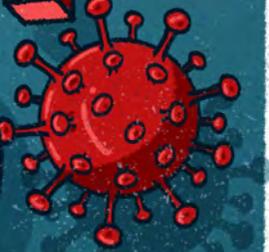
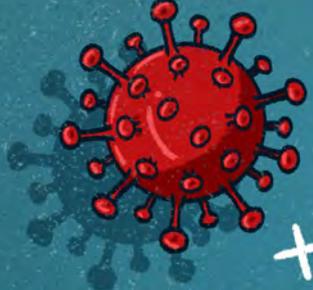




WELCOME

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020





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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Virus
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease, 2019 Novel Coronavirus
CCMDD	Central Chronic Medication Dispensing and Distribution
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
HCI	Hlokomela Community Investments
HTS	HIV Testing Services
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
I-ACT	Integrated Access to Care and Treatment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
NIMArt	Nurse Initiated Management of Antiretroviral Therapy
PrEP	Nre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PPS	Partial Payment System
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RTCQI	Rapid Testing Continuous Quality Improvement
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SyNCH	Synchronised National Communication in Health
TRE	Trauma Releasing Exercises
TERS	Temporary Employee Relief Scheme
TB	Tuberculosis
VEP	Victim Empowerment Project





## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TRUST

Whiplash is the word that comes to mind when I think about 2020. Confronted with illness, financial, environmental, and social distress and collectively forced to live without the things we take for granted, we were united by the unknowns and unpredictability of COVID-19.

Hlokomela used the opportunity offered by the chaos to focus on the glaring differences between the haves and have nots. Demonstrating the essence of true servant-leadership, staff and management focused on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. With typical Hlokomela agility, staff were assigned new COVID-19-related tasks, seamstresses started to manufacture cloth masks to pay for these new services, nursing staff offered COVID-19 testing, outreach workers handed out food and clothing to those in need, and counsellors supported people with mental health concerns. At the same time, Hlokomela piloted a partial payment system for services to secure its own sustainability.

I would like to thank the brave staff of Hlokomela for facing and exploiting the 2020 roller coaster. Stay strong, stay safe, and look after yourself while you care for the many people who need you. You continue to make it very easy to be proud of you.

Dr Mariette Slabbert

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**CHAIRPERSON  
DR MARIETTE SLABBERT**



**DEPUTY CHAIR  
PROF JOHN GEAR**



**EXECUTIVE OFFICIAL  
CHRISTINE DU PREEZ**



**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

In 2019 I asked the question “How can Hlokomela be sustainable?” In 2020 we acted on this question by piloting a partial payment system at one of our clinics to test the waters and hash out what such a system should look like.

Midway through the pilot the COVID-19 pandemic hit South Africa, changing our lives and the way health care services are delivered forever. When I quoted Hendry David Thoreau in 2019, “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined” I never imagined this life of wearing a mask each and every day, avoiding gatherings, keeping a distance of 1,5 metres from friends, strangers and colleagues and constantly washing and sanitising our hands!

Despite the shocking blow COVID-19 delivered across the world and in our very own community, I was overwhelmed by the kindness and support from so many people who came to the party, helping us to distribute food parcels to vulnerable families in our communities.

2020 was full of challenges but it hasn’t been all doom and gloom. Most of our staff members could keep their jobs and still provide for their families and Hlokomela was presented with more opportunities that forced us to think out of the box such as doing COVID tests and possibly even vaccinations for our farm worker beneficiaries.



## **i** WHO WE ARE

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 60 000 people annually (direct and indirect beneficiaries).

## **i** WHO WE BECAME

In 2020, faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, Hlokomela capitalised on its identity which has been built up over 15 years of caring. Hlokomela showed its mettle by stepping up and leading the COVID-19 response in Hoedspruit, Limpopo as well as in other areas of the Mopani District where the organisation implements programmes. We were strengthened even more as the organisation and its staff were challenged in an extra-ordinary time to do extra-ordinary things to maintain the high level of service Hlokomela is known for. All this was achieved at the same time staff and researchers worked hard at piloting a partial payment system that would hopefully secure the financial viability of the organisation once implemented in full.



### OUR VISION

A culture of caring that empowers all.



