



2025 IMPACT REPORT:

FREE TO WALK WITHOUT LIMITS

Steps Clubfoot Care – Preventing Disability and Transforming Lives



TOGETHER WE GROW: CHANGING FUTURES FOR CHILDREN BORN WITH CLUBFOOT

In 2025, our impact grew through strong partnership. With your support, new clinics joined our network, more children reached the care they needed and families were supported every step of the way.

Our work depends on people coming together. Healthcare professionals, families, the STEPS team, and you, our donors and supporters. We cannot do it alone. Because of you, children are walking, running, and stepping into brighter futures filled with possibility.

This report is a reflection of our combined effort. It tells a story of hope, of steady growth, and of lives changed through care, commitment, and compassion. We invite you to celebrate this journey, and to continue walking alongside us to a future where no child's life is limited by clubfoot.





MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

GROW

STRENGTHEN

THRIVE

2025 Reflections - The Heart of our Work

Dear Friends and Supporters,

When I look back at 2025, I see growth. I see increased numbers. More clinics supported, more children treated, more families reached. Our growth in numbers is impressive. And that matters because it tells us the need is real, and what we are doing is working.

But the numbers are only part of our story. They are the structure that allows us to measure, plan, and grow. The real story of STEPS has always been something deeper. It is the heart of our work. And at the centre of that heart is a child born with clubfoot.

Around that child is a family. A mother worrying about her baby's future. A father wanting to provide care but not knowing how to access it. A grandmother caring for her grandchild, trying to understand instructions in a language that is not her mother tongue. A mother waking at 3:00 am to travel by minibus taxi to a clinic, holding her tiny baby, unsure of what lies ahead, with no one to reassure her. These are the realities we see every day, in every partner clinic.

Our STEPS clinic coordinators are there in those moments. They are often the first smile, the steady presence, the person who walks alongside families through fear, uncertainty, and hope. They support more than half of the families in our programme. They are there when a baby cries through their casting session, and later, when a parent sends a message late at night asking for help with a clubfoot brace. This is what heart-centred care looks like.

I know this because I was one of those mothers. Twenty-three years ago, I had the same fears. I didn't know what the future would hold for my child. I had no one to talk to who truly understood what I was feeling. My personal experience has shaped every part of what STEPS is today.

Our STEPS Clubfoot Care clinic support programme has grown over 12 years into a strong and effective system. It is structured, standardised, and it works across 48 partner clinics, supporting thousands of children each year.

It's really important for all the families and our partners that it does work.



At the end of a child's clubfoot journey, something very special happens.

By the age of four, these children have completed years of care. Four years of dedication from their families, attending regular casting appointments, fitting braces every night, and returning for check-ups to ensure their feet stay corrected.

We honour these resilient little warriors, and the caregivers who walk every step with them, by celebrating their graduation from treatment. Each child receives a certificate and hands over their final brace so another child can continue their journey.

These are some of the most meaningful moments for the clinic teams, sharing in the joy, pride, and relief of families who have stayed the course.

Their smiles say it all.



What matters most to our team is that we have never lost the heart of why we exist. The strong connection with families. The belief that every single child born with clubfoot matters.

That is what is at the core of all our work: The child born with clubfoot.

This work is not done alone. It is carried by dedicated healthcare professionals working in challenging conditions, by the families who show up for their children every single day, and by you, our loyal supporters, who choose to care. Your support speaks to the spirit of Ubuntu: *I am because of you.*

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Thank you for believing in what is possible. Because of you, children are not only receiving treatment, they are stepping into brighter futures.

With love and gratitude,

Karen



Karen Mara Moss
Founder and Executive Director
April 2026





01	Our Work: Addressing the Problem, and Creating Lasting Impact.....	6
02	Impact Highlights 2025.....	12
03	Stories of Impact.....	16
04	Our Pillars of Impact.....	21
05	Our People, Purpose and Impact.....	33
06	Financials.....	37

01

**ADDRESSING
THE PROBLEM,
CREATING
LASTING
IMPACT**



THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION



The Problem: Clubfoot



Clubfoot is a congenital birth condition in which one or both feet are twisted inwards and downwards. Without effective treatment, children with clubfoot face lifelong disability, unable to walk, learn and thrive.

In Southern Africa, an estimated 1 in every 500 children is born with clubfoot. Many families lack awareness or resources to access care. Health systems are under-resourced. Stigma and superstition can further isolate children and prevent them from receiving the care they need, resulting in lifelong pain, isolation, reduced mobility and emotional trauma. These children face severe barriers to education and employment, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Challenges and Barriers to Treatment in Resource-Restricted Settings

Care should be accessible, cost-effective, and integrated into the public health system, and ideally delivered as close to home as possible. The Ponseti Method is well-suited to these contexts, however multiple barriers still limit access to timely and sustained treatment.

Economic and logistical barriers are significant. Unpublished estimates by health economists in South Africa suggest that families bear at least 5% of total treatment costs in transport alone, excluding the indirect costs of time off work, lost income, and childcare. These expenses have a considerable impact on already vulnerable households. Treatment can fail if patients do not attend the clinics regularly, resulting in disability.

Systemic and social barriers include:

- Low awareness in the community and health sector that clubfoot is treatable.
- Delayed diagnosis and late referral to clinics.
- A shortage of trained health professionals particularly in rural and low-resource areas.
- Long and costly travel for treatment at main centres.
- Effective treatment limited by an under-resourced healthcare system.
- Establishing new clinics requires funding and training.
- The treatment is long and requires commitment from families.
- High patient default risk due to socio-economic and travel challenges.
- Stigma further isolates families who are often dealing with multiple social problems
- Shortage of affordable, good-quality clubfoot braces increases recurrence risk.





THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION

The Solution: The Ponseti Method

The Ponseti Method is a non-invasive treatment for clubfoot that multiple studies globally have endorsed as best practice. It has over 90% success rate when applied correctly. The treatment involves a series of weekly plaster casts applied to gently realign the foot, a minor procedure (tenotomy) if needed, and night-time wear of a brace until age 4 to maintain correction.

The Ponseti method is Ideal for resource-limited settings, as it requires minimal surgical intervention in the majority of cases. It can be provided at public hospitals and clinics, and affiliated health professionals can be part of the multi-disciplinary team which increases access to care. With the proper training and consistent follow-up children can achieve normal mobility, enabling them to attend school, access economic opportunities, and live free from the constraints of disability.

Ponseti Method - Birth to four years old



Diagnosis



Weekly Casts



Clubfoot Brace

The Untreated Clubfoot



Untreated Clubfoot - Before



After Treatment



Parents of infants born with clubfeet may be reassured that their baby, if otherwise normal, when treated by expert hands will have normal looking feet with normal function for all practical purposes. The well-treated clubfoot is no handicap and is fully compatible with a normal, active life.

