



25 YEARS OF WOZA MOYA







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through the valley



ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------|--|
| ARVs | Antiretrovirals |
| BRC | Buddhist Retreat Centre |
| CCG | Community Caregiver |
| CCMDD | Central Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution |
| CCW | Community Careworker |
| C – IMCI | Community Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses |
| CRC | Children’s Rights Centre |
| CWBSA | Clowns Without Borders South Africa |
| DOE | Department of Education |
| DOH | Department of Health |
| DSD | Department of Social Development |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| HBC | Home-based Care |
| HPSA | Heifer Project South Africa |
| IDC | Independent Development Corporation |
| MATCH | Maternal Adolescent and Child Health |
| NQF | National Qualifications Framework |
| PUP | Pick up Point |
| SABC | South African Broadcasting Commission |

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Timeline:

THE JOURNEY OF WOZA MOYA



2000

Woza Moya is founded to assist the Ufafa community, which is being devastated by AIDS and poverty. The organisation works out of Sue's place at the Buddhist Retreat Centre.

A special community meeting happens at a Ubuchwepheshe Skills Development Centre (now Sinovuso High School). The Induna is present. A special guest, Jabu Molefe, addresses the gathering.

Volunteer Community Care Workers (CCWs) who are later called Community Caregivers (CCGs) offer support, counselling and information about HIV to help community members understand the disease and find ways of managing and coping with it.



01

Woza Moya is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) and receives its first grant from AIDS Foundation of South Africa (AFSA).

A Management Committee is formed, meeting quarterly.

Various workshops and training sessions are conducted for all team members, including on Home-based Care (HBC).



02

Volunteer CCWs receive a stipend of R300 per month.



03

The Rotary Club sponsors Woza Moya's first project vehicle.

The Woza Moya Paralegal Programme is established to assist people without documentation (children and adults). People are also assisted to access government support grants.

Art and craft skills are introduced to promote income-generation among support group members. The group, under the guidance of Leonie Malherbe, makes hand-embroidered squares and related products which are then sold to generate income.



05/6

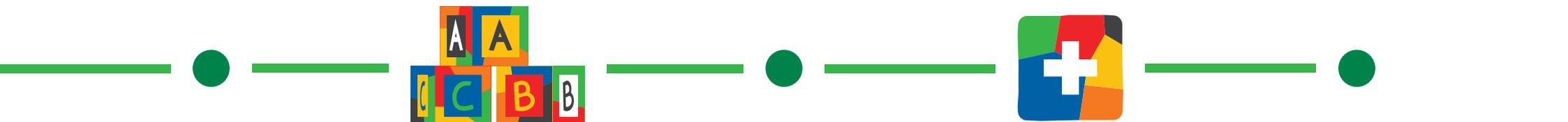
The Chief gives Woza Moya land.

The Woza Moya Community Centre is built and the organisation relocates from the BRC to the tribal land in the community of Chibini. This makes the project more accessible and community based.

Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) become available to local health facilities, marking a positive shift towards testing for HIV.

A support group for Woza Moya team members is established where every member is aware of their HIV status.

An insert on Woza Moya's Paralegal Services is broadcast on South Africa's national broadcaster, SABC TV.



08

Oxfam Australia becomes a partner.

Woza Moya's HBC Programme features on SABC.

09

Woza Moya is registered as a Section 21 Company and 18A Tax Exemption Status is granted, making it possible for donors to make tax deductible donations.

On World AIDS Day, 1 December, Woza Moya's response to people living with HIV and AIDS is aired on SABC.

A crèche, The Play Centre, is started, with the aim to meet the socio-emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual needs of children aged 3 to 5. The Centre is built through support from Gavin Harrison, Hawaiian Sangha and Patricia Shafer, Mothering Across Continents. This marks the start of the Woza Moya Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme.

Woza Moya makes 150 large bags with embroidered squares for the Durban International Botanical Gardens Conference. A volunteer from Kloof, Ronelle Weinberg, assists in overseeing the production of the order.

10

Woza Moya's Food Security Programme features on SABC.

A demonstration permaculture garden is set up at the Woza Moya centre in partnership with the Durban Botanical Gardens.

The Schools Sponsorship Programme is initiated to support orphaned and vulnerable children. Children are sponsored a once-off R1000 per year to cover costs to prevent loss of school time.

Gavin Harrison, a long-time friend and supporter, passes on.

11

Woza Moya adopts the Community Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (C-IMCI) into the HBC Programme. This approach to children's health is developed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The practice promotes an holistic approach to child health.

12

Woza Moya, together with student volunteers, conducts a survey of available water resources in the community. This results in the establishment of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme supported by Oxfam. WASH contributes towards better hygiene and cleaner, safer water for people in the area.

A village chicken project is established, supported by Dr Ed Wethli, a local poultry expert. The project promotes the farming of traditional Zulu chickens to provide a viable, reliable and sustainable agriculture source for local families.



13

The Health Systems Trust health Barometer reveals that HIV prevalence amongst antenatal women in the valley is standing at 37%. The national average is 29%.



14

A Disability Clinic for children is started at Woza Moya.



15

Two WASH demonstration sites are set up, supported by Oxfam. The sites are equipped with waterless environmental toilets and rainwater harvesting systems. Woza Moya workers are trained in good hygiene practices. Low-tech hand washing facilities (like the tippy-tap) are introduced to people in the valley.

A container library is established.

The first Board of Trustees is formed.



17

The Computer Programme is established. The first offering is a 3-month programme for unemployed young people.



18

A mobile clinic is started at Woza Moya, bringing the Department of Health (DOH) facilities to the community of Ufafa.



19

Woza Moya Centre is designated a Central Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) PUP (Pick-up Point).

The Woza Moya ECD Centre is officially registered.



20

The PowerGirls programme is initiated with 48 girls aged 9 – 15.

COVID-19 national lockdown starts on 26 March. The initial lockdown is for 21 days but is extended soon after. During the COVID period the organisation has to adapt to new ways of working with those in need in the community. Most in-person meetings and workshops have to be cancelled or conducted online.



21

KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) flooding has an impact on the work of the organisation.

The KZN unrest takes place in July.

Woza Moya, in partnership with DOH, becomes a COVID-19 Vaccination site. This allows the organisation to continue its support work to the Ufafa community.

The organisation finds itself in Emergency Relief mode. During this period Woza Moya provides relief to over 1000 affected households in the form of food, clothing, blankets and access to social support.

The Good Guys Club is launched.

The student support programme is launched to assist matric students to further their studies.



22

Sue Hedden resigns as Executive Director of Woza Moya and is replaced by Sphehshle Radebe.

A Gender Based Violence (GBV) Awareness Event takes place, where 160 women gather and share ideas about how they could support each other to address GBV.

Every Word Counts, a family literacy training programme, is offered to young mothers.



24

Grace Bekwa, a special person to the organisation passes away.

Woza Moya ECD educators receive NQF level 4 qualifications, achieved over two years. This milestone ensures that the ECD Programme meets the national standards and opens new opportunities for ECD educators.

The Independent Development Corporation (IDC) sponsors laptops for the organisation.

Solar panels are installed across Woza Moya facilities. The initiative provides a reliable and cost effective energy source for the centre.

Woza Moya hosts a local food festival to showcase the best of local produce, as well as to share knowledge on sustainable farming practice.



2025

Woza Moya celebrates its 25 year anniversary with friends, family, colleagues, partners and donors on site in Ixopo.

Work continues as Woza Moya strives to keep making a positive impact on the Ufafa Valley community for many years to come.

A message from THE CHAIRPERSON

Woza Moya has reached a significant milestone of its life. Twenty Five years! 2025 is another year to celebrate its achievements. Achievements that have come through the efforts of many - from the community to staff, the board to donors, and to the friends of the organisation who have given both technical and financial support.

In this message I hope to acknowledge the people who have contributed to making a difference in the Ufafa Valley. While some may be left unmentioned, this is not an indication of their perceived worth, but an oversight on my part. The story of Woza Moya is one of very many people.

It is a point of great joy that the organisation has reached this milestone at a time when it is not fighting for survival, it has not laid off its staff, it has not had to cut salaries. Woza Moya has stood the test of time, managing to thrive in a time when few organisations are still breathing. Woza Moya is in a healthy state. The resource mobilisation efforts made by the Director and his team have paid dividends for the organisation.

Special thanks to Sue Hedden who, 25 years ago, had a vision about the Ufafa Valley community. Alongside her were two special women of the soil, Jane and Bene. They embraced the vision and steadily journeyed together since 2000 to ensure that Woza Moya became the torch that gives light to the children and youth of this community. The solid foundation they laid became the building blocks for the locally raised young man, Sphesihle, who has shown his own brand of strength and fortitude. Sue has left an indelible mark for the entire Woza Moya community. On behalf of the entire board, I salute Sue!

Last year the Department of Social Development (DSD) reported 295 052 registered NPOs, of which 167,000 were non-compliant and, as a result, have been deregistered. This is not good news for the most vulnerable - youth and children. Lack of funding is one of the major contributors to the above. As such, the support from our donors has been critical to the comprehensive interventions made in Woza Moya for the past 25 years. Our donors have been the oxygen that has kept Woza Moya breathing since its birth.

The survival and sustainability of our organisation is attributable to many factors. In addition to those mentioned above is the composition of the board. Sue left the organisation having assembled a formidable squad armed with rich experience, skills and knowledge of the sector. All members of the board have given everything they have to ensure that the organisation stood firm even when the socio-political climate was not friendly. Its diversity is a true reflection of South Africa post -1994 and they add a richness to the organisation that is beyond question. The team has contributed immensely to the sustainability of the organisation by giving strategic support and direction, keeping it in line with its vision and objectives.

We cannot forget the role played by Jovita da Silva, who has always ensured adherence to the policies when financial decisions had to be made. A weak finance department in any entity compromises its health and its potential to thrive. Like Sue, Jovita has successfully passed the baton to Nomzi Cenga, our

new treasurer. Nomzi has brought in a different experience and easily adapted from a corporate environment to the NGO sector. She was quick to learn, and we can safely say that in one year she is cruising along nicely. Like Jovita, her financial decisions are always informed by the organisational policies and by her colleagues in the board.

A common trait of the people mentioned is humility. This is the value that they have demonstrated throughout the life of the organisation. It is an open secret, therefore, what we need to do to ensure that we build on the successes made in the years gone by.

Mxolisi Nyuswa

A message from **THE DIRECTOR**

It is an honour and privilege to celebrate 25 years of Woza Moya. Since our inception, Woza Moya has remained steadfast in its mission to empower vulnerable individuals, support children, and equip young people with the skills and opportunities they need to thrive.

