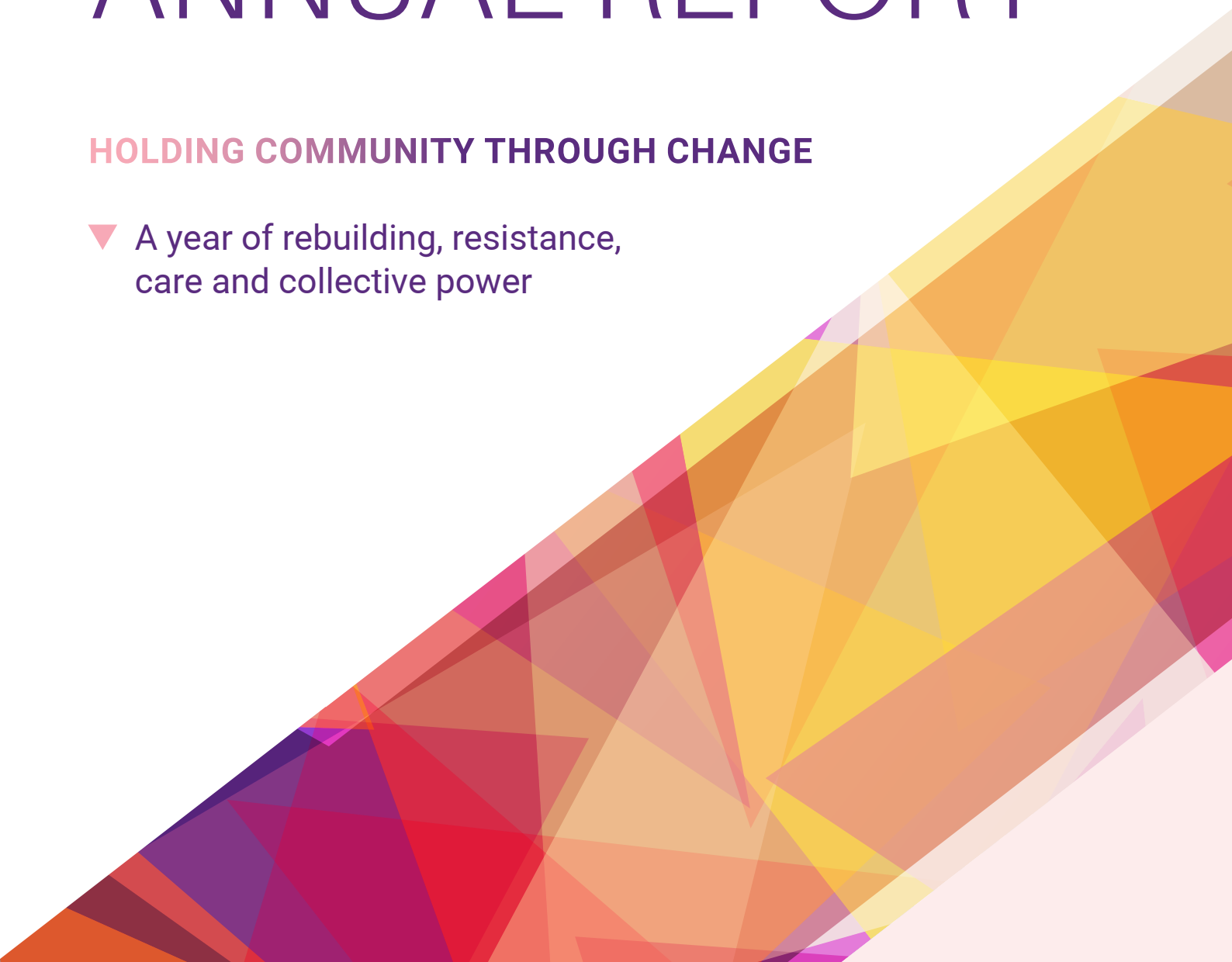
triangle project

2025 - 2026

TRIANGLE PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT

HOLDING COMMUNITY THROUGH CHANGE

A year of rebuilding, resistance, care and collective power





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ABOUT TRIANGLE PROJECT

For more than four decades, Triangle Project has worked to advance the rights, dignity, health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and gender-diverse people in South Africa. Our work is grounded in the belief that all people deserve safety, belonging, bodily autonomy and equal access to services, opportunities and justice.

The 2025-2026 reporting period unfolded against a complex backdrop of growing socio-economic inequality, increasing hostility towards gender and sexual diversity globally, shrinking civil society funding, and rising demand for affirming health, psychosocial and community support services. At the same time, LGBTQIA+ communities across South Africa continued to navigate multiple and intersecting challenges, including violence, discrimination, exclusion from public services, mental health pressures, housing insecurity and barriers to healthcare access.

In response to these realities, Triangle Project continued to provide direct services, strengthen community leadership, generate evidence, influence policy, and contribute to broader movements for social justice. Throughout the year, our work remained rooted in a Black queer feminist understanding that individual wellbeing and collective liberation are inseparable. We recognise that health, education, research, advocacy, community care and movement-building are deeply interconnected, and that lasting change requires attention to both the immediate needs of communities and the structural conditions that shape their lives.

At the beginning of the reporting period, the organisation operated through three programme areas:

- Health and Support Services Programme (HSSP)
- Community Engagement and Empowerment Programme (CEEP)
- Research and Advocacy Programme (RAP)

Together, these programmes provided a comprehensive response to the needs and aspirations of LGBTQIA+ communities. Health and Support Services continued to provide critical psychosocial support, counselling, referral services, support groups and community health interventions. Community Engagement and Empowerment focused on leadership development, community mobilisation, education, digital activism, solidarity spaces and learner wellbeing. Research and Advocacy contributed to knowledge production, policy engagement, coalition-building and systems change efforts aimed at advancing equality and social justice.

During the year, however, the organisation entered a significant period of organisational reflection, transition and renewal. Changing funding realities, increasing operational costs and a reduction in organisational staffing necessitated a comprehensive restructuring process. Rather than approaching restructuring as a purely administrative exercise, Triangle Project committed to a participatory and consultative process that engaged staff, leadership and

key stakeholders in reimagining how the organisation could remain sustainable while continuing to deliver meaningful impact.

