

## **GG2099775 Melusi “Phela Hantle” Project**

### **Progress Report – May 2021**

“We can no longer consider child health and wellbeing the prerogative of health professionals. Immunisation, antibiotics, antenatal and delivery care, and good quality health systems are of course essential, but we urgently need a broader plan to accelerate progress in areas previously neglected, such as early years development, adolescent health, and disability, and the development of a coherent narrative to guide our work across sectors. More immediately, we must respond to environmental and existential threats, which jeopardise the future for children on this planet. We require a holistic view of the child, defined here as a person aged 0–18 years old, whose wellbeing is at the centre of humanity.” – Lancet, 2020



Image 1: Drawing by a dietetic student of patients seen at the Melusi informal settlement health hub

#### **Total number of direct beneficiaries**

Primary health care consultations and dispensing of medicine were offered at no cost to the 313 (three hundred and thirteen) patients on site in Melusi. 1107 (one thousand one hundred and seven) patients were screened within the community for Covid symptoms. For more details on the patients seen please view the attached COPC Gauteng Province summary statistical report for May 2021.

### **Number of maternal and child health professional's trained**

Thirteen (13) community health workers and ten (10) fieldworkers were trained weekly within the community and as part of a weekly team meeting. The theme for the month of May for educational instruction and support of health care workers and mothers and all patients were educated in groups as they were seen at the clinic (313). The theme for May was Covid-19. This was due to the concern of a possible 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of the viral infections due to the reported rise in numbers of Covid-19 cases. The following was re-emphasized during clinic days: Washing of hands, wearing of mask and social distancing using the COVID 19 protocol that was written by Dr Meyer in 2020. The educational sessions were facilitated by environmental health officer, Rebaone Molebatsi, for the community health workers. The CHWs were in turn expected to facilitate small group training sessions outside and in the open air for patients that arrived at the clinic or that were seen at household level.

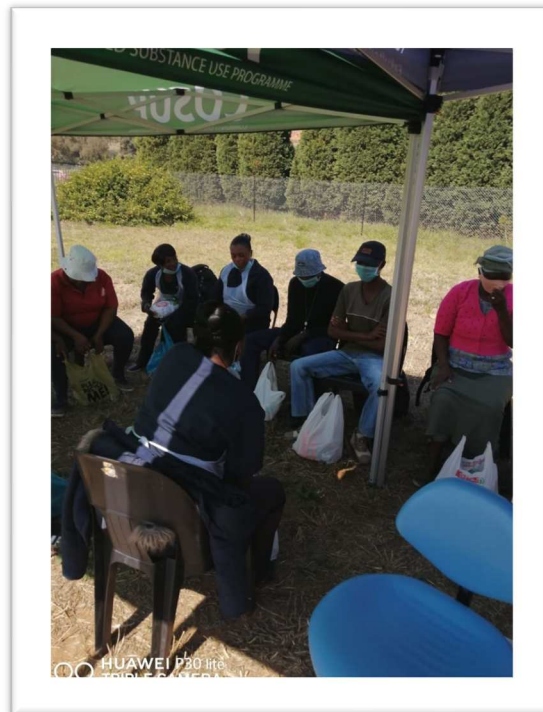


Image 2: Patients counselled in a group and supported with food parcels to take home

### **Nutritional status assessment and interventions**

Forty-five (45) children consulted for a clinical condition and were assessed for their nutritional status at the health hub. Thirteen (13) children were treated for respiratory infections. Twenty (20) received a catch-up dosage of Vitamin A and deworming. Two hundred and forty (240) children <5 received micro-nutrient supplementation at the fifteen early learning centres in Melusi.



Image 3: Nutritional assessment of a child outside the Melusi clinic

Training of mothers, fathers and community caregivers in early learning centres and at the local non-profit organization, MYDO, continued with a theme of supporting breastfeeding. To this end educational materials were developed, masks printed with a breastfeeding logo on it and workshops conducted with mothers and the teachers of the early learning centres. Local community members were also paid a stipend to rehearse and perform a play on the importance of breastfeeding at the local non-profit.





