



Annual Impact Report



Registered NPC 2024/064699/08
Public benefit organisation with tax
exemption approval (S18A)
930084694

Hope-hear

✉ info@hope-hear.org

Level 1 BB-BEE certified

Every child deserves a chance

Unaddressed hearing loss has multifaceted consequences on language, learning, and social connectedness. The psychosocial developmental implications have been widely studied and demonstrate persistent and pervasive sequelae during the lifespan course. In early childhood this is manifested by delayed language abilities, varied emotional regulation, disrupted social engagement and psychosocial development. However, if they are picked up in the first year of life, and receive early intervention, language, social and emotional development evolves on par with typically hearing children.

Estimated return on investment



Hearing loss at birth is common (2-4 babies per 1000 births). Identifying these children early

yields a return on investment of 7:1

due to health sector costs, educational support, loss of productivity, and societal costs.

We have developed a hearing screening technician training programme, which we have implemented and validated. We have trained five community health workers to perform hearing screening. This significantly reduces the cost of newborn hearing screening.

We initiated the only universal newborn hearing screening programme in the public health sector in South Africa on 15 January 2024. To date we have screened over 10,000 infants. The programme is currently providing services to Mowbray Maternity Hospital seven days a week, including public holidays. Our coverage of infants in the hospital is >100%, which is in-line with international best practices.

Our hope is that we may scale this programme to include all children in the Western Cape, and beyond.

Hearing is the key to spoken language, and if we may identify and help these children they will grow up to be contributing members of society.

"Imagine a world where silence is not a choice, but a constant companion—where the absence of sound becomes a void that swallows the essence of connection, of love, of family.

In this solitude, loneliness doesn't whisper; it screams!

Imagine not understanding your family... As if you live in a foreign land where sound is suspended between moments, where time feels both infinite and irrelevant, and the weight of loss is felt not in what's gone, but in what can never be heard."

– Dr Jessica McGuire, Founder

+10,000

Infants screened which accounts for 10% of infants born in the Western Cape.

1

The only universal newborn screening programme in the public health sector in South Africa.

5

Community health workers trained in the only validated training programme in South Africa.

Projects

Details

Outcome

Every child Everywhere

The only way to identify hearing loss at birth is with objective hearing screening. This dream is now a reality in South Africa.

- 10,000 infants screened
- 100% in-hospital coverage of infants
- 20–30% refer rate
- loss to follow-up 50%

Million word gap project

Children from low socioeconomic backgrounds have, on average, less exposure to 30 million words upon entering nursery school. This translates directly to poorer language capacity, lower learning potential, poorer educational outcomes, and less economic opportunities later.

- 20 books written for early childhood development
- French and Shona translations completed
- isiXhosa, Afrikaans, and Chichewa translations in process
- Online resources for parents
 - Music – infants and toddlers
 - Language stimulation – tracking and activity charts
 - Learning support resources for parents – birth to grade 12



The year in review



Hope-hear was established in December 2023.

What a year it has been! We have achieved so much in such a short space of time. We have established that universal newborn hearing screening is feasible in the public health sector. The goal for 2025 is to improve efficiency and integrate sustainability into the programme.

Language, as an intervention target, for cognitive growth in early childhood development is frequently overlooked.

This brought about creation of the online books for parents. The goal with the Million word gap project is to create books that provide parents with

information on how to nurture development in their infants. The thought behind the books is that by empowering the parents on the purpose of the books will foster an environment for literacy and encourage them to access the links to other resources on our website.

We hope for a world where every child – from a language perspective – is on equal footing when they embark on their education journey.

*Dr Jessica McGuire
ENT Specialist (MBBCh, FCORL, MMed)
Founder and Director, Hope-Hear*

Spring Highlight

Initiation of technician training programme and implementation of universal newborn hearing screening at Mowbray Maternity Hospital (MMH).

Winter Highlight

Community health workers deemed competent for independent practise with audiological support by internal assessment.

Autumn Highlight

Every baby Everywhere was born when we managed to screen to maximum capacity at MMH.

Summer Highlight

Community health workers deemed competent by external assessors. Over 10,000 infants screened.



Finances

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	R31, 084.00
Equipment	R81,200.00

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	Nil
Loan account	R45,000.00

REVENUES

<u>Total</u>	R67,284.00
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EXPENSES & DEDUCTIONS

Donations	R294,103.00
Purchases	-R30,000.00
Production	-R1207.00
Expenses	-R279,895.00
Utilities	-R21,117.00
Maintenance	0
Total	-R38,115.00



Funding summary

R294,103.00

Donations

0

Government Funding

0

Grants



Inequality, institutional prejudice hearing & language



Africa has 40 million people with disabling hearing loss (a prevalence of 3.6%). It is projected to increase to 54 million people by 2030, and increase further to 97 million people by 2050.

The current state of ear, hearing health and language-related healthcare in the Western Cape presents a massive delay to interventions at a critical time in children's lives. This is most pronounced in the most vulnerable and poor communities. Children with profound bilateral hearing loss are only identified between 3–5 years old, by which time cochlear implantation is not an option in the state healthcare system. African-language-speaking children who do receive cochlear implantation do not have access to a culturally and linguistically appropriate auditory-verbal therapy programme.

