



CABSA



Annual Report 2020

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Director's Message

I greet you with a conflicted heart ... grateful for the opportunity to report on another year of God's grace and provision and excited about the privilege to celebrate CABSA's 20th birthday. But at the same time immensely aware of and concerned about how vulnerable COVID-19 has made us on so many levels, in our own bodies, homes, families, churches, neighbourhoods and workplaces. And off course CABSA is also deeply impacted by this pandemic.

After months of Covid-19 lockdown-regulations, increasing numbers of new infections and more deaths announced daily, no-one needs convincing of the extent and gravity of this pandemic.

In contrast, after forty years of the less visible HIV/AIDS pandemic, millions of South Africans are still in large-scale denial about its scope and severity. It remains an uphill battle to convince churches and church leaders of the critical role that they too play and ought to play in the HIV pandemic. And overlooked, these numbers continue to increase daily.

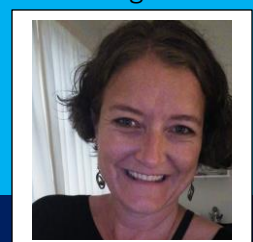
Yes, HIV does not hide in shop trollies, church benches or staircase handles. Normal social interaction poses no risk for HIV transmission. HIV transmission mainly happens during the privacy of intimate sexual relationships, or during sexual abuse that usually also take place out of sight.

There are clear differences between these two pandemics, when it comes to Covid-19, basic instructions like washing your hands regularly, wearing your mask in public and avoiding contact with others, are easily explained on posters. To talk about power, sex and sexuality is more difficult. And the open resistance of some parents and church leaders against comprehensive sexuality education in schools, also affirms this discomfort.

Sometimes I struggle to grasp the difference between blind faith and denial. And you could certainly ask the same question if you *only* look at CABSA's financial report. But I am reminded that I am praying to the same God who let the Israelites stay lost for decades. They begged to arrive in the Promised Land, but instead He let them wander, answering prayers they didn't pray. For forty years, their shoes didn't wear out. Fire lit their path each night. Every morning God sent them mercy-bread from heaven.

CABSA is still not in a stable financial position and the impact of COVID-19 certainly did not help in this regard. And yet, somehow, we do see improvement and wake up to new mercies every day. And thank God for you, CABSA friends, family, partner organisations, churches, and donors for blessing CABSA with God's mercy bread.

Anelele Fourie Le Roux



Chairperson's Message

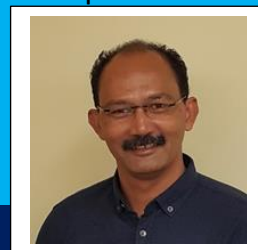
We are grappling with a second health pandemic that is rapidly changing the world as we know it. When president Cyril Ramaphosa declared the COVID-19 pandemic a National State of Disaster on 23 March 2020 it introduced the largest public health intervention in the country's history. No one has remained unaffected by the pandemic and its socio-economic consequences. While the business sector faced financial pressures, the blow to the NGO-sector was even more severe. They experience a dramatic downturn in income, threatening their ability to sustain normal operations, but also access to beneficiaries who needed their services was severely hampered. Not to mention the increased vulnerability and needs of many beneficiaries.

This was also the case with CABSAs. We are still in a period of transition as was reported on in our 2018 and subsequent annual reports and the onset of the Covid pandemic is particularly challenging at this moment on our organization. Our director's report outlines the impact on activities and on our staff and it will also be evident from our annual financial statements. We are sad to report that Clive Swartz no longer is a full-time staff member, and we thank him for his loyal and dedicated service. He will continue on a free-lance basis and will be contracted for projects. Despite the circumstances we were still able though to deliver on our core activities and to this extend we offer our sincerest gratitude to our staff and board members who diligently kept the organization afloat and on course.

We also offer our appreciation to Zani Malan whose term of office as board member came to an end. As financial expert her contribution and leadership served the organization well. We value you for that Zani and wish you well in your future endeavours.

We are looking forward to the year ahead as we will be celebrating our 20th year of service to faith communities and their leaders in equipping them to transform their communities. We invite you to journey with us as we believe in doing so, we are able to proclaim the Good News and affirm our conviction that our love for God must translate into loving others as we love ourselves.

Rev Sean Esterhuizen



Governance and Staff

The CABSA Board consist of key role players representing different churches, faith-based organisations and academic institutions. They make their time available voluntarily to assist the organisation in sound governance, planning and strategizing.

We are deeply grateful to each board member who shares their time and expertise voluntarily towards the vision and mission of CABSA.