- Dr Ignácio Ponseti



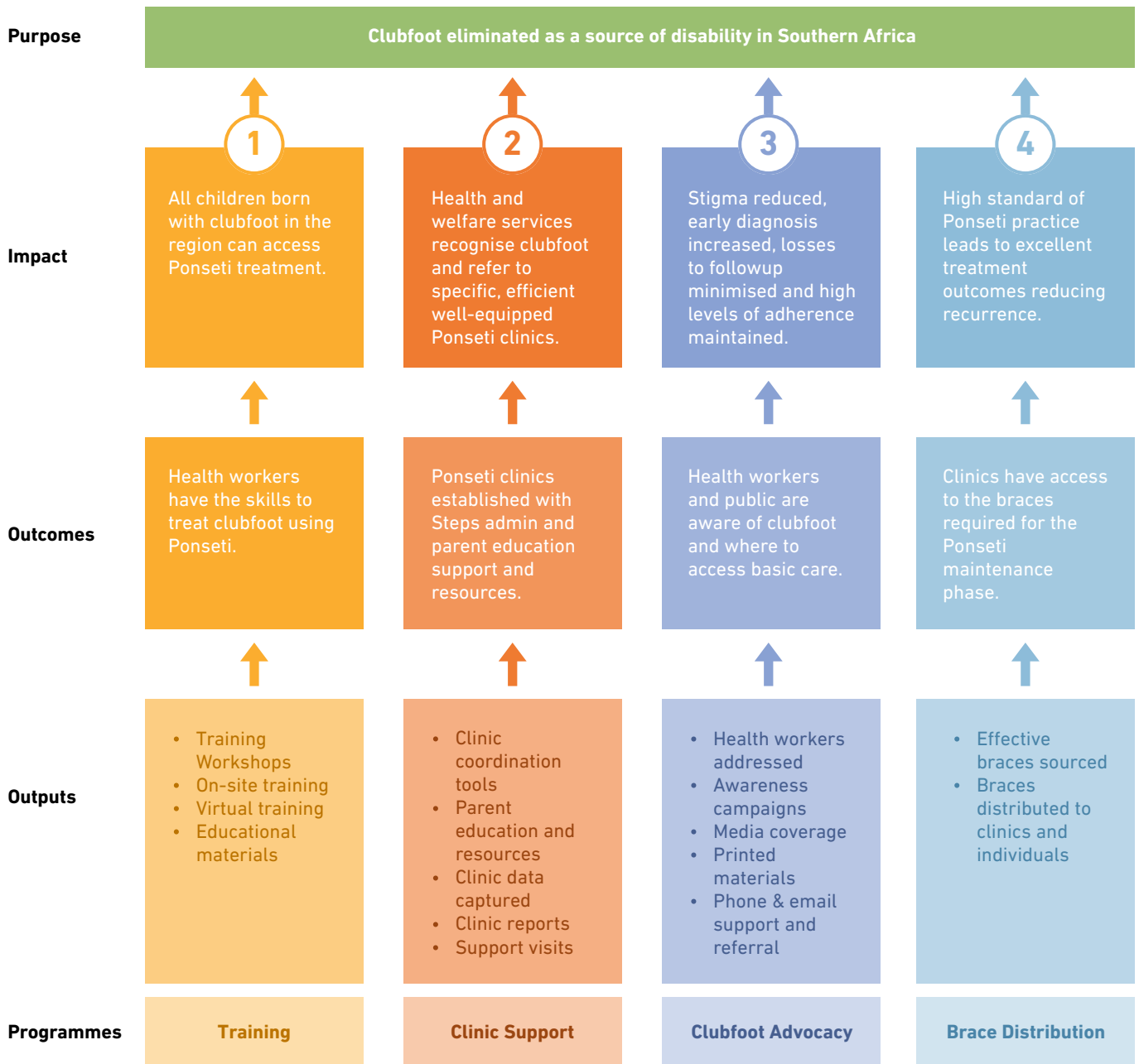


THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION

The STEPS Model for Change

The STEPS Clubfoot Care programme prevents disability by expanding access to early and effective clubfoot treatment through a national network of specialist partner clinics.

By integrating our programme into state health infrastructure, STEPS has developed a sustainable model that empowers children to have active lives, access education and participate fully in society. The programme transforms lives and strengthens South Africa's public healthcare system for lasting impact.



THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION

STEPS Model for Change

1 TRAINING



IMPACT: Increase number of children treated.

2 CLINICAL SUPPORT



IMPACT: Increase patient adherence to treatment.

3 ADVOCACY



IMPACT: Remove stigma and increase early referral.

4 BRACES



IMPACT: Successful 4 year treatment without recurrence.

THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION



Our programme activities are designed to:



Increase the number of patients treated to prevent disability



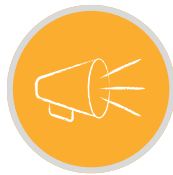
Increase the number of trained health professionals to provide quality care for all patients



Improve and expand clinic resources and support systems



Support the opening of new clinics and partnerships



Increase public and health community awareness to reduce stigma



Ensure consistent brace availability to prevent recurrence



Provide patient-centred support to promote adherence



02

**IMPACT
HIGHLIGHTS
2025**





KEY HIGHLIGHTS



We welcomed 7 new clinic partners

We increased our STEPS Clubfoot Care partnerships by 17%, supporting 48 clinics in 2025. More children and their families received treatment and support.



More children accessed care

We supported 5,146 children in treatment (+12.06%), and 1,319 new patients were enrolled (+17.04%) at our partner clinics across South Africa.



The media supported our message in a big way

Our three awareness campaigns had a reach of 65,8 million with advertising value equivalent R1,9m+. We reduced stigma and emphasised the message that clubfoot is a treatable condition.



Health Professionals strengthened their Ponseti knowledge

We trained 84 attendees at 5 free Ponseti training workshops in the public health sector to enhance skills and increase access to excellent care.



806 clubfoot braces delivered

We donated and distributed clubfoot braces to clinics and families to support long-term treatment success.



2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Tracking progress, transforming children's futures

1. TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING



5
training events



84
healthcare
professionals trained



909
CPD points awarded

2. CLINIC SUPPORT



48
partner clinics
supported



1,319
new patients
enrolled



5,146
children supported
in treatment



19,792
patient clinic
visits



2,640
educational
materials distributed

3. ADVOCACY



3
national awareness
campaigns



65.8m+
million audience
reach



8
community
engagement events

4. BRACE DISTRIBUTION



806
clubfoot braces
distributed



R363,803
value in donated
clubfoot braces

Thanks to our supporters and partners, more children are reaching the care they need and stepping into brighter, more inclusive futures.



2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Impact Outcomes

PILLAR 1: TRAINING

- More patients can be treated.
- Patients have successful treatment outcomes.
- More clinic workers have access to Ponseti and patient-centred care training materials.
- Consistency of treatment quality increased.
- Clinics have well-trained staff who are knowledgeable about clubfoot.
- Improved skills at smaller clinics reduces the burden on main centres.



PILLAR 2: CLINIC SUPPORT

- Clinics are well-equipped and streamlined with patient-centred care.
- Parents feel supported and empowered for their child's treatment.
- Families can access clinics closer to home, resulting in regular clinic visits and improved adherence.
- Improved processes, data capture and reporting.
- Patients are retained for the full treatment period.



PILLAR 3: ADVOCACY

- Clubfoot is a recognised condition.
- More support from the public.
- Communities are sensitised and stigma of clubfoot reduced.
- Clinic staff morale increased.
- More people know that clubfoot is treatable.
- Through early diagnosis more patients are treated soon after birth, reducing the burden of over-crowded clinics.



PILLAR 4: BRACES

- Clinics and patients have increased access to braces to ensure optimum treatment and prevent recurrence.
- Children have comfortable and effective clubfoot braces.
- Risk of recurrence reduced.
- Burden on clinics decreased.



