

2023 -
2024

Annual Report



ILITHA LABANTU
PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE



Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	Pg 3
Our Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles	Pg 4
Message from Ms Nkhabele Marumo, Chairperson of the Board	Pg 6
Message from Ms Ella Mangisa, Director	Pg 8
Introduction	Pg 10
Programme Implementation and Key Results	Pg 12
Clinical Programme	Pg 14
Policy and Advocacy	Pg 16
Building Bridges Employment Readiness Programme	Pg 18
Outreach and Education	Pg 20
Comprehensive Food Security Programme	Pg 26
Organisational Activities	Pg 30
Staff Development and Wellness	Pg 38
Acknowledgements	Pg 40

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AWIF	-	African Women Independent Forum
CBK	-	Community-based kitchens
CBOs	-	Community-based organisations
CNDC	-	Community Nutritional Development Centre
CPUT	-	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
CSC	-	Community Service Centre
CSW	-	Commission on the Status of Women
DBE	-	Department of Basic Education
DHA	-	Department of Home Affairs
DOH	-	Department of Health
DOJ	-	Department of Justice
DSD	-	Department of Social Development
DVA	-	Domestic Violence Act
FCS	-	Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit
FP&M SETA	-	Fibre Processing and Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
GBVF	-	Gender Based Violence and Femicide
GEWE	-	Gender equality and women's empowerment
ICTs	-	Information and Communication Technologies
IDT	-	Independent Development Trust
NMU	-	Nelson Mandela University
NPA	-	National Prosecuting Authority
SAPS	-	South African Police Service
TCC	-	Thuthuzela Care Center
UN	-	United Nations
VAW	-	Violence against women
VAWC	-	Violence against women and children
VAWG	-	Violence against women and girls

Our Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles

OUR VISION IS ...

To assist in the elimination of all kinds of violence, especially those that occur in the domestic domain where the ideology of privacy is strong.

OUR MISSION IS ...

We strive to end violence and abuse against women and children in disadvantaged communities. We provide emotional support, practical advice, education and training for coping with and addressing violence against women and children. We utilise interactive and inclusive methodologies in our education and empowerment programs.





OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES ARE ...

SERVING all survivors of domestic violence and those supportive of them at any time, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, income, ability, religion or geography

Providing **TIMELY ACCESS** to services and programs.

Creating a **SAFE, WELCOMING AND RESPECTFUL** environment where survivors and their families can heal and grow working to end the silence surrounding violence against women and children, and to end the stigma found within our communities through outreach programs.

RAISING AWARENESS about how societal acceptance of oppression relates to the incidence of sexual violence.

Promoting a work environment that **EMPOWERS** each person to do their work to their fullest capacity; that supports each person in their efforts, and that inspires teamwork in order to provide the best service to the community.

MESSAGE FROM

Ms Nkhabele Marumo, CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD



Advancing our impact through strengthened partnerships



In adapting to the new norm post-COVID-19, Ilitha Labantu demonstrated resilience and flexibility, leveraging technology and strengthening its partnerships to ensure continuity in its services. These adjustments were critical in navigating the heightened challenges of the pandemic, ensuring that the organisation could continue to provide essential support to women and girls affected by violence while also advocating for systemic changes to address the root causes of gender-based violence (GBV) in South African society.

Violence against women, children and vulnerable persons has reached an incomprehensible scale in South Africa. The third quarter crime statistics covering October to December 2023 were a startling reminder of the violent state of affairs. During the 90-day reporting period, 12211 rape cases were opened with the police, suggesting that someone reported rape every 12 minutes. The statistics also revealed the murders of 1135 women and 285 children.

Since we operate within communities that are among those with the highest levels of violence in the country, we have an intimate understanding of the multidimensional nature of violence and the compounding factors that contribute to its proliferation.

Throughout this reporting period, the fostering of meaningful partnerships has been a pivotal element in the success of our programmes. Ilitha Labantu recognises that efforts to eradicate gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) can only succeed through meaningful partnerships, engagements, and collaborations. In all aspects of Ilitha Labantu's objectives, whether providing education, awareness, training and workshops or facilitating timely access to justice and legal support for women and children survivors, partnerships were central to achieving these objectives. We further strengthened our partnerships with the South African Police Service

(SAPS) Metro and Cape Winelands, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Basic Education (DBE), the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), street committees, various community-based organisations (CBOs) and other stakeholders.

These partnerships will enable us to implement more effective strategies, apply them to existing programmes, and expand our reach especially to communities that lack the resources, capacity, and knowledge to eradicate violence against women, children, and vulnerable people. Our engagement with smaller CBOs on the outskirts of Cape Town has also shown the need for the establishment of a network of informed organisations that can assist in the prevention and response to gender-based violence.

We were also delighted to welcome two additional board members at the start of 2024. Both are young women with experience in International Human Rights and Peacebuilding. We believe they will provide valuable inputs as Ilitha Labantu continues to be a vital force in peacebuilding initiatives within the communities we serve and to place mediation at the centre of family enrichment programs.

As we head into a milestone anniversary year in 2024, marking 35 years of tackling violence against women and girls, we are cognisant that we must continue to foster meaningful partnerships and remain fully engaged with stakeholders within government, civil society and the private sector at local, national, regional and global levels to accelerate our work. These partnerships enhance the organisation's ability to support survivors, educate communities, ensure accountability, and pave the way for a more streamlined approach so that Ilitha Labantu can advance its crucial work within the communities it serves.

Throughout this reporting period, the fostering of meaningful partnerships has been a pivotal element in the success of our programmes. Ilitha Labantu recognises that efforts to eradicate gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) can only succeed through meaningful partnerships, engagements, and collaborations.



MESSAGE FROM

Ms Mandisa Monakali FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



35 Years of Existence - A call to accelerate action to end violence against women and children

Looking back over 2023-2024 is not only a review of one year; it is a reflection on 35 years of Ilitha Labantu's existence. When our doors opened in 1989, we were a refuge for women as we fought against the scourge of domestic violence and supported families affected by political violence. Thirty-five years later, our communities remain plagued by the scourge of violence against women and children against the backdrop of poverty and high unemployment. A look at the past year's statistics confirms the horrifying experiences women and children in South Africa continue to face - over 12000 rapes were reported in the last quarter of 2023 alone. In the same period, 18,474 women and 2,281 children were violently assaulted.

At Ilitha Labantu, these are not mere numbers. We walk and talk with survivors of such violence every day. These are women and children with hopes and dreams, with skills and talent, and with much to contribute to their families and our country. This drive to protect and restore their potential has propelled us since 1989 and continues to steer us today.

Our 35th anniversary coincides with the marking of 30 years of democracy in South Africa. These occasions remind us of how far we have come as an organisation and a nation - over 1.5 million people have benefited from Ilitha Labantu's community services and programmes. At a national level, South Africa has made huge strides towards promoting women's rights and gender equality. Yet we know that more needs to be done.

Our celebrations and reflections over the past 35 years will therefore acknowledge the precious gains South Africa has made towards the human

rights agenda while calling for accelerated action to eliminate violence against women and children. Our advocacy will continue to focus on improving the investigation of violence against women, and the conviction rate of perpetrators. As part of our efforts, we will lobby for a responsive social protection system, sustainable economic opportunities for women, and increased funding for organisations addressing gender-based violence.

In the past year, our work has intensified in some key areas, including the economic empowerment of women, capacity building of law enforcement and community-based organisations, response to GBV in higher education institutions, and increasing our outreach to children and youth. We are grateful to the government departments, private sector, international donors, philanthropies and development partners, who have enabled us to expand our reach in the reporting year and over the past 35 years. We will continue to seek partnerships that will enable our work to grow and evolve with the needs of the communities we serve.

While our journey is far from over, there is much to celebrate. During the year, we will reflect on our 35-year history through the memories and perspectives of the many women, children and families who helped us get this far. By listening to the voices of survivors, activists, responders and those standing in solidarity, we hope to gain a renewed appreciation for how the past has informed our present. These experiences will help us to chart a path towards a future where women are free in every sphere of their lives.

Our celebrations and reflections over the past 35 years will therefore acknowledge the precious gains South Africa has made towards the human rights agenda while calling for accelerated action to eliminate violence against women and children.

