

July 2009 – June 2010

TAPOLOGO AIDS HOSPICE



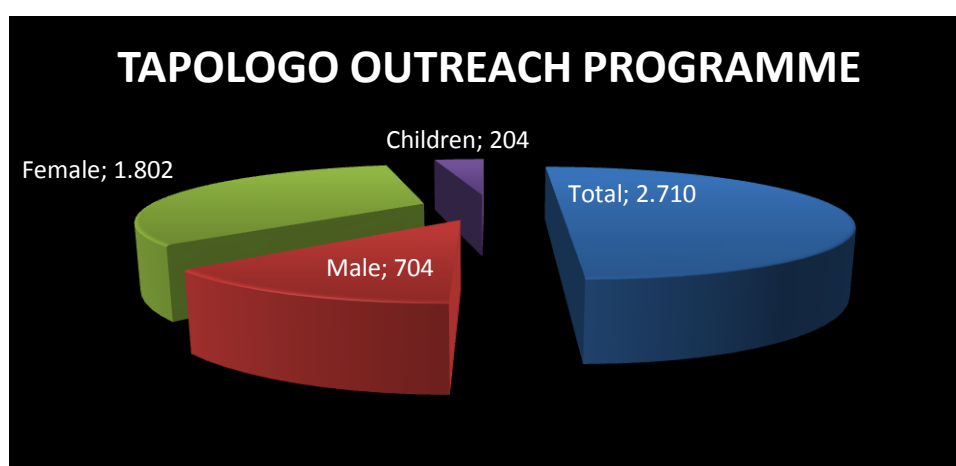
NARRATIVE REPORT

Prepared by: Meacala van Tonder

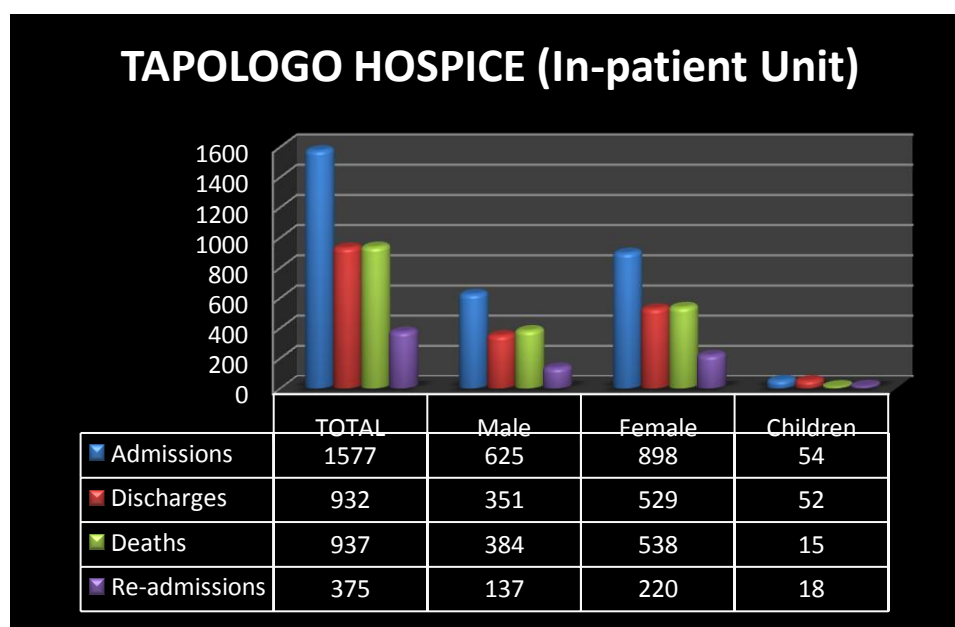
1. INTRODUCTION

The Tapologo HIV and AIDS Programme was conceptualised in 1993/4, and has been providing primary health care services to the poorest of the poor since 1998. Over the years, the Tapologo HIV and AIDS Programme, which consists of the following Programmes, has grown significantly and provided the following care and support to those in dire need during:

