

# South African Health Review 2022



Health systems  
recovery after COVID-19



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2022



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Published by Health Systems Trust

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<https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/SAHR2022.aspx>

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ISSN 1025-1715  
ISBN 9/8-1-928479-11-6  
August 2022

Suggested citation, for example:

Walker J, Liebenberg M, Burnett J, Maphanga T, King J. Cross-border collaboration and capacity-building for improved health emergency response planning in Southern Africa. In: Padarath A, Moeti T, eds. South African Health Review 2022. Health Systems Trust; 2023.

<https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/SAHR2022.aspx>

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Typesetting by Scholastica

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# Foreword

It brings me great pleasure to present the 25th edition of the South African Health Review (SAHR) on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Health Systems Trust. As we recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on society, it is critical that we reflect on the lessons learned, apply these insights to strengthen the country's response to public health emergencies, and develop more resilient health systems.

The 2022 SAHR includes commentary from healthcare workers, researchers, government advisors, academics, activists, and members of the community. It encompasses reflections and lessons learned, ranging from the complexity of providing evidence-informed technical guidance at policy level during a rapidly evolving pandemic with devastating nation-wide health, social, and economic consequences on the one hand, to the responses and experiences of discrete parts of the health system on the other. These diverse perspectives provide essential information on various approaches to COVID-19, as well as salutary lessons for new and diverse ways of rebuilding and rethinking our health system.

The 2022 SAHR was curated as a supplement to the 2021 edition, which addressed the response of government and the broader health sector to COVID-19, investigated the challenges facing the health system, and focused on how to begin rebuilding a better system.

I wish to offer the Board's heartfelt appreciation to the SAHR production team, as well as the authors, peer reviewers, and the SAHR Editorial Advisory Committee, which advises the editorial team. The joint involvement of internal and external peer reviewers, as well as the authors' openness to accommodate collegial feedback and editorial discussion, have strengthened the publication.

I hope that this historic 25th edition of the SAHR will continue to make an important contribution to the improvement of our healthcare system and enhance the delivery of healthcare services under both ordinary and extraordinary conditions.



**Professor Salome Maswime**

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees  
Health Systems Trust

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# Acknowledgements

## **Editors**

Ashnie Padarath and Themba Moeti.

## **Project Co-ordinator**

Emma-Louise Mackie.

## **Copy Editor**

Julia Casciola.

## **Editorial Advisory Committee**

We extend sincere thanks to the Editorial Advisory Committee members: Prudence Ditlopo, Andrew Gray, Nisha Jacob, Mathildah Mokgatle, Linda Mureithi and Chantell Witten.

## **Contributing authors**

We appreciate the individual authors' commitment to contributing to the Review and their co-operation in responding to editing requirements, often at short notice.

## **Peer reviewers**

We extend our thanks to the peer reviewers for their insightful comments, which strengthened the quality of the chapters in this Review:

Lesley Bamford, Peter Barron, Mohammed Ishaq Datay, Prudence Ditlopo, Ros Dowse, Michelle Engelbrecht, Bob Fryatt, Nelouise Geyer, Lucy Gilson, Andrew Gray, Nisha Jacob, Emma Kalk, Natasha Khamisa, Sonja Klingberg, Martina Lembani, Elizabeth Lutge, Tshegofatso Maimela, Lesibana Malinga, Bob Mash, Naomi Massyn, Moeketsi Modisenyane, Mathildah Mokgatle, Linda Mureithi, Tracey Naledi, Gugulethu Ngubane, Siphelile Nguse, Sibusiso Nxumalo, Yogan Pillay, Laetitia Rispel, Martin Smith, Firdouza Waggie, Edda Weimann, Janine White, Jodi Wishnia, Chantell Witten, WD Francois Venter, Klaus von Pressentin and Virginia Zweigenthal.

## **Access to data**

We are grateful to the National Department of Health for providing access to various data sets used in this Review.

## **Organisation support**

We are grateful to the following Health Systems Trust staff for their assistance:

Algernon Africa, Michael Burnett, Lebohang Dikobe, Delene King, Bonga Mkhabela, Melody Moodley, Nqobile Myende, Noluthando Ndlovu, Kemon Pillai, Antoinette Staffordcloete, Duduzile Zondi.

## **Cover artwork**

'Plans' by South African-based artist, Makiwa Mutomba. Oil on canvas using a palette knife, 2013. This cover captures the spirit of collaboration embodied in this edition of the SAHR, which focuses on lessons learnt following the health systems response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the plans we should make to prepare for future health emergencies.