



GG2099775 Melusi “Phela Hantle” Project

Progress Report – February 2022 report

“Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.” – Howard Zinn

This month’s report is the second last report on the Melusi Rotary Global Grant Project. The project will formally be handed over to the University of Pretoria, COPC Research Unit at a celebration scheduled on site for 20 April 2022. In February, Rotarians Carolyn Khoury and Ellenore Meyer, together with the University of Pretoria’s head of the Community Orientated Primary Care Unit, Prof Jannie Hugo, and colleagues Rebaone Molebatsi and Marion Beeforth had a site visit to inspect the buildings placed and discuss the placement of the final infrastructure. Three buildings were placed on-site with this project over the last year. This included an ablution facility with access to running water from a tap, a kitchen with a space vast enough to accommodate community-based cooking and training and a training center.

Three quotes have been obtained for the kitchen installation. Considerations included the legal requirements of the kitchen with an environmental health official to ensure the kitchen also complies with regards to PPE provision and safety during a pandemic, such as Covid. The final installations will include a power solution (solar) and equipment for the kitchen and training center. More information and photos will be shared in the final report that will include photos of the facilities and a summary of the overall activities and number of people reached through this project end of April.

One of the major achievements of this program was that the holistic health hub became a Covid screening and vaccination site, with hundreds of patients receiving free on-site vaccinations in recent months.

Activities for February and March focused on community health worker training with regards to food security, diet recall of patients and identification and management of malnutrition. Several cooking sessions were held on-site and at the early learning centers in Melusi to support and enable teachers and parents to offer nutritious, yet affordable meals to children. Cooking sessions were held at 5 early learning centers, including: Ragae and Happi Sappi, Philade school and Sunrise crèche and Marvelous Day care. The dental and oral health research of the children in Melusi continued with data collected at three early learning centers: Philade, Sunrise and Marvelous Day Care

The program activities and interventions continued to support maternal and childcare. Themes for February included: Oral health/Caring for a young child’s teeth, How to identify danger signs of illness in a new born baby and young children, The importance of Vitamin A and deworming, Women’s health and pelvic floor exercises.



A community health worker record's a child's growth measurement

Total Number of Direct Beneficiaries

Primary health care consultations and dispensing of medicine were offered at no cost to 182 patients on site in Melusi. 461 patients were screened within the community for Covid symptoms. 279 patients received Covid vaccinations on-site. For more details on the patients seen please view the attached COPC Gauteng Province summary statistical report for Feb 2022.

A total number of 30 health professional's representative of various organizations working in the community attended the community interventions, including the or diet research and cooking interventions at the local early learning centers and the training/educational sessions on the themes mentioned earlier.

Number of Maternal and Child Health Professional's Trained

Patients were educated in groups as they were seen at the clinic (182). The educational sessions were facilitated by environmental health officer, Rebaone Molebatsi, for the community health workers and patients, and by Marion Beeforth for the nutritional interventions. The CHWs were expected to participate and assist in the oral health research and diet interventions after they were trained in Nov/Dec.

Thirteen (13) community health workers and ten (10) fieldworkers were trained weekly within the community and as part of the weekly team meetings. The focus was on supporting the learning activities as part of the CHWs service-learning activities within the community. The theme for the month of Feb focused on caring for small

children, including oral health and nutrition and supplementation and treatment (amongst others deworming and Vit A).

The teachers from all 15 early learning centers (and all the parents of the children attending the schools) were invited to allow their children to participate in the oral health research and educational/nutritional interventions. Focused nutritional and educational cooking demonstrations and interventions were held at 5 of the early learning centers. This will be continued to include all the other schools in Melusi.



An educational intervention at one of the early learning centers in Melusi



An example of a demonstration meal prepared for the children and parents

Number of mothers receiving ante-/post-natal care

87 patients received contraceptives within the Melusi community at the healthhub. Pregnant mothers that are identified on site are referred for ANC (ante-natal care) to the nearby Daspoort clinic that has more services and resources. 19 patients tested whether they contracted HIV. Two patients tested positive.



A community health worker recording children's details

Nutritional Status Assessment and Interventions

33 children consulted for a clinical condition and were assessed for their nutritional status at the health hub. Two hundred and forty (240) children <5 received micro-nutrient supplementation at early learning centres in Melusi. Daspoort clinic is the referral clinic for Melusi patients to receive childhood immunization. Nutritional assessments and interventions for children continued at the early learning centres. At the end of the report are summary tables of the nutritional status of the children compared to the WHO standardised tables on weight and height for age for the data collected on children in February. The weight and height, as well as the BMI, for age are below the expected numbers. This is an indication of continued acute-on chronic malnutrition despite the impacts of the intervention. Food security should continue to focus on offering solutions for entire households to further improve these statistics.