Image 4: Rehearsal for the performance of the breastfeeding play at MYDO NPO



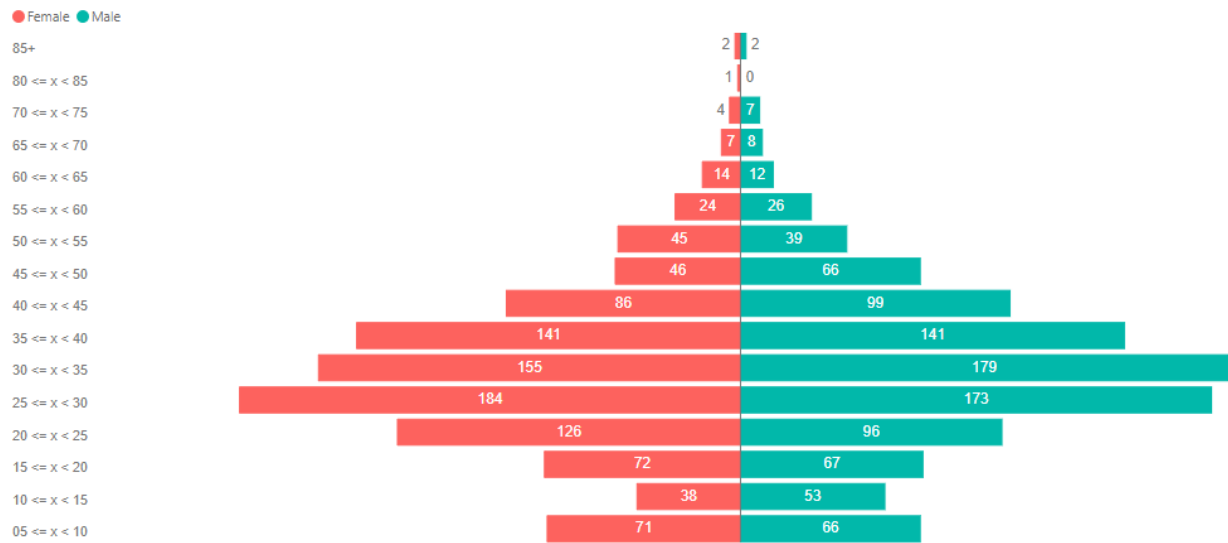
Image 5: The Breastfeeding play performance crew members

**Number of mothers receiving ante- or postnatal care**

186 patients received contraceptives within the Melusi community at the health hub. 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. 15 new pregnancies were identified/confirmed at the health hub and referred to Daspoort clinic.

One's environment and access to resources has a tremendous impact on a person's health and life expectation. Below is a graph depicting the ages and gender demographic of patients seen at the Melusi Health hub:

## demographic



Graph 1: demographic of patients seen in Melusi

Most people living in Melusi live in informal dwellings also known as a 'shack'. 1355 households (over 5000 individuals) were registered on the AITA™ app of the University of Pretoria. 1102 families live in shacks. Only 5 families own a dwelling that could be classified as a house. 11 families rent a room from someone else for their family to live in. 1 person resided in a hut and 1 in a flat. 2 families identified as that they were living in another type of structure. Graph 2 below summarizes the type of dwellings of the Melusi residents.

Dwelling Type	Households Registered	%GT Households Registered
Shack	1,102	81.33%
Room	233	17.20%
House	5	0.37%
Other	2	0.15%
Flat	1	0.07%
Hut	1	0.07%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Graph 2: Dwelling typology of Melusi residents registered on AITA™

Most residents in Melusi do not have water available at household level. Residents gather water from tanks that are spaced throughout the 8km informal settlement stretched on the slopes of the Magalies mountain range. 799 of the 1355 families collect water in buckets at a tank nearby their dwellings. 256 had a pipe outside that brought water nearby their yard. Another 231 families had access to piped water in/nearby someone else's yard. 18 families gathered rainwater for household use. Two families had piped water in the yard/up to the household and 2 families had a borehole. Only 1 household had piped water inside their house/dwelling. Graph 3 below summarized the findings discussed.

Water Source	Households Registered	%GT Households Registered
Watertank	799	58.97%
Piped outside Yard	256	18.89%
	231	17.05%
Unanswered/None	29	2.14%
Rainwater tank	18	1.33%
Spring/Stream/River/Dam	10	0.74%
Piped in Yard	7	0.52%
Borehole/Well	2	0.15%
Other	2	0.15%
Piped in House	1	0.07%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Graph 3: Water source per household for Melusi registered on AITA™