

Just for a Change Podcast Episode 7_A look at the Bertha Centre year in review & looking ahead to 2021- Transcript

Kentse Radebe: [00:00:00] [00:00:00] Welcome to the disparate change podcast powered by the birth of the center for social innovation and entrepreneurship. First off, what you need to know about us is that thinking differently and innovatively about solving big social issues is what makes us tick. We love offering new perspectives on social innovation and social justice.

[00:00:25] So we hope you'll be inspired to make a difference. What Anthony, you are changing the way we're changing the world.

[00:00:32] **Fergus Turner :** [00:00:32] Welcome to the, just for a change podcast with us, your hosts Simnikiwe Xanga and Fergus Turner.

[00:00:39] **Simnikiwe Xanga :** [00:00:39] So here we are. It's finally the end of the most unprecedented and certain year that has not only actually in a new normal and also many other cliched buzz words.

[00:00:50] **Fergus Turner :** [00:00:50] Yeah, absolutely. 2020, what a year it has been Simni.

[00:00:54] **Simnikiwe Xanga :** [00:00:54] Though It's been a tough year. They've also been amazing things for those of you who have been [00:01:00] following this podcast, uh, perhaps Betha has worked in general. You'll know that we've been juggling many balls. Including launching this podcast during lockdown.

[00:01:10] **Fergus Turner :** [00:01:10] Exactly. In our previous episodes, we've hosted amazing guests and engaged and thought provoking conversations over today we feel like it's time to focus inward just for a change. You know,

[00:01:22] **Simnikiwe Xanga :** [00:01:22] indeed the Berger center was founded in 2011 in partnership with the birth of foundation. It is the first of its kind in Africa. Dedicated to advancing social innovation and entrepreneurship.

[00:01:37] **Fergus Turner :** [00:01:37] And it's amazing to think how from humble beginnings, the birther center has grown into an organization of more than 15 people and a team of consultants across the six portfolios of education, innovation, health systems, innovation, youth development, birther scholarship, innovative finance, and social systems innovation.

[00:01:58] **Simnikiwe Xanga :** [00:01:58] It is amazing. [00:02:00] And maybe. Now that you mentioned it, perhaps let's briefly touch on what these various portfolios have been up to this year. We'll also dive into the details just now with our guests.

[00:02:12] **Fergus Turner :** [00:02:12] And one of the things that jumps to mind for me is the systems justice team's involvement in the bold peace conference. It was great to have so many people across the world, engage on the topic of peace by the virtual event, sharing experiences and insights on the challenges to peace in a digital era. I also think of the education innovation team's involvement in growing the social justice conversation in

schools, how they innovated and remain committed to making a difference in the education sphere despite the lockdowns. Speaking of a pandemic, the health systems innovation team has worked on many different initiatives, as well as being awarded funding from the WHO to develop a community engagement learning package, which will focus on COVID-19.

[00:02:59] **Simnikiwe Xanga** : [00:02:59] They've [00:03:00] done such a great job. There was the youth development teams partnership with to host workshops, to explore innovative ideas, to address youth development challenges in South Africa, which I think is quite cool. And they've been working as part of a collaboration with capacity, the way D co-lab and Luciano novel to document the youth development ecosystem. This is going to be so valuable. The innovative finance team has had an incredibly successful impact investing in Africa, executive education program this year, running online for the first time.

[00:03:37] Which allowed more people than ever before to register and participate.

[00:03:42] **Fergus Turner** : [00:03:42] Very definite highlights in the birther scholarship portfolio has been incredible collaboration and integration between the birth of scholars and the center as a whole something we have been trying to achieve for a number of years and have been an exponential growth in this year.

[00:03:58] But I think we'll be able to talk about [00:04:00] this all day. .

[00:04:02] **Simnikiwe Xanga** : [00:04:02] I agree. Definitely. Why don't we get from the teams themselves as we reflect on what the various portfolios have been up to this year, recognizing some achievements, but then also touch on what the teams are looking forward to in 2021. Ken's a hi Debbie, we'll be talking to some portfolio leads as they reflect on the year that has just passed.

[00:04:25] **Kentse Radebe**: [00:04:25] Say that reflection. And it's one of the most crucial elements for intentional and effective risks at the end of the year, even more so at the end of the year, like 2020, if we don't stop and take stock, we not only miss our achievements and the opportunity to celebrate various victories, but we also don't recognize or realize how much we've grown.