This process required difficult decisions, including staff reductions and role realignment. Yet it also created an opportunity to critically examine programme structures, identify duplication, strengthen collaboration and develop a more integrated organisational model. The transition reinforced an important lesson: communities do not experience their lives in programme silos. Community members often move between health services, leadership development spaces, advocacy initiatives, research activities and educational programmes simultaneously. Their realities require holistic responses.

As a result, the organisation transitioned from three programme areas to two interconnected programme streams designed to better reflect how change happens in practice:

HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

This programme continues to provide direct health, psychosocial, wellness and support services, ensuring that LGBTQIA+ individuals have access to affirming care, counselling, referrals, support groups and community-based health interventions.

The Health and Support Services Programme is dedicated to improving the health, wellbeing, dignity and resilience of LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities through accessible, affirming and community-centred care. The programme responds to the immediate and long-term health and psychosocial needs of community members by providing a continuum of support that addresses the interconnected realities of health, safety, identity, belonging and wellbeing.

The programme delivers a range of integrated services including HIV prevention, testing and linkage to care, sexual and reproductive health services, psychosocial support, counselling, support groups, peer-led interventions, community outreach, health education and referrals to affirming healthcare providers. Particular attention is given to individuals who face multiple and intersecting forms of vulnerability, including transgender and gender-diverse persons, LGBTQIA+ youth, people living with HIV, survivors of violence, sex workers, refugees and asylum seekers.

Recognising that health is shaped by broader social and structural conditions, the programme adopts a holistic approach that extends beyond clinical care. Through community-based interventions, advocacy, psychosocial support and wellness initiatives, the programme works to reduce barriers to healthcare, strengthen access to services, promote mental wellbeing, and support individuals in navigating challenges such as discrimination, family rejection, violence, social isolation and economic insecurity.

At its core, the programme seeks to ensure that LGBTQIA+ people are able to access affirming care and support systems that recognise their dignity, autonomy and right to live healthy, self-determined lives. Through a combination of direct service delivery, community outreach and partnership-building, Health and Support Services continues to play a critical role in advancing health equity and improving quality of life for LGBTQIA+ communities across the Western Cape.

KNOWLEDGE AND MOVEMENT BUILDING

This newly integrated programme area brings together community mobilisation, education, research, advocacy, leadership development, digital activism, collective care and systems change work. It reflects the organisation's understanding that knowledge production, healing, organising, advocacy and community leadership are mutually reinforcing processes that contribute to long-term social transformation.

Throughout 2026, these two programme areas became increasingly integrated, enabling the organisation to respond more effectively to the complex realities facing LGBTQIA+ communities. This model strengthened connections between direct service delivery and systems change, between healing and organising, and between individual support and collective action.

The achievements reflected throughout this report demonstrate that while our structure evolved, our commitment remained unchanged: to build a society in which all people can live with dignity, safety, freedom and belonging. Through community care, leadership development, research, advocacy, education and affirming services, Triangle Project continues to work towards a future where sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics are celebrated as part of the diversity of human experience rather than grounds for exclusion.

More than a restructuring, the transition represented a renewed commitment to an integrated vision of justice, one that recognises that care is not separate from social change, but one of its most powerful foundations.

CHAIRPERSON REFLECTION: LORENZO WAKEFIELD

This has been a year in which the ground beneath LGBTQIA+ organising in South Africa and across the continent has shifted more sharply than at almost any point in Triangle Project's history.

Globally, the funding architecture that has sustained LGBTQIA+ movements for decades has been dismantled at a pace few anticipated. Outright International's Breaking Point: The Urgent Need to Invest in Global LGBTIQ Movements, published in September 2026, offers the clearest evidence yet of the scale of the crisis. Drawing on a survey of 229 organisations across 94 countries, the report found that nine in ten LGBTQ+ organisations worldwide have experienced a reduction, suspension or complete loss of funding since January 2025. Nearly half lost more than half of their total budget, and three-quarters lost more than a quarter of it. Four in ten organisations described themselves as being at severe or immediate risk of closure, while only 3% considered themselves financially stable.

These are not abstract statistics. The cuts followed the U.S. administration's decision, within days of taking office in January 2025, to freeze and then dramatically cut funding for programmes including USAID, the Global Equality Fund and PEPFAR. These instruments had underwritten HIV services, shelters, and legal support for LGBTIQ communities in more than a hundred countries. The U.S. was not alone in withdrawing support; other governments, corporations and foundations also pulled back, at a moment when anti-gender organising was already accelerating and the gains of previous decades were more fragile than they appeared.

We are now living through what the sector is beginning to call the second, quieter phase of this crisis: not the initial shock of funding freezes, but the slower, more corrosive erosion that follows. Outright's researchers warn that once shelters close, specialist staff are laid off, and community trust and institutional knowledge are lost, that capacity cannot simply be switched back on when funding eventually returns. Triangle has not been immune to these pressures. We reported on this in our 2024 – 2025 annual report. Like our peer organisations across the region, we have had to make difficult decisions about which posts to hold open and which partnerships to lean on more heavily than before.

The funding contraction for LGBTQIA+ work has not occurred in a vacuum. It coincides with, and in places actively emboldens, an organised anti-rights and anti-gender movement that has grown markedly more confident across Africa in recent years. We have watched this movement consolidate through a series of continental gatherings explicitly designed to coordinate opposition to LGBTQIA+ equality, reproductive rights, and comprehensive sexuality education, often under the language of "family values" and "sovereignty." Most immediately concerning for us is the announcement that the Africa Christian Professionals Forum, through its local affiliate, the Family Policy Institute, will host the 3rd Pan-African Conference on Family Values in Cape Town in May 2027. The choice of South Africa is significant: it is the only country on the continent whose constitution protects LGBTQIA+ people from discrimination and recognises same-sex marriage in legislation. Its selection as host signals that this movement is prepared to challenge our rights in Africa's most constitutionally progressive country. Civil society has already responded; a petition calling on South Africa to reject the conference has drawn thousands of signatures, and Triangle Project stands with our partners across the sector in that call.

