



Assessment of crèches supported by the Bohlabela Community Work Programme

October 2011



Implementing Agency: Lima Rural Development Foundation
Lead Agency: Teba Development

Introduction

The Community Work Programme (CWP) was implemented as a pilot programme in Bushbuckridge and several other municipalities in 2009. The programme is essentially an employment safety net employing 2 200 people in Bushbuckridge within four sectors of community work, these being food security, palliative care, community infrastructure refurbishment and teacher assistance (education). Like many other rural areas, Bushbuckridge also experiences infrastructural, human resource and learning material shortages and backlogs in the education sector. The CWP implementing agency thus intentionally focused their support on reducing stress in the classroom by assigning CWP participants that had completed Grade 12 to assist teachers.

One of the CWP priorities within the education sector is Early Childhood Development (ECD) since this area provides a foundation for the child's learning and social skills later on. The programme has a presence in 30 crèches in Bushbuckridge and, in addition to assigning teacher assistants, also distributed educational toys and materials in September 2011 and assisted in infrastructural repairs and construction at the crèches.

In October 2011, ECD assessments were done by TEBA/Lima, with the aim of implementing a support system that will positively impact on the lives of children and ECD practitioners.

Summary of ECD questionnaire findings

This assessment of early childhood development (ECD) centres supported by the Bohlabela Community Work Programme (CWP) focused on institutional arrangements, infrastructural conditions, and the availability of learning materials and capacity in the crèche.

Villages assessed

Tsuvulane
Cottdale
Dingley Dale B
Dingley Dale
Belfast
Hutington
Justica
Justica
Mabarhule
Kildare A
Kildare A
Lillydale Lillydale
Ludlow
Bulington
Islington
White City
Bulington
Zoeknog-Sofia
Somerset
Edinburg
New Forest

Number of ECDs assessed per ward

Ward 12 = 1

Ward 20 = 1

Ward 22 = 2

Ward 25 = 5

Ward 26 = 4

Ward 30 =5

Ward 32 =1

Ward 35 =1

Ward 36 =2

Four ECDs never stipulated the wards they are in:

Rangane

Versailles

Mmadikae

Vonani

General

Names of ECDs assessed

Bonani, Masungulo, Mamogokobye, Mish Monhlahli, Pfukani Rixile Creche, Henna Pre-School, Happy Homes Pre-School, Ntshuxekani Creche, Mazimyang Pe-School Creche, Malamule Day Care, Tipfuxeni Pre School, Hintekani Creche, Humulani Pre-School, Ludlow Creche , Bakelani Mabana, Bumvi, Faith Creche, Lebotsisang, Angelo Creche Mertodes, Jabulani, Tsikedi and Rangane Versailles Mmadikae Vonani.

Community socio-economic status

The majority of the ECDs recorded high rates of unemployment, those ECDs along the Kruger and game parks recorded employment by game Lodges and the Kruger Park, although unemployment is still a huge challenge. In some areas the youth make up 50% of the population and unemployed. Another challenge is the scarcity of water.

Opening Times of ECDS

The average opening times are eight hours per day, five days a week (Monday- Friday). Most ECDS are closed during school holidays. Mmadikae and Tsikedi ECDs in Zoeknog are the only ECDs assessed, which are open during school holidays.

Information about children

Space/room areas of ECDs

All ECDs recorded limited space and high numbers of children occupying limited space

Age groups

Range from 0 - 4 1/2 years

Number of children and practitioners at each ECD assessed

⤴ Bonani - 5 practitioners and 40 children

⤴ Masungulo - 5 practitioners and 47 children

⤴ Mamogokobye - 2 practitioners and 50 children

- ▲ Mish Monhlahli - 2 practitioners and 78 children
- ▲ Pfukani Rixile Crèche - 3 practitioners and 83 children
- ▲ Henna Pre-School - 3 practitioners and 164 children
- ▲ Happy Homes - 4 practitioners and 164 children
- ▲ Ntshuxekani Creche -8 practitioners and 258 children
- ▲ Mazimyang Pe-School Crèche - 8 practitioners and 333 children
- ▲ Malamule Day Care - 4 practitioners and 131 children
- ▲ Tipfuxeni Pre School - 5 practitioners and 216 children
- ▲ Hintekani Crèche - 4 practitioners and 163 children
- ▲ Humulani Pre-School - 4 practitioners and 140 children
- ▲ Ludlow crèche - 5 practitioners and 140 children
- ▲ Bakelani - 3 practitioners and 43 children
- ▲ Mabana - 4 practitioners and 102 children
- ▲ Bumvi - 2 practitioners and 30 children
- ▲ Faith Crèche - 5 practitioners and 72 children
- ▲ Lebotsisang - 2 practitioners and 43 children
- ▲ Angelo Crèche Mertodes - 2 practitioners and 94 children
- ▲ Jabulani - 5 practitioners and 112 children
- ▲ Tsikedi