Board Members as at 31 December 2020:

Rev Sean Esterhuizen (Chairperson)
Ms Aneleh Fourie Le Roux (Executive Board Member)
Ms Nomvuyu Baba
Prof Vhumani Magezi
Dr Sipho Mahokoto
Ms Zani Malan
Ms Romena Minnaar
Mr Denshir De Koker

Full-time Staff:

Ms Aneleh Fourie Le Roux (Executive Director)
Ms Meloney Goliath (Administrative and Financial Officer)
Mr Clive Swartz (Programme Coordinator)

Staff are supported by:

Ms Anneke Boshoff (Funding Support)
Mr Denshir De Koker (Marketing)
Dr Pieter Fourie (Bible Message)
Ms Mpho Lekgetho (Community Advocate)
Ms Beverley Stoffberg (Finances)
Mr Jan van Rooyen (IT and Communication)

At the end of the year, we greeted Jan, who has been the CABSA Webmaster for more than 10 years. We also greeted Pieter who volunteered as the Bible Messages organiser and editor for CABSA for three years. Both journeyed with CABSA in different capacities for many years.

A big thank you also to our add-hoc trainers, who even though the training opportunities were few, stayed in contact and supportive.

Bible Messages & Special Liturgies

One of CABSA's core services is the development and distribution of a weekly Bible Message. These messages use the prescribed texts of the **Revised Common Lectionary** and explore its relevance for faith communities and Christians in a time of HIV.

The unexpected arrival and overwhelming impact of the Covid-19 pandemic compelled CABSA to also address this reality in some of our messages and liturgies.

A variety of pastors, partners and trained facilitators helped over the years to write these messages that have accumulated in hundreds of different messages. Currently 885 people are registered for this free service.

Here are some responses to the Bible Message:

"Thank you so much for the weekly information. It is really helpful and much appreciated. Stay blessed for keeping us inspired." Samuel Ditsele, South Africa.

"Thank you, we will read this at home with our children since we cannot attend church services at this time (due to the Covid-19 lockdown regulations)". Regina Beregho, South Africa.

"Awesome message thank you for this message of hope amidst the storm of the Corona virus. God bless and keep you and your family safe. Rev Jeconiah Plaatjies, South Africa.

"Thanks for the Bible Message sent for the week. I appreciate it effort made. Bravo!" Marc Karta, CIDAL, Liberia.

"This is a powerful reflection. I am going to share it widely." Sue Parry, World Council of Churches, EHAIA

"This devotional was compelling, yet lovely." Mella Davis

Prepare and Distribute Special Liturgies

CABSA, in partnership with Diaconia AIDS Task Group and the DRC Gender Justice Task Group, prepares and distributes special liturgies, including audio visual clips to assist and equip churches for AIDS Candlelight Memorial Sunday in May, Women's Day in the beginning of August and World AIDS Day around December 1st.

CABSA also participate in the DRC Gender Task Group campaign to Develop 16 Video Clips, aimed at clergy, for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

HIV Farm Project & CHABAHIVA Trust

CABSA is privileged to report on the adjusted implementation of the HIV Farm Project during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the restrictions during different levels of lockdown had a major impact on implementation, CABSA is still deeply grateful for the progress and the adjustments that was possible to remain meaningfully involved in the lives of the peer educators.

It was a huge shock for the family, colleagues, and the Wellington facilitators, when one of our senior peer educators succumbed to COVID-19 during the early days of the epidemic.

When circumstances allowed it refresher trainings were presented in both Wellington and De Doorns that specifically focused on HIV, TB and COVID. Peer Educators also received masks, hand sanitizers and tools to ensure social distancing in their workplaces and communities.

In the fifth year of this project, existing activities in Wellington and De Doorns continued, and for the first time CABSA presented the Peer Educator Training to groups of seasonal workers, one in De Doorns and one in Rawsonville.

The primary focus of the project is on HIV awareness through peer educators in the agricultural sector. In the process it also develops leadership and promotes human dignity and healthier relationships.

Newly trained peer educators wrote the following about their experience:

"I am now able to encourage and support others that are also HIV positive, or suffer from other illnesses, that there is hope and healing when you take shelter with God."

"It is important to make my community realise the gravity of the matter and that local people living with HIV know that there is support for them and a shoulder to lean on."

"During training everyone felt safe talking about and sharing sensitive topics, which they usually don't have the courage to do."

Covid-19 hampered our ability to roll out in the Eastern Cape, but important groundwork was done and will be continued in 2021. In the meantime, the following changes were introduced:

- Various attempts were made to try and organise virtual follow-up meetings, but access to smart phones and proper cell phone coverage were serious obstacles in hosting WhatsApp calls or Zoom meetings.
- Once Clive was allowed to move around, he started with personal visits where necessary.
- Additional information was developed to educate and equip peer educators about COVID-19.
- Family Health Days were successfully replaced with small community events organised by peer educators themselves.

A very big THANK YOU to CHABAHIVA Trust and Otto Per Mille of the Waldensian Church in Italy, for partnering with CABSA and making this project possible. Thank you also to CLF for your generosity with your pamphlets.



Churches, Channels of Hope

The Churches, Channels of Hope programme has been equipping faith and community leaders since 2002 and in the process numerous lives have been changed. It aims to support and empower churches, faith and community leaders, and marginalised communities to make a meaningful difference in their communities and to be channels of hope in a world faced with multiple pandemics.

The programme consists of various training and workshop curriculums, but in 2020 limited funds and the Covid-pandemic limited our activities to one short workshop in Mthatha, Eastern Cape and one facilitator training Cape Town, Western Cape.

