

SBM IN THE COMMUNITY



Our community-based activities reflect our philosophy of implementing sound business practices; innovating to deliver value-added products and services; assisting the communities in which we operate; and helping to shape a better, sustainable society. SBM Group believes that these activities benefit society, environment and enhance corporate value. With a view to centralising the CSR initiatives of our subsidiaries under a common theme for greater impact to the local communities, we have set up the SBM Foundation in 2016.

SBM Foundation



Our Group's social projects focus on providing tools and opportunities to vulnerable groups so that they acquire the required skills to enhance their employability and thus become economically independent. Thus, most of SBM Group's CSR projects focus on providing the relevant tools and opportunities to vulnerable groups so that they are adequately equipped and skilled to enhance their employability and improve their current financial situation.

SBM Scholarship Scheme for Bright and Needy Students

Our priority areas of focus are based on empowerment through education. A unique Scholarship Scheme for bright and needy students was launched through The SBM Education Fund in 2010 which culminated into its recognition at national level when SBM won the award of the 'Overall Winner' of the First Edition of the BDO CSR Awards 2010 as well as the Winner of the 'Education and Sports' category.

The Group has moved a step further with the setting up of a special scheme for the Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) sector in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) and scholarships were awarded to a first batch of students in 2011. As at December 2016, SBM Group had awarded nearly 2,000 scholarships to bright and needy students from Mauritius and Rodrigues who had performed well at Higher School Certificate exams to follow courses at tertiary level or vocational courses at the MITD.



2,000

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DATE

« The SBM Scholarship Scheme was recognised at national level when SBM received the 'Overall Winner' and Winner of the "Education and Sports" category awards at the First Edition of BDO CSR Awards 2010. »



BENEFICIARIES

around **7,500**

In line with our Group's strategy of providing skills through education to combat poverty, SBM Group has carried out several other projects through the SBM Foundation by supporting different organisations as described hereafter.

ABAIM

ABAIM adopts a holistic approach to poverty alleviation, aiming at the acquisition of skills through music, arts, culture and sports. SBM has been a partner of ABAIM since 2008. ABAIM is currently running services for around 120 underprivileged children and their parents of Barkly and its vicinity and the blind persons' community. They have also extended the project to some 80 underprivileged children and parents of Le Morne region.

Global Rainbow Foundation (GRF)

SBM Group has financed GRF digital initiatives for People with Disabilities (PWDs), in line with SBM's intention to go digital and to promote innovation, as well as its commitment to contribute to the inclusion of People with Disabilities. These initiatives are:

The Digital Literacy Project

The objective of this programme is to make use of technology to enable visually impaired persons to get better access to education and eventually, to the world of work. Some 100 visually impaired persons are being taken care of through this project, where they will become members of the Bookshare digital library, and will get access to an online 'talking' library of 375,000 books. Bookshare is a Global Literacy initiative of Benetech, a leading Silicon Valley-based non-profit technology company.

The empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICTs) in close cooperation with UNESCO

SBM Group financed the UNESCO International Conference on Digital Empowerment - Access to ICTs for Persons with Disabilities, which was held on 10-11 November 2016 in Mauritius.

The objective of this conference is to provide a platform of knowledge, information and exposure in the field of accessible ICTs – Assistive / Adaptive technologies for PWDs thereby causing digital empowerment for PWD's. In addition to its training and education component, this conference also had a strong role to play in advocating for better services for PWDs.



SBM Foundation (cont'd)

Adolescent Non Formal Education Network (ANFEN)

SBM has provided funding to ANFEN, which is a network of 19 centres which promote informal education for school drop-outs. An inclusive pedagogy is proposed to bridge the gap and enhance the integral development of the adolescents. In parallel, support is provided to the families and the beneficiaries through a psycho-social strategy. SBM is funding a project to enable a better follow up at home with parents with the objective of improving the performance of children in its centres.