[00:04:47] The birther center, convenes, catalyzes educates researchers and advocates across specific thematic areas. Each of our portfolios has its own particular goals, strategic objectives and [00:05:00] activities with systems innovation and social justice as a cross-cutting and integrating area of work. Today, I'm excited to be chatting to two Bertha team members, Fergus Turner, who will speak to the birth of scholarship portfolio and Louise Albertine from Bertha's education innovation portfolio.

[00:05:18] And I'll be sharing some highlights from the social systems, justice innovation team, Louise and Fergus. Welcome.

[00:05:25] **Louise Albertyn**: [00:05:25] Great. Thanks.

[00:05:26] **Fergus Turner** : [00:05:26] Thanks Ken. So always good to be with you.

[00:05:30] **Kentse Radebe**: [00:05:30] I'm so excited to be chatting to you guys about our work. And I thought maybe a good place to start would be just to get an overview of your

portfolios. Louise you're joining us for the first time on the podcast. Tell us a little bit more about what you do.

[00:05:43] **Fergus Turner** : [00:05:43] Great. Thanks for the opportunity. You can see the education innovation is focused on strengthening the education system to ensure equal access to quality education. And we do this in three ways, supporting better decision-making for positive impact. [00:06:00] So that time, money and capacity is spent on strategies that do work. And secondly, growing social justice conversations in schools to develop inclusive, just, caring and engage in classrooms in schools where all children feel safe and empowered and thirdly, building capacity to innovate within the education system.

[00:06:23] To hear a bit more about the Bertha scholars portfolio. I'm going to hand over to my colleague Fergus. Thank you, Louise. So the natural, the Bertha scholarship, which has, um, a selection of scholars across the continent. 93 plus alumni supports innovators and leaders, business, civil society, and entrepreneurship, um, by funding and championing the work, um, at the Graduate School of Business, um, in either the MBA or in MPhil Inclusive [00:07:00] Innovation Programs. And really the Bertha scholarship is much more than just the scholarship itself. We support the community, the network effect of those young leaders across the continent, working towards social justice and their respective areas, sectors, um, with an innovative lens. And furthermore, in 2020, of course it hasn't been the case, but.

[00:07:27] Usually, um, our scholars connect, convene, uh, very regularly so as to keep the energy of that community going, um, in different cities, on the continent. And while we're at it, Kentse, why don't you tell us more about the Social Systems, Justice Innovation portfolio.

[00:07:47] **Kentse Radebe**: [00:07:47] Thanks, Fergus. Um, the Social Systems, Justice portfolio, our work is really embedded in systems thinking. And what that basically means is that we're interested in understanding how systems operate. We're [00:08:00] curious about where are the opportunities, where are the limitations and what does that mean for organizations, institutions, and society broadly? We're deeply committed to identifying how we can influence and shift systems that are resistant to change identifying connections and covering the power dynamics and inequalities, and ultimately revealing the leverage points to create change.

[00:08:23] Shifting systems is not about fixing a problem in isolation or about being right or wrong, but rather about coming together as collectives to nudge systems towards desired change in how the system works. And that's really what we aim to facilitate through various projects. So 2020 was an intense year, and I think one of our highlights was working on the African Philanthropy Forum Systems Change Program, and really redesigning that program to deliver it online.

[00:08:49] But I'll share a little bit more about that later. I think for me, what I want to jump into now is something that I was quite excited about Louise. Um, and that's some of the work that you've been doing in the education portfolio, looking [00:09:00] at multilingualism in our education system. So we know that South Africa is a multi-lingual country, yet we continue to see a widespread sudden transition to monolingual English education after three years of formal schooling. Louise, can you tell us a little bit about the specific challenge facing South Africa's education system and how Bertha's education innovation portfolio has been addressing that this year.

[00:09:25] **Louise Albertyn:** [00:09:25] You've highlighted a really important challenge can save painfully. Our country's children are often positioned as deficient English, monolinguals, rather than resourceful, bilingual learners. This needs to be addressed as a learning and social justice imperative. Therefore earlier this year, the Bertha Center was privileged to partner with Xolisa Gazula, a literacy expert, UCT lecturer, and a member of the Bureau LIT Collective to bring together a group of stakeholders to discuss how we develop multi-lingual classrooms. Because [00:10:00] despite our country's current language policy promoting multi-lingual education, this isn't playing out in classrooms with schools throughout the country, drafting their own language policies but fail to recognize, celebrate and build on the resource of learners diversity, the knowledge for impact workshop we had with Ms. Gazula looked at the evidence for, and how to, of strategies for enabling children to learn. Using their most familiar language resources while also developing proficiency in English.

