



ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

"20 years of dedication, resilience, impact"
www.sizakuyenza.org.za



SIZAKUYENZA
We will do it!

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**“Changing lives by
empowering abused women,
children and families.”**

OVERVIEW

During this reporting period, Sizakuyenza continued to pursue its mission of creating a supportive community where abused women and vulnerable families in Philippi and beyond find safety, healing, independence, and empowerment, and rebuild their lives with dignity and confidence through our psychosocial support services and sheltering programmes.

REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR

- Our Safe House and Social Worker participated in the Ford Foundation's Weaving Resilience Hub after she participated in the NISSA Institute for Women Development's Shelter Mentoring Programme from 2022 to 2024
- Obtaining a grant from the DG Murray Trust towards organisational strengthening and the appointment of a Director and Operations Manager.
- The plans for the Strategic Planning process commenced. A key step in reviewing our previous strategy, a process that was to provide a clear direction, focus, and a shared understanding of the organisation's purpose and goals.
- Two new board members joined Sizakuyenza in February 2025.
- In March 2025, the Department of Social Development conducted an M&E exercise. This process continues to be a lesson to all of us. Key governance and service delivery issues required attention. These included leadership concerns, policies, and Health and Safety, amongst others.

FORGING AHEAD

Sizakuyenza will continue to serve Philippi and the surrounding communities, as we have done for the past 20 years. Gender based Violence and Femicide continue to affect many women, girls and children. Philippi is a GBV as well as a Crime hotspot. Our work and that of many NPOs that serve Philippi is vital. Sizakuyenza is the only women's shelter in the region.

We remained steadfast in our work in supporting survivors of domestic violence, working with children and families, and reaching out to the community in educating and raising awareness on Gender Based Violence. We made strides in empowering individuals and fostering safer communities.

This report, therefore, outlines our achievements, challenges, and plans as we continue our vital work.

Our commitment to impactful and sustainable change remains steadfast. We plan to enhance our existing programmes and explore new partnerships to further our mission.





MESSAGE FROM

Kathleen Dey

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

**“20 years of
dedication,
resilience, impact”**



The informal settlements of Philippi and the surrounding areas are where many displaced people settled during Apartheid. The area has expanded, and today there remains a sprawl of informal housing structures where communities face poverty, unemployment, overcrowding, and susceptibility to fire and flooding.

Sizakuyenza, meaning “We will do it!” was founded in 2005 as a response to the multitude of challenges faced by people living in Philippi and its immediate surroundings. At that time, HIV was nearing its peak and was often misunderstood, particularly within intimate partnerships. This led to an increase in child-headed households and the abuse of women, girls, and children, as many women were accused of introducing the disease into their homes. Families disintegrated, and substance abuse rose. Women, girls, and children were predominantly affected.

Sizakuyenza’s vision at the start of the period under review in this annual report was to work towards assisting and empowering communities living in shacks or other informal housing in their quest for formal housing including responding to the plight of abused women and children, offering early intervention for people at risk for substance misuse, supporting children and families that suffered loss and grief and coordinating the activities of groups and organisations working on informal housing internationally and within the Republic of South Africa.

In service of this vision, Sizakuyenza planned to implement programmes aimed at sheltering women survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) and their children, reducing the negative impact of their experiences, mitigating the at-risk behaviour associated with the misuse of substances among members of the Philippi community and reducing grief and loss suffered by children and families in Philippi.

We were able to respond to the plight of abused women and children and to support children and families that suffered loss and grief. In this way, we assisted and empowered communities living in shacks or other informal housing in Philippi and its surrounds.

We were not able to support them in their quest for formal housing, to offer any early intervention for people at risk for substance misuse, or to coordinate the activities of groups and organisations working on informal housing. We were not able to mobilise the necessary resources to do this and had funding cuts to our substance abuse programme in the previous year so severe that we were, like many other affected services, forced to shut it down.

Because there were parts of this vision that we were unable to serve, we knew that we had to revisit our vision and that we needed a new kind of leadership in our organisation to be able to do that. We also needed someone to lead us in securing the necessary funds and stakeholder relationships to make our new vision real.



The first thing we did was to apply for funding for the posts of director and operations manager, as well as for a review of our strategy. We were delighted when we managed to secure this funding in August 2024, and we spent the next six months recruiting a director. We took this long because we wanted to find the right person, and that meant securing the services of a recruitment specialist and then going through the careful process she designed for us step by step. We knew that this thoroughness would pay off.

In the meantime, we needed an interim structure to accommodate the absence of a director. We appealed to our shelter social worker and our accounting practice owner to help us build a management team, and as Chairperson, I met with them every two weeks as operations manager and finance officer to keep track of what was needed to keep staff well supported in delivering essential services. Our board met regularly, we updated our constitution, and we improved our services in line with requirements placed on us by the Western Cape Department of Social Development.