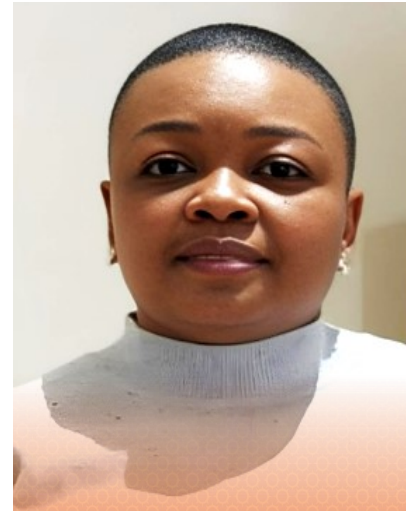


MESSAGE FROM

Ms Ella Mangisa,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Scaling up capacity-building and outreach to combat gender-based violence and femicide



Throughout the 2023/2024 reporting period, Ilitha Labantu sought to improve primary psychosocial interventions in response to persistent high rate of GBVF and ensure victims, survivors, and their families have access to justice and legal instruments as provided by law, that promote the interests and benefits of communities affected by high rates of gender-based violence and femicide.

Through its ongoing public awareness and education programmes, Ilitha Labantu sought to raise much-needed awareness about the scourge of violence against women, children and vulnerable persons through public engagements, workshops, webinars, trainings and messages shared and amplified through broadcast and social media.

We also recognised the need to strengthen partnerships and networks with communities, stakeholders and groups with shared values and interests. Ilitha Labantu worked extensively to ensure that through meaningful partnerships, it could have a greater reach in communities beyond the Cape Metro. Using our networks, we provided education, awareness and training to the rural outskirts of the Western Cape, where there is a lack of resources and infrastructure to address the scourge. The most noticeable of these interventions was the training and workshops to capacitate the South African Police Services throughout the Cape Winelands and Cape Metro Districts police stations. In addition to the above-

mentioned, Ilitha Labantu provided holistic support to women survivors of abuse and went further to link them with economic and job readiness opportunities to help break the cycle of abuse.

A central pillar of the program was the provision of psychosocial support and legal assistance to GBV victims. A notable case involved the Sabsana family. The court sentenced the perpetrator in their daughter's femicide case to 22 years in prison - successfully resolving the case. This case exemplifies the programme's impact on individual lives by ensuring justice and closure for affected families.

Another vital aspect of our approach was strengthening community ties through tailored interventions that combined legal advocacy and public awareness. These programmes have yielded notable results in a society grappling with high rates of GBV and poor policy implementation. Key achievements include the sensitisation and training of 100 police officers and the graduation of 68 police officers across nine communities on handling GBV cases, emphasising the amended Domestic Violence Act (DVA) and sexual offences legislation. This effort was bolstered by public education sessions at 40 police stations, enhancing officers' understanding of victim support and emphasising mutual respect and empathy.

We continue to play a critical role in localising and monitoring international and regional standards for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), contributing to a broader societal shift towards addressing gender-based violence.

Ilitha Labantu's community engagement efforts also reached over 14,000 learners through awareness sessions conducted in educational institutions, encompassing early childhood development centres, primary schools and high schools. These sessions focused on the ramifications of GBV and the available legal remedies at a level young people can understand, significantly raising their awareness.

Furthermore, Ilitha Labantu's advocacy and policy work have increased awareness and understanding of GBV-related legislation among community members and officials. We continue to play a critical role in localising and monitoring international and regional standards for gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), contributing to a broader societal shift towards addressing GBV.

Moving forward, Ilitha Labantu will continue to scale up its training programs for law enforcement and community leaders, aiming to solidify the foundation already built for combating GBV. The focus will be on addressing the remaining challenges, particularly improving victim support rooms at police stations and ensuring that frontline officers receive adequate support and training. Additionally, we plan to leverage social media and online platforms more effectively, reaching a broader audience and engaging young people in GBV prevention.

In February 2024, we began celebrations that reflect on our 35 years of existence under the theme, *Ri qwa%c wc _pa md paqqa ac - R ai jhe t qjcl ac _e_ q a umk cl _l b e q a*. Through the continued dedication of our staff, board, funders and partners, we will continue to foster safe communities for women and girls and build on the successes and lessons learned over the past 35 years.





Introduction

Dedicated to ending violence and abuse against women and children since 1989, in 2023 – 2024, Ilitha Labantu continued to respond to gender-based violence and femicide and ensure that victims, survivors and their families had access to justice and psychosocial support. GBV prevention was also paramount to our efforts, evidenced by our strengthened public awareness and education programmes.

This annual report provides an overview of Ilitha Labantu's impact over the past year as it works to eliminate all forms of violence against women, children and vulnerable persons. Included here is an overview of the primary psychosocial interventions conducted by Ilitha Labantu's Clinical Department, which saw a substantial increase in the number of survivors who received support. It also outlines the activities undertaken by the Policy and Advocacy Department that ensure victims, survivors and their families receive due justice for the crimes committed against them and that the court and legal processes work efficiently towards the needs of survivors.

The report also provides evidence of the effective awareness campaigns that were conducted throughout this period, particularly outreach

activities in educational institutions spanning early childhood development centres to tertiary institutions, and the #Uthuleleni Anti-GBVF Campaign solidarity campaign, which sought to break the silence of abuse and widen the scope of the organisation's reach throughout the Western Cape region.

This reporting period clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of Ilitha Labantu's training tools as the organisation was instrumental in the capacitation of various clusters of the South African Police Service (SAPS) in the Western Cape on how to effectively deal with cases related to gender-based violence from both psychosocial and legal perspectives. Over 60 police officers graduated from the training programme.

Additionally, the report demonstrates Ilitha Labantu's commitment to going beyond its immediate support of VAW survivors to a long-term view through the Building Bridges employment readiness programme. The training programme provides women survivors with transferable skills that increase their employability or allow them to start a business and gain economic independence. The Comprehensive Food Security and Disaster Management programmes are also avenues to extend impact our impact by providing meals that ensure the health and safety of women and children in households that are food insecure or require humanitarian assistance during disasters, in addition to psychosocial support and driving community engagement on GBV.

Engagement of stakeholders at local, national and global levels remained an integral part of Ilitha Labantu's work. During 2023 – 2024, we strengthened our collaboration with stakeholders locally, including the SAPS in the Western Cape, community-based organisations and government departments. To enhance our

global reach, we organised several side events at United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 67th Session based on the theme, "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". Additionally, we hosted the Pre-CSW 68 consultation for civil society. At the 2023 Women Deliver Conference, we presented a session on "Women and ICTs to End Violence against Women and Girls".

The start of 2024 marked the beginning of celebrating our 35th anniversary – reflecting on "three and a half decades of years of resilience - tackling violence against women and girls". The year marks an important milestone on the path undertaken by Ilitha Labantu to promote and strengthen the human rights of women and children through violence prevention and response. At the start of the year, we began with programming that considered reflecting on these past three and a half decades of tackling violence against women and girls.





Programme Implementation and Key Results

Ilitha Labantu has five (5) focal programme areas - Clinical Programme, Policy and Advocacy, Outreach and Education, Employment Readiness and Comprehensive Food Security and Disaster Management. Together these programme areas provide a holistic bundle of services to meet the needs of women and children affected by abuse and violence.



CLINICAL PROGRAMME

Walk-in service centre for survivors; 24-hour emergency support line; mobile counselling; and Dorothy Zihlangu Transitional House (three months emergency accommodation for abused women and their children).

KEY RESULTS:



11,450

Survivors and affected family members counselled



324

Community members attended self-realisation and parenting workshops



17

Community-based organisations received basic counselling training



94

Survivors of violence and their children accessed safe accommodation at the Dorothy Zihlangu Transitional House



POLICY & ADVOCACY

Para-legal services, court support, and lobbying.

KEY RESULTS:



325

Beneficiaries received pre- and post-court preparation



6

Convictions
• 3 femicide cases – 20 years to life
• 3 rape cases – 18 to 20 years



523

Interim Protection Orders granted to beneficiaries



165

Beneficiaries trained on gender sensitivity



263

South African Police Service Officers trained



OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Learner-centred outreach support, public awareness, and community workshops.

KEY RESULTS:



6300

Community members reached during public awareness campaigns



3 million

Reached through media campaigns



14,000

Learners reached during education outreach activities



EMPLOYMENT READINESS

The Building Bridges skills development programme closes the gap between life experience and job readiness.

KEY RESULTS:



55

Women recruited for the sewing course



10

Women graduated from the beading course



34

Young women completed the Nail Technician course



33

Young women completed the Makeup Course



COMPREHENSIVE FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Operating a provincial food distribution centre and 100 community-based kitchens that provide communities with direct access to food daily.

KEY RESULTS:



100

Community-based kitchens in the Western Cape



5000

People fed daily at Community Nutritional Development Centre



498

People helped following shack fires





Clinical Programme

Ilitha Labantu's Clinical Department consists of social workers and an auxiliary social worker and provides counselling and therapeutic or psychosocial support mainly to women, children and older persons.