[00:10:30] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:10:30] I think what's really interesting, particularly for 2020 and what was really unique during this period in this pandemic is that it really required and demanded rapid kind of research and learning. And Louise, you guys took a leading part in the open up your thinking research bootcamp. What did that entail? What was it about?

[00:10:50] **Louise Albertyn:** [00:10:50] Well, we were able to do that kind of research and learning as part of an ambitious research project in response to the pandemic under the wonderful leadership of Jet Education Services [00:11:00] and alongside partners like Equal Education Law Center and the National Education Collaboration trust. This bootcamp invited young researchers to uncover the best educational strategies to be used during times of crisis along various topics.

[00:11:16] I was honored to be the co lead with Dr. Rushana Rajab as project lead on the report, a comparative study on how NPO's in education we're responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Main purpose of the research was to investigate how this valuable stakeholder group in the education ecosystem was responding to the worldwide COVID-19 crisis with an emphasis on those operating in South Africa, and a secondary purpose was to make recommendations for longterm changes.

[00:11:45] I think that's essential for the future sustainability of NPOs in education. And I believe that this type of rapid research was appropriate for the season in which 40% of school days were being lost for most children in [00:12:00] 2020. Jet conceptualize this research boot camp as a way to contribute to solution in response to these unique pressures, to allow for real-time inputs to be made and to other national education processes and to meaningfully engage young researchers, especially during the early stage of lockdown.

[00:12:19] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:12:19] Sure. And you guys didn't actually stop there. You also hosted some really fascinating and interesting webinars around education. One that I'm really particularly interested in hearing about, and that's because it received such a positive response on our YouTube channel and it really resonated with the Bertha Center community and that was the webinar responding to racism in schools. Can you share a little bit about what some of the highlights were from that webinar?

[00:12:43] **Louise Albertyn:** [00:12:43] Yeah, thanks Ken. So along with the rest of the country, um, we witnessed the deep hurt and frustration against the backdrop of a growing international black lives matter movement.

[00:12:53] That painfully once again, had to be vocalized by learners in schools, across South Africa, the Bertha Center's [00:13:00] education innovation team wanted to continue our own learning journey on this and serve schools and the broader education community by sharing input from experts on how school stakeholders can respond and engage with the young people in their care. Conversations. Like these are often best held face-to-face, but finding ourselves in the midst of the continued challenge of lockdown, the conversation was moved online. We invited Loveland.. Dylan Ray, and Kagliwe Inseke to share their insights in this webinar.

[00:13:31] And they were generous in giving guidance on how schools can really listen, get help and act to give you a snapshot of attendee questions that fueled this discussion. One of the teachers asked, how do we have needed conversations, really listening, and then make changes that dismantled the oppressive systems in our schools.

[00:13:52] One of the principals asked how do schools deal with teachers on our staff regarding the hurtful and damaging behavior? [00:14:00] And how do we bring reluctant staff along towards inclusive and healthy learning environments? And one of our parents asked what is the role of parents and how does school support them and children given the mental health burden of institutional racism. As you mentioned, cancer, over 500 school leaders, educators, parents, and stakeholders from tertiary institutions joined the live discussion. And the recording that can be found on YouTube, as you mentioned, has been viewed close to 2000 times. I think that is indicative of the urgent need for continued learning and unlearning and practical equipping in the education space to do that, which Austin Channing Brown speaks of when she says.

[00:14:44] The work of anti-racism is the work of becoming a better human to other humans.

[00:14:51] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:14:51] Thanks Louise. And I think for anybody who missed that webinar, we'll be sharing the link in our show notes, and we'll also be sharing all the other projects that Louise has been speaking about. If [00:15:00] you'd like to read a little bit more Fergus, I want to bring you back into the conversation.

[00:15:04] Um, and I think for me, this is quite critical because at the beginning of the year, we actually hosted an event for the Bertha scholars. It was one of the. Face-to-face events that we were able to do before lockdown struck and I'm particularly interested to find out. And what else has been happening in this community, which is actually really vibrant and it's filled with so many inspiring people who are doing really exciting things.

