



HOEDSPRUIT TRAINING TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



THE



HEKOMELE

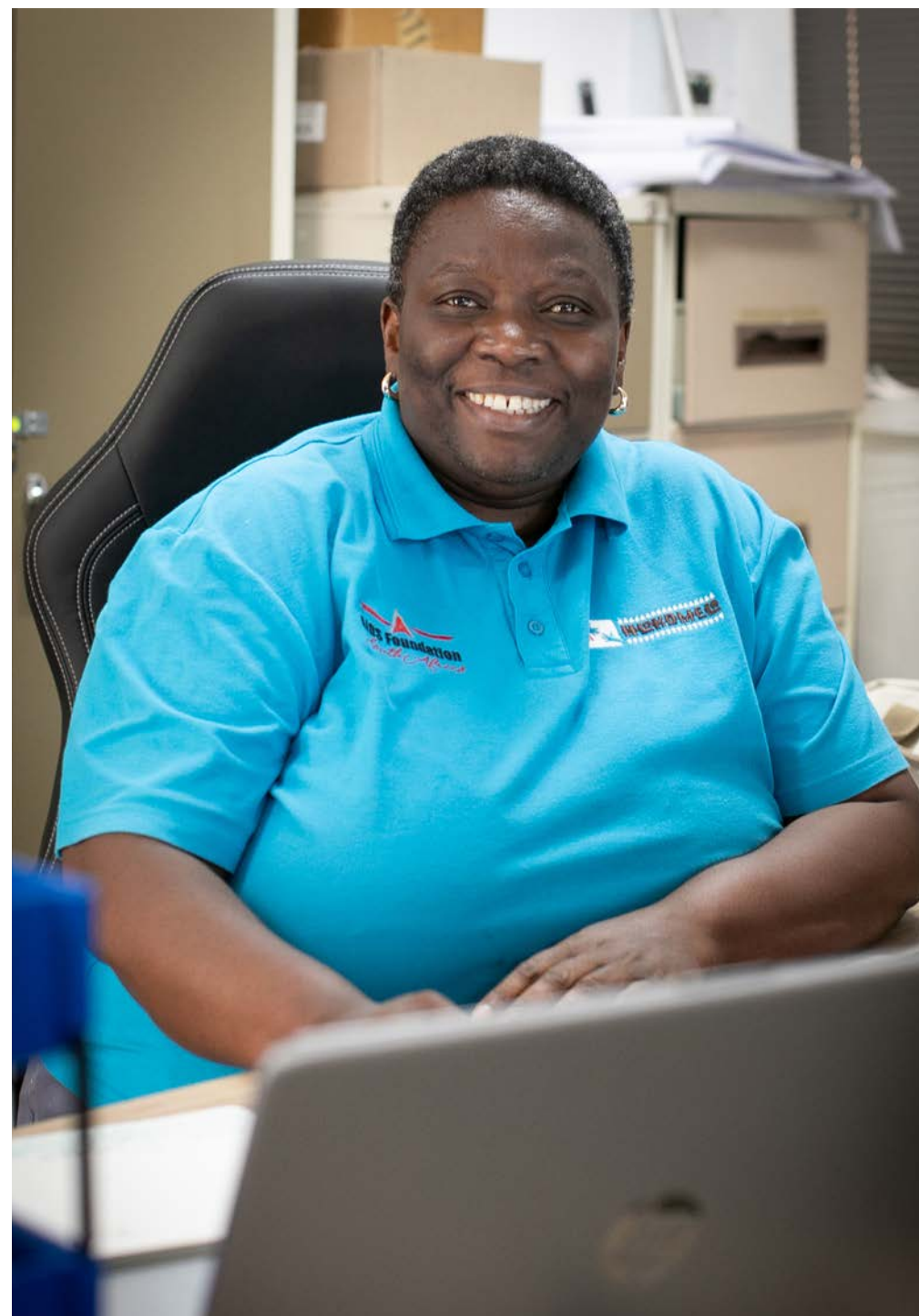
PROJECT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFSA	AIDS Foundation South Africa
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Virus
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
AVI	Australian Volunteers International
DABLAPmeds	Central Chronic Medication Dispensing and Distribution
ECD	Early Childhood Development
GL	Gracious Living Retirement Haven
GST	Greater Stellenbosch Trust
HERD	Hoedspruit Elephant Rehabilitation and Development
HTS	HIV Testing Services
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRA	Human Rights & Advocacy Programme
KNP	Kruger National Park
MUAC	Mid-upper arm circumference
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NPO	Non-profit organisation
NIMArt	Nurse Initiated Management of Antiretroviral therapy
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PPS	Partial Payment System
SACLC	South African Certified Lactation Consultant
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SyNCH	Synchronised National Communication in Health
TRE	Tension & Trauma Releasing Exercises
TB	Tuberculosis



FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TRUST



As we reflect on 2024, marking 19 years of unwavering commitment to dignity, health, and compassion, I am honoured to share this message on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

From its humble beginnings in response to a glaring gap in healthcare for farm workers, Hlokomela has grown into a pillar of strength, advocacy, and innovation in the Mopani District and beyond. This year, our work has not only deepened in the communities we've long served but expanded into new geographies and partnerships—evidenced by the opening of Junction Clinic in Letsitele and the establishment of Hlokomela Fund in the United States. These milestones signal both the maturity and forward-looking vision of the organisation.