Over the reporting year, the department offered free individual counselling, family intervention, group counselling and support, pre-and post-court counselling. Through the walk-in centre, **2956 people received counselling**, while **2759 had telephonic assistance**, **11 through the website** and **13 at our mobile clinic**. Additionally, **94 survivors** of violence and their children accessed safe accommodation through the Dorothy Zihlangu Transitional House.

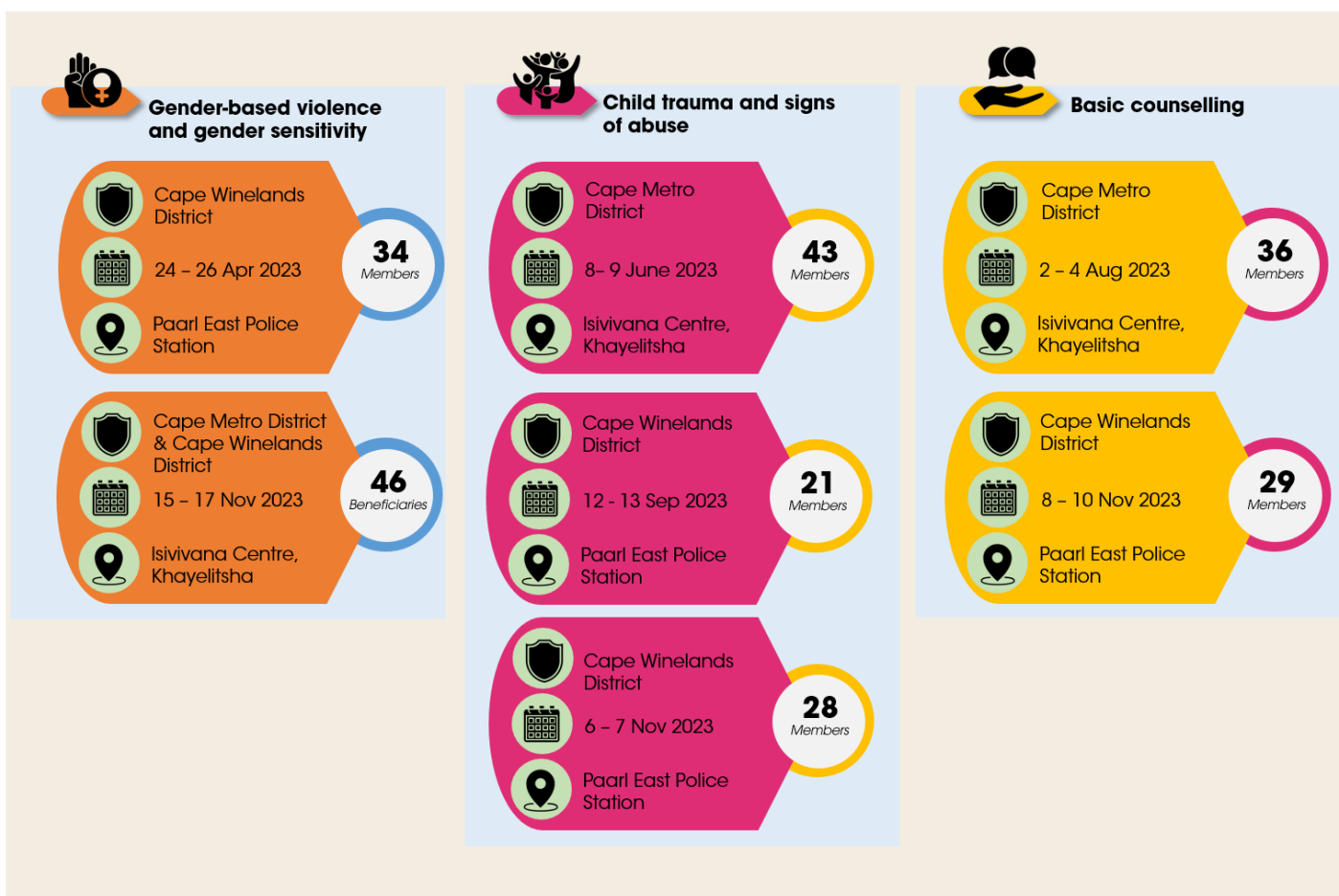
Cases include child abuse and behavioural, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. The organisation also received referrals from the Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC), the Department of Social Development (DSD), SAPS, the Department of Basic Education (DBE), and other stakeholders.

The Clinical Department conducted the following activities from March 2023 to February 2024:

Community workshops and trainings



SAPS Trainings on gender-based violence and gender sensitivity; child trauma and signs of child abuse and basic counselling for victims of violence.





Policy and advocacy

Our policy and advocacy department provides individual legal advice to women about domestic violence, divorce, child maintenance, children who have been sexually violated (raped, attempted rape, incest etc.) and information on wills and estate planning. We also offer pre-and post-court preparation services to clients appearing in court. During these preparatory sessions, we inform clients of court processes and procedures, and our legal officers communicate with the Investigating Officer and the Prosecutor should they request additional information.

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the department conducted 240 consultations (physically and telephonically), 19 home visits, 142 court accompaniments and five SAPS accompaniments for survivors of domestic violence. We also assisted 549 people in applying for protection orders and obtained 523 interim protection orders and 26 refusals.

Beneficiaries reporting or following up on cases, mainly at the Gugulethu Police Station, were enlisted by the department to receive ongoing assistance with their cases. Additionally, the department helped facilitate communication with the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units (FCS), particularly in cases of rape and sexual violence.

No Bail Picketing and Bail Conditions Campaign

As part of its advocacy for no bail in rape and femicide cases, the department coordinated 19 picketing events where they also distributed informational flyers about the Bail Conditions Campaign. The campaign advocates for survivors to receive a copy of their perpetrators' bail conditions and educates the general public about their constitutional right to access a copy.

The department further helped the State Prosecutors (National Prosecuting Authority) to ensure that Magistrates denied bail to the perpetrators. A key role played by the Policy and Advocacy department is to engage communities where a perpetrator has submitted an alternative address for his bail application. As a result, community leaders and community members often sign petitions to clearly express disapproval of a perpetrator living in their neighbourhood, and thus, the court frequently denies bail.

SAPS Trainings

The Policy and Advocacy Department conducted several trainings for SAPS members from the Cape Metro District and the Cape Winelands District on handling GBV cases and Legal Remedies and Procedures.

After the training, communities noted a decrease in the number of women turned away from police stations, as trained officers were now responsible for handling GBV-related matters and thus took on such cases. For cases where the SAPS lacked clarity or needed further assistance, they continued to seek support from Ilitha Labantu telephonically or came in with a client to seek guidance on handling the case.

Highlights of key pickets



Rape cases



- 6 Mar 2023
- 9 Mar 2023
- 13 Mar 2023
- 20 Mar 2023
- 28 Mar 2023
- 8 May 2023
- 4 Aug 2023
- 18 Aug 2023
- 13 Sep 2023



- 29 Sep 2023
- 5 Oct 2023

P_{nc} a_q k_s beck cl r



- 28 Sep 2023



- 6 Oct 2023



Wynberg Magistrate Court



Cape Town Magistrate Court



Khayelitsha Magistrate Court



Femicide cases



- 29 Mar 2023

Dck q_uq c a_q r_p l q_uq r_m
P_{ce}q_rl _ j A_ms p



- 29 Mar 2023
- 31 Mar 2023
- 8 May 2023
- 16 May 2023

Dck q_uq c a_q r_s beck cl r



- 17 Apr 2023

Dck q_uq c a_q r_q r_{cl} r_{cl} a_q e



- 19 Apr 2023



Building Bridges Employment Readiness Programme

Building Bridges is a comprehensive employment readiness initiative specifically designed for women who have experienced domestic violence, sexual abuse, or early pregnancy. The program takes a holistic approach to employment preparation by addressing the individual's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs. Ilitha Labantu recruited 250 women aged 20 to 72 years to participate in the skills development training, with 197 completing their courses in the reporting period.