[00:15:26] **Fergus Turner :** [00:15:26] Sure. The major highlights this year can say is despite, um, the lack of being able to convene. Um, in person, we've had more involvement of current and incoming scholars in the MBA and info programs at the GSP more involvement in Bertha centers, other the programmatic work.

[00:15:47] And, um, examples of this include the Bertha scholar, uh, who is currently is serving as a, essentially a temporary member of the systems justice team [00:16:00] on an ongoing basis and has assisted in the AP of, uh, in the APF work amongst others things. Another great example of this is the research cohort that joined the transforming change um, research project, which is a project in partnership with the Stockholm Resilience Center and where the research question is all about understanding the effects of COVID-19

lockdowns on social entrepreneurship, social, uh, social innovators across the African continent and, um, recognizing that this kind of.

[00:16:38] Involvement across different Berta Center portfolio work areas as being a priority, but we haven't been able to get it right to this extent this year. Um, and I think really in reflecting on it, it, it makes me recognize that when. You know, when faced with this [00:17:00] kind of, um, sense of isolation and disconnectedness, especially scholars who were expecting to, to be in classrooms and connect with people at the GSB, in their programs, um, that faced with this kind of isolation and disconnectedness, the opportunity to connect and work together is.

[00:17:17] All the more, uh, all the more appetizing. And I think we've been able to really jump on that and leverage that. Um, other examples include, of course, Build Peace 2020, and several scholars showing up to assist in facilitating and hosting a variety of sessions, providing backup to the marketing communications team, um, and the Systems Justice Labs, which was a pilot program of capacity building.

[00:17:41] Uh, social justice organizations with systems, tools, and frameworks, again, scholars showing up not just to participate on behalf of their organizations and work, but also to lead and facilitate sessions. So that's really, really shone out to me and makes me very excited about how we [00:18:00] can continue with that momentum into the new year.

[00:18:03] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:18:03] That sounds amazing. Fergus. What do you think was the impact of Build Peace which was really an exceptional conference?

[00:18:11] **Fergus Turner :** [00:18:11] Um, most importantly, um, as, as many of our regular listeners would know Build Peace 2020 a partner is sort of a. Partnered event with a global peace building network, um, Build Up, um, was meant to take place at Philippi ,Philippi Village this year, um, with a theme that contextualizes the peace building community in Cape Town in, in, in, in Cape Town's particular story and, uh, present, present day challenges.

[00:18:47] Um, but the conference, uh, happened entirely online and a large part of the impact. There would have to be the way that more than 400 participants were still able to feel [00:19:00] that sense of community, of sharing, of co-learning, of co-created, um, building of trust and understanding of how all of our, all of our different work areas have changed over this year.

[00:19:12] I mean, you know, pretty much. The majority of content show talks, keynotes and workshops wwas framed, um, in the context of, well, our work has fundamentally changed people. Doesn't social justice workers and organizations. Our work has changed. Our context has shifted. And so there was a lot of sharing of how do we make sense of this? Um, what is this, what does this mean for the way that we build our organizations and our sectors going forward? So very much that, that sense of community that was able to, to persist, um, over, uh, over that online, um, conferencing portal, um, and birth the center's capacity to contribute and making that happen.

[00:19:56] Convenient, coordinating that scale [00:20:00] of, of, of contributors, partners, organizations, um, participants online. I think, I think that has. But that's definitely a feather in our cap, uh, for, for how we continue to convene in these uncertain times.

[00:20:14] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:20:14] I think what's so important about what both you and Louisa highlighting is how we've been able to still convene and engage with individuals online.

[00:20:22] And I think that's been for me, one of the biggest takeaways of pivoting and rethinking how we design and deliver programs online. And I think that connects quite well with the experiences that we also had with the African Philanthropy Forum Systems Change program. And what that program really is about is that it acknowledges that systems entrepreneurs on the continent and Africa are making an impact in their own fields and in their own sectors.

[00:20:47] However, we also know that the most pressing issues that we're facing in the continent and the ones that we'll be facing in the next five to 10 years, they don't exist in a vacuum. So what we need are actors who can see the whole system [00:21:00] and act in ways that seek to transform that system. So with the support of the African Philanthropy Forum, and Dahlberg, we capacitated leaders working across health, Education agriculture and enterprise development in Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Malawi, and South Africa to deepen their capabilities and systems entrepreneurship.

