



## Supporting the people of Alexandra Township in Johannesburg, South Africa

**BSI works with the charity Rays of Hope to support one of Johannesburg's most disadvantaged communities, Alexandra Township (Alex). Rays of Hope transforms lives and moves people from vulnerability to independence through its focus on education, vulnerable children, and work readiness. In support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, BSI helps Rays of Hope bring about real change through their donations and support for charity drives.**

The BSI partnership with Rays of Hope started in 2018 with monthly Socio-Economic Development (SED) funding as part of the South African Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) initiative. Today, the partnership is based not only on financial assistance, but also on BSI colleague engagement.

Since 2018, BSI colleagues in South Africa have engaged in various charitable initiatives to raise funds for education, orphaned and vulnerable children and adults. BSI funding, alongside other donators, helped Rays of Hope deliver over 9,000 food hampers to vulnerable families in Alex, feeding 73,000 people in 2020.

BSI's partnership with Rays of Hope is a prime example of BSI's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).



Find out more: [bsigroup.com](https://bsigroup.com)



“BSI has taken time to really understand what we are about. From the very top management down, the whole organization has been engaged, responsive and committed to our work. We are truly grateful for BSI's involvement. It's the kind of committed support we need to continue and expand our vital programmes.”

**Sihle Mooi**  
Executive Director,  
Rays of Hope,  
Johannesburg



## Rays of Hope's challenges

The Rays of Hope outreach projects in Alexandra include educational support, donating food and clothes, mental health counselling, support groups and caring for vulnerable children. Many children in Alexandra are orphans, with older siblings often taking on the role of surrogate parent. This impacts their education, and when combined with economic obstacles that limit higher education and employment opportunities, creates a poverty trap.

The 2020 pandemic exacerbated existing problems such as inadequate clean water and sanitation, education, and scarce food and toiletries supplies. Most workers in Alex are paid by the day or week, therefore lockdowns prevented many from earning enough to sustain themselves day to day.

## BSI support

BSI has been supporting Rays of Hope to meet its challenges since 2018, through regular financial and in-kind assistance. This has included help for a campaign to stop dangerous fires in the township by providing warm clothing to residents. During the COVID-19 lockdown, BSI supported the charity's 'Hope 4 Alex' campaign. In addition to funding, BSI donated food parcels, hygiene products, bedding and clothes to bring practical help and hope to the most vulnerable families. BSI aims to contribute further, particularly to Rays of Hope's Education and Work Readiness programmes.



“At BSI, sustainability is a fundamental pillar for our business. Rays of Hope is an ideal charity partner as we're both committed to supporting UN SDGs to ensure a resilient world for present and future generations.”  
**Theuns Kotze, Managing Director Assurance, BSI IMETA**