Both these activities were on request of and funded by CABSA partner organisation, Diaconia.

The facilitator training was offered in two blocks of 3 days each. The group consisted of mostly URCSA and CPCSAs and due to COVID-19 restrictions the second block was delayed with almost 6 months. Again, we were faced with the hard realities of COVID-19 that claimed the life of one of the ministers just a few weeks before the second block.

Some feedback from participants:

- I believe that I will improve as I go along. I am confident because I understand the content
- I feel much prepared now to confront issues in my congregation
- I always thought that I know what stigma is – I now realise how wrong I was. Thank you for this information.
- The training awakes my response to HIV and AIDS positive people.

A very **big THANK YOU to Diaconia**, for partnering with CABSA to make these events possible. Thank you also to Van Rooyen Info and the Catholic Relief Service for your commitment to the Focus SA Project and Churches, Channels of Hope Interfaith Workshops despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

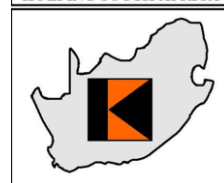
Thank you also to Diaconia (Uniting Reformed Church of South Africa, Cape Synod and the Dutch Reformed Church, Western Cape Synod) and the Calvin Protestant Church for cooperation in the AIDS Task Group, and for your contribution to CABA's core funding.



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KOLPING SOUTH AFRICA



Hope & Support amidst COVID-19

The additional burden that COVID-19 placed on HIV positive community workers and Churches, Channels of Hope facilitators, motivated CABSAs to initiate the Hope&Support Project.

Financial assistance from Inclusive and Affirming Ministries enabled the role out of a small project that offers emotional and spiritual support to HIV positive facilitators from four different provinces of South Africa who can connect and support one another electronically.

CABSA suggested monthly support group meetings, but when the sessions started participants were so overwhelmed, they requested weekly meetings. With time the urgency and need to formally meet became less, but members reach out when they need support and prayer and the Hope&Support Whatsapp group keeps us connected in between meetings.

Support is also given to HIV positive peer educators, some who prefer to keep their status private. And Clive Swartz has made many personal visits to Peer Educators who needed emotional and spiritual care. As pastor, he was the first staff member who was allowed to travel and who could offer in person prayer and support.

Participants who did not own a phone were provided with a basic smart phone to stay connected with us and to enable them to attend support group meetings.

Financial assistance was offered for a variety of different circumstances and emergencies. The funding for this project is small, but we try our best to assist with immediate needs and to access additional funding for this purpose.

CABSA was also able to support two HIV support groups whose financial support was cut off because of the more immediate needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The HIV support group members of Phamphile Community Development each received a food parcel and a hygiene parcel, including face masks and sanitisers. They are based in Somerset West, Western Cape.
- The community support group in Kuruman, Northern Cape, received masks, sanitisers, and funds for nutrition supplements for HIV positive children and sanitary pads.
- Through the generosity of Helderberg Uitreik, CABSA was able to distribute masks to all our peer educators, to HIV support groups and to two primary schools with a specific need for smaller masks.

Thank you very much to IAM and Helderberg Uitreik, for making the impossible possible!



Financial Report

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial recording is done by an external bookkeeper and monitored on a quarterly basis by the board.
Financial Statements have been audited by Broodryk Kotzé Inc.

INCOME	2020	2019	EXPENDITURE	2020	2019
Churches and Faith Based Organisations	236,367	84,513	Salaries and Support	699,021	508,468
Fundraising	55,752	65,032	Capacity Building and Collaboration	3,764	32,658
Functions	20,070	7,691	Office Expenditure	9,607	9,085
Individual donors	35,682	57,341	Running Costs	132,563	180,389
Contributions and Projects	536,267	904,790	Banking fees	7,723	10,128
CHABAHIVA (Farm project)	326,317	522,043	Operational expenses	18,750	58,504
URCSA Diaconia	160,500	174,555	Marketing	43,000	47,340
Other Projects	49,450	160,242	IT costs	31,911	30,516
Project Focus South Africa	-	13,950	Financial management	31,179	33,901
Community Chest	-	25,000	Service Delivery and Projects	390,763	843,644
Registration, Sales and Licence Fees	16,189	95,467	Meals and accommodation	76,488	128,606
Interest received	12,056	4,859	Travelling	12,830	83,539
Interest received	12,056	6,525	Materials and resources	-	57,588
Finance cost	-	(1,666)	Salaries	242,092	483,164
TOTAL INCOME	856,631	1,154,661	Other direct project implementation costs	59,343	90,747
End of year reserves	369,420	785,083	Depreciation	1,387	-
Sustainability account	219,206	190,618	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,237,095	1,674,244
Operational account	149,641	594,361	(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(380,464)	(419,583)
Petty cash	573	104			



A special thank you to our regular individual donors, churches and core funding partners!

CABSA Bank details: ABSA Current Account, Branch 632005, Acc 4060441365 or donate by card through YOCO <https://cabsa.org.za/donate/>