[00:21:19] And really with the objective of creating a community of actors capable of developing innovations and interventions that have large scale social impact. And I think to tie in a little bit about what you were talking about Fergus is that also early in the year, we also deliver the transforming change program in partnership with the Swedish Institute and the Stockholm resilience center, where a systems thinking lens is applied to capacity building in the development sector with a big focus in the global South.

[00:21:48] **Fergus Turner :** [00:21:48] Yeah. And really, um, you know, with, with, with the way that everybody's been able to come together. It's, I mean, I'm also speaking more [00:22:00] generally here, but the, the feeling of team building the feeling of, um, roping on different resources and skills and perspectives together over this difficult time has never felt stronger, uh, in the context of birth, the center as a team and a center and a space where we all are trying to, um, build our purpose forward.

[00:22:24] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:22:24] Thank you so much. I think Ferguson and Louise really appreciate how you've been sharing your highlights and perspectives, um, and what you've been doing for 2020.

[00:22:33] **Fergus Turner :** [00:22:33] Thank you so much Kentse as always a pleasure and, uh, looking forward to putting this year to rest and doing the reflection that counts so much.

[00:22:43] **Louise Albertyn:** [00:22:43] Great. Thank you. Ken set is really good to chat to you.

[00:22:47] **Simnikiwe Xanga :** [00:22:47] Wow. What an incredible year. Speed. Despite all the challenges with all the reflection going on, it makes me excited to talk about the future as well. We asked the Bertha team where they are looking forward [00:23:00] to in 2021. Here's what they had to say.

[00:23:05] **Bertha team:** [00:23:05] It has a fantastic into 2020 happy new year for next year. I am looking forward most to cross-collaboration and seeing what sort of work we can do as

a, as a center together, really looking forward to that and having an interview in person in 2021, I'm looking forward to collaborating with all the different organizations.

[00:23:33] Departments and government and individuals that are committed to making sure that South Africa emerges from this crisis stronger than ever before. Be it by looking at segments of our society that have been affected the most by the pandemic and providing them with resources, trying to understand how getting put in place, [00:24:00] enabling infrastructure, so that if we are hit with a similar crisis, their response is a bit more able.

[00:24:07] Yeah, and we can mitigate the damage to our society from that. And generally just seeing how we can, I've just returned to normal, but returned to a society that's even stronger than it was before. Yeah.

[00:24:23] **Ntombini:** [00:24:23] Hi, this is Ntombini and I recently joined the, both the center and the role of senior manager. It's been wonderful to listen to those voice notes and get a bird's eye view of what the team is looking forward to in 2021.

[00:24:36] My own highlights for 2020 have been of course, uh, starting a new job. Um, At the birth center, although I am a longtime UCT employee, it's really exciting to be with a new team doing innovative work that really matters. And maybe another highlight I can share is that a book I've been [00:25:00] working on for two years, um, called reframing the urban challenge in Africa has recently been published and is finally available online. So yay

[00:25:12] Today, I'm going to be chatting to three members of the team to hear about what's on the cards for 2021 in the areas of innovation, finance, health systems, innovation, and use. That's welcome. Steven Katusha and Simnikiwe. First off let's maybe hear one challenge and one highlight from each of you as you look back on 2020. How about you, Steve?

[00:25:33] **Stephen:** [00:25:33] Thanks Ntombini, um, starting with the challenge. I only joined the team in January and although I had had interactions with the innovative finance team for a couple of years, I hadn't met the broader Bertha Center team. So it was quite interesting to start a new job and three months in get thrown into lockdown, which changed the way that the whole teamwork.

[00:25:55] And beyond that, it made it also a bit difficult to get to know my teammates.

[00:26:00] On a slightly lighter note. Uh, one of my highlights. Uh, we were able to partner with the EU and GIZ ed, uh, to provide relief funding to 12 small, medium and microsites enterprises in the Green Outcomes Fund ecosystem. And we've had some really good feedback calls with them where they'd mentioned that that funding didn't just help them to weather the storm, but they could actually use it as a platform to expand a bit.

[00:26:28] So that was, that was really great to see.

