



WELLBEING AND DEVELOPMENT

IMPACT REPORT 2025

OVERVIEW

In 2025, the Wellbeing & Development Programme advanced its mission to support people on the move through holistic, client-centred services. The annual Back-to-School campaign assisted hundreds of families, highlighting the growing demand for educational support.

However, this momentum was significantly disrupted by the withdrawal of critical funding, this loss had a profound impact on programme operations, leading to staff retrenchments, reduced service capacity, and limited internal resources to respond to client needs. The effects were deeply felt not only within the team but also among clients who rely on the programme as a trusted point of support and refuge.

Wellbeing and Development was able to restore key activities, particularly those focused on economic empowerment and psychosocial support. Despite these challenges, the programme secured gap funding and restored key activities, particularly through strategic referrals, reduced-scale service delivery, and the eventual acquisition of mid-year gap funding. This resilience ensured continuity of care and reinforced the programme's role as a trusted support hub.





PROGRAMME IMPACT AREAS

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The GBV unit played a critical role in supporting survivors through trauma-informed, client-centred interventions. With the addition of a dedicated GBV Consultant, the programme strengthened its capacity to provide consistent, specialised care. Survivors received comprehensive assessments, immediate relief support, and referrals to counselling and emotional support services. These interventions contributed to reduced anxiety, improved emotional wellbeing, and greater personal safety. Importantly, the presence of a dedicated consultant fostered trust and continuity, reducing instances of secondary victimisation. Educational workshops further enhanced awareness of GBV, equipping both women and men with knowledge on prevention, available resources, and pathways to support. Survivors who completed psychosocial support were better positioned to make informed decisions and were subsequently referred to skills development initiatives to support long-term independence.

Welfare Support

The Welfare Desk began the year with a successful stationery drive, supporting 261 families and reducing barriers to education for children on the move. Following funding cuts, the programme faced significant challenges in meeting basic needs. In the absence of direct resources, staff relied heavily on external referrals—highlighting both the programme’s commitment to continuity of care and the broader systemic gaps in social relief for displaced populations. While this period was difficult for clients accustomed to receiving direct support, the programme maintained its role as a coordination and referral hub. The receipt of Elma gap funding in the latter half of the year allowed for the partial restoration of welfare assistance and renewed efforts to secure sustainable funding streams

PROGRAMME IMPACT AREAS

Personal Development

Four Personal Development cohorts were implemented in 2025, reaching 53 participants (32 women and 21 men). The programme focused on strengthening mental, emotional, and social wellbeing through modules on resilience, stress management, emotional intelligence, and professional skills such as time management and goal setting. This intervention played a foundational role in preparing participants for skills training and employment opportunities, ensuring they were emotionally equipped to navigate challenges and sustain progress.

Skills Development

A total of 60 women completed vocational training in craft and nail care. Each participant received a starter pack upon completion, enabling immediate application of their skills and supporting pathways to self-employment. These starter packs were a critical intervention, bridging the gap between training and income generation. They empowered participants to initiate small businesses, fostering financial independence and reducing vulnerability.

Leadership Development

The Leadership Programme trained 10 women, with 8 completing the course despite a shortened training period due to funding constraints. Participants demonstrated strong commitment by actively volunteering in community initiatives, including health clinics and advocacy campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism. Their engagement reflects the programme's success in nurturing community leaders who contribute meaningfully beyond the training environment.

Open Workshops and Information Sharing

Open workshops served as a vital platform for knowledge dissemination and community engagement. Delivered in collaboration with internal teams and external partners, sessions covered key topics including GBV, health, education access, and human rights. These workshops not only increased awareness but also prepared participants for further opportunities, including skills training placements and external service referrals.



HIGHLIGHTS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite a challenging year, several milestones were achieved:

- A new partnership with First National Bank enabled the delivery of financial literacy training, equipping participants with essential skills for financial management and business sustainability.
- The 16 Days of Activism campaign was successfully led by the programme, strengthening organisational awareness and commitment to GBV prevention.
- For the first time, all sector training graduates received starter packs, significantly enhancing post-training outcomes.
- Strong referral networks ensured continuity of care during periods of limited internal capacity.
- The Celebration of Achievers event provided a meaningful platform to recognise client resilience, growth, and accomplishment.



2025 YEAR IN NUMBERS

LEADERSHIP

8

Women graduated from leadership sessions

**OPEN
WORKSHOPS**

148

People attended Open Workshops

WELFARE

1062

Consultations for welfare services

**GENDER BASED
VIOLENCE
SUPPORT**

137

Gender-based violence survivors supported.