03

STORIES OF
IMPACT



From Uncertainty to Hope: Kendall's Clubfoot Journey

Clinic: Tygerberg Academic Hospital



When little Kendall Lee Hartnick was born with bilateral clubfoot, her parents were shocked and deeply saddened.

“We were devastated to see our newborn’s feet turning inwards,” recalls her father, Lorenzo Hartnick. “We didn’t know what it meant or what to do next.”

The family was referred to the Tygerberg Hospital Clubfoot Clinic, where they were met with empathy, expertise, and a clear treatment plan.

Kendall began the Ponseti Method, the gold standard in clubfoot treatment. Over a series of seven gentle corrective casts performed weekly, followed by a tenotomy, her feet were gradually guided into the correct position.

“Each appointment brought new hope,” says Lorenzo. “We watched our daughter’s feet change before our eyes. Today, she walks and plays just like any other child.”

Now two and a half years old, Kendall is in the final maintenance phase of her treatment, wearing a clubfoot brace while she sleeps to ensure her feet stay corrected.

The Hartnick family is full of praise for the dedicated clinic team. “We are so grateful to the compassionate staff at Tygerberg for walking this journey with us. They made a difficult time feel manageable.”

Their message to other parents is simple but powerful: “Seek treatment straight away. It’s overwhelming at first, but it’s 100% worth it.”

Kendall’s future is no longer limited by disability, thanks to early care and support.

Kendall’s story is one of hundreds of success stories made possible through the 12-year partnership between Tygerberg Hospital and our STEPS Clubfoot Care programme.

From Clubfoot to Soccer Star: Shayaan's Inspiring Journey



Clinic: Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital , Cape Town

Meet Shayaan Jacobs, a vibrant 4-year-old who runs, plays, and LOVES soccer. But Shayaan's journey hasn't been without challenges. When he was born with bilateral clubfoot, his mom, Gafsa, was overwhelmed. Like many parents, Gafsa hadn't heard of clubfoot before and felt overwhelmed by the unknown.

"I was emotional because I didn't know what clubfoot even was," Gafsa recalls.

But her first visit to the clubfoot clinic at Maitland Cottage Children's Hospital was a turning point. "The staff were very helpful, very concerned, and they care a lot about their patients. That gave me hope."

Under the expert care of the Maitland Cottage Children's Orthopaedic and later the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital clubfoot clinic teams, Shayaan began his treatment journey using the Ponseti Method. This highly effective, non-invasive approach involves gentle manipulation, casting, and bracing to correct the feet.

While the process has taken resilience and persistence, Gafsa found support every step of the way. And not only from the clinic team, but also from her family.

Today, Shayaan is an active, joyful four-year-old who loves to run, play, and kick a soccer ball around with boundless energy.

"My son had a very happy clubfoot journey," Gafsa says proudly. "He is a VERY busy child, and we embrace the fact that he walks, runs, and loves to play soccer. I am beyond grateful for all the support we've received over the past four years."

For Gafsa, faith and trust were critical. "Do not be afraid," she advises other parents. "It's hard not to be emotional at first, but know and believe that these doctors have successfully treated so many children before your child. It may be hard to look at your baby's foot and believe it will be okay, but trust and have faith in the journey."

Shayaan is now unstoppable, proving that with the right care, clubfoot is no barrier to an active, joy-filled life.

We celebrate Shayaan, his amazing family, and his unstoppable spirit!

Lara's Story: Beating the Odds for a Brighter Future



Clinic: Dr Harry Surtie Hospital, Upington, Northern Cape

Where you are born should not determine whether you can walk.

Access to early, consistent treatment is essential to prevent long-term disability from clubfoot, but for many families in remote parts of South Africa, this access is limited by distance, cost, and unemployment.

Lara Visser's story is a powerful example of how overcoming these challenges can change a child's future.

Lara's clubfoot journey began at Dr Harry Surtie Hospital in Upington, Northern Cape. Her treatment started at six months old with the Ponseti method, but progress was slow. Her feet were very stiff, and she required a referral to an orthopaedic surgeon after six casting sessions.

Lara's family lives over 50 kilometres from the clinic, and they began missing appointments. Like many families in the Northern Cape, they face long travel distances, unreliable public transport, and high transport costs, often needing to leave home the day before their appointment and stay overnight to reach the clinic on time.

When the clinic team followed up with the family, they were alarmed to find Lara walking on the sides of her feet.

At two years and one month old, she had suffered a recurrence due to interrupted care. Determined to give her the best chance, the team re-initiated treatment using accelerated Ponseti.

Lara and her mother were able to stay nearby for six weeks with family in Upington. The clinic team adjusted their approach to change Lara's casts weekly instead of every two weeks as is usual for older patients, allowing her to complete the casting phase effectively with minimal transport costs.

Today, Lara is walking comfortably and confidently, and her parents are overjoyed with her progress. She attends the clinic every three months for brace follow-up, supported by the dedicated team at Dr Harry Surtie Hospital.

Maritza Richter, Senior Occupational Therapist at the clinic says, "We live by the saying 'rather earlier than later'. Travel and follow-up are major challenges for our patients, so we adapt. Accelerated Ponseti allows us to help children like Lara who might otherwise fall through the cracks."

Lara's story is one of hope, resilience, and what's possible when clinic teams are resourced and committed to going the extra mile, literally and figuratively.

Thanks to the generous support from donors and dedicated clinic teams, children like Lara are receiving life-changing care despite enormous logistical barriers.

Hope from the First Day



Clinic: Edendale Hospital Clubfoot Clinic, KwaZulu-Natal

When Lindo Mecki welcomed her baby girl, Lisa, into the world in September 2025, she learned on that very same day that her daughter was born with bilateral clubfoot. With no family history of the condition, the news came as a shock.

“I was very worried,” Lindo recalls. “I had never seen clubfoot before. But the doctor reassured me straight away and told me that Lisa’s feet could be treated and that my baby was not disabled. That gave me strength.”

Although the Edendale Hospital Clubfoot Clinic is an hour’s journey from their home, Lindo knew she needed to give her daughter the best chance possible. She shared what she had learned with her family and committed to attending every appointment.

Their first visit to the clinic brought renewed hope.

Phumzile Zondi, the dedicated STEPS Clinic and Data Coordinator at Edendale, took time to explain each step of the Ponseti treatment clearly and kindly. She also provided an information leaflet to help the whole family understand the journey ahead and how they could support Lisa.

“From that moment, I knew we were in good hands,” says Lindo.

Today, Lisa’s progress fills her mother with joy. Her feet are no longer turned in, and they now look normal. “The treatment works,” Lindo says proudly. “I am so grateful.”

Her message to other parents is one of reassurance and encouragement:

“Clubfoot can be successfully treated. There is no need to panic. Go to your nearest clubfoot clinic and keep your appointments. They will help your child every step of the way. I am so thankful that I trusted the process.”

Phumzile Zondi explains the importance of ongoing family support:

“Educating and supporting mothers and fathers gives them hope and comfort. When parents understand that clubfoot can be treated and know what to expect, their confidence grows. This support helps families stay in treatment and plays a vital role in ensuring the best outcomes for every child.”

Early care, clear information, and compassionate support can change a child’s future, turning fear into hope from the very first day.

04

OUR PILLARS
OF IMPACT





PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 1

Training healthcare professionals

Ensures that more children can access high-quality care closer to home, preventing delays in treatment and reducing the burden on families and clinics.



PILLAR 2

Clinic support

Strengthens public health facilities and patient adherence by placing and training clinic coordinators, providing educational materials, patient family support, clinic resources and streamlined processes.



PILLAR 3

Advocacy

Raises clubfoot awareness, reduces stigma, and increases early diagnosis and intervention. Through targeted campaigns, people learn that clubfoot is treatable, leading to higher enrolment in partner clinics.



PILLAR 4

Clubfoot Braces

Distribution of the medical devices essential for maintaining correction and preventing recurrence.





PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 1: TRAINING

FOCUSED TRAINING TOOK PLACE

Steps has been a regional leader in Ponseti training since the start of our work. Training is a core pillar of our model, building the skills and capacity needed to ensure that every child can access quality treatment, no matter where they live.



South Africa Ponseti Training Workshops:

- 5 Ponseti Training workshops held
- 87 healthcare professionals trained
- 935 CPD Points awarded
- 26 Hospitals represented from Eastern Cape and Western Cape

Andries Vosloo Hospital, Chatty District Hospital, Dora Nginza Hospital, Elizabeth Donkin Hospital, Empilweni Hospital, Graaff Reinet Hospital, Humansdorp Hospital, Karl Bremer Hospital, Khayelitsha Hospital, Livingstone Hospital, Midlands Hospital, Mothewell CHC, Northern Lights Special School, Paarl Hospital, Port Alfred Hospital, Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital, Settlers Hospital, Tygerberg Hospital, Uitenhage Provincial Hospital, Worcester Provincial Hospital, Zwide District Hospital.

Objective

Strengthen and support Provincial Clubfoot Management.

Outcome

Enhanced skills improve access to Ponseti treatment in 2 provinces.

Our Training Partners

We acknowledge the valuable support from SAPOS, Essity, OPSB, Orthopediatrics, the hosting hospitals and our faculty trainers who made the training sessions possible.



Attendee feedback:



The practical casting sessions were of great value.



Knowledgeable presenters, great support from instructors during the casting practical.



The practical was a lot of fun. All was valuable, very informative, thanks so much.



Course was excellent and informative. A great refresh on clubfoot knowledge.





PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 2: CLINIC SUPPORT

OUR PARTNER CLINICS AND CLUBFOOT PATIENTS RECEIVED A LOT OF SUPPORT

Clinic Support and Data Report

1 JANUARY- 30 DECEMBER 2025



Total patient visits



New Patients enrolled



Patients in Treatment



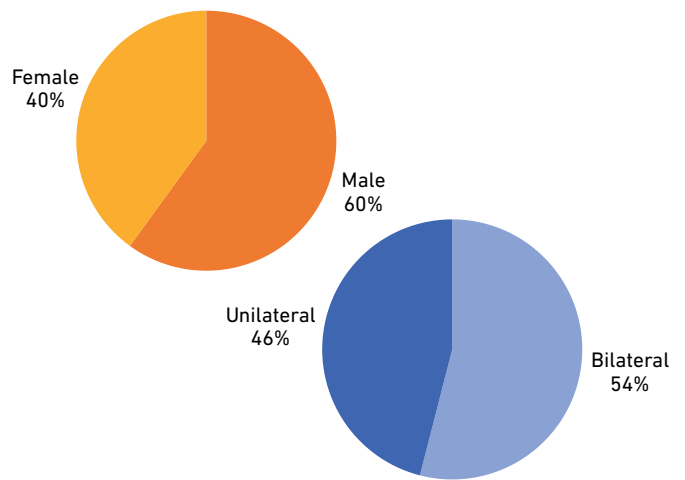
Steps clinic support visits



New partner clinics

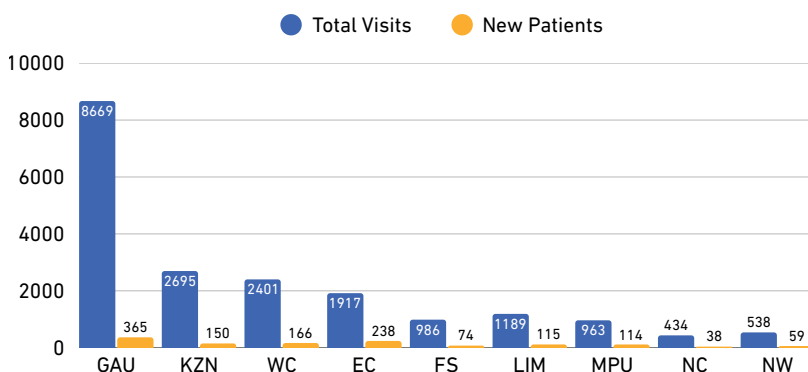


Active clinic partners across all 9 Provinces



New Patient Visits & Total Patient Visits, per Province

January 2025- December 2025



Clinic Support & Data Coordinators

8 STEPS clinic & data coordinators are employed in clinics in the 4 most populated provinces

10 Partner clinics have STEPS clinic & data coordinators in-clinic

57% Of patient visits take place in clinics attended by STEPS clinic coordinators

Clinic Support Donations

Clinics rely on STEPS for crucial clubfoot braces, clinic support material and training. Without the support, some clinics would not be able to treat clubfoot effectively due to no or limited budget restraints.

230 Medical Scrubs Provided

2,640 Educational Material Distributed

84 Treatment Graduation certificates

86 Patient Assessment Books

The STEPS Clinic Coordinator is part of the clinic team working to provide excellent holistic care. Clinic staff are often too busy to provide vital detailed education and support to parents.

STEPS created the position of a clinic coordinator to support the patient-centred care by our clubfoot clinic partners. The STEPS clinic coordinator supports family education and the smooth running of clinic processes.

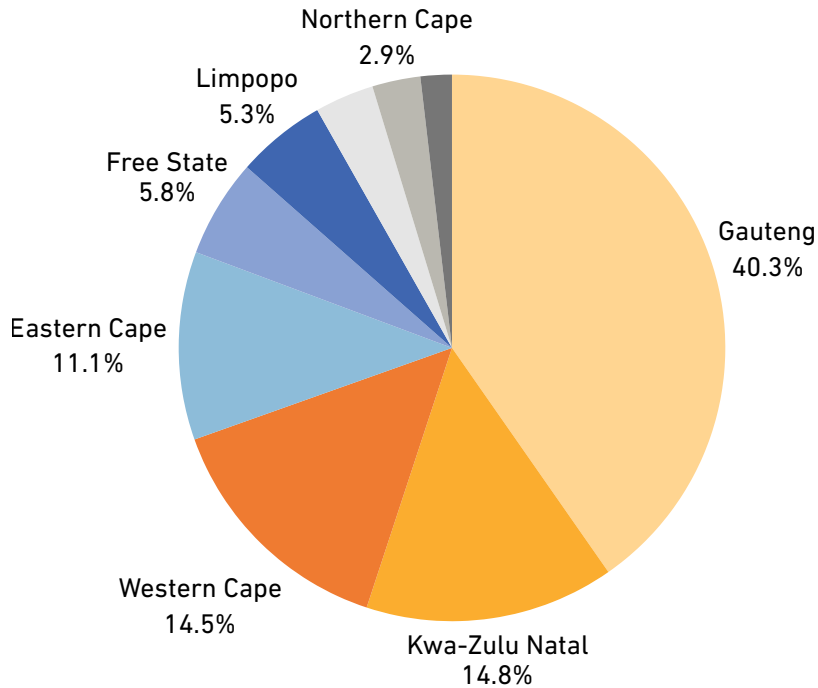


PILLARS OF IMPACT

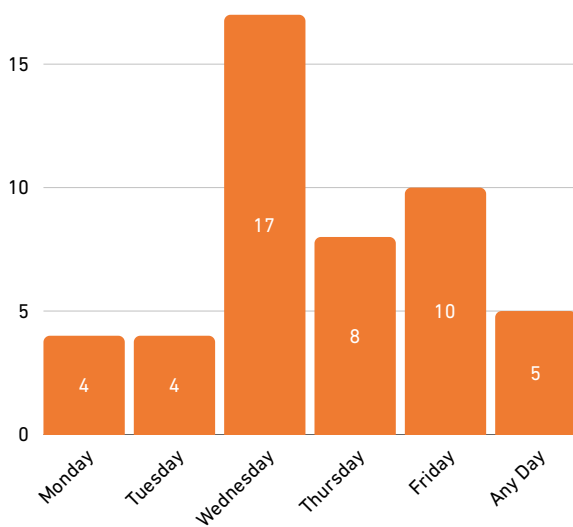
PILLAR 2: CLINIC SUPPORT

OUR PARTNER CLINICS AND CLUBFOOT PATIENTS RECEIVED A LOT OF SUPPORT

Allocation of Total Patient Visits, per Province



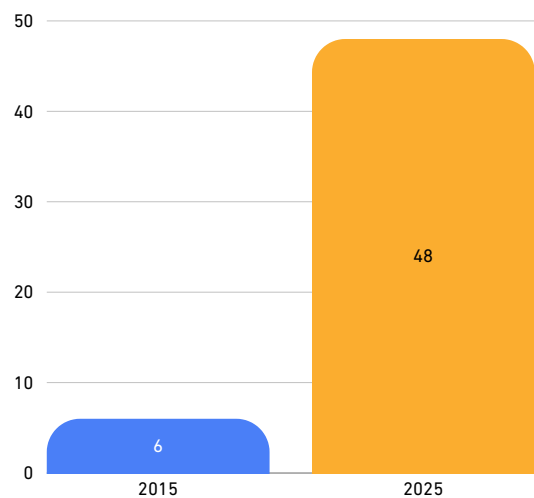
Clinic Day - Steps Partner Clinics



Most hospitals set a specific day aside to run their weekly clubfoot clinics.

There are five clinic partners that treat clubfoot patients any day. These are smaller, rural hospitals and do not have enough patients to set aside a morning solely for the treatment of clubfoot.

Steps Partner Clinics 2015 vs 2025



Over the past decade, our network of partner clinics has grown from 6 to 48, a 700% increase.

This expansion reflects our commitment to decentralising clubfoot treatment, bringing essential care closer to the communities and families who need it most.

