



The Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta in South Africa

Founded on 28 October 1992 with the aim to organise the charitable work of the Catholic Church in the greater Mandeni area properly.

We are a (South African) **Public Benefit Organisation** (PBO 18/11/13/2769) operated not for profit (NPO).

We serve the needy irrespective of their creed, colour of skin, sexual orientation and political affiliation.

We serve an impoverished community.

Therefore, we render all our services free of charge and **have to rely solely on donations and grants to finance our work.**



We are named after
Blessed Gérard,
the founder of the
Order of Malta.





The Relief Organisation of the
Order of Malta in South Africa

FOUNDATIONS BEFORE HAART



On **23 MAY 1994** we launched our **HIV/AIDS** Education Programme.



This marks the beginning of formal HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention activities.



THE CREATION OF THE HOSPICE INFRASTRUCTURE



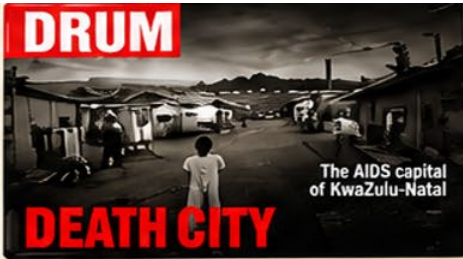
STARTED ON

5 AUGUST 1995

WITH THE

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

FOR BLESSED GÉRARD'S CARE CENTRE
IN MANDENI.



IN 1997, **DRUM** MAGAZINE
DESCRIBED SUNDUMBILI,
THE MAIN TOWNSHIP
OF MANDENI, AS

***‘DEATH CITY ...
THE AIDS CAPITAL OF
KWAZULU-NATAL’.***



THE PROJECT IS DESIGNED AS A
HOSPICE AND CARE CENTRE
IN AN AREA SEVERELY
AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS.



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3 SEPTEMBER 1996



**BLESSED GÉRARD'S
CARE CENTRE**
IS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED.



THE OPENING MARKS THE
BEGINNING OF **HOSPICE WORK**
AND **LONG-TERM CARE** FOR
TERMINALLY ILL AIDS PATIENTS.

In 1997–2002 we **expanded** our



HOSPICE SERVICES



Providing compassionate inpatient care and support for terminally ill patients and their families.



HOME NURSING



Taking care to patients in their homes with dignity, compassion and professional care.



SOCIAL SUPPORT



Supporting families with food parcels, clothing, counselling and practical assistance.



CARE FOR POOR AND CHRONICALLY ILL PATIENTS



Offering care and relief to the poor and those living with chronic and life-limiting illnesses.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES



Caring for vulnerable children through support, education and development programmes.

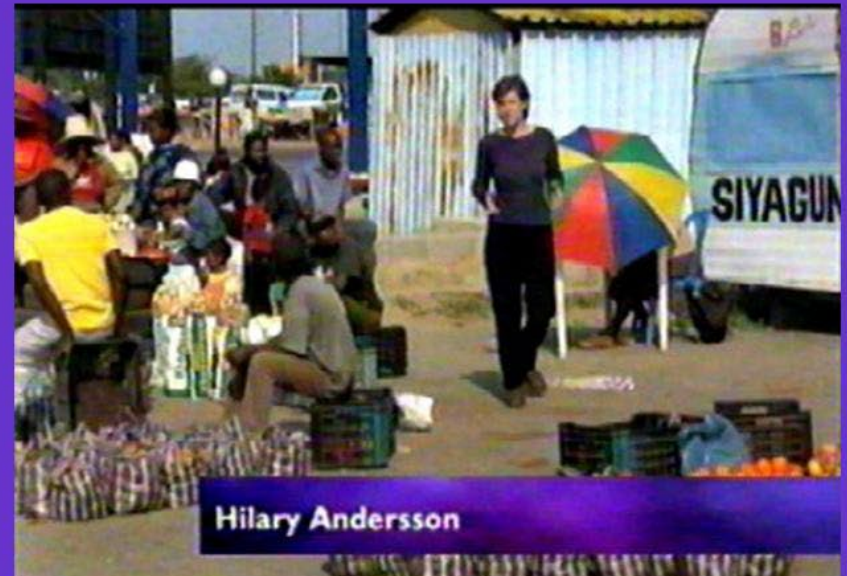


These developments later become the **basis for antiretroviral treatment support systems.**



Newsnight Royal Television Society
News Programme of the year

5 August 2003



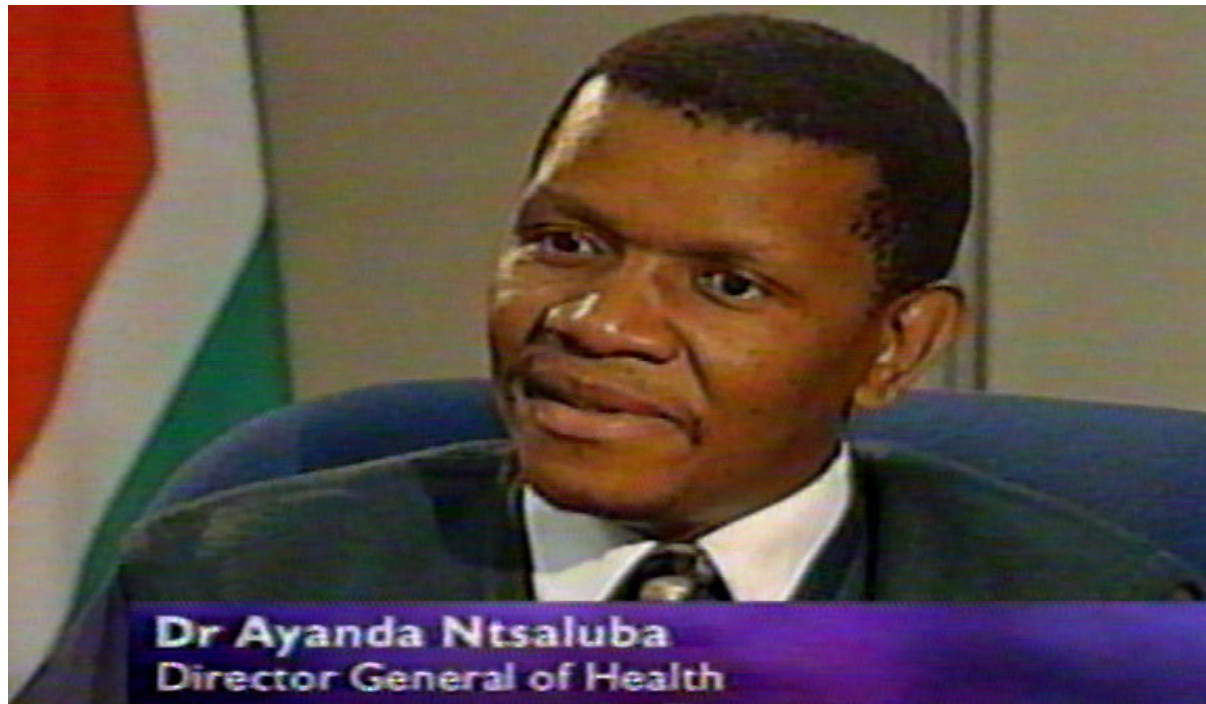
Hilary Andersson

AIDS conference

Hilary Andersson reported from the first national AIDS conference in South Africa, and asked why the Pretoria government's own policies mean that drugs which are saving lives in developed countries are being denied to the poor.

5 August 2003

BBC Newsnight interviewed the **Director General of Health.**



There is a gap between what the hospital sometimes think they can do and what in reality happens, because if you went to the same Mandeni, to the same hospital, it is a different thing between doctors whether they have got the capacity to **administer drugs** to patients, it is another thing whether those patients have got the **support** mechanisms to make sure that they take those drugs regularly, they are able to be **monitored** properly and have got the **outreach** programs.

We accepted the challenge and, within nine months, had developed and launched a treatment programme that combined **drug administration, patient **support**, and treatment **monitoring** through our **outreach** services.**



The Relief Organisation of the
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8 August 2003

The **South African Cabinet** instructed the Department of Health to develop a **national ARV rollout plan**.



Preparation for Antiretroviral Therapy



Southern African
Catholic Bishops'
Conference



In **September 2003**
Blessed Gérard's Hospice
was invited by the AIDS Desk
of the Southern African
Catholic Bishops' Conference
(SACBC) to participate as a pilot site
in the planned Catholic
antiretroviral treatment programme.



SACBC AIDS Desk
invited Blessed
Gérard's Hospice



Pilot site in the
Catholic ARV
programme



Preparing to bring
life-saving treatment
to our community





19 NOVEMBER 2003



THE SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET *Approved*

The South African Cabinet approved the **Operational Plan for Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment**, officially committing the government to provide ARVs in the public sector.





10 DECEMBER 2003

KwaZulu-Natal Premier
Lionel Mtshali visits
Blessed Gérard's Care Centre,
highlighting the increasing
public recognition of
the programme.



“ A significant moment in the journey
towards accessible HIV treatment
and care for all. ”



KWAZULU-NATAL
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING MILESTONES



Basic training in **HIV/AIDS Management**

through the
**Foundation for Professional
Development**
of the South African Medical Association.



FPD
FOUNDATION FOR
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Advanced training in **antiretroviral treatment**

through the
HIV/AIDS Clinicians Society.



SOUTHERN AFRICAN
HIV
CLINICIANS SOCIETY



The Relief Organisation of the
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Official launch of the Blessed Gérard's Hospice HAART Programme on 1 April 2004



THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES:



BLESSED GÉRARD'S HOSPICE

HAART Programme

Healing with Dignity.
Caring with Compassion.
Hope for Life.



Blessed Gérard's Hospice **HAART Programme** became the **third Catholic HAART programme** in South Africa.



It is one of the flagship SACBC/**AIDSRelief** treatment centres and became a **model site** for **community-based HIV care**, **adherence support**, and **antiretroviral treatment delivery**.



Blessed Gérard's Care Centre belongs to the **very first wave** of ARV treatment providers in South Africa.



COMMUNITY-BASED CARE



ADHERENCE SUPPORT



ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT



HOLISTIC CARE



COMPASSION
• DIGNITY • HOPE



A pioneering mission.
A legacy of faith.
A future of hope.

*Together, we bring Hope, Health and Healing
to our Community and beyond South Africa.*



ITV interviewed **President Thabo Mbheki** on 30 April 2004



We accepted the challenge, became an **active partner in the provincial AIDS initiative**, and contributed our expertise and training programs to **support the implementation of their AIDS treatment programme.**

We are dealing with poor people who are underfed, suffer from malnutrition and so on. And so long, as we don't address these problems, interventions, which drive on their own, are not going to help.



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2 - 23 JUNE 2004:

We held the *first* **PREPARATORY COURSE**

held for clinical personnel
and AIDS patients about



about
“**Highly Active
Anti-Retroviral Therapy**”
(**HAART**)

for the
Provincial Hospital
in Stanger / kwaDukuza.





12 – 16 JULY 2004

FIRST HAART READINESS COURSE

for AIDS patients at
Blessed Gérard's Hospice.



Empowering patients. Building readiness.
Strengthening hope.



Blessed Gérard's Hospice



Blessed
Gérard's
Hospice



welcomes you all to its

HAART
Readiness
Course





Week - 4
(module A)
stigma / disclosure /
positive living

Week - 3
(module B)
Basics of **HIV** and **AIDS**
opportunistic infections
& cancers
OI prophylaxis

Week - 2
(module C)
HIV and **AIDS** treatment
adherence / side effects /
resistance / monitoring

Week - 1
(module D)
HAART operation
making your
ARV treatment plan

HAART Readiness Course



12–16 JULY 2004

FIRST FORMAL HAART TREATMENT COUNSELLORS' TRAINING

at Blessed Gérard's Hospice.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 – 12:00	HAART readiness Course Module A	HAART readiness Course Module B	HAART readiness Course Module C	HAART readiness Course Module D	Counselling skills
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00 – 16:00	Teaching skills	Advanced HIV/AIDS information Opportunistic Infections	Advanced HIV/AIDS information Anti-Retroviral Therapy	Advanced HIV/AIDS information Adverse Drug Reactions	HIV/AIDS Pre- and Post-test counselling Partner counselling Family counselling



A week of intensive learning and practical skills-building to prepare counsellors to support patients on their journey to better health.



25 AUGUST 2004

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

was accredited by the
**KwaZulu-Natal
Department of Health**
as an
**Antiretroviral Therapy
Treatment Centre.**



A commitment to quality care.
A legacy of hope.



COMMUNITY
BASED CARE



ADHERENCE
SUPPORT



ANTIRETROVIRAL
TREATMENT



HOLISTIC
CARE



COMPASSION
• DIGNITY • HOPE



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7 SEPTEMBER 2004

The *first*
AIDS patient
starts antiretroviral
treatment through
**Blessed Gérard's Hospice
- HAART Programme**



**A MILESTONE IN
HOPE, CARE &
NEW BEGINNINGS**

2004 PATIENT NUMBER

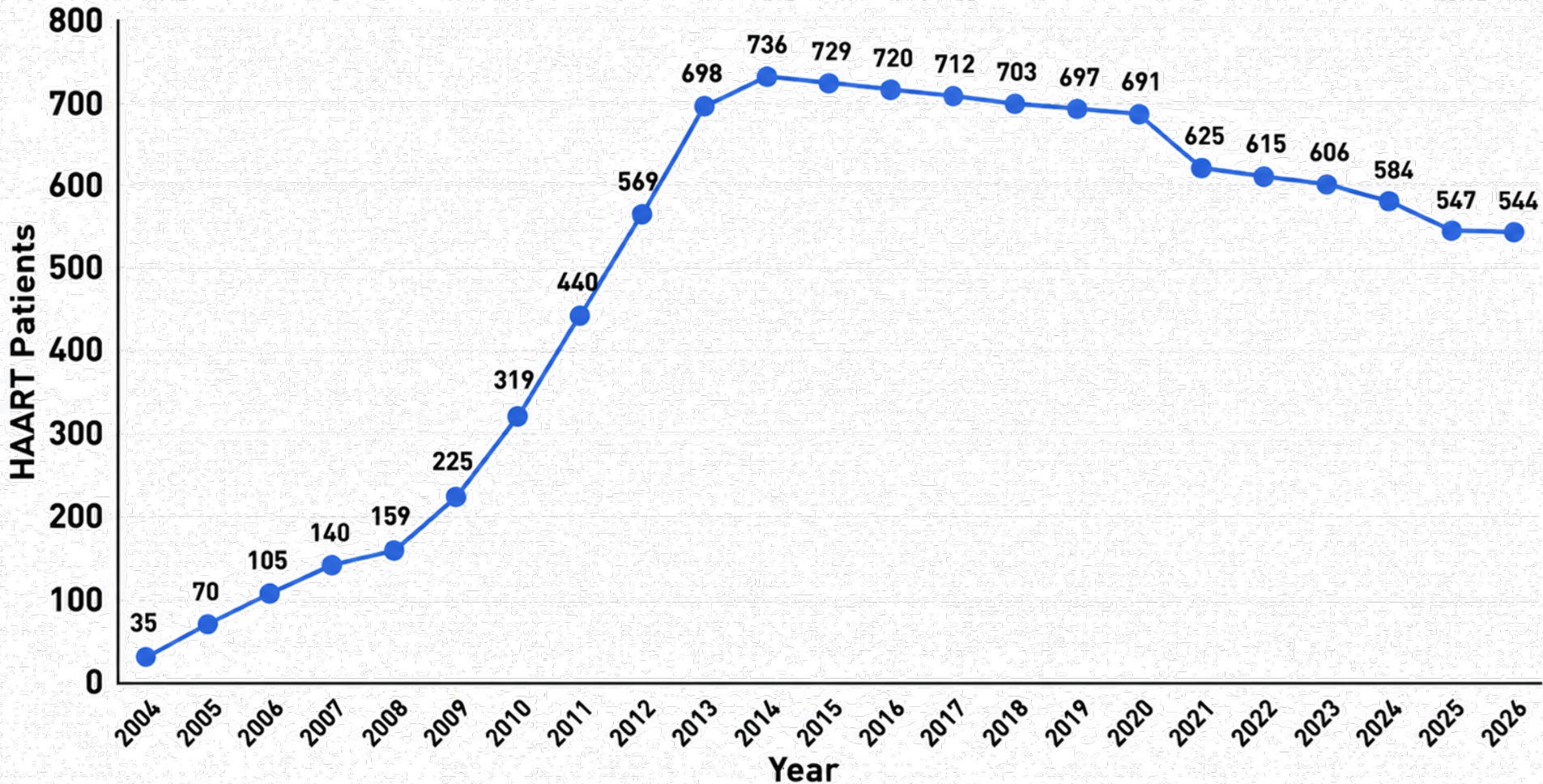
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35 
**PATIENTS ON
HAART.**



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Blessed Gérard's Care Centre HAART Programme (2004–2026)





2005

Rapid Expansion Phase

Programme expands rapidly through:



Community adherence counselling



Home visits



Increasing treatment enrolment



2005 PATIENT NUMBER

70 PATIENTS
ON HAART



Reaching more people. Changing more lives.



17 MARCH 2006

Blessed Gérard's Hospice

— becomes —

member of the
Hospice
Palliative
Care
Association
of South Africa



2006 PATIENT NUMBER



105

PATIENTS
ON HAART



The Relief Organisation of the
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2007

The programme reaches approximately



140 PATIENTS ON HAART

REPORTS MENTION:



Strong adherence monitoring systems



Increasing outpatient treatment



Extensive counsellor involvement



6 JULY 2007 – 6 JUNE 2008
MAJOR EXTENSIONS
TO BLESSED GÉRARD'S CARE CENTRE
are built, including expanded treatment facilities.





22 JUNE 2008

Expanded Blessed Gérard's Care Centre facilities

(including new **HAART Clinic**)

officially

BLESSED AND OPENED

by

BISHOP XOLELO KUMALO



2008 PATIENT NUMBER



159

**PATIENTS
ON HAART**



CONSOLIDATION AND LARGE-SCALE GROWTH



2 APRIL 2009

Integration of multiple charitable projects into Blessed Gérard's Care Centre creates a fully integrated health and social care structure.

HEALTH CARE PROJECTS:



- AIDS Treatment
- Palliative Care Centre
- Poor-Sick-Fund

CHILD CARE PROJECTS:



- Early Childhood Development Centre
- Child and Youth Care Centre
- Malnutrition Clinic
- Bursary Fund

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND SOCIAL PROJECT:



- Emergency Relief Fund



2009 PATIENT NUMBER



225

**PATIENTS
ON HAART**





 **1 JULY 2010**

**BLESSED GÉRARD'S
CARE CENTRE**

— OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AS A —

**NOT-FOR-PROFIT
ORGANISATION**



G.P.-S. 012-0123

**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**



In terms of the Nonprofit Organisation Act, 1997, I am satisfied that

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

(name of the nonprofit organization)

meets the requirements for registration.

The organisation's name was entered into the register on **01 July 2010**
(date)

Registration number

080-935-NPO

Director's signature

Date **01 July 2010**

Department of Social



Development



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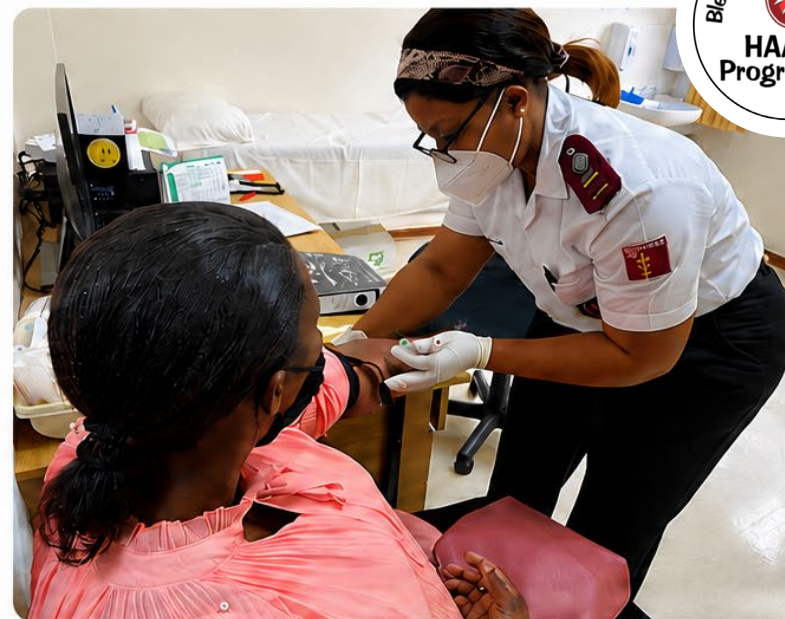
2011–2014

VERY RAPID EXPANSION OF CHRONIC HIV CARE.

PATIENT NUMBERS:



2011:	440
2012:	569
2013:	698
2014:	736 (historic peak)



THE PROGRAMME EVOLVES INTO:



a large chronic-care
ART system



a community adherence
network



a comprehensive
HIV outpatient programme



2015–2020



Programme stabilises
at roughly

700 long-term
HAART patients
annually.

PATIENT NUMBERS:



2015: **729**

2016: **720**

2017: **712**

2018: **703**

2019: **697**

2020: **691**

COVID-19 PERIOD AND RECOVERY

— 2020–2021 —

COVID-19 DISRUPTS:



home visits,



counselling,



patient monitoring,



transport systems.



**DESPITE THIS,
LIFELONG TREATMENT
CONTINUES
UNINTERRUPTED.**



2021 STATISTICS



625

lifelong
HAART patients

DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

WE DISTRIBUTED



2180
FOOD PACKAGES.



1 PACKET
FEEDS
4 PEOPLE



FOR 30 DAYS
WITH
3 MEALS A DAY.



784,800
FOOD PORTIONS.

BLESSED GÉRARD'S HAART PROGRAMME: 2022–2024



Programme transitions increasingly into long-term chronic HIV management.

PATIENT NUMBERS

2022	2023	2024
615	606	584

— Steady care. Stronger futures. —

2023

REPORTED:



3,978
OUTPATIENT
CONSULTATIONS



2,155
ADHERENCE
HOME VISITS



2024

REPORTED:



3,905
OUTPATIENT
CONSULTATIONS



2,213
ADHERENCE
HOME VISITS



The programme
remains heavily
community-based
and **adherence-focused**.



COMMUNITY
BASED CARE



ADHERENCE
SUPPORT



PERSONALISED
CARE



BETTER HEALTH
OUTCOMES



Recent Development

2025

Reported patient number:

- 547 patients on lifelong HAART.



The programme *continues* as:



AN HIV CHRONIC-CARE SYSTEM

Ongoing, comprehensive care that supports people living with HIV to live healthier, longer lives with dignity.



A HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE-CARE SERVICE

Compassionate care that relieves suffering and supports patients and families through every stage of illness.



A COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME INTEGRATED WITH SOCIAL SERVICES

Holistic support that addresses health, social and practical needs, empowering individuals and strengthening communities.



The Relief Organisation of the
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2026 | CURRENT PATIENT NUMBER

544 HAART PATIENTS



Our mission continues:

-  Lifelong treatment with dignity
-  Compassionate care for every patient
-  Hope. Support. Healing. Every step of the way.



BLESSED GÉRARD'S HOSPICE HAART PROGRAM

FUNDING HISTORY & TRANSITION TIMELINE



PEPFAR
U.S. President's Emergency Plan
for AIDS Relief



**Southern African
Catholic Bishops'
Conference**



Today, the programme continues as a **community-based, adherence-focused HIV care service.**

FEBRUARY – AUGUST 2004

Cordaid funded the programme from February to August 2004.

2004 – 2014

Supported the programme through the AIDSRelief consortium (CRS/SACBC).

2004 – 2014

Implemented the HAART programme with funding from PEPFAR (through CRS/SACBC).

FEB – AUG 2004



Cordaid funded the programme from February to August 2004.

2004



PEPFAR support begins through the AIDSRelief consortium (CRS/SACBC).

MAY 2011



Negotiations between BGCC, SACBC and KZN Department of Health about the future of the programme.

APRIL 2012



KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health begins supplying:

- ARV medication
- Laboratory services
- Treatment for opportunistic infections

Support continues to the present day.

MAY 2013



Original end of the second PEPFAR grant cycle for the SACBC ART Programme.

MAY 2014



End of SACBC/PEPFAR No-Cost Extension. PEPFAR funding phase concluded. BGCC continued the programme through a partnership with the KZN Department of Health and other donors. ARV medication and laboratory services continued to be provided by the Department of Health.



From April 2012 to the present, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health has provided ARV medication, laboratory services and treatment for opportunistic infections, while Blessed Gérard's Care Centre continues to deliver community-based HIV care, adherence support and chronic HIV management.



The Relief Organisation of the
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From Emergency Relief to Public Health Integration



Successful Funding Transition:

Documented shift away from early international emergency funding (Cordaid, PEPFAR, and SACBC) to a **mature, long-term partnership** with the **KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health**.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Cordaid

PEPFAR
U.S. President's Emergency Plan
for AIDS Relief

SACBC
Southern African Catholic
Bishops' Conference

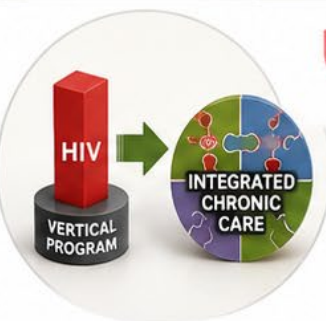


SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP



KWAZULU-NATAL
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

From donor-funded emergency intervention to sustainable public-sector partnership.



De-siloing HIV Care:

Evolution of HIV management from a standalone, 'vertical' crisis program into a **normalised component of an integrated chronic-care system**.



From a vertical HIV program to integrated, people-centred care.



Holistic Health Delivery:

Managing HIV as one of many manageable chronic conditions (alongside hypertension, diabetes, and cancers), **treating the whole patient** rather than **just the disease**.



HIV



HYPERTENSION



DIABETES



CANCERS



MENTAL HEALTH



Treating the whole patient – body, mind and spirit.



Adapting to the Next Horizon: Public Health Shifts



Biomedical Innovation:

We monitor the South African public sector rollout of long-acting, twice-yearly injections like Lenacapavir.



BEFORE THE CLINIC

UPSTREAM IMPACT



Upstream
Prevention



Fewer new
infections



The Impact on Prevention:

We understand how advanced, long-acting PrEP stems the tide of new infections upstream before patients ever need an ART clinic.



DIGNITY.
RESPECT.
COMPASSION.



Systemic Flexibility:

While medical technologies and national guidelines change, the need for an agile, local "*last-mile*" care centre remains absolute.

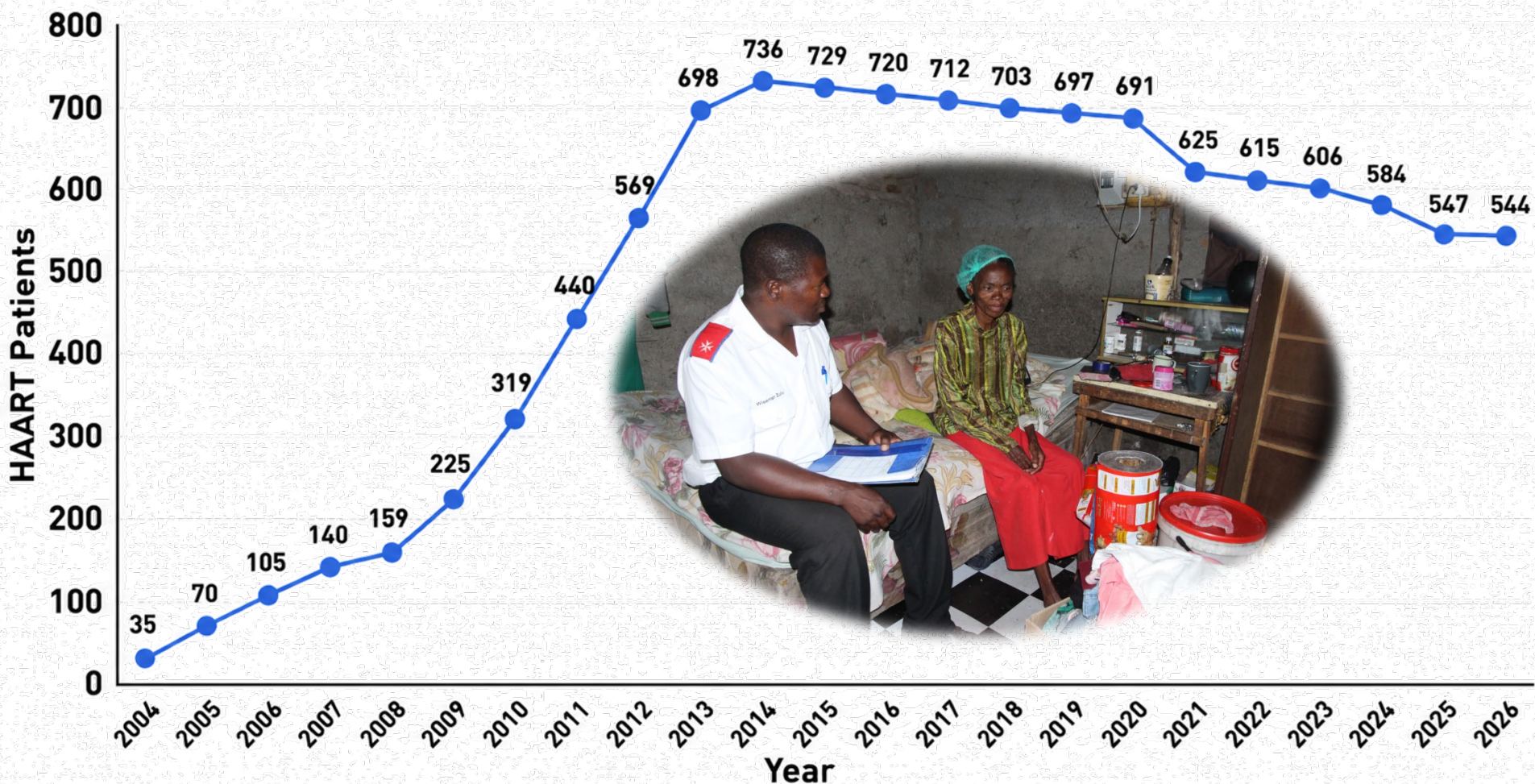


The Relief Organisation of the
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*Innovating for the future.
Rooted in community. Committed to dignity.
Building the next horizon of care.*



Blessed Gérard's Care Centre HAART Programme (2004–2026)





**The children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home say thank you
on behalf of thousands of people, who we were able to help in the past,
for all the benevolence and support we received !**



**The Relief Organisation of the
Order of Malta in South Africa**

Thank you! Siyabonga!



Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



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