Over the past quarter-century, countless stories of hope, courage and community resilience have unfolded through our programmes. From providing home-based care and education support to advancing youth skills development and sustainable livelihoods, our work has been made possible by the unwavering commitment of our staff, board, community advisory, volunteers and partners. Each milestone we celebrate is a testament to the shared vision and collective effort that drives our organisation forward.

This 25th-anniversary publication is a reflection of our journey highlighting our achievements, learning experiences and the meaningful impact we have created together. As we honour our past, we also look to the future with renewed determination to expand our reach, innovate our programmes, and continue transforming lives with compassion, dedication and integrity.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has walked this path with us. Your support, trust and belief in our mission have made Woza Moya's journey possible. Together, we celebrate not only 25 years of service but the promise of continued hope and opportunity for generations to come.

Sphesihle Radebe



I REFLECTIONS

Our interactions with people shape us and shift something within us. I am deeply honoured and thankful to have been asked to undertake this task. It is a privilege to have spoken to all the people I spoke with: Woza Moya staff, beneficiaries, Board Members and Supporters.

I was joined in my conversations at Woza Moya by Thulisile Mtolo (Thuli) who supported me with translations. Thuli is the Self-Help Groups Coordinator and she is not just an amazing translator. Her knowledge and understanding of Woza Moya and the people around her helped make this process seamless. She would clarify issues before I even asked, knowing intuitively what needed more elucidation or whose story needed more background. She knew the people and the programmes and filled in many gaps. The focus group discussions felt like there was no barrier and we were all speaking the language of love. Thank you, sis Thuli, for the role you played in this journey.

In every conversation there were moments that stood out for me and I hope that I have done some justice to them in this publication.

One of the questions I asked of everyone is: “What is the story of Woza Moya you want to tell?”. They are captured in different ways throughout the publication. I’ll start with this one though, because it captures the essence of Woza Moya.

At the core of Woza Moya is this nurturing role - it nurtures and feeds the community of the Ufafa Valley and all who cross its path.

Nutrition has been important in the work of Woza Moya and one of the things I was struck by was how, when virtually anybody comes to Woza Moya, they get a meal. And I thought that was such a great thing. And while, maybe it’s not directly about HIV or health, it’s just so fundamental. You see the poverty and the challenging environment people are in...and I just think it is wonderful there’s a kitchen there, and everybody gets some food when they come through. It’s a way of helping the community.

James Siswick. Starfish Greathearts Foundation. UK.

I spoke to Sphesihle Radebe, the Director of Woza Moya. Sphesihle had big shoes to fill when founding Director Sue Hedden left, with fears that funding would dry up and funders would leave. But Woza Moya’s main funders are more than donors; they are friends. And Sphesihle has proven himself to be up to the task of building on the work began by those who walked before him.

My visit to Woza Moya started with a discussion with all the staff together, reflecting on the key moments in their history, and although this is not meant to be a history of Woza Moya, it does capture key moments through the eyes of staff

and all those encountered on the journey. The interaction with staff was great fun, with people shouting out and sharing their memories along the way, including the first Christmas party! Thembi (Woza Moya's Marketing and Communications Officer) kept shouting out very specific dates until someone pointed out that she was cheating — checking on her laptop — and not using her memory as everyone else was! It was all in fun, and what was important about this interaction was the palpable love and commitment to this organisation shared by those gathered around. I think it's important to walk down memory lane from time to time and honour the journey to this moment.

I got to speak to the advisory committee and what struck me is that they are all from the Ufafa Valley. They include Philane Ngcobo, who shared that he is beneficiary, advisor and supporter of Woza Moya; Silindile Nxasana, a social worker who works closely with Mam Nxasana (Jane) helping people accept and respond to their HIV status; Community Caregiver for the Department of Health, Nosihle Shabalala, who has been attending Woza Moya's Wellness Days or Support Groups for years and plays a similar role in the community as the team does; and Nondumiso Mchunu, who shared how important her partnership with Woza Moya has been and how they have assisted her with her ECD centre.

In my discussion with Woza Moya's Management Committee they shared how they work together, their hopes and dreams, their fears, and some of the challenges they face. Then it was time to meet with focus groups.

All the work in the past and today emanates from the work of the CCGs. Here I spoke with Silindile Mjwara, Bonakele Mchunu, Dumisile Mbanjwa, Thembelihle Hlongwa, Bongwiwe Mhlongo, Thembelihle Nkandi, Malindi Mchunu, Lindiwe Sosibo, Nozipho Ngcobo and Zodwa Mchunu.

WE CALL IT THE WARM MAMA HEART, AND THAT IS SOMETHING THAT ALWAYS STANDS OUT IN THE VISITS. WHEN WE INTRODUCE PEOPLE IN THE NETHERLANDS TO WOZA MOYA, PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK WHAT MAKES THEM UNIQUE, AND FOR US, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKES THEM UNIQUE IS THAT THE FIRST THING WE EXPERIENCE WHEN WE DO PROJECT VISITS IS WE ENTER THE BIG OFFICE SPACE, WE TAKE OFF OUR SHOES, AND WE ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN IN THE CIRCLE, WHERE ALL THE STAFF MEMBERS STAND IN A BIG CIRCLE IN THEIR SOCKS OR BARE FEET AND CHECK-IN WITH ONE ANOTHER.

MARITA PRUIJSER
KINDERFONDS MAMAS

The Sustainable Livelihoods team, Bonisile Mdladla, Nelisiwe Ximba, Lungile Shelembe and Star Ndlovu, led by Thulisile Mtolo, reflected on their origins, which was in finding ways for people to make some income towards alleviating poverty. Their story is about supporting those made vulnerable by their sex, their race and their class. Jovita da Silva, who recently resigned from the Board of Trustees, has been supporting the Crafters and Woza Moya since their beginnings, and shares her thoughts too.

The soft-spoken ECD workers Zandile Ngubane (ECD Coordinator) Vuyiswa Bekwa, Fikelephi Zuma, Ncami Shabalala, Phindile Mazeka and Mandisa Hlangu (cook and cleaner) shared their sentiments about the importance of their work and how much they love the children under their care. If only there were centres like this throughout South Africa.

The young people of Woza Moya shared the many ways they try to make a difference for other young people in the Ufafa valley. They spoke about the creative arts work, the after-school programme and of course, the PowerGirls and Good Guys clubs.

The beneficiaries and supporters of Woza Moya told stories of resilience and of how central Woza Moya is to them. They spoke about their door-sized gardens, the R2 Club (and how just putting away R2 can have such an incredible impact) and how getting involved in craft-making changed their lives.

I had the privilege of speaking to three Board members, including the chairperson, Mxolisi Nyuswa, Yasmin Rajah and Warren Banks as well as ex-chairperson, Bongjiwe Ndlovu, who is herself from the Ufafa Valley. I am struck by how much the Board members (past and present) love and respect this organisation and the people in it. Their commitment to Woza Moya is evident, and their role in its continued success vital.

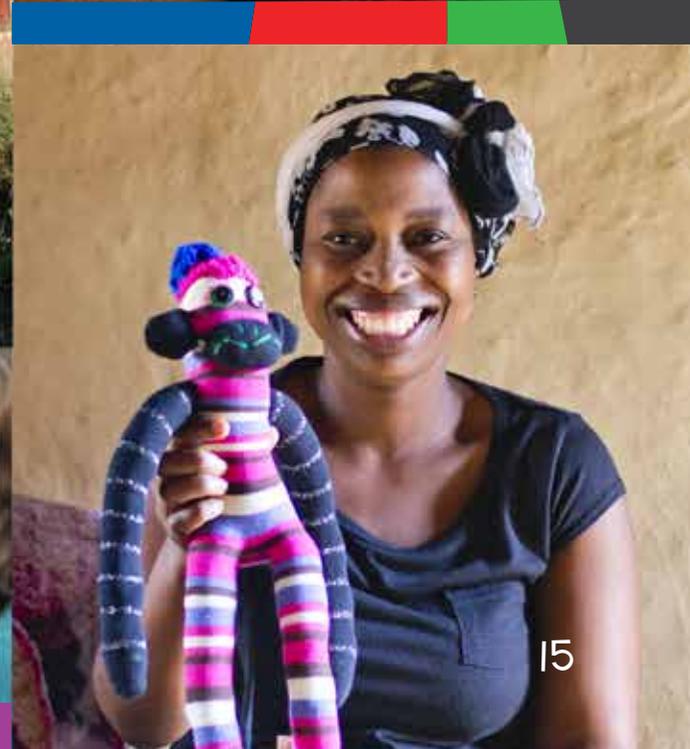
I had discussions with three of Woza Moya's 'children': Nhlonipho Tumelo Bekwa, Philile Zuma and Thembelephi Chiliza are proof of concept as their journeys are inextricably interwoven with the story of Woza Moya, each a product of the organisation in some way and each of them trying to make a better life for themselves in the hopes that they might one day come back to this community and give back.

One of the stories of Woza Moya is that it sees a need and tries to respond in a meaningful way. Two very special discussions took place with Nolwazi Ndlovu, a mother of a child with a disability, and Magdel Hounsom, Woza Moya's Occupational Therapist (OT). In this little remote village in a valley they are finding ways to respond to the needs of people and families living with disability. What a lesson in love for others! How many people can claim that their family members or community members have access to an OT specialist. The Woza Moya community does. And it is having a profound impact.

I spoke with some very special supporters of Woza Moya: Elinor Middleton and James Siswick of Starfish; Kathy Cook of the South Coast Foundation in the USA, Catherine Anderson who is an ardent fan and supports Woza Moya in whatever way she can; and Marita Pruijser, from Kinderfonds MAMAS. I also had a very brief discussion with Charmaine Pagels, who volunteers art classes; and a long one with Jovita da Silva who has been supporting Woza Moya for many years, as treasurer and as confidante and co-facilitator of the craft work.

Finally, I got to speak to the three founding members. Sue Hedden, Jane Nxasana, and Benedicta Memela, separately and together. Three strong and kind women who showed up for their community in a time of desperate need. On this simple commitment to supporting a community being ravaged by HIV and AIDS and poverty, Woza Moya was born.

Woza Moya's story is about hope and courage; it's about women taking centre stage in the healing and nurturing of a community; it's about love and respect; and it's about a beautiful wind that blows through the Ufafa Valley.



2

BEGINNINGS

Woza Moya emerged, physically, from a small room at the Buddhist Retreat Centre (BRC). Spiritually, it was born in response to the devastation being caused by HIV and AIDS in the Ufafa Valley.

At the time, at the BRC, were two Buddhist teachers, Kiittisaro and Thanissara. K&T, as they became affectionately known, will always be remembered for the key role they played in the early days, giving moral support and raising financial aid.