Sewing and beading skills courses

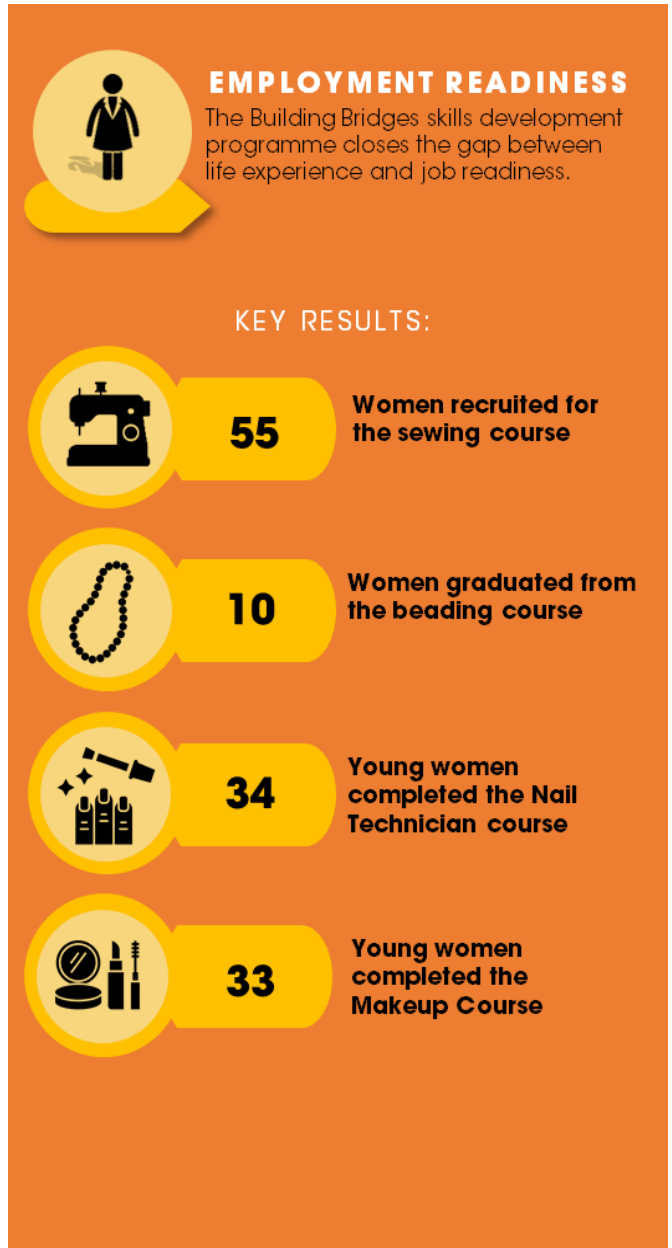
For the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority (FP&M SETA) Sewing Learnership, we recruited 30 women between 20-35 years. The 12-month sewing skills programme had an intake of 25 women aged 35 and above. The moderator is currently verifying the learners' files for final marks. Once finalised, the FP&M SETA will give the learners their certificates. We recruited 15 women for the beading program; 10 graduated and received a starter pack to continue beading and earning an income.

Nail and makeup skills courses

For the nail tech program, 50 young women started the programme, and 34 have completed the course so far and received their certificates and starter kits to set up their own business. We also recruited 50 young women for the beautician course, which focuses on makeup artistry; 33 have completed the course and received their starter kits and certificates. Both courses take between 3-4 months to complete.

Financial literacy

The organisation further partnered with Isintu to run workshops on financial literacy for entrepreneurs and basic bookkeeping skills. Sixty-five women participated in the workshops and received a certificate of attendance. The free courses have impacted the young women's lives as many have provided feedback, sharing how they have already used the knowledge and skills gained to improve their businesses.





Outreach and Education

The Outreach and Education department successfully implemented awareness activities and workshops during the 2023/24 reporting period. We managed to surpass our target per annum of 117000 households. Our outreach and education activities included our learner-centred support program, community dialogues and engagements, and the distribution of materials in awareness campaigns, motorcades and mass media campaigns.

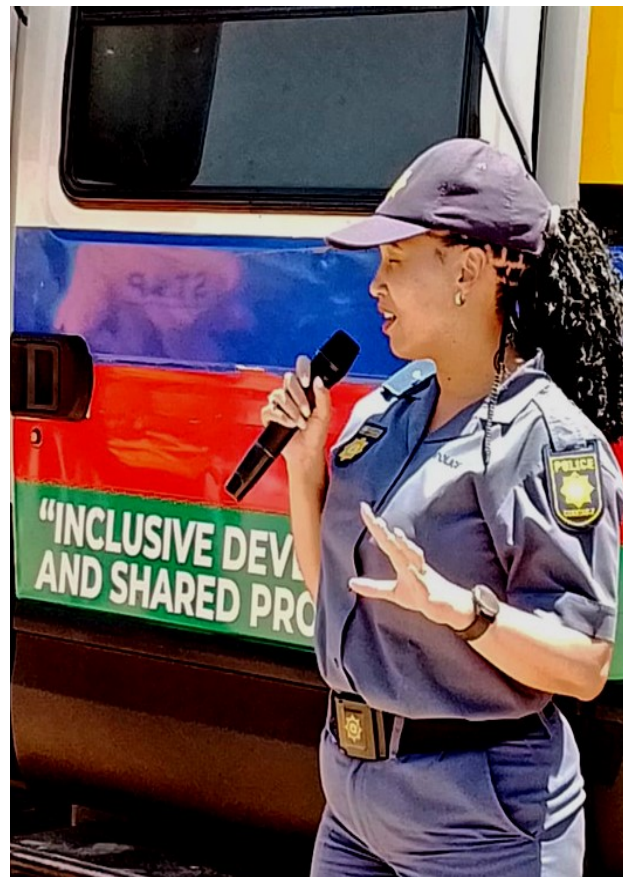
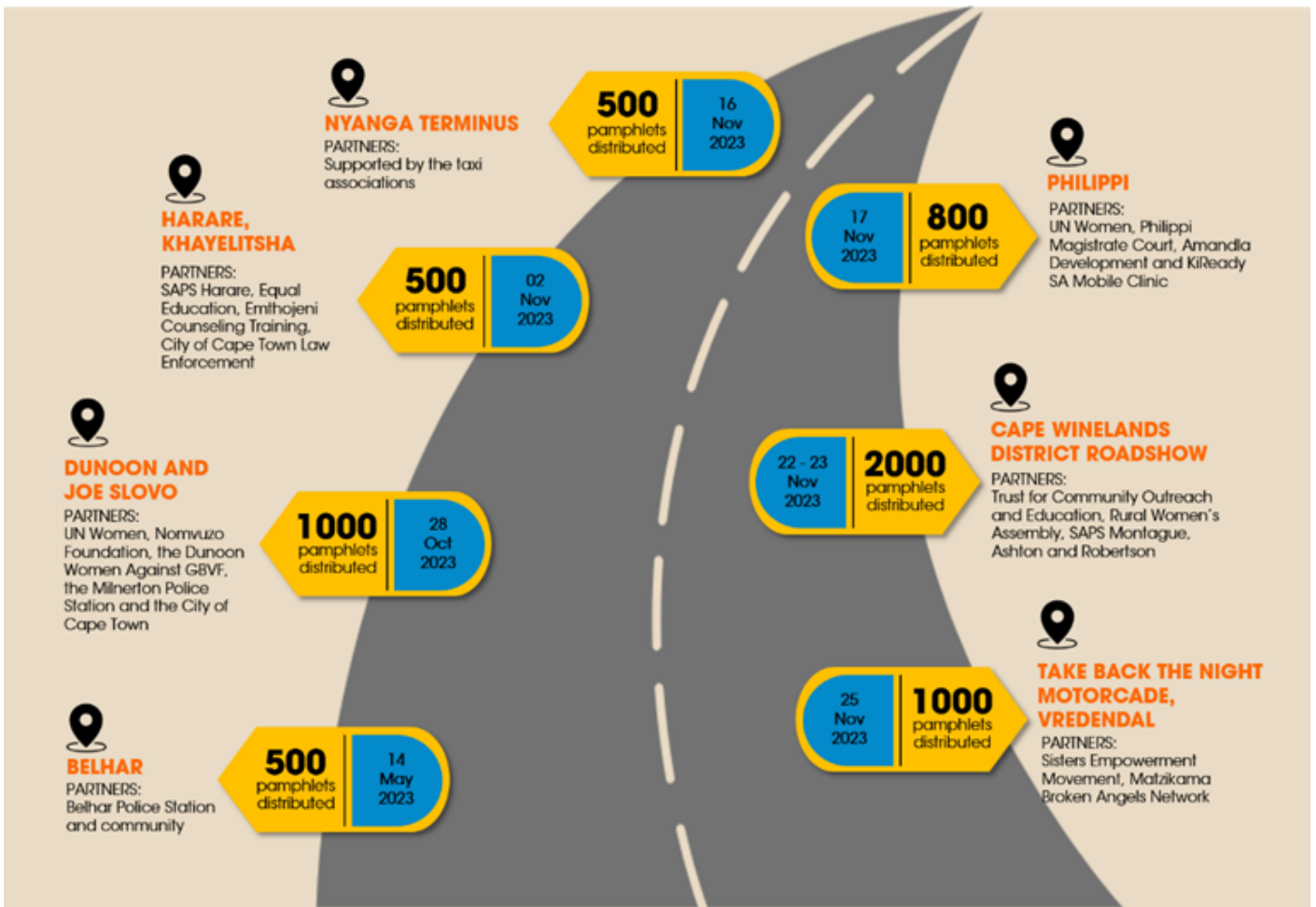
#UTHULELENI Anti-GBVF Motorcade

The #Uthuleleni Anti GBVF Campaign is Ilitha Labantu's solidarity campaign that encourages multi-sector partnership with various stakeholders, including the South African Police Services, government agencies, NGOs, community

structures, faith-based communities and entities who are involved in responding effectively to the scourge of violence against women, children and affected households. The campaign primarily takes the form of a motorcade that moves through communities in the Cape Metro and rural outskirts of the Western Cape, providing information and addressing community members.