Children with language delay wait 2–3 years before they are seen by a speech and language therapist.

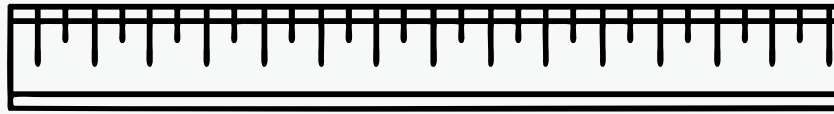
The only way to achieve a more equal society is through equity: individualized accommodations to promote equal access to opportunities.

Children (like Uluthando, *left*) are denied access to appropriate resources and this needs to be addressed.

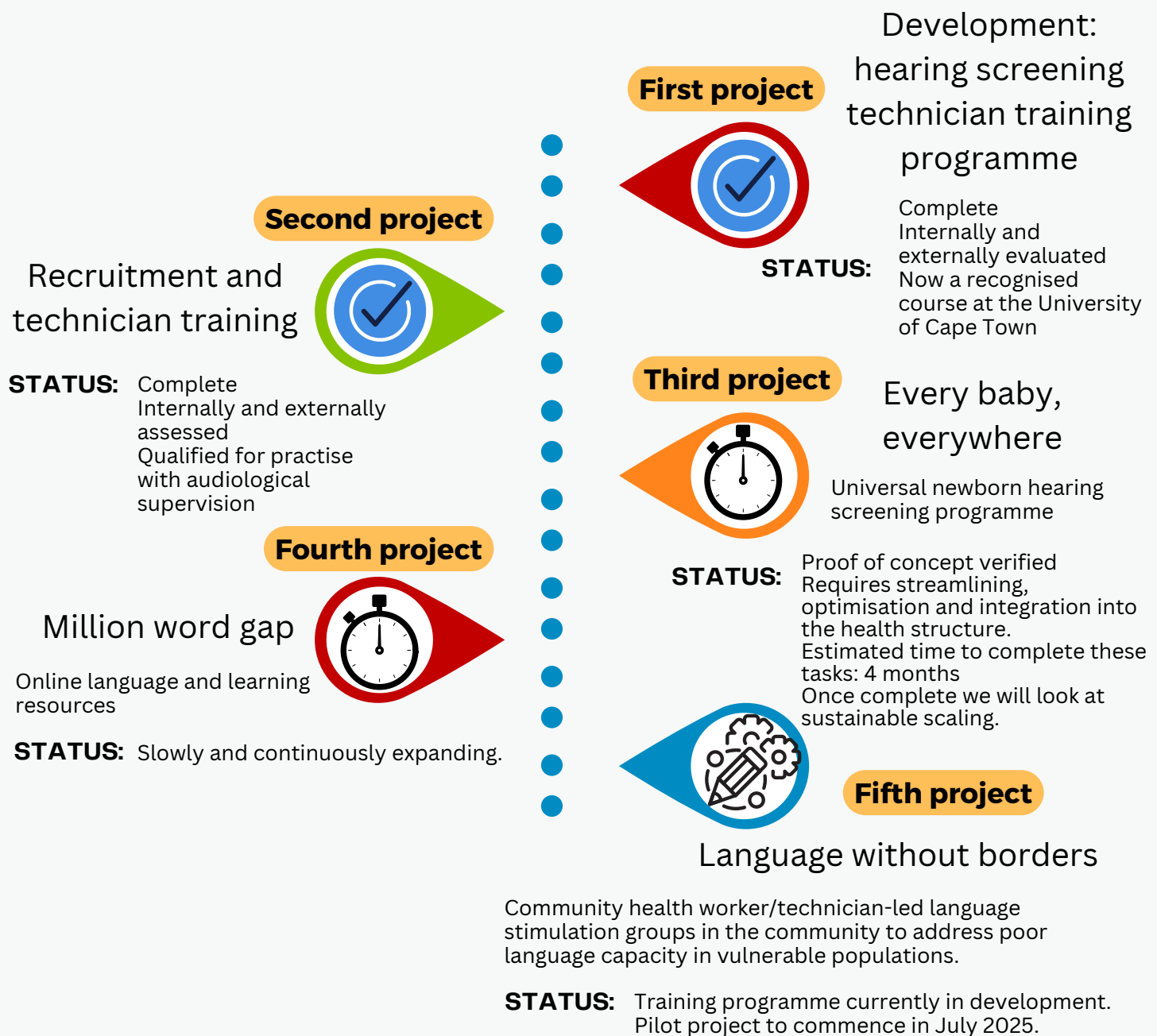




Timeline of achievements and vision for the future



FOUNDATION: December 2023



We'd like to thank all our donors for their generous support

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend immense and sincere gratitude to The Moray Trust, without whom, this dream would never be a reality. This year has been challenging. It has been a year of soul searching and yet in the depths of despair, solitude, and isolation, we managed to find HEAROES who believed in our dream and invested time, expertise, and money into making it a reality.

Hope-hear is still in its infancy, and yet as we reflect on the past year, we have achieved so much, together.

As a collective whole, our strength is in the sum of our parts. Now picture Ulu's adorable little face, and know that children just like her are what this mission is all about!

Thank you to each and every one of you!

Donors

The Moray Trust

Volunteers

Nicolette Von Reiche
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