

GREATER STELLENBOSCH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Summary of strategic planning session, 3 November 2011

Background

Following a period of intensive strategic planning, facilitated by Kristina Rusch from Managers Without Borders (Manager ohne Grenzen) in 2010, the GSDT integrated separate education projects into a single Education Project, for children and young adults from 2 to 22. The Project for Entrepreneurs, which had a different focus, was established as an independent entity, SEED. For the GSDT a trust manager was appointed in March 2011.

Strategic Focus Areas

The strategic planning group of trustees and key staff members identified four strategic focus areas for the GSDT:

- Education
- Funding
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Strengthening civil society

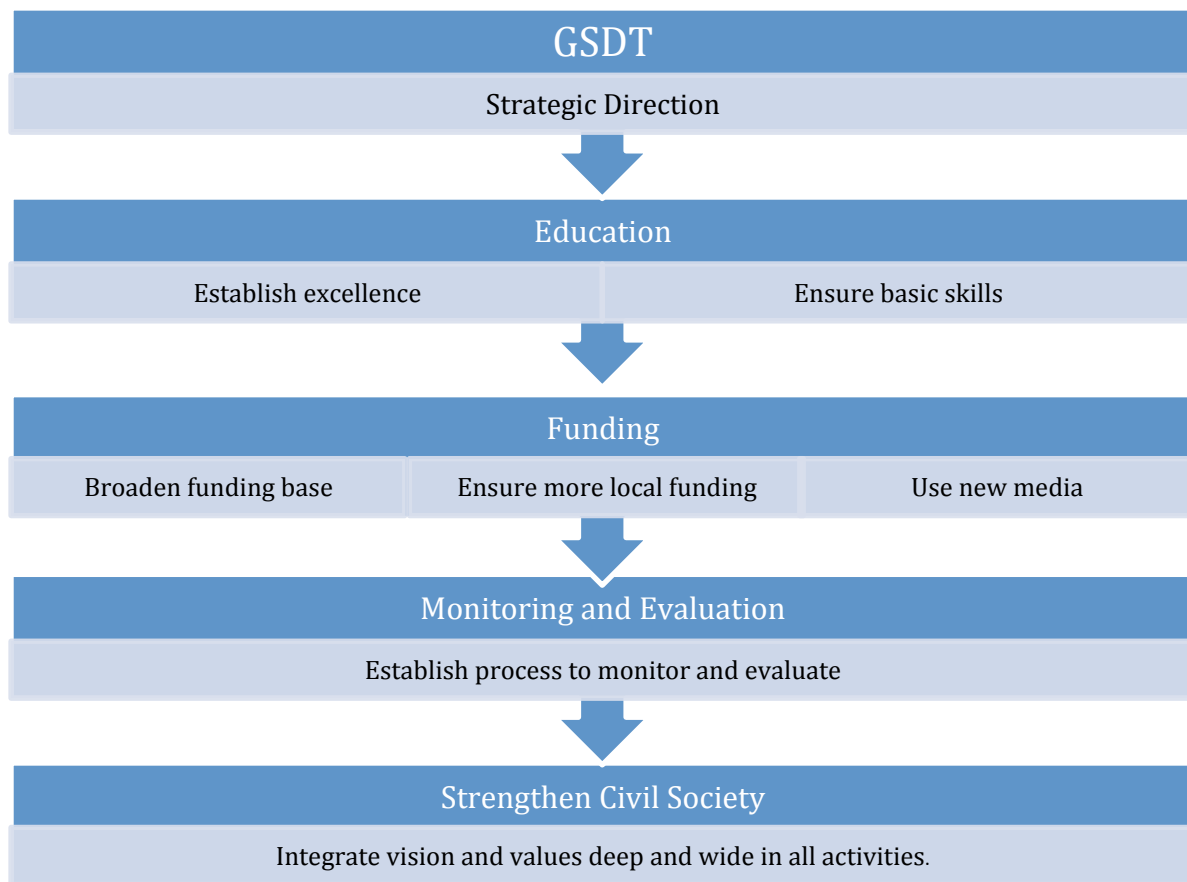
Education: Education has always been a focus area for the Trust. In the past two years the focus on sound educational principles intensified, with greater attention to educational planning and with the appointment of more qualified teaching staff, as well as the introduction of a complementary literacy programme. For the next period the Trust will continue to direct resources and to plan for excellence in its education programme, with special attention to basic skills, especially literacy and numeracy.

Funding: The GSDT depends on contributions by donors to fund programmes. To ensure stability the GSDT will establish a broader base of funders, including more local funders, and also more small funders, who can be activated through electronic media.

Monitoring and evaluation: The GSDT accounts are audited by independent auditors according to generally accepted accounting practices; thus far the Trust always had clean audits. Corporate governance practises of the GSDT are generally of a high order. It would be of value to add an independent process of monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the right things are done correctly.

Strengthen civil society: The GSDT strives to bridge divides with excellence in education and community development. We aim for sustainable development, rather than short-term relief. We aim to assist individuals and communities to broaden and deepen the exercise of human rights, not as entitlement, but as human capacity. People must be able to change their own lives and shape their communities, to aim for a civil society in which the power is shared by many and the resources are distributed fairly.

Overview



Vision

The GSDT strives to bridge divides with excellence in education and community development.

Mission

We drive sustainable development programmes and rights-based values to support a society in which the power is shared by many and resources are distributed fairly.

Conclusion

Strategy is direction. The GSDT will direct resources to focus areas and will develop plans to ensure success in each focus area.

(The session was attended by Mhlobo Jadezweni, Sandile Gxilishe, Ilzemarie Knoetze, Johan Bestbier, Jan Schliemann, Mpumi Mrubata, Esmeralda Michaels and Adele Botha. Hannes van Zyl facilitated.)