Overview of #Uthuleleni Anti-GBV Motorcade activities:



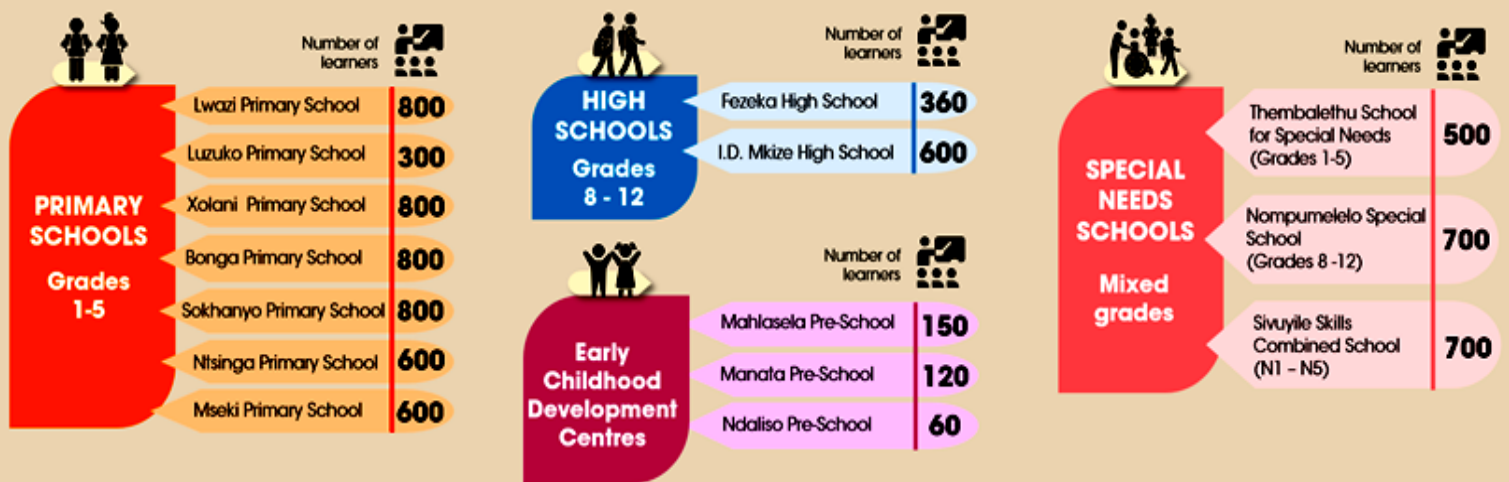
Learner-centred outreach support through school visitation

Ilitha Labantu delivers its Learner-Centred Outreach Support programme (Schools Visitation Programme) to learners at early childhood development centres, primary and secondary school pupils, and students at special needs schools. We tailor our programme content for children below the age of 18 who live in communities where physical and sexual violence are normalised. We use the programme to

educate school children about the scourge of gender-based violence and other related matters and to empower them about their rights.

This programme also provides greater access to Ilitha Labantu's holistic services for schools in communities with high rates of violence. During this reporting period, the organisation had a cluster of seven primary schools, two high schools, three schools for children with special needs and three early childhood development centres.

We reached learners at the following institutions:



Child Protection Week

From 29 May to 2 June 2023, the Outreach and Education Department observed the 2023 Child Protection Week themed "Stopping the Cycle of Neglect, Violence and Child Exploitation". This theme highlights the pertinent issues affecting children and adolescents, such as emotional and physical abuse, sexual exploitation and grooming, neglect, and violence that occurs at schools and in the community. The observance week highlights society's collective responsibility for child protection and well-being. A total of 1700 pupils were addressed at assembly time during the child protection week at Luzuko Primary School, Bonga Primary School and Thembalethu School for Learners with Special Needs.



School Holiday Programme

The Ilitha Labantu school holiday programme is an extension of the learner-centred support programme aimed at creating a fun, engaging and educational space for children during the school holidays. The Outreach and Education Department partnered with the Gugulethu Public Library to host School Holiday Programme sessions for children aged 8 – 17 from 5 – 7 April 2023 (attended by 200 children) and from 27 June – 6 July 2023 (attended by 250 children).

On 17 July 2023, the Outreach and Education Department and the Clinical Department jointly hosted a #GirlsChat Unique and Positively You Programme attended by 99 girls between 13 and 17 years old. The programme explored social norms, gender equality, power relations, goal setting and girls' leadership.

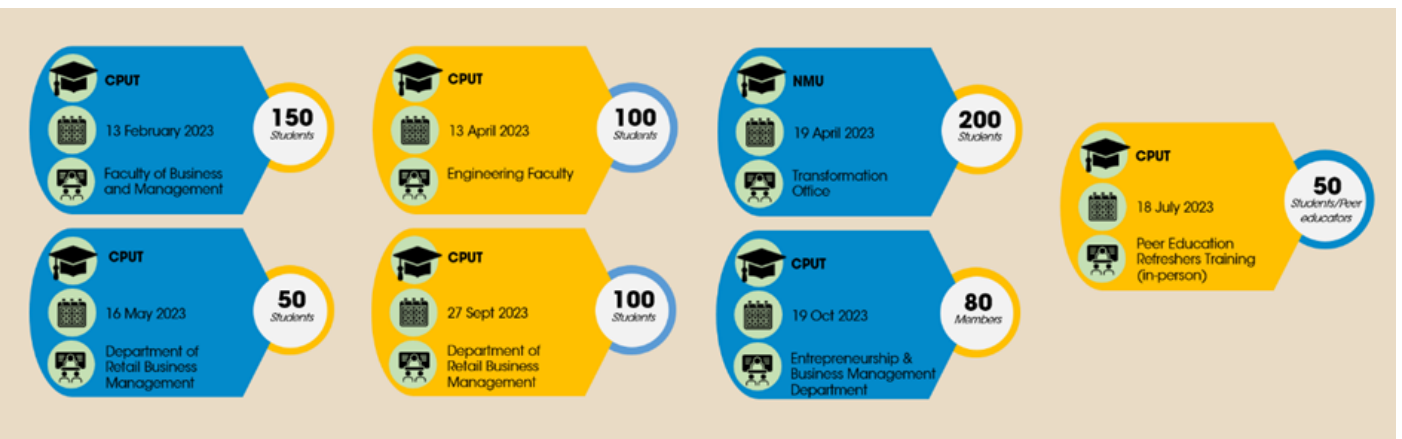


Gender-based violence webinars for first-year students

Ilitha Labantu held six GBV webinars with first-year students from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and the Nelson Mandela University (NMU). A total of 730 students participated in the webinars, which created a platform for students to critically engage on various issues related to gender-based violence at higher education institutions. The webinar series was complemented by an in-person training session for 50 peer educators at CPUT, placing them at the forefront of student leadership with a focus on addressing gender-based violence and femicide on campus.



Faculties participating in GBV Awareness Webinars





Mass media

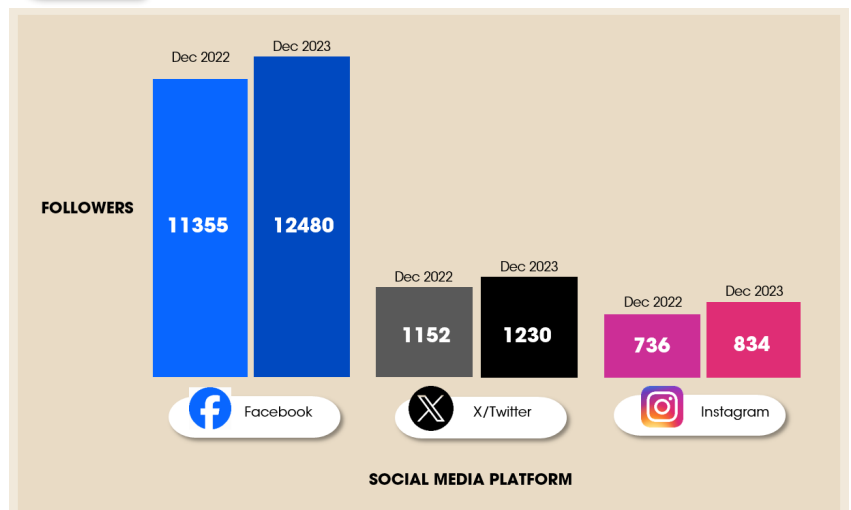
Mass media plays an essential role in spreading the message of a society free from all forms of violence against women and children. News articles, commentary, press releases, events coverage and engagement on broadcast and social media platforms are all critical components of keeping communities and stakeholders engaged on issues related to GBVF and women's and children's rights. These platforms also highlight progressive responses to the scourge of GBVF and empower communities to take action. Through mass media campaigns (articles and radio interviews alone), we have reached an audience of over 3 million readers and listeners. This reach has allowed us to give commentary and inputs to GBV-related stories and child abuse matters and to discuss our mission, programmes and activities.



Social media

During the 2023/2024 reporting period, Ilitha Labantu's social media presence grew on all its social media platforms pages. Facebook is the organisation's most successful social media platform, as it is among the oldest and most widely used platforms and continues to be popular among social service providers.

Social media coverage





Articles published



115

PUBLICATION	NO. OF ARTICLES	READERSHIP
Cape Times	51	261 000
Cape Argus	30	294 000
Weekend Argus	16	183 000
Vukani	6	81 250
News24 (City Vision)	4	150 000
Ground Up	5	54 000
TimesLive	1	137 054
African Media Agency	1	-
UNWomen.org	1	-

Radio interviews conducted



37

RADIO STATION	NO. OF INTERVIEWS	LISTENERSHIP
Bush Radio	5	86 000
SAFM	2	250 000
Heart 104.9 FM	12	797 000
Zibonele FM	5	231 000
Smile 90.4 FM	6	189 000
Cape Talk 567 AM	3	143 000
The Voice of the Cape	4	186 000

Television news features



3

TV STATION	EVENTS COVERED	VIEWERSHIP
Cape Town TV	3rd Ilitha Labantu Annual Lecture – 8 Dec 2023	2.5 million monthly viewers
eNCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Ilitha Labantu Annual Lecture – 8 Dec 2023 Ilitha Labantu Book Launch – "Our Stories, Our Voices, Discovering Ourselves" – 2 Feb 2024 	3 to 4 million monthly viewers





Comprehensive Food Security Programme

Ilitha Labantu's comprehensive Food Security Programme model relies on a holistic community-driven approach to creating food-secure communities. We do not only focus on the immediate provision of meals, but we also look at rebuilding and sustaining livelihoods and rehabilitation services for vulnerable women and children affected by domestic violence who have become food insecure.

Ilitha Labantu's Comprehensive Food Security Programme has been a beacon of hope in the Western Cape, addressing hunger and fostering community resilience through its support of 100 community kitchens. We meticulously select a range of food items for purchase – a balanced mix of perishable and non-perishable items, along

with staple foods, prioritising the dual goals of meeting the nutritional needs of beneficiaries while accommodating the logistics of mass cooking and catering to the varied tastes and dietary requirements of a diverse population.

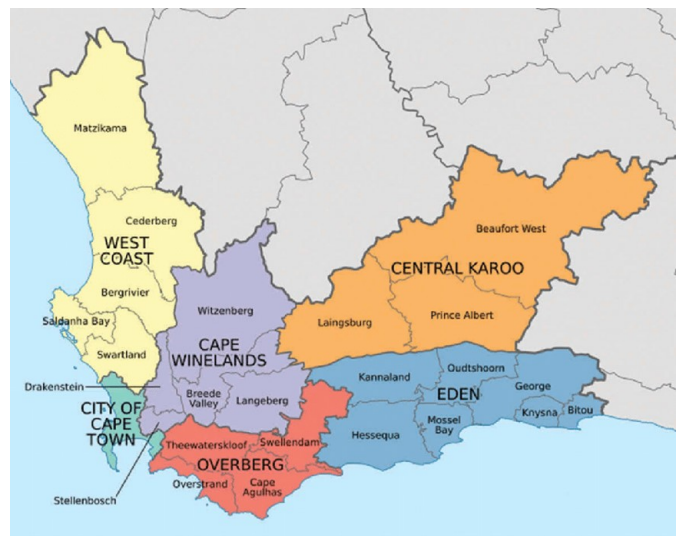
Community Nutritional Development Centres (CNDC)

Ilitha Labantu CNDC feeds 280 beneficiaries daily (Monday to Friday) with breakfast and lunch. The CNDC has a developmental element and invites various partners to offer free health services and developmental programmes.

Community-based kitchens

Community-based kitchens (CBK), supported by the Department of Social Development, provide communities with direct access to food daily. The kitchens benefit people who may have to use other forms of social assistance to try and sustain multiple aspects of their lives, such as education, shelter, electricity and clothing. CBK provide immediate relief for those who suffer from hunger and have no other means or limited financial resources to sustain themselves. Ilitha Labantu is the implementing agent of the programme and manages 100 kitchens in the Western Cape.

Significantly, in 2023, we established a robust supply chain, ensuring a steady flow of nutritious food to the kitchens. We strengthened our partnerships with local farmers and suppliers, securing favourable terms that enable efficient use of resources to manage the kitchens. Additionally, training sessions were held for kitchen staff, focusing on nutrition, food safety, and efficient cooking methods to maximise resources. This period also saw the introduction of additional food items into the supply chain. We also conducted an extensive review of the CBK, evaluating their effectiveness in meeting the needs of their beneficiaries, identifying areas for improvement and exploring avenues for the programme's expansion and sustainability.





Disaster Management

As an organisation that works directly with communities, Ilitha Labantu is well-positioned to assist residents affected by natural and human-made disasters.

We provide holistic support to those affected, such as food parcels, dignity kits, trauma counselling, and other support services in collaboration with local stakeholders, community-based organisations, schools and state institutions. Our approach is to provide immediate relief while simultaneously initiating community-led recovery activities that will ultimately build their resilience.

In 2023, we assisted 360 residents in Amy Biehl informal settlement and 138 in Dunoon Site Five when shack fires swept through the area and destroyed their homes. Many residents could not save their possessions and lost all their belongings, including identity documents, in the fire.

Our response efforts were multifaceted, addressing immediate needs while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery and resilience. Emergency relief measures included the provision of shelter, food, and basic hygiene necessities to those displaced by the fire. Recognising the psychological toll of such a disaster, Ilitha Labantu also implemented mental health support programs, offering counselling and therapeutic services to help individuals and families cope with trauma and loss.

Economic empowerment initiatives played a critical role in the recovery process. Ilitha Labantu launched programs focused on restoring livelihoods, providing skill development training, and supporting small business development among the affected community members. These initiatives helped to rebuild the community's economic foundation and empowered individuals, especially women, to gain financial independence and develop resilience against future adversities.



We conducted education and awareness campaigns on fire safety and prevention to equip the community with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent similar incidents in the future. These sessions, facilitated in partnership with local leaders, fostered a culture of safety and preparedness, which is crucial for minimising risks and ensuring community well-being.

The rebuilding of homes, undertaken with a focus on fire resistance and safety standards, also highlighted Ilitha Labantu's commitment to sustainable recovery. By working hand-in-hand with community leaders and leveraging local knowledge and resources, the organisation ensured that the reconstruction efforts were fruitful, culturally sensitive and inclusive.

Our approach is to provide immediate relief while simultaneously initiating community-led recovery activities that will ultimately build their resilience.



Organisational Activities

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 67

The 67th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67) took place from 6-17 March 2023 under the theme, "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

In addition to the formal CSW67 program and participating in an expansive program of side events hosted by United Nations Agencies, non-government organisations, and other United Nations member states, Ilitha Labantu hosted three side events relevant to the priority theme of CSW67.

Ilitha Labantu's side events showcased the country's key achievements in the fight against gender-based violence, highlighting the use of digital technologies to proactively fulfil its commitments within the Beijing Declaration and

Platform of Action on Gender-Based Violence and Digital Technology, including Economic Justice and Rights. This broad engagement contributed significantly to South Africa's profile at CSW67.

The first parallel event on 6 March centred on "Harnessing technology and innovation to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Participants discussed ICTs as tools for women's empowerment and ensuring women and girls have the "necessary skills and knowledge to understand, participate actively in, and benefit fully from" the digital society.

A second event, held on 14 March, focused on "Building a collective front against the digital dimension of violence against women. This Session considered the digital dimension of violence against women, which encompasses a wide range of acts online or through technology. Participants agreed that online gender-based violence was increasing in Africa and had become a legitimate and equally harmful



manifestation of the gender-based violence experienced by women and girls offline.

The final side event on 17 March, "African Women and ICTs: Investing in Technology, Gender and Empowerment", explored how women in Africa utilise ICTs to facilitate their empowerment, whether through mobile business transactions, ICT employment opportunities or access to information through the internet. The discussion included issues such as the notion of ICTs for empowerment and as agents of change, ICTs in the fight against gender-based violence, and how ICTs could serve to reconceptualise public and private spaces.

The overarching goal of these events, held in partnership with the UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office and led by Ilitha Labantu founder and president, Ms Mandisa Monakali, was to discuss the importance and the positive and negative impact of technology and innovation. Many of the CSW 67 sessions and events also reaffirmed that women and girls need the same access to technology that men and boys enjoy. Additionally, as gender-based violence becomes prevalent in digital spaces, governments need to do more to ensure the safety of women and girls online.

Isisele Writing Retreat

Ilitha Labantu hosted the first Isisele Women's Writing Retreat in May 2023. Twenty-one women attended the writing retreat, where they had the opportunity to write their stories, ranging from women's experiences of gender-based violence to the accounts of women who lost loved ones due to the brutal apartheid regime. Their stories ultimately contributed to the first edition of "Our Stories, Our Voices, Discovering Ourselves," an anthology that brings together a collective of personal narratives, short stories and poetry from women and girls from all walks of life. The Writing Retreat forms part of a fundamental pillar of the Isisele Hub's mission - to tell untold and unheard stories of ordinary South African women who have transformed our nation and to help heal the legacy wounds of our history. Through the writing retreat, the women had the opportunity to write, express, and share their stories and subsequently have these published in the anthology.



Women Deliver Conference 2023

The 2023 Women Deliver Conference (WD2023) happened in person in Kigali, Rwanda, and virtually from 17-20 July 2023. According to the conference organisers, it was one of the largest multi-sectoral convenings to advance gender equality as more than 6,300 feminists representing 170 countries attended, and over 10,000 people joined the conference online.

During the conference, Ilitha Labantu, and the African Women Independent Forum (AWIF), hosted the session "Women and ICT to end violence against women and girls," which considered the pros and cons of digital access. The speakers highlighted that while the internet has become an integral part of our lives and provided opportunities for communication, education and connection, it has also opened a dark world of cyberbullying, revenge porn, online grooming and other forms of harassment and exploitation. The discussion also explored notable strategies to curb violence, including improved education and digital literacy, building digital resilience, increasing multilingual resources, encouraging reporting, strengthening online safety policies and engaging communities.

The panellists included Jacqueline Utamuriza-Nsizabira, African Regional Advisor on HIV and Gender, UN Women; Gracious Lekgoathi, Social Impact Digital Content Creator; Tumie Komanyane, Lead Programmes, Frontline AIDS and Nontsikelelo Sigege, Clinical Manager, Ilitha Labantu. Inimfon Etuk, Founder of Her Forum Africa, moderated the event.

Ilitha Labantu delegates attended Meet Up events on "Preventing Online GBV" and "African feminist perspectives on wellbeing - cultural meanings, identities and innovations". The highlight for Ilitha Labantu was taking part in a civil society-led global initiative focussed on addressing gender equality and participating in an event where Rwanda, an African country, was selected as the host amongst many deserving countries. It was also beneficial to meet and engage with activists from different countries with one common goal of advancing gender equality, gender parity, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and improving the well-being of girls and women in all their intersecting identities.

Mandela Day

Ilitha Labantu spent 67 minutes for Mandela Day (July 18) refurbishing and redecorating the Victim Empowerment Room at the Gugulethu SAPS. We also donated school uniforms to pupils at Nobantu Primary School in Gugulethu.

Annual High Tea Fundraiser

As part of the 2023 Women's Month program, Ilitha Labantu hosted its 4th Annual High Tea, themed "You Are Enough," on Saturday, 26 August 2023 at the Vineyard Hotel in Cape Town. The high tea raises funds for Ilitha Labantu's Dorothy Zihlangu Transitional House - a shelter for women survivors of violence and their children. Multi-award-winning radio and television broadcaster Masechaba Khumalo was the Master of Ceremony. Guest speakers were the Honourable Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Sazini Mojapelo, Managing Director of Corporate Citizenship at Barclays Africa Group and Absa Group.



Isisele Senyathi Second Annual Conference

Ilitha Labantu in partnership with the AWIF and UN Women SAMCO hosted the 2nd Annual Conference of Isisele Senyathi Women's Hub on African Women's History from 27 - 29 September 2023 at the Freedom Park - Heritage Site and Museum in Tshwane. In her remarks, Ms Mandisa Monakali, Founder and President of Ilitha Labantu shared that Isisele Senyathi was about revealing, sharing and preserving the untold stories of African women. "We're writing African women back into history." Founded in 2022, Isisele Senyathi is the nation's first public exhibition and educational Hub dedicated to African women's history.

SAPS GBV Training Graduation

Ilitha Labantu, in partnership with UN Women, Elma Philanthropies and Brotfürdie Welt, hosted a graduation ceremony for members of the South African Police Service who completed our GBV Training, representing police stations from the Cape Metro and the Cape Winelands Districts.

The training programmes cover topics such as defining gender, gender sensitivity, harmful social

norms, legal remedies and procedures, the role of the SAPS, working with survivors of violence, handling traumatised individuals, and basic counselling.

The SAPS has embraced the programme, implementing it across 75 police stations in the Cape Metro and Cape Winelands of the Western Cape Province. On December 1st 2023, 66 officers graduated after completing all the training modules.

Ilitha Labantu Annual Lecture

On 8 December 2023, Ilitha Labantu, in partnership with the AWIF and UN Women, held the 3rd Annual Ilitha Labantu Lecture under the theme, "The evolution of human rights and its effect on women's rights". The lecture occurred at the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, and guest speaker Dr Mamphela Ramphele delivered the lecture.



Pre CSW68 Consultation

Ahead of the 68th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) scheduled for 11 – 24 March 2024, Ilitha Labantu, in partnership with the AWIF and the UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office convened a civil society preparatory consultation meeting from 29 – 31 January 2024. Participants included women's organisations, businesswomen, religious groups, young women, cooperatives, researchers, academics and United Nations staff.

The meeting theme, "Financing for gender equality and SDGs in relation to education, poverty, and structural inequalities," aligned with the CSW68 priority theme, "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective". The consultations also addressed the review theme from CSW 63 on "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."

The civil society 2024 preparatory consultation meeting highlighted the importance of breaking

down gender biases: shifting social norms towards gender equality, strengthening women's economic independence concerning gender equality, gender stereotyping in schools, HIV/ AIDS and GBV, as well as breaking down the structural barriers that prevent the full insertion of women into the labour market, including care and gender violence; and a stronger connection between advancing finance for equality and the broader financing agenda of the 2030 Agenda.

At the interactive forum, civil society and government actors took stock of dominant trends, needs, gaps in policy responses and good practices. Session participants could also consider possible areas for joint interventions (policy, programmatic, or otherwise) to address gendered poverty, utilise the power of gender-sensitive public institutions and close financing gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

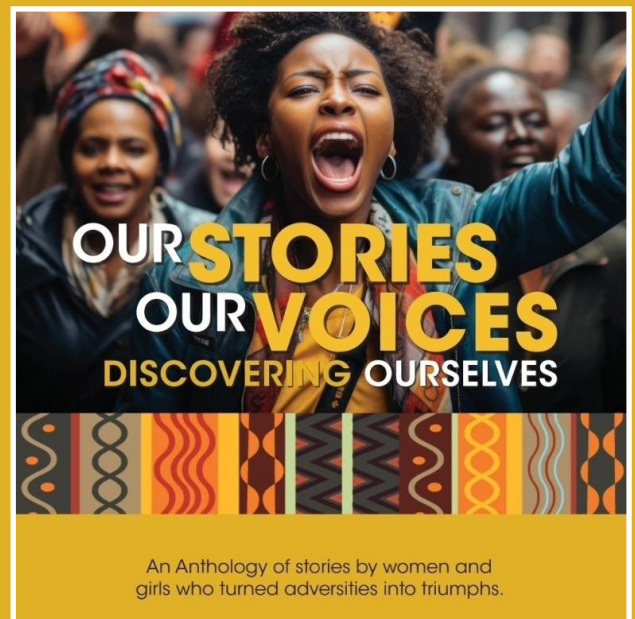
The consultations resulted in suggested actions for accelerated progress, in line with the Priority Theme for CSW68. These actions fed into and informed government contributions to the CSW68 Agreed Conclusions.



Our Stories, Our Voices Book Launch

Iilitha Labantu officially launched its anthology of stories of women and girls entitled "Our Stories, Our Voices, Discovering Ourselves" on Friday, 2 February 2024, at the Desmond and Leah Tutu Foundation. The anthology brings together a collective of personal narratives, short stories and poetry from women and girls from all walks of life. As an organisation that has been addressing the scourge of violence against women and girls for 35 years, we are committed to giving a voice to the untold stories of women and girls. Through the Iisile Senyathi Women's Hub for African Women's History, we aim to use a gendered lens to rewrite and correct the distorted narratives of history. By creating positive narratives about African women, we can help inspire generations of women and girls throughout South Africa, the African continent and the globe.

The book is the first publication from Iilitha Labantu's Iisile Senyathi Women's Hub on African Women's History, which aims at giving voice to the untold stories of ordinary women, leaders, visionaries and change makers who have helped shape the world we live in.





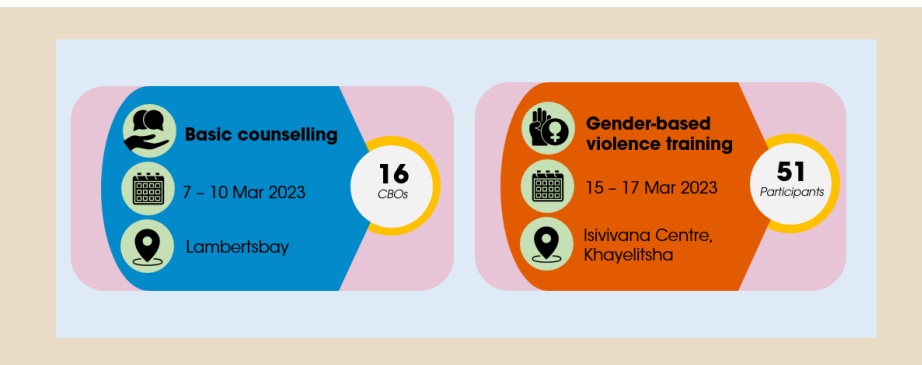
Meetings, Community Engagements and Dialogues

- On 8 March 2023, Ilitha Labantu hosted 100 young women on **International Women's Day** in Gugulethu at JL Zwane Centre.
- On 23 April 2023, the Outreach and Education Department, in partnership with the Holy Cross Anglican Church in Nyanga East, hosted a **Young Men's Dialogue** - 60 young men aged 18 to 35 attended.
- On 20 May 2023, the Clinical Department and Equal Education hosted a **parent dialogue** of more than 300 parents on child behaviour in Nyanga.
- On 7 June 2023, Ilitha Labantu hosted the **Khayelitsha Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Forum meeting**. Thirteen stakeholders attended the meeting.
- On 29 June 2023, Ilitha Labantu engaged 43 members of the Lwandle SAPS on **Gender-Based Violence and treatment of survivors** in Lwandle.
- On 31 August 2023, the Policy and Advocacy department conducted a workshop for 260 Elderly from Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Langa, Heinz Park and Bonteheuwel at the Gugulethu Sports Complex about **Elderly Abuse and the Elderly Charter**.
- From 31 October to 2 November 2023, the Policy and Advocacy Department partnered with Philisa Abafazi Bethu Women's Center, a sister organisation in Retreat, to assist older persons and address issues directly affecting them. The Policy and Advocacy Department assisted 36 older persons on various **legal matters, including discussing the importance of wills** and then took time to receive instructions and draft wills.
- On 25 November 2024, the Clinical Department, the Outreach and Education Department and the Policy and Advocacy Department conducted a **community dialogue** at the Civic Hall in Vredendal North. Sixty community members attended the dialogue, which focused on promoting a society free from violence against women and children 365 days a year.

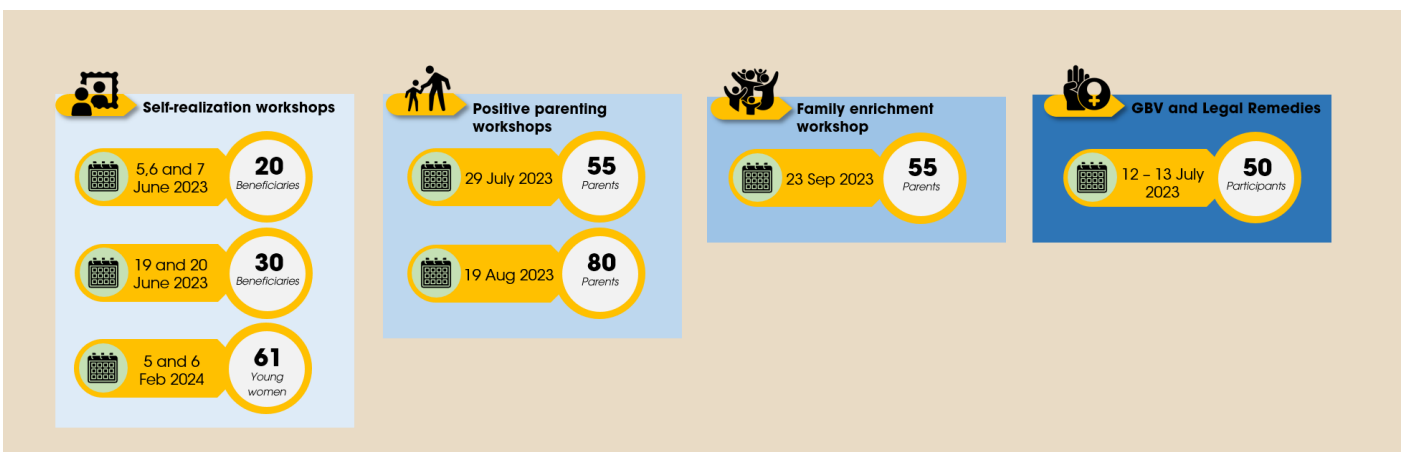
SAPS Trainings



Training for Community-Based Organisations



Community Workshops





Staff development and wellness

Basic Sign Language Course

Staff members participated in an eight-week Basic Sign Language course offered by Eden Language Academy as part of the organisation's internal development. Basic proficiency in sign language will help us serve the deaf community better and enhance the inclusivity of our services as we reach more community members.

Security upgrades and precautions

In August 2023, Ilitha Labantu was a victim of the same violence that the organisation fights tirelessly to eliminate in its daily operations when robbers held up the Gugulethu head office at gunpoint. Some of the stolen valuables included personal and professional equipment like laptops, car keys, and cell phones. The robbery left many staff members traumatised and affected our regular operation for weeks.

Following the incident, we upgraded the office security to ensure that both clients and employees of Ilitha Labantu are safe. The security upgrades

also included the enforcement of new safety precautions that all staff members must adhere to. The incident was a startling reminder that no one is immune to the effects of living in a society with high levels of violence and crime.





Acknowledgements

It has taken tremendous effort on the part of our staff and volunteers to keep the vision and mission of Ilitha Labantu alive as we continue to collectively battle the tenacious pandemic of Violence against Women and Children. Your dedication has carried us through and enabled us to continue to serve communities affected by high levels of domestic violence.

As we look forward to celebrating 35 years in existence, we know that reaching this milestone would not have been possible without the generous and ongoing support of our donors, funders, and individuals who believe in and give to our programmes. The Ilitha Labantu Board, Management and Staff are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to advancing our work.

Siyabulela; thank you.

ILITHA LABANTU

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

NY 22 No. 26A, Gugulethu,
7745, South Africa

POSTAL ADDRESS

P O Box 7, Woodstock,
7915, South Africa

TEL: +27 21 633 2383

FAX: +27 21 633 9524

EMAIL: admin@ilithalabantu.org

WEBSITE: www.ilithalabantu.org.za

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[IlithaLabantu](https://www.facebook.com/IlithaLabantu)



[@IlithaLabantu](https://twitter.com/IlithaLabantu)



[@IlithaLabantu](https://www.instagram.com/IlithaLabantu)



ILITHA LABANTU
PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE