, independence, and long-term empowerment.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL SCHOOLS**  
Boreholes, mobile computer lab / library, multipurpose sports fields.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**  
Blanket drive, empowerment projects, sport equipment and apparel.
- **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**  
Yearly golf day and gala dinner.





## PROJECTS



### 2021 Back to School Programme

- Distribution of school desks and chairs to schools in Mpumalanga.
- Distribution of a range of soccer apparel and equipment to sports teams and foundations across Limpopo, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal.

### 2022 Community Development / Back to School Programme

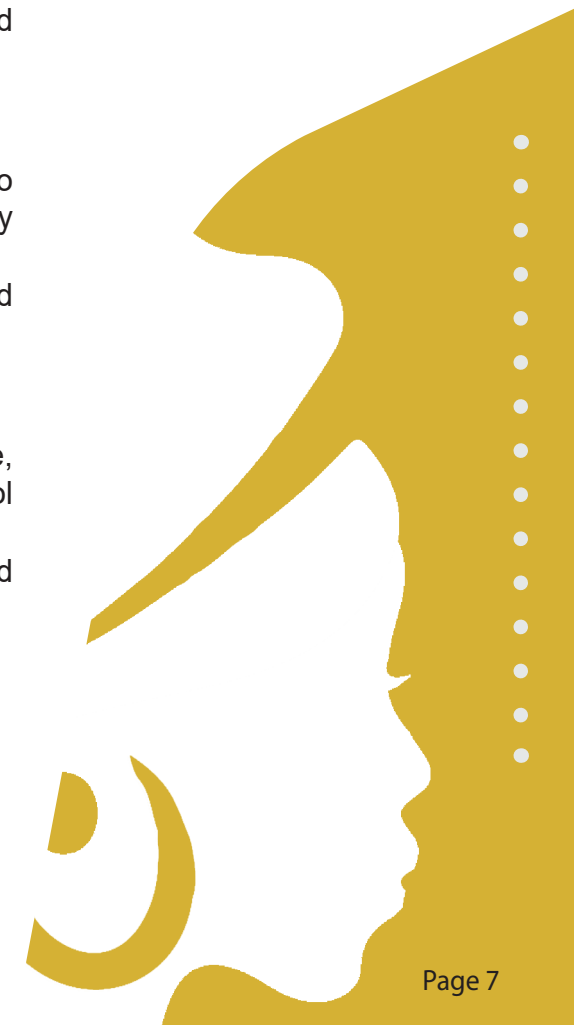
- Distributed five hundred (500) blankets to the disadvantaged, four (4) football regions with equipment, reading books to a primary school, NGOs and the Traditional Authority with office equipment.
- Distribution of a range of soccer apparel and equipment to sports teams and foundations across Limpopo, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal.

### 2023 Community Development / Back to School Programme

- Distributed one thousand three hundred and seventy-five (1375) blankets to different entities; schools for people with disabilities; school desks, sanitary pads.
- Distribution of a range of soccer apparel and equipment to sports teams and foundations across Limpopo, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal.

### 2024 Community Development / Back to School Programme

- Distributed seven hundred and fifty-seven (757) blankets to the less fortunate, handed over a paved assembly area in a school, delivered essential school items, sanitary pads, reading books and school uniform.
- Distribution of a range of soccer apparel and equipment to sports teams and foundations across Limpopo, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal.





## BENEFICIARIES:

### GAUTENG PROVINCE

#### Distribution of blankets:

- Futballing Girls
- People Matter Foundation
- Gauteng Women Rugby Institute – GWRI
- Metro FM
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- HRM Fourways Connect
- Banakekeleni CYCC
- Solly Sithole Foundation
- Rose Happy Times Elderly Care Projects
- Khulani ECD
- Tembisa Hospital Children’s Ward
- True Vine Tabernacle International Church
- Siyabonga Dorah’s Ark
- Gallery of Legends
- Mminele Diaconate Centre
- Tumelo Home & Hospice Mabopane

#### Distribution of sports apparel & equipment:

- Dlalisa Moyeni
- Not In My Name SA
- Mamelodi 11 Stars Ladies
- Mabena Soccer Challenge

### LIMPOPO PROVINCE

#### Distribution of blankets:

- Medingen Lutheran Church
- AME Church
- Mmane Joanah Humanity Foundation
- New Horizon Special School
- Energy FM
- Phalaphala FM
- Hospital Ministry
- Kgapane Public Hospital
- Real Man Foundation Vhembe
- United African Apostolic Church Vhufuli
- Thobela Ladlag Rehabilitation Centre
- Kondelelani Health Care Center

#### Distribution of sports apparel & equipment:

- Capricorn Soccer Legends
- Zebediela United FC

#### Distribution of back to school & office equipment:

- Kgapane Traditional Authority
- Kgokane Creche
- Mantibe Creche
- Magoletsa High School
- Medingen Primary School





## **MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

### **Distribution of blankets:**

- Maleleza Trading
- URCSA Church – Middelburg

### **Distribution of back to school & office equipment**

- Mpoko Maloka Combined School
- Impilo Primary School
- Mmabatho Mokoena Secondary School
- Mapetekoane Primary School
- Phopolo Primary School
- Sesi Lomkhulu Foundation
- Impilo Primary School
- Mmabatho Mokoena Secondary School

## **NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

### **Distribution of blankets:**

- Bana ba Lesedi Sunway Pre-School & Educational Center
- Rethabile Old Age Home

## **EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

### **Distribution of sports apparel & equipment:**

- SAFA Amathole 2022 Champions

## **FREE STATE PROVINCE**

### **Distribution of blankets:**

- Lesedi FM

### **Distribution of sports apparel & equipment:**

- Dihlabeng Champions Challenge
- Xhariep Football Region

## **KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE**

### **Distribution of sports apparel & equipment:**

- AmaJuba Football Region
- uThukela Football Region
- uMzinyathi Football Region



## 2025/2026 PROJECTS

### BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

- Fifty-seven (57) orphans were identified at Raseasala Primary School in Blouberg Municipality in Bochum. School shoes and tracksuits were handed over on the 25th of February 2025.

### SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

- Identify ten to twenty (10-20) sportswomen to support them to further their studies and partner with universities in this regard.

### COACH AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- Continue to work with sports legends across the country to identify schools to conduct coaching clinics and GBV programmes as part of our year-round engagement with our beneficiaries.

### GBV PROGRAMME

- Continue to support victims of GBV.

## 2026/2027 PROJECTS

### BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

- Identify schools to support with our Back-to-School Programme while continuing to support the orphans in previously identified schools.

### SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

- Identify an additional ten (10) sportswomen to support their growth and development.

### MOBILE LIBRARY / COMPUTER

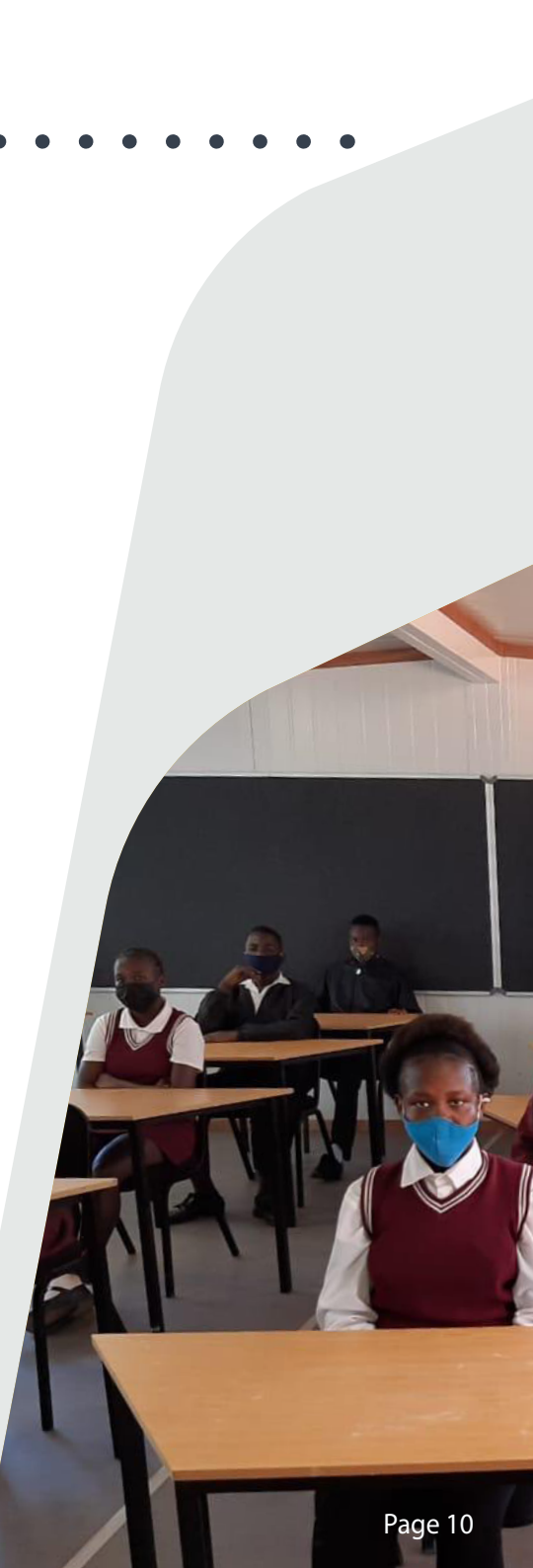
- Provide branded mobile library and computer center to two (2) identified schools in the rural areas.

### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- Provide borehole for clean water to schools in rural areas.

### GBV PROGRAMME

- Continue to support victims of GBV.



## 2028 PROJECTS

### BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

- The Back-to-School Programme will continue at newly identified schools while still supporting the previously supported schools.

### SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

- Identify ten (10) sportswomen to provide support to, bringing the total number of supported sportswomen to fifty (50).

### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- Provide branded mobile library and computer center to two (2) identified schools in the rural areas.
- Provide borehole for clean water to schools in rural areas.

### GBV PROGRAMME

- Continue to support victims of GBV.





## WHO QUALIFIES FOR FUNDING?

While we typically do not accept individual funding applications, we do issue an occasional call for such during a designated window period between May and June.

Our funding is focused on programmes that support the following constituent groups:

- South African youth under the age of 18 with potential from under resourced families and under privileged communities.
- Amateur players under the age of 18 with potential to play in the professional league within South Africa and around the world.
- GBV victims whom require support; we will assist them with relevant medical and legal support.
- School & Local Football Associations that are in compliance & have participants of women leagues.





## OUR PARTNERS

The success of our programmes is rolled out with our valued partners listed below:





# THANK YOU



## CUNTACT US

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