The journey starts, though, with Sue Hedden, whose compassion and concern led to the founding of Woza Moya together with Jane Nxasana and Benedicta Memela. Sue is a traveller and explorer. With foundations in Buddhism, she escaped to the BRC from the “hecticness of a teaching job” which no longer satisfied her emotionally, and applied to be a cook and housekeeper at the Buddhist retreat centre. “My family thought it was hilarious,” she laughs, “because all I could make was coffee and toast.”

As a cook and housekeeper, Sue found that there were major language barriers, with staff not being able to speak or understand English and expressing an interest in learning the language. She offered to run English language classes and asked friends to support her with donations of adult literacy books.

Adult basic education principles suggest that one begins with where people are and so Sue began with hearing people’s stories. It was through these stories that she became aware of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the community of Ufafa. “The course was structured so that people would share their stories. This is how I came to hear how every single one of them had family members dying, and I was so shocked. Also, the reasons they were giving for people dying were associated with various myths around HIV, witchcraft being one of them”, Sue shares.

Compassion is one of the main pillars of Buddhism and Sue knew she would have allies in Kiittisaro and Thanissara, who were also shocked and horrified to hear the extent of the devastation of HIV and AIDS on the people of Ufafa. They set about trying to build support from the Buddhist community in their home countries, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In 2000, South Africa faced a severe HIV/AIDS crisis, with an estimated 4.2 million people infected and AIDS accounting for about 25% of all deaths.¹ With little experience in this field, Sue turned to Debbie Mathews, at the time the Director of the AIDS foundation of South Africa (AFSA). Debbie gave her an important piece of advice. Whatever happens, however you respond, it must come from community. It has to be their voice. And where to start is to identify key community stakeholders and leaders.

With the help of BRC staff, Sue compiled a list of community stakeholders and invited them to what would be the first meeting at the BRC. Jane Nxasana, one of the other founding members, recalls attending this meeting although she and Sue didn't officially meet until later.

At the end of this meeting, Sue approached the Induna (Chief's Headman) and some of the community members present and asked if they would call a community meeting where more of the general population could attend. The first major community meeting took place at Ubuchwepheshe Skills Development Centre in the valley. It is here where Sue, Jane and Benedicta Memela met officially for the first time.

Before the meeting, Sue asked Debbie if she knew of a Zulu-speaking person who was HIV positive and open to talking to people and on Debbie's recommendation, Sue contacted Jabu Molefe. Jabu was a courageous woman. At a time when people were being killed for disclosing their HIV status, people such as HIV activist, Gugu Dlamini, who was stoned and stabbed to death in 1998, Jabu was willing to testify and had started one of the first HIV support groups for Zulu-speaking people. Sue met with Jabu and invited her to speak at the meeting, explaining that she had no idea what to expect and how people might respond but that she needed someone to address the meeting and talk about HIV and AIDS.

1. <https://www.google.com/search?q=hiv+in+south+africa+in+2000>

AT THAT TIME I DIDN'T
EVEN THINK THIS WAS AN
ORGANISATION OR WOULD
BECOME ONE. WE WERE
JUST HELPING PEOPLE,
WE WERE JUST GAINING
KNOWLEDGE SO THAT WE
COULD SHARE IT; WE JUST
WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE
IN OUR COMMUNITY.

JANE NXASANA

COMMUNITY HEALTH MANAGER
WOZA MOYA

Jabu agreed to address a hall full of strangers who were living in fear of this mysterious killer. Hundreds of people attended this first meeting. They were desperate, anxious and curious. Sue introduced the Induna to Jabu before the meeting and he was astounded when she said she was HIV positive. He agreed that it was a good idea that she address the gathering. He played his part by speaking first, sharing that there was a problem, that they needed to talk about it, and that they needed to decide what they should do next.

“Jabu looked very healthy. I mean she was quite plump and when she started talking about herself being HIV positive you could have heard a pin drop. There were hundreds of people there and there was just deathly silence. And then people started mumbling and rumbling and you could see they were all getting very upset. Then someone shouted, ‘You’re lying! Look at you. You’re fat. You’re talking rubbish’. The meeting started to get quite angry”, recalls Sue.

But the Induna handled the meeting and managed the crowd, asking them to listen to what Jabu had to say. After the meeting, many people came to talk to Jabu, jostling to have one-on-one conversations with her. Sue recalls Jane and Benedicta standing slightly apart, saying nothing, but listening and observing. When it quietened down, Jane came forward and introduced herself and Benedicta. They said they wanted to be part of this; that they were tired of seeing their people dying. They wanted to be part of the first volunteers to help their community.

At the time Jane was a volunteer for the Department of Health and, Benedicta says, she was, “just a housewife, sitting at home.” All three were inspired by Jabu’s bravery and the fact that she was healthy despite being HIV positive. Jane says, “At that time I didn’t even think this was an organisation or would become one. We were just helping people, we were just gaining knowledge so that we could share it; we just wanted to help people in our community”.

Little did they know this was the beginnings of Woza Moya. It started with 15 Community Careworkers (CCW — later named Community Caregivers or CCGs), including Benedicta and Jane; and Sue. There was no income, just a commitment to helping alleviate the suffering caused by HIV and AIDS.

Benedicta recalls: “I started as a community caregiver and we were going around visiting families and educating them about HIV. It was difficult because people were not open about their statuses and were afraid because HIV was a killer. But we did what we could, educating people and sharing what we knew until ARVs came. And even then, some took them and others were afraid of them. We just had to do our duty and advise and counsel them.”

Benedicta went on to become the Food Security Manager and is now the Finance Manager for Woza Moya. Jane, as the Manager of the Community Health Programme, continues to do community care work and is an indispensable part of Woza Moya’s outreach.

The founder members had no idea, when they set out, that they were about to establish an organisation that would become central to the HIV response and an integral part of the community. It was history in the making, and it was just the beginning of the exhilarating, sometimes frustrating and always deeply meaningful journey of Woza Moya, this beautiful wind that blows through the Ufafa Valley.



3

Laying Foundations:

THE CAREGIVERS OF WOZA MOYA

3600⁺

Home visits have been carried out by Community Care Givers annually.

60

Children living with HIV and AIDS have been reached.

300⁺

Clients have received regular HBC services.

42

Children living with disabilities have received care and guidance from the Occupational Therapist (OT).

340

People have been reached through wellness days.



For the first year no one earned a cent, working every day to strategise, organise and visit people in the valley. Woza Moya's first 15 Community Caregivers (CCGs) began home visits, providing comfort and support to the sick.

Kiittisaro and Thanissara offered Sue their house at the BRC and it soon became the office, where Sue, Benedicta and Jane met regularly to plan, strategise and report back. BRC's studio became a place for training and workshops.

Debbie Mathews continued her role as ally and advisor and Sue leaned on her for information and advice and reported back to her team mates.

In 2001 Woza Moya was registered as a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) and received its first Grant from AFSA. The Management Committee was formed and held quarterly meetings. Various workshops and training sessions were conducted for all team members, including on Home-based Care. CCGs could now receive a stipend and although it was small, it went a long way towards acknowledging their hard work and commitment.

There was still a stigma attached to HIV and the caregivers were known for their red t-shirts. Those red t-shirts caused unhappiness for some, who didn't want to have them seen entering their homes for fear of neighbours flagging them as being an HIV household. At the time there were no medicines and so the caregivers' duty was around care and recommending healthy eating and vitamins.

When ARVs finally became available there were still barriers to overcome. Some people started treatment at a very late stage and succumbed to the illness because of this, leading to many believing that the treatment was the killer.

I WOULD SAY THAT THE BENEFIT WE RECEIVE IS WE FEEL NURTURED BY THEM. AND SO IT IS A PLEASURE. IN FACT, IT IS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR TO BE ABLE TO RAISE ANY MONEY AND GIVE IT TO THEM. BECAUSE THEY GIVE SO MUCH, WE ARE PROBABLY NOT EVEN REALIZING IT.

KATHY COOK

SOUTH COAST FOUNDATION
LONG-TIME FRIEND AND SUPPORTER

However, as the sick began to look healthier, people slowly came around, changing their attitudes. “There were those who allowed us to enter their homes, and gradually the neighbours began to see the change taking place, that people were getting better. And so the word spread, and attitudes slowly shifted. Because even though people still died, it was not like it was before.”

Brave Jane tested positive for HIV in 2005. It was a great shock to her but because of her own experience and the knowledge she had gained through her work as a caregiver, she accepted her status and openly shared it with others. Jane was very relieved to find that she was able to protect her last born child, with whom she was pregnant, from contracting HIV.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMME

The Community Health Care Programme has grown since those early days and, through a team of well-trained Community Care Givers (CCGs), the most vulnerable families are identified and given the support they need. The CCGs identify the primary caregiver in the home, and then work with that person to share skills and information to help them support their family. The CCGs provide ongoing support and advice.

The CCGs receive extensive training to equip them to provide primary health care and counselling to the community. Monthly Wellness Days are a highlight for many and serve people living with HIV, guardians and primary caregivers, and are held in four outlying hubs of the Ufafa Valley community.

CCGs are all local villagers. They are given shoes, uniforms, basic medical supplies and taxi fares, and receive a stipend which enables them to visit approximately 30 families each - in total some 1 140 families - a month. They are monitored to ensure services are professional and standards maintained. Jane supports them and is responsible for distributing supplies such as condoms, adult diapers, rubber gloves and basic medicines.

All CCGs are required to report and Jane collates their monthly Home Visit Sheets, submitting home-based care statistics to the local clinic in town. Woza Moya data capturers capture the data and from that information accurate reports can be drawn. This is useful for reporting to donors as well as for managing the programme.

In a discussion with the CCGs, they shared that these are some of their responsibilities:

- conducting home visits to check how people are doing emotionally, what they need and if they have any grievances, which they then take to Woza Moya;
- encouraging community members to go to clinics for check-ups and to take their chronic medicines;
- encouraging people to eat healthily in order to combat illness;
- in some cases taking medication to clients;
- encouraging people to create door-sized gardens.

There was a patient I visited who couldn't walk and their house was far from the road. I communicated with the organisation called MATCH² (Maternal, Adolescent and Child Health), who works with the Department of Health Clinic, to support people who default on the medication, and asked them to come to see the patient. The Clinic allowed MATCH to go to the home and support the patient. This was a highlight for me because who knows what would have happened to them otherwise.

