



**THE AURUM  
INSTITUTE**

**2024  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
Stories of impact**

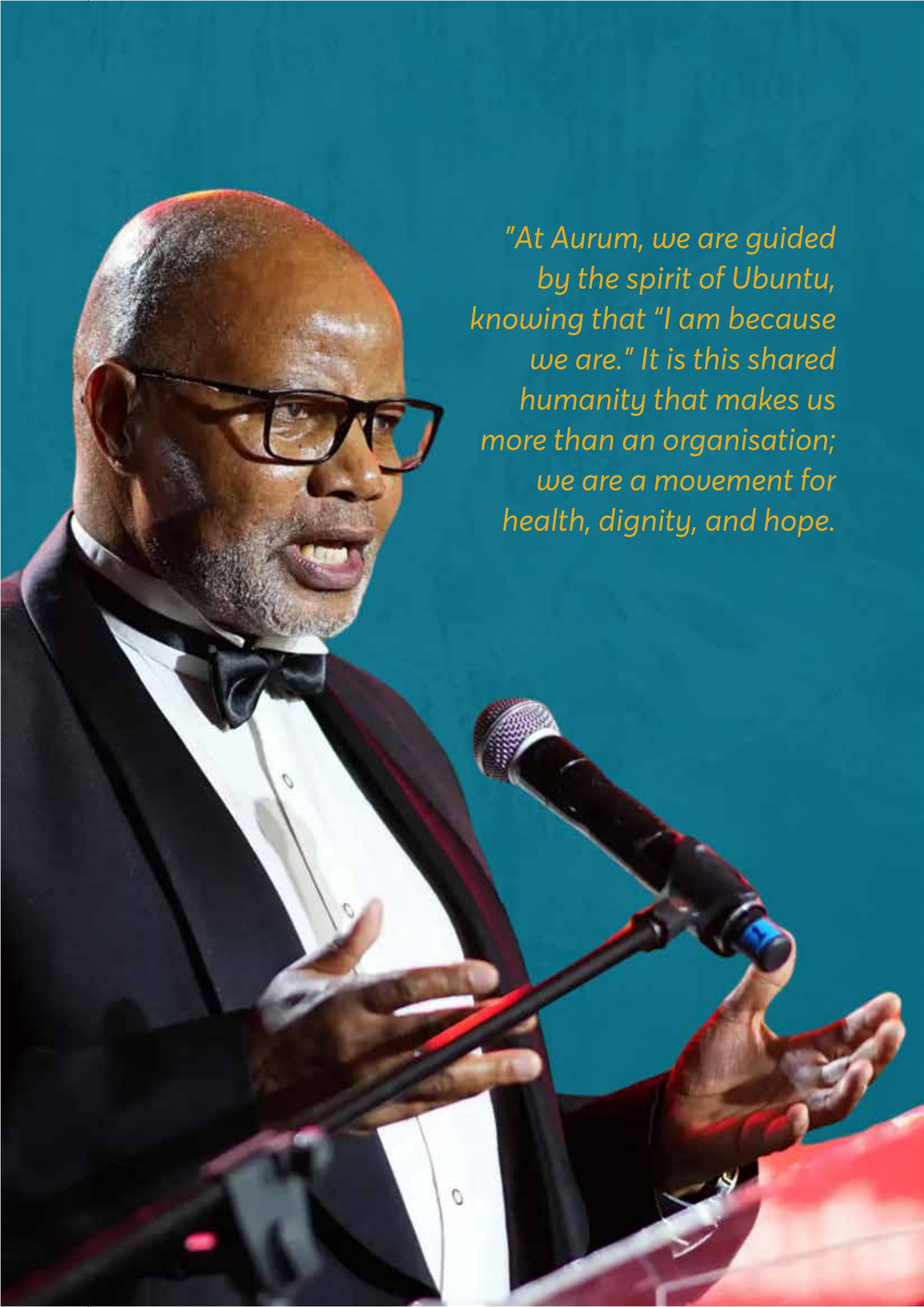


*Creating a Healthier  
World for Future  
Generations.*

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*"At Aurum, we are guided by the spirit of Ubuntu, knowing that "I am because we are." It is this shared humanity that makes us more than an organisation; we are a movement for health, dignity, and hope.*

# Message from the Board Chairperson

## Through Research and Innovation to Evidence for Policy

### Steadfastness of Vision and Mission

Since its founding in 1998, Aurum has remained unwavering in its mission: to generate evidence for policy and translate policy into practice to positively impact the health of communities globally. Our vision—to create a healthier world for future generations—continues to guide our work, even as the health landscape evolves. In 2024, we recommitted ourselves to this mission, ensuring that every programme, partnership, and policy initiative reflected our core values of Respect, Integrity, Innovation, Teamwork, and Excellence.

## Honouring Prof Gavin Churchyard: 32 Years of Transformational Leadership

This year, we bid farewell to our founding Group Chief Executive Officer, Prof Gavin Churchyard, who retired after 32 years of extraordinary leadership at Aurum and AngloGold Health Services. Gavin's contribution to Aurum and to global public health is immeasurable.

From humble beginnings in 1997, he built Aurum into a globally respected institution, known for its scientific rigour, policy influence, and commitment to underserved populations. Under Gavin's leadership, Aurum became a key player in the global HIV and TB response, contributing to landmark research, shaping national and international guidelines, and implementing programmes that have reached millions. Beyond the science, Gavin was, and remains, a visionary, a pioneer, a mentor, a relentless hunter of health impact, and a passionate advocate for Aurum. His legacy is not only in the data and publications, but in the lives changed, the careers nurtured, and the boundaries transcended. As he transitions into the role of President Emeritus, we

salute his enduring impact and thank him for his service, wisdom, and heart.

## Leadership Transition: A Thoughtful Journey

The Board recognised the significance of this leadership transition early and undertook a rigorous, year-long global search to identify Gavin's successor. Nearly two hundred candidates were considered, and the process was guided by our commitment to continuity, excellence, and strategic alignment. We are proud to announce the appointment of Prof Dave Clark as the new Group CEO, effective January 2025.

Dave brings over 30 years of experience in the health sector, including two decades at Aurum, where he has served as Deputy CEO, Executive Director, and Group COO. His deep understanding of our organisation, combined with his global perspective and leadership acumen, makes him the ideal steward for Aurum's next chapter. The Board also endorsed the appointment of Prof Vinodh Edward as the next Group COO, recognising his operational expertise and alignment with Aurum's values. The Board, together with the whole executive leadership team, is fully behind driving Aurum to continue and be poised for a future of growth, innovation, and impact.

## Strategic Positioning: African Roots, Global Reach

Aurum's identity as an African-based organisation with global impact has never been clearer. In 2024, we continued to lead in areas such as clinical trials for HIV and TB prevention and treatment, including innovative vaccine, bNAb and host-directed studies; evidence production to inform policy at national and international levels; and global health delivery partnerships with the

Global Fund, PEPFAR, CDC and the NIH. Our voice is respected not only in South Africa, but across the world in cities such as Maputo, Dakar, Nairobi, Accra, Munich, Seattle, Washington, Lima, Rio, Delhi and Singapore. We are proud to be an African health impact organisation that showcases African excellence on the global stage.

## Strategic Successes in a Transitional Year

Despite the complexities of leadership change, 2024 was a year of strategic wins. We secured new funding streams and maintained programme continuity despite global budget constraints. We expanded our research portfolio, with new studies in long-acting antiretrovirals and integrated care models. We strengthened our operational infrastructure and systems, including the acquisition of the Aurum Isando Campus, which will be our new home from 2025. These achievements reflect the resilience, adaptability, and strategic foresight of our teams.

## A Tribute to Ms Phangisile Mtshali

Our hearts remain sorrowful at the passing of Ms Phangisile Mtshali, our beloved former Board Chairperson. Phangisile was more than a leader, she was a mentor and a tireless champion of people. With wisdom, grace, and integrity she steered Aurum through moments of growth and turbulence, guiding the development of our governance, accountability and strategic direction. In honour of her legacy, the Board unanimously approved the naming of Block G at the Aurum Isando Campus as the Ms Phangisile V. Mtshali Innovation Centre. This space will stand as a living tribute to her - a vibrant hub for creativity, collaboration, and excellence, the very values that Phangisile embodied and inspired in others. Her absence is deeply felt, yet her lessons remain a compass for our work.

## Risk Management and Organisational Resilience

In a year marked by transition and external pressures, Aurum's risk management systems proved robust. We navigated funding shifts, operational changes, and

strategic realignments with agility and foresight. Our governance structures, internal controls, and scenario planning enabled us to maintain programme quality and financial stability. Resilience is not just about surviving change—it is about thriving through it. Aurum has demonstrated that resilience, anchored in values and driven by purpose, is our sustainability.

## Looking Ahead: A Future of Possibility

As we look to 2025 and beyond, Aurum is poised for continued impact. Our priorities include deepening our work in health systems strengthening and community-led interventions, expanding our footprint across the African continent, and investing in leadership development, digital transformation, and strategic partnerships. The future global health landscape is likely to be turbulent, more than we can imagine, but we remain compelled by our vision, confident in our ability to deliver results that matter because they are relevant to the times.

## Closing Remarks

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, partners, funders, and communities. They are our "Why?" and our inspiration. At Aurum, we are guided by the spirit of Ubuntu, knowing that "I am because we are." It is this shared humanity that makes us more than an organisation; we are a movement for health, dignity, and hope. Together, with courage, unity, and purpose, we will continue to walk this journey because when we walk together, we go far.



**Dr Jerry Gule**  
Chairperson of the Board

# Message from the Group CEO

*"Together, we have built an organisation that is not only resilient but visionary. Our 100-year vision is not a slogan; it is a commitment to long-term impact, rooted in the values of teamwork, excellence, respect, integrity, and innovation."*



As I write this message, I find myself at a moment of profound transition, one that invites both reflection and anticipation. After nearly three decades at the helm of the Aurum Institute, I step down as Group Chief Executive Officer with a heart full of gratitude and a spirit still deeply committed to our mission. In the coming year, I will assume the role of President Emeritus, continuing to support the organisation, champion its vision, and pursue globally impactful research.

Aurum was born of necessity and vision. Nearly 27 years ago, we began as a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, responding to the urgent health challenges facing mineworkers in South Africa. What started as a modest initiative has grown into a global health impact organisation, working across continents, from Latin America to sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Eastern Europe, India, and Southeast Asia. Our journey has been shaped by a singular purpose: to create a healthier world for future generations.

I recall vividly my early days as a specialist physician at the Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital, where I was tasked with managing the mines' tuberculosis programme. Despite following established protocols, TB rates continued to rise. It was a humbling realisation that textbook knowledge alone could not explain the epidemic's trajectory. The convergence of HIV, silicosis, and systemic vulnerabilities demanded a new approach, one grounded in research, innovation, and community engagement. Thus, Aurum was born: a place where science meets service, and where bold ideas are translated into action.

Throughout my tenure, I have been privileged to lead a team of extraordinary individuals — scientists, clinicians, strategists, specialists, field workers, technologists and administrators — whose dedication has propelled Aurum to the forefront of global health.

Together, we have built an organisation that is not only resilient but visionary. Our 100-year vision is not a slogan; it is a commitment to long-term impact, rooted in the values of teamwork, excellence, respect, integrity, and innovation.

Among the many milestones we have achieved, several stand out for me as defining moments in our journey. The Thibela TB study, involving 80,000 gold miners, taught us that even radical interventions must be matched by health system strength. Though the intervention did not halt the epidemic, the lessons we learned shaped policy and contributed to the decline in TB rates among miners.

The XTEND study revealed that introducing a breakthrough diagnostic tool, the Xpert MTB/RIF test, into a fragile health system yields limited results. It was a sobering reminder that technology alone cannot transform outcomes; it must be embedded within robust health systems and supported by capable teams.

The WHIP3TB study demonstrated that a short course of isoniazid and rifapentine preventive therapy (3HP) could be effective even in high-burden settings, without the need for repeated treatment. This paved the way for the IMPAACT4TB project, which

catalysed its global scale-up of 3HP. Today, more than 100 countries have adopted 3HP, and over 13 million patient courses have been procured.

Our work over the years of the PEPFAR program has delivered life-saving care and treatment to hundreds of thousands of people living with HIV and infected with tuberculosis.

***These projects were not just scientific or healthcare endeavours; they were acts of hope. They reflected our belief that health is a human right, and that research must serve the people. These are examples of real impact that defines Aurum's legacy.***

Along the way, I have had the honour of engaging with global leaders: presidents, philanthropists, religious figures, and activists. Yet, the most profound influence on my journey has been Nelson Mandela. His wisdom, humility, and unwavering commitment to justice have been a guiding light. Madiba once said, "After climbing a great hill, one finds that there are many more hills to climb." You probably know that I am an avid hiker. Aurum has been my great hill so far, and now I am ready to climb the next.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to pursue a career in research, culminating in the award of a National Research Foundation A rating, the highest recognition for a South African researcher. But accolades are not the measure of success. True success lies in the lives we touch, the systems we strengthen, and the future we shape.

I have learned that dreaming big is not a luxury. It is a necessity! Small dreams do not change the world. I have learned that failure is not the opposite of success; it is a stepping stone to growth. I have learned that long-term partnerships of consequence are the bedrock of sustainable impact. And I have learned that a clear, compelling vision can carry an organisation through the most turbulent times. Looking ahead, it is essential to uphold the principle of actively engaging people in both the work and services that impact their lives. This is not an abstract ideal; it is essential to our mission. An African proverb

reminds us: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Aurum's journey is a collective one, and our strength lies in our unity.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the many individuals who have supported me over the years:

- To my family, whose love, sacrifice and unwavering support made this journey possible, thank you.
- To the late Colin Eisenstein, who helped establish Aurum and served as our first chairman, your vision laid the foundation. To our subsequent chairs, Nigel Unwin, Paul Davis, the late Phangisile Mtshali, and Jerry Gule, thank you for your wisdom and for holding me accountable to the vision.
- To my long-time colleague and friend Prof Dave Clark, and to the entire executive and strategic leadership team, your dedication and hard work has been and remains vital to our success.
- To my many external mentors and collaborators, and global health leaders such as Kevin DeCock, Richard Chaisson, Alison Grant and Salim Abdool Karim (and there are so many more), your guidance and wisdom has shaped my professional life.
- To our funders, researchers, staff, partners, and the public, thank you for walking this journey with us. Your belief in our mission has been the wind beneath our wings.

Aurum is not just an organisation; it is a movement. And movements do not end; they evolve to remain relevant to the needs of the time. As we look to our 100-year horizon, the Aurum Institute remains steadfast in its commitment to creating a healthier world for future generations. Our journey is far from over, and the road ahead is filled with promise and purpose.

One of our foremost goals is to expand our global partnerships. We believe that collaboration across borders, disciplines, and sectors is essential to addressing the complex health challenges of our time. By forging new alliances and deepening existing ones, we aim to amplify our impact and reach communities that need us most.

Innovation and technology will continue to be at the heart of our strategy. We will invest in cutting-edge research, digital health solutions, and data-driven



approaches that enhance our ability to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease. Our focus will be on scalable innovations that are accessible and equitable.

Strengthening health systems remains a cornerstone of our work. We will support governments and local institutions in building resilient, responsive, and people-centred health systems. This includes capacity building, policy advocacy, and implementation science that bridges the gap between knowledge and practice.

Equally important is our commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders. We will invest in talent development, mentorship, and inclusive leadership programs that empower individuals to drive change in their communities and beyond. The future of global health depends on bold, compassionate, and visionary leaders.

These goals are not merely aspirations—they are imperatives. Guided by our values and inspired by the legacy we have built, we will continue to climb new hills, together.

As I pass the baton to Prof Dave Clark, I do so with confidence and pride. He is an exceptional strategist, well-equipped to navigate the complexities of our time and lead Aurum into its next chapter.

Although this marks the end of one phase of my life, it also signals a new beginning. I look forward to continuing this journey with all my colleagues at Aurum, climbing those new hills with you, and watching with admiration as you summit global health leadership in your own right.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, “It is in your hands now to create a better, healthier world for all who live in it, now and for future generations.”

With deep appreciation and unwavering hope.

**Prof Gavin Churchyard**  
Group CEO

*“Equally important is our commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders. We will invest in talent development, mentorship, and inclusive leadership programs that empower individuals to drive change in their communities and beyond. The future of global health depends on bold, compassionate, and visionary leaders.”*



# Honouring the Legacy of Prof. Gavin Churchyard



**In 2024, Aurum Institute marked a defining moment in its history, bidding farewell to its founder and Group CEO, Prof. Gavin Churchyard, after 26 years of groundbreaking leadership in the fight against TB and HIV.**

The farewell celebration was more than a send-off; it was a heartfelt tribute to a generational leader. The evening brought together colleagues, collaborators, and friends to honour Prof. Churchyard's legacy through powerful speeches, emotional tributes, and joyful moments that reflected the spirit of the organisation he built.

From the depths of South Africa's gold mines to the global health stage, Prof. Churchyard's journey has been one of determination, vision, and purpose. His leadership transformed a small occupational health unit into a globally recognised institute known for its innovation, impact, and integrity.

One of the most defining achievements under his leadership was the Thibela TB Study, launched in 2004, a pioneering initiative that tested the effectiveness of community-wide isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) in mining communities. This landmark study reshaped TB prevention strategies locally and globally.



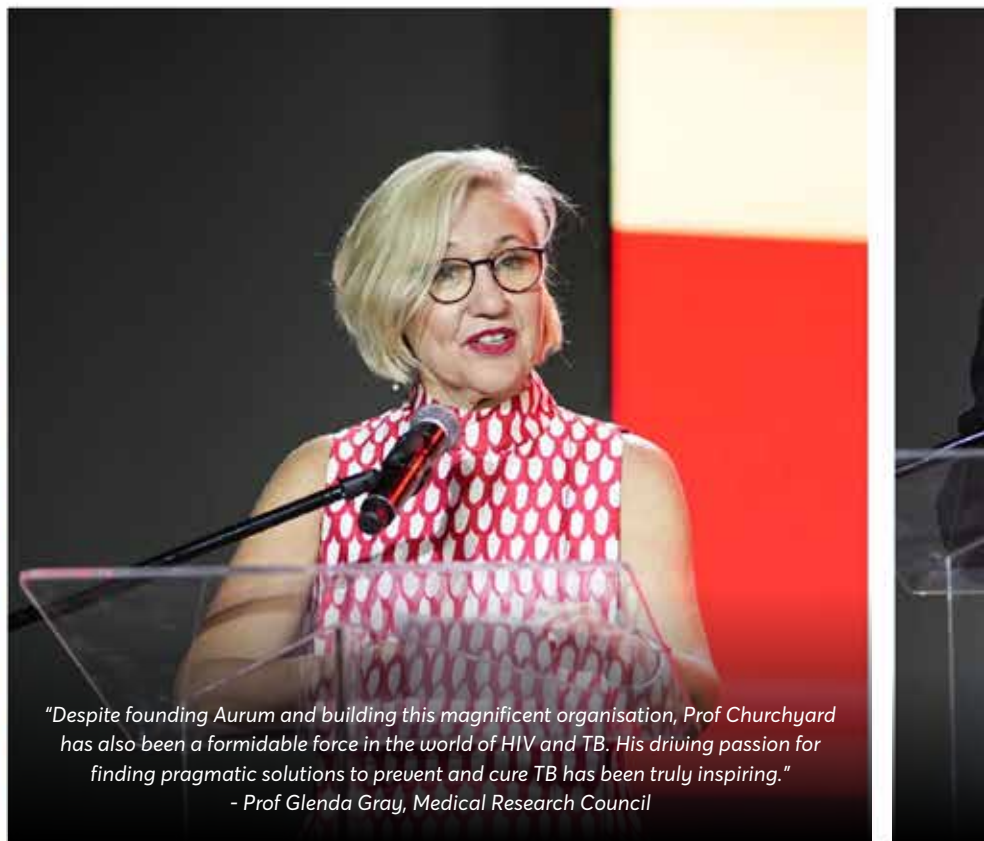


*"Thibela put Aurum on the global map. It was a translational event that informed policy and practice, both locally and globally. It also drove the uptake of TB preventive treatment in South Africa and impacted the world."*

*Prof. Gavin Churchyard*

*Gavin is a man of passion, someone who deeply believes in his work and consistently sees the bigger picture. He doesn't pursue it merely as a study; he does it because he understands how it makes the world a better place."*

*- Prof. Salim Abdool Karim, CAPRISA*



*"Despite founding Aurum and building this magnificent organisation, Prof Churchyard has also been a formidable force in the world of HIV and TB. His driving passion for finding pragmatic solutions to prevent and cure TB has been truly inspiring."*

*- Prof Glenda Gray, Medical Research Council*

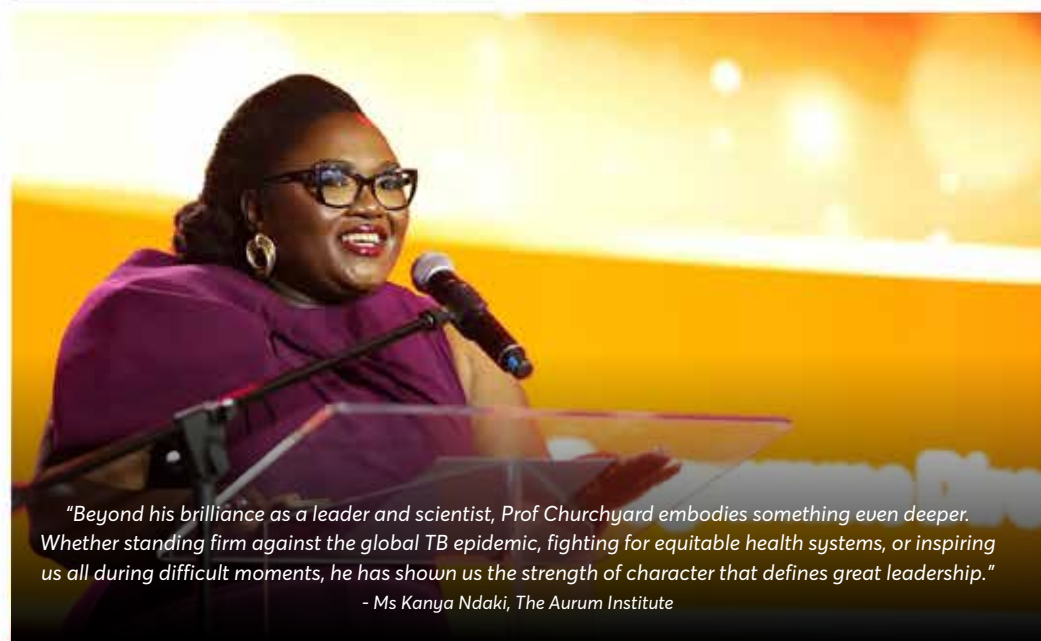




*One of the things I've learned from Gavin is the importance of family. He once said, "There is nothing more important than family. For all my achievements, my greatest is my family - my wife and children." It was at that moment I also realised that Aurum is not just an organisation; it's a family.*  
 - Prof. Salome Charalambous, Aurum Institute



*"His legacy reminds us that we don't live just for ourselves but for a greater purpose."*  
 - Dr. Jerry Gule, Aurum Institute



*"Beyond his brilliance as a leader and scientist, Prof Churchyard embodies something even deeper. Whether standing firm against the global TB epidemic, fighting for equitable health systems, or inspiring us all during difficult moments, he has shown us the strength of character that defines great leadership."*  
 - Ms Kanya Ndaki, The Aurum Institute

Yet, Prof. Churchyard's legacy is far greater than any single study or milestone. As many colleagues shared, he is admired not only as a visionary scientist but also as a mentor, a champion of equity, and a leader who inspires by example.

*In the words of Nelson Mandela, which Prof. Churchyard quoted in his farewell:*

**“It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it.”**

As we look ahead, we remain inspired by Prof. Churchyard's bold vision, his humility, and his lifelong commitment to justice through health. His legacy lives on in the people, policies, and progress he helped ignite and in the next generation of leaders who follow in his footsteps.

My sincere thanks go to the board, executive team and entire Aurum team for all the support they have given me over the past 26 years. None of what we have achieved would have been possible without you. At the end of 2024, I hand over the reins to the incoming Group CEO to lead the organisation.” Prof. Gavin Churchyard.



# When Investment Meets Innovation

*How strategic funding transformed tuberculosis care across South Africa and why sustained support matters more than ever.*

**400 Lives Saved in 11 Months**



## The power of possibility

In South Africa, tuberculosis kills more people than any other infectious disease. But what if targeted investment could change that trajectory in less than a year?

The ACCELERATE 1 programme proved it possible. Funded by USAID and implemented by The Aurum Institute, this initiative reached into seven high-burden districts and delivered results that typically take years to achieve: 400 lives saved, 1500 new TB cases prevented, and thousands of families protected from a devastating disease.

These weren't just statistics. They were mothers returning home healthy, children growing up TB-free, and communities breaking cycles of transmission that have persisted for generations.

**Innovation that saves lives**

 <b>206 000</b> people screened	 <b>2 880</b> people started on life-saving treatment	 <b>8 250</b> began preventive therapy
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Each number represents a person whose life trajectory changed because a strategic investment met a community need.

## Breaking transmission at its source

Our household contact tracing initiative achieved a 3.5% positivity rate. This means that we found TB where others might have missed it. Nearly half of all contacts identified began preventive therapy, creating protective barriers around vulnerable families.

## Bringing care to communities

In a groundbreaking approach, we pioneered community-based preventive therapy initiation in two districts. Instead of waiting for patients to navigate complex health systems, we brought life-saving interventions directly to their homes, eliminating barriers and missed opportunities for care.

## Strengthening systems that endure

Beyond direct service delivery, ACCELERATE 1 worked at the policy level to create lasting change:

- Supported rollout of South Africa's 6-month drug-resistant TB regimen
- Contributed to the national TB Recovery Plan
- Helped develop new Paediatric TB guidelines
- Strengthened infection control in 16 hospitals
- Expanded access to childhood TB diagnosis across seven districts



### The fragility of progress

In January 2025, shifting US government priorities brought ACCELERATE 1 to an early close, just as momentum was building. This premature ending underscores a critical truth: transformative progress requires sustained investment.

What was built in 11 months demonstrated extraordinary potential. What was lost is a reminder that progress without continued commitment remains fragile.

### Your investment, amplified

ACCELERATE 1 proved that strategic funding, community-driven innovation, and expert implementation can deliver measurable impact rapidly. The foundation has been laid. The systems have been strengthened. The communities are engaged.

*The question now is not whether this approach works—it's whether we will sustain it." – Aurum Institute.*

Tuberculosis remains South Africa's leading infectious disease killer. The need is urgent. The solutions are proven. The opportunity to scale impact is immediate.

Your investment could be the catalyst that transforms what was a successful 11-month intervention into a sustained movement that saves thousands more lives.

The Aurum Institute stands ready to amplify your commitment into measurable, lasting change.

Because when strategic investment meets community need, the impossible becomes inevitable.



# Transforming TB Care in Communities

Accelerate 1 bridges the gap between clinics and high-burden communities. Through community initiatives and activations with mobile X-rays, contact tracing, and treatment support, this project removes barriers to care, reduces stigma, and ensures that no one is left behind in the community of KwaZakhele Gqeberha, Eastern Cape. These stories highlight the resilience of individuals and the impact of collaborative efforts in the journey towards ending TB in KwaZakhele Gqeberha, Eastern Cape.

## Anelisa Ngcukuva – Compassion in Action



For Aurum CHW Anelisa Ngcukuva, working in Accelerate 1 is more than just a job—it's a calling. "I live in this community, which makes my work so much easier," Anelisa explains. "After work, I visit households, educate families about TB, and encourage them to come to the clinic the next day. If they can't, I go with them. I even dip into my own pocket to help because I understand their struggles."

Anelisa's compassionate approach has changed lives. She recalls supporting a struggling family where unemployment and alcoholism created a difficult environment. By stepping in to assist, she not only ensured the children received care but also motivated the parents to complete their treatment. "We're not just here to treat TB; we're here to support and walk alongside our community," she says.

## Ntombikayise Mjikeliso – Finding Hope for a Fighter

When Ntombikayise Mjikeliso, a CHW in KwaZakhele, met Abihail Bash, she was frail, confined to a wheelchair, and had nearly given up hope.



“I knew her as a contact for a DR-TB patient in the community. Despite several tests, her TB diagnosis was elusive. But I didn’t give up,” Ntombikayise says. With determination, she encouraged Abihail to undergo further tests, eventually leading to a diagnosis.

Ntombikayise became Abihail’s pillar of support, offering encouragement, home visits, and friendship. “She became my sister,” Abihail says. “Her support is the reason I’m here today. I’ve gained weight and strength, and I’m two months into my treatment.” Through Accelerate 1, Ntombikayise has seen stigma diminish as community members grow more informed. “Now, people come to me for help instead of avoiding the clinic. It’s incredible to see the change.”

### Abihail Bash – A Fighter’s Journey

For Abihail, her journey with TB was marked by despair before she connected with Accelerate 1. “I was so sick I couldn’t even bathe myself. I’d been to so many clinics and doctors, spending money I didn’t have, but still couldn’t get a diagnosis,” she recalls. Everything changed when she met Ntombikayise, who guided her to the right tests and ensured she started treatment immediately. “She came to my house, checked on me on WhatsApp, and made me feel cared for. That support gave me the strength to fight.”

Abihail now advocates for others to seek help. “Don’t be scared of the treatment. Just take it, pray, and stay strong. Look at me—I’m here, gaining weight, and getting better every day.”

## A Partnership That Works – KwaZakhele Clinic and Accelerate 1

Cebisa Ngcethane, a health promotion practitioner at KwaZakhele Community Health Centre, describes the collaboration with Accelerate 1 as a “partnership of convenience.”

“Our system used to be so slow, especially for X-rays and sputum collection, but Accelerate 1 has changed that. They provide mobile X-rays, conduct outreach, and have CHWs who go directly to people’s homes,” Tabitha explains.

This collaboration allows the clinic to focus on other tasks while reaching more people.

*“The resources they bring and the work they do in the community make our job much easier. Together, we’re preventing TB and catching cases earlier,” she adds.*

By weaving together the efforts of healthcare workers, the resilience of patients, and the power of partnerships, Accelerate 1 is redefining TB care in South Africa. These stories demonstrate that with dedication, innovation, and compassion, ending TB is within reach.



# BAMMISHO:

## Community-led innovation in the Royal Bafokeng nation

**Nestled in the platinum-rich hills of South Africa's North West province, in the Bojanala district, the Aurum Institute is writing a powerful new story of health and hope. This is not a story of sterile labs or crowded lecture halls, but a story nestled in the heartbeats and daily lives of a proud community.**

It's the story of the BAMMISHO Node (Bafokeng Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS)), launched in November 2024, and the seventh site in the South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN).

Since the programme's launch, BAMMISHO has transformed the traditional narrative of research into a vibrant, people-centred movement that reveals itself in people's homes, schoolyards, and on gravel roads. Above all, it honours the values and voices of the Royal Bafokeng nation.

### Bridging science and everyday life

Led by Aurum's renowned Director of Implementation Research, Professor Geoff Setswe, a proud son of the North West province, the BAMMISHO node is forging a new path in health research. It is a testament to what happens when science is rooted in people's real experiences.





*“We’re not just collecting numbers,” Prof Setswe emphasises. “We are building a body of knowledge rooted in lived realities, ensuring policies and programmes reflect what communities truly need.”*

Spanning generations of health concerns - from HIV, TB, and chronic illness to maternal health and migration – Bammisho tracks over 43 000 households and 100 000 residents. But this isn't just another data collection point. It's a living, breathing hub of community-led inquiry, where the people's stories shape policy and change.

For the residents here - long accustomed to mining, migration, and rapid change, this programme offers more than information; it offers recognition, agency, and hope for the future. Bammisho invests in people, developing local researchers, fostering community partnerships, and ensuring that every insight directly benefits the community it serves.

In partnership through the AWISE collaboration with Wits University, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, and Johns Hopkins University, Aurum helps shape every aspect of this work. From study design and ethics to implementation and community engagement - it's a truly collaborative effort that embeds rigorous science within the fabric of Bafokeng life.

### How Bammisho is changing lives

Bammisho truly makes an impact by empowering community researchers and respecting local wisdom in shaping research questions, thereby using local knowledge to create local solutions.

This results in tangible community benefits, where Aurum uses data to improve health planning, access to care, and service delivery in real time. In addition, young researchers from surrounding areas are mentored through the programme and supported to lead their own studies.

### A future of inclusive research

As Bammisho grows, it will continue to align with the Royal Bafokeng Nation's Vision 2035 and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This will ensure that long-term health planning and decision-making are backed by real-world evidence, rooted in community voices.

With Aurum's leadership and Prof Setswe's deep local connection, Bammisho is more than a research site; it's a movement. A commitment to seeing the people of the North West province not only survive but thrive.



Bammisho tracks over **43 000** households and **100 000** residents



## Redefining Possible: How innovation and compassion are defeating South Africa's TB crisis

**6 406 lost patients found and returned to care. 1 515 lives were immediately saved through same-day diagnosis. This is what happens when strategic investment meets unwavering commitment.**



### Where crisis meets courage

In South Africa, tuberculosis doesn't just claim lives; it devastates entire communities. With 270 000 people developing TB in 2023 and 13 000 facing drug-resistant strains, the epidemic intersects brutally with poverty, overcrowding, and systemic inequality.

However, in the highest-burden districts, eThekweni, Frances Baard, and Cape Town, something extraordinary is happening. The Aurum Institute is proving that when innovation meets intent, even the most entrenched health crises can be transformed.

As a key Global Fund TB Programme partner, Aurum operates where the epidemic hits hardest. This is in informal settlements where TB spreads in overcrowded conditions, mining communities where migrant workers face triple burdens, and urban townships where HIV and TB collide with devastating effect.

### The 95-95-95 TB mission

At the heart of Aurum's work lies a fierce commitment to the national TB Recovery Plan and the NSP 2023 – 2028 plan: find 95% of TB cases, treat 95% of those diagnosed, and retain 95% in care until completion. Most would call this impossible. Aurum calls it a day in the life.

*"We don't wait for patients to come to us – we go where they are."  
Sedikanelo Senoge, Aurum's Global Fund Programme Lead.*



## The results speak louder than promises



Nearly **100%** of diagnosed individuals initiated on treatment across all districts



**95%+** retention rates maintained even in transient populations



**1 515** people diagnosed via digital chest X-rays immediately started life-saving treatment



**6 406** previously lost patients traced and successfully returned to care

### Technology that democratises hope

AI-enabled digital chest X-rays combined with geographic information systems have revolutionised Aurum's TB detection in underserved communities, turning what once took weeks into same-day, life-changing encounters.

#### Innovation in action:

- **129 577** clients screened using cutting-edge digital technology
- **11 302** scans identified as TB-suggestive
- **668** additional cases clinically diagnosed through integrated approaches

This isn't just about efficiency, it's about equity. Every scan democratises access to quality diagnostics, ensuring the most marginalised are no longer invisible.

### A human touch that heals

Technology opens doors, but people walk through them. Aurum's embedded teams of TB support officers, M&E specialists, social workers, and pharmacists have created trusted ecosystems within communities where stigma once reigned.

#### TB support officers alone delivered:

- **19 571** individuals tested through contact tracing
- **813** positive contacts immediately initiated on treatment
- **Over 12 000** traces of lost patients, returning more than half to care

In parallel, social workers offered 3 000+ counselling sessions, helped link 2 569 patients to psychosocial

services, and facilitated 68 adherence clubs across all districts. These efforts not only supported better clinical outcomes but also dismantled stigma and empowered patients through their treatment journeys.

### Rewriting the story of drug-resistant TB

The introduction of the BPaL regimen (consisting of four-drug combination Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin), supported by Aurum's wraparound care, has achieved what many thought impossible - dramatically improving drug-resistant TB outcomes.

- Cape Metro: success rates jumped from 48% to 66%
- eThekweni: achieved 88% success rate
- Frances Baard: reached 84% success rate

These statistics represent families staying together, breadwinners returning to work, and communities breaking cycles of transmission.

### Legacy beyond the grant

Even as the Global Fund grant concludes, Aurum's impact endures. Through strategic partnerships, documented innovations, and system-wide capacity building, the foundation for sustained change has been laid through:

- Insights contributed at national and international conferences, shared learnings on GIS-driven case findings, TB-HIV integration, and innovations in retention.
- Facility-based quality improvements, data quality assessments, and mentoring. This has built resilient systems, empowering local staff to continue the work independently.
- Partnerships with entities like the Western Cape Provincial Health Data Centre (PHDC) that ensures Aurum's influence extends into long-term planning and policy development.

### Looking ahead

Aurum has proven that TB's grip on South Africa can be broken. The tools exist. The strategies work. The communities are engaged. What's needed now is sustained investment to scale these proven solutions.

The fight continues, but the trajectory has changed. Aurum isn't just responding to TB, it's redefining what's possible in public health, one saved life at a time.

# Every second counts turning the tide against advanced HIV

**IMPAACT4HIV**

IMPROVED ACCESS TO AHD CARE & TREATMENT 4 HIV



*"Advanced HIV disease increases the risk of severe illness and death. However, tools exist to avert severe outcomes. If detected and managed early, there is a great chance of saving the lives of those affected." Remilekun Roland Peregrino, Programme Lead, IMPAACT4HIV.*

In the remote corners of sub-Saharan Africa, a quiet crisis unfolds each day. People arrive at clinics in the final hours of their battle with HIV, battered by advanced disease that often leaves no time for a cure. For them, it's a race against the clock, a desperate plea for help that could come too late.

The reality is harrowing, too many are losing their lives simply because they were unseen, unheard, or unserved until symptoms became overwhelming. Children, women, and those most in need are caught in this relentless cycle of neglect.

## **A lifeline for the forgotten**

But behind this bleak picture lies a powerful force for change. The Aurum Institute, driven by the belief that health is a human right, is transforming despair into hope through the Unitaid-funded IMPAACT4HIV (Improved Access to Advanced HIV disease Care and Treatment for HIV) initiative. Aurum is igniting a movement to bring lifesaving, advanced HIV care closer to communities in six countries hit hardest by the epidemic.

By integrating global best practices into national and subnational health service delivery - The World Health Organisation's (WHO's) innovative care package and STOPAIDS' toolkit - IMPAACT4HIV is transforming health systems from within by taking services closer to the people affected.

## **Tailored solutions, real-world impact**

This effort isn't about one-size-fits-all solutions. Every country's journey is different. Whether navigating South Africa's robust health infrastructure or the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) fragile supply chains, Aurum tailors its approach to fit local needs. They create contextualised models that reflect each country's gaps, policies, and population needs.

*"Access extends beyond commodities," says Peregrino. "We're embedding care into health systems, closing the gap between communities and care, co-creating sustainable ecosystems of health."*

Because when it comes to saving lives, there's no room for guesswork.

This work has led to the co-creation of national operational guidelines, stronger supply chains, and the integration of HIV care into routine services, not as a specialist intervention, but as standard patient care.

Unitaid's global access expertise aligns seamlessly with Aurum's on-the-ground implementation. And, while Unitaid negotiates pricing, Aurum delivers the real-world data and models that turn evidence into national policy.

In places like Sierra Leone and the DRC, Aurum's team has become more than strategists – they're agents of change. Working in partnership with Ministries of Health and partner organisations, they co-develop national guidelines, transforming global ideals into tangible, enforceable policies and unlocking critical investments that were previously unavailable.

This is not just about adhering to guidelines and diagnostics. It's about innovation. It's about using behavioural science, community voices, and human-centred design to craft innovative interventions that people trust and embrace. Co-creating solutions with communities, embedding feedback loops, and ensuring programmes are not only technically sound but trusted, adopted, and owned locally.

Because lasting change only happens when communities own their health journey.

### Innovation and data: driving change

Aurum is tackling the toughest challenge in HIV care: implementation. They are integrating vital diagnostics like CD4 testing and opportunistic infection (OI) screening, for TB and cryptococcal meningitis, into routine HIV/AHD care, revolutionising treatment. Aurum is also investigating the actual burden of histoplasmosis, a fungal infection often misdiagnosed

*"We're not just applying global guidance - we're testing it, refining it, and proving what works on the ground."*

*Remilekun Roland Peregrino, Programme Lead, Impaact4HIV.*

as TB but not thoroughly studied in the African context, giving patients a real chance at survival. Every diagnosis, every new protocol, is backed by vital data collected from the field. IMPAACT4HIV channels this evidence into policy dialogues, empowering national health authorities to reconfigure their strategies based on what works on the ground,

in real-time. Because practice shapes policy.

Real-world data generated through the initiative is fed into national technical working groups, influencing policy and setting a precedent for how operational evidence can drive smart, cost-effective investment across the HIV care continuum. This includes expanding service delivery points for screening and adapting care models to reach children who are excluded from adult-centric systems.

The result? Smarter investments, smarter health systems, and ultimately, more lives saved. Each datapoint isn't just a number; it's a story shaped by hope, resilience, and a relentless pursuit to reach the unreachable.

### A future bright with possibility

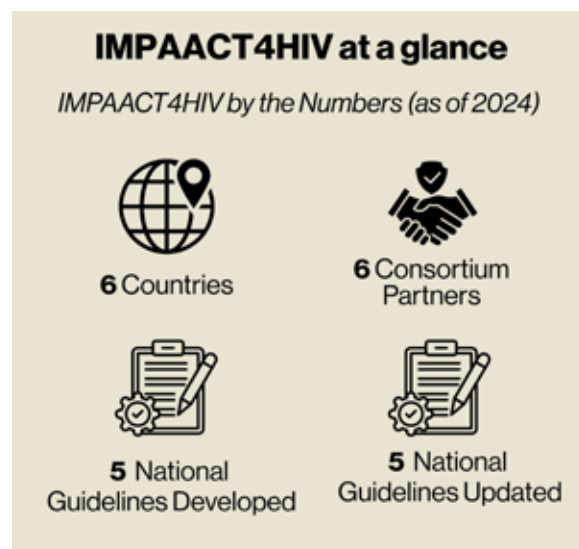
Despite limited global resources, IMPAACT4HIV proves that African-led partnerships can produce

*"This work has taught me the value of strategic patience." Peregrino shares.*

*"We're not just solving problems - we're helping countries build the capacity to solve them on their own."*

extraordinary results when combined with policy, innovation, and on-the-ground impact.

At the heart, it's about reaching the unreachable – one clinic, one policy, one life at a time. Because when lives are on the line, every second truly counts.





*"There's no judgment here. You feel like you are part of a family. They support me, teach me skills, and help me understand what I'm going through with my health."*

*Mpho Pooe,  
YCC participant*



## Restoring Hope, One Youth at a Time: Inside Aurum's Youth Care Clubs

Within the walls of Tlhabane Community Health Centre, a circle of young faces gathers, each carrying their own story of struggle and resilience. Each with a different story yet connected by one shared mission to reclaim their health and redefine their future. Among them, Mpho Pooe, a young mother, sits calmly with her child on her lap, her presence radiating strength. This is her first time at an Aurum-led Youth Care Club (YCC), and already she has discovered a space she didn't realise she needed - a sanctuary of understanding and hope.

### **A community of belonging in the heart of the fight**

For Mpho and countless others, the YCC provides more than information. It offers connection, empowerment, and a lifeline amid the chaos of daily life. These clubs are crafted intentionally to meet young people where they are - physically, emotionally, socially - because adolescence is a tumultuous journey, made even more complex when living with HIV.

Designed for youth aged 13 to 19, the clubs host monthly sessions filled with peer support, clinical check-ups, medication collection, and tailored counselling. But it's the environment that truly has influence. The space is informal, engaging, and trust-filled, with activities ranging from music and games to shared lunch. It's about creating a space where young people feel safe enough to open up and lead their own healing.

*"The Youth Care Club changes your perspective on HIV. It supports you so much that you start to believe you can control your treatment—and your future." Baoki Orekapantse, YCC participant*

### **Empowered voices of youth transforming their futures**

For the lively 19-year-old, Baoki, the YCC is more than a support group; it's a movement of empowerment. She's learned how viral suppression works, understanding the science behind it. And now she's sharing that knowledge with others, becoming a beacon for her peers.

*"I know that if I keep my treatment up, I can become undetectable. This isn't just about medication. It's about taking charge of my life."*

**Baoki Orekapantse, YCC participant**

And for many, that's precisely what it means. It's an awakening of agency, resilience, and hope. Knowledge becomes a weapon against stigma and silence, turning young people from passive recipients of care into active architects of their destinies.

**A model that inspires change, scales Impact**

By 2024, Aurum will have established 81 youth care clubs across two key districts. Ngaka Modiri Molema (NMM), Bojanala, and Dr Kenneth Kaunda (DKK) districts, with a total of 708 active participants. These demonstrate that this approach works, sparks change and creates ripples far beyond its initial reach.

In the Rustenburg subdistrict alone, 16 clubs engage more than 180 dedicated adolescents. Led by passionate Community Liaison and Engagement Officers (CLEO) and supported by trained NIMART and AYFS nurses. The case managers, many certified through KidzAlive, a pioneering organisation focused on holistic child and youth care, are equipped to provide nuanced psychosocial support for youth at various stages of their HIV journey. The YCC model remains rooted in its core principles: early engagement, youth-friendly communication, and unwavering support.

**Voices from the Front Lines**

*"Every month, I see the difference. Our youth face many challenges. From family issues, economic struggles to social stigma. But giving them a place to be heard, to be understood, makes all the difference."*

**Keotshepile Motshegwe, Engagement Officer, Tlhabane.**

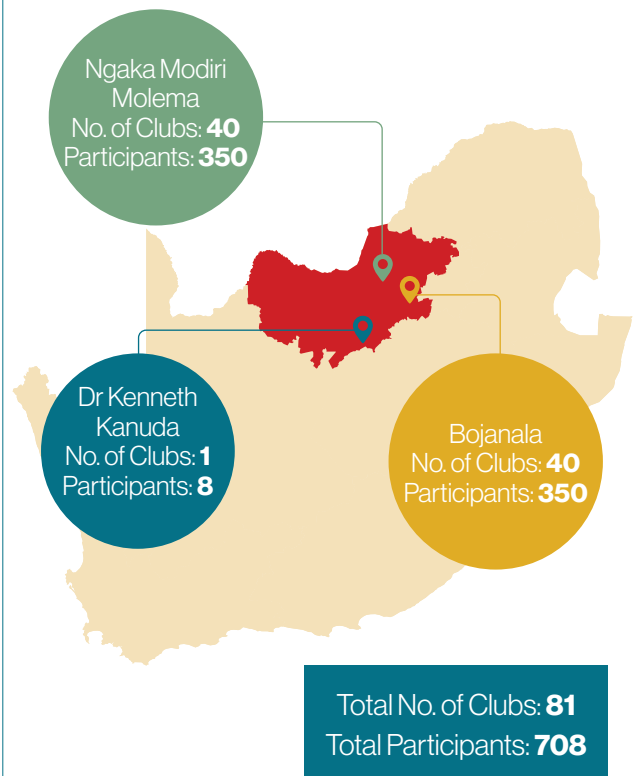
Aurum's approach recognises that health extends beyond the clinic—it's embedded in the fabric of young lives, intertwined with their hopes, fears, and aspirations. As these clubs foster resilience, they also build bridges—connecting youth to resources, to each other, and to a future they can control. And it's working.

**More than medication, a movement of change**

The results are clear: viral suppression rates improve, dropout rates decline, and young people are reclaiming their lives. Data affirms what young voices tell us—this is more than a health intervention; it's a social movement that restores dignity, offers hope, and reshapes futures.

When youth feel seen, heard, and supported, they don't just live, they thrive. And by inviting adolescents to guide their own journeys, Aurum is leading a powerful shift in HIV care. One youth, one story, one life at a time.

Because when young people are empowered to take charge of their health, they're not just surviving, they are transforming their worlds.





# Caring for the carers

How L'Initiative and Fundação Aurum are safeguarding Mozambique's healthcare heroes



112 healthcare facilities visited, 12 TB cases detected, 6 new HIV-positive diagnoses, 382 cases of high blood pressure identified, and 159 cases of diabetes identified. With the ongoing assistance from donors like Expertise France L'Initiative, medical professionals across Mozambique are being examined and treated, so they can continue to save lives.

## The impact of TB on healthcare workers (HCWs)

The reality of tuberculosis (TB) amongst HCWs serving at the forefront of the epidemic in Africa is often overlooked, misunderstood, and neglected. These HCWs are our heroes in the fight against TB, and their health should not and cannot be neglected.

*"Health screening is special and important, it's good to know that there are people thinking about us, about the impact of our health on daily practice.*

*– Anonymous HCW, Gaza, Mozambique*

"Health screening is special and important, it's good to know that there are people thinking about us, about the impact of our health on daily practice. –

Anonymous HCW, Gaza, Mozambique

## The Fundação Aurum mission

Until recently, there have been no formal programmes or national guidelines in place to routinely check for TB or related health conditions amongst HCW. Enter, Fundação Aurum, with assistance from Expertise France L'Initiative. Their mission is to address serious health issues amongst HCWs through the Healthcare Workers project in Gaza province, southern Mozambique.



*This peer-driven initiative has a focused determination to address TB along with other serious health issues and provides a thorough and integrated health screening package tailored especially for healthcare professionals" - Dr Sheila Cassamo, Fundação Aurum, Programme Manager*

## The start of the mission

In December 2023, specialised training on a core occupational health curriculum was developed in cooperation with Mozambique's health authority. TB control teams received this training and visited 112 healthcare facilities in 14 districts in Gaza.

## An integrated package of care

The package of care offered was wide-ranging. Universal TB testing, HIV testing with counselling, and tests for mental health issues, diabetes, and high blood pressure were provided. In addition to detecting TB, this integrated strategy aims to address the wider health hazards that healthcare professionals encounter and lessen the stigma that is frequently attached to TB testing.

*“Being part of the health district control team from the L’Initiative project means ensuring the health and well-being of HCWs, which is an investment that generates value for everyone, today and always.”*

*- Anonymous health district team member*

## A caring outcome

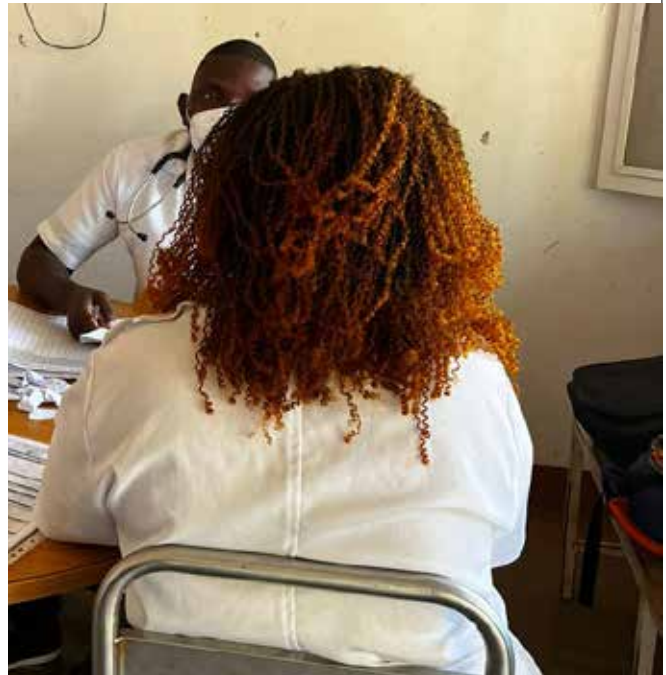
By December 2024, the programme had achieved 79% of its screening target, and all HCWs diagnosed with any condition received appropriate treatment and care. During this period, the outcomes include:

- **112** health facilities visited across 14 districts
- **79%** of screening target achieved
- **12** TB cases detected
- **6** new HIV-positive diagnoses
- **382** cases of high blood pressure identified
- **159** cases of diabetes identified
- Peer-led programmes save lives

The outcomes have clearly demonstrated that integrated, peer-led programmes can improve health outcomes amongst healthcare professionals whilst reducing the stigma surrounding these diseases. Fundação Aurum hopes to spread this initiative throughout Mozambique with ongoing donor support.

## Advocating for national occupational health policies

Beyond individual care, the programme highlights the urgent need for systemic change.



*“The screenings’ high prevalence of mental health issues and non-communicable diseases highlight how urgently Mozambique needs to create a national occupational health policy that takes healthcare professionals’ well-being into account”*

*- Dr Sheila Cassamo, Fundação Aurum, Programme Manager*

Building a healthier future, one healthcare worker at a time

The success of L’Initiative’s healthcare worker screening programme in Gaza province demonstrates that when we invest in those who heal others, we strengthen the entire health system. As these dedicated professionals continue their vital work on the frontlines, they now do so with the knowledge that their own health matters. This peer-driven model offers a blueprint for protecting HCWs across Africa and beyond, because healthy carers mean healthier communities. The fight against TB and other health challenges can be won when we ensure our healthcare heroes have the support they need to thrive, not just survive.

# Built for Purpose: Aurum's Rustenburg Research Centre and Biorepository Expansion



**In the mining town of Rustenburg, surrounded by the shifting rhythms of labour migration and community resilience, something remarkable is unfolding. Behind the modern façade of a historic building, a world-class research facility is humming with purpose. This is the new Rustenburg Research Centre, Aurum's expanded clinical research site, and the only one of its kind embedded in the Bojanala Platinum District.**

But the building is more than bricks and glass. It is a symbol of Aurum's long-term commitment to bringing cutting-edge science to peri-urban South African communities, while staying grounded in the lived realities of the people it serves.

***"We're not fly-by-night. We're here to stay," says Dr William Brumskine, Clinical Research Site Leader.***

"This site was strategically placed in a mining town because we understand the health risks in these communities, particularly TB, HIV and now non-communicable diseases. These are high-mobility populations. Our job is to offer continuity, innovation, and care."

## **Designing a site that protects and empowers**

What sets this facility apart is not just where it is, but how it was designed. Built with infection control at



*Dr William Brumskine, Clinical Research Site Leader*

its core, the centre includes air filtration systems (HEPA-equipped), zoning to separate infectious and non-infectious trials, and seamless safety processes across pharmacy, laboratory, data, and clinical teams.

"We didn't want wasted space. We wanted a smart space, purpose-built, environmentally safe, and aligned to global clinical research standards," says Brumskine.

"We worked with engineers and architects to ensure that the design protects both participants and staff."

The community responded with pride. Through Aurum's longstanding Community Advisory Boards, made up of local leaders, traditional healers, youth and faith-based groups, the plans were reviewed, the site visited, and trust built.

"They saw we were serious," Brumskine shares. "We've now got a facility they can own too."

## From sample to solution: Aurum facilities advancing African research

At the Rustenburg Clinical Research Site, a new in-house safety laboratory has been commissioned, marking a major milestone for the North West team. The lab performs essential haematology and biochemistry testing for selected Clinical Research Division studies and includes short-term sample storage to support ongoing trials.

“We’re currently conducting safety tests for the PAN TB study on-site,” explains Brumskine.

“And with our new chemistry analyser, we’re ready to expand this to all studies, including HIV vaccine trials. Our goal is to become SANAS-accredited.”

This growing lab capacity enhances the site’s ability to manage participant care and data integrity locally, ensuring faster turnaround and greater autonomy.



*Prof Vinodh Edward, Group Chief Operating Officer*

In contrast, the Aurum Biorepository, located at the Tembisa Clinical Research Site, focuses on long-term sample storage under ultra-cold and cryogenic conditions. It supports a wide range of protocols and global partnerships.

The facility now houses over 475,000 biological samples stored at -80°C, -150°C, and in liquid nitrogen (LN<sub>2</sub>). This includes more than 109,000 samples transferred from the IAVI Human Immunology Laboratory (HIL) in the UK. A major handover that signalled a shift in scientific leadership.

“Becoming the new custodian of the IAVI biorepository was a tremendous honour,” says Prof Vinodh Edward, Group Chief Operating Officer.

“These samples have contributed to some of the most pivotal breakthroughs in HIV vaccine research, including the discovery of broadly neutralising antibodies.”

The biorepository supports protocols such as CEPI, IAVI, PAN TB, and DR-TB HDT, positioning Aurum as a continental hub for translational science and biosecurity.

“We’re not just storing samples. We’re storing possibility,” adds Edward.


## A Vision of Integrated Impact

From trial execution in Rustenburg, spanning injectable HIV prevention, TB vaccines, adolescent engagement, and digital health research to sample stewardship in Tembisa, Aurum is laying the groundwork for a future where African-led research shapes global health outcomes.


As the Rustenburg laboratory works toward SANAS accreditation and the biorepository in Tembisa, deepens its international partnerships, these two distinct but complementary facilities embody Aurum’s commitment to building a healthier world through scientific excellence and community-centred care.

**At a Glance:**  
**Aurum’s Biorepository (2024)**


Located at The Aurum Institute Tembisa Clinical Research Site




**Total capacity:** 475,400 samples  
Used capacity: 226,504 samples (48%)



**Key storage types:**  
-80°C (403,200 capacity; 55% available)  
-150°C (15,000 capacity; 100% used)  
Liquid nitrogen (57,300 capacity; 50% available)



**Top protocols:** IAVI-HIL, CEPI, PAN TB, HDT, DR TB



**Vision:** To achieve full SANAS accreditation by 2026



## Leading with Evidence, Grounded in Care: How Aurum is Advancing Vaccine Science for Africa

**At the Aurum Institute, science is not a distant concept reserved for journals and symposiums - it's lived and led in real time, in communities where the stakes are deeply personal. And few embody this more than Dr Vaneshree Govender, an experienced Principal Investigator (PI) and Clinical Research Site Lead for Aurum Pretoria whose passion lies in delivering Africa-led, evidence-based solutions for public health.**

*"For me, conducting research in Africa for Africa is about creating access and agency. It's about building systems that can respond to our realities, not just adapt to them."*

### **Three Vaccines, One Goal: Protecting PLWH Against COVID-19**

Aurum's CEPI-supported COVID Vaccine Strategies Study marked an important step in evaluating the

safety and immunogenicity of three COVID-19 vaccines in people living with HIV (PLWH) and people without HIV (PLWoH).

Dr Govender led this first large-scale randomised trial as Principal Investigator across multiple Aurum clinical research centres: Tembisa, Klerksdorp, Rustenburg, and Pretoria.

Recruitment was complex. Participants needed to be either unvaccinated or previously vaccinated with a single dose of Janssen or two doses of Pfizer — criteria that demanded close collaboration with local Departments of Health in Gauteng and North West.

By the end of 2024, the trial had screened 1,185 individuals and enrolled 694 participants, comprising 599 PLWH and 95 PLWoH.

*"This was a true team effort. Scientifically rigorous, community-rooted, and operationally complex," she reflects. "And the findings were worth it."*



The results showed all three vaccines were safe and elicited strong immune responses in PLWH, on par with PLWoH. These insights help fill critical data gaps, especially in high-prevalence regions like South Africa, and supports the WHO recommendation for booster doses in immunocompromised populations.

*"That's a game-changer for countries like South Africa," says Dr Govender, "where seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 is high, and evidence-based policy decisions matter deeply."*

### The Dolphin Trials: TB Prevention in Women and Children

Beyond COVID, Dr Govender is PI on two TB preventive therapy (TPT) studies designed for vulnerable populations living with HIV:

Dolphin Moms: conducted at Aurum Tembisa, this study focuses on pregnant women, with 79 participants enrolled to date.

Dolphin Kids: taking place at Aurum Pretoria, this arm is focused on children, with 21 participants enrolled.