[00:26:31] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:26:31] Fantastic. What about you, Katusha? So one of my challenges this year, I think in common with, with so many other people is adapting to working at home. I, um, I'm a team person. I like being at work and seeing my colleagues. So it was difficult having to adjust to this new reality of zoom and conference calls and Microsoft teams.

[00:26:56] But I. Looking back. It's [00:27:00] wonderful to see how much has been accomplished. Um, and I think what helped me was a really wonderful highlights, um, that happened all the way back in February. And that was when I was able to host. Um, members of the ministry of health from Benin as well as, um, representatives from the world health organization, UN AIDS and, um, from Malawi who were interested in learning about social innovation and health in South Africa.

[00:27:30] So I was able to take them to a number of our local, um, Social innovators, such as the Red Cross Children's Hospital Radio Station and, um,... , which is a community garden project. And just to, to show them what we've been doing here in South Africa and sharing that information, um, that they'll then be able to take back to their own home countries. So that was a really great highlight that sustained me throughout the year.

[00:27:58] **Ntombini:** [00:27:58] That's amazing. Also [00:28:00] making sure that birth has lessons that go beyond that Africa. Fantastic. can you also share with us one highlight and one challenge?

[00:28:08] Um, I'll

[00:28:09] **Simnikiwe Xanga :** [00:28:09] start with the challenge. Uh, So at the beginning of the year, just when I thought I was going to get my hands dirty and do the work on the ground in filigree village.

[00:28:19] Uh, yeah, that was cut short by lockdown. Um, but the highlight of it has been forming these collaborations with our partner organizations and one of them being Lucha Lunako , which is based in Johannesburg. So the continuous connection online has been amazing and doing all this work, uh, without being able to, um, uh, connect with one another physically, but being able to have that platform and engaging with one another and coming up with opportunities to do surveys and do reports has been absolutely a highlight.

[00:28:55] **Ntombini:** [00:28:55] Stephen amidst the chaos of 2020 you guys managed [00:29:00] to successfully launch the green outcomes fund, which incentivizes local South African fund managers to increase investments in green S M M E's This is so exciting. What does next year have in store for the fund and what are some other things on the horizon for the innovative finance portfolio in 2021?

[00:29:18] **Stephen:** [00:29:18] It's a really interesting time to launch an innovative finance structuring the market. We've had some really great learnings come out of it this year already. So we're going to look to share some of those in the coming year. The green outcomes fund will also be in its second year of the three-year pilot.

[00:29:36] So we expecting it to be the moving year. We really looking forward to an uptick in investments with quite a few, uh, deals under due diligence at the moment. And with those investments, we hope in for a lot more job creation to come out of it. Uh, part of what we teach in is how, or if fund managers use the outcomes funding innovatively.

[00:29:58] So we've already seen one fund [00:30:00] manager offer a much lower loan rate than they would have without that outcomes finding to an SMME. So we were hoping for more of that at a broader level, the innovative finance team is working on quite a few projects. Uh, which I I'd like to share with you. So some of the research that we're doing in

partnership with UBS Optimus foundation Roots of impact in the university of Zurich is on the factors that influence the appropriateness of certain instruments in different contexts.

[00:30:31] When looking to engage in a blended finance transaction, We'll also be releasing some research in early Jan, where we've met the climate finance flows in South Africa over two years in partnership with Green Cape and the Climate Policy Initiative, we were really excited about next year executive education because we are running three impact investing courses.

[00:30:57] One is an intro to impact [00:31:00] investing open to anyone. That's going to be a virtual course in mid April. And then we also have two executive education impact investing courses. One will be a virtual one ran over may and June, and then an in-person iteration towards the end of November. So keep a watch out on our website and our newsletter for those.

[00:31:19] Um, one of our, our key projects that we've worked on over the past few years has actually wrapped up towards the end of this year, the early childhood development social impact bond innovation funds. So we'll be developing a case, study sharing some learnings with the markets and also looking what version two is going to look like.

[00:31:40] Beyond that we'll be releasing some interesting research on investment in high-impact social enterprises, in partnership with the SAB foundation. And here we really looking to shift the system a bit in how to do early stage investment a bit differently. Our last two, that I'd like to mention, we'll be releasing funding from [00:32:00] the student seed fund to help finance and develop minimum viable products and early stage development of entrepreneurs in our system.

