



✓ Job Creation

✓ Youth

✓ Women

✓ Persons with Disabilities

✓ Environmental

✓ Circularity

✓ Sustainability

✓ Sustainable Development Goals

Shonaquip (Pty) Ltd is an impact-driven enterprise that designs, manufactures, and distributes high-quality assistive devices across South Africa. Its diversified revenue model - anchored in long-term government tenders (over 25 years) and complemented by private sector and individual sales - ensures predictable cash flow and resilience in changing markets. As the only company in Africa certified under ISO 13485:2016 Quality Management Systems for Medical Devices, Shonaquip upholds rigorous international standards for the design, prescription, manufacture, and provision of mobility and posture support devices. This certification affirms its reliability, compliance, and leadership in the assistive technology sector.

Shonaquip is a hybrid social enterprise, wherein Shonaquip's profits are reinvested into its non-profit partner, the Uhambo Foundation, to help build inclusive communities.

Products and services

- Mobility devices: The company produces durable, modular wheelchairs and buggies designed for children and adults in varied terrain.
- Postural support and positioning
- Therapy equipment
- Client support services
- Training
- Hybrid initiatives: Shonaquip and Uhambo Foundation collaborate to create inclusive ecosystems, addressing barriers to mobility, health, education, and social inclusion.



Shonaquip have designed, tested and manufactured unique mobility devices for specialised demands including the Off-Road Transporter for First/Last Mile transport, and the Waste Reclamation Trolley.

The need our solution is addressing

Providing waste reclamation trolleys to reclaimers on a lease-to-own basis addresses a three-fold need; being landfill overflow, economic exclusion of reclaimers, and funding for Shonaquip Waste Reclaimer Trolley sales.

Shonaquip were requested by Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Western Cape (DEA&DP) to design and manufacture a purpose-made waste reclamation trolley to better assist reclaimers vs home-made carts or pilfered shopping trolleys.

The final design accounted for the weight and durability of the device, manoeuvrability and ease of use, (resulting in trips in a shorter time frame) while needing to cope with increased volumes/weight of materials collected and be suitable for use by women, youth and persons with disabilities. Increases in materials collected are directly proportional to increases in the income of the reclaimer.

When equipped with the SSE reclamation trolley, uniforms & PPE, training, and self-managed containerised agglomeration sites equipped with a scale and sorting tables, reclaimers in the pilot increased their income on average by 240%. This resulted in all reclaimers earning the equivalent of minimum wage and some up to R7,000 per month, exceeding many formal employment jobs. Reclamation education alone typically increases reclaimer income by 20% (DEA&DP). More trips in a shorter timeframe, and easier transport were quoted as a contributing factor.

This project was:

- Based in townships
- Specifically in glass recycling
- Included a part-time stipend funded by EPWP
- Was implemented over a 1-year period
- *Reclaimers paid for their trolleys on a no-cost lease-to-own basis during the project period with their stipend*

In 2025 alone over 1,500 reclaimers contacted us (many represented groups of 5-500 reclaimers) wanting to purchase trolleys. None could afford the outright purchase and as a social enterprise we cannot provide payment terms. Empowering informal reclaimers—especially youth, women, and persons with disabilities—with tools and dignity to thrive in South Africa’s circular economy through micro-loans, for those who have no credit record or who are potentially unbanked, more than double the amount of recyclables kept out of landfills, while contributing to the profitability of Shonaquip.





Contribution to the Circular Economy

Circular activities include:

- Design and distribution of Waste Reclamation Trolleys: These trolleys improve reclaimers' mobility and capacity, enabling them to collect more recyclables efficiently.
- Waste diversion from landfills: Reclaimers equipped with SSE trolleys collect up to 24 tonnes of recyclables per year, saving municipalities millions in landfill airspace.
- Recycling and reuse: Reclaimers sort and deliver household recyclables to buy-back centres, contributing to South Africa's recycling rate.