We have continued to operate in complex, often constrained environments, yet Hlokomela remains a place of healing and hope—where professionalism meets empathy, and every person is treated with the care they deserve. Through a comprehensive range of services—from primary health care and gender-based violence prevention to mental health screening and child development—Hlokomela continues to address systemic inequities through practical, community-rooted interventions.

Behind this success lies the incredible leadership of our Managing Director, Christine du Preez, whose unwavering dedication has carried this organisation from concept to cornerstone. It is also made possible by our passionate staff, peer educators, volunteers, and our many partners and donors who continue to walk this journey with us. Your support and collaboration are the threads that bind our collective vision.

As we move into our 20th year in 2025, the Board remains committed to strong governance, ethical stewardship, and strategic growth. We see Hlokomela not just as a service provider, but as a movement—one that nurtures a “culture of caring that empowers all.”

We are proud of the progress we have made and are humbled by the continued trust placed in us by the communities we serve. Thank you for standing with us, believing in us, and building this legacy of care alongside us.

Together, we will continue to be a beacon of hope, health, and human rights.

DR MARIETTE SLABBERT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Chairperson: Dr Mariette Slabbert
- Deputy Chair: Prof John Gear
- Secretary: Vicky-Lohanzi Jansen van Vuuren
- Board member: Doris Malepe
- Board member: Dr Lindie Botha
- Board member: Tebogo Mametja
- Executive official: Christine du Preez

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

As we mark 19 years of dedicated service and impact, I am filled with deep gratitude and pride. What began nearly two decades ago as a vision to care for farm workers has grown into a resilient and respected organisation that continues to make a meaningful difference every day.

Over the years, we have faced challenges, celebrated victories, and, most importantly, stayed true to our founding principles. Our progress has been made possible through the unwavering support of our partners, the commitment of our board members, volunteers, staff, and the trust of the communities we serve.

Nineteen years is both a milestone and a moment of reflection. It is a reminder of how far we have come and an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the work ahead. As we approach our 20th year, we are more energized than ever to scale our impact, deepen our partnerships, and innovate in the face of emerging challenges.

On behalf of everyone at Hlokomela, thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we continue to build a future that reflects our shared values and hopes.

CHRISTINE DU PREEZ





WHO WE WERE

Hlokomela was established in 2005 in response to research that highlighted a critical need for health care among farm workers and other vulnerable populations in the greater Hoedspruit area. Since then, Hlokomela has been a prominent and respected role player in the health and well-being of the local community, serving about 30 000 people annually (direct and indirect beneficiaries).



WHO WE BECAME

In 2024 Hlokomela celebrated 19 years of caring. We continued to build and strengthen existing partnerships and projects, while also welcoming a new partner - Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. Years of research and preparation into the expansion of Hlokomela came to fruition on 9 February 2024 with the opening of Junction Clinic in Letsitele. Hlokomela also explored opportunities abroad with the registration of a USA charity and attendance at the International AIDS Conference in Germany.



OUR VISION

A culture of caring that empowers all.



OUR MISSION

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



OUR VALUES

A strong organisational culture is what makes Hlokomela work and we hold each other to our core values every day:

- Integrity and honesty
- Sense of belonging
- Respect
- Trust
- Love
- Sense of ownership
- Passion for taking care of others
- Taking pride and giving praise



✳ SEX WORKER PROJECT RUNS ACROSS THE WHOLE OF THE MOPANI DISTRICT



WHERE WE WORK

We do most of our work in the greater Hoedspruit (Maruleng Municipality) and Letsitele (Greater Tzaneen Municipality) areas, which are situated in the Mopani District, Limpopo Province. Hlokomela implements the Sex Worker Programme and Human Rights & Advocacy Programme across the entire Mopani District.

Tourism, government services and farming are key economic activities in these areas. The farming sector offers employment to a large portion of the local population of seasonal and migrant workers.



WHO WE SERVE

- Farm workers, including seasonal workers, in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region.
- Farm owners and managers in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region.
- Employees of local game lodges notably in the Greater Timbavati.
- Migrants from Mozambique, Zimbabwe and other provinces in South Africa.
- Sex workers in the entire Mopani District of Limpopo Province.
- Mothers and babies.
- Children aged 0-5.
- The elderly.
- Community members.
- Our government partners in the Maruleng and Greater Tzaneen Municipalities, Mopani District, Limpopo Department of Health.
- Our donors and funders.
- Our staff and Board of Trustees.



WHAT WE DO

THE WORK WE DO IS GROUPED UNDER THREE MAIN HEADINGS:

HEALTH & SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

 HEALTH CARE SERVICES	 CHRONIC MEDICATION PICK-UP POINTS DABLAP MEDS	 HIV TREATMENT SERVICES	 TB RELATED SERVICES	 STI TREATMENT	 HYPERTENSION TREATMENT	 DIABETES RELATED SERVICES
 MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS	 TELEMEDICINE	 HLOKOMELA WOMEN'S CLINIC	 TSEMBA VOLUNTEERS	 OUTREACH TO FARMS	 VICTIM EMPOWERMENT	 EMPLOYER WELLNESS DAYS
 CONDOM DISTRIBUTION	 SEX WORKER PROGRAMME	 PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS	 HUMAN RIGHTS & ADVOCACY PROGRAMME	 BABY CLINIC	 MOMMIES SUPPORT GROUP	 CHILD SURVIVAL DEVELOPMENT & THRIVING
 TEKKIES 4TETIES	 MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS	 HLOKOMIERE	 GRACIOUS LIVING RETIREMENT HAVEN			

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

 THE PARTIAL PAYMENT SYSTEM	 HLOKOMELA FUND
 HLOKOMELA HERB GARDEN	 HLOKOMELA GOLF DAY

ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS	 RESEARCH
 FUNDING & FUND RAISING	 EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAMMES



1 HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

Our health and social care programmes offer biomedical, social and structural interventions to reduce the transmission of HIV, TB and STIs. Our services cover the continuum of care, ranging from combination prevention to treatment and retention, as well as sexual and reproductive health. Social programmes include psychosocial support and programmes to reduce gender-based violence and human rights violations.