[00:32:08] And lastly for impact investing in South Africa in Q1, we'll be reviewing how to make the South African impact investing task force even more impactful by reviewing strategy and key elements of the task force. And from Q1 onwards, it will also be set up as a separate entity, uh, where we're looking to strengthen its position as an entry point into the impact investing market.

[00:32:31] So quite a busy year line ahead of us for 2021.

[00:32:35] **Ntombini:** [00:32:35] Katusha you've been collaborating and providing input on the development of a module on social innovation and health and community engagement. Tell us about the development of this module and how it will be used next year.

[00:32:48] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:32:48] Sure. So this is a module that I was asked to contribute to, um, that is being designed and promoted by TDR, which is the special program for research and training and tropical [00:33:00] diseases.

[00:33:00] And it's hosted at the World Health Organization. So the objectives of the module are to define the benefits of using implementation research methods in social innovation and health. So it contributes to the knowledge of innovators and other stakeholders like government, um, policymakers, uh, civil society, um, on the value of, of implementation research, um, in social innovation in health systems, both for policy and practice development, and it provides a great framework on the engagement of communities in social innovation and health, and I think that's really important. And the other thing it does is

that it provides an innovative guide, um, towards achieving, um, You know, integration with communities being inclusive of their needs. And I think that's really exciting. So it's a continuation of the work that we've been [00:34:00] doing for a number of years with the social innovation and health initiative and, um, it's a great opportunity for both our, to collaborate with our partners and. Uh, at, in the other hubs, um, across the global South.

[00:34:14] Um, so these are the hubs in Malawi, the hubs in Uganda, um, the hubs in Nigeria. So we're all participating in, um, contributing towards this move.

[00:34:25] **Ntombini:** [00:34:25] Another really exciting thing is the fact that you've been collaborating with the UCT faculty of health sciences to design an executive education course on global surgery co-badged with Harvard university. When will this be convened? And do you have anything particular you want to share on the topic?

[00:34:41] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:34:41] Sure. So this is such an exciting opportunity for us. It will be the first executive education course that the Bertha health team will be putting into play. We have a number of great courses within a bit of finance and systems change, so, and education as well.

[00:34:58] So being able to add [00:35:00] to that sort of suite of executive education offerings. It's awesome. Um, and it's an opportunity for us to collaborate with UCT faculty of health sciences. And as you said, it's being co badged with Harvard and it's exploring the concept of global surgery, which is. A rapidly developing multi-disciplinary field that, that aims to provide improved an equitable surgical care across international health systems.

[00:35:28] So really for us hits that sweet spot of exploring, um, systemic change within the health system and, um, as. The health innovation portfolios goal is towards achieving health equity. It's great to be able to contribute to this, and we will specifically be contributing to the innovation perspective. So it'll be a five day course. Um, and we're aiming to have it launched in the middle of 2020.

[00:35:59] **Ntombini:** [00:35:59] Who is your [00:36:00] primary audience for this course?

[00:36:02] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:36:02] So our primary audience would not only be clinicians and surgeons, but it will also be public, um, health professionals, um, and policymakers epidemiologists economists, because it speaks to advocacy, education, research, and clinical components.

[00:36:21] So it really is an opportunity to raise awareness of extreme disparities that, um, internationally are occurring around health delivery.

[00:36:32] **Ntombini:** [00:36:32] Wow. Another exciting development Simnikiwe, unfortunately, during the pandemic year to put the Changemakers program on hold. Can you tell us a bit about this program and what you foresee happening with it next year? And what other things are you looking forward to in 2021?

[00:36:48] **Simnikiwe Xanga :** [00:36:48] Um, thanks. So just to give you a bit of context, the youth innovation portfolio at the Bertha Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship as established in 2019 [00:37:00] to support Africa's young people to transition to education and or employment.

[00:37:06] I covering effective, affordable and inclusive solutions. And by supporting the asimulated uptake of these solutions in low income settings. So in our collaborations, we've consulted with various youth development organizations, as well as through engagements with young people, particularly in the areas of Philippi who relate to Nyanga in Langa, which is also known as and with the change makers program.

[00:37:34] It was aimed to run every three months and with youth. Um, being identified by Bertha center and partners at Philippi village, which is at the heart of Philippi. Um, and so when we started, we had young people, um, from the ages of 19 to 29 and there were about 30 of them. And we unfortunately, uh, ran that program for two weeks [00:38:00] and we were stopped to by, um, Yeah, lockdown.