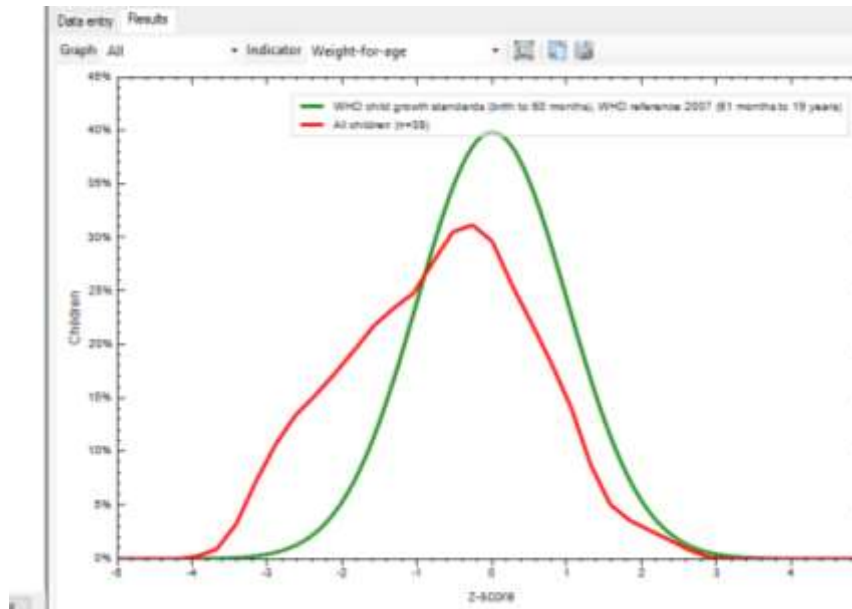
Health worker putting on the children's name tags while taking their weight

28 February 2022 Happy Sabbi crèche was visited. This school has 56 children enrolled between the ages 3-6 years that were invited to participate in the dental research. 38 children were present and underwent a dental screening. As part of their nutritional status assessment, their weight, height, and mid-upper arm circumference were measured and recorded.

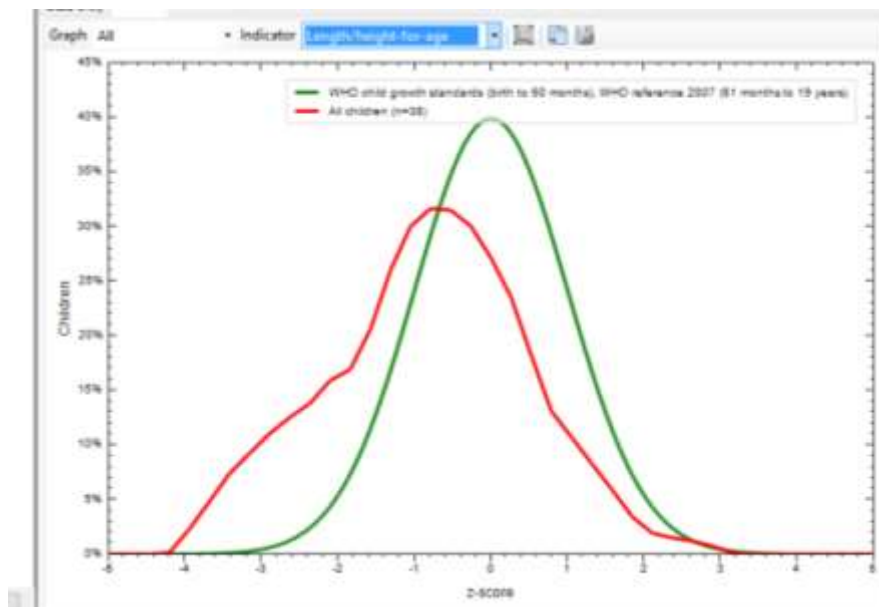
The interventions identified a need for social support and food security. Due to follow up at the on-site clinic two women were able to attend child services to apply for foster care. One child was identified of having severe acute malnutrition and was referred by the community health worker to hospital. Food insecurity at household level remains a problem and one adult was referred for a food parcel.

Training on planting of sweet potato commenced. Two early learning centres and the local Non-Profit, MYDO were provided with cuttings and guidelines on how to plant this.

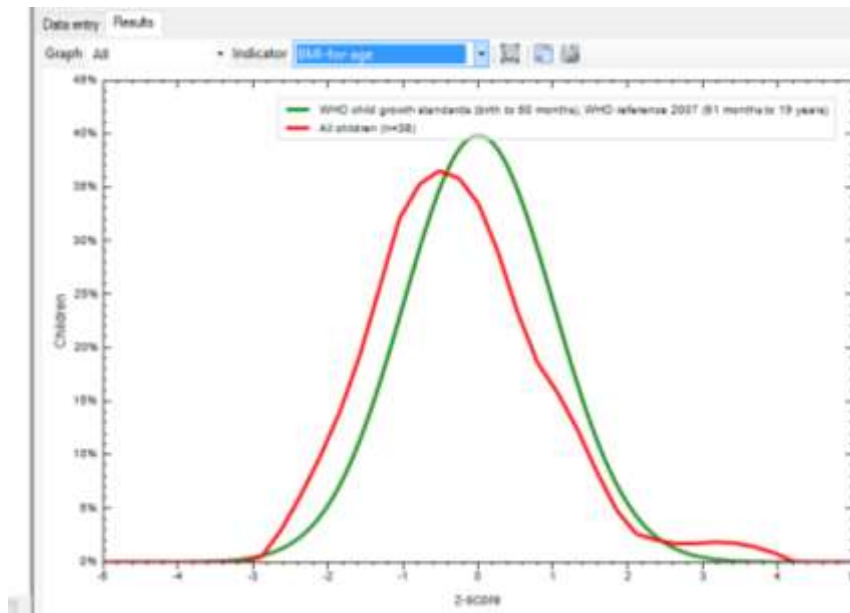
Melusi February report: Weight for age



Melusi February report: Height for age



Melusi February report: BMI for age



A mom and daughter attending a nutritional assessment day

Thank you for investing in the Melusi community!
Stronger together.