2025-2026 saw some changes at Triangle. Sarita Ranchod resigned from the Board after seven+ years of service to the organisation. We thank her for her dedicated service to Triangle through the years. She still provides Juliana and the team with advice and support where possible. We also welcomed Ella Scheepers as a new board member. Ella is an independent consultant and activist working at the intersection of social justice, social innovation, and law. Ella has decades of experience working with social justice and human rights organisations, philanthropic institutions, and social innovation approaches to social change. Scheepers' work has included exploring unconventional partnerships and innovative approaches to organisational management and sustainability, project integration, strategic planning, grant-making, and network-building across sectors. She has worked in a range of areas in the development sector, advancing social justice struggles concerning sex work, HIV and AIDS, and social innovation for social change. She is involved in various literary projects by African queer women and activists. She holds a BA Honours in Law & International Relations from Rhodes University, and an MBA from UCT Graduate School of Business. My time on the Board also comes to an end. I have served on the Board for the maximum constitutionally allowed term of nine years. I will always have immense respect for Triangle, its politics, and fearless organizing. Serving on the board not

only made this visible but also challenged me about my own positionality and its privileges. For this, I am immensely grateful. A new chairperson will be elected and announced soon.

Juliana stepped into the role of interim director. The position is not interim, but with the necessary support in place, we are working towards making this permanent. She has ably led the team during our transition last year, and as we have become more stable, she will continue to put Triangle back on its growth path. I thank Juliana, the team, the Board, our donors, and our community for not only seeing us but standing with us. The extent of this moment's implications asks something new of us: not simply to sustain services on shrinking budgets, but to defend, publicly and persistently, the legitimacy of our work and the dignity of our people. Triangle enters the coming year clear-eyed about the scale of that task, and committed to it.

INTERIM DIRECTOR REFLECTION: JULIANA DAVIDS

Some years ask organisations to grow. Some years ask organisations to survive. And then some years ask organisations to remember who they are.

For Triangle Project, 2025-2026 was a year like no other.

We find ourselves living in a world marked by profound uncertainty. Across continents, we are witnessing the rise of authoritarianism, the erosion of democratic norms, the resurgence of anti-gender and anti-rights movements, escalating armed conflicts, deepening economic inequality, and a growing hostility towards those who live at the margins of power. Hard-won gains in gender justice, bodily autonomy and LGBTQIA+ rights are increasingly under threat. Around the world, policies that once promised protection are being challenged, while communities already navigating structural exclusion are being asked to carry an ever-increasing burden of precarity, violence and loss.

At the same time, we are living through intersecting crises that cannot be understood in isolation. The impacts of climate change are becoming impossible to ignore. Healthcare systems remain strained and uneven. Communities continue to grapple with the long-term effects of poverty, unemployment, displacement, and social fragmentation. For many LGBTQIA+ people, these realities intersect with ongoing experiences of stigma, discrimination, and exclusion, making survival a daily act of resilience.

Against this global backdrop, our work has never felt more urgent.

Yet, when I reflect on this year, I do not think first about uncertainty. I think about community.

I think about a young learner standing at the front of a workshop for the first time, finding the courage to speak about their experience of exclusion and being met not with ridicule, but with affirmation. I think about the community members who transformed a small patch of land into a flourishing solidarity garden, not simply to grow food, but to grow connection, dignity and hope. I think about the survivor of violence who walked through our doors carrying the weight of isolation and shame, and who left knowing they were not alone. I think about the trans and gender-diverse individuals who continued to build community despite increasing hostility and shrinking access to affirming

healthcare. I think about staff, volunteers, activists, peer facilitators and community leaders who showed up, day after day, choosing care even when resources were stretched, and the future felt uncertain.

These are the stories that define this year.

As a Black queer feminist organisation, Triangle Project understands that transformation does not happen only in courtrooms, policy spaces or boardrooms. It happens around kitchen tables, in support groups, in classrooms, in gardens, in community halls, in waiting rooms, and in conversations where people begin to imagine different futures together.

Throughout this year, we have been reminded that care is not separate from justice. Care is justice.

Too often, dominant narratives frame care as soft, private, secondary or apolitical. Our communities know differently. We know that creating spaces where people can heal, belong, learn, organise and dream is deeply political work. We know that a support group can be a site of resistance. We know that a school workshop can change the course of a young person's life. We know that a community garden can become a movement-building space. We know that healing and organising are not opposing forces but mutually reinforcing practices.

This understanding shaped much of our work throughout the year.

At an organisational level, 2025-2026 was also a period of transition and renewal. We navigated significant restructuring, funding uncertainty and leadership change while continuing to provide essential services and support to LGBTQIA+ communities across the Western Cape. These processes were not always easy. Transitions seldom are. They require difficult conversations, collective reflection and a willingness to let go of ways of working that no longer serve us. They also require courage to imagine what might be possible.

Through these changes, our staff and partners demonstrated extraordinary commitment, adaptability and care. Together, we continued to strengthen our service delivery, deepen community engagement, build new partnerships, expand research initiatives and contribute to advocacy efforts that seek not only to respond to injustice but to transform the conditions that produce it.

One of the lessons I carry from this year is that resilience is often misunderstood.

Resilience is not the absence of hardship. It is not endless productivity. It is not the expectation that communities continue to endure impossible conditions without support. Resilience emerges through relationships. It is built collectively. It grows wherever people refuse to abandon one another.

I saw this resilience everywhere throughout the year.

I saw it in learners supporting one another in schools where inclusion remains contested. I saw it in researchers documenting experiences often ignored or erased. I saw it in social workers and counsellors holding space for grief, trauma and healing. I saw it in activists continuing to organise despite exhaustion. I saw it in rural communities creating new networks of mutual support. I saw it in the everyday acts of care that rarely make headlines but sustain movements over generations.

This annual report documents activities, outputs and achievements. It reflects partnerships built, services delivered,

research conducted and programmes implemented. Yet the deeper story of this year is something less easily measured.

It is a story about people choosing each other.

It is a story about communities continuing to love, organise, create, grieve, heal and resist in a world that too often asks them not to exist.

It is a story about what becomes possible when care is treated not as charity, but as collective power.

As we look towards the future, we do so with humility. The challenges facing our communities remain immense. We know that the road ahead will require continued courage, imagination and solidarity. But we also know that we do not walk that road alone.

To every community member, learner, activist, volunteer, donor, partner, researcher, staff member and ally who has walked alongside us this year: **thank you.**

Thank you for believing that a different world is possible.