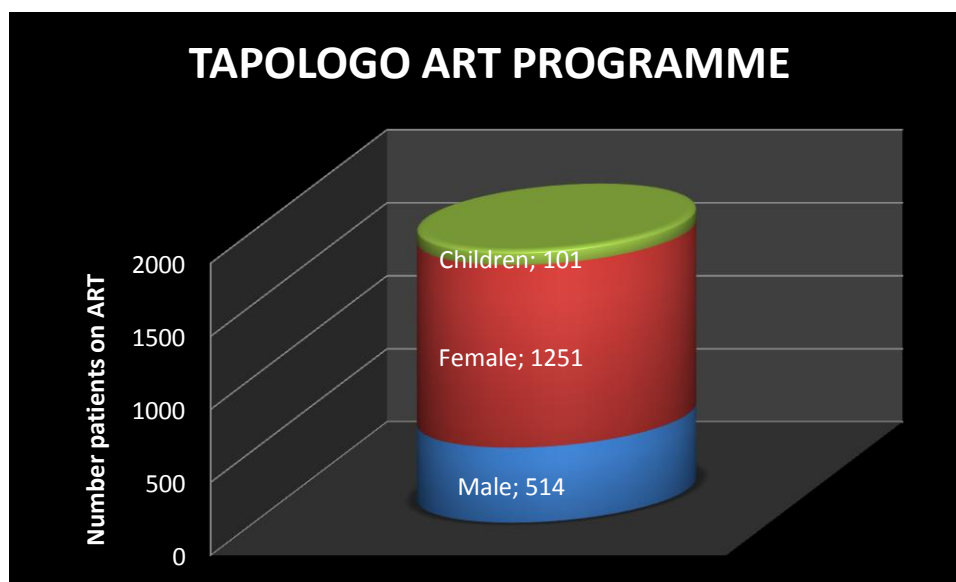
- Community based **Outreach Programmes**, providing volunteer home care and education in the home and in the community using trained home based caregivers and professional nurses that provide Physical, spiritual and emotional care and support to the patient and family in the comfort of the home. 9131 patients have been admitted to this Programme since its inception in 2001 from 12 communities. The following diagram only indicates the current number of patients still receiving home visits on a monthly basis and does not indicate those that have been discharged, died or moved away. The average number of home visits undertaken by the Tapologo Home Based Care staff is 3850 per month during 2009 and 5848 interventions per month on average during 2009/10.



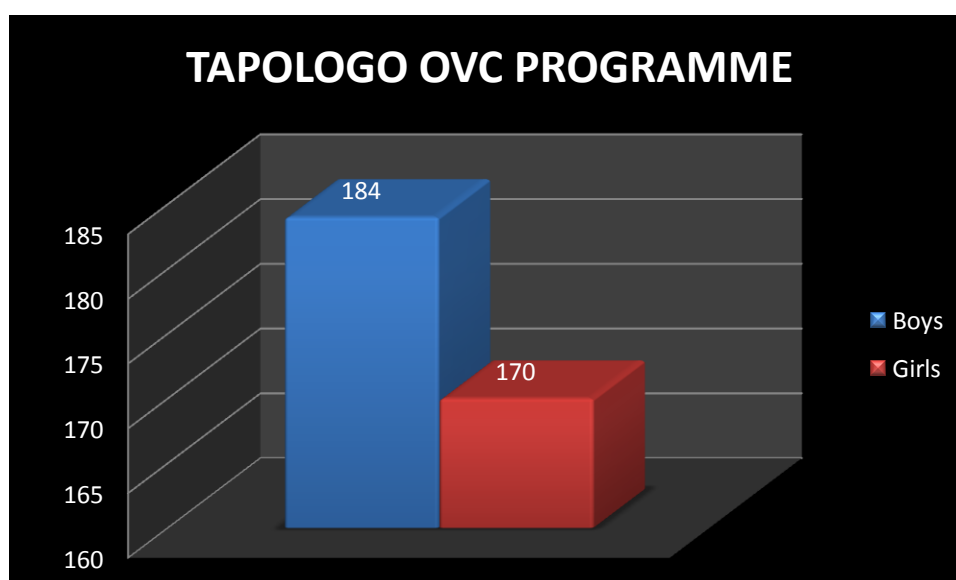
- The **Hospice (In-patient Unit)**, a well-designed 30+ bed facility to provide the necessary care in an atmosphere of compassion, love, peace and care for AIDS patients in the terminal phase of the disease, pain and symptom control for patient who need to be stabilised before starting Anti-retroviral Therapy and respite for those patients who's families are unable to cope with the demands of their ill family member due to progressive illnesses.



- Provision of **Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART)**, to the poorest of the poor in a resource limited setting as well as the provision of the necessary support mechanisms to support the patients, families and the communities so as to afford a quality of life so the patients can become economically active, provide family support and reduce dependence on others. The diagram below indicates the number of patients currently on Anti-retroviral Therapy from 9 of our areas of operation and excludes those that have absconded, moved away, died or transferred out of the Programme. Tapologo ART Programme has initiated 3441 patients on ARV's to date.



- The **Orphaned and Vulnerable Children's Programme (OVC)**, our fledgling programme, aims at providing a community based framework and capacity to allow these self same communities to deal with the OVC situation prevalent in their communities and assist the communities by providing Family, OVC and Community Capacity Building, Education and Awareness Workshops, Community Foster Care Model, OVC Outreach Programme and Youth Skills Development Programme. The diagram below indicates the current number of OVC in our care. The Child Care Coordinators and Child Care Workers have averaged 2548 interventions per month during 2009 and currently statistics indicate that this figure has increased to 6405 interventions per month.



- The **Development Programme** Tapologo Development, in keeping with the Tapologo Health Care Elements philosophy of community upliftment through traditional technology and environmental sustainability, subscribes to the following mission statement of reviving traditional skills in adobe construction; to place the skills of home (and other) construction back into the hands of the family and community; encourage and enhance the use of green construction methods and green service provision locally with the goal of improved local and global environmental impact. Provide quality design and technical skills to ensure quality buildings and a comfortable living environment and ensure they service the needs of the programme.

2. CHAPTER 1: Growth of the Hospice

During 2009 a lot of development work took place around the In-patient Unit to address the shortage of bed space and the treatment of patients with TB which required isolated care. During this time the following concepts were realised :

- i) The concept of refurbishing the Administration Centre to include the new IPU ward with walkways upgraded to provide easy access between the existing and new wards. This would occupy the west wing of the building.
- ii) The east wing of the Administration building is refurbished to accommodate the Anti-retroviral Therapy, In-patient Unit and Home Based Care dispensary needs and office space for the Nursing staff.
- iii) The considerable increase in TB patients necessitated the refurbishment of the existing IPU wards to accommodate suspected infectious patients.

This development phase resulted in the administration staff being housed in temporary containers until Phase 2: the Development of the Administration Centre was complete. After completion, these containers have been converted into a Daycare Centre for Tapologo staff as part of our Employee Assistance Programme.



Covered walkways leading from the IPU to the TB wing

3. CHAPTER 2: Development of the Administration Centre

By Positive 2008, the Administration Centre was approximately 20% complete and visitors, such as Kelly Rowland, had the opportunity to lay a few bricks for this new building.



Kelly Rowland makes some mud bricks (Positive 2008)

Due to the Sun International Positive Extravaganza (2009) being postponed indefinitely, building work was suspended, however, an every inspiring private donor, Mr. Marco Bianchi believed in our vision and started his personal journey with Tapologo and raised funds for the completion of the Administration Building in Italy and the UK. The work soon continued and by November 2009, the Administration building was complete and was officially opened with a very intimate ceremony by Mr Marco Bianchi and his family and friends.

The Tapologo Administration Centre, accommodating administration, management and public interface functions, including counselling, training and other related functions. The Centre also performs the management, coordination and operations function for the Outreach Programme, Orphaned and Vulnerable Children's Programme as well as the Anti-retroviral Treatment Programme.



Official opening of the Administration building

4. CHAPTER 5: Fruits of our Labour

4.1 Bishop Kevin Dowling receives Honorary Doctorate

On 22 May 2009 Bishop Kevin Dowling accepted The Honourary Doctorate in Humane Letters by the University of San Francisco.

Bishop Dowling, the Chairperson and founder of Tapologo, who has made his life's work the prevention of tens of thousands of South Africans' deaths from HIV/AIDS, told graduates that the wealthy world has floundered as the disease ravages the poor, particularly women and young children in the developing world. Invoking their Catholic faith and education in social justice, Bishop Dowling called on USF graduates to draw on a sense of principle and a voice of outrage to help turn the social and political tides and end the pandemic.

"You and I, each one of us, is called to this great cause," said Bishop Dowling. "Namely, that the acquisition of knowledge and skills is directed toward one goal: to fashion a more humane and just world for all."



In his commencement address, Bishop Dowling drew parallels to Jesus' words in the Bible (John 10:10) and the fight to stand in solidarity with and seek a life of dignity for South Africa's HIV/AIDS infected community and the world's impoverished masses at-large.

"Jesus once said: 'I have come so that you may have life; and life in abundance!' That is our quest..." Bishop Dowling said. "That quest will not be easy to fulfill, but it is a quest worth giving everything in us to achieve. We believe in you. And, more importantly, God believes in you."

4.2 Mail And Guardian: Drivers of Change Awards

In October 2009, Bishop Kevin, the founder and Chairperson of Tapologo received a special merit award for his advocacy and work for people living with HIV and AIDS.



4.3 Mail and Guardian: Greening the Future Awards

At a gala dinner held in Sandton on 02 June 2010, Tapologo was honoured with the Mail and Guardian Merit Award in the category: Environmental Best Practice for a Non-profit Organisation. This honour was bestowed on Tapologo for its innovative design, construction and operation of the Tapologo Centre situated in Phokeng near Rustenburg in the North West Province.

Combining ancient building skills and knowledge with modern day needs has created facilities that have a much reduced impact on the environment. The Tapologo Centre in Phokeng comprises a 32 bed In-patient Unit, Administration unit, Health and Information Services, a laboratory, a crèche, Home Based Care unit, Operations and Maintenance unit and an organic vegetable garden. The buildings were constructed with adobe (mud) bricks that were made on site. A subterranean ventilation system supplies fresh air to the inner spaces and skylights provide daytime lighting. Water is heated using solar energy. Tapologo is the largest community based HIV and AIDS programme in the North West Province and provides care, support and treatment to thousands in the poor communities of Rustenburg.

Our relationship and the faith of Mr. Marco Bianchi was pivotal in this vision and it is due his assistance and contribution that this vision could be realised. We hope you feel as proud as we do.

Reference: the “Greening the Future” project by the Mail and Guardian.

Mail & Guardian June 4 to 10 2010 7

Greening the Future Awards

'Impressive' lifeline for the community

Not for profit merit award: Tapologo Centre

Tarryn Harbour

Tapologo is a Setswana word that means "a place of peace and rest". It's a fitting name for an HIV/AIDS hospice. Tapologo, near Phokeng in the North West province, was the brainchild of Bishop Kevin Dowling of the Catholic diocese of Rustenburg. In the early 1990s he realised there was a great need to develop support and resources to counter the effects of the HIV epidemic in the area. Today the centre has four sub-

programmes comprising outreach and home-based care, orphans and vulnerable children, antiretroviral therapy and an in-patient unit and hospice. In short, it's a lifeline for hundreds of people in the community – whether they are infected with or affected by HIV. But Tapologo is much more than that. It is an inspiring example of an environmentally friendly space that spreads the message of healing. The centre consists of four buildings in spacious grounds – the administration and management buildings, the

in-patient unit and the health management information service. Each of these buildings has been designed to exist in harmony with nature and to minimise the impact of the organisation's activities on the surroundings. Tapologo believes in sourcing building material locally. This reduces the organisation's carbon footprint, because fewer resources have to be brought in from outside. Tapologo's architecture reflects the skills of the past. Walls and vault roofs are built with home-made, sun-dried

mud bricks, which are a natural form of insulation and temperature control, so the buildings are cool in summer and warm in winter. The centre is proud of its "natural air-conditioning system", based on the long-established principle of hot air rising. Air from outside is drawn into intake towers not far from the buildings and then channelled through subterranean cooling pipes into the buildings through floor-level vents. The air rises as it warms and leaves through vents in the apex of

the vaulted roofs, carrying germs and viruses out with it. By day the buildings are lit by natural light through skylights and windows; at night the centre uses energy-saving light bulbs. Low-wattage electronics are used wherever possible and solar panels provide energy for heating water and cooking. This is all part of Tapologo's environmental management policy, which is endorsed by its board of directors. The centre strives for the lowest possible carbon footprint, responsible management of hazardous medical and general waste and sustainable energy use. In future there are plans to install photovoltaic panels, which will turn sunlight into energy and reduce the centre's fossil fuel-generated energy footprint. Tapologo is home to an organic vegetable garden, which supplies basic vegetables such as carrots, beetroots, cabbage and spinach. There's even a small flock of Naledi hens, which provides the centre with fresh free-range eggs every day. The judges described the centre as "impressive" and said that, although its impact might be small-scale, it is nevertheless "important". They encouraged the centre to enter the competition again next year.



The home-made, sun-dried mud bricks made at Tapologo have natural temperature control and insulation

5. CHAPTER 4: Providing Hope, Healing and Compassion

The following provides some insight into the Hospice activities of the past year:

- Although Tapologo, as with Corporates, individuals and grantmakers, has felt the economic downturn in the country, we have been able to minimise costs without compromising quality and quantity patient care. Our annual operating expenses were reduced by 5% from 2008/9 to 2009/10 despite the numerous increases in petrol, pharmaceuticals, employee requirements, etc.
- The Hospice staff have gained valuable experience during this year, whereby:
 - A support staff member (Cleaner) attending and successfully completed a First Aid Course.
 - In-service training has taken place to allow our staff members to provide bereavement counselling to those family members who have lost a love one in the In-patient Unit.
 - A Professional Nurse is undergoing a 6-month course on Paediatric Palliative Care – end of life care for a child.
- Due to the high mortality rate that the Hospice has experienced this year, staff members have undergone spiritual counselling, care for the caregiver and weekly bereavement sessions with a qualified Psychologist to help them cope with their daily experiences.
- Tapologo has enjoyed a number of community involvement initiatives and support during the year. Various church groups, schools and organisations visit the Hospice to lend support with operational requirements, counsel patients and provide general support to staff and patients in the In-patient Unit.
- Tapologo is receiving more and more requests from individuals and government organisations for patient admission. Tapologo will always attempt to assist these requests, however, it must be noted that admission can only occur if a bed is available, the patient is voluntarily admitted and Tapologo has the means to support the patient after discharge to ensure continuity of services.
- The Administration staff have moved into the lovely new administration centre which not only motivates us to perform at our best, but the building in its very nature, has created a sense of peace, harmony and unison amongst all the staff and general public that visits the centre.