Specific activities:

- 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 worker programme (peer educators).
- Training and mentoring of caregivers recruited from the community and farms.
- 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.
- Promoting human rights awareness, legal literacy, and documentation of human rights violations amongst key and other priority populations.
- Providing a safe living environment for the elderly of the Hoedspruit area where they can interact with others.
- Providing services to babies and children up until the age of 14 which includes immunisations, infant growth and development screening (milestones, MUAC), assisting the mother to start solids with the baby, vitamin A supplementation and deworming.

- 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, during mobile outreach and through telemedicine devices.
- External medication pick-up point for patients receiving chronic medication from the Department of Health.
- 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, including sex workers and their clients.
- Addressing gender-based violence through the Hlokomela Ambassadors project and Victim Empowerment Project (VEP).
- Offer trauma debriefing to staff and clients through Trauma & Tension Releasing Exercises (TRE), offered at Hlokomela and in the communities by certified TRE providers.
- Facilitating volunteers, such as the HlokoMiere, to work in the community and gain valuable knowledge and work experience.
- Facilitating employer wellness days for employer groups at their place of work.

2 SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMMES

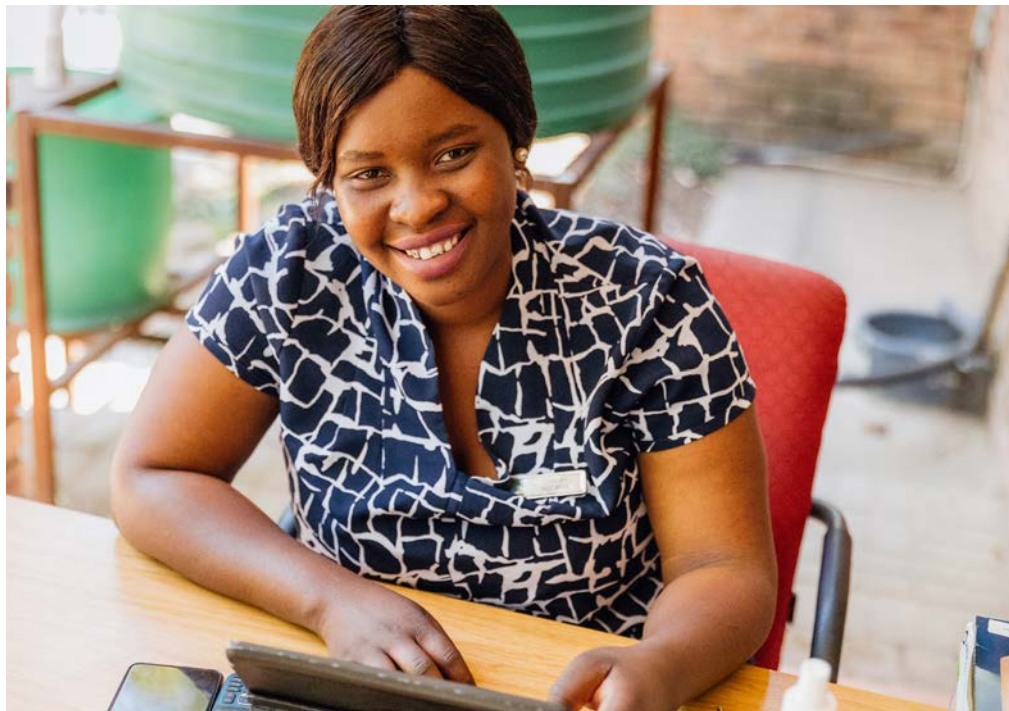
These projects aim to support Hlokomela to become more sustainable in future:

- The Partial Payment System (PPS) has three pillars; the Hlokomela Employers' Health Club (HEHC), walk-in clients and Hlokomela Health Cards.
- Growing and selling fresh herbs, herb products, and vegetables from the Herb Garden as well as selling dried fruit from surrounding farms.



3 OPERATIONS

Good administration is the backbone of our organisation. The operations department supports the health, social and sustainability projects to run smoothly by ensuring that the administration, maintenance on buildings, procurement and finances are all in order. An organisation is nothing without its staff and Hlokomela supports its employees through the Employee Wellness Programme.



1 HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

In 2024, Hlokomela continued to develop and implement HIV workplace policies for local farms and businesses. By the end of 2024, we assisted 72 enterprises with improving their employment policies, supported by a peer education programme. We facilitate access to health services, programmes and medical products. Activities include signing a memorandum of co-operation, setting up HIV&AIDS committees, HIV testing services and social communication initiatives to reduce HIV infections.

