



The Catholic Health Care Association (CATHCA)

Our vision is to enable the provision of accessible high-quality holistic health-care services in Southern Africa, especially rural and marginalised communities, in the spirit and service of Christ.

Our mission is to affirm, develop, support and strengthen both individual health care workers and an evolving Catholic health care network, in conjunction with all other health care role-players

Who is CATHCA?

The Catholic Health Care Association (CATHCA) is a faith-based health care organisation founded in 1988, that serves as an umbrella body for Catholic health care services in South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland. It is an associate body of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

CATHCA serves all people regardless of religion, race, language or gender affiliation. It is a registered non-profit organisation (006-174) and a public benefit organisation.

In South Africa, the Catholic Church lost most of its hospitals in the mid-70s due to government pressure, but the AIDS epidemic, which began in the 1990s, has given rise to many new initiatives. Some of these are multi-purpose institutions which often have clinics, day care centres, orphanages and hospices all in one centre. Others are home based care projects, which have now spread to every diocese and almost every parish.

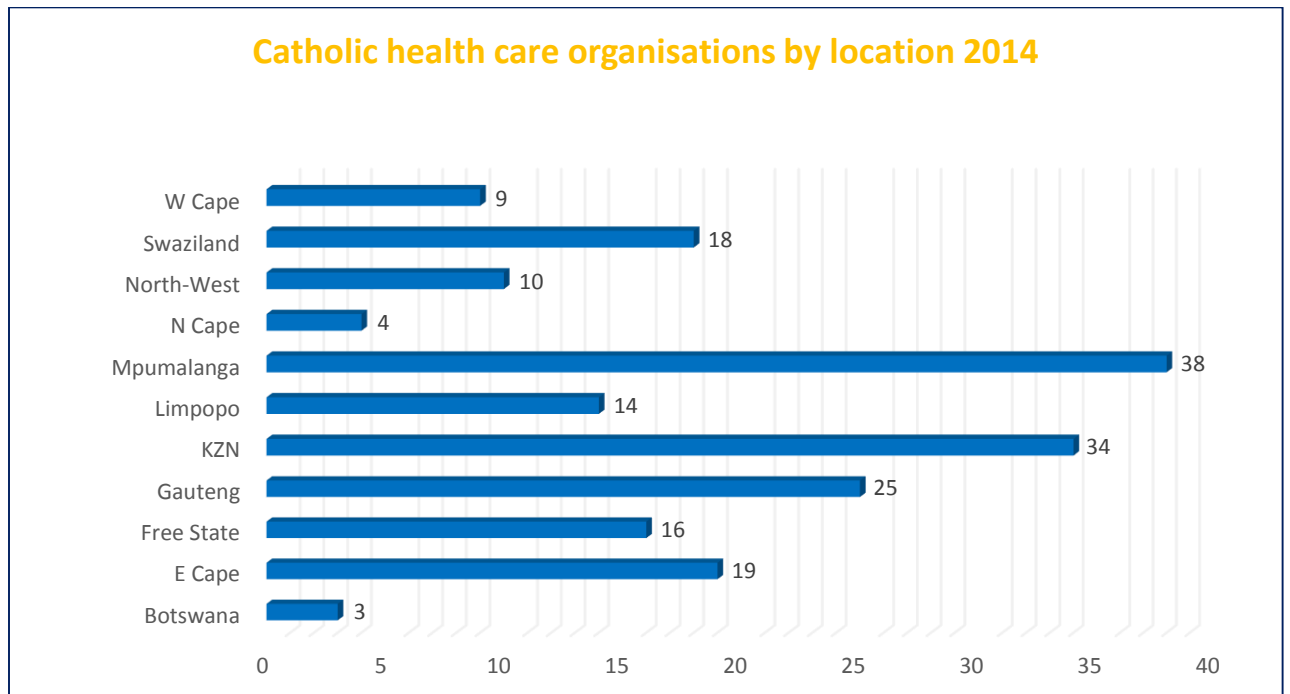


Through its member organisations CATHCA serves the poorest and most disadvantaged communities. Most of our healthcare members work in remote rural communities, where there are few ambulances, limited public transport, poor roads and government health clinics are overcrowded and under-resourced, while distance and lack of transport makes them inaccessible to many. As a result many small home-based care projects, where people volunteer to visit the sick in their homes, have sprung up as community initiatives.

The Catholic health care network in South Africa is now a much more diverse and widespread network than it ever was in the past, in its move away from institutional facilities into community-based health initiatives.