[00:38:04] And so the aim of the program going forward for 2021, um, the cohort, uh, will have a five-prong program approach, which includes the following elements, um, which is very, very important in the work we do. And that being social entrepreneurship, which aims, uh, which is, which is the aim of the social entrepreneurship training.

[00:38:29] Um, to increase the entrepreneurial capacity of young people. And secondly, the eventing and festival organizing, which aims to put practical eventing skills to effect and develop an organizational muscle about how to put things together and also aiming at activism and advocacy, which is a key part of the work that we do.

[00:38:52] And then the psychosocial support. Aims, um, because within the South African context, it is [00:39:00] paramount. Um, it is paramount work with that. We look at social support and we need to develop a resilience and, and grit within young people. Um, we also looked at having a massive open online course, which is also known as the moon and that aims to cultivate a social innovation mindset.

[00:39:21] And to assist Changemakers with the foundational knowledge needed to set up effective organization. Also, um, the other element was a reflective learning, maths support that we've identified. And, um, its objective is to build a basic math competencies and to access for the education by employment. Um, we do recognize that work needs to be done to develop basic skills, including the building up of basic numeracy.

[00:39:51] And so just, um, also highlighting some of the activities taking place in Philippi village. Is that in that hub, there's a lot of [00:40:00] recreation taking place currently. Also part of that is, uh, the skate park and the soccer pitch. And so another element that we find would be useful for the program is sports for development, which aims to facilitate the running of effective sports for development programs and that includes a holistic understanding of development. Um, yeah, so those are some of the things that I think. Uh, what we are looking forward to. And right at the beginning of January, we are going to be hosting a pathways to careers where we reached out to organizations like T-Vet colleges that will support in giving insights and opportunities for young people to have access to information because the close eye on people get information there, better it assist them in their job searches and of course, um, knowledge.

[00:40:57] **Ntombini:** [00:40:57] Yes, access to information is so important [00:41:00] without that. It's really hard to, to understand all the opportunities that lay before you.

[00:41:06] **Simnikiwe Xanga** : [00:41:06] Ntombini we'd love to hear from you, what the Bertha Center is looking forward to in 2021.

[00:41:12] **Ntombini**: [00:41:12] Well, I think first and foremost, we're looking at building on all the individual portfolio, some of what you've presented for us earlier in this podcast and use those as ways to increase the impact of the work that the Bertha Center does. Um, I think impact is at the heart of it. All of Bertha Center programming, and we actually want to become much more, um, deliberate and strategic and making that happen. And I think two other areas, which is the Bertha Centers, hoping to grow in our inclusivity and building connection.

[00:41:52] And when I say inclusivity I'm specifically meaning the types of work that the youth development portfolio is doing, [00:42:00] and also looking at how we can help other marginalized communities actually capitalize on the opportunities that lay within social entrepreneurship and building connection, really something that we're looking to do more of across the continent.

[00:42:16] So not just in particular sectors like health, as Katisha mentioned earlier, but building a community around social innovation and entrepreneurship. Um, there's a lot of amazing initiatives, homegrown initiatives that are happening in every corner of the continent. Um, and. We see our part of our work for next year as bringing those different organizations and different actors into conversation with each other.

[00:42:43] Um, and helping us create a unified voice around advocacy for support for social innovation. So I think 2021 is absolutely going to be a year full of ambitious plans, um, hoping to build on the [00:43:00] solid efforts of the team. Um, during this time of COVID, which have, um, really kept the Bertha Center going and kept our profile up and we're hoping to build on that in 2021.

[00:43:12] Thank you so much for joining me for this conversation. And I'm looking forward to 2021 and doing this with all of you and our incredible the team.

[00:43:22] **Kentse Radebe**: [00:43:22] Thank you for tuning in to, just for a change powered by the birth of center for social innovation and entrepreneurship, the podcast where we offer new perspectives on social innovation and social justice.

[00:43:34] If you're curious about solving social issues in your community. Well believe we can make a positive, tangible difference in the world, then make sure you subscribe so that you don't miss any of our upcoming episodes. Also remember to have a look at the show notes, if you're interested in finding out more about the birth, the center for social innovation and entrepreneurship. [00:44:00]