

**11**

YEARS  
CARING

HUKOMELE

**2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

# OUR VISION

To support local communities towards stable and informed family units empowered to take responsibility for health, social and educational issues and improve their quality of life.

# OUR MISSION

To empower and create a collective culture of caring with farm workers and local communities from the Kruger to Canyons Area with respect to health, social and educational issues.

# WHO WE ARE

Hlokomela was established in 2005 in response to research findings that highlighted the need for health care among farm workers in the greater Hoedspruit area.

Guided by ongoing research and development, Hlokomela remains a prominent and respected role player in the health and well-being of a significant portion of the local community, reaching about 30 000 people annually (direct and indirect beneficiaries).

According to the UNAIDS 2016 - 2021 Strategy, there are 10 bold targets to be reached by 2020. Hlokomela's core activities speak to 6 of these targets:



\*Full list available on [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)



## TARGET 1

90% of people living with HIV know their status, 90% of people living with HIV who know their status are receiving treatment and 90% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads



## TARGET 2

Zero new HIV infections among children, and mothers are alive and well



## TARGET 4

90% of women and men, especially young people and those in high prevalence settings, have access to HIV combination prevention and sexual and reproductive health services



## TARGET 6

90% of key populations, including sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people and prisoners, as well as migrants, have access to HIV combination prevention services



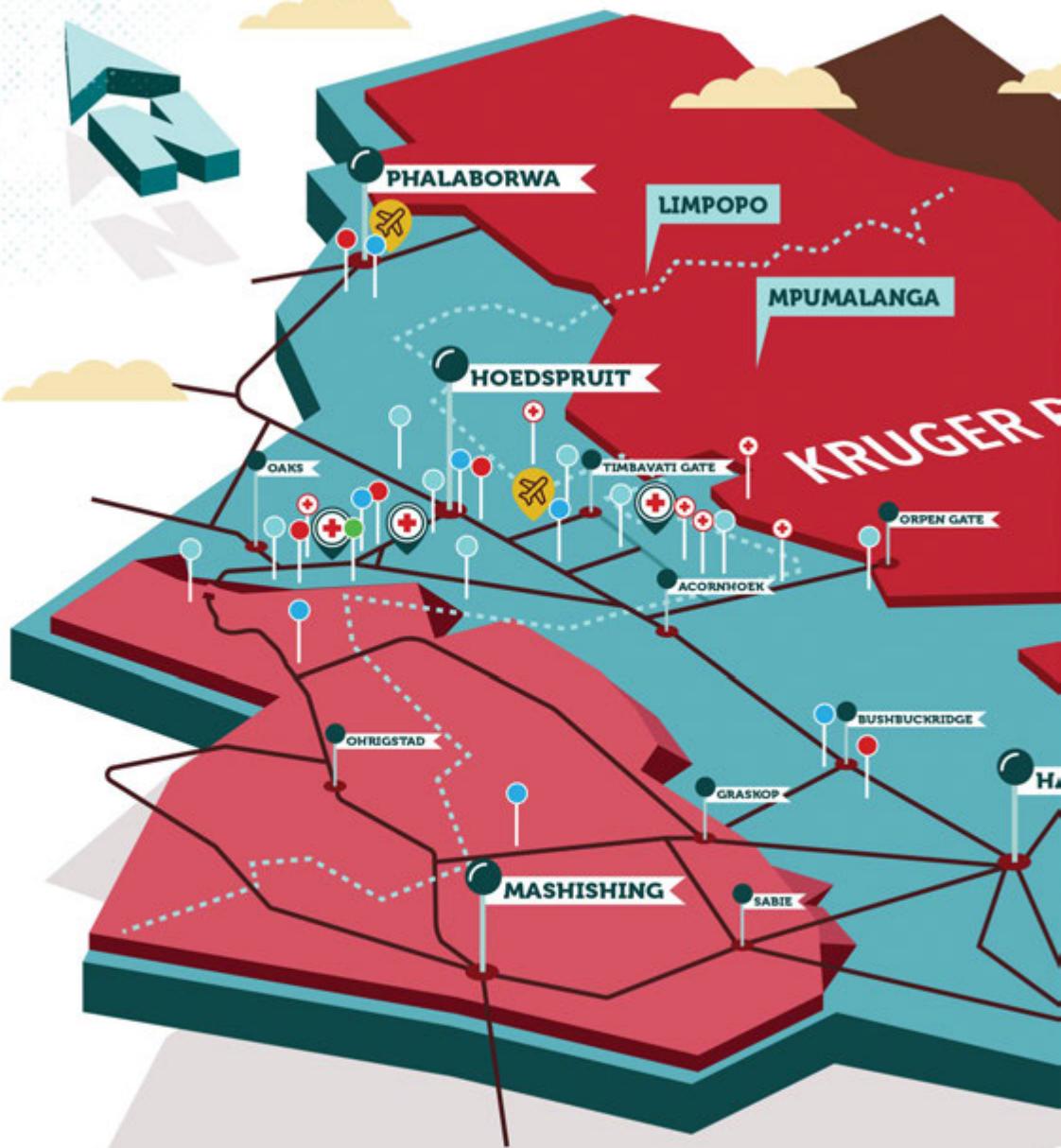
## TARGET 7

90% of women and girls live free from gender inequality and gender-based violence to mitigate the risk and impact of HIV



