The main objective of AMANDLA is the advancement of education by the provision of sports structures, training and facilities for children and young people in disadvantaged communities in Africa, targeting specifically youth who are no longer in the care of their family.
BACKGROUND

AMANDLA Ku Lutsha (AMANDLA) grew out of the dreams of two volunteers who wanted to provide South African children in residential care with the opportunity to participate in organised sport. The first project the AMANDLA Ku Lutsha Soccer League (ASL) was created in 2006 and was designed specifically for children in residential care. The first soccer season saw 10 homes participate, which brought together 150 kids from many different cultures but who have all been removed from their homes or forced to leave. The positive impact of the league on its children was so clear that the creation of an umbrella organisation (AMANDLA) was an obvious next step. The second season saw a growth in numbers and leagues as a separate girl’s league with 10 teams was introduced. The boys’ league grew to 16 teams and the schools league with 8 teams was introduced. In total AMANDLA reached to over 550 children in 2008.

CURRENT PROJECTS

The GIRLS’ LEAGUE consists of twelve teams from children’s homes playing full side soccer. Players come together every other week in addition to regular soccer clinics and skill training. They are involved in education programmes that are specific to adolescent girls. These deal with issues such as gender inequality, rape and teenage pregnancy. These programmes are carried out through the senior peer leaders of the leadership programme.

The BOYS’ LEAGUES currently consists of an U15 league with 16 teams and an U19 league with 16 team from residential children’s facilities all over Cape Town. The boys play once a week in formal league structure. As the girls they are also involved in educational programmes and activities.

This SENIOR TEAM is made up of alumni the league and youth from Beth Uriel (Home to 26 previously disadvantaged young men between the ages of 16 and 24) too old to play in the league but interested and in need of opportunities in sport. The aim of the team is to provide stability and structure for boys after they left their facility structures when they become 18 years old. They are a South African Football Association (SAFA) registered team playing under the banners of the local team Chelsea AFC as their development team.

The SCHOOLS LEAGUE began with the request of a teacher in July 2007 for help setting up a school soccer league for nine schools in the rural area around Robertson, SA. The initiative of this project was to overcome the lack of school sporting opportunities in this particular region and to provide frequent and organised sport for the pupils. AMANDLA runs this league with the help of a group of pupils. The goal behind this is to let pupils gain project management experience in their last year of school. During the 2007 soccer season we found it difficult to find places for the township children to train. Through this and conversations with local sports councils the request came for the creation of a MULTIPURPOSE SPORTS FIELD. AMANDLA is assisting the community in this project and facilitates the management of the facility until the community is able to run it alone. The centre was opened in January 2009.

"The value of a sense of achievement for former street children should never be underestimated – the Soccer League provides them the platform to experience participating in healthy activities that also involves team participation. This positively impacts all other aspects of their lives and relationships," S BASSON, SOCIAL WORKER/UNIT MANAGER THE BRIDGE CHILDREN’S HOME
KEY OBJECTIVES

- Teaching “life skills” and “life lessons” through sport
- Bringing together different cultures and breaking down cultural barriers
- Developing Sporting Facilities
- Providing a platform of dialog for young people
- Ensuring that youth assume a strong role in the management of the project
- Creating innovative and aware young role models
- Facilitating coaching and soccer training where youth can develop their skills
- Equipping young people with a set of skill which increase their career opportunities
- Providing travel opportunities for young people

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

AMANDLA’s aim is to ensure that progressively, and as speedily as possible, all its projects in the Cape Town area as well as in the Robertson area are successfully run and managed by local people before it moves on to support other projects in other geographic areas of Southern Africa. This strategy is critically important if AMANDLA’s work is to have a lasting and sustainable impact.

AMANDLA’s implementation strategy is based on employing a small number of local residents where each of its project’s is being carried out including the provision of on-the-job the training and development opportunities to facilitate local management of the projects.

TEAM AND FAIR PLAY CULTURE

As an organisation, AMANDLA places a lot of importance onto the fair play aspect of sport. For this reason we developed the AMANDLA FAIR PLAY SYSTEM where teams can also score fair play points in every game and have a chance to move up the fair play table in this way. Each team starts a game with 10 points throughout the game point can be added or deducted. Beyond this we established a special set of rules such as every child participating in AMANDLA programmes must attend school regularly and be clean of drugs.

AMANDLA’s first approach is teaching ‘Team Working’ and ‘Fair Play’ as well as building self-esteem and self-confidence. We believe that without this healthy self-image, a child cannot work on more important issues such as crime, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. AMANDLA emphasises building strong relationships between players and coaches to create an environment of respect and strong foundations in teamwork and fair play before moving on to more complex areas of youth education and empowerment.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

AMANDLA runs Youth Leadership Programmes through workshops and camps. The objective of these workshops is to develop life skills but also to give all participants exposure to new experiences.

The programme is structured in a four step development model. Through this model AMANDLA will develop a cadre of strong community leaders.

AMANDLA’s aim is to directly involve and give a powerful voice to all who go through its Youth Leadership Programmes in the management of their soccer league and how it is run.

"...Our boys that were part of the leadership programme are an inspiration for our other boys and motivate them to enjoy the game of soccer... We are proud to be associated with this soccer league as it empowers, strengthens, sets goals and helps our boys to succeed. I recommend that any organisation that works with youth should be part of this league, because they give strength to youth and educate them through sport.”

R. OLSEK, VICE-PRINCIPAL GIRLS AND BOYS TOWN MACASSAR
**SUSTAINABILITY**

AMANDLA is striving to recruit and train young dedicated local youth to be involved in the running and management of all its programmes ensuring complete local ownership. Through this AMANDLA ensures long term sustainability of its projects.

**CURRENT FIGURES**

AMANDLA works with the respective communities and their community management groups to ensure every AMANDLA project becomes totally community managed.

- 29 children’s homes/shelters/projects, 10 schools and 2 local teams participate in AMANDLA projects and programmes;
- 850 youth are involved in AMANDLA projects and programmes;
- 1750 youth will be reached out to through the AMANDLA sports facility;
- 54 teams are playing in AMANDLA soccer leagues;
- 40 coaches are involved with AMANDLA teams;
- Up to 2000 trainings sessions of AMANDLA teams are carried out throughout the season.

AMANDLA plays about 500 soccer games per season;

AMANDLA organises 4 leagues;

- 45 youth are involved in leadership programmes;
- There are 25 youth involved in AMANDLA’s post 18 programme; AMANDLA employs 3 locals and pays stipends to more than 10.

**INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED**


*One time I got very angry with my manager and I wanted to beat him. But then I remembered what I learnt on the Leadership Programme and I controlled my anger. This is a big step for me as I struggled to do so before." MICHAEL ROSSANT, SENIOR YOUTH LEADER*

*"The league provides a platform for children living in child and youth care facilities to hold hands in their growth and development while doing what they like best - football." GERALD JACOBS, BOARD MEMBER OF AMANDLA KU LUTSHA*