Our goals:

1. To continue to strengthen and develop **home-and-community-based care** aligned to government health care objectives in SA, Botswana, and Swaziland.
2. To deepen the **partnership with government** - & other key stakeholders - in regard to our members' work, and through this partnership to act as a voice for the community.
3. To help support and improve the **effectiveness** of Catholic health providers.



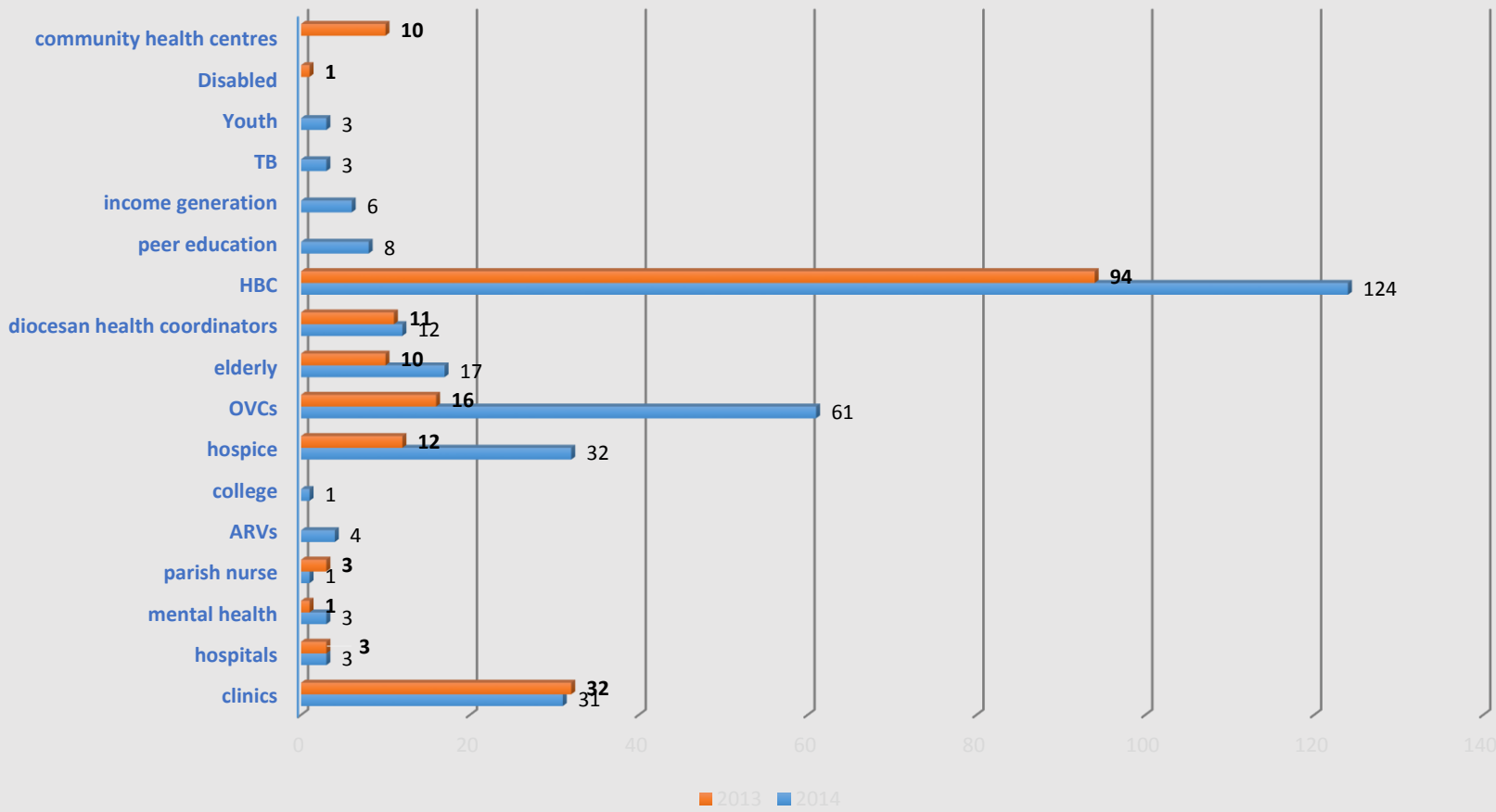
CATHCA's work

CATHCA plays a facilitating role in promoting, supporting, and developing effective Catholic health care. It provides access to advocacy, health information and networking opportunities through its annual conferences, newsletters and workshops for Catholic health organisations, and to assist them to build effective partnerships with government in the provision of community-based health care.

