



ANGLO AMERICAN PLATINUM (AAP) SCHOOLS PROJECT 2020 - DURING COVID-19

The socio-economic realities of the communities in which we operate mean that most households face persistent poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

In 2015, Anglo American Platinum partnered with specific technical high schools close to its operations to improve learners' mathematics, science and technology skills and drive localisation of skills. The company believes this targeted investment in technical education through the AAP schools project can do much to change these realities, improve opportunities for beneficiaries and open pathways to further study and the supply of a skilled and productive labour force.

In partnership with the South African Department of Basic Education (DBE) and partner technical schools, this project is investing in practical machinery used in technical classrooms, basic infrastructure improvement to relieve classroom overcrowding, professional development of teachers to ensure relevant, quality educational outcomes, to enhance learners' success and achievements.

Importantly, the partner-school model and related initiatives provide an evidence-based, fit for purpose, scalable and replicable good-practice model while addressing individual schools' needs and the workforce requirements of the broader industry. In addition, AAP's schools project is aligned with national imperatives and the Limpopo development objective of quality basic education.

Through the project, Anglo American Platinum has identified areas for meaningful investment and action, including:

- Ensuring well-resourced technical schools and well-qualified teachers who have potential to improve matriculation results and increase the number of technical and engineering graduates.



Anglo American Platinum Limited is a member of the Anglo American plc Group and is a leading primary producer of platinum group metals. The company is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). Its mining, smelting and refining operations are based in South Africa. Elsewhere in the world, the Group owns Unki Platinum Mine in Zimbabwe.

Anglo American Platinum has a number of joint ventures with several historically disadvantaged South African consortia as part of its commitment to the transformation of the mining industry. Anglo American Platinum is committed to the highest standards of safety and continues to make a meaningful and sustainable difference in the development of the communities around its operations.

Case Study



Adherence to protocols at Thekganang Technical High School

- Collaborating with the DBE on policies that can guide the effective implementation of technical subjects and develop required infrastructure, including computers and internet connectivity.
- Enabling learners to further their technical education and provide equitable opportunities for socio-economic development.
- Providing learners with skills and knowledge relevant for the 4IR economy (problem-solving, creativity, imagination, life skills, leadership).

The 2020 matriculants at AAP's partner schools were greatly affected by the pandemic and ensuing lockdowns. The project team reacted swiftly by consulting with key stakeholders from the relevant circuits, districts and provincial directorate on technical education on how best to support learners. As a result, the academic support programme (ASP) was immediately migrated to manageable WhatsApp sessions.

The WhatsApp platform enabled learners to continue receiving lessons and engage in key exercises as they would have in the classroom. They also received extra tutorial support. After critical lockdown stages were relaxed, the project collaborated with principals, parents, circuit managers and district directors on an examination-preparation programme, which helped address the challenges faced in 2020.

Support during and post-lockdown National lockdown virtual lessons

South Africa's schools were completely closed during the COVID-19 level 5 and 4 national lockdowns to prevent the spread of the virus. During these lockdowns which lasted around three months, the schools project migrated learners to WhatsApp sessions, where they were divided into manageable groups and had daily online sessions with lecturers from the University of Limpopo. The WhatsApp-based classes ran from 09:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00 every day from 30 March until end of June 2020, enabling learners to complete the curriculum.

After level 5 and 4 lockdown

Schools re-opened for on-site classes post the Level 5 and 4 lockdowns, and from July 2020 (post-level 4 lockdown), school-based educators covered remaining elements of the curriculum. This gave learners multiple opportunities to strengthen and deepen their understanding of curriculum content.

Lead tutors continued to support teachers and learners online, and this is likely to continue post COVID. In addition, examination-preparation workbooks were developed for learners. These workbooks facilitated intensive assessment and exposed learners to a variety of questions and solutions.