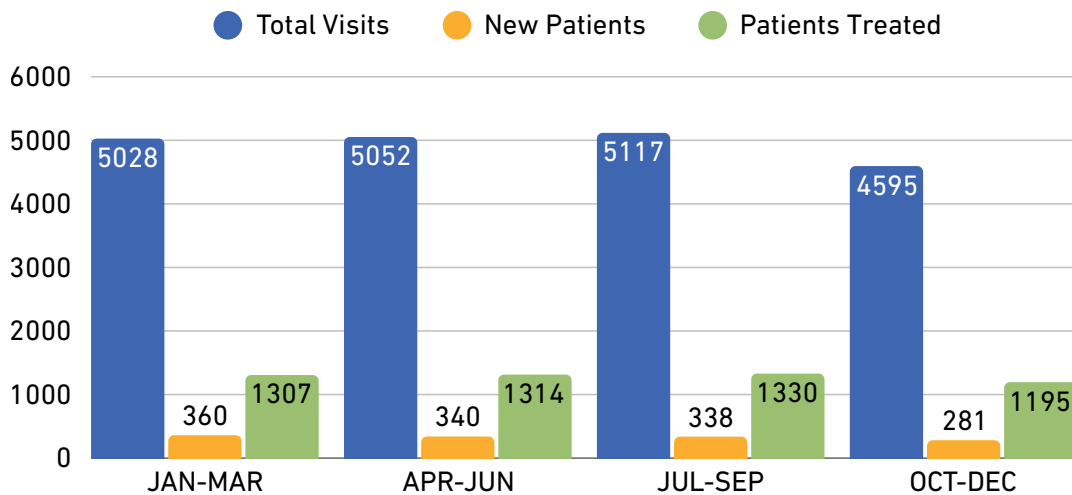


PILLARS OF IMPACT

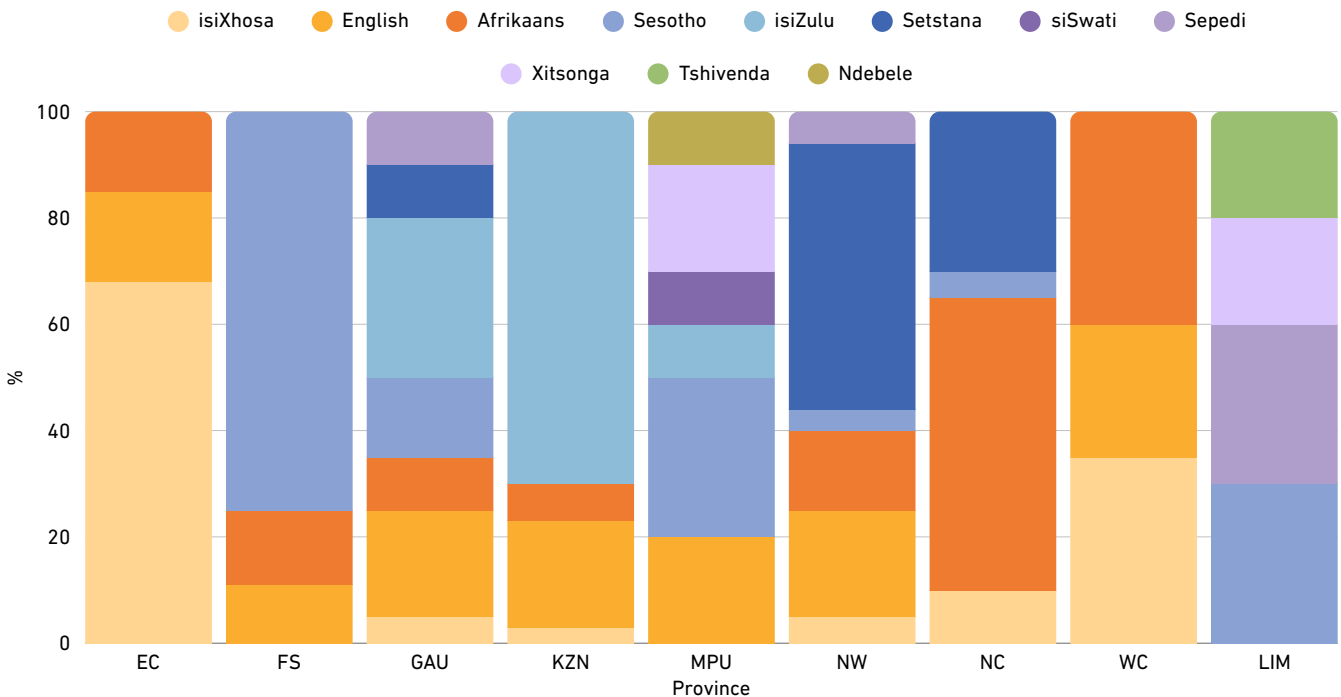
PILLAR 2: CLINIC SUPPORT

OUR PARTNER CLINICS AND CLUBFOOT PATIENTS RECEIVED A LOT OF SUPPORT

Patent Numbers per Quarter
January 2025 - December 2025



Languages per Province - STEPS Parent Education Leaflets Issued





PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 2: CLINIC SUPPORT

OUR PARTNER CLINICS AND CLUBFOOT PATIENTS RECEIVED A LOT OF SUPPORT

From the Frontline

Frere Hospital Clubfoot Clinic: 20 Years of Care and Commitment

In July 2025, as STEPS celebrated 20 years of service, we were proud to honour one of our longest-standing partners, the Frere Hospital Clubfoot Clinic in East London, also marking 20 years of dedicated care.

Led by Dr Nico van der Byl, alongside orthopaedic nurse Mr Thembenkosi Chithi and STEPS clinic coordinator Linda Vuso, this remarkable team has transformed the lives of hundreds of children, reaching families across the Eastern Cape, including remote rural communities.

Each week, the clinic treats 15 to 20 children. In 2025, 29 new patients were enrolled, 552 patient visits were supported, and a total of 144 children attended the clinic for treatment. 144 families were given hope and the support they needed for their child to walk, run, and thrive.

The strength of this clinic lies in its consistency, compassion, and teamwork. Families are supported at every stage, from the first emotional visit to the moment their child takes confident steps.

Mr Thembenkosi Chithi reflects on his journey:

“I am a professionally trained nurse with a specialisation in orthopaedic nursing... My passion for managing clubfoot was inspired by the late Mr Bernard Mundell who started the Ponseti clinic after the first STEPS training. I find this work especially rewarding, as it delivers remarkable outcomes and involves active participation from parents.”

With over a decade of experience, his contribution is extraordinary. As Dr van der Byl shares:

“I cannot overemphasise his dedication and passion. My conservative estimate is that he has applied in excess of 10,000 clubfoot casts in his career.”

Linda Vuso, STEPS clinic coordinator, plays a vital role in supporting families:

“Most of the time the first time mummies are very emotional. I speak with them and give them hope. It gives them comfort seeing other kids walking and playing. I really enjoy being part of the Frere clubfoot clinic team.”

Frere Hospital is a powerful example of how partnership and commitment can change lives. Your support helps clinics like Frere support families through every step of the four-year clubfoot journey.





PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 3: ADVOCACY

RAISING AWARENESS, CHANGING FUTURES

Advocacy is at the heart of our work. It reduces stigma, increases early diagnosis, and ensures children access treatment as soon as possible.

Through three national campaigns in 2025, supported by strong media support across print, online, radio, and television, we reached millions of people with the message that clubfoot is treatable and no child should live with preventable disability.

March | World Birth Defects Day

Theme: *Treatment, Not Disability - Tackling Barriers to Clubfoot Care*

This campaign focused on raising awareness of clubfoot as a treatable birth condition and encouraging early diagnosis.

Publicity and Events:

- National radio, TV, print and online coverage
- Features on Ukhozi FM, Power FM, Expresso Morning Show, Weekend Argus and more

Reach: 41,112,914



June | World Clubfoot Day

Theme: *On the Right Foot - 20 Years and 12,000 Steps Towards Better Clubfoot Care*

Marking 20 years of Steps, this campaign celebrated progress with our clinic support programme while reinforcing the importance of continued care and access.

Publicity and events:

- 16 media features across TV, radio, print, online and podcasts.
- Coverage on SABC News, Cape Talk, IOL, City Vision and others.
- Clinic parties - STEPS clinic coordinators celebrated at 6 partner clinics, and all our other partner clinics threw their own parties, with children, families and clinic teams wearing yellow for clubfoot awareness
- A clubfoot awareness event at Tygerberg Hospital brought families, clinicians and supporters together. Our executive director and doctors gave presentations, and families shared their stories.

Reach: 12,890,230

Watch the full interview [here](#)





PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 3: ADVOCACY

RAISING AWARENESS, CHANGING FUTURES

November-December | Disability Awareness Month and International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Theme: *The Truth Behind Disability – Clubfoot is Treatable*

This campaign focused on reducing stigma and shifting perceptions around disability.

Publicity and Events:

- 15+ media features including radio, TV and online
- Interviews on 702, Cape Talk, eNCA, Radio Islam and more
- Strong national conversation on disability and access to care

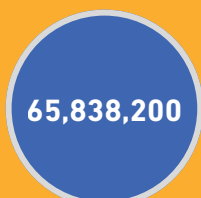
Reach: 11,835,056

Catch up on the 702 Interview [here](#) and the eNCA interview [here](#)



Through advocacy, we are not only raising awareness. We are opening doors to care, reducing stigma, and ensuring more children are diagnosed early and supported to walk, run, and thrive.

Total Campaign Impact for 2025



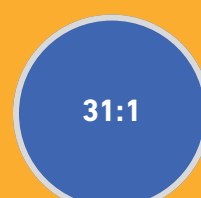
Total Reach



Total AVE



Total Coverage



ROI



PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 3: ADVOCACY

RAISING AWARENESS, CHANGING FUTURES

More Advocacy Highlights

5 Star Verification - iZinga Assist

We were proud to be recognised as one of the first 50 non-profit organisations in South Africa to receive official verification from iZinga Assist. iZinga Assist is a new United Kingdom-based digital verification, compliance, ratings and assistance platform focusing on sub-Saharan Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs). 5 Star recognition is awarded to organisations that demonstrate strong governance, legal compliance, transparent financial management, and measurable impact.



Global Advocacy – G20 Interfaith Forum

STEPS was represented at the 2025 G20 IF Forum, where our founder contributed to discussions on health equity and vulnerable communities as a speaker and moderator. The session highlighted clubfoot as a preventable cause of disability and the need for inclusive access to care.



Research & Global Collaboration – ICBDSR Conference

STEPS contributed to global birth defect surveillance discussions through participation in the ICBDSR conference. Our executive director presented a 10 year retrospective of our clinic-based data collection model, illustrating an effective system for low resource settings to strengthen understanding, early detection, and long-term outcomes for children with clubfoot.



Corporate Partnership – Discovery Vitality Move to Give

Through the Discovery Vitality Move to Give campaign, we raised awareness and funding while engaging new audiences in the importance of early treatment and ongoing care for children with clubfoot.

Health Systems Leadership and Recognition - Spotlight

Our founder was featured in Spotlight's 2025 Women in Health series, which recognises the remarkable contributions of women to healthcare and science. The piece tells the story of how hers personal journey led to the founding of STEPS and helped expand access to effective clubfoot treatment across South Africa's public health system. Read the article [here](#)





PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 3: ADVOCACY

RAISING AWARENESS, CHANGING FUTURES

More Advocacy Highlights

Community Advocacy – Leopard Trail Hike

Our Leopard Trail hike brought together a passionate group of supporters, including our founder and Paralympic gold medallist Mpumelelo Mhlongo, who was born with clubfoot. Thanks to our amazing supporters, the hikers raised over R50,000 to support the treatment of **20 children**. Through a tough and meaningful hike, this campaign reflected the clubfoot journey, built on resilience, teamwork, and many acts of kindness along the way.



Supporter Campaigns

A Swing of Hope Golf Day

Inspired by their baby son's successful clubfoot journey, Janke and Quinten Grobler turned their experience into action by hosting a STEPS charity golf day. What began as a personal response to seeing barriers to accessing care for many children grew into an inspiring event, raising over R83,000 and supporting 33 children through treatment. Their story is a reminder of how hope, when shared, can change lives.



Boys Christmas Lunch Charity Drive

For the second year, the Boys Christmas Lunch initiative brought together a long-standing group of friends to support Steps for their annual fundraiser. They smashed their goal and raised an impressive R72,357 in December 2025. Their commitment shows how friendship and generosity can come together to make a real difference.



Pedal for Wilbur Fundraising Campaign

Emma's journey is deeply personal. Inspired by her baby son Wilbur's experience with clubfoot treatment, she is cycling to raise awareness and ensure that other children have the same chance to walk, run, and thrive. Her supporters have donated over R55,000, which is supporting 22 children on their clubfoot treatment journey. Follow Emma's incredible journey and support her campaign [here](#).





PILLARS OF IMPACT

PILLAR 4: CLUBFOOT BRACES

MORE CHILDREN RECEIVED CLUBFOOT BRACES



R1,663,171.00
value braces sold



R363,803.00
value braces donated



806
braces distributed



A clubfoot brace is essential to treatment success. It maintains the corrected position of the foot after casting and prevents recurrence. Without a consistent supply of braces, children face a high risk of returning to disability.

Many public hospitals face budget constraints, and families often cannot afford the cost of braces. Steps ensures a reliable, affordable supply to clinics and families, helping children complete their treatment journey.

Through our social enterprise model, we generate income from brace distribution, reinvesting it back into our programme. In doing so, we are not only solving a critical access challenge, but also strengthening the sustainability of our work.



05

**OUR PEOPLE,
PURPOSE AND
IMPACT**





OUR VISION AND MISSION

No Child With Clubfoot Left Untreated

Our Mission is to offer every child born with clubfoot the brightest future imaginable. We're not merely treating a medical condition; we're unlocking doors to a life brimming with potential.

We Partner with a national network of specialist clinics in the South African state health sector to bridge the gap in resources and improve successful outcomes.

Our Four-Pillar model for change provides sustainable support that changes the future of a child born with clubfoot by giving them mobility, and the means to access education and make a living.

Our Objectives

- Patient-centred care
- Empowering the patient caregiver
- Standardised clinic excellence
- Increasing access to treatment
- Increasing the number of patients treated

Our Values

- S** **Sustainability** - Lean management and financial responsibility to secure the future of clubfoot treatment.
 - T** **Trust and Integrity** - Open communication with donors, partners, and stakeholders.
 - E** **Empathy** - Prioritising the welfare of children born with clubfoot.
 - P** **Passion** - Maintaining enthusiasm for our cause, even in challenging circumstances.
 - S** **Simplicity** - Staying focused on our core purpose, keeping the child in mind.
- Connection** – Collaborating and sharing knowledge for collective impact.
- Innovation** - Constantly seeking ways to maximise and improve our reach and effectiveness.

Our Story

A Journey of Hope and Impact

It all began in 2003 when a South African mother sought effective treatment for her son's clubfoot. After successful care by Dr Ignácio Ponseti in the USA, she returned home and launched STEPS in 2005 to introduce the Ponseti Method in Southern Africa and support families through the treatment journey.

In 2006 and 2007, STEPS hosted the region's first Ponseti training seminars, gaining consensus from local orthopaedic surgeons and establishing clubfoot clinics across South Africa. Training partnerships expanded with experts from Uganda, Brazil, Canada, USA and the UK, helping build regional capacity and brace-making skills.

Today, the Ponseti Method is part of South Africa's medical curriculum and endorsed by SAPOS. STEPS has provided Ponseti training to over 2,000 health professionals, hosted 36 Ponseti workshops, and organised the first African Clubfoot Conference in 2022.

We launched our Clinic support programme in 2013, and support a national network of specialist partner clinics. STEPS offers a sustainable, effective solution to support clubfoot care, restoring mobility and opportunity.

STEPS Clubfoot Care's model is aligned to the United National Sustainable Development goals:

SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



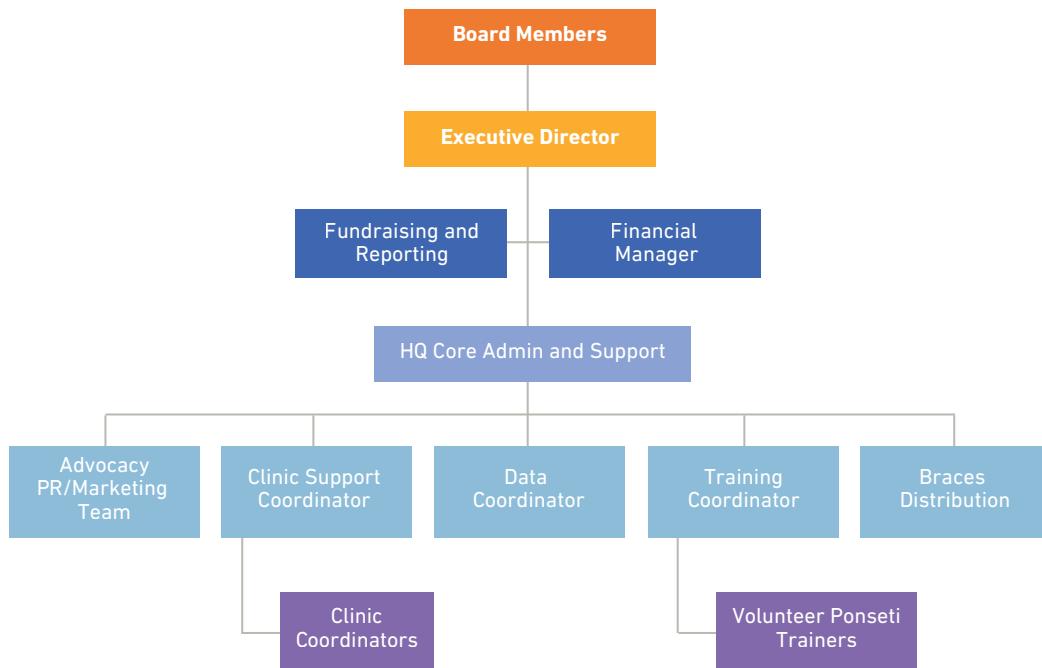
OUR TEAM

Our success is built on the dedication, compassion, and expertise of our staff. Every member of our team plays a vital role in ensuring children receive patient-centred care. We recognise the volunteer Ponseti trainers, whose contributions strengthen local capacity and result in the opening of new clinics.