## TARGET 8

90% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV report no discrimination, especially in health, education and workplace settings

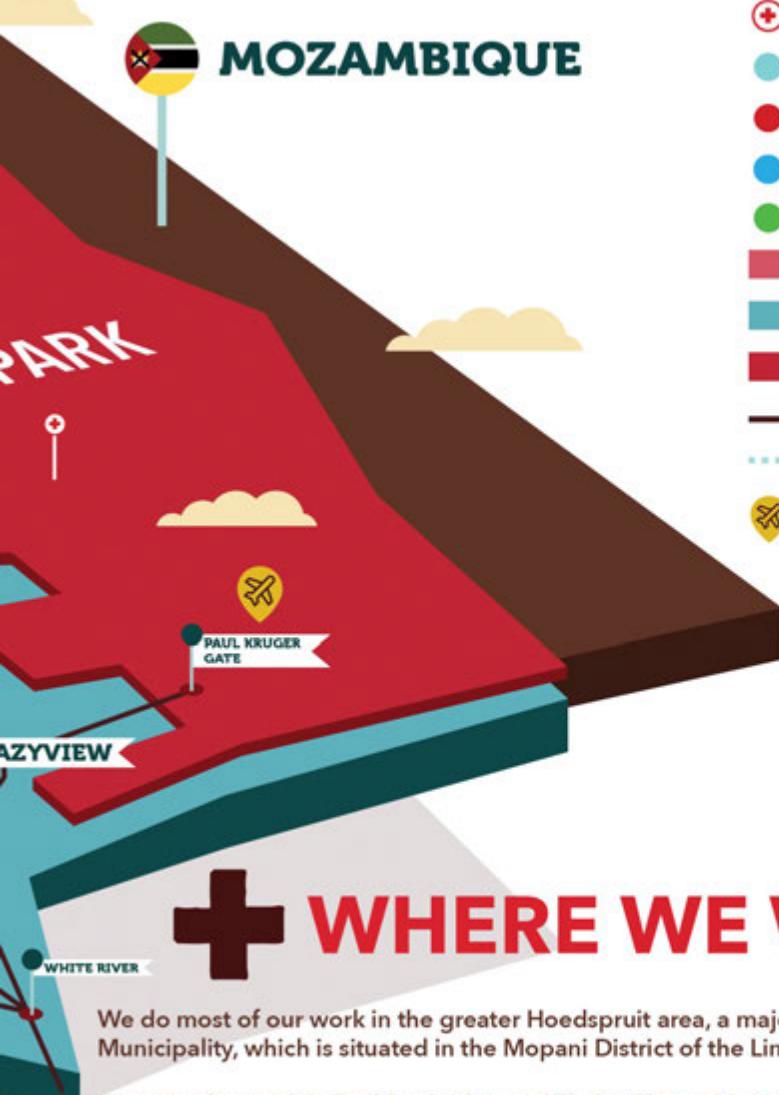


## KRUGER TO CANYONS BIOSPHERE

-24.403735, 30.789432



# MOZAMBIQUE



## WHERE WE WORK

We do most of our work in the greater Hoedspruit area, a major centre of the Maruleng Municipality, which is situated in the Mopani District of the Limpopo Province.

We now also work in Bushbuckridge and Thaba Chweu Municipalities, Mpumalanga where the focus is mainly on HIV Testing Services (HTS) as well as sex worker education and health awareness.

Bushbuckridge is a presidential poverty node and Hlokomela looks forward to making a difference in people's lives in the area. Tourism, government services, farming and forestry are key to the economic activities in these areas. The farming sector supports a significant section of the local population of seasonal and migrant workers.

# **+** FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TRUST



**CHAIRPERSON  
MARIÉ-TINKA UYS**

The reporting year ending December 2016 has been a year of streamlining Hlokomela's operations during which substantial steps were taken to position our organisation for long term effective service delivery and performance.

The steps included the benchmarking of every job position in operations and importantly, during the strategic planning session in December, to consolidate our strategy as we continue on the path to being a partner of choice for our stakeholders. This we do by driving a culture of caring, respect, collaboration, transparency and performance.

From a governance perspective, the Board of Trustees increased its capacity by revisiting the Trust Deed of Hoedspruit Training Trust and adding two new trustees: Mr Tebogo Mametja and Ms

Lindie Botha. The rounded skills set of the Board contributes to the creation of an enabling environment for effective operations.

As Hlokomela reflects on its 11th year of successful operations, the Board wishes to acknowledge the focused efforts of the Director, Christine du Preez, her staff and our funding partners. They made the performance of our organisation credible, demonstrating Hlokomela's relevance for our communities.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



**DEPUTY CHAIR  
DR JOHN GEAR**



**SECRETARY  
LOHANZI JANSEN VAN VUREN**



**BOARD MEMBER  
TEBOGO MAMETJA**



**BOARD MEMBER  
LINDIE BOTHA**



**BOARD MEMBER  
DORIS MALEPE**



# FROM THE DIRECTOR AND MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

For years while working on farms and treating farm workers, I realised the need for more to be done in terms of awareness about HIV/AIDS.

In 2005 a breakthrough finally came when we established contact with IOM (International Organization for Migration). The seed funding from IOM enabled the project to employ two half-time workers, Antoinette Ngwenya and myself.