Thank you for helping us build it.

In solidarity and hope. ▼



GALLERY





The Four Feminist Engagement



Educator and staff SOGIESC Workshop



Parent workshop



Solidarity Space workshop





Education Social Workers



Educator's workshop

2026 AT A GLANCE

HEALTH & SUPPORT SERVICES

- **1,679+** clients reached
- **63** HIV tests
- **91** counselling sessions
- **171** helpline contacts
- **82** support group participants
- **48** GBV survivors supported
- **75** outreach activities

KNOWLEDGE & MOVEMENT BUILDING

- **115** workshop participants
- **206** schools reached
- **150,000** learners indirectly impacted
- **49** education-sector personnel trained
- **17** youth leaders developed
- **25** advocacy coalition and movement-building engagements

RESEARCH, ADVOCACY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

- **4** major research projects
- **4** policy frameworks influenced
- **19,699** social media followers



ORGANISATIONAL TRANSITION AND PROGRAMME REALIGNMENT

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

The 2025-2026 reporting period represented one of the most significant organisational transitions in Triangle Project's recent history.

Like many civil society organisations globally, Triangle Project was affected by a rapidly changing funding landscape characterised by shrinking donor resources, increased competition for funding, rising operational costs, and growing demand for services. These challenges were further intensified by increasing anti-rights mobilisation, deepening socio-economic inequality, rising homelessness and exclusion among LGBTQIA+ communities, and growing demand for affirming health, psychosocial and community support services.

In response, the organisation undertook a comprehensive restructuring process to strengthen long-term sustainability while safeguarding essential services and community impact. The process resulted in difficult but necessary changes, including staff reductions, role realignment, leadership transitions and a review of programme structures. While the transition placed additional responsibilities on remaining staff, it also provided an opportunity to strengthen collaboration, improve organisational systems and rethink how best to respond to community needs in an increasingly challenging environment.

At the beginning of the reporting period, Triangle Project operated through three programme areas: Health and Support Services, Community Engagement and Empowerment, and Research, Advocacy and Policy. Together, these programmes enabled the organisation to address immediate community needs while contributing to longer-term advocacy, leadership development and systems change.

IMPACT UNDER THE THREE-PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAMME (HSSP)

During the first five months of the reporting period, the Health and Support Services Programme continued to provide critical support to LGBTQIA+ communities despite significant disruptions caused by the closure of PEPFAR and USAID-supported services.

Between April and August, the programme reached hundreds of community members through health services, outreach, counselling and psychosocial support. By June 2025 alone, the programme had reached 750 clients, conducted 75 outreach activities, facilitated 91 counselling sessions, responded to 171 helpline engagements, provided 63 HIV tests, and engaged 82 support group participants across six support groups. The programme also reached 161 sex workers, 446 MSM clients, and transported more than 100 clients to healthcare facilities to maintain continuity of care.

The programme's Trans and Gender Diverse (TGD) Hangouts became an important source of affirming peer support, creating opportunities for participants to discuss gender affirmation, healthcare access, dysphoria, disability, belonging and community connection. By mid-year, 27 TGD Hangouts had been facilitated, creating a consistent support network for transgender and gender-diverse individuals navigating increasingly difficult social and healthcare environments. Psychosocial support was closely integrated with broader health interventions. Counsellors, outreach workers and community care workers collaborated to ensure clients remained connected to healthcare services, legal support, housing referrals and crisis response systems. Many clients required ongoing case management and accompaniment, particularly following the closure of several PEPFAR-supported services that had previously provided critical support to LGBTQIA+ communities.

During this period, the programme also strengthened health-sector engagement through Diversity Dialogue Programme sessions, sector training initiatives, SAPS ambassador support, health advocacy and national task-team participation. The increasing complexity of community needs reinforced the programme's role not only as a healthcare provider, but also as a vital source of connection, accompaniment and community care.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (CEEP)

The Community Engagement and Empowerment Programme played a central role in community mobilisation, leadership development and educational transformation.

Major activities included community dialogues, learner leadership camps, school-based workshops, Pride events, solidarity spaces, digital storytelling initiatives and community education programmes. Work was implemented across urban and rural communities including Delft, Khayelitsha, Beaufort West, Worcester, De Doorns, Elands Bay and Villiersdorp.

The programme strengthened learner participation through Inclusive and Affirming Schools interventions and youth-centred leadership development activities. Educational workshops, dialogues and awareness activities collectively reached 115 community members and stakeholders during the reporting cycle, strengthening awareness of GBV, SRHR, learner rights and SOGIESC inclusion.

Pride mobilisation activities including Khumbulani Pride, Eyethu Kasi Pride and Langa Pride strengthened visibility, community ownership and collective action while creating opportunities for joy, remembrance and resistance.

RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND POLICY PROGRAMME (RAP)

The Research, Advocacy and Policy Programme continued strengthening Triangle Project's role as a producer of evidence, a contributor to public discourse and an advocate for social justice.

Throughout this period, the programme contributed to coalition-building initiatives, hate-crime advocacy, digital campaigning, learner rights work and policy engagement. Research initiatives advanced work on anti-gender mobilisation, learner wellbeing and community experiences of exclusion and resistance.

The programme also strengthened relationships with education stakeholders, social workers, healthcare providers, legal partners and civil society organisations through participation in coalition spaces, public advocacy processes and policy discussions. This work laid the groundwork for several major research and advocacy initiatives that would later be integrated into the new organisational structure.

THE EMERGENCE OF A MORE INTEGRATED MODEL

As restructuring progressed, the organisation increasingly recognised that the realities facing LGBTQIA+ communities could not be neatly separated into individual programmes. Service delivery, leadership development, research, advocacy, health and community care were already deeply interconnected in practice.

This insight informed the transition to a more integrated structure, built around two programme areas:

- Health and Support Services
- Knowledge and Movement Building Hub

The intention was not simply to reduce programmes, but to create a structure that more accurately reflected how change occurs in communities, where healing, education, organising, advocacy and leadership development are mutually reinforcing.

HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

From September 2025 onward, Health and Support Services continued providing direct health and psychosocial support while adapting to an increasingly difficult healthcare environment.