Creating entrepreneurial opportunities

When equipped with the SSE reclamation trolley, uniforms, PPE and training, and agglomeration centres, reclaimers increased their income on average by 240% in the DEA&DP pilot of 500 reclaimers with trolleys. Industry specific education typically increases reclaimer income by 20% (DEA&DP).

- Measured impact:
 - Over 500 reclaimers equipped in the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning pilot project.
 - Income increased by an average of 240% for reclaimers using SSE trolleys.
 - Some reclaimers earn up to R7,000/month, exceeding formal employment wages.

Job Creation and Opportunities for Youth and Women

Access to waste reclamation trolleys contributes to equitable, inclusive economic opportunities through:

- Micro Enterprise development: 200 graduates formed a cooperative, and nine other entities were registered in the Western Cape DEA&DP project.
- Micro-entrepreneurship: Reclaimers can evolve into mini buy-back centers, supporting others in their community.
- Targeted inclusion:
 - 60% of participants were women
 - 55% were youth
 - 2% were persons with disabilities

**Please see the letter of reference from the Director of Sustainability -Western Cape Government.*



Innovation

This project is not only a technological innovation (purpose-built trolleys) but also a social, economic, and systems-level innovation that reshapes how informal reclaimers, especially people with disabilities, women, and youth, are integrated into the recycling value chain

1. Technological / Product Innovation

- Purpose-built Waste Reclamation Trolley
 - Specifically designed for rugged terrain, higher manoeuvrability, durability, and increased carrying capacity compared to shopping carts or makeshift devices
 - Enables increased collection volumes and efficiency, resulting in higher incomes and higher volumes of recyclables kept out of landfills.
 - Lighter and smoother to push, making it more accessible for women, youth, and people with disabilities

Additional Innovation:

- Medical-device-grade design and manufacturing standards applied to waste management equipment, ensuring durability and user safety (ISO 13485:2016 certified facility)

2. Social Innovation

- Inclusion of People with Disabilities
 - Programme explicitly includes people with physical, sensory, intellectual, and psycho-social disabilities,
 - Addresses stigma by improving dignity and social perception of reclaimers within communities.
- Women and Youth Empowerment
 - Over 60% of participants were women, 55% youth

Additional Innovation:

- Family-based co-reclamation model: Families members, siblings and parents of persons with disabilities, can work alongside adult children with disabilities and support each other, reducing risks of exploitation

3. Economic / Business Model Innovation

- Sustainable Exit Strategy
 - Trolley repayment model for reclaimers own their equipment after program completion
 - Ensures long-term self-sufficiency rather than dependency on donor funding.



- Pathways to Micro-Enterprise
 - Reclaimers equipped with trolleys can evolve into mini buy-back centres serving others without equipment
 - Creates a layered entrepreneurial structure within the informal recycling economy.

Additional Innovation:

- Linking reclaimers to formal systems (BanQu, Lariat, manual digital reporting/payment tools) creates traceability financial history and financial inclusion for reclaimers

4. Environmental / Circular Economy Innovation

- Direct contribution to EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility)
 - Increases supply of certified recycled materials for manufacturers who cannot currently meet ERP targets
 - Keeps higher volumes of waste out of landfill, extending landfill lifespan and saving municipalities disposal costs

Additional Innovation:

- Shifts informal recycling from a marginalised, invisible activity to a recognised component of the national waste management system.

5. Policy / Systems Innovation

- Bridging Policy Gaps
 - Responds to reclaimers' inability to access credit or funding due to lack of financial statements.

6. Circularity of funding

The grant is not a one and done solution. With repayments on a rent-to-own basis, the grant funds are available in perpetuity, with additional trolleys being added to the rental pool each time there is sufficient income from the rental book to cover a new device.

This creates the additional benefit of sustainable income for Shonaquip through ongoing supply of waste reclamation trolleys which contributes to the profitability of the business.

Shared Benefits Across the Project Ecosystem