MENS GROUP

24

Men's group participants successfully enrolled in the programme

**PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

56

Women graduated from Personal Development

**EMOTIONAL
SUPPORT
GROUP**

41

People supported through our Emotional Support Group

**SECTOR
SKILLS
TRAINING**

46

Women successfully completed Sector Skills Training

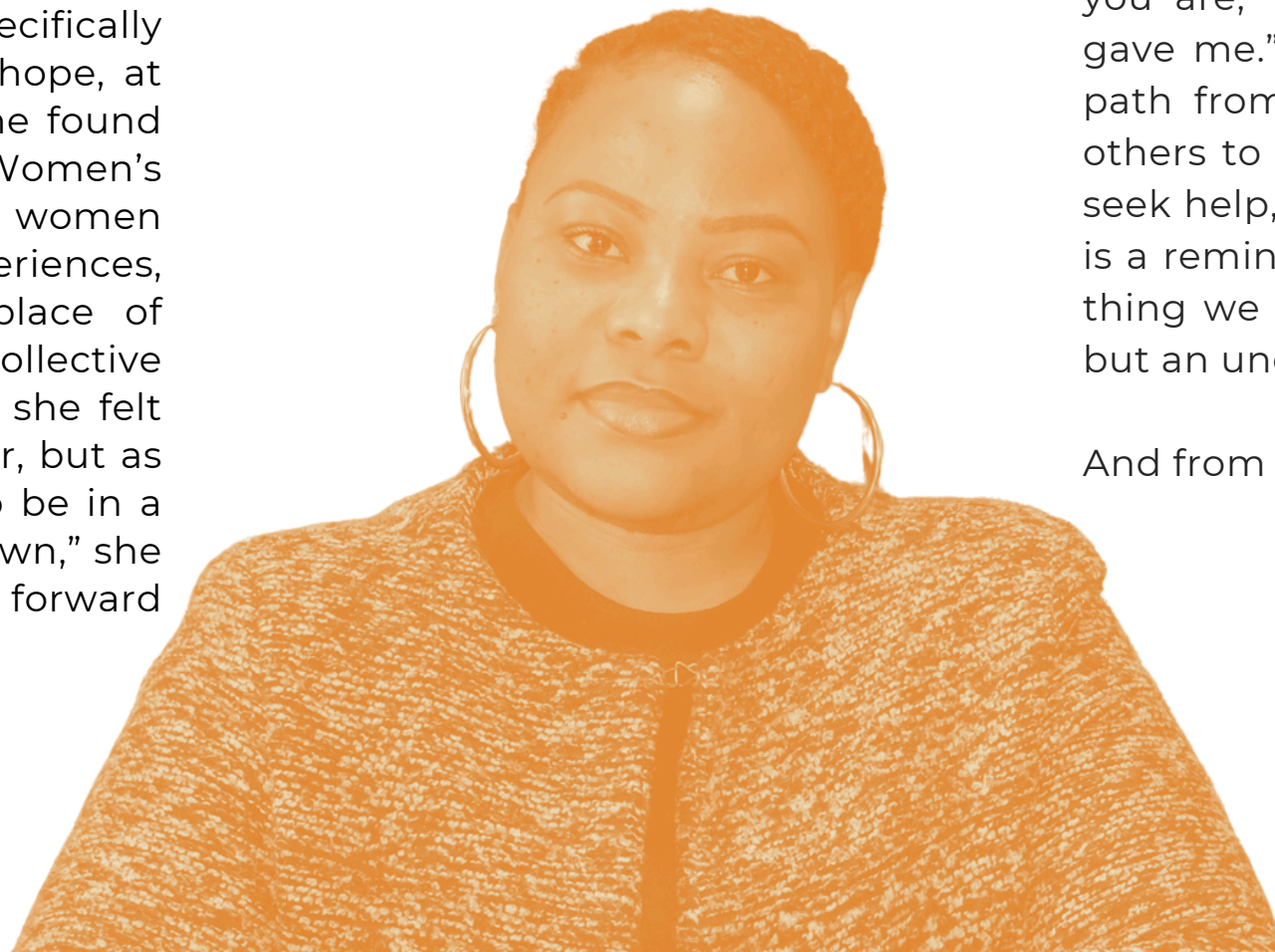
FINDING HERSELF FIRST

In 2022, Bulemba arrived at Scalabrini carrying more than just paperwork challenges, she carried uncertainty, pressure, and a quiet sense of being lost. Referred by her partner at the time, she initially joined the Well-being and Development Programme seeking help with advocacy services.

Administrative struggles had begun to affect her stability, and she needed guidance. What she found, however, went far beyond documents and processes. At the time, she was navigating life as a mother, a partner, and a daughter, constantly giving to others, but unsure of who she was for herself. “I didn’t know who I was,” she reflects. “I just knew I needed something more... a place where I could figure that out.”

That turning point came when she was introduced to the Women’s Platform within the programme. Drawn to the idea of a space created specifically for women, she joined in 2024 with the hope, at the very least, to find belonging. What she found instead was transformation. Within the Women’s Platform, she discovered a space where women could speak openly about their experiences, challenges, and aspirations. It was a place of shared stories, honest conversations, and collective growth. For the first time in a long time, she felt seen and not just as a mother or a partner, but as an individual. “It was important for me to be in a space where women could exist on their own,” she says. “To talk, to reflect, and to find a way forward together.”

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Through that journey, something began to shift. She started to reconnect with herself, finding her voice, her interests and her sense of direction. What began as a search for support slowly became a journey of self-discovery. Today, that transformation is visible not just internally, but in the life she is building. She now runs both a clothing business and a wellness business, ventures that reflect her growth, creativity, and renewed sense of purpose.

Her journey is not just about professional development; it is about personal awakening. Bulemba credits Scalabrini for creating the environment that allowed her to grow at her own pace, within a supportive and empowering space. “Before you build anything, you need to know who you are,” she says. “That’s what this programme gave me.” Now, as a woman who has walked the path from uncertainty to clarity, she encourages others to take that same first step and not just to seek help, but to seek themselves. Bulemba’s story is a reminder that sometimes, the most important thing we can build is not a business or a new life but an understanding of who we are.

And from there, everything else follows.

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PLANS FOR 2026

In the coming financial year, the programme remains committed to restoring and expanding its services.

Key priorities include:

- Scaling vocational training opportunities across both women and men, increasing participation from 60 to 100 beneficiaries.
- Strengthening specialised support for highly vulnerable clients, particularly those experiencing crisis and trauma.
- Resuming voluntary repatriation services with a focus on dignity and reintegration.
- Reinstating the Leadership Programme as a year-long intervention to deepen impact and support sustained personal growth.



The centre is registered with the South African Department of Social Development as a non-profit organisation (021-079 NPO), as a youth and child care centre (C7569) and as a Public Benefit Organisation with the South African Revenue Services (930075335) and governed by a Trust (IT2746/2006).

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