The adolescents in the centres have not been able to adapt to the formal academic pedagogy proposed by our educational system. ANFEN looks after around 1,200 out of school adolescents directly, and its number of indirect beneficiaries is approximately 5,000 persons in 23 localities.

Gandhian Basic School

The Gandhian Basic School (GBS), which functions under the aegis of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), provides pre-vocational education to around 120 teenagers (having failed the Certificate of Primary Education and residing in the region of Moka). The partnership with GBS started since 2010 with the provision of a daily balanced meal to some 120 needy students attending GBS. The latter has brought about a positive change in the attendance rate of students: from a low 35% before the start of the project to above 80%. SBM also helped GBS with the setting up of a hydroponics project, an extension project to accommodate a multimedia room and library, a fashion and fabrics workshop, a demonstration room and an auto-mechanics workshop.

Teen Hope

SBM has given its support to Teen Hope by providing education facilities to more than 80 out of school teenagers (including a daily breakfast to the students).

The mission of the DLD Teen Hope School Project, which falls under the responsibility of the Noyau Social Cité La Cure, is to support underprivileged children victims of neglect and / or violence and help them in becoming responsible citizens by building their self-confidence.

Similar to GBS, this NGO caters for boys and girls aged between 12 and 16 years old who have not been able to complete the primary cycle, aiming to give them a basic education in literacy, numeracy and life skills.



Terre de Paix

SBM has financed The Early Childhood Services project of Terre de Paix which has been established to provide access to quality care and education to children of the deprived areas of Camp Créole and nearby regions, catering to the needs of some 70 children. Families are also being supported through effective project-based community actions for their empowerment including antenatal care for pregnant women.

In addition to providing enhanced learning and development opportunity to these infants and children from vulnerable groups, this project has enabled their mothers to take up employment – and thus contribute to the economic enhancement of the family.

SOS Poverty

["Les Abeilles" Day Care Centre]

SBM has helped SOS Poverty to provide free quality childcare to enhance the development of infants and toddlers from low-income families and to promote the employability of mothers.

This project is quite similar to the above one whereby toddlers and infants are being provided with quality care and education, and at the same time enabling the mothers to undertake paid employment to improve the economic situation of their respective families.

Association des Amis de Don Bosco (AADB)

AADB is committed to alleviating absolute poverty by providing education and care for underprivileged children with a holistic approach in the same line as the above 2 projects.

SBM has financed AADB by supporting financially the crèche for providing the daily lunch to 75 students at Collège Père Laval and the setting up of a leisure and recreational corner for abandoned and neglected children at their shelters.

Sailing Pour Tous

SBM has funded this association for helping needy children to discover the pleasures of sailing in a secure environment. The NGO targets children of 7 to 14 years old of vulnerable groups to sail freely. There are some 50 beneficiaries.

The idea consists mainly of making sailing – an activity practised mainly by the wealthy – accessible to the poor. The NGO furthermore educates these children about the necessary skills related to their training and increase their awareness about the safety measures.

APRIM (Association des Parents pour la Réhabilitation des Infirmes Moteurs)

Our Group Chairman and some staff members also volunteered their time and energy, together with the Her Excellency Dr. (Mrs.) Nomvuyo N. Nokwe, High Commissioner of South Africa, on the occasion of the Mandela Day in July 2016 by organising a Sports Day for the children of APRIM based on their abilities.

In addition, SBM Foundation funded the provision of the rehabilitation services of an additional occupational therapist and the services of an administrative officer to enhance the services of the beneficiaries of the association, mainly cerebral palsy children.

Internal CSR

With a view to maintaining proximity with customers, staff members of SBM Group are encouraged to volunteer their time and talent to support the community. Under the SBM 1:2 Matching Scheme, staff members may organise fundraising activities in favour of NGOs/ community organisations of their choice, with the Group topping up the amount by twice the proceeds raised, subject to a ceiling. Following the launch of the scheme, an increasing number of employees are getting involved in community development initiatives. The Group also brings its contribution to the blood bank by regularly organising blood donations activities throughout the island. These initiatives are supported by both employees and customers.