### OUR MISSION

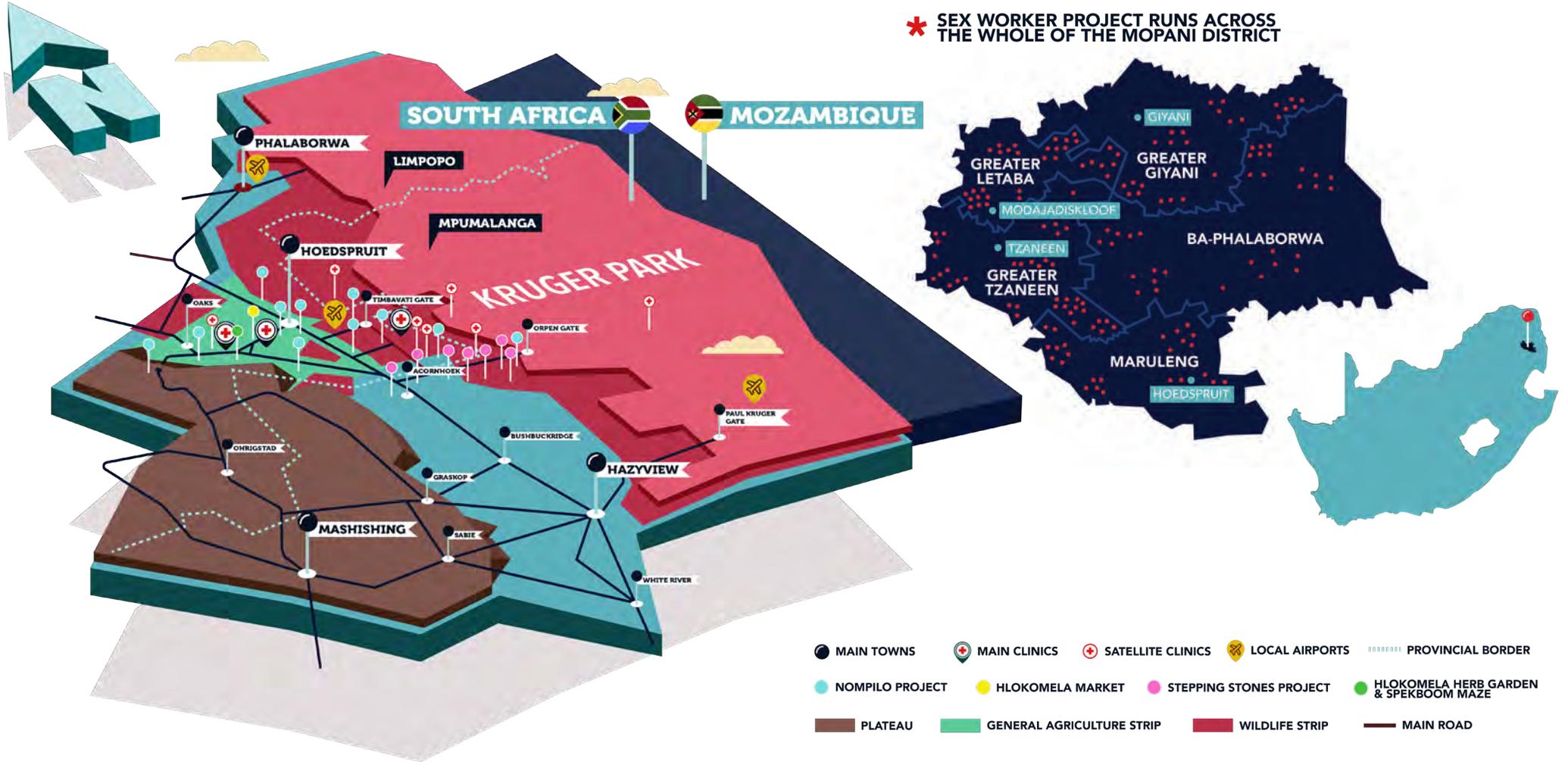
To provide quality, all-inclusive health care to everyone in the Kruger2Canyons Biosphere Region.



## 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.
- Community members in the Acornhoek area who participate in the Stepping Stones Project.
- Our government partners in the Maruleng Municipality, Mopani District, Limpopo Department of Health.
- Our donors and funders.
- Our staff and Board of Trustees.

**\* SEX WORKER PROJECT RUNS ACROSS THE WHOLE OF THE MOPANI DISTRICT**





## WHERE WE WORK

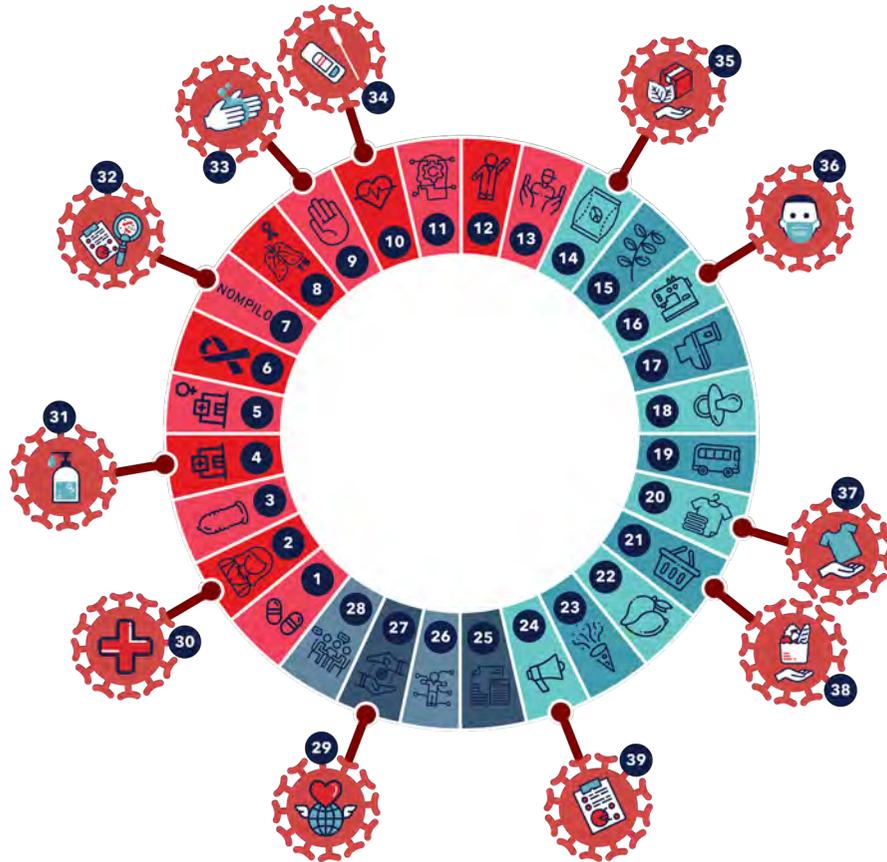
Kruger to Canyons Biosphere, Mopani District, Limpopo, South Africa

We do most of our work in the greater Hoedspruit area, the administrative centre of the Maruleng Municipality, which is situated in the Mopani District, Limpopo Province. We also work in Acornhoek, Mpumalanga where the focus is on community education and upliftment through the Stepping Stones Project.

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.

# WHAT WE DO

THE WORK WE DO IS GROUPED UNDER THREE MAIN HEADINGS:



## HEALTH & SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

1. PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS(PREP)
2. SEX WORKER PROJECT
3. CONDOM DISPENSERS
4. 10 X CLINICS
5. WOMEN'S CLINIC
6. HIV TESTING SERVICES (HTS)
7. NOMPILO PROJECT
8. HAST-HIV/AIDS, SEXUAL TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS & TUBERCULOSIS
9. HEALTH AWARENESS
10. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
11. VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (VEP)
12. MIGRANTS PROGRAM
13. STEPPING STONES

## HLOKOMELA INVESTMENTS

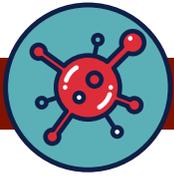
14. HERB GARDEN
15. SPEKBLOOM PROJECT
16. SEWING PROJECT
17. MOBILE VIP TOILET
18. CRÈCHE
19. TOURS
20. CHARITY SHOP
21. SPAZA
22. ANB FACTORY SHOP
23. FUND RAISING EVENTS
24. MARKETING

## OPERATIONS

25. FINANCE DEPARTMENT
26. HUMAN RESOURCES
27. GRANTS & DONATIONS
28. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## COVID - 19

29. COVID-19 RELATED INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS
30. ADDITIONAL COVID-19 SUPPORT & STAFF
31. COVID-19 READINESS & PROTOCOLS
32. COMMUNITY BASED COVID-19 SCREENERS
33. COVID-19 AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS
34. COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS & DETECTION
35. FOOD PARCEL PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION
36. MASKS & BUFF PRODUCTION
37. CLOTHES & DIGNITY PACK DISTRIBUTION
38. GROCERY SUPPORT & DISTRIBUTION
39. HUMAN COVID-19 WEEKLY REPORTS



## COVID - 19

Good administration is the backbone of the organisation. The operations department supports the health, social and income generating projects to run smoothly by ensuring that the administration, maintenance on buildings, procurement and finances are all in order.



## HEALTH & SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

Our health and social care programmes offer biomedical, social and structural interventions to reduce 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;
- 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 behavioural 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



## HLOKOMELA INVESTMENTS

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

- Growing and selling fresh herbs and herb products to grocery stores, restaurants and lodges in the Hoedspruit and Phalaborwa area;
- Running a second-hand clothing shop;
- The spekboom maze project which grows and sells spekboom plants.
- Hlokomela sewing project makes new clothing and adjustments in addition to reusable sanitary pads, facial buffs and masks.



## OPERATIONS

Good administration is the backbone of the organisation. The operations department supports the health, social and income generating projects to run smoothly by ensuring that the administration, maintenance on buildings, procurement and finances are all in order.



## What challenged us, and how we responded

### Desperate need for food relief

In a rural area where levels of employment is already low, the effect of the national lockdown was severe and amplified the inequalities already experienced by rural dwellers. Many of those who had jobs either lost them or were forced to stay at home without an income while waiting for the Temporary Employee Relief Scheme (TERS), not to mention those who were already unemployed. Calls soon started coming in from the community and beneficiaries with urgent requests for food.

Hlokomela sent out calls for support on all levels, also reaching out to international friends of the organisation. The result was overwhelming support from local farmers, businesses, funders and individual benefactors. This was a huge challenge as food relief is not core to Hlokomela's services and we had never fed so many people on such a large scale before.

By the end of 2020, 184 tonnes of fresh fruit, 6000 parcels of non-perishable food and basic items and 1386 packets of e'Pap were distributed to individuals and families in Maruleng and other sub-districts within Mopani.



### Shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE)

As South Africans and people all over the world scurried to procure PPE, Hlokomela was left in the lurch as our clinic staff faced a shortage of PPE. This was not only a problem for our staff, but also for our farmworker beneficiaries as essential service workers in the food supply chain.

The Hlokomela Sewing Project sprang into action by sewing fabric face masks and buffs. These were mostly sold to farmers for their staff travelling in enclosed buses where the risk of COVID-19 infection is high. The demand for buffs decreased towards the end of the year when PPE in general became more readily available from suppliers. Nonetheless, by the end of 2020 23 378 buffs had been made.

To protect our frontline health workers, funders such as Gift of the Givers and Discovery Fund came on board and donated thousands of PPE items that lasted staff for the greater part of the year.

### Educating beneficiaries about COVID-19

While little was known about the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace, especially on farms, the challenge was to implement COVID-19 health and safety compliance measures to facilitate ongoing operation on farms. We achieved this by consulting with farm management on the various measures to be implemented, most important of which was employee education.

We conducted outreaches at potential hot-spots, such as bus stops, to provide information to the community about COVID-19. Information sessions were done at farms to emphasize the importance of health and safety structures to minimise the spread of COVID-19. We reached more than 10 000 farm workers in 2020 with hand wash demonstrations, awareness regarding personal hygiene and how to protect oneself and each other from contracting COVID-19.

## Restrictions on movement, gatherings

The lockdown restrictions on gatherings were fatal to the Stepping Stones programme which Hlokomela implemented in the Ehlanzeni District of Mpumalanga. This programme is designed around group discussions and dialogues in order to achieve the outcomes of the programme. While the team members were reallocated to do COVID-19 community screening for a few months, the funder cancelled the contract with effect September 2020, despite it only being the second year of implementation of what was supposed to be a five-year programme.

In other areas we overcame the lockdown restrictions more effectively. We used our mobile clinic for outreaches to the farms and the communities, thereby taking the services to the people when they could not come to us.

Peer education, especially in the Sex Worker Programme, carried on without interruption as peer educators created WhatsApp groups with their targeted sex workers instead of meeting with them in person, sharing health information and awareness very effectively. Small group sessions and risk reduction workshops went ahead, although they were conducted outside and with fewer participants. The clinic team were still able to provide health services to sex workers at peer educators' homes as the shebeens and taverns where we normally reach them were closed.

## Countering COVID-19 misinformation and fake news

Throughout the year the abundance of misinformation and fake news regarding COVID-19 was rife. To ensure that only accurate information was spread amongst and by our staff, we appointed a COVID-19 Manager from the clinic team who was responsible for verifying COVID-19 information before it was shared amongst the staff. We soon realised the same need in the community was even more pressing and responded by initiating and manning a community COVID-19 hotline to curb the spread of misinformation.

## Funding our COVID-19 response

Hlokomela is funded for specific activities and programmes and as a result we had no funds to enable our rapid response to COVID-19. This was a huge challenge as the community turned to us for information, prevention and care. We mobilised support by accessing our community and funder networks. We applied for and received grants for food parcels. Regular reports of our COVID-19 interventions to funders and stakeholders resulted in financial and non-financial donations being made which enable our response.



## Rise in domestic violence

As people were confined to their homes by the lockdown, we saw a rise in cases of domestic violence amongst our beneficiaries. Funders came on board to put together dignity packs containing items such as soap, facial tissues and reusable sanitary pads. The reusable sanitary pads were made by die Hlokomela Sewing Project. Dignity packs were distributed to women in need. In 2020, we distributed dignity packs to 1154 beneficiaries.



## Satellite clinics closed during lockdown

When the tourism sector shut down early during lockdown their employees returned to their homes. This meant that we had to close most of our satellite clinics in the surrounding game reserves. Hlokomela Main, Bavaria and Richmond clinics however remained open. Outdoor hand washing stations, outdoor client waiting areas and non-touch infrared thermometers for COVID-19 temperature screening were introduced. We still managed to serve our tourism sector beneficiaries by making use of our satellite office in Acornhoek where clients would come to get medication refills for chronic ailments.



## COVID-19 community screening

Suddenly, we had to start COVID-19 community screening in order to assist the Department of Health. This was a challenge as it was not part of our normal operations as a wellness clinic. Within 24 hours, however, we mobilised the Nompilos (Community Care Workers) to start with community screening. As the weeks progressed, we procured more non-touch infrared thermometers and our HTS Counsellors as well as Stepping Stones facilitators also screened clients.

By December 2020 we had screened a total of 34 269 people for COVID-19 for the year.

# 34 269

*screened for COVID 19*



## How we innovated

In the NGO sector, the need for ongoing innovation grows out of necessity. For the last 15 years Hlokomela has been adapting to the changing healthcare environment - funding issues, projects coming to an end, testing targets, communities in need, awareness interventions, floods, malaria outbreaks, project expansions, and just the general stress of delivering quality healthcare services in hard to reach communities are all issues that constantly require creative solutions.

When many organisations were still coming to grips with the pandemic, Hlokomela already assumed a leadership role, redirecting activities, implement protocols and stage large-scale interventions to manage and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in the community.

To manage the stress of this crisis state in our staff, Hlokomela offered employees (and clients) weekly Trauma/Tension Release Exercises (TRE) as part of our workplace wellness policy.

Quick and decisive decision-making allowed the organisation to respond effectively, for example the redirection of the Sewing Project to produce face buffs and masks when there was a shortage of PPE.

Hlokomela's Community Health Workers (Nompilos) operate at a grassroots level, they are the eyes and ears of the organisation, alerting us to situations in the communities as they arise, such as the increase in cases of domestic violence. Their alertness allows Hlokomela to act quickly and intervene with campaigns or one-on-one interventions.

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## HEALTH & SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

### Health Care Services

In 2020, Hlokomela continued to develop and implement HIV workplace policies for local farms and businesses. By the end of 2020, 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.

Hlokomela runs wellness clinics at Richmond, Hlokomela, Bavaria, Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Ngala, Waterside, Phelwana, Singita Lebombo, Thornybush, Timbavati Foundation and South African Wildlife College. Doctors and professional nurses provide health care services and referrals, information and condoms at these wellness clinics.



# 16 896

*Total number of Hlokomela clients*

The decrease in total number of clients from 27 322 in 2019 to 16 896 in 2020 is due to COVID-19 lockdown measures. Many of our clients, such as migrant workers, have to cross the Mpumalanga border to get to Hlokomela in Limpopo, but they were not able to do so for a large part of the year. Many of these clients consequently transferred out from Hlokomela to attend their local clinics as they could not easily reach Hlokomela due to the closure of provincial borders. Many clients who would have visited the clinic for minor ailments under normal circumstances also stayed away for fear of contracting COVID-19.



# 770

**Central Chronic Medication Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD)**

By December 2020, 770 clients were enrolled on CCMDD.



**27 322**  
Clients

### HIV

- 89% of clients who visited Hlokomela know their status.
- 100% of patients who tested HIV positive were initiated on treatment.
- 78% of patients on ART had a suppressed viral load after 6 months on treatment.



**5834**  
Patients tested



**366**  
Patients HIV positive

*\*Hlokomela is working towards achieving "90-90-90", an ambitious treatment target that was set by UNAIDS to help end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.*



**71**  
Nompilos



**656**

### Outreach on farms

Community Health Workers, also known as Nompilos at Hlokomela, attend to clients on farms. During the year, 71 Nompilos rendered home based care services to 186 clients who are on chronic medication. 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 656 individuals to clinics for further health care services.



**23 961**  
Patients screened

### TB

Hlokomela screened 90.1% of 16 060 patients who visited our clinics for TB. Only 2.3% (10) of the 399 sputum samples collected, tested positive for TB and all newly diagnosed TB clients were initiated on treatment with a 100% TB cure rate.



**13 111**  
Patients screened

### STIs

Out of 13 111 patients (15 years and above) screened for STIs, 2.2% (295) tested positive and were treated for STIs.



**6 166**  
Patients screened

### Hypertension

Between the ages of 18 and 44, we screened 6 166 clients for hypertension. We also screened 3097 clients who are 45 years and older. This year, 81 clients were newly diagnosed with hypertension and initiated on treatment.



**9 140**  
Patients screened

### Diabetes

Between the ages of 18 and 44, we screened 6 382 clients for diabetes. We also screened 2 758 clients who are 45 years and older. This year, 96 clients were diagnosed with diabetes and initiated on treatment.



**1 596 000**  
Male condoms



**32 900**  
Female condoms

### Condom distribution

Hlokomela maintains condom dispensers at 141 locations, mostly high HIV transmission areas such as truck stops, shebeens, taxi ranks, hawker markets, hotels and lodges. During the year, we distributed 1 596 000 male and 32 900 female condoms.

### COVID-19 testing

Of the 34 269 people screened for COVID-19 this year, we tested 70 between April and December 2020 of which 7 were positive. Nine test samples were rejected due to a backlog at the laboratory in July 2020..



**8 491**  
Sex workers  
reached

### Sex worker programme

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 COVID-19, non-communicable diseases, sexual reproductive health and mental health issues.

Hlokomela implements the sex worker programme across the entire Mopani District. Each of the five sub-districts have three peer educators and two HTS & linkage officers. Two site coordinators manage the peer educators, two professional nurses and an enrolled nurse manage the linkage to care through the HTS & linkage officers and attend to sex workers in the field. When needed, sex workers are referred to a doctor in the clinic. We are excited about outreaches in 2021 in a mobile wellness clinic!

In addition, a social worker and social auxiliary worker offer psychosocial support to sex workers while an advocacy officer advocates for their rights by sensitising stakeholders about the programme.

During the year, peer educators reached 8491 of the targeted 2 323 sex workers at 127 hotspots in the District.

During the year, 8491 sex workers were screened for COVID-19.



**8 491**

### Pre-exposure prophylaxis

Hlokomela offers pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at high risk of HIV. During 2020, of the 8491 sex workers reached, 1885 were tested for HIV and 181 of these clients that tested negative for HIV were initiated on PrEP. Out of those who were tested, 43 clients tested positive of which 34 were initiated on ART and 40 referred to their home clinics.



**1 885**

PrEP  
**181**



## Hlokomela Women's Clinic

On 7 July 2020 Hlokomela Women's Clinic celebrated its 3rd birthday. The clinic was born through a collaboration of dreams and plans for healthcare for all women in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region.

We have reached thousands of women through outreaches, trained and educated, screened and treated many more in the clinic and out in the field.

In the midst of the national lockdown the Women's Clinic received a major boost when we received our very own mobile clinic! This asset has enabled us to take the services to women who would otherwise not have been able to come to us. The mobile clinic allows us to perform medical procedures in the privacy and comfort of well-equipped mobile infrastructure.



During the year, 215 clients were screened for breast cancer. Of these, 9 were referred to the hospital for further management; 6 of these women were positively diagnosed and treated for breast cancer.



Other scans done at the Women's Clinic include 52 abdominal scans, 76 pelvic scans, and 166 pregnancy scans.



During 2020, 321 patients were screened for cervical cancer.

## "Bravolution"

The "Bravolution" project encourages women to donate new or used bras to the Hlokomela Women's Clinic. Approximately 800 donated bras were handed out to women in need who come to Hlokomela Women's Clinic as clients.



# 800

*Total number of bras donated*



## Piloting a partial payment system

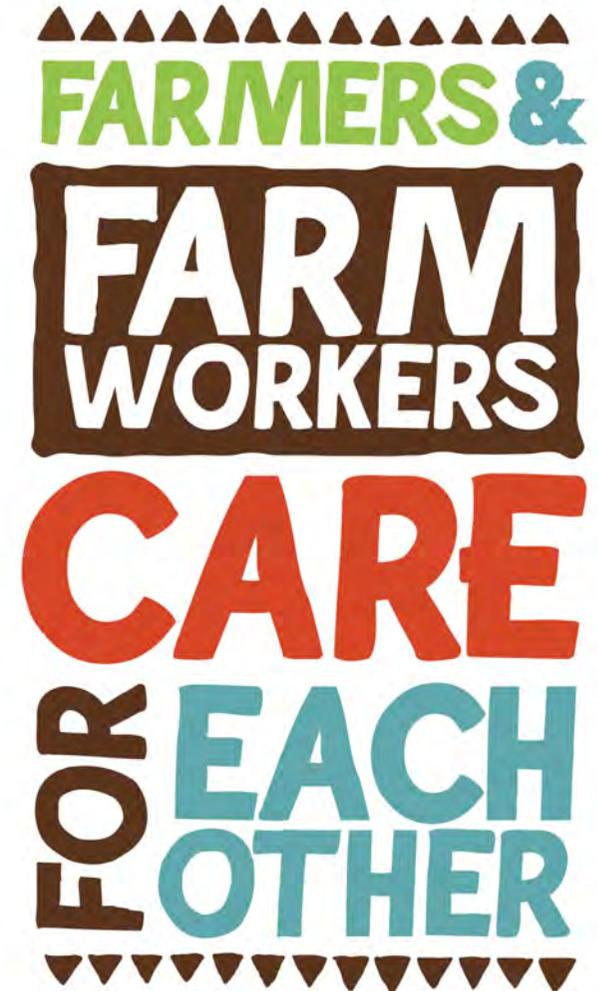
During 2020, we piloted the partial payment system (PPS) for four months, led by Sarraounia Public Health Trust as the researcher. With COVID-19 front-and-centre in everyone's lives, agricultural employers came to realise the value of the services offered by Hlokomela in a time of crisis and immense change.

Key recommendations from the research provided Hlokomela with realistic guidelines on how to proceed with implementation in 2021.

First and foremost was the recommendation that a payment system should be a hybrid model of privatised and partially funded clinic services. All clients who access services should pay a basic fee while some services should be privatised, and the full cost charged to improve cost recovery. Clients from vulnerable populations would still need to have free access to some of the services.

It was also recommended that the PPS be limited to one clinic site and mobile services so that Hlokomela would still be able to access various funding opportunities for the organisation as a whole. Staff would also need to be reduced and some satellite clinics closed so that the services offered could be sustained by the local economy.

Repositioning Hlokomela's health promotion services in the workplace, through the Hlokomela Ambassadors in the shape of a costed health promotion plan for employers in their workspace, was also indicated as an important next step. Furthermore, Hlokomela need to establish partnerships to position the organisation in the OHS and trade compliance space. In order to measure success, cost recovery targets would be set and monitored quarterly.



dablap meds

Stop the spread of COVID-19.

CARE  
ER

VITAL SIGNS

HLUKU

ES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

WHEELCHAIR



MALE ROOM

WOMEN'S CLINIC



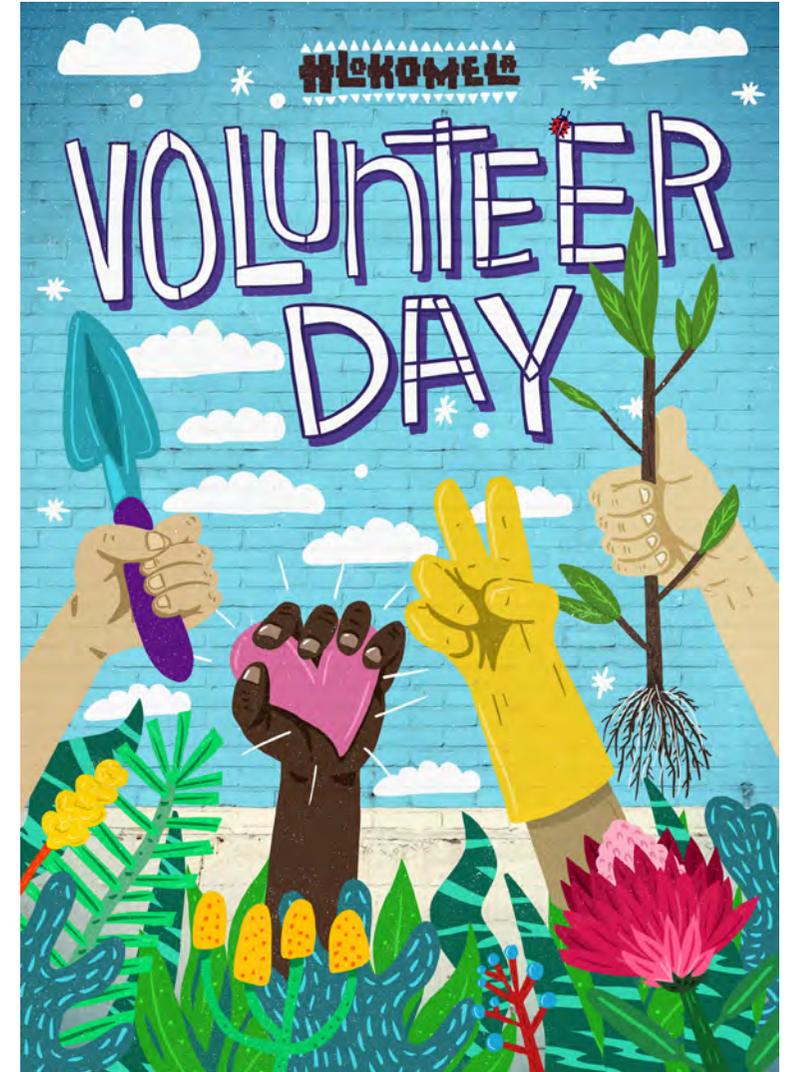


## HLOKOMELA INVESTMENTS

In 2020 the Hlokomela Herb Garden was the centre around which our food relief efforts revolved. From this central point, we were able to mobilise volunteers and donations. Access to vehicles, as well as collection points for food collection and delivery, was all facilitated through our extensive network with business, private individuals and other local NGOs.

As the tourism industry, a major employer in the Hoedspruit area, effectively shut down the Hlokomela Herb Garden lost almost its entire client base as lodges were empty and no longer placing orders. A new market had to be identified if the Herb Garden was going to have any chance of surviving.

Individuals and households were targeted and slowly but surely the Herb Garden managed to build a loyal client base from these local supporters up to a point. As the demand for food relief increased, funders such as the Tshembo Africa Foundation came on board and against all odds this support allowed the Herb Garden to survive the year. Unfortunately, the Hlokomela Spaza Shop was not so lucky as the dramatic decrease in commuters at the bus stop outside the shop claimed its toll on sales figures. Two staff members were retrenched when the shop closed down.





## #walking4hope

The Tshembo Africa Foundation rallied friends across the planet to help raise money for food parcels for vulnerable communities as part of the #walking4hope campaign. In solidarity with the Tshembo team, Hlokomela staff collectively walked more than 1700km in 8 days to match Bruce Lawson's 1000km walk which he did in 20 days. During 2020, Tshembo Africa Foundation raised R 325 716,41 which was used to provide hungry individuals and families with fresh food parcels from the Herb Garden.





# OPERATIONS

## Strategic partnerships

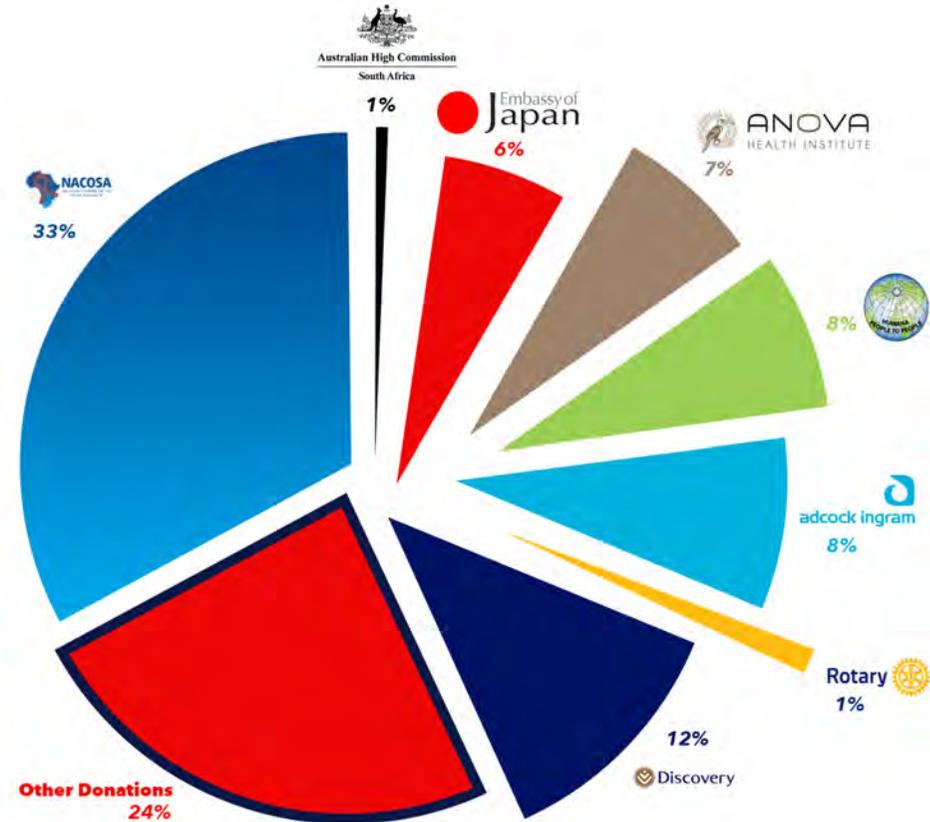
In June 2020 Hlokomela partnered with the ANOVA Health Institute to implement an HIV Testing Services programme in the Maruleng and Ba-Phalaborwa sub-districts of Limpopo.

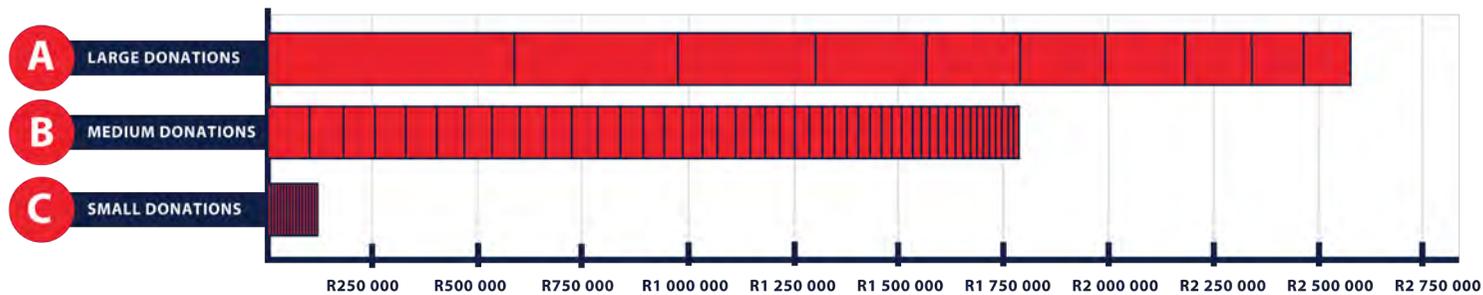
## Research

The Discovery Fund funded a six-month pilot of a partial payment system at Hlokomela's Bavaria clinic as the two-month pilot conducted in 2019 did not produce enough solid results upon which such a system can be implemented. The remainder of the year went into planning, strategising and streamlining a system model that would be able to meet all our clients' needs as best as possible.

## Funding and fundraising

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





**A** LARGE DONATIONS

Global Giving	R 585 076,49
Given Gain	R 390 445,45
Tshembo Food Parcels	R 325 716,41
Richmond Kopano	R 270 950,00
Josephine C Cole	R 218 042,59
Timbavati Foundation	R 200 000,00
Bavaria Fruit Estate	R 190 185,00
Unifrutti	R 160 000,00
Tshemba Charitable Foundation	R 128 750,00
Hoedspruit Endangered	R 100 000,00

**B** MEDIUM DONATIONS

\* Available on request

**C** SMALL DONATIONS

\* Available on request

## Training and development

- Clinic staff attended a Diabetes workshop.
- Clinic staff attended Dolutegravir training with Dr J du Toit.
- Professional nurses attended COVID-19-19 PCR specimen collection training.
- Two professional nurses completed NIMArt training.
- Clinic staff responsible for the CCMDD programme attended SyNCH training for the submission of electronic scripts.
- Professional nurses attended Advanced CPR training for health professionals.
- The Sex Worker Programme manager and professional nurse attended HIV Self Service training.
- One enrolled nurse and two HTS & Linkage Officers attended RTCQII training.
- The social worker attended I-ACT training.
- The advocacy officer attended further training on advocacy.
- One enrolled nurse completed a certificate in procurement and supply chain management.
- Three HTS & Linkage Officers attended online training in finger pricking.
- The Sex Worker Programme manager and one peer educator attended a harm reduction workshop.
- Two peer educators and two HTS & Linkage Officers attended adherence training.





# 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>

## *Teenage pregnancy*

\*Lillian\* is 17 years old and came to Hlokomela for the first time when she was 5 months pregnant. She was scared, crying, uninformed and hungry. Lillian's mother is very ill and her family poor. On top of all her challenges, Lillian had a severe urinary tract infection. Lillian had no understanding of birth or the process of birth so we took precious care of her at Hlokomela. She received counselling, health education, treatment and a scan confirming that she was expecting a little girl. We called Lillian's school principal and got the governing body involved to assist her. Lillian received everything she needed to give her a good start as far as baby accessories are concerned. She also received food and clothes. Lillian stayed in contact throughout her pregnancy and called us 3 days after baby Matilda was born. On 27 August 2020 Lillian visited the Hlokomela Women's Clinic with Matilda! What a pleasure it was to meet her and to see how well they were both doing! Lillian's story is not unique. Hlokomela's support to her is part of our initiatives to support women's health and wellbeing. \*Lillian\* is a pseudonym used to protect the true identity of Hlokomela's client.

## *Hlokomela intervention saves the life of a baby*

Sometimes there is a need for urgent intervention, where a life is at stake, as was the case for a 3 day old baby boy. Since early on in the pregnancy of Ms. N, Phylis Mongwe an HTS & Linkage Officer at Hlokomela, intervened with the help of clinic staff as Ms. N was endangering the life of her unborn child through

her reckless behaviour. When the baby boy was born she was at the point of abandoning the child had it not been for our intervention and support.

Hlokomela staff visited Ms. N in hospital where they found the baby boy crying and naked, wearing only a filthy nappy and lying on a course blanket with the unwilling mother by his side. Sonja Botha from the Women's Clinic gave the child the first loving care in 3 days' time when she washed, clothed and warmly wrapped him in donated baby items brought by Fia Lööf van Zyl, Hlokomela's Volunteer Coordinator. Finally, when the baby was warm and clean, he was calm.

Unfortunately, the mother had no interest in the child so he would have gone to his grandmother, who was already caring for two of Ms. N's other children. The Hlokomela team delivered donations of food, clothes and nappies to the grandmother in order to care for the baby.

When Ms. N was discharged from hospital however the social worker reported that she had bonded well with her child and intended to keep him.

Ms. N has since exited the sex work industry. After receiving plenty of support through Hlokomela's social networks she was able to start up her own food stall selling mini "vetkoeks".

We are extremely proud of Ms. N for making this change! Hlokomela's Sex Worker Programme is implemented to improve the health, knowledge and wellbeing of sex workers. Despite this the targeted sex workers still fall pregnant, and in many cases these are unwanted children with a bleak future ahead.

## *Quick action and network of support saves farmworker's eye*

During June a 26-year-old farmworker, Mr P, was busy harvesting fruit when a sharp branch injured his eye, leaving him with visual impairment. Mr P delayed seeking medical attention, hoping that his condition would improve, but it didn't.

When he eventually came to the clinic, the nurse discovered that he had a ruptured lens and urgently needed further treatment in a hospital. We immediately contacted the Tshemba Foundation who assisted to refer Mr P to an Ophthalmologist at Rob Ferreira Hospital in Nelspruit. Within a day Mr P was transported from Hlokomela Clinic, via Sekororo Hospital to Rob Ferreira Hospital by ambulance, where he underwent surgery for his ruptured lens. Mr P regained his vision after receiving the surgery. Without the speedy response of Hlokomela staff and the support from Tshemba Foundation, Mr P would have been left blind in one eye because he would not have been able to access the specialist care he needed. Mr. P is one of thousands of farm workers who receive support from Hlokomela to ensure work place safety and farm worker wellbeing - in and outside of the workplace.





**A HTT PROJECT**

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**FARM WORKERS CARE FOR EACH OTHER**

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**15 YEARS OF CARING**