

After 2020 and the start of COVID lockdowns, and the riots of 2021, 2022 did not bring much relief: more lockdowns, floods, urban decay, Municipal in-fighting, repeated load-shedding and economic hardship for all (fuel prices sometimes 40% up in the year!). All of these have made life harder for everyone: but for the poorest of central Durban the impact has been keenest and we estimate that the number of homeless is about 30-40% higher than before COVID.

Usizo Lwethu, the DHC Clinic operates in four different ways:

- primary healthcare to refugees and the urban poor at the Afrisun Clinic in the DHC
- outreach healthcare from a mobile clinic to homeless people around Durban
- outreach healthcare from a converted container in the grounds of Dalton Beer Hall
- provision of a pre-school for 15 children at Dalton.

Our clinic activities went up and down with availability of staff as well as being affected by the aftermath of the floods.

In total, we had 27,057 patient interactions (+19%) or 111 patients per day. 11,316 medical consultations (up 10% on 2021) were provided at the Afrisun Clinic, of which 63% were for men. 39% were to refugees (a lower proportion than in the past). 11% were to patients aged under 21 (a figure that has been falling as we have avoided duplicating DoH paediatric programmes). There were 1,193 outreach consultations on the streets and at Dalton (+7%), but outreach numbers varied widely from month to month because of staffing. 46% of Afrisun patients and 27% of outreach ones showed signs of addiction to whoonga – though this is difficult to measure accurately.

Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV (VCTs) were given to 1,801 people (+36%), 2/3 of them men. As in most previous years, reactivity rates for women (29.6% of those tested are HIV+) were much higher than for men (23.1%). From October 2021, we took over the ARV facility that the Government was running in our building and so have continued to provide the service to potentially 900 people at our own cost (though the tests and the ARVs come from Government).

In addition, we have patients who are seen every few days for Directly Observed Treatment: 111 on ARVs and 132 on TB medication (totalling 10,033 sessions across the year). The DOTS programme enabled us to help 80 patients successfully come clear of TB who had not succeeded in the past. We are also accompanying 16 on a 9-month programme to be clear of multi-drug resistant TB.

We received medicines from Government, worth R285,000 (up 23% from 2021). In addition, we purchased R265,000 of medicines (+44%!). Our successful advocacy for COVID vaccinations for undocumented people had led to 1,300 vaccines in 2021 and a further 1,001 in 2022 though this tailed off as the year progressed.

The Project Co-ordinator, Ruth Birtwhistle SRN, was sadly absent with health issues for part of the year and resigned in November. A new Co-ordinator starts on 1 March. Ruth was supported by a fully paid team of 13, comprising two more registered nurses, a part-time physician's assistant, five community health workers, a social worker and auxiliary, pre-school teacher and assistant, and a driver. In addition, the clinic has benefited from social work interns from UKZN and UNISA, and healthcare interns from Abafundi School of Learning. OT students from UKZN and Homeopathy and Chiropractic interns from DUT helped us broaden the range of services offered. Throughout the year, Dr Stephen Carpenter volunteered 1 morning a week. For the first time since COVID, overseas volunteer doctors were back, with a husband and wife team from the UK coming for 5 weeks in May.

Nkosinathi is dedicated to welfare for the homeless and comprises:

- providing nutritious food, regular access to ablutions and laundry service
- opportunity to speak to a counsellor or social worker, family reunification
- education on addiction, and preparation for attending rehabilitation for substance abuse

In 2022, we operated on 261 days (5 days a week) and served 41,738 breakfasts, 66,298 freshly-cooked lunches and 53,004 sandwich packs (some prepared by us and some by other church networks for us to distribute). That means an average of 595 meals per day and 161,040 meals in the year: slightly more than in 2021, and 85% higher than pre-COVID. 8,498 showers were provided for women and men (up 125%). 879 people benefited from our laundry service (plus 1,000+ at Street Store in June).

The Project Co-ordinator Sr Cathy Murugan HF is assisted by a team of cooks and an auxiliary social worker, as well as interns and dozens of volunteers. In total, volunteers provided 3,635 sessions of work (up 36% on 2021, and double the 2019 number); about half delivered by Homeless people. At R23 per hour, the volunteering is equivalent to R337,000 of labour. Volunteering from schools, parishes, corporates, SVDs and Cathedral Sodalities has returned to pre-COVID norms.

A good working relationship with Newlands Park DSD drug rehabilitation centre and Haven of Hope Halfway House meant that we referred 54 people of whom 17 completed the programme: we accompany them for weeks before they become resident, visit them while they are there, and often accompany them after they leave. The Napier Centre 4 Healing was not able to take new referrals in 2022 due to issues about its registration status which are being addressed.

