

What is Hlokomela?

Hlokomela is an award winning HIV and AIDS educational and treatment programme targeting workers, including foreign migrants, in the agriculture, nature conservation and tourism sectors in Hoedspruit, Limpopo as well as implementing the Sex Work Programme across the entire Mopani District. The programme aims to reduce HIV vulnerability through peer education, raising of awareness, prevention and treatment. The project has been running successfully for the past 16 years and is currently rolled out on 72 sub project sites. An estimated 60 000 people are reached annually through the activities of the programme.

Hlokomela’s key governmental and international partners include the National Department of Health, the Limpopo Department of Health, Limpopo Department of Social Development, Mopani District Municipality, the South African Police Service, AIDS Foundation South Africa (AFSA), Global Fund, Dis-Chem Foundation, Discovery Fund, Adcock Ingram Healthcare, Tshemba Foundation, ANOVA Health Institute, Australian Volunteers International, Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region, Maruleng Municipality, Timbavati Foundation, commercial farmers and tourism lodges.

Vision

A culture of caring that empowers all.

Mission

To provide quality, all-inclusive health care to everyone in the Kruger2Canyons Biosphere Region.

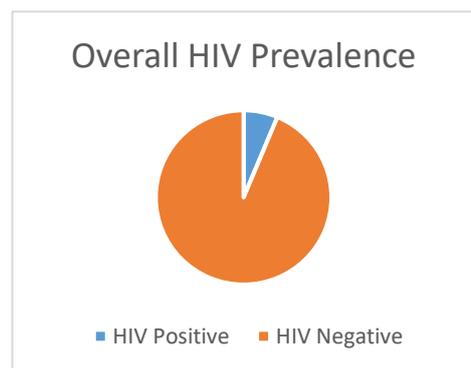
Where does Hlokomela work?

Hlokomela’s geographical focus is the Hoedspruit and surrounding communities in the Maruleng Municipality, Mopani District in Limpopo Province, South Africa. The Mopani District, adjacent to Kruger National Park, is predominantly a fruit and game farming area with a large population of seasonal and migrant workers.

How serious is the local HIV epidemic?

Research conducted in January 2008 in the Hoedspruit area found that there was a serious HIV epidemic and that farm workers are highly vulnerable to HIV infection. Researchers found that **29%** of workers in the community were **infected with HIV**, a rate of HIV prevalence that was considerably higher than that for the general population of Limpopo Province. The study found that young farm workers, especially unmarried women, young women, women who live away from the farms on which they work, were especially vulnerable to HIV infection. Moreover, 60% of all employees and 53% of HIV positive employees did not know their HIV status, while a high proportion of employees reported never using a condom.

During 2018 the National Institute for Occupational Health conducted an evaluation study in Limpopo through a survey of the knowledge, attitudes, practices and HIV prevalence among farm workers. The results of this study guides our activities by highlighting the impact Hlokomela has had over the past 10 years, since the previous prevalence study was conducted in 2008. The study showed the HIV prevalence rate to be **down to 6,3% in 2018**.



Hlokomela adheres to **95-95-95**, the UN’s ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic: By 2030, **95%** of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status. By 2030, **95%** of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2030, **95%** of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

Whom does Hlokomela benefit?

Farms in the Mopani District not only employ permanent workers, but also a large number of seasonal workers during picking seasons. Many of these seasonal workers are migrants from other areas of South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere in Southern Africa. Hlokomela currently provides services to workers and their families on

72 sub project sites in the Hoedspruit community, as well as to a number of employees on private nature reserves adjacent to the Kruger National Park. Each year, Hlokomela helps almost 30 000 beneficiaries access health care services at three Wellness Clinic sites and 7 outside clinic sites (Hlokomela, Bavaria, Richmond, Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Ngala, Thornybush, Waterside, South African Wildlife College, Singita Lebombo and Phelwana). Hlokomela's public awareness campaigns provide information about HIV and AIDS to the entire community.

Sex workers, their families and clients in the Mopani District of Limpopo Province benefit from the activities, health care services and interventions offered by the organisation's Sex Work Programme. Hlokomela has 8 years' experience in the implementation of this programme.

What does Hlokomela do?