Doctors and professional nurses provide health care services and referrals from primary care clinics at Richmond Farm, Blyde, Bavaria Fruit Estate, Letsitele, Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Phelwana, Singita Lebombo, Thornybush, Elephants Alive, Ngala Safari Lodge, the Southern African Wildlife College, Camp Jabulani, HERD and Kapama Private Game Reserve.



20 711

TOTAL NUMBER OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLIENTS SERVED

HLOKOMELA JUNCTION CLINIC

9 February 2024 was the official opening of Hlokomela Junction Clinic in Tzaneen. With the support of Discovery Fund and local farmers, the dream of expanding our services to other areas became a reality. The clinic offers primary health care services to farmers, farm workers and community members.



1155

CLIENTS SERVED

CHRONIC MEDICATION PICK-UP POINTS

By December 2024, 2609 clients had been enrolled on DABLAP Meds of which 1078 were still active.



1 078

ACTIVE CLIENTS ON DABLAP MEDS

HIV

92.2% of clients who visited Hlokomela know their status
100% of patients who tested HIV positive were initiated on treatment
76% of patients on ART had a suppressed viral load after 6 months on treatment

97%

OF CLIENTS WHO VISITED HLOKOMELA KNOW THEIR STATUS

100 %

OF PATIENTS WHO TESTED HIV POSITIVE WERE INITIATED ON TREATMENT

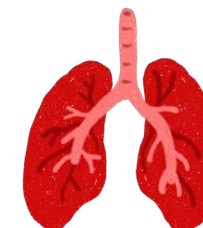
76 %

OF PATIENTS ON ART HAD A SUPPRESSED VIRAL LOAD AFTER 6 MONTHS ON HIV TREATMENT



TB

Hlokomela screened 97% of 17984 patients who visited our clinics for TB. Only 5 of the 244 sputum samples collected, tested positive for TB and all newly diagnosed TB clients were initiated on treatment with a 100% TB cure rate.



ONLY

5 TB+

TESTED POSITIVE

STIs

Out of 18010 patients (15 years and above) screened for STIs, 272 tested positive and were treated for STIs.



18 010

PATIENTS SCREENED FOR STIs

CONDOM DISTRIBUTION

Hlokomela maintains condom dispensers at 124 locations, mostly high HIV transmission areas such as truck stops, shebeens, taxi ranks, hawker markets, hotels and lodges. During the year, we distributed 1794000 male and 34800 female condoms as well as 30000 lubricants.



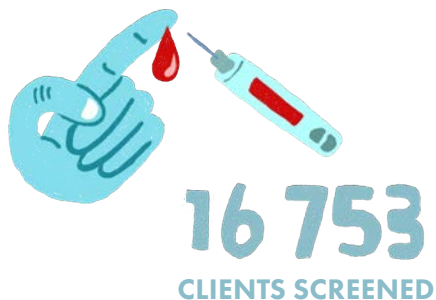
HYPERTENSION

Between the ages of 18 and 44, we screened 11181 clients for hypertension. We also screened 4544 clients who are 45 years and older. This year, 220 clients were newly diagnosed with hypertension and initiated on treatment, and 1380 collected treatment.



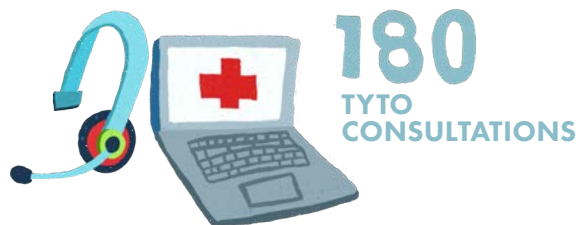
DIABETES

Between the ages of 18 and 44, we screened 11556 clients for diabetes. We also screened 5197 clients who are 45 years and older. This year, 24 clients were diagnosed with diabetes and initiated on treatment, and 473 collecting treatment.



TELEMEDICINE

In 2024 Hlokomela, in conjunction with Aurum Institute, completed a pilot project using the Tytocare telemedicine device. The purpose of the pilot was to test the device in a low resource rural setting.



TSHEMBA VOLUNTEERS

Hlokomela's clients benefit from the services of volunteer doctors and specialists who visit Hlokomela on a weekly basis, made possible through their volunteership at the Tshemba Foundation. Professionals from all over the world continue to add great value to the health care services we offer and we take great pride in our partnership with the Tshemba Foundation.



MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING

17298 clients were screened for mental health conditions, using the Limpopo Department of Health's mental illness screening tool.



MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS

On 29 November 2024 we hosted "Boeries for Prostates", an event for men's health awareness where 71 men had health assessments done which included screening for prostate cancer and chronic conditions.



HLOKOMIERE

In partnership with Citizen Connect and the Greater Stellenbosch Trust, Hlokomela implements the HlokoMiere volunteer project. The project provides opportunities for unemployed people and prepare them to join the formal workforce. The project employs 90 volunteers on a small stipend. The HlokoMiere assist the organisation with community health work, infection prevention and control, data capturing, clinic duties, planting and harvesting at the Herb Garden and home-based care at Gracious Living.



EMPLOYER WELLNESS DAYS

As employer groups continue to place more value on the health and wellness of their employees. Hlokomela offered 7 wellness days at work places in 2024. Wellness days are designed according to the employer's needs and may include different stations for employees to check their vital signs (blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, weight), learn about breast self-examination, participate in gender awareness and gender-based violence dialogues, ask questions about their health and participate in Tension & Trauma Releasing Exercises (TRE).