Between September 2025 and March 2026, the programme continued expanding outreach and support services despite reduced resources. Health testing and adherence programmes reached an additional 385 clients during the latter part of 2025, while January to March 2026 outreach efforts reached a further 814 clients through targeted community interventions.

The programme also expanded psychosocial support interventions, strengthened services for transgender and gender-diverse communities, increased referral pathways, deepened harm reduction work and continued supporting survivors of violence, homelessness and exclusion. Following the organisational restructuring, psychosocial support became more closely integrated with outreach, community mobilisation and health services. Demand for support increased significantly as community members navigated trauma, grief, gender-based violence, family rejection, housing insecurity, chronic illness, social isolation and barriers to accessing affirming healthcare.

Individual counselling sessions to clients provided support to community members who were experiencing complex mental health challenges including trauma, complex PTSD, ADHD, assault-related trauma and gender identity concerns. Support increasingly extended beyond counselling to include crisis intervention, referrals, healthcare navigation and ongoing case management.

Community-based mental health support was strengthened through the continued facilitation of Trans and Gender Diverse Hangouts, Solidarity Spaces and outreach

interventions, creating accessible and affirming spaces for peer connection, community support and collective healing.

The programme also supported 48 survivors of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence through psychosocial services, referrals, accompaniment and ongoing emotional support. The integration of Solidarity Spaces with health outreach significantly strengthened rural reach and community engagement, ensuring that service delivery was connected to broader systems of care and support. During this period, significant ground was covered with our structured therapeutic support programme survivors of violence, created a foundation for future group-based interventions focused on trauma recovery, peer support and resilience.



KNOWLEDGE AND MOVEMENT BUILDING HUB

The second half of the reporting period marked the emergence of the Knowledge and Movement Building Hub as an integrated platform for education, research, advocacy, movement-building and collective care.

Operating during a period of organisational restructuring and reduced staffing, the Hub demonstrated the organisation's ability to continue delivering meaningful impact while strengthening alignment across programmes and increasing collaboration between advocacy, research, education and community mobilisation initiatives.



MOVEMENT BUILDING, COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND HEALING JUSTICE

During this period, the Hub deepened community-based organising and collective care initiatives, recognising that meaningful social change requires both resistance and healing. Through partnerships with Female Freedom and community wellness activists, through the Ma Thoko's Healing Grounds project, Triangle Project supported spaces that centred healing justice, cultural knowledge, collective wellbeing and community resilience. These initiatives strengthened community leadership while creating opportunities for connection, reflection and mutual support among LGBTQIA+ community members.

Community interventions addressing gender-based violence, hate crimes and LGBTQIA+ safety were facilitated in communities including Villiersdorp, the West Coast District, Klein Karoo, Langeberg and Overberg municipalities. These engagements strengthened relationships between community members, local stakeholders and service providers while supporting local advocacy and awareness efforts.

EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The Hub continued to strengthen relationships with schools, higher education institutions and education stakeholders. Engagements included collaboration with the West Coast Colleges to improve awareness and institutional transformation of LGBTQIA+ support services and strengthen pathways to access care and resources for students and staff.

The organisation also continued contributing to conversations on learner wellbeing, inclusion and educational justice through participation in national platforms, including the National Gender DynamiX Education Indaba and contributions to the South African Child Gauge 2025 launch.



RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

A significant achievement during this period was the advancement of four major research streams despite staffing reductions, funding uncertainty and delays associated with research ethics approvals.

Research activities included:

- Progressing the Anti-Gender Schools Research study.
- Advancing the Anti-Gender Healthcare Research project.
- Strengthening implementation planning for the SVRI-funded research on LBT women's access to IPV and SGBV services.
- Continuing the Intersectional Climate Risk Assessment research in partnership with Urban Earth, The Queer Food Growing Collective and the Western Cape Association for People with disabilities and other collaborators.
- Participation in the Better Politics Foundation's Political Leadership Norms project, through community participatory based research, by examining LGBTQIA+ political participation and governance.

These research projects strengthen the evidence base required for future advocacy, programme design and systems change interventions while ensuring that community experiences remain central to policy and public discourse.



STRENGTHENING ORGANISATIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Despite significant organisational transition, staff reductions and reduced organisational capacity, the Hub continued to invest in the partnerships, networks and relationships that make long-term social change possible. Throughout the year, these collaborations enabled Triangle Project to extend its reach beyond direct programme implementation and contribute to broader conversations on education, health, gender justice, democracy, climate justice and LGBTQIA+ rights.

A major focus during the reporting period was strengthening partnerships across the education sector. Through collaboration with the Department of Basic Education, the Social Inclusion in Education Working Group, WCED social workers, educators, learner leaders and education-focused civil society organisations, the Hub contributed to ongoing efforts to advance inclusive and affirming learning environments. These partnerships strengthened advocacy around the implementation of the SOGIESC Guidelines, safe and inclusive schools, learner wellbeing and responses to anti-gender mobilisation targeting educational institutions.

The Hub also deepened partnerships and strengthening ongoing relationships that positioned Triangle Project within emerging national and international research agendas. Through collaboration with the Trans Wellness Project, Better Politics Foundation, VoteLGBT Brazil, Pantay, Victory Institute, Athena Network, Urban Earth, IISD, WCAPD and the Queer Food Growing Collective, SVRI the organisation contributed to research exploring anti-gender movements, LGBTQIA+ political participation, gender-affirming healthcare, climate justice and violence affecting LBT women. These partnerships strengthened Triangle Project's ability to ensure that community experiences inform research processes while simultaneously translating research findings into practical advocacy and programme interventions.

The Climate Justice collaboration represented a particularly important area of growth. Working alongside Urban Earth, IISD, WCAPD and community partners, like the Queer Food Growing Collective, the organisation contributed to a developing body of work examining how climate change, disability, race, gender, poverty and sexuality intersect within urban environments. This partnership expanded Triangle Project's contribution beyond traditional LGBTQIA+ advocacy and positioned queer and transgender experiences within broader conversations about environmental justice and equitable urban development.

Movement-building and leadership development partnerships continued to strengthen throughout the year. Collaboration with Theatre for Change and the Young African Leaders Academy (YALA) created opportunities for young leaders to engage in theatre-based activism, political education and social justice organising. Partnerships with Free Gender, IAM and activist networks and community organisations, who form part of the Khumbulani Pride collective,

strengthened local mobilisation efforts around hate crimes, gender-based violence, learner rights, visibility and community leadership. These collaborations reinforced the organisation's belief that sustainable social change emerges from relationships, collective action and locally-rooted leadership.

The Hub also maintained an active presence within national and international feminist, human rights and movement-building spaces. Staff participated in UN Women knowledge-sharing platforms, global dialogues on measuring SOGIESC-related violence, feminist leadership convenings, anti-rights response initiatives, regional learning exchanges and political education forums. These spaces provided opportunities to contribute South African experiences to international conversations while bringing back new learning, strategies and partnerships that strengthened local work.

These partnerships enabled Triangle Project to remain connected to the broader ecosystems of care, advocacy and solidarity that sustain social justice movements. At a time when many civil society organisations were navigating funding insecurity and increasing political hostility, these relationships helped strengthen collective responses to anti-rights mobilisation, expand opportunities for collaboration and reinforce the principle that lasting change requires communities, organisations and movements to work together rather than in isolation. Furthermore, these partnerships, also continued to position Triangle Project not only as a service provider, but as a trusted convener, movement partner, knowledge producer and advocate contributing to broader efforts to advance inclusion, equality, dignity and collective liberation.



A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

The transition to two integrated programme areas ultimately strengthened organisational coordination, reduced duplication, improved accountability and enabled staff to work more collaboratively across areas of expertise. Most importantly, it created stronger connections between direct services, leadership development, research, education and advocacy.

Rather than representing a reduction in programme work, the new structure marked an evolution in how Triangle Project understands social change. It reflects an organisational commitment to recognising that care, healing, education, leadership, research and movement-building are most impactful when they are intentionally connected and centred on the lived realities of the communities we serve. ▼

HONOURING THOSE WHO HELPED SHAPE THIS CHAPTER

The 2025-2026 year was not only a period of organisational change, but also one of significant personal and professional transitions. As Triangle Project evolved, several colleagues who made invaluable contributions to the organisation concluded their chapters with us. The work reflected throughout this report carries the imprint of colleagues who helped build programmes, strengthen partnerships, support communities, generate knowledge and advance justice.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Elsbeth Engelbrecht, whose leadership, vision and unwavering commitment guided the organisation through many years of growth, advocacy and community service. Her contribution to strengthening Triangle Project as one of South Africa's leading LGBTQIA+ organisations leaves a lasting foundation upon which we continue to build. Her leadership has touched countless lives, and we remain grateful for the care, wisdom and dedication she brought to the organisation.

We also wish to acknowledge and thank Sharon Cox, Heather Adonis, Bianca van Rooi, Estian Smit, Bayanda Ndumiso, Ling Shepherd and Katlego Sepotokele for their commitment, expertise and contributions during their time with Triangle Project. Through their work across health, advocacy, research, community mobilisation, communications and programme development, each played an important role in advancing our mission and strengthening support for LGBTQIA+ communities.

While their journeys now continue in new directions, their contributions remain woven into the history of Triangle Project and the communities we serve. We thank them for everything they have given to the organisation and wish them success, fulfilment and joy in the paths ahead.

Once part of the Triangle Project family, always part of the story. ▼

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Media and communications played an important role in extending the reach of Triangle Project's advocacy, education and community mobilisation work beyond direct programme participants. Social media platforms enabled the organisation to amplify community voices, increase awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights, mobilise participation in events and strengthen public engagement on issues affecting LGBTQIA+ communities.

Triangle Project maintained an active presence across Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, LinkedIn, Bluesky and YouTube, reaching approximately 18,900 followers across these platforms. As of the May 2025 communications report, the organisation had 10,953 Facebook followers, 2,970 Instagram followers, 2,924 X followers, 1,101 TikTok followers on the main account, 371 followers on the Queer Food Growing Collective TikTok account, 556 LinkedIn followers and 33 Bluesky followers.

Social media engagement also increased during the reporting period. Instagram generated more than 13,000 views in May 2025 alone, while Facebook engagement, interactions and link clicks increased. LinkedIn continued to grow as a platform for engaging educators, practitioners, donors and advocacy stakeholders. The organisation also reported increased visibility through its Google Business profile, which recorded an increase from 121 searches in April 2025 to 147 searches in May 2025.

Media and social media visibility supported a number of key advocacy and awareness initiatives, including Khumbulani Pride, IDAHOBIT, safe and inclusive schools advocacy, community wellness programmes, mental health awareness, queer and disability inclusion, learner rights and SOGIESC-related education work. Digital platforms enabled Triangle Project to share workshop outcomes, participant experiences, educational resources and advocacy messages with audiences beyond those who directly attended activities.

A significant example of media impact was Triangle Project's contribution to national conversations on learner wellbeing, inclusion and safe schools. Through consultation with learner leaders, educators and community stakeholders, the organisation contributed perspectives to the Daily Maverick article "Renewed Rift over the Pride Flag at Bishops Diocesan College." The article elevated discussions about belonging, visibility and the importance of affirming school environments for LGBTQIA+ learners. It created opportunities for public engagement on learner rights and ensured that the lived experiences of young people were reflected in broader public discourse.

The organisation also expanded its use of multimedia content to support public education. As part of a collective, Triangle Project released the YouTube series The Power of Communities: Thriving at the Intersection: Queer and Disabled Voices, which provided a platform for discussing disability justice and LGBTQIA+ inclusion, helping to amplify voices that are often absent from mainstream media conversations.

Overall, social media and media engagement strengthened Triangle Project's ability to influence public conversations, increase awareness of LGBTQIA+ rights, mobilise communities and amplify the voices of those who are often excluded from public dialogue. These platforms became important tools for advocacy, visibility, community connection and movement building throughout the reporting period.

THE VOICES BEHIND THE WORK

Behind every statistic in this report are individuals, communities and relationships. The following stories offer a glimpse into the lived experiences that shaped the year and illustrate how care, leadership and collective action continue to drive social change across the communities we work with.

COMMUNITY AND MOVEMENT-BUILDING: THE QUEER FOOD GROWING COLLECTIVE



One of the most powerful lessons from the Queer Food Growing Collective this year was the realisation that the issues our communities face are deeply interconnected and that meaningful change happens when movements come together rather than working in isolation. What began as a food-growing and food sovereignty initiative evolved into a space where activists, traditional healers, storytellers, community organisers and climate justice advocates could learn from one another and build stronger relationships across movements.

For many participants, the experience challenged long-held assumptions about their own work. Heritage activist Lucy Campbell reflected that memory, culture and healing cannot be separated from struggles for justice and survival. Through engaging with climate justice activists, queer communities and traditional healers, she came to recognise that the work of reclaiming history is inseparable from the work of healing communities affected by dispossession and exclusion. Traditional healer and feminist activist Nomxolisi Albert spoke about how the workshops deepened her understanding of the relationship between land, community wellbeing and collective healing. Sharing food, stories and ancestral knowledge reaffirmed the importance of creating spaces where people can reconnect with themselves, one another and the land. Climate activist Lisakhanya Matiso described how engaging with heritage and traditional knowledge transformed her understanding of climate justice, helping her recognise that climate change, land dispossession and LGBTQIA+ exclusion are rooted in many of the same systems of inequality.

Perhaps the most significant change was not only in what participants learned, but in the relationships that were formed. Activists who had previously worked separately began to see themselves as part of a broader movement for social justice. Conversations about food sovereignty became conversations about land justice. Discussions on climate resilience became conversations about cultural survival. Healing practices became connected to collective care and LGBTQIA+ liberation. Participants increasingly drew on one another's knowledge, perspectives and experiences in their own work, strengthening the connections between their movements.

The development of the recipe book became a tangible outcome of this process. More than a collection of recipes, it became a repository of stories, memories, cultural practices and community knowledge.

Participants viewed it as a tool for preserving heritage, sharing wisdom and demonstrating that food, culture, climate justice and community care are deeply connected. The recipes and stories continue to be used in workshops and community engagements to encourage dialogue across different sectors and generations.

This process reinforced Triangle Project's belief that movement-building requires more than partnership; it requires intentional opportunities for people to listen to one another, build trust and recognise their interconnected struggles. Through these engagements, participants gained a stronger understanding of solidarity and a renewed commitment to working collectively. The relationships developed through the Queer Food Growing Collective continue to grow beyond the project itself, creating a stronger, more connected network of advocates committed to justice, healing, inclusion and community resilience.

FINDING HEALING THROUGH AFFIRMING CARE: UNATHI NOYI



Unathi Noyi's journey reflects the transformative power of community-centred care and leadership development.

Unathi first connected with Triangle Project as a client, accessing clinic services and participating in the organisation's arts programme during a period of personal rebuilding and healing. Through these experiences, they found a safe and affirming space where they could regain confidence, reconnect with community, and begin imagining new possibilities for themselves.

Building on this foundation, Unathi participated in Triangle Project's training programme and qualified as a Community Care Worker. Equipped with new skills and knowledge, they began supporting others, making referrals, advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights, and responding to community needs.

After relocating to Villiersdorp, Unathi recognised significant gaps in services and support for LGBTQIA+ people. Rather than accepting these challenges, they stepped forward as a community leader. They organised stakeholder engagements on SOGIESC, violence and LGBTQIA+ rights, brought service providers together, and continued to hold institutions accountable for delivering more inclusive and responsive services.

Their advocacy has contributed to renewed attention on cases of alleged homophobic violence, strengthened access to justice, and improved support for people living with HIV by helping community members reconnect with healthcare services when treatment is interrupted.

Today, Unathi serves as a vital bridge between community members, institutions and Triangle Project, helping people access healthcare, justice, employment opportunities and other essential services. Their work demonstrates how investing in care can create pathways to community leadership and social change.

What began with one person receiving support has grown into a ripple effect of care, advocacy and empowerment that continues to benefit many others.

As Unathi reminds us:

"This is not right. Our community deserves better. And I am not going to stop until someone listens."

Their story is a powerful reminder that meaningful change often begins with a single person who chooses to turn their lived experience into action, and who, in doing so, helps create new possibilities for an entire community.

FINDING HER VOICE, CREATING SPACE FOR OTHERS: UNATHI

Three years ago, when Unathi first joined Triangle Project through the Inclusive and Affirming Schools Programme as a Grade 9 learner at Delft Technical High School, she describes herself as feeling lost and uncertain. Conversations about sexuality, gender, bodily autonomy and women's rights felt unfamiliar, and she often struggled to participate in group discussions or express her opinions.

Reflecting on her journey, Unathi shares:
"I started with Triangle Project three years ago in Grade 9. At that time I felt lost. I didn't understand a lot about sexuality, about women's issues, about our bodies, and I struggled to speak up in groups. I couldn't really say what was on my mind. Triangle Project gave me space to grow. Through the workshops and support, especially from facilitators like Miss Juliana, I started to build confidence. I learned that my voice matters, and that being heard isn't just about speaking louder; it's about being acknowledged."

Through ongoing participation in workshops, youth leadership activities and Solidarity Spaces, Unathi gradually developed the confidence to contribute her ideas, engage difficult conversations and step into leadership roles. One of the moments she is most proud of was co-facilitating a Solidarity Space workshop focused on voice, visibility and belonging.

"We were talking about voice and being heard, and how sometimes people speak louder because they feel unseen, and how other times being quiet doesn't mean you're not saying anything important. Facilitating that session pushed me to hold space, ask questions and let others share their experiences. I came from being nervous in the back of the room to standing in front of people, guiding conversations. Triangle Project taught me about solidarity, about listening, and about showing up for community."

What stands out most about Unathi's journey is not only her growing confidence, but her commitment to supporting others. Over the past three years, she has become a trusted link between Triangle Project and her school community, helping to organise learner participation, communicate with peers, support programme activities and encourage other young people to become involved.

Today, Unathi has moved from questioning whether her own voice matters to helping create spaces where other young people can discover theirs. Her story demonstrates the long-term impact of investing in young people's leadership, confidence and sense of belonging. It is a reminder that meaningful change often begins when a young person is given the opportunity not only to be heard, but to help others be heard too. ▼



IN MEMORIAM

This year, we pause to remember and honour the lives of community members, clients, leaders and loved ones who are no longer with us.

Each person leaves an imprint on the communities they touch. Some through their leadership, some through their courage, some through their kindness, and others simply through the ways they made people feel seen, valued and understood. Together, they form part of the story of our movement and our collective journey towards justice, dignity and belonging.

During this reporting period, we remember Russel Miller, Bradley Michael Rink, Coco Blankenberg, Rynard De Koker, Gavin Jacobs, Zoe Sandana, and others whose names and lives remain held in the hearts of those who knew and loved them.

We acknowledge the grief carried by families, friends, colleagues and communities who continue to mourn their passing. We also recognise the profound loss experienced within LGBTQIA+ communities when we lose people whose lives, relationships, contributions and presence formed part of the networks of care that sustain us.

As an organisation grounded in community, we understand that remembrance is an act of love. We remember not only those who have passed, but also the values they embodied, the relationships they nurtured, the laughter they shared, the struggles they survived, and the hope they carried for a more just and inclusive world.

May their memories continue to guide us toward deeper compassion, greater courage, and a continued commitment to building the kind of communities where every person can live with dignity, safety and belonging.

Though they are no longer physically present among us, they remain part of our story.



FUNDERS AND DONORS

Aidsfonds
Arcus
CISU Female Freedom
Department of Health
Department of Social Development
Genderlinks
ITPC & Grindr
Heinrich Boell Stiftung
Love Alliance
Outright Action
Sigrid Rausing Trust
Sexual Violence Research Initiative
Tanta Incorporated
Urban Earth
Urgent Action Fund

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:

Donation - Ziyaad
Donation - DE Spangenberg
Donation - YA Vawda
Donation - S C Scorer
Donation - Thomas Ferguson - Lauren Beukes
Donation - Flanders - Khumbulani Pride
Donation - Tai Chi Fundraiser
Donation - J Brand
Donation - Ziyaad
Donation - Relate Trust Donation
Donations - Miss Nadine Jo
Donations - Snapscan
Donation - Elize ODonnell
Donations - C Scorer Charitable
Donation - CashFocus University of WC
Donation - Charlotte Ryde
Donation - Securitas Specialise
GivenGain
Georgetown QFGC
CashFocus University of Western Cape
Donation - Ziyaad
Donations - Movie Screening Gift
Donation - Spannenberg
Donations - Gift from Jenna Project
Donation - Ticket Wave Theatre
Donation - Snapscan
Donation - Snapscan
Donation - Securitas Specialise
Donations - Ziyaad
Donation - The Parent Centre
Donation - Omar
Donation - C Agulhas
Donation - Student Donation
Donation - Rushton Counselling
Donation - Delegation of Flande
Donation - Self Defence
Donation - The Relate Trust
Donation - Securitas Specialise
Donation - YA Vawda
Donation - Keegan Therapy
Donation - Rushton Counselling
Donation - Ziyaad
Donation - Claudio Schnei
Securitas Specialise
Donation - YA Vawda
Donation - Uthando SA
Donation - Snapscan
Donation - B Hubbard
Donation - YA Vawda
Donation - Leanne S
Donation - GivenGain
Donation - Ziyaad
Donation - C Scorer Charitable
Donation - Nutritional Support
Donation - Ziyaad
Donation - Triponez Pascal - Sisterhood
Donation - YA Vawda
Donation - Love that stays
Donation - R to C - INV0502/2026
Donation - N Mbana Love that Stays
Donation - B Hubbard
Donation - Livashlin Naidoo (Pride)
Donations - Pride
Donation- Karessa Govender
Donation - Snapscan
Donation - Nutrition Program Donation
Asijiki Coalition Venue
Donation - B Hubbard
Donation - Nutrition

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TRIANGLE PROJECTS

(Registration Number 003-971 NPO)
Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FIGURES IN RAND	NOTES	2026	2025
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	214 264	327 211
Investment	3	3 500 000	3 500 000
		3 714 264	**3 827 211**
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	4	186 494	184 545
Cash and cash equivalents	5	9 634 107	12 157 398
		9 820 601	**12 341 943**
Total Assets		**13 534 865**	**16 169 154**
Reserves and Liabilities			
Reserves			
Capital	6	65 800	65 800
Retained income		(551 082)	3 462
		(485 282)	**69 262**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	454 175	355 020
Deferred grant funding	8	11 684 227	13 181 465
Other liability	9	1 881 745	2 563 407
		14 020 147	**16 099 892**
Total Reserves and Liabilities		**13 534 865**	**16 169 154**

TRIANGLE PROJECTS

(Registration Number 003-971 NPO)
Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FIGURES IN RAND	NOTES/ SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	2026	2025
Revenue			
Grants received	10	**11 637 840**	**13 619 750**
Other operating expenses			
Governance	1.1	(23 537)	(81 447)
Human resources	1.2	(6 839 022)	(7 722 947)
Office running costs	1.3	(98 886)	(129 855)
Premises and equipment costs	1.4	(1 302 027)	(1 257 737)
Professional services	1.5	(151 190)	(135 834)
Programme costs	1.6	(4 529 288)	(5 317 702)
		(12 943 950)	**(14 645 522)**
Operating deficit	11	**(1 306 110)**	**(1 025 772)**
Investment income	12	751 566	1 035 147
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year		**(554 544)**	**9 375**

TRIANGLE PROJECTS

(Registration Number 003-971 NPO)
Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

FIGURES IN RAND	CAPITAL	ACCUMULATED (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS	TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES
Balance at 01 April 2024	65 800	(5 913)	59 887
Surplus for the year	-	9 375	9 375
Balance at 01 April 2025	65 800	3 462	69 262
Deficit for the year	-	(554 544)	(554 544)
Balance at 31 March 2026	**65 800**	**(551 082)**	**(485 282)**

TRIANGLE PROJECTS

(Registration Number 003-971 NPO)
Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FIGURES IN RAND	NOTES	2026	2025
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operations	14	(3 242 331)	(4 077 652)
Interest income		751 566	1 035 147
Net cash flows used in operating activities		**(2 490 765)**	**(3 042 505)**
Cash flows used in investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	2	(32 526)	(39 774)
Cash flows used in investing activities		**(32 526)**	**(39 774)**
Net cash movement for the year		**(2 523 291)**	**(3 082 279)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		12 157 398	15 239 677
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	5	**9 634 107**	**12 157 398**



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