Its objectives are:

1. **Supporting dioceses in their community health and welfare ministries/services**
2. **enabling collaboration between Catholic health providers and government**
3. **growing the unique spiritual dimension of Catholic health care**
4. **facilitating interaction between all key stakeholders in Catholic health provision at all levels**

Services offered by Catholic healthcare providers in 2013 and 2014



Key:

ARVs -anti-retrovirals (AIDS medication)

OVCs – orphans and vulnerable children

HBC – home-based care (chronic and palliative care)

TB - tuberculosis

Current projects

CATHCA is currently running the following programmes:

- clinic assessment: organizational and clinical assessment of 12 Catholic clinics to assist them to plan for the future
- orphans and vulnerable children: assistance to Catholic organisations caring for OVCs to develop good governance and organizational structures to support their work
- home-based care training: training in basic HIV, AIDS and TB knowledge, counselling and home-based care
- maternal and child health training: for 400 community health workers in eleven districts in South Africa
- leadership, gender-based violence and public participation training for 500 district and community health workers, in partnership with the Rural Development Support Programme

Capacity-building for Catholic healthcare providers

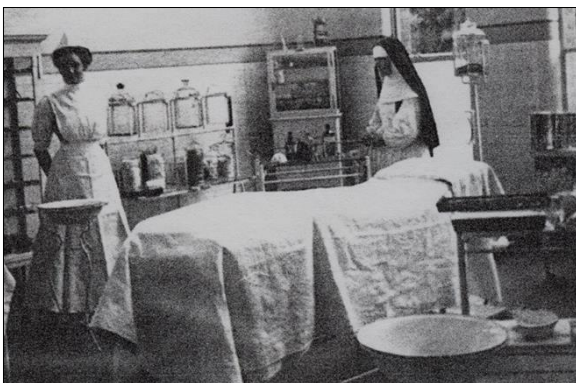
CATHCA is an accredited health training service provider. In addition to offering accredited training in community and maternal and child health, it also runs workshops on NGO governance, basic financial management, fundraising and monitoring and evaluation for small organisations.

Working with dioceses

Funding given to CATHCA from the Lenten Appeal is currently being used to develop and roll out a parish health ministry model for dioceses. Some parishes already have a health desk, and run health days where health information is provided and various tests, such as HIV, blood pressure, diabetes, are made available. Some support home-based care in under-served communities, while others run after-care programmes and soup kitchens for orphans and vulnerable children. CATHCA aims to assist dioceses to support such parish initiatives and to create these in other parishes.

Brief history of Catholic health care in Southern Africa

The history of Catholic health care in Southern Africa from its earliest years records the great work done by many nuns, priests and lay people in the delivery of health care, before government health systems were started. Catholic nurses were frequently called on in times of war to provide hospitals services for



both sides, and often opened the first hospitals in Botswana, Swaziland and South Africa, (and also Zimbabwe and Lesotho). Despite having little formal nursing training they invariably won the deep respect and gratitude of those they served.

Nowadays the situation, with government health systems in place, is different, and the needs have changed. Botswana has a very small Catholic population. There are three Catholic clinics, supported by government. The Catholic Church has an HIV/AIDS programme in the dioceses of Gaborone and Francistown, and a small ART programme in the latter which is financed by the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) for foreigners who do not qualify for the treatment available to citizens of Botswana.

In Swaziland the Catholic Church runs seven clinics and one hospital, the Good Shepherd regional hospital in Siteki, and plays a major role in health care delivery, supported by government with funding for staff, administrative costs and drugs. There is also a parish nurse programme in most parishes in the country, which helps to strengthen community health at the local level.

In South Africa, the Church's focus is on community health, with 22 primary health care clinics and 99 home-based care projects making up the majority of services offered, together with 21 hospices and several organisations caring for orphans and vulnerable children. The 11 diocesan health co-ordinators are responsible for several home-based care projects in their dioceses.

CATHCA

P O Box 52015, Saxonwold, 2132, Gauteng

Room 7, The Haven, St. Vincent School for the Deaf, Cnr Tottenham/Jellicoe Aves, Melrose, Johannesburg

Tel: 011 880 4022

Fax: 011 880 4084

info@cathca.co.za www.cathca.co.za

Services offered by Catholic healthcare providers in 2013 and 2014