Hlokomela seeks to contribute to the reduction of HIV prevalence and the impact of AIDS among farm workers and their families in part by:

- Working with farm management to create a healthier work environment, supported by workplace HIV policies and workplace wellness programmes;
- Providing peer education on farms (Nompilos) and in the sex work programme (peer educators);
- Training and mentoring of caregivers recruited from the community;
- Training, and mentoring male role models to address gender based violence, transactional sex, and poor health-seeking behaviour in men;
- Promoting safer sexual behaviour through an integrated social behaviour change communication programme, using outreach, billboards and pamphlets;
- Sensitising health care workers, the police and the community towards sex workers and migrant populations;
- Offering recreational programmes to increase social participation and improve the quality of life of farm workers and their families;
- Promoting healthy lifestyles, condoms, and primary health care services and referrals at fixed clinics and during mobile outreach;
- Monitoring nutritional status and providing malnourished clients with food donated by farmers;
- Running a dedicated women's clinic for cervical and breast cancer awareness, prevention, screening and treatment.
- Offering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV.
- COVID-19 awareness, screening, community education, testing, and vaccination.
- Offer trauma debriefing to staff and patients through Tension Releasing Exercises (TRE), offered at Hlokomela and in the communities by certified TRE facilitators.
- Growing and selling fresh herbs, herb products, and dried fruit in the Hoedspruit and Ba-Phalaborwa area;
- External pick up point for patients registered on DABLAPmeds.
- Promoting and advocating for human rights among specific key populations.

What do people think about Hlokomela?

1. Hlokomela was awarded the **Silver Prestigious Impumelelo Innovation Award 2008 and a Star reward in 2010**. **Impumelelo** recognizes innovations in government and public-private partnerships that enhance the quality of life of poor communities and address key developmental issues of national concern.
2. Hlokomela showcased at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City in 2008, XVIII Conference in Vienna, 2010 and the 2012 conference in Washington DC. Hlokomela's presentation, "Farm Workers Caring for Each Other in Hoedspruit, South Africa: An Integrated Approach to Preventing and Addressing HIV on Commercial Farms," raised awareness about the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Limpopo and provided information about the project. In 2014 Hlokomela attended the XX International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia. At the **21st International AIDS Conference (Durban) in 2016**, Christine du Preez, the HTT Director, presented a poster on behalf of The Sarraounia Public Health Trust (for Discovery Fund) titled: "Employer attitudes and practices to the provision of HIV and TB services to migrant farm workers in Limpopo and Mpumalanga". In 2017 Hlokomela had

an oral and a poster presentation at the SA AIDS Conference in Durban. In 2018 Hlokomela presented two posters at the 22nd International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on cervical cancer screening.

3. Hlokomela was nominated by the Maruleng Municipality as the **Best Non-Profit Organisation in the Mopani District**. On 22 August 2008 Hlokomela brought “The Best Non-Profit Organisation” award back to Hoedspruit.
4. Winners of the “**Investing in the Future**” **Mail and Guardian award 2009** recognizing individuals, corporations and NGO’s who have made significant contributions addressing current social, economic and political issues impacting Southern Africa by providing positive alternative for the future.
5. In 2014, Christine du Preez, Director of Hlokomela, was the winner of **SA's Most Influential Women in Civil Society Organisations & Related Services**.
6. Christine du Preez, Director of Hlokomela, was elected as an **Ashoka Fellow** in 2014. Christine is providing migrant and residential farm workers in rural areas in South Africa with a set of on-site integrated health solutions, especially related to HIV/AIDS, by employing a peer-to-peer caregiving structure that reinforces behaviour change towards a positive lifestyle.
7. The HTT Director, Christine du Preez, won an award for the **PPS Professional Women of the Year 2014**. This is in recognition of the community work she does and her commitments to create employment for the community.
8. Angie Rowles, then manager of the Hlokomela Herb Garden was nominated by Dept. of Agriculture as the **Best Female Farming Entrepreneur** of the Year and Amina Nkgogo as the **Best Farm Worker** of the year 2014 for Maruleng Municipality, Mopani District.
9. On 9 May 2015 Christine du Preez, Director of Hoedspruit Training Trust (Hlokomela) received a **Recognition Award** in London at the **Women4Africa Awards UK 2015**. This award, in the category International Community Workers Recognition, recognises Christine’s outstanding contributions/achievements.
10. The Hlokomela Women’s Clinic wins Gold at the Community Chest Impumelelo Social Innovations Awards ceremony in Cape Town, November 2018.
11. 2020: Christine du Preez and the Hlokomela team were awarded the 2020 Women's Day award by the DA Women's Network (DAWN).
12. 2022: Hlokomela featured in Discovery’s book, *Changing Tomorrow For Good – The ripple effect of collaboration, compassion and connection*.

For more information contact Hlokomela on 082 560 0248 or go to: www.hlokomela.org.za