Both trials address a pressing research gap around how best to prevent TB in populations that are often excluded from large clinical trials.

*"Data in these groups is limited," Dr Govender explains. "These trials will help us understand what safe and effective TB prevention looks like for HIV-positive women and children."*

### A First for South Africa in TB Vaccine Research

At Aurum Pretoria, Dr Govender also leads the nTB01 trial, a first-in-human (FIH) TB vaccine study evaluating H107e/CAF10b, a promising new vaccine candidate.

This is the first TB FIH vaccine trial approved by SAHPRA at a single site in South Africa. Phase 1a launched in March 2024 and successfully enrolled 40 participants. Phase 1b began in May 2025, with 25 participants enrolled as of 18 June 2025.

With its inpatient overnight capabilities, the Pretoria site is uniquely equipped to conduct FIH and pharmacokinetic trials, enabling South Africa to play a central role in global TB vaccine development.

*"Being on the frontlines of testing a vaccine that could help end TB is an honour and a responsibility I take seriously."*

### Leadership in Safety and Innovation

While Dr Govender leads multiple trials at site level, her impact extends across all Aurum research centres through her role as Chair of the Aurum Safety Committee. This committee provides oversight on safety trends across all clinical research sites, studies, and disease areas, ensuring consistent standards and rigorous monitoring.

#### This includes:

- TB vaccine trials like MTBVAC and M72, conducted at sites beyond Pretoria
- A robust portfolio of Host-Directed Therapy (HDT) trials spanning South Africa and international partners

#### Current HDT trials include:

##### HDT Trial (Drug-sensitive TB)

- **Population:** Adults
- **Enrolled:** 200 participants
- **Sites:** Aurum Tembisa, CHRU Soweto

##### METHOD Trial (Drug-sensitive TB)

- **Population:** HIV-negative adults
- **Enrolled:** 112 (fully enrolled)
- **Sites:** Aurum Tembisa, CHRU Port Elizabeth

##### DRTB-HDT (Drug-resistant TB)

- **Population:** Adults with rifampicin-resistant TB
- **Enrolled:** 315 of 330 target
- **Sites:** 8 total, including Aurum Tembisa, CHRU PE, and international partners in Mozambique, Moldova, Georgia, and Romania

These studies are reimagining what's possible in TB treatment by modulating the host immune response - potentially shortening treatment and improving patient outcomes.

## Building Capacity, Inspiring Excellence

### Dr Govender's site, Aurum Pretoria, also participates in:

- Gilead's Lenacapavir HIV prevention trials
- Paediatric HIV treatment research
- Innovative vaccine delivery methods, including nasal TB vaccine instillation via the nTB01 platform

*"Our site is ready to take on some of the most complex trials - while remaining grounded in-patient care and operational excellence," she says. "Everyone plays a role," Dr Govender reflects. "Leading a team across trial phases, countries, and diseases requires coordination, empathy, and deep trust."*

But even more important than the infrastructure is the human capacity being built through Aurum's research networks.

*"We've trained and mentored scientists, clinicians, and lab teams - not just for now, but for the future of African-led science."*

With over 15 years of experience in microbicide, vaccine, and treatment research, Dr Govender has contributed to major breakthroughs - like the Dapivirine vaginal ring reaching licensure - and is widely respected for her leadership in preparing for regulatory audits and leading large-scale, multi-site trials.

*"What drew me in was the work-life balance," she says with a smile. "What's kept me here is the purpose and the people."*

Whether it's guiding a first-in-human trial or mentoring the next generation of African investigators, her focus is clear:

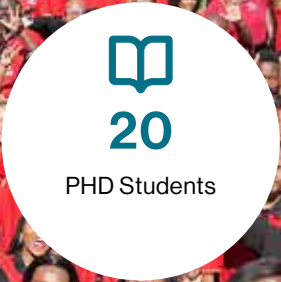
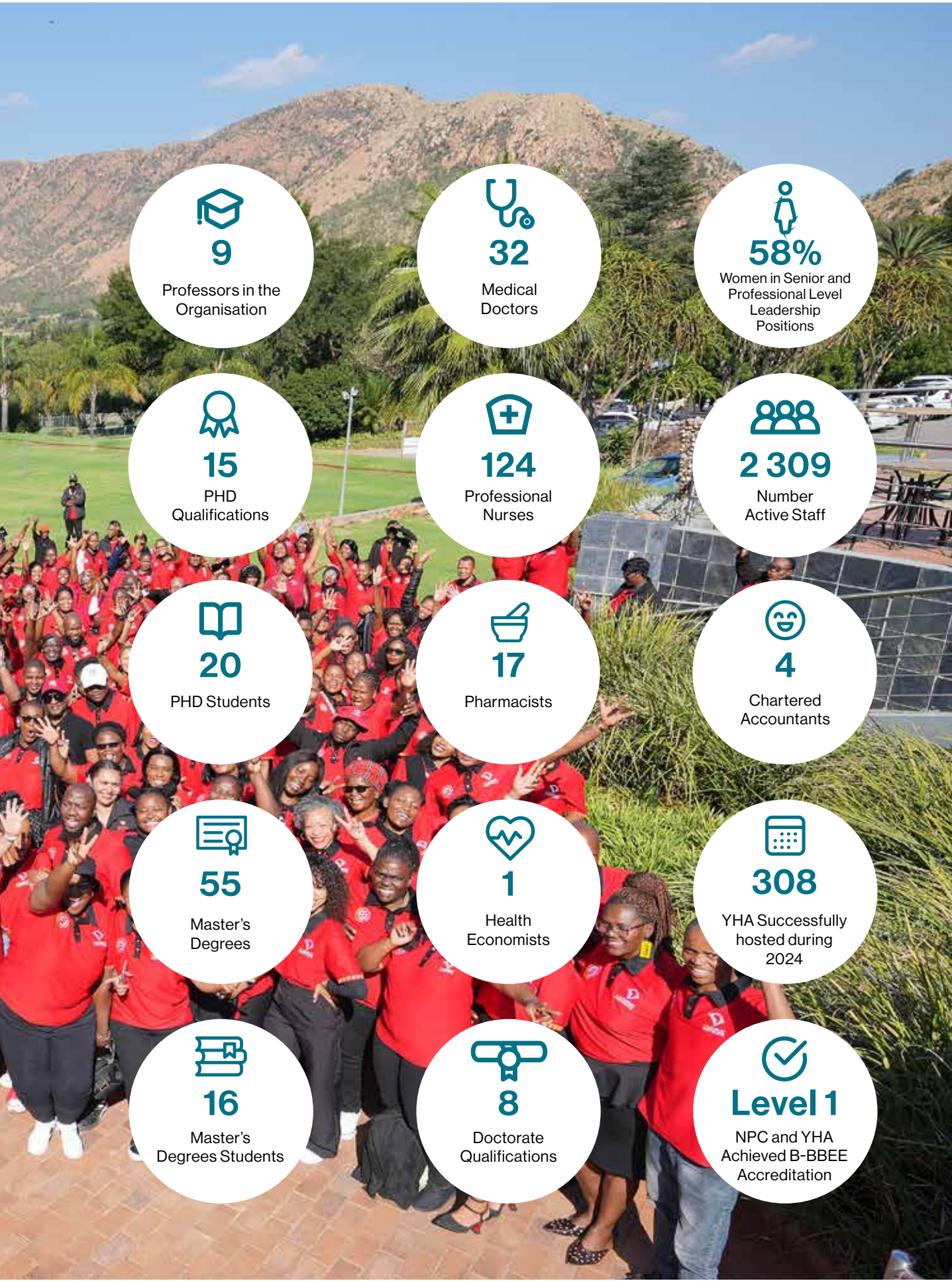
*"My hope is that I'll help bring at least one effective vaccine to licensure and access," she says. "And that I'll motivate others to uphold the same standard of excellence."*

For now, her team continues to work confidently, writing the next chapter in vaccine science, not just for Africa, but with Africa at the helm.



# Our People





## HIV



**15 046 871**

people tested for HIV



**819 900**

people started on Anti-Retroviral Treatment



**306 386**

people started on Anti-Retroviral Treatment currently in districts managed by Aurum



The Aurum Institute has actively managed over

**700 000** people on treatment in our Care and Treatment Programme.

Through our Key Populations Prevention programme we have reached

**249 432** people.

# Our Im



# mpact



## TB



**1 519 709**  
people screened for TB

**177 676**  
new TB cases identified

### International:



**505 840**  
PLHIV started on TB  
Prevention (I4TB Global)

**87 900**  
Household Contacts  
started on TB prevention

Aurum's work in support of short course TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) has led to a global increase in 3HP procurement from **180K** patient courses in 2018 to over **13 million** patient courses.



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