These were not ideal conditions, and staff faced many challenges. Our staff are dedicated and loyal. They deliver a high-quality service that is appreciated by the local community and relied on by our referral networks. We met all of our donor targets for the period and operated within our budget, the people who used our services gave positive feedback, and we retained the respect of our community networks.

Our services give women a very firm foothold on the climb towards self-reliance, and we assist children to come to terms with grief and loss. We have worked towards building a Sizakuyenza that is able to position itself to attract awareness, interest, support and commitment to the organisation and the vital work we do. Our reputation as a community-focused organisation tackling some of the most relevant problems facing South Africa today is without question, and going forward with a new director and a clear strategy, well-articulated values and sound leadership and management, we look forward to going from strength to strength in the years to come.

We have valued the support of our loyal donors, the CESVI Foundation, the Department of Social Development's Victim Empowerment and Children and Families Programmes and the DG Murray Trust. My thanks go to them, to my fellow board members, my fellow interim management team members and to our staff. With such committed and talented people behind us, we know that, of course, "We will do it!"

Kathleen Dey
Chairperson



PROGRAMMES

HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPACT



VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME - SIZAKUYENZA SAFE HOUSE FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

- Housed **116** abused women and children (exceeding the target of 80)
- **445** community members reached out for awareness and education (exceeding the target of 120).
- Facilitated **37** successful SASSA applications, including critical identity documents and birth certificates.
- Facilitated 1200 Life Skills Group sessions
- Facilitated 1200 Therapeutic Group sessions
- Delivered skills development support to **21** clients (target: 20).



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- **108** households that benefited from the programme.
- **48** male and female children between the ages of 8 - 12 years benefited from the loss and grief workshops.
- **60** adults aged 18 and above benefited from the loss and grief workshops.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Strong partnerships formed with schools, churches, and community leaders enabled localised delivery and improved accessibility.
- The demand for services continues to grow, especially among parents, underscoring the programme's value in supporting mental health and emotional resilience.





"The cashier training and CV-building support from the shelter have been invaluable. I'm excited to start my new job and provide for my children," **Thozi, mother of three (May 2024)**



"I'm grateful for the home-based care training. It equipped me with skills to care for others and earn a living. Thank you for believing in me". - **Anazo, mother of one (June 2024)**



The shelter is more than just a roof over our heads. It's given us a chance to rebuild our lives. I'm excited to start my new job and create a better future for my kids. - **Phindi, mother of two (July 2024)**



"I'm proud of myself for saving money while I was here. It gives me a sense of security as I start this new chapter. Thank you for the guidance and support". - **Busisiwe, mother of two (October 2024)**



"I'm grateful for the counselling and resources provided here. My children are learning to cope with their experiences, and so am I" **Lusanda. Mother of two (January 2025)**



"This safe home has been a sanctuary for me and my children. The counselling and therapy have helped us to heal and rebuild our lives." - **Milisa, mother of two (February 2025)**



"The life skills groups empowered me with the confidence to start anew. I'm grateful for the support and care provided to my child and me". - **Nonkululeko (March 2025)**

FINANCIAL REPORT

REPORTED BY: **GEORGE OWIRA** (FINANCE OFFICER)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (AS OF 31 MARCH 2025):

• Total Assets:	R1 153 780
• Non-Current Assets:	R54 856
• Current Assets:	R1 098 924
• Liabilities:	R20 370
• Total Equity:	R1 133 410

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME:

• Total Revenue:	R2 901 389
• Operating Expenses:	R2 005 228
• Surplus:	R896 161

CASH FLOW SUMMARY:

• Net cash from operating activities:	R869 632
• Cash used in investing activities:	R2 539
• Year-end cash balance:	R882 564

Auditor: Craig Whittle Accounting will continue as the external auditor for 2024–2025.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS



FUNDING PARTNERS

A heartfelt thank you to our funders who have provided Sizakuyenza with the financial and organisational strengthening resources, enabling us to continue implementing our vision and mission.



SHELTER MOVEMENT

Sizakuyenza is an active member and participates in the National Shelter Movement of South Africa and the Western Cape Shelter Movement, aimed at supporting, networking, lobbying, and capacity-building on gender-based violence and sheltering.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A special thank you to the community of Philippi, community-based organisations, individuals, and groups that have, over the years, partnered with Sizakuyenza in the fight against violence against women and children, and supported families in Philippi and beyond.

CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

We appreciate and are grateful to the business partners and government departments that have provided Sizakuyenza with financial support, in-kind donations, and volunteer services.

Sizakuyenza! We will do it!



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