Constructive engagement with the Municipality has relied in the past on the Deputy Mayor: one came and went, though he never wanted to engage with us; we have reached out to the newly appointed Councillor Myeni. Evidence from the National Homeless Network is that eThekweni, having led the country during lockdown, has now fallen behind other Metros in the scale and quality of its response to homelessness. We are looking forward to participating in a national policy initiative. Attempts to assist at the national and local level with a fair count of the homeless in Census 2022 were frustrated by inconsistent responses from StatsSA and a complete failure on their part to plan, despite multiple reminders.

Economic and Political Empowerment is led by Stuart Talbot. A key part of his focus has been securing IDs for the homeless, though this has been frustrated by the stop-start practices of Home Affairs (and sometimes the lack of follow through by homeless people themselves). The 190 he did manage to secure is a fraction of the 800 or so in process in our system. We continued our work of educating homeless people about their political and civic rights in collaboration with UKZN Street Law. Now, thanks to graduate students, we can offer a year-round once-a-week legal office which then refers on to the Law Clinic at UKZN.

Street Lit continues under the co-ordination of Illa Thompson (who has also been our *pro bono* publicist since we began). The selling of second-hand books has been hugely successful in gaining awareness and raising income for the vendors. As COVID restrictions lifted, some of our traditional private venues (theatres, ICC, churches) have come back on board. We have been successfully pursuing new opportunities at schools and malls (recently in partnership with Broll). We finally obtained a few municipal licenses to sell on the streets though with mixed success. We have up to 15 booksellers now off the streets and paying for regular shelter or even living in their own accommodation. The programme continues to expand and Hollywood Foundation has just committed to being a corporate partner. St John remains a key partner in providing storage space for books; they also secured a prestigious international award to recognise Illa's work.

We have still not found a partner to make our training café viable again but are open to suggestions. Note that the work of **Refugee Pastoral Care**, though based at the DHC, is not part of our Trust but instead reports to the Archdiocese of Durban.

With the end of COVID restrictions, we were again able to host many community **events**, often in partnership with others:

- An interfaith *2ftar* outside so we could hear the *adhan* from the Jumma Masjid next door
- Lectures honouring Paddy Kearney, +Hurley and +Gabuza (in collaboration with GDT and Archdiocese of Durban J&P)
- Meal of Reconciliation with over 500 participants from all walks of life
- Participation by eight DHC people (managers and homeless) in the National Homeless Conversation in Johannesburg
- Screenings during Durban Film Festival, and also providing rehearsal and performance space for other artists
- The return of Street Store with Grace Family Church (and other partners) assisting over 1,000 people in one day
- Hosting discussions with ecumenical partners and homeless people to contribute to Vatican Synodal process
- Holding a high-profile 10th anniversary celebration of the DHA at South Africa House in central London

The Denis Hurley Centre **Administration** consists of a Director (Raymond Perrier), Finance Manager (Errold Victor) and part-time Administrator (Leanne Banks). The building is run by a Manager (Jean-Marie Ntamubano) supported by a Caretaker and assistant, plus volunteer reception staff. On-going repair and maintenance work mean the building, after 8 years, remains in good condition. Attempts to investigate a solar power system are proving to be very slow.

Activities with staff were increased with regular birthday celebrations, monthly training sessions, quarterly inspirational activities and the introduction of a R1,000 per person yearly bursary to be used on any form of personal development.

In 2022, total **funds raised** were R3.9M (this was in fact 5% over our budget) while our **expenses** were R5.4M (exactly on budget). This was the first year ever that we did not raise sufficient funds *in the year* to cover expenses. But we had anticipated the economic effect on income and so drew down (as planned) from our Sustainability Fund. This will also help us in 2024 and, to some degree, beyond to cushion against likely variances in funding. The 2023 budget is set at R5.6M which requires us to raise R15,300 every single day.

We benefit from a wide range of **donors**. In 2022, we received 12% of our funds from overseas and 88% from SA (higher than the 'usual' 70%). Of this, 32% came from individuals (including the Centenary Club), 16% from renting out space in the DHC (up on previous years), 15% from SA grant-making trusts, 4% from corporates, 8% from interest (thanks in part to legacy bequests), 2% from faith-based organisations, and 3% from Emmanuel Cathedral (covering their use of the building, though debts are still owing); almost none came from fundraising events. Many thanks to all who give funds.

After the cost of running the building, the Clinic is our single largest area of spend (39% of what we raise) – but it is hugely efficient given the number of patients we see. The cash spend on Nkosinathi is minimised by the great amount of volunteering and donations of food. Overall, salaries were our single largest cost: they accounted for 61%—though with 20 full-time-equivalent staff these are still very modest average salaries. After this, our largest areas of spend in descending order are medicines, utilities, cleaning, repairs and IT. **Audited Financial Statements** are available on our website; the 2022 audited statement will be posted by mid-2023. We appointed new auditors, Accensis who have proven very efficient.

We are grateful to all those who have helped us, in small and large ways, by donating funds, goods and time to enable us to serve the literally thousands of people whose lives we touch every month. We commend our staff and volunteers for their flexibility and resilience in coping with the ups and downs of the last year and continuing to provide excellent service.