We started out using our own vehicles to go to farms and begging or borrowing donations of furniture for our office from Hlokomela's current Chairperson, Marié-Tinka Uys.

After 11 years, I realise that Hlokomela is no longer a baby, but growing into a teenager. With a staff compliment of 60 people and 120 Nompilos, (care workers and peer motivators) we need to change our organisation to turn it into a more professional entity.

It is a general trend that long standing funders are withdrawing their money from NGOs due to various reasons, therefore Hlokomela needs to invest in the organisation's Income Generation Projects (IGP) and fee-for-services in some instances.

This is a mind-shift away from the old 'charity' mindset, towards one of social entrepreneurship and innovation.

Throughout the past 11 years we have always responded spontaneously to issues that affect our communities and will continue to do so, but we will prioritise certain activities in line with our strategy. These include diversification, growing donor relationships, internal people alignment and marketing.

I still believe "*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams!*" as Eleanor Roosevelt said, so at Hlokomela we will keep on dreaming.



# **WHO WE ARE**

The work we do is grouped under three main headings;  
Health, Income Generation Projects (IGP) and Admin:

## **HEALTH**

- Working with farm management to assist in developing a healthier work environment, and to develop and implement workplace HIV and AIDS policies and programmes;
- Providing peer education;
- Providing Primary Health Care by training and mentoring workers as caregivers (Nompilos);
- Sensitising, training, and mentoring male role models with the aim of addressing issues such as Gender Based Violence, transactional sex, and poor health-seeking behaviour in men;
- Developing and implementing an integrated Social Change Communication programme, such as billboards and pamphlets and other materials, to promote behavioural changes to reduce high-risk behaviour;
- Organising and implementing recreational programmes to increase social participation and improve the quality of workers' and their families' lives;
- Establishing and running wellness clinics to provide information, condoms, and health care services and referrals, including HTS and ART, to workers and their families;
- Improving the nutrition of sick workers by monitoring their nutritional status and providing them with e-pap and food donated by farmers;
- Operating a wellness programme to provide health services to mining-sector employees, sex workers, truckers and general community members at Hlokomela Clinic;
- Running a Cervical Cancer Prevention Programme through which nurses are trained to detect early signs of the disease and then treating malignant cells with cryotherapy.
- Running a Breast Cancer Prevention Programme whereby nurses have been trained in the use of an ultrasound machine to scan patients' breast for abnormalities.
- Offering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at risk such as sex workers and truck drivers.



- Addressing gender based violence in our area by means of the Victim Empowerment Project (VEP) whereby two health workers provide support and guidance to victims of abuse.

## INCOME GENERATION PROJECTS (IGP)

- Growing and selling fresh herbs and herb products to local grocery stores, restaurants and lodges in the Hoedspruit and Phalaborwa area;
- Running a charity second hand clothing shop;
- Organising and running social interest tours to Bavaria Crèche/Gorutha Toy Library, Hlokomela Herb Garden and Hlokomela Clinic;
- The "Respekboom" Project grows and sells spekboom trees. One hectare of this amazing plant can convert more carbon dioxide into oxygen than an entire rain forest. The leaves are also edible and is used as fodder for livestock.
- Hlokomela offers MiniChess to farm workers' children at Richmond Crèche.

## ADMINISTRATION

- Good administration is the backbone of the organisation. This department supports the other departments in conducting operations and their fieldwork by ensuring that the paperwork, buildings and finances are all in order.
- During 2016 Hlokomela contracted a human resources specialist to conduct job profiling in order to get a clearer picture of the organisation's structure and what roles and responsibilities are ascribed to each post. Going forward this will assist management in getting all staff up to the expected level of competency and education. The process of appointing new staff will also be guided by the outcomes of this exercise.
- Planning for the next 2 to 5 years is difficult in an environment where funding insecurity is the nature of the beast. A chartered organisation development practitioner with experience in the NGO sector assisted the Board of Trustees and management in developing a flexible plan to lead the organisation.





DIRECTOR  
CHRISTINE DU PREEZ



PROGRAMME MANAGER  
ANTOINETTE NGWENYA



BUSISIWE MNGOME  
CLINIC MANAGER



DR LOUW DU TOIT  
MEDICAL OFFICER



DR MARK BLAIR  
MEDICAL OFFICER



DR JOHN GEAR  
VOLUNTEER



SPHWIWE MAZIBUKO  
HR MANAGER



CANDY NKGOGO  
PROJECT MANAGER



GLENDIA VAN WYK  
SNR PROFESSIONAL NURSE



JULIES MOROSI  
SNR PROFESSIONAL NURSE



EUNICE MASHEGO  
PROFESSIONAL NURSE



NOMSA MASHILE  
PROFESSIONAL NURSE



CONSTANCE RAHLANE  
CD OFFICER



CHRIS SESUBE  
CD OFFICER



DAPHNEY MHALENE  
CD OFFICER



PATIENCE SELEKANE  
AUXILIARY NURSE



MERRIAM NDLOVU  
AUXILIARY NURSE



OLIVIA MOGOKANE  
AUXILIARY NURSE



RACHEL MALAPANE  
AUXILIARY NURSE



MODERN MINISI  
AUXILIARY NURSE

■ MANAGERS

■ HEALTHCARE

■ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

■ HTS

■ VEP



# OUR TEAM



EHEKHI MALOMOLA  
PROJECT TEAM LEADER



FAITH MAWELA  
PROJECT TEAM LEADER



KGOPOTSO MANAMELA  
PROJECT TEAM LEADER



JUNIOR MOGOKANE  
COUNSELLOR



DORIS MALEPE  
COUNSELLOR



LUCY MAILE  
COUNSELLOR



CONSTANCE NGOBENI  
COUNSELLOR



LUNGIHI MATHEBULA  
COUNSELLOR



STEPHEN LEHLOANE  
HTS COUNSELLOR



VALENCIA DUSE  
HTS COUNSELLOR



JULIE MALOPE  
HTS COUNSELLOR



TINAH MASHIGO  
HTS COUNSELLOR



NORMAN MAPONA  
HTS COUNSELLOR



EUGENIA MODISE  
HTS COUNSELLOR



SALOME MAGOPANE  
HTS COUNSELLOR



CATE MKHAWANE  
HTS COUNSELLOR



DEBRA MGIBA  
HTS COUNSELLOR



ANNIEK KGOKHOANE  
HTS COUNSELLOR



SHILA MOKANSKI  
VEP HEALTH WORKER



MARIA MAHLAKO  
VEP HEALTH WORKER

ADMIN

HERB GARDEN

VOLUNTEERS

MARKET

EDUCATION

# HEALTH



## FORMER 2016 STAFF

LAWRENCE MALAPANE	GARDENER
TEENAGE RAPATSA	PROJECT MANAGER
EVA BEHNKE	VOLUNTEER
LARA FIEDLER	VOLUNTEER
EIKE STEINWACHS	VOLUNTEER
MINAH THULARE	PROFESSIONAL NURSE

MANAGERS

HEALTHCARE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HTS

VEP

**IGP**



FINANCE MANAGER  
ALBERT MATUMBU



DESIRÉ WRIGHT  
PA TO THE DIRECTOR



FORTUNATE KHUMALO  
FINANCE ASSISTANT



IRIS SHAYI  
FINANCE ASSISTANT



BRIGITTE LIEBERHERR  
STAFF COUNSELLOR



TSHEPO LEWELE  
ADMINISTRATOR



SINDY NKUNA  
ADMINISTRATOR



KENNETH SEKGOBELA  
HTS DRIVER



THAPENO NAMANE  
DRIVER



ALFRED MABANE  
GARDENER



WINNIE SERAGE  
CLEANER



GIFT NYAMBE  
CLEANER

2016 EMPLOYEE  
OF THE YEAR



■ ADMIN

■ HERB GARDEN

■ VOLUNTEERS

■ MARKET

■ EDUCATION

# ADMINISTRATION



# WHO WE SERVE

- Farm workers, including seasonal workers, in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region.
- Migrant farm workers from Mozambique, Zimbabwe (external) and South African provinces (internal); notably Mpumalanga, Gauteng and the Free State.
- Sex workers and truck drivers in the Hoedspruit, Phalaborwa, Acornhoek, Bushbuckridge and Hazyview area.
- Farm owners and managers in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region.
- Our partners in Government, the Maruleng Municipality, Mopani District and Limpopo Departments of Health and Department of Agriculture, Limpopo.
- Our donors and funders.
- Our staff and Board of Trustees.



# THE PROGRAMME

## HEALTH CARE ACCESS

### Creating an enabling environment

Hlokomela facilitates the development and implementation of work place policies for HIV and AIDS. At present, we assist 72 enterprises (58 small and 14 large) to set out a management and worker endorsed policy that also includes a peer education programme.

Activities include signing a memorandum of co-operation, setting up HIV/AIDS committees, HIV Counselling and Testing (HTS) and social communication initiatives to reduce HIV transmission. During the year under review, Hlokomela reached 21 092 people at their workplace.

We facilitate access to health services, programmes and medical products. Hlokomela runs wellness clinics on a rotational basis at Richmond, Hlokomela, Bavaria, Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Ngala, Waterside, Phelwana, Singita Lebombo, Thornybush, South African Wildlife College, Beretta School and Timbavati Foundation. Doctors and professional nurses provide health care services and referrals, information and condoms at the wellness clinics. In addition, Hlokomela provides confidential HTS on farms to accommodate workers who cannot visit the clinics.

During the year under review Hlokomela had:



**18 922**

*Clients provided with HTS*



**866**

*Patients on ARVs*



**1357**

*Positive clients*



**18 922**

*Clients screened for TB*

## Support Groups

Clients discuss health related subjects during support group meetings held at the wellness clinics. In 2016, change agents reached 13 071 people through one-on-one or small group discussions.



**13 071**

## Home Based Care

**97**



**349**



Care givers, also known as Nompilos and change agents, attend to patients on farms. During the year under review, 21 Nompilos took care of 97 patients. Interventions range from primary health care to disseminating social and educational information.

Many of the patients are on ARV and TB treatment. During the year, care workers referred 349 individuals to clinics.

## Condom Dispensers

**122 sites**

Hlokomela maintains condom dispensers at 122 locations, including high transmission areas such as truck stops, shebeens, taxi ranks, hawker's markets, hotels and lodges.

During the year under review, we distributed:



**3 461 000**

*Male condoms*



**57 400**

*Female condoms*

## Sex Worker Project

Hlokomela has two sites, one in Bushbuckridge and another in Phalaborwa, to educate an increasing number of sex workers in these areas.



**13 071**

Each site has 10 peer motivators. The project aims to empower sex workers with skills that will enhance their capacity to speak for themselves, to address human rights concerns, to make informed choices and provide opportunities for them to test for HIV and AIDS.

During the year, peer motivators reached:

## Pre-exposure prophylaxis

Starting in June 2016, Hlokomela offered pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at risk such as sex workers and truck drivers. This is a pilot project of the Department of Health and Hlokomela was chosen as one of only 10 sites for the initial roll out of the national programme.



During this period, of the 1 429 sex workers reached, 1 195 tested negative for HIV and 60 of these people were initiated on PrEP. Of the 60, only 1 became HIV positive one month after starting with the treatment

## Cervical Cancer Prevention Project

At Hlokomela nurses have been trained in Visual Inspection with acetic Acid (VIA) and cryotherapy. The VIA screening method shows areas in the cervix that are affected by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) which is the virus that causes cervical cancer. Positive VIAs can be treated immediately with cryotherapy which freezes and destroys the affected cells. This one-stop screen-and-treat method is perfect for the migrant nature of Hlokomela's patients who are not always able to attend multiple follow up visits.



During the year under review there was 1 training session for the nurses. 379 VIAs were conducted and 14 clients were referred to hospital for further treatment. Cryotherapy treatment was administered to 149 clients.

## Breast Cancer Prevention Project

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death worldwide. The majority of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. The average 5-year survival rate for breast cancer in South Africa is 53%, compared to 89% in the United States. Limited knowledge around breast cancer, long travel times, and unaffordable or unavailable tools for detection and treatment mean that women in this part of South Africa are often not diagnosed with breast cancer until it is too late to treat.

During 2016 Hlokomela's nurses participated in 2 training sessions on the use of ultrasound for breast cancer screening. Since receiving our very own ultrasound machine on 12 December 2016, breast cancer screening has been done for 26 patients, 1 of whom has been referred to hospital for treatment.



# BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE COMMUNICATION

## Dialogue through focus groups and daily discussions

During the year under review, change agents facilitated creative discussions in which 31 225 people took part. Gender dynamics are often highlighted in these dialogues. The dialogues explore quarterly themes and monthly topics during lively sessions where participants are encouraged to discuss relationships and interactions, and social and cultural issues that affect their health. The session are embedded in ongoing efforts to build trust and confidence to deal with the impact of the issues at hand.

### THE QUARTERLY AND MONTHLY TOPICS WERE

#### "AFRICA IS EVERYONE'S HOME" (THEME)

"It is my right as a migrant to access health care services"

"Count me in for no violence against our fellow Africans"

"Religions and practises that can beat xenophobic attacks against fellow Africans"

#### "NOTHING ABOUT OUR SAFETY WITHOUT US" (THEME)

"My space to negotiate safe sex"

"#Borders must fall"

"Medical male circumcision"

#### "I'M A SURVIVOR NOT A VICTIM" (THEME)

"#Abuse must fall"

"Beat STIs by condomizing"

"Reduce TB infection by 90%"

#### "I'M PROUDLY AN AFRICAN" (THEME)

"Strong women build a strong world"

"Empower women to end HIV"



## Outreaches

During the year, Hlokomela reached more than 112 919 farm workers and migrants through various outreach activities that included awareness campaigns and regular health information sessions on farms. Topics ranged from hygiene, TB, malaria, cancer, nutrition and condom use, to migration rights, sexually transmitted diseases and community capacity growth.



We link appropriate activities with special days, such as World TB Day, Worldwide Candle Light Memorial, World Aids Day and 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children.

## Media

### Information material

During the year we distributed 7 171 pamphlets from IOM at events and activities on farms.

### Promotional material and other media

Two thousand T-shirts with the messages "United to end TB" and "Your HIV status doesn't need to be a secret" were distributed at events to create awareness about these issues.

### Publicity

Christine du Preez attended The Directors Event in Johannesburg on 8 April 2016 where she met 340 directors from different companies and organisations from all over the country. She was also part of a panel for the Department of Health-Director General.

In July 2016 an article about Hlokomela, sponsored by the Discovery Fund, appeared in The Mail&Guardian. The advertorial tells the story of Hlokomela as "an outstanding example of Discovery Foundation-supported healthcare projects". A wonderful article that shows Discovery's support of and pride in supporting the organisation.

A film crew from the TV programme Top Billing and South African rapper Khuli Chana visited the Herb Garden on 29 November 2016 to film an episode for the programme. This was wonderful exposure for the organisation.



The local newspapers, Kruger2Canyon News and Hoedspruit Herald, are valued supporters of Hlokomela and publish regular articles about the organisation, its events, people and achievements. On average, the papers carry about four stories about the organisation per quarter.

## **Special events and recreational activities**

During the year under review, we organised a number of special events to mark issues of interest, also allowing Hlokomela stakeholders to get to know each other in a different setting than usual.

These include:

- STI and Condom Week
- Valentine's Day celebration
- TB Day
- World AIDS Day and a march for 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children
- Candle Light Memorial
- Annual Nompilo Awards
- Grannies soccer match between Hlokomela and Vakhegula Vakhegula from Nkowankowa

## **Workshops**

Every month, change agents meet to discuss challenges and progress of the wellness programme. During these discussions, feedback on the quarterly and monthly dialogues and group discussions is reviewed and integrated to keep our activities relevant and effective. Also on the agenda are analyses of formal reporting tools like patient records, referrals and home based and health promotion tally forms.

## **Migration**

Hlokomela staff attend regular workshops with the International Organization of Migration (IOM) to review progress on the Ripumelo programme. During the year under review the Director and a Nompilo under the HTA Project attended the National Consultation on Migration Health.

## **Department of Health workshops**

Change agents and staff attend regular workshops organised by the Department of Health on programmes for conflict management, reporting tools, mental health and other organisational and health issues.

## **Gender and migration**

Hlokomela facilitates workshops on gender and migration to empower migrants and local farm workers about human rights, access to health services, and other support services. Hlokomela extends its gender empowerment programmes to the youth through sessions where issues such as bullying, gender based violence, alcohol abuse and poor health are discussed.

This year representatives from the organisation attended the launch of the Maruleng Gender Forum where Hlokomela's SBCC and HTA Coordinators were selected as members of the forum. In 2016 Hlokomela reached 3 farms where staff facilitated information sessions on migration health and migrants' rights.

## Community Capacity Enhancement (CCE)

During the year under review Hlokomela staff were collecting a portfolio of evidence on 2 farms (Richmond and Landman Vars Produkte) where they were busy with the implementation of the CCE model.

## Meetings and visits

On-going contacts and updates are maintained with the Department of Health on district and provincial levels through forum participation, regular meetings and visits. Many of the visits focus on evaluation and assessment to ensure all partners remain on the same wavelength. At a local level, Hlokomela is represented on the clinic committee to ensure coordination.

## Seminars and symposia

During July 2016 Sphiwe Mazibuko and M.J. du Preez attended the launch of the African German Youth Initiative (AGYI) at the World Conference Centre in Bonn, Germany. The Initiative is a cooperation between the German government and the African Union Commission.

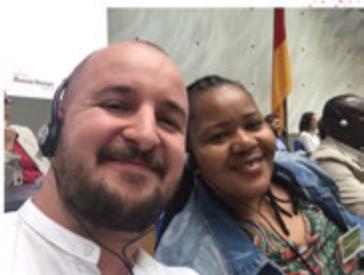
It is a partnership which wants to engage the youth and will be piloted in countries like Ghana, Benin, Tanzania and South Africa. The aim of the AGYI is to create a partnership for youth exchange between Germany and African countries.

During November 2016 the Programme Manager attended the 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Shanghai, China. Antoinette Ngwenya gave a 10 minute presentation under the theme:

*"How can social mobilisation address the health and development challenges of migration?"*

The intervention she presented about was:

*"The role of social mobilisation and community development in promoting health of migrants and refugees community and its contribution to achieve SDGs 10 & 16"*



# **+** ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### Funders

Hlokomela receives funding and technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as the Government's local, district and provincial offices of the Department of Health. The Department of Health honours a service level agreement with Hlokomela for home based care, high transmission area services and service delivery. Hlokomela aims for an integrated relationship with all levels of Government. At a district level, regular contact, workshops and campaigns ensure that programmes like condom distribution, HTS, organisational governance and management are in line with the partnership goals. At a local level Hlokomela signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maruleng Local Municipality.

Our partners also include the Department of Labour, the National Lotteries Commission, Timbavati Foundation and Inzalo Community Project.

### New Partnerships

#### HCI Foundation

During the year under review a grant from the HCI Foundation allowed Hlokomela to offer MiniChess to farm workers' children at Richmond Crèche. MiniChess is organised into structured lessons for 5 to 9-year-olds and uses tried and tested methods for teaching through play, including the use of so-called "MiniChess" games.

The learning process is broken down into small steps, building confidence while keeping it fun, and is in line with the skills level of the young child at that specific age. The programme continually links chess concepts with maths-, science- and life skills.



**hci** foundation

**M**ANAGE~~S~~**CH**E~~S~~**S**



Photo by Matthew Willman



Photo by Matthew Willman

## HIV Testing Services (HTS)

During 2016 the contract to deliver HIV Testing Services (HTS) for Right To Care came to an end and a new contract to deliver HTS was secured with ANOVA Health Institute. Sadly, ANOVA suffered drastic budget cuts from USAID and PEPFAR resulting in the cancellation of the contract Hlokomela negotiated with ANOVA.

AgriAids however indicated that they would come on board in 2017. A new contract was also negotiated with Right to Care to deliver HTS in Thaba Chweu Municipality as of February 2017.

## Community

We value and build our relationship with the local community through regular meetings and joint campaigns with the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Region network, Air Force Base Hoedspruit, NGO partners and the Maruleng Municipality.

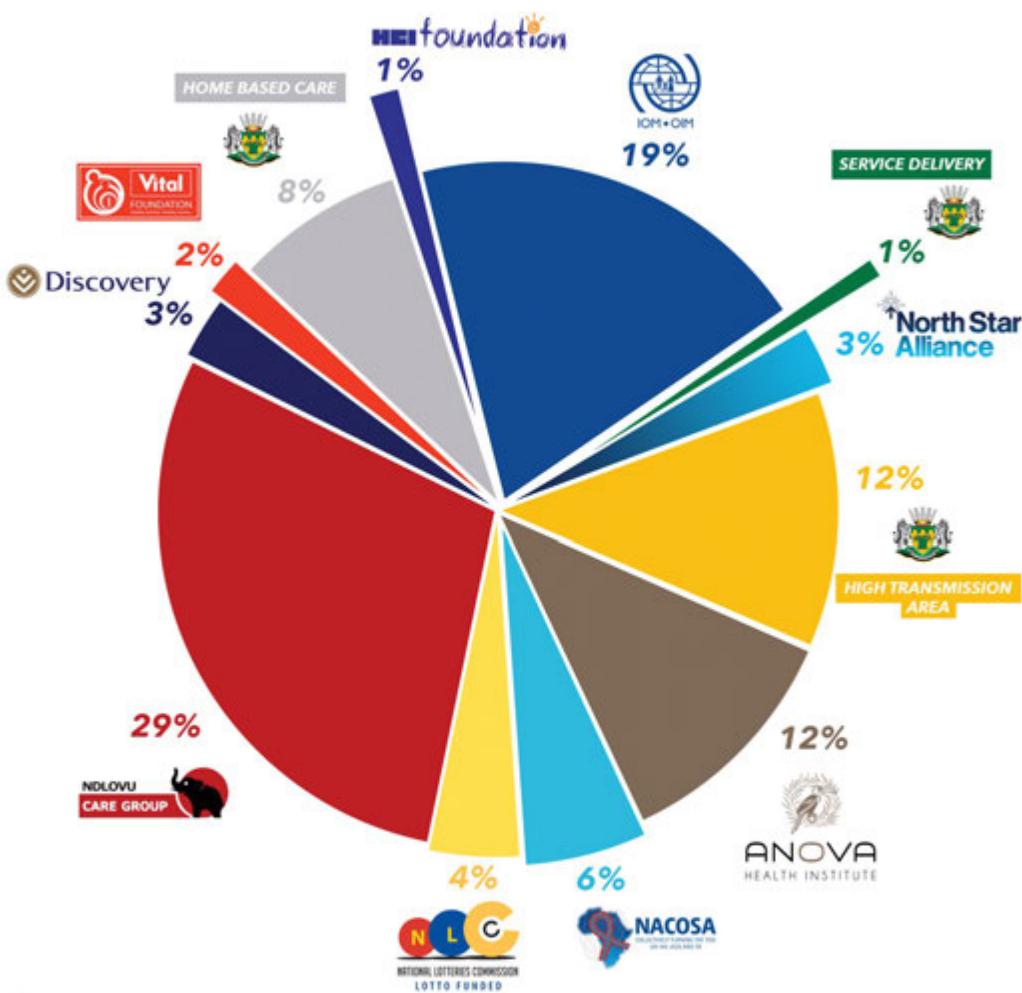
## Hlokomela staff

Our staff drive our success. We have a committed team of 59 people and strive to empower them through appropriate training programmes, workshops, seminars, networking and enabling peer contact.

Our annual general meeting (AGM) in October featured presentations of progress reports for all Hlokomela activities. Farmers and officials from the Mopani District Department of Health attended and a presentation from the local Department of Labour on migrant work permits was well received.

# FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

HTT relies mainly on donor funding and governmental assistance to keep our doors open. In addition, Hlokomela runs income generating activities to supplement our income. Detailed audited financial statements are available upon request.



\*Detailed audited financial statements are available upon request.

# INCOME GENERATION PROJECTS (IGP)

## Hlokomela Herb Garden

The Hlokomela Herb Garden was established in 2008. It received funding from the National Development Agency (NDA) in 2009 for development and growth towards self-sustainability.

Under the management of Solomon Ngobeni and M.J. du Preez, the Herb Garden supplies fresh herbs, salads and herb products to many of the top restaurants and lodges in the Hoedspruit area.

## Hlokomela Market

The Hlokomela Charity Shop is in its sixth year and mainly sells second hand clothes donated by the community. The shop is a popular attraction at its new premises opposite the Bavaria Bus Stop outside Hoedspruit.

## Community Garden Project / "Respekboom" Project

The Hlokomela Community Garden was established in 2005 and is situated on a portion of land made available by Blydevallei Indigo Bavaria. Up until the end of 2016 the garden produced fresh fruits and vegetables.

Hlokomela's expertise however is not farming but health, therefore when the Community Garden failed to break even for a number of months the decision was taken to scale down activities and resort to more suitable activities.

The Spekboom Project was developed to create a less labour intensive product on our community garden project plot. The Community Garden was running at a loss and we had to come up with a new innovative idea to repurpose the patch of land. The Spekboom is a tough little plant that does well in our area and needs minimal looking after. The Spekboom is one of the most effective trees when it comes to reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The plant is also edible, high in basic nutrients, and can treat dehydration and heartburn. Our plan is to grow a large enough stockpile for wholesale purposes.

## Events

Hlokomela's annual Herb Bush Party has become a well-supported greater Hoedspruit calendar fixture. This event is held annually and supported by most of our local customers, including lodges, restaurants and food outlets in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region.

This year the event was hosted at the Monwana River Bed Venue in Thornybush. The event was supported by nine lodges, restaurants and individuals who participated by creating finger foods adhering to the theme "African Cuisine".

The Safari Wine Club hosted wine tasting for the guests. About 180 tickets were sold and R35 430 was raised during the event.





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE - PEER MOTIVATORS' EXPERIENCES

## JOCELYN HELPS HER COMMUNITY BY REACHING THE UNEXPECTED VICTIMS

By Constance Rahlane

\*Jocelyn Maringa\* says she loves her job as a peer educator in Phalaborwa very much. What makes her even happier is when she is able to go the extra mile for the ordinary people in her community, and not only for those from the Key Populations. Jocelyn is grateful to Hlokomela for providing her with the skills to help those in need.

Jocelyn has been working at Hlokomela as peer educator for the past 4 years under the High Transmission Area (HTA) project. She says she recently helped a very young rape victim and although the event saddened her she was happy that she could help the little girl.

"The child is only five years old. She went to a neighbour's house to ask for some mangos, since the neighbour has many mango trees," says Jocelyn. "The man of the house called the child inside and raped her. After the incident he let the child go home. She was bleeding a lot and the mother screamed for her neighbours to come. Amongst the neighbours was a woman who was a relative of the perpetrator, she also worked as a "caregiver". This woman immediately took the child and bathed her" says Josh.

"When I arrived at the scene, I found her bathing the crying child. I immediately told her to stop because she was destroying the evidence. Then the woman got so angry," Jocelyn explained. Jocelyn said the woman was furious and swore at her, saying she does not know what she is talking about, but Jocelyn says she persisted until the woman stopped. "I told her that as a caregiver she should have known better and she should have taken the child to the clinic instead of bathing her. We exchanged more words but someone had already called the police and they arrived and took the child to hospital".

Jocelyn is glad that the culprit pleaded guilty and is still behind bars. "I went back to the child's family and they are going through counselling with her. I will check up on them again to see how things are going" says Jocelyn. At the end of the day, Jocelyn says she enjoys doing her work of distributing condoms and giving health talks to key populations as much as reaching the unexpected victims and being able to step in when the community calls on her to help.

*\*Jochelyn Maringa is a pseudonym to protect her true identity*

# HLOKOMELA MOTIVATED HER TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL

By Constance Rahlane

Trading sex for money is done for different reasons and in some cases sex workers are able to make a success of their lives while for others life is just bad. Few manage to go back to school, as was the case for \*Rose Sweki\*. Getting her Matric was what Rose thought about while plying her trade as a sex worker.

All she needed was the motivation and when she joined Hlokomela as a peer motivator for fellow sex workers she received the motivation she needed. The mini skirt was put aside and replaced with a school uniform when Rose went back to school at the age of 36, picking up where she left off in Grade 11 in 1998.

Two years later Rose is happy to have achieved her dream of getting her Matric certificate. Her journey was not without difficulty. "People laughed at me saying I don't want to face the responsibility of providing food for my family. But I have a lot of support from the Hlokomela team," says Rose. Rose never thought that she would be a sex worker but when her mother died in 1998 that is what she turned to. She went to Johannesburg to find a job to support her siblings. There she lived with a friend who always had money and introduced her to sex work when she couldn't find a job. In the beginning it was not easy, but she eventually adapted to the lifestyle.

"I was able to send money home to my siblings. They thought I was working, meanwhile I was doing sex work," says Rose. She even got her driver's license and bought a car with the money she made. Although her business was flourishing without a Matric Certificate, Rose still wanted to finish school.

From 1999 to 2005 she did well for herself, until she got mixed up with the wrong people. "I was scared of ending up dead or going to jail so I decided to come home" she says.

However, it was not easy to do sex worker at home because in the villages sex workers were highly discriminated against. "I did it, but under cover, I had many boyfriends who paid for my bills," she explained. Later she got a job as a freelance sales consultant which allowed her to disguise her other work.

Rose however wanted a job that helped other people. "When I grew up I always wanted to be a nurse or social worker," she said. When a friend told her about Hlokomela that is looking for peer motivators to reach sex workers, she applied and joined the project in 2014. At Hlokomela the people she met motivated her so in January 2015 she went back to school full time. Although learners mocked her she didn't give up. Even her HIV status didn't discourage her from wanting more in life and she got her Matric certificate two years later. Rose would love to study further but she does not have the funds. In the meantime she will continue as a peer motivator, reaching out to sex workers and encouraging them to go back to school.

\* Rose Sweki is a pseudonym to protect her true identity.

# HLOKOMELA HONOURS

- 2007: Independent study finds farm workers trust confidentiality of services offered
- 2007: Oral presentation at South African AIDS Conference in Durban
- 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
- 2008: Poster presentation at the 4th Annual South African AIDS Conference in Durban
- 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.
- 2015: Discovery Fund makes a mini documentary of the Hlokomela project: "Sprawling farm clinics winning the war on HIV/AIDS in Limpopo"  
*\*Video available on youtube*
- 2015: For World Aids Day on 1 December 2015, eNCA News featured Hlokomela Clinic: "Hlokomela Aids treatment hub fights HIV"  
*\*Video available on youtube*
- 2016: Poster presentation on behalf of the Discovery Fund at the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban.



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