- checking on newborns' road-to-health charts to ensure they are up-to-date with their immunisations;
- building trust between CCGs and the household member so that the person feels safe;
- identifying people living with disabilities and referring them to the Woza Moya OT;

2. Maternal, Adolescent and Child Health Institute

- counselling the parents of children living with disabilities, who are often very sensitive about the fact that their child is unable to do things other children can do;
- offering counselling on a range of issues such as the one shared below;
- looking out for signs of abuse or neglect, both physical and emotional.
- helping families care for sick family members, including teaching them how to take care of, for example, a stroke victim.
- referring families to the Woza Moya Paralegal if they find they do not have birth certificates or other documentation they need.

On my visits I found two children who were not going to school because they didn't have birth certificates, resulting in the school suspending them. I brought this matter to the attention of the Paralegal at Woza Moya who went to the school principal to speak on their behalf. In the meanwhile he helped the family to apply for birth certificates. The school took the children back and it felt good to know that I had helped the family.

- hosting Wellness Days for all the workers at Woza Moya.
- submitting reports monthly.

This work is not for the faint-hearted and can be emotionally taxing: *Many young girls have babies and then leave them with their grandmothers who have to use their pensions to feed an entire household. The young girls receive a grant for every child they have but run off with the money leaving grandmothers to take all the responsibility, including feeding, school costs and other needs. Sometimes this leads to children not receiving their immunisations, putting them at risk of contracting preventable illnesses.*

But there are also funny moments:

Oh my goodness, the dogs! You'll come to a house and you see a vicious-looking dog. But you are meant to be doing a visit, so you shout before entering. And the children are playing outside and they say to you, "don't worry, it doesn't bite. So you cautiously enter...and the next thing, you are running for your life out of the yard. When you stop to catch your breath you look back and the children are having a good laugh! Perhaps they just wanted to see that you could run.

Not all the stories can be laughed off, though. Sometimes there are extreme cases such as the one below:

The caregivers came to one home to find a little 6-month old with signs of severe abuse. The baby lived with his mother and step-father, who were beating the baby. The CCG found the baby with wounds that indicated it was being beaten with a stick. The baby's growth was being stunted. The CCG reported this to Jane who called the social worker to ensure the child was taken to a safe space. The mother was subsequently charged with child abuse.

There are positive stories too:

We were trained to counsel around foetal alcohol syndrome which affects babies whose mothers abuse alcohol while pregnant. After I underwent this training I began to teach mothers about this danger. I am so happy to share that I've noticed a big change amongst the young mothers and that the cases of foetal alcohol syndrome are declining where I work.

Doctor Bongwiwe Ndlovu, the previous Chairperson of the Board of Trustees shares her reflections on what Woza Moya means in this community: *For me, the major highlight is the health care. When I think back to the early 2000s when I was still in high school and how people were dying and those people would say in the community, "oh, they are dying because of witchcraft" and how well informed they are now; how well informed in information, in understanding the different diseases, and even in access to health care. I think it is an amazing story.*



THE MOBILE CLINIC

In the early days of ARVs people had to go to clinics for their treatments. Realising that many people were defaulting either because they were too sick to go to the clinics or could not afford the fare to get there, Woza Moya lobbied government to have a mobile clinic stationed at Woza Moya once a month. Nowadays, instead of having to travel to the nearest town to get their medicines, people can simply walk to Woza Moya for them.

Woza Moya works in partnership with the local Department of Health (DoH) and runs health campaigns such as for child health and immunisation.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Sabani Shelembe and Kwenzekile Priska Ngcobo, two members of the first Support Groups, reflect on their journey with Woza Moya.

I discovered I was HIV positive in 2007. I was invited into a support group, the first ever at Woza Moya. It consisted of only five people and the space felt safe. I started my medication and then stopped. Woza Moya didn't give up on me and in a follow-up visit, the CCG spoke to me about the dangers of defaulting. The persistent follow up made me adhere to my treatment.

Sabani Shelembe

I have known Woza Moya since 2006 when I found I was HIV positive and joined the support group, gathering in Sabani Shelembe's house. I was also defaulting but they did follow-ups and didn't give up on me. They showed me examples of people who were living and doing well because of the ARVs. Being in the support group helps because you get to share with others and we learn many different things.

Priscilla Ngcobo

Woza Moya would supplement the ARVs they received with vitamins and would encourage people to eat healthy foods that could boost their immune systems. The community members would gossip about them being HIV positive and at one stage, Sabani decided she had had enough. She wanted to disclose to her community. So, when her relative was next going to the hospital, she took her card, and ran after her, shouting, "Aunty, please take this card and collect my HIV medicine for me". People asked her why she had to shout and she told them: "It's because I wanted you all to know."

Sabani and Priska share that it was as if the two of them had planned it, because at the next Support Group, they both stood up and disclosed their status.

Both women share openly about their status and in that way encourage others to be unafraid. They also counsel friends who they can see are concerned about their status or who present with symptoms associated with HIV. Both feel very thankful that they have had the support of Woza Moya to help them navigate their HIV status.

LOOKING OUT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

Through the CCGs all manner of social problems are unearthed. One of the issues Woza Moya is trying to address is disability.

Nolwazi's son was born in April and her Aunt (who she lives with) gave birth to her baby in August of the same year. As the babies grew she began to notice the stark difference between them and realised her child was not growing as he should have been. Woza Moya referred her to the OT specialist they had been working with at the time, based in Creighton, a town nearby. Jane took her and her son monthly for appointments.

According to Nolwazi, her baby's body was stiff and the specialist showed her exercises and massage techniques she could use. Earlier this year, Woza Moya appointed a local OT specialist to join their team (see Mags' story below). Since she joined, Nolwazi has been bringing her son to Mags for therapy.

Nolwazi is very protective of her son and the therapy has focussed on showing her how to help him become more independent. The massage techniques help with making his muscles stronger. She has been taught how to help him learn to undress himself and communicate his needs through sounds and signing.

Her son is now twelve-years-old but does not go to school as there are no specialised schools nearby. Nolwazi is his full-time carer, relying on the disability grant she receives from government. Mags has also helped her with referrals to specialists such as a physiotherapist at the hospital in nearby town, Ixopo.

Nolwazi shares, "Woza Moya has helped many people, but for me, as a mother of a child with a disability, I cannot imagine what I would do without them. In the community, many believe that a child with a disability is meant to be left as they are, with a poor quality of life; that nothing can be done for them. Hospital visits, or even taxi rides, can be very unpleasant because of the discrimination experienced. If you try to get on a taxi with a wheelchair, people complain. But now, we can come here".

Her child now communicates with her and can tell her what he wants, which makes her very happy.

Nolwazi would love for her child to attend a skills centre, specialised spaces where people with disabilities and special needs can learn skills to generate income. However, she is reluctant for him to be away from her as they are very close. Instead, she is exploring activities such as knitting and handwork because he likes using his fingers.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT WOZA MOYA

Magdel Hounsom (Mags) says her heart has always been with the more rural side of South Africa. After studying at Stellenbosch University, she had to do community service. She was adamant that it would be in KwaZulu-Natal and she was placed in Harding, a small town in the South of KZN. She loved her work and ended up helping an organisation called Singakwenza, who works closely with many ECD centres, to set up their OT programmes.

When she moved to Ixopo, Ufafa's "town centre", where her husband was appointed as the headmaster, Mags threw herself into volunteer work at the school. In August last year (2024) she received a call from Sphesihle to say they were looking to employ an occupational therapist. He explained that they were in desperate need of supporting the disabled community more and needed someone to spearhead the programme. Although she cannot work fulltime, she has joined the Woza Moya team and has started a programme at the centre. Since she started she has organised a workshop with all the CCGs and ECD practitioners so they know how to support a family that needs to come to the clinic. CCG Supervisor Dumisile Mbanjwa, mentioned earlier, is tasked with identifying families with members living with disability and reporting back monthly. The clinic has been running monthly. Woza Moya identifies the families, keeps records and lists of them, provides transport for them on the day, and offers meals to every family who comes in.

Mags' approach is practical and she wants to use inexpensive resources that are readily available to people. She is building relationships with the local hospital, therapists, psychologists and a private General Practitioner, who often picks the children up at no cost.

She is also reaching out to charities that have similar goals and interests or who can assist in any way (for example, recently the Sarnia Roundtable donated a pair of hearing aids for a child who has been sitting in a classroom with severe hearing loss) and optometrists have offered free eye testing, and spectacles will soon be dropped off for two learners.

Mags starts with seeing the family and establishing a comprehensive history, including what interventions have been used up to now as well as the medical history and the family's greatest hopes for their child. They also have a neurological assessment done.

The need is overwhelming and Mags shares that, "My biggest personal challenge at the moment is to do what I can with what I have in front of me; not to feel too overwhelmed by the vastness of this".

"Many of them are teenagers now with the most wonderful, caring mothers who just adore them and want to keep them at home, but they need stimulation. All these moms have come to me and said, 'We want to teach our children skills. We want to upskill them. They need to be included in a skills group, in a protected work environment'. And those are the immediate needs right now".

Woza Moya will be starting a support group for the mothers, a space where they can share and learn. Mags plans to offer one life-skill every month, with mother and child together, that they can then practice and implement for that month (or longer, if need be).

Mags shares a story of a little boy who was brought to the clinic at the beginning of the year. He showed no emotion and Mags learnt that his mother had died at the age of 15 from a drug overdose. The little boy was found under a bridge on his own and was put into foster care. His foster mother brought him to the clinic and told Mags that he had only started talking at age four.

"I was so worried about this child because I thought, this child is completely depressed. And here I just want to acknowledge Thuli who translates for me. She is just so amazing. She has the most empathetic, intuitive way with the parents. I don't know what I would do without her."

They began supporting the foster mother. At the time she was receiving a normal child-support grant. They wrote to the Department of Social Development (DSD) motivating for her to receive a full dependency grant, which she now receives, and which means an extra R2000 per month.

Mags started with a simple screening that she has developed to determine school readiness. And she would do basic activities that the foster mother could watch and learn from. "It was about pointing the two of them towards each other", she says simply. The little boy slowly came out of his shell and the relationship between the mother and child strengthened.

He is now in a grade one and has recently been discharged from the clinic. There are other such stories that have emerged and the clinic is giving space for mothers or caregivers to feel heard and supported. "I feel like we've created a safe space where they can just build friendships and share stories while kids are playing outside, making friends instead of being isolated at home".

Woza Moya's work starts and ends with the diligent and hardworking CCGs. All its responses emerge from the CCGs findings because they are in the community daily, hearing what the needs are and listening to and supporting all those they encounter.

4

Sustainable Livelihoods:

TEACHING PEOPLE TO FISH

1827

People have been reached.

370

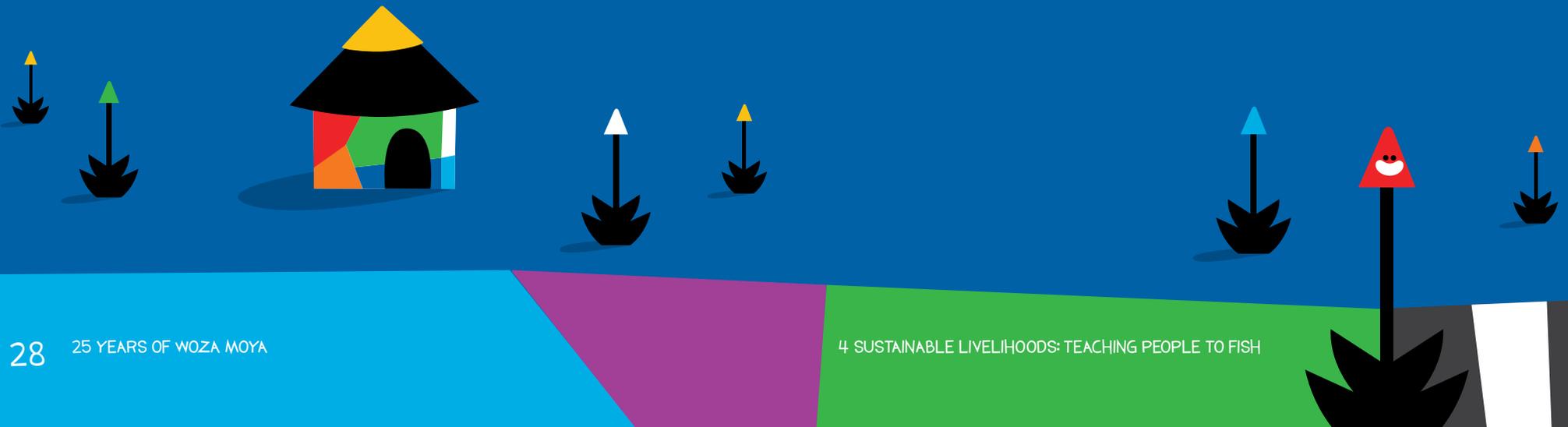
home gardens have been created.

9

Community gardens have been cultivated.

9

Self-Help Groups with 20 Members per group have been initiated.



Food security became an obvious need for many women living with HIV throughout South Africa. What is now the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme was born out of this wish to support women to make some income so that they in turn could support themselves and their families; so that they could have some level of independence.

This programme started off with crafting and has expanded to include a self-help savings and a food and nutrition project. Self-Help Group Coordinator, Thuli, explains:

Our objectives within this programme are to empower the women in the community to be more independent financially. We recruit from the most vulnerable parts of the community. Only women who are not working and not receiving an income are eligible to be a part of it.

Thuli is responsible for the smooth running of the programme, which includes ensuring reports are done and submitted to Woza Moya Management, assisting the facilitators if they face challenges, providing training that is needed, and supporting the women to keep their own records. Women who were once illiterate and innumerate are now able to manage their own books and keep accurate records due to the work of this programme.

CRAFTS

The Ufafa Valley crafters are local women identified by CCGs as being in urgent need of income. The project started in 2007 in direct response to HIV and people defaulting on their ARVs. Woza Moya provides ongoing training and support to enable these women to create beautiful craft products.

I WAS TOLD BY BENEDICTA
AND JANE WHEN I CAME HERE
THAT HERE AT WOZA MOYA
WE DON'T GO TO THE RIVER
AND FISH FOR THE PEOPLE
WE TEACH PEOPLE TO FISH.
SO YES, WE DON'T DO THINGS
FOR THEM JUST TO BE
SUSTAINABLE, WE NEED TO
TEACH THEM TO DO THINGS
FOR THEMSELVES.

THULISILE (THULI) MTOLO
SELF-HELP GROUP COORDINATOR
WOZA MOYA

Star Ndlovu is one of the first crafters and joined Woza Moya in 2004. Before this, she was a seamstress trying to make ends meet by sewing uniforms for primary schools. Today, Star is the Craft Coordinator and manages all the crafters. She is responsible for preparing the crafting, taking orders, checking on the materials and ensuring that the orders are completed properly and on time. Once a month, crafters come to the centre to bring the work they've done and to collect their next batch of work.

One of Woza Moya's long-time and most loyal allies is Jovita da Silva who has been supporting Woza Moya since its beginnings. Until recently Woza Moya's treasurer, she has been a lifelong supporter and helps by sharing ideas and, together with Thembi, marketing the products. The sock monkeys are a worldwide phenomenon now.

Catherine Anderson is another important supporter of Woza Moya. South African by birth, Catherine lives in the US and shares: "I'm a craftsperson. I love making things. And sewing was a really important part of my upbringing. I used to do quilting. And so when they started this craft section, it was amazing and the woman were making things that also opened up this whole new world for me, because I know how important it is when you make something to have someone buy it. It's such a confirmation of your ability to do something, to make something beautiful".

Realising the market in South Africa was limited, Catherine would buy from the crafters and take the goods back to the US and sell them on behalf of Woza Moya, thus expanding the market. Catherine runs a programme around labyrinths and the crafters regularly create bags for her labyrinth workshops that she offers throughout the world.

SELF-HELP GROUPS

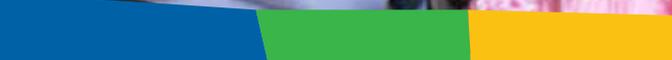
The Self-help groups focus on the most vulnerable women and involve them saving R2 every week. These savings have amounted to up to R60 000 over the years and the women are able to borrow from this in times of crisis or need. The groups meet weekly, follow simple rules, save a small amount weekly, have group leadership on a rotational basis, and book-writers to keep records.

Training and capacity-building is provided to SHG members through community facilitators to improve their self-confidence and self-esteem as well as to enhance their skills. Each SHG sets its own annual action plan, implementing its own activities and projects within the community.

FARMING, FOOD AND NUTRITION

This Programme encourages members to cultivate communal and individual (door-sized) vegetable gardens. Although challenged by water shortages, this project aims to help community members access fresh, nutritious food; develop healthier lifestyles; open themselves to economic opportunities; build community cohesion; invest in environmental sustainability and food security; build their skills and preserve their culture.

The Sustainable Livelihoods Programme highlights Woza Moya's philosophy of empowerment through education and skills development rather than dependency. By teaching women to "fish" rather than simply providing fish, the programme has opened up possibilities of independence that extend far beyond immediate economic relief.



5

Leaving a Legacy:

WOZA MOYA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

4492

Children (Indirect)
have been reached.

17

ECD practitioners have received
NQF level 4 qualification.

1123

Children (Direct)
have been reached.

8

Outlying creches
have been supported.

447

Children have been
fed daily meals.



If Community Caregivers are the foundation, ECD are the legacy builders. The work they do provides young children with the grounding they need to experience life as beautiful and rich with possibility.

Thanks to Gavin Harrison and the Hawaiiin Sangha, and Patricia Shafer of Mothering across Continents, the ECD centre opened its doors to 40 children and three practitioners in October 2009. The group moved into a newly built centre, with all they needed to start off. Today, the ECD centre has five practitioners and a cook who love the work they do and express pride at being the ones who have the privilege of doing it.

With support from ECD experts Linda Stone & Helen Hancock from the neighbouring farming community, who volunteered to set up the Play School and train the practitioners at the time, the ECD centre began its work. Since then, Woza Moya has welcomed up to 60 children a year into their centre.

Once a month the ECD team hosts an ECD Forum meeting at Woza Moya, transporting all the ECD Practitioners in outlying areas to the centre for a full day's programme. When funds allow, Woza Moya works with ECD Consultants in order to continue developing ECD in the Community.

ECD practitioners are proud of the work they do and have a deep love and commitment to the children in their care. Amongst the highlights of their work are:

- Seeing how well adjusted the children in their care are and how they are able to integrate and excel at “big school”.
- Seeing young people who were children at the ECD centre become adults and go on to study at university or college
- Mandisa Hlangu, the cook, says she loves to put a smile on the children's faces through feeding them.
- Knowing that they are giving the children a solid footing to equip them to thrive in the world — they are leaving a legacy of love, self-confidence, and the ability to navigate their way through life.

I WOULD SAY WOZA MOYA IS LIKE THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY. IT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF WHERE THE COMMUNITY WAS AND THE POTENTIAL OF WHAT IT CAN BE. AND THE STORY OF WOZA MOYA IS HOW THEY CAME FROM THE COMMUNITY, WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. AND IN THAT WAY, THEY ARE THE VILLAGE THAT RAISES A CHILD. THEY DO IT TOGETHER, FROM A WARM PLACE. I THINK THAT IS THE CORE OF WOZA MOYA.

MARITA PRUIJSER
KINDERFONDS MAMAS

Nhlonipho Bekwa, grandson of Mrs Grace Bekwa, featured in the special 10-year report, is a “product” of Woza Moya’s ECD centre.

I was three years old when I started at the ECD centre at Woza Moya. I grew up with them. When I started doing my primary schooling, they invited me to the after-school programmes and they opened something called Good Guys which grooms young boys like us. I am an adult now, and I was brought up by Woza Moya. The story of Woza Moya has a lot of good memories.

Nhlonipho is now studying at the Durban University of Technology in his second year of a Diploma in Management Accounting. Here too, Woza Moya has assisted Nhlonipho and other young people doing their tertiary studies by supporting them with a stipend of R1500 for three months to tide them over while they await their government-subsidised funding.

Even now that I'm doing my second year, Woza Moya still welcomes me. It's like they still take me as a young child of theirs, that was produced by them.

Woza Moya’s commitment to bringing ECD to the communities in Ufafa extends beyond its own little centre at “home” and through their outreach programme they have supported other ECD centres in the nearby community. One of these is owned by Community Advisory Council member, Nondumiso Mchunu.

I started my creche in 2016 because there were so many parents who needed a safe place for their children to stay during the day when they were working. I was passionate about my creche, but I didn't know anything about how to run it properly. I came here to Woza Moya and that's how they got to know about me and they thought they could build a partnership with me.

When I started my ECD, we just had a small brick house, and we were using bricks as chairs. Woza Moya brought us chairs and tables, and things began to change for us.

Then last year they built us a beautiful house. And they gave us toys and games that we could play with the children. We also went for ECD training, and have graduated.

What I have observed is that Woza Moya does not discriminate. They take everyone. HIV positive, disabled, elderly, youth, infants. Here you are equal.

James Siswick at the time a trustee of Starfish, visited Woza Moya in 2023 and spent a week working with them. He went to see this very creche: *We visited about five different creches. One of the things that really struck me was this one creche that had this tiny building that had been built by the principal herself, with her own hands. It was built out of blocks and corrugated iron. And even though they had such limited facilities, she and the children were making the most of it. It was so necessary that this facility existed, and that the children had somewhere to go, and they were being looked after, and they were being mentored. It was very austere, but I was just so pleased that they were there.*

James was so inspired by the creche that when he went back home, he motivated to his fellow trustees that what they could do to support Woza Moya would be to help rebuild some of these centres. Since James’ visit and with the support of Starfish, two centres, including Nondumiso’s, have been rebuilt.

Woza Moya's Early Childhood Development Programme is an indispensable component of Woza Moya’s offering to the community of Ufafa. It embodies the organisation's understanding of sustainable community transformation - that lasting change begins with the youngest members of society. By investing in children during their early years, the programme is investing in the future of the Ufafa Valley, one child at a time.



6

Woza Moya's future:

THE YOUNG PEOPLE

1060

Youth have been reached during sport and talent shows.

500

Youth have been reached in local schools.

150

Children and youth have attended art classes.

120

Afterschool children.

90

Youth have been assisted to enroll in higher learning institutions.

48

Power Girls.

45

Good Guys.



THEMBI'S STORY

Thembelephi Chiliza (Thembi), has come a long, long way. Her story, which she willingly tells, is quite incredible.

Born to abusive parents, as a child Thembi was not allowed to play with other children or to just be a child. She had to come home and do chores such as cooking, cleaning and helping her younger siblings with homework. Thembi was regularly beaten from the age of three.

When Thembi entered young adulthood and had her first period, she had no sanitary pads nor anyone to advise her. It was at this time the Woza Moya CCGs came to visit and witnessed what was happening in the household. The CCGs sought a sponsor, who kindly supported with food parcels and cosmetics monthly, as well as school uniforms.

When Thembi started grade 9, her sponsor enrolled her at what was considered one of the best schools in the area. But while she did well at school, at home the abuse continued. She spoke to Jane about this, and the CCGs confronted Thembi's father.

"It wasn't easy to talk with him as he was violent. But Woza Moya intervened. They said, 'even if you kill us, we are not going anywhere'. They played a big role in standing up for us", says Thembi.

Thembi fell pregnant with her first child at 15, while in high school. She thought her sponsor would stop supporting her but instead, she challenged her to complete her grade 12. Thembi worked hard to pass, and she did. After completing grade 12 she became an intern for Woza Moya in the Afterschool Programme.

"And guess what I did?" she says. "I had no patience with the little ones. I would shout at them all the time and I was constantly angry. Of course, I know now that it's because that was what was happening with me, so that's what I did to them. Mama

Jane and Benedicta gently took me aside and told me 'We don't do this with children; we don't do this' and I started to attend workshops and training on ECD. It was very hard to change. I found it difficult to talk softly. I was always shouting. I was full of anger and if I didn't like something I would fight and shout. Sue was not one to easily give up on a person, though. She, Jane and Benedicta often called me in to talk to me about the things I needed to change. But I would lapse often or maybe change one behaviour but continue other bad behaviour. It was really difficult to change".

Eventually Sue took Thembi aside and suggested she take time off from work as she needed to feel what it was like to not have an income and to stay at home and live on her child support grants. (By this time Thembi had had another child).

In 2013, Thembi's father passed away in a tragic way. He had just begun to make an effort to be a better father and had changed in recent months when he was beaten to death by members of the community. Thembi was the one to identify him.

Thembi now has a third child and says she is doing it correctly this time around. She says that with her first two she was a bully but she's learnt now, how to be a good mother to all three, to be gentle.

Now Thembi's children all attend programmes at Woza Moya and her little three-year-old goes to school at the ECD centre. She says, "I just want them to get that feeling of being a child and I want them to get the skills that I didn't get".

Today, Thembi is the Marketing and Communications Officer, and co-facilitates at the art centre. She also helps with the After School Programme. She wishes to be an example to others who have experienced hardships like she has and she wants to show up for her children in a different way.

"When I share my story, I start by saying, 'There was a girl that was abused' and I go through my story. And then, at the end, I reveal that this is the girl you are looking at. I say, 'I have three children at 34. Do you want to be like me?'"

THE YOUTH PROGRAMME

The young people of Woza Moya are critical to its future. Woza Moya's youth development work has evolved from crisis response to comprehensive empowerment programming over 25 years.

When Woza Moya started in 2000, with no ARVs (which only became available in 2004 in South Africa) the focus was mostly on bereavement counselling, pain relief and supporting dying patients. As time went on, Woza Moya began to establish more structured youth programmes, moving beyond crisis response to preventive and developmental approaches.

Today the focus of the Youth Programme is strengthening young girls' and boys' lived experience and responses to HIV and related socio-economic drivers, through the development of self-reflection, self-reliance and resilience.

Run by the young staff at Woza Moya, the Youth Development Programme serves approximately 800 youth through integrated programmes covering life skills, sexual and reproductive health, technology training and creative expression, while maintaining a strong focus on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and empowering vulnerable girls and boys to become agents for positive change in the community.

THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Pupils from nearby schools can spend their afternoons at Woza Moya learning various skills, including computer skills and soft skills and accessing educational resources. Life skills sessions cover a range of issues including creative activities and games, song, dance, and information on HIV, teenage pregnancy, GBV and conflict resolution.

The Library and Computer Centre facilities are also open and available daily from 9am to 4pm from Monday to Thursday and 9am to 2pm on Fridays. Set up by American volunteer Jackie Hall, the library consists of almost 2000, mostly donated, books.

Philile Zuma started her journey with Woza Moya at age nine when she attended their After-Schools Programme. After she graduate from high school, Woza Moya supported her with bridging funding as she began her tertiary studies. Philile is now studying her Bachelor of Law Degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Philile expressed deep gratitude for the support she has received and hopes that one day she can, in turn, give back to her community through Woza Moya.

COMPUTER SKILLS

The organisation has integrated Scratch programming partnerships with CodeMakers and offers IT skills development using the MIT-developed coding platform focused on attention, organisation, planning, task initiation, emotional regulation and self-monitoring.

POWERGIRLS

In February 2020 a programme for 48 local girls, aged 9-15 was launched. This seven year programme was developed by Kinderfonds MAMAS, a Dutch organisation who sponsors the rollout of the programme at Woza Moya. Its aim is to transform vulnerable girls so that they become outspoken and powerful young women, capable of becoming change agents within their communities.

Kinderfonds MAMAS has a very special history and Marita Pruijser proudly explains the origins of the organisation: “We were founded on the personal request of Nelson Mandela himself. At a meeting in the Netherlands twenty-six years ago, Mandela asked a business partner to help him help South African children to break the poverty cycle. He said that there were very strong women in South Africa who knew exactly what to do but asked that whatever was done, it should be done in a sustainable way as it would take generations to break the cycle of poverty”.

GOOD GUYS CLUB

The Good Guys club arose from the boys and young men feeling disenchanting at the idea that there was a club just for girls while they had none. Woza Moya's young men started the Good Guys' Club in response.

Like Power Girls, the boys join at 9-years-old and exit at 17, learning many life and personal awareness skills along the way. In particular they are trained to be "Good Guys" and to challenge gender stereotypes and oppression.

The programme addresses the root causes of gender-based violence by working with boys and young men to develop healthy masculinity and respectful relationships.

Woza Moya is part of a task team working with other partners in the MAMAS Alliance on a manual for a boys programme to be rolled out throughout the alliance.

Reflecting on the work of Good Guys, James shares how he found it inspiring how open the discussions on sexuality were in the sessions when he observed them: "It was really interesting to watch these quite young kids, probably 13 or 14, having honest discussions about their bodies, and what it means, and I thought that was quite striking. I also loved seeing how the older boys took the younger boys under their wing".

Nhlonipho says, "Khanyisani and Sandile mentored us to stand up and speak easily and to be the Good Guys. And as we grew, we became leaders too, showing other young boys by example. Now, I think, those young boys are also leading".

THEY ONLY HAD A GROUP CALLED POWERGIRLS. SO ME AND MY TWO FRIENDS TOOK A CHANCE AND SPOKE TO WOZA MOYA STAFF AND ASKED THEM IF THEY THOUGHT IT WAS FAIR THAT THEY ONLY HAD A GROUP FOR GIRLS. WE THOUGHT THEY WOULD JUST BRUSH US OFF BUT THEY REALLY HEARD US AND THE GOOD GUYS CLUB WAS STARTED.

NHLONIPHO BEKWA

GRANDSON OF GOGO BEKWA

PRODUCT OF THE WOZA MOYA ECD CENTRE



ARTS AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION

The Woza Moya Arts Centre is a safe, fun, well managed space for vulnerable children (and adults) to explore their creativity and heal. The art and crafts programme is offered as part of the existing programmes and wellness groups on site at Woza Moya. The arts centre shows young people that there are multiple forms of expression and that talent can take many forms.

Starfish is a wonderful funder who began their relationship with funding Woza Moya's Early Childhood Development work. Later, they funded the Art Programme and now they fund the Good Guys programme too. Starfish has also sponsored a container which is used for the Mobile Health Clinic run by the CCGs. They are responsible, too, for assisting with the building of the two outlying ECD centres through Woza Moya.

YOUTH TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Quarterly youth Talent Contests include a festival of music, poetry, and dance.

Digital Documentation: The organisation maintains a YouTube channel showcasing youth talent and events. [youtube.com/@WozaMoyalxopo](https://www.youtube.com/@WozaMoyalxopo)

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH)

SRH education is an important component of the work with young people, addressing the ongoing challenges of teenage pregnancy and HIV transmission in the community.

TRAUMA AND WELLNESS SUPPORT

TRE® for Africa was invited by Sue Hedden to train 6 members of Woza Moya to certify as Community Facilitators for Tension and Trauma Release Exercise (TRE®) and to be educated in the basics of Trauma Informed Care. The TRE® Community Facilitators serve as a team of first responders in case of traumatic incidents.

LIFE ORIENTATION CURRICULUM PARTNERSHIP

OneVoice South Africa delivers a Life Orientation curriculum in grades 8 and 9, covering HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, and enterprise development.

FOOTBALL AND NETBALL TRAINING CLUBS

Football and Netball Training Clubs take place on Fridays. This provides opportunity to learn about and put into practice team work and self-discipline, as well as build self-esteem and perseverance. The clubs provide a fun, healthy, and safe space in an area where there are no other formal extracurricular opportunities. The weekly clubs culminate in quarterly play-offs with teams from other areas. During play-offs many more young people attend as spectators, providing an opportunity to invite them to other activities where they can receive more education around HIV and SRH.

Woza Moya's youth development work tries to address the complex challenges that face rural South African youth. Over the years it has evolved from once-off programmes to the more complex and long-term responses like Good Guys and PowerGirls.

Woza Moya's young leaders are a testament to the work of this organisation and the values it lives by. Just as the young people have been grown up by Woza Moya, they in turn are supporting other young people to grow up with principles of love and respect for others and to value their own worth.

7

FOUNDERS' REFLECTIONS

A DISCUSSION WITH THE FOUNDER MEMBERS: SUE HEDDEN, JANE NXASANA AND BENEDICTA MEMELA

ON THE NAME WOZA MOYA

It always just felt right. With the tough time people were experiencing it was fitting with the idea of a fresh wind blowing through the valley; of breath (which is important in Buddhism); of welcoming a good spirit; or of Holy Spirit giving strength and inspiration to the organisation and the people.

ON WOZA MOYA'S LOGO

Aloes grow in abundance in the valley and they are plants with medicinal properties — they are great healers and at one point all the crafters were creating aloes and it became an emblem for Woza Moya, which the Lumo Designers, Dan and Ray, translated into Woza Moya's logo.

WHAT YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF

- I'm proud of being me. I'm proud of this organisation. I'm proud that I learned a lot, I developed. Now I can stand by myself in doing things. can protect other people.*
- I'm very proud of the three of us and how, in our different ways, we really pushed the boundaries. I think we were courageous.*

- I really am proud of the way we loved and cared for each other.*
- We held three corners of a triangle and came together in a very powerful and beautiful way. And that created this incredible foundation for the organisation and all that joined it. We set a standard and that permeated outwards into the entire organisation.*

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FORMULA IS?

- We held each other's hands, even through the darkness. We resolved issues between us if we didn't agree; each of us had an important role to play and there was nothing short — if we were together, we knew that everything would be okay.*
- The three of us were very different and came from different places and how we connected and joined just worked.*
- The fact that we were all three women was very important. Woza Moya started as a nurturing, caring organisation and because we were women, people trusted us more readily. They felt much safer.*

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE YEARS

- Getting our own piece of land from the Chief.*
- Having our first structure built with the support of the San Francisco Insight Meditation Center.*

One of scariest moments was when the Department of Social Development (DSD) tried to poach all our care workers, approaching the entire workforce behind our backs and offering them permanent jobs with good salaries and much more job security than we could ever offer. These were caregivers we had trained for 10 years that were now highly skilled and doing phenomenal work.

And the incredible thing is we found out because they told us! They all came in one by one and they all said that they did not want to leave Woza Moya, even though we paid less and we couldn't secure them a future.

It was a very special moment in our history and we felt extremely proud of what we had created and that all of them unanimously decided not to accept. We were just amazed because if we were in their shoes we might have behaved differently; we might have been tempted.

THE FACT THAT UP TO THIS DAY OUR COMMUNITY LOVES AND TRUSTS US – THAT IS A BIG HIGHLIGHT.

There was an old woman in the community who came to us asking if she could vote for Woza Moya in the elections. And we had to explain that we're not a political organisation. And she said that Woza Moya is the only one she would vote for; no one else.

The three of us really tried hard, and I think we succeeded, to always remember that we are all little ants in the eyes of God. Nobody is higher or better or stronger or more clever or more anything than anyone else; and to remember that humility in the way that we operate.

OUR LITTLE CIRCLES

Every month, we used to have these little circles where we would turn off our phones, close the doors, and would be just the team. We would take off all our hats — no Director, or founder or anybody. And we would all draw numbers out of a hat and sit in these arbitrary circles, having no idea who we would be with.

In those circles we would have a go-around and be honest and naked with each other about how we were doing, what was working well in our lives and what wasn't.

And we did a lot of reminding before these circles about not to advise each other but just to hold the space and to listen and be there for each other.

SCARY TIMES

- *Caring for people who were HIV positive and having no medicine to give them was tough.*
- *When AFSA pulled out, that was scary.*
- *When we had to retrench people was one of the saddest times.*
- *Going into the community and trying to help people when many refused to accept us because of the stigma and myths associated with HIV and AIDS.*

OUR HOPES FOR WOZA MOYA

I want to see our community having a powerful voice, and doing things for themselves, not being dependent on Woza Moya or anyone else ... that is what I would love to see.

I would like to see Woza Moya growing and generating income. I have memories of the three of us sitting in the sun, sipping cups of tea and looking at each other, thinking well, what next? And looking out over the horizon as well. I love the way we were often in that kind of not-knowing space. I guess it was the place where the fresh wind blew.

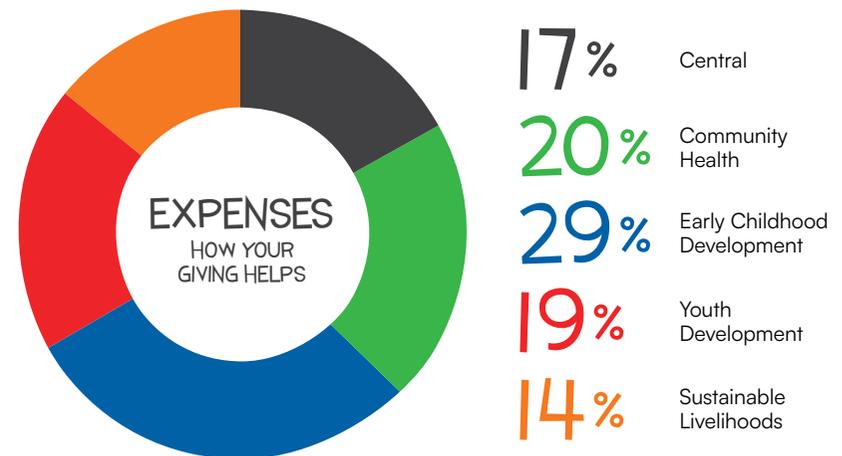
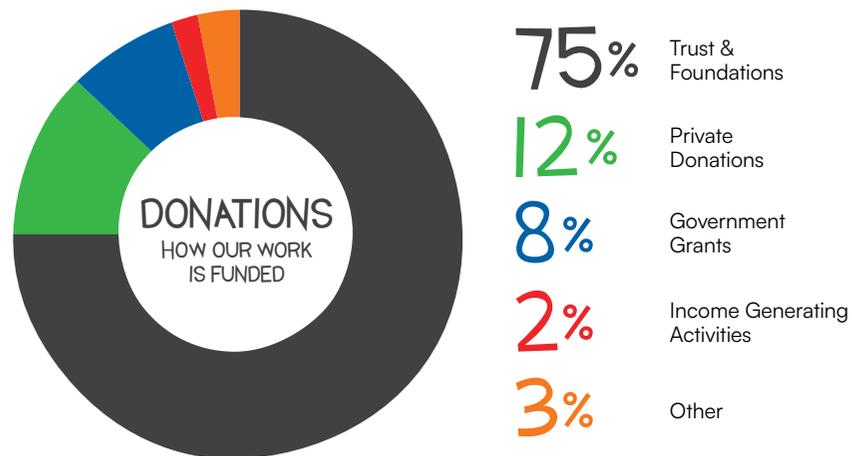
I just love the journey the three of us have had together. It was incredibly rich journey of learning and loving.

Finances:

A WORD FROM WOZA MOYA

For a quarter of a century, Woza Moya has combined heart and discipline to serve the community of the Ufafa Valley. Our commitment to transparency and strong governance underpins every programme we run. Guided by robust financial controls and clear organisational policies, we steward every rand with integrity, ensuring that donor funds and resources are used responsibly and for maximum impact. As we celebrate our silver jubilee, we remain committed to transparency, accountability and impactful stewardship of resources entrusted to us.

THREE YEAR OVERVIEW



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

With heartfelt gratitude we thank all our past and current donors and partners for 25 years of unwavering support. Your generosity has empowered Woza Moya to transform lives and create lasting impact. Every contribution, big or small, has helped us nurture children, develop youth, promote health, and build sustainable livelihoods. We have achieved so much together. We look forward to continuing this journey of hope and change.

DONORS (CURRENT)

STARFISH GREATHEARTS FOUNDATION

UNITED KINGDOM

DEICHMANN FOUNDATION

GERMANY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SOUTH AFRICA

ELMA MASANA WA AFRIKA

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH COAST FOUNDATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MERCURY PHOENIX TRUST

UNITED KINGDOM

KINDERFONDS MAMAS

NETHERLANDS

VICTOR DAITZ FOUNDATION

SOUTH AFRICA

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SOUTH AFRICA

OLD MUTUAL VOLUNTEER TRUST FUND

SOUTH AFRICA

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

SOUTH AFRICA

AND MANY PRIVATE DONORS AND FRIENDS OF WOZA MOYA

PARTNERSHIPS (CURRENT)

LIFELINE

BIOWATCH SOUTH AFRICA

MAMAS ALLIANCE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

IXOPO SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE

KZNSA GALLERY

BLACK SASH

MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT AND CHILD HEALTH INSTITUTE (MATCH)

**YOUR KINDNESS FUELS
25 YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES.
LET'S KEEP BUILDING BRIGHTER
FUTURES, TOGETHER.**

Concluding Reflections:

THE BEAUTIFUL WIND THAT BLOWS THROUGH THE VALLEY

A question asked of interviewees was, “What is the story of Woza Moya that needs to be told.” There were many different and beautiful responses and they are reflected throughout this booklet. Their responses tell us about an amazing organisation doing remarkable work.

Many might ask, “What is their secret?” “How are they getting it right?”. And the truth is that no one gets it right all the time. A journey is not about getting it right. It’s about so much more, including being willing to NOT get it right in trying to get it right; it’s about being willing to NOT know where something will lead but to go down the path anyway, because it feels right. There is so much that can be said about what Woza Moya’s ‘secret’ is and some of that is captured in the reflections that follow.

BEING WILLING TO “NOT KNOW”

It is tempting to want to have all the answers but no one at Woza Moya claims to do so. Instead, there is a sense that the organisation works in a thoughtful manner, willing to learn as it goes. The Community Caregivers knew very little to nothing when they set out on this journey. Likewise, the founders had no experience with raising funds nor running an organisation. But they knew that something had to be done and ‘followed their noses’.

The new Director, Siphesihle Radebe had not run an organisation before he became Director of Woza Moya, but he was willing to learn and grow into the job. This sense of being willing to not know permeates throughout Woza Moya. A willingness to not know goes hand-in-hand with a willingness to learn and the organisation invests in its staff and community. There is a constant sharing of experiences, visiting organisations, and attending and running learning events. Woza Moya is as willing to share its expertise as it is to learn from others. And all that it learns is brought back and shared in the community.

RESPONSIVENESS

Woza Moya’s foundations were laid in response to the HIV pandemic that was plaguing the people of Ufafa Valley. Since then it has continued the practice of seeing a need, reflecting on how best to respond, and then trying to do something about it. A few instances are reflected in this publication:

- When the young boys approached the Woza Moya Management about having a parallel club for boys, they didn’t laugh them off (as the boys expected they would). They heard them, they listened to the need, and they did something about it. Today, the Good Guys Club is helping so many young boys to grow into adulthood as thoughtful, respectful young men who realise that women are their equals; who know that they have a role to play in modelling integrity, honesty and respect for women and girls to others around them.

- When CCGs found that people were defaulting on their ARVs because of the cost to get to the nearby hospital, they initiated the mobile clinic, based at Woza Moya premises. Community members can now take a walk to Woza Moya once a month to collect their medication and receive medical treatment if needed.
- CCGs discovered that there were many young people living with disabilities and the organisation sought out the necessary support to provide much needed OT services for the community of Ufafa.

Woza Moya's journey from community care in response to HIV, to sustainable livelihoods (food gardens, the savings club, income generation through craftwork), to early childhood interventions, to working with young people, all came about through their willingness to respond to the needs expressed by the community.

A WILLINGNESS TO SERVE

Woza Moya staff see themselves as the server. They see their work as being “in service” or “of service” to the community of Ufafa. This is evident in the humility with which they go about doing their work and in the words they say about their work. In conversation with Sphesihle he said: “After completing my masters, I came back to serve Woza Moya. For me it was a privilege to come back and serve my community. I always saw lots happening at Woza Moya and it was my greatest wish to come back and serve Woza Moya”.

The willingness to serve extends beyond the organisation to the Board of Trustees and the Community Advisory Council. All show commitment and dedication to the vision and work of Woza Moya. “I see in this Board a group of people who come together with no motive other than to help the organisation to get where it wants and needs to,” says Mxolisi Nyuswa, Board Chairperson.

I JUST THOUGHT HOW LUCKY WE HAD BEEN TO PICK SUCH A GREAT ORGANISATION. I CAME BACK VERY ENERGISED AND ENTHUSIASTIC AND REALLY REASSURED AT JUST HOW MUCH GOOD THERE IS IN THE WORLD, THAT ORGANISATIONS LIKE WOZA MOYA EXIST.

JAMES SISWICK

STARFISH GREATHEARTS FOUNDATION
UNITED KINGDOM

I FELT LIKE WE WERE INFORMED OF THE PROCESS OF THE HANDOVER AND WE UNDERSTOOD THE KIND OF TRAINING AND THE SUPPORT THAT SUE WAS ABLE TO GIVE SPHESIHLE. AND HE IS ALWAYS BEEN REALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD IF THERE ARE THINGS THAT HE IS STILL LEARNING. IT FEELS LIKE A VERY HONEST RELATIONSHIP. I THINK THAT IS PROBABLY THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION (OF WHY STARFISH HAS CONTINUED TO SUPPORT WOZA MOYA). WE HAVEN'T SEEN A DISRUPTION IN SERVICES AND BEING ABLE TO ADAPT TO DIFFICULT SITUATIONS IS SOMETHING THEY HAVE PROVED THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO.

ELINOR MIDDLETON

STARFISH GREATHEARTS FOUNDATION
UNITED KINGDOM

A THOUGHTFUL AND THOROUGH TRANSITION

It is often a fear that when a founder member leaves, an organisation might crumble. Woza Moya put in place a number of actions to ensure a smooth transition from one Director to another. Sue Hedden worked with Sphesihle, showing him the ropes until he felt he was ready. Sphesihle, for his part, had the humility and self-awareness to build his own knowledge, understanding and skills before saying, "Yes, I am ready".

Two consultants have been mentioned as having played a critical role in supporting the organisation through its transitions: Amon Kasumbira (earlier in the journey) and Davine Thaw (over the period of Sue's retirement). Davine describes her process with Woza Moya as putting in the scaffolding to ensure that there were systems and people to play various support roles. Spending time on strategic planning, not as a once-off event but as a long-term process helped the organisation build on its strengths and use the skills of its people appropriately to ensure that the structure of Woza Moya would stay strong during the transition and beyond.

Davine spent time doing a thorough assessment of the organisation to determine staff and organisational strengths and weaknesses and to build around those. This took years and over that time, a lot of mentoring. The result was an organisation more aware of where its strengths and weaknesses are, the options to address what needed to be addressed, and people's abilities being utilised strategically and optimally.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The organisation has always had strong systems of governance and this extends to the Board of Trustees and the Community Advisory Council who support the Management Committee and hold it to account.



“The relationship between the Director and the chairperson is critical”, says Chairperson, Mxolisi Nyuswa. “And perhaps that is a lesson others can take from Woza Moya. That is the strong relationship we have and the role that the Board of Trustees plays in supporting the organisation”. The Director knows that he can always lean on the Board of Trustees and the Community Advisory Council for support and guidance.

The Board and Advisory Council together offer a rich diversity of skills and experience, from organisational development to directorship to financial management, and Sphesihle, for his part, embraces the support and input from them.

Warren Banks, Organisational Development Practitioner and Woza Moya Board member shares what he has noted about how Woza Moya shares power: “I think there's an interesting question about how leadership is shared at Woza Moya. I don't think it's centralized in a single person and I think different people are leading different things in quite interesting ways. I think here there is actually a spread of responsibility”.

This testifies to the fact that people understand their roles and share responsibility for the organisation's progress, and many play a leadership role in their own areas of work.

STRONG COMMUNICATIONS

Good governance goes hand-in-hand with good communications and Woza Moya communicates well. It keeps stakeholders informed through Facebook and through its monthly newsletters. It is open and transparent. People are constantly appraised of what is going on at Woza Moya and this is key to keeping people close.

LOYAL SUPPORTERS

The long-term funders of Woza Moya didn't turn tail and run when Sue finally left. Partly this was due to the manner in which the transition was handled; partly because they got to know Sphesihle and to trust him as they trusted Sue; and partly because the two other founders remained and have always shown themselves to have integrity and commitment to Woza Moya and to the community.

The funders who have supported Woza Moya all these years, and who have continued to do so are loyal, thoughtful people who have seen the incredible value this organisation is bringing and has brought to the people of Ufafa. Four years after Sue's departure and donors have remained committed to the organisation. Marita shares why: “As Kinderfonds MAMAS we are proud to support a partner like Woza Moya. Their deep local roots enable them to grow and learn with the community and develop as an organisation accordingly. This makes them a great asset for the community and an inspiration for other NPOs in the MAMAS Alliance. We wish for Woza Moya to continue growing and progressing for many years to come”.

WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE SAME GOAL

The Management Team members are all committed to one goal, and that is to ensure a better life for the people of Ufafa.

“Working with people who have the same goal makes my work easy, and I'm proud of them, because we all share ideas and listen to each other, and we always try to see how we can make things happen, or how to shape an idea that is shared. And I'm proud because in these 25 years we put a stamp and we made a mark and have changed so many lives in our community,” says Sphesihle. The organisation is trusted because it is of the community. The people who work in it are from the community and they give back to that community. People know Woza Moya and trust it because it has proven its commitment to the community over and over. It is evident in the interventions they have made, the programmes they run and the support they provide.

THE SPIRIT OF CARE

Woza Moya's foundations were built on a spirit of care and this spirit has permeated throughout everything Woza Moya has done and continues to do. From the check-ins that so many speak about and the meals that are prepared and shared with love; to the ways in which children are loved and kept safe in Woza Moya's walls; and to how Woza Moya welcomes its visitors and builds friendships with them. It is the Spirit, uMoya, that they share with those who pass through.

Yasmin Rajah, Board member and Director of Refugee Social Services shares her organisation's first encounter with Woza Moya: "They invited us to come through to the organisation and we went through as a whole staff. And the staff of Woza Moya welcomed us with such warm prayer and so much love. It was at a time when we were really very stressed as we had come through a really difficult period. And here was this lovely group that just embraced us with such warmth, and that really made a difference. I don't know if they realised it, but it did for me, for a lot of the staff that were here at the time".

Others have been touched from afar in just as meaningful ways. Catherine Anderson says: "I've spoken to so many people inside and outside of South Africa, and for all of us it's been such a beautiful journey. What I love about them is it's not about we're just giving to people. I love that they're teaching them skills that allow them to feel that they, the women, can earn a living. And Star, with her sewing machines and what they have managed to do, is just amazing. They're my inspiration. They make a difference in my life because of the way they approach life and they remind me that life is a gift. They really do remind me of that". Woza Moya exemplifies how development work can happen. That it can be simple - and powerful in its simplicity. Woza Moya is not about fancy words and statements; it's not about cleverness and brilliance. It is about doing the little things with compassion, love, determination and commitment.

Kathy Cook, long-time supporter and friend says, "I think there's a perception that community organisations and NGOs in rural areas are not as advanced as others, but I think the reverse may be true. Woza Moya has a pulse on the heart of development and it's a great beacon of how development needs to be done in order to actually serve people. And in serving those people, they're also providing employment to the whole area. They're revitalizing the area where they work".

When three women came together twenty five years ago to respond to the devastation they were witnessing all around them, they had no idea what they would build; they had no vision of twenty five years on; they had no thought for a year down the line. They simply were concerned about what to do now, in this moment, to alleviate suffering. And they set about doing that with humility, integrity and courage.

Today, the foundations they laid hold fast and what they started continues to offer sustenance, support and hope to a rural community that could so easily remain forgotten in a country still struggling to meet the needs of many people.

Woza Moya is an organisation of the community and has evolved with the community, including it in everything it does and responding to the community's needs by building interventions that have practical and tangible meaning for them. Woza Moya's power is in its ability to listen, to learn and to respond in accordance with its values. Values such as care, respect, integrity and accountability.

This publication shares the voices of the people of this community and of those friends and supporters who love them. All have their role in holding Woza Moya up. Each of them has made an impact in some way. The stories and reflections are simple and powerful, just like Woza Moya's way. The stories talk about hope, development and transformation.

The Woza Moya story is a story of the spirit of compassion, love, kindness and deep commitment to "our people". It is the story of a wind of change and peace that blows through the Valley. And it's a story of kindness, comfort and nurturing that extends far beyond.



THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR LOYAL
DONORS, PARTNERS,
COLLEAGUES AND
FRIENDS WHO
HAVE MADE THIS
JOURNEY POSSIBLE.



**WOZA
MOYA**

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