To book a wellness day, please contact our Clinic Manager on clinic@hlokomela.org.za.



OUTREACH ON FARMS

Community Health Workers, also known as Nompilos at Hlokomela, attend to clients on farms. During the year, 72 Nompilos rendered home based care services to 606 clients who are on chronic and short course treatment. Interventions ranged from primary health care to distributing health and social educational information.

Many of these clients are on ARV and TB treatment; Nompilos referred 1179 individuals to clinics for further health care services.





SEX WORKER PROGRAMME

In 2024 AFSA recognised Hlokomela as being the “2nd best performing sub-recipient on HIV Testing Services” and the “2nd best overall performing sub-recipient” in Mopani district in the Sex Work Programme, during quarters 8 and 9.

Another highlight of the year was the 40 sex workers who attended Economic Strengthening Livelihood training that focussed on savings initiatives and teaching alternative ways to generate an income.

The programme aims to empower sex workers with skills that will enhance their capacity to speak for themselves, to address human rights violations, to access psychosocial support, to make informed choices and to provide opportunities for them to test for HIV. Sex workers also have an opportunity to be screened for non-communicable diseases, sexual reproductive health and mental health issues.

Hlokomela implements the sex worker programme across the entire Mopani District. A team of 22 place based peer educators work closely with 10 HTS & linkage officers. Three site coordinators manage the peer educators, 3 professional nurses and an enrolled nurse manage the linkage to care through the HTS & linkage officers and attend to sex workers in the field. The clinical specialist oversees all clinical activities. When needed, sex workers are referred to a doctor in the clinic.

VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Hlokomela implements the Victim Empowerment Project (VEP) to monitor and create awareness about human rights issues such as domestic violence and provide support and referrals to survivors in Maruleng Sub District.



PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

Hlokomela offers pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at high risk of HIV, not only through its clinics but also via extensive community outreach. During 2024, 1,272 HIV-negative clients were initiated on PrEP, of which 953 were retained on treatment.



HUMAN RIGHTS & ADVOCACY PROGRAMME

The purpose of the programme, which supports South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2023-2028, is to reduce human rights violations against key and other vulnerable populations. The programme promotes human rights awareness, legal literacy, and documentation of human rights violations in the Mopani District.



The programme is implemented by a Project Officer, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Paralegal and 5 Reactors (Human Rights Defenders) across the entire Mopani District.

INDICATORS	TARGET	ACTUAL
Number of human rights violations reported	780	926
Number of human rights violation cases referred	772	528
Number of cases successfully resolved	292	769
Number of referrals for human rights violation cases that requires legal support	NO TARGET	85
Number of interventions conducted on stigma and discrimination	8	18

HLOKOMELA WOMEN'S CLINIC

Hlokomela Women's Clinic has reached thousands of women through outreaches, trained and educated, screened and treated many more in the clinic and out in the field.

During the year, 46 clients were screened for breast cancer. Of these, 16 were referred to the hospital for further management; 3 of these women were positively diagnosed and treated for breast cancer. Other scans done at the Women's Clinic include 29 abdominal scans, 21 pelvic scans, and 66 pregnancy scans.

During 2024, 461 patients were screened for cervical cancer. Two clients were referred for biopsies.

1423 Clients were assisted with contraception.

Donated bras were handed out to women in need who come to Hlokomela Women's Clinic as clients and sanitary pads were handed out to clients and young girls during clinic outreaches. Hlokomela Women's Clinic further supported vulnerable mothers by giving them baby clothes, nappies and baby formula that was donated to the clinic throughout the year.



TEKKIES4TETIES

On 26 October 2024 Hlokomela Women's Clinic hosted the third annual Tekkies4Teties at Bosveld Centre. The event includes a fun walk in aid of breast cancer awareness and fund raising to support patients with breast cancer who cannot afford mammograms and travel expenses to and from hospitals. The mobile clinic was on site for clients to have their vital signs checked while getting information about breast cancer from our friendly nursing staff.



BABY CLINIC

Hlokomela's Baby Clinic has been a cornerstone of our community health efforts for over two years, providing essential services to mothers, infants, and children in our small town.



We offer comprehensive care for children from birth up to 14 years, including:

- Immunisations (public and private schedules)
- Infant growth monitoring and weighing
- Developmental screenings (milestones, MUAC assessments)
- Breastfeeding support and counselling
- Nutritional guidance, including introducing solids
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Deworming treatments
- Referral services to multidisciplinary healthcare teams when needed

In South Africa, parents can choose between the Public Immunisation Schedule (government-funded, essential vaccines) or the Private Immunisation Schedule (includes additional vaccines such as: Onvara/Varilrix (Chickenpox), Menactra (Meningitis), Avaxim/Havrix Junior (Hepatitis A), Priorix (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) and more.

Hlokomela's Baby Clinic assists families in understanding these options, ensuring parents are empowered to make informed decisions for their children's health
Our Impact in 2024: 531 vaccine doses administered

As we continue to grow, Hlokomela's Baby Clinic remains committed to expanding access to quality child healthcare services, supporting families, and fostering the well-being of future generations.

MOMMIES SUPPORT GROUP

In April 2024, Hlokomela launched its first-ever Mommies Support Group, a community initiative aimed at providing education, support, and a safe space for mothers to connect and share their experiences.



The sessions brought together local mothers and expert guest speakers, including a postpartum doula, a speech therapist and one of our own professional nurses.

Topics discussed included fussy feeding challenges in infants, delayed speech development in toddlers, understanding vaccination schedules, addressing common myths around childhood vaccinations and open discussions on general mother and baby wellbeing.

The sessions were designed as informal coffee and conversation mornings, encouraging open dialogue and peer support. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, with many mothers expressing the need for ongoing sessions and more opportunities to access reliable health information in a relaxed environment.

Looking Ahead: 2025

Following the success of our first gatherings, the Mommies Support Group will be a regular feature in our annual calendar. Plans are in place to expand the topics covered, invite more specialists, and continue fostering a supportive community for mothers in the area.



CHILD SURVIVAL, DEVELOPMENT AND THRIVING

A new project implemented in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, targeting 2000 children during the first 1000 days of their life.

The project aims to:

- 1) reduce child mortality and morbidity in Mopani District, Limpopo Province.
- 2) increase the percentage of healthy children during their first 1000 days of life.
- 3) improve child immunization rates.
- 4) capacitate community healthcare workers providing maternal and child health support.
- 5) empower men and mothers with knowledge about healthy diets and child stimulation.

During 2024, the project reached 1269 of the targeted 2000 children. We trained 55 community healthcare workers while 122 pregnant women were identified and linked to community health workers. 25 Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) with 60 teachers and 55 community members were trained on healthy diets and food gardening. With the help of HlokoMiere volunteers, we established 8 food gardens at ECDs and 4 at homes of child guardians. We reached 200 men and facilitated 3 support groups.



GRACIOUS LIVING RETIREMENT HAVEN

Registered as a non-profit organisation in 2015, Gracious Living Retirement Haven comprises of two adjacent properties in Hoedspruit. It provides a safe living environment for the elderly of the Hoedspruit area to interact with their peers. Hlokomela employs one live-in nurse and coordinator for the 16 elderly residents. We are in the process of registering Gracious Living Retirement Haven as a Community Centre with the Department of Social Development, where residents and other community members will be able to participate in daily social and physical activities.



2 SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMMES

THE PARTIAL PAYMENT SYSTEM

The PPS consists of three legs; the Hlokomela Employers' Health Club (HEHC), Hlokomela Health Cards and walk-ins.

Through the Hlokomela Employers' Health Club, employers have the opportunity to access Hlokomela's services at a discounted rate by becoming part of the HEHC through a monthly subscription fee. We are able to offer the employer up to date information on the number of clinic visits per month and generate a monthly invoice to employers in the club. Another benefit of becoming part of this club is that the employee is responsible for 30% of the cost of care, while the employer covers the remaining 70%. By December 2024, 28 employers representing more than 2000 employees had signed up to and were benefiting from the Hlokomela Employers' Health Club.

The Hlokomela Health Cards have proven to be very popular. This option is offered to employers as well as individuals. For an annual fee of R700 per year, an individual receives a unique card which allows the owner free access to most Hlokomela services and discounted rates to more specialised services. Many employers also preferred to take this option for their employees. 415 Hlokomela Health Cards and 58 Kids Health Cards were sold in 2024.

The third option is for clients to access services at walk-in client rates.





HLOKOMELA FUND

In South Africa, businesses and individuals who donate to a registered Public Benefit Organisation such as Hlokomela, enjoy the benefit of the 18A tax deductible receipt. In 2024 we registered a US charity - Hlokomela Fund. This charity offers a convenient, tax friendly way for funders in the USA to support Hlokomela's activities.

HLOKOMELA HERB GARDEN

Established in 2008, the Hlokomela Herb Garden continued to benefit from additional labour support provided by HlokoMiere volunteers who, in turn, gained knowledge on how to grow their own vegetables and herbs at home. This year we replaced the shade net tunnel that was damaged during a storm. Other critical infrastructure, such as the irrigation system, is still in dire need of external funding support.



GOLF DAY

On 29 May 2024 Hlokomela hosted its first-ever Golf Day at the Drakensig Golf Club. We had a fantastic response from the Hoedspruit community. Golfers, stakeholders, and Hlokomela staff all enjoyed a great day.



3 ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

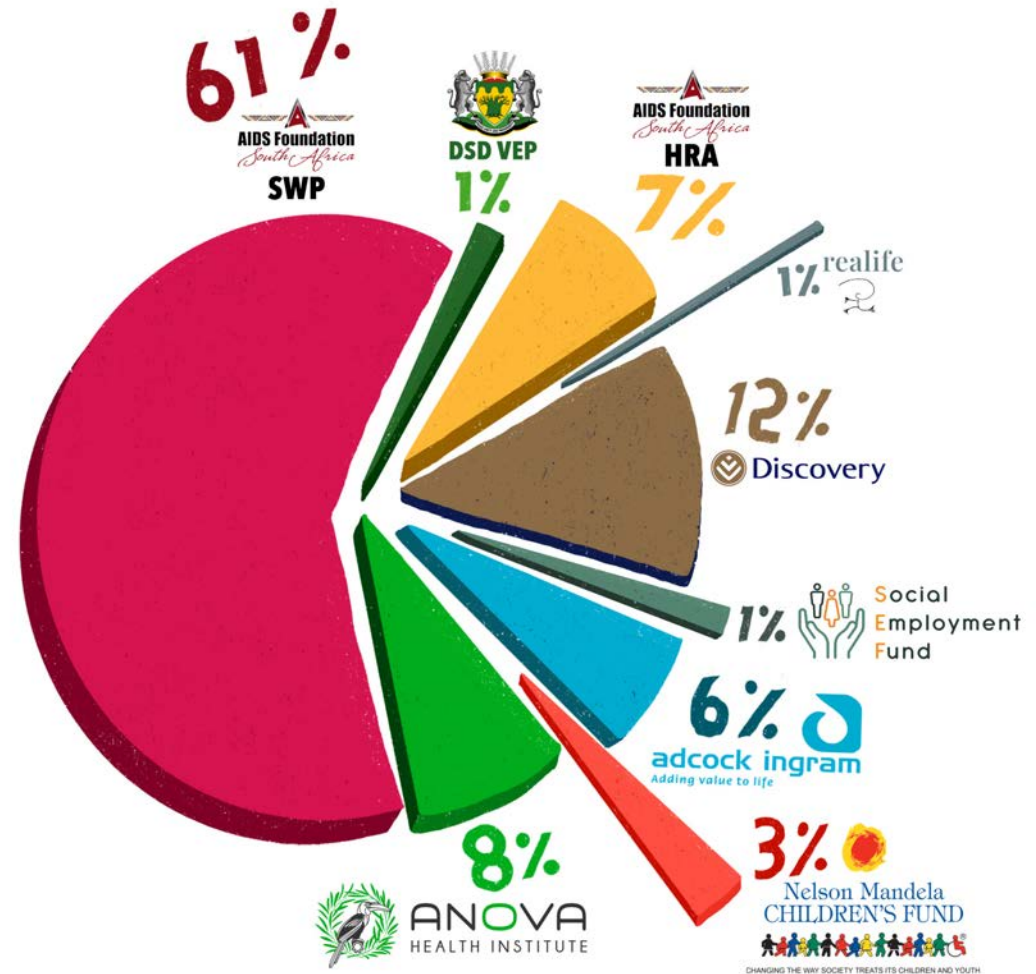
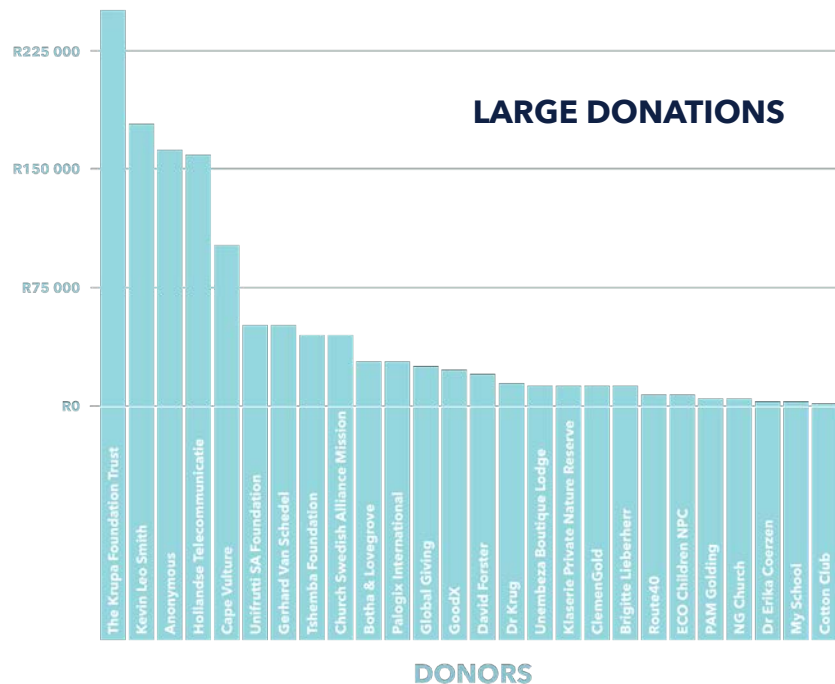
In 2024 Hlokomela strengthened partnerships with funders for the implementation of existing programmes. We welcomed a new partner – Nelson Mandela Children's Fund while seeking out opportunities abroad by registering a USA based charity. We collaborated with Realife Learning to present a course for community engagement practitioners who work in conservation.

RESEARCH

No research was conducted at Hlokomela this year.

FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

Hlokomela relies mainly on donor funding for its activities. Hlokomela's sustainability activities supplement donor income and government in-kind contributions. Detailed audited financial statements are available upon request



EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAMME

In 2024, beneficiaries of the Hlokomela Employee Wellness Programme participated in incentivised wellness activities. Tension & Trauma Releasing Exercises (TRE)[®] sessions were offered to employees regularly throughout the year. Employees had access to the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) for counselling, financial and legal advice as well as an annual medical assessment.



NURSES DAY

Every year Hlokomela not only celebrates (and spoils) the organisation's nurses, it also recognises the hard work done by nurses at government facilities in the Hoedspruit area.

25TH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE - MUNICH, GERMANY

Four Hlokomela employees attended the conference in Munich to network and benchmark with implementers and researchers from all over the world. It was an incredible learning opportunity for the team, getting the latest information on what is happening in the world of HIV medical assessment.



HLOKOMELA HONOURS

- 2007: Independent study finds farm workers trust confidentiality of services offered.
- 2008: Maruleng Municipality's Best Non-Profit Organisation in Mopani District.
- 2008: Christine du Preez is a finalist in The Southern African Trust and Mail & Guardian Drivers of Change Investing in the Future awards.
- 2008: Poster presentation at the 17th International AIDS Conference in Mexico City.
- 2009: Hlokomela received an award from Mail & Guardian "Investing in the Future" awards selection committee with the 2009 'Investing in Life' award for its holistic innovative approach to medical and social service delivery for farm workers and their families.
- 2010: Hlokomela participated in the 2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna.
- 2010: Silver Star award from Impumelelo for innovations in government and public sectors.
- 2011: Board member presentation on the Herb Garden at the Peace Corps South Africa Health Symposium.
- 2012: Denmark based television crew films an episode of a cooking series by the winner of Master Chef Denmark, using ingredients from Hlokomela Herb Garden.
- 2012: Poster presentation at the 19th International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC.
- 2013: The Director of Hlokomela received the award and was the winner of the SA's Most Influential Women in Civil Society Organisations and Related Services.

- 2013: Poster at the 6th SA Annual AIDS Conference in Durban.
- 2014: Director accepted as Ashoka Fellow.
- 2014: Herb Garden manager and general assistant awarded Entrepreneur and Female Farm Worker of the Year respectively by the Limpopo Department of Agriculture.
- 2015: Christine du Preez receives a Recognition Award in the category International Community Workers Recognition at the Women4Africa Awards UK 2015.
- 2016: Poster presentation on behalf of the Discovery Fund at the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban.
- 2017: The Herb Garden entered the Limpopo Province Department of Agriculture Maruleng Municipality 2017 Female Farmer of the Year competition and took second place in Top Entrepreneur Processing at the awards ceremony in August 2017.
- 2018: The Hlokomela Women's Clinic wins Gold at the Community Chest Impumelelo Social Innovations Awards ceremony in Cape Town, November 2018.
- 2020: Christine du Preez and the Hlokomela team were awarded the 2020 Women's Day award by the DA Women's Network (DAWN) <https://limpopo.da.org.za/2020/08/dawn-honours-hlokomela-and-its-founder-in-hoedspruit-to-commemorate-womens-month>.
- 2022: Hlokomela featured in Discovery's book, Changing Tomorrow For Good - The ripple effect of collaboration, compassion and connection.
- 2023: Hlokomela is recognised by AFSA as the best performing sub recipient on the implementation of the Sex Worker Programme.
- 2024: Christine du Preez received the highest possible honour offered by the Rotary Foundation, a Paul Harris Fellow, on 17 October 2024.

HlokoMiere *Changing lives*

Vicy Malatji is a qualified pharmacy assistant, although after her practicals she could not find work. Unemployed and sitting at home with nothing to do – she sent her CV to Hlokomela after hearing about the HlokoMiere project. She was soon hired as a volunteer to assist in the Blyde Clinic pharmacy twice a week under the watchful eye of mama Lucy Malope. After a year she had built up her CV with her experience at Hlokomela that she managed to secure full time employment at the new hospital in Hoedspruit. “Thank you Hlokomela for giving me this opportunity!” says Vicy as she prepared for her first day of her new job and new life.

Wendy Malepe – “Hlokomela clinic as a whole gave me the best and memorable experience. Being at Hlokomela has taught me a lot. Since I was appointed as a lay counsellor and joined Hlokomela for the first time on 10 May 2021 until the end of the contract which was on 31 March 2022.

I stayed home for a year without work until I saw a post for volunteering with a stipend, where the team was named HlokoMiere. I went on and applied, that’s when I became one of the HlokoMiere on 10 October 2023. I continued working as every HlokoMier was. For example going to Hlokomela Herb Garden to assist with planting herbs and vegetables and also going to town to clean the area. That was until the Sex Worker Programme (SWP) requested one of the HlokoMiere to come and assist them with capturing, filing and scanning. That’s when I was sent to go and work with SWP around November 2023. I joined the team knowing nothing about their work and they took me through everything as I was interested in learning new things, hardworking and a fast learner so I was able to grab everything they taught me.

The day came that one of the Data Quality Officers resigned in February 2024 and the position was advertised. I applied for it and I was shortlisted for the interview. I went to the interview on 26 February 2024 and in the afternoon that very same day I got a call to say “you got the job” and I must come the following day to sign the contract and I was very excited!

I’m grateful to HlokoMiere for giving me one of the best experiences of my life. I’m proud to say HlokoMiere taught me a lot; respect, perseverance, hard work, good communication and learning new things which paid off in return. I will forever be grateful to HlokoMiere for the entire education and experience they took me through”.

Celebrating a CSI legend

As we reflect on the journey to our 20th anniversary, we pause to honour Ruth Lewin.

We first came to know this formidable lady through her work at Discovery Fund but over the years she has meant much more to us than just being a funder – Ruth is a true champion of Hlokomela!

Her passion for organisational growth and development was not only evident but contagious as we had the privilege of her learnings. She stood beside us not only in times of progress, but more importantly, during our most difficult moments—offering unwavering support, wisdom, and encouragement when we needed it the most.

Without her steadfast presence and belief in our mission, Hlokomela may not have reached this important milestone. Ruth went far beyond the role of a funder; she has been our partner, mentor, and indeed a vital part of our story. Ruth Lewin’s tireless commitment helped shape who we are today, and her impact will echo through the work we continue to do.

Ruth truly embodies what Hlokomela means—‘to take care’. Her actions, heart, and dedication reflect the very essence of our name and mission.

We are forever grateful. This organization is, without a doubt, one of your many victories.

Thank you Ruth!





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