- Cape Town Core Support:**
- Luke Engel
 - Penny Hlakula
 - Lynne Huppert
 - Jane Mackinnon
 - Alex Moss
 - Karen Moss
 - Gabrielle Rademeyer

- Volunteer Ponseti trainers 2025:**
- Prof Jacques du Toit
 - Judy Prince PT
 - Dr Bryan Theunissen
 - Dr Mari Thiar

- Clinic coordinators:**
- Penny Hlakula
 - Ursula Kibido
 - Jane Mackinnon
 - Ivy Muffler
 - Refiloe Khosa
 - Linda Vuso
 - Nirasha Ramessur
 - Phumzile Zondi



Board Members



Professor Jacques du Toit
Chair



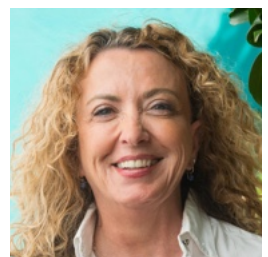
Cheryl Howard
Treasurer



Yulisha Naidoo
Secretary



Lebogang Montewa
Non executive director



Karen Mara Moss
Executive director

*Appointed 2025

CLINIC PARTNERS



We partnered with 48 specialist clubfoot clinics who share our goal of improving the lives of children born with clubfoot. We are privileged to support their important work.

Eastern Cape (9)

- Bambisana Hospital
- Canzibe Hospital
- Frere Hospital
- Isilimela Hospital
- Livingstone Hospital
- Madwaleni Hospital
- St Elizabeth's Mission Hospital
- Zithulele Hospital
- Bedford Orthopaedic Hospital

Gauteng (10)

- Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital
- Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
- Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital
- Steve Biko Academic Hospital
- Tembisa Hospital
- Thelle Mogoerane Hospital
- Tambo Memorial Hospital
- Far East Rand Hospital
- Kalafong Tertiary Hospital
- Rahima Moosa Hospital

Limpopo Province (2)

- Letaba Provincial Hospital
- Tshilidzini Hospital

Mpumalanga (4)

- Lydenburg Hospital
- Themba Hospital
- Tintswalo Hospital (*includes patients transferred from Mapulang hospital*)
- eMakhazeni Hospital

Western Cape (5)

- George Hospital
- Maitland Cottage Children's Orthopaedic Hospital
- Tygerberg Hospital
- Vredendal Hospital
- Worcester Hospital

Free State (5)

- Boitumelo Hospital
- Bongani Regional Hospital
- Dihlabeng Provincial Hospital
- Pelonomi Academic Hospital
- Universitas Hospital

Kwa-Zulu Natal (8)

- Greys Hospital
- Harry Gwala Hospital
- King Edward VIII Hospital
- Ladysmith Provincial Hospital
- Madadeni Hospital
- Manguzi Hospital
- Ngwelezana Hospital
- Vryheid Hospital

North West Province (3)

- Gelukspan District Hospital
- Mahikeng Provincial Hospital
- Klerksdorp Tshepong Hospital

Northern Cape (2)

- Dr Harry Surtie Hospital
- Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital



06

FINANCIALS





SUSTAINABILITY AND SOURCES OF INCOME

Our goal is sustainable clubfoot care, a model that not only treats current cases but also strengthens healthcare systems to support future generations. Our sustainability plan includes:

Integration into Public Health:
The STEPS Clubfoot Care four-pillar model is embedded within state health facilities, ensuring ongoing partnership and use of existing infrastructure.

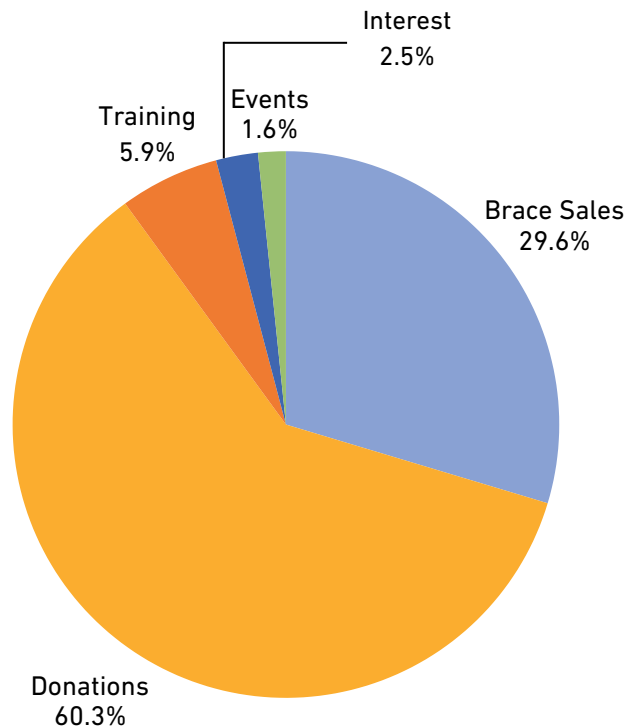
Local Capacity Building:
By training healthcare professionals and placing dedicated clinic coordinators in the busiest clinics, we support local expertise and continuity.

Diversified Revenue Streams:
We balance donor grants with self-generated income and individual giving, reducing reliance on any single funding source.

Digital Monitoring & Evaluation:
Weekly data submissions, automated dashboards, and Individual Clinic Reports track key indicators and demonstrate impact to stakeholders.

Strategic Partnerships:
Partnership with the South African Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (SAPOS), and collaboration with NPOs and universities secure long-term support and best-practice guidance.

Sources of Income July 2024 - June 2025



Our funding comes from diverse sources - monthly donations, major private donors that invest to make a sustainable impact, corporates, foundations, and events..

We deeply appreciate our donors and partners. Thank you for your generous support.

We also generate our own income through sales of medical devices and events.

Self-generated income: **39.66%**

Donations and Grants income: **60.34%**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



For detailed financial statements, please contact us.

	2025
Audited Financials Year Ending 30 June	R
REVENUE	7,361,990
Donations received and event funding	4,037,175
Donations in kind (Clubfoot braces)	1,483,480
Clubfoot Brace sales	1,841,335
COST OF SALES	(1,483,480)
Donations in kind (Clubfoot braces)	(1,757,560)
GROSS SURPLUS	4,120,950
INVESTMENT INCOME	191,000
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Core Activity	(3,237,093)
Clinic advocacy	1,136,899
Clinic support	1,245,663
Ponseti training	379,001
Support Activity	
Support costs	475,530
OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	R1,074,857



2026 FOCUS AND GROWTH

As we enter our 21st year of service, Steps remains committed to ensuring that every child born with clubfoot has access to the care and support they need.



Expanding our reach into the most remote and underserved areas.



Strengthening local skills through accessible training.



Diversifying our income streams to remain flexible and resilient in a changing global landscape.

We invite you to continue walking this journey with us, as we reach more children, support more families, and help shape a future where no child is limited by clubfoot.

OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Together, we are changing what is possible for every child born with clubfoot.

Thank you for walking this journey with us, for your belief, your partnership, and your support.

Because of you, more children will take their first steps, run without limits, and step into futures filled with possibility.

Donate

Make a [donation](#) or [sign up to monthly giving](#). A small regular amount makes a significant difference to a child's life.

Partner

If you represent a clinic, corporate, or organisation interested in collaborating with us, please get in touch.

Stay Connected

Follow us on social media for updates and success stories.



info@steps.org.za

www.steps.org.za

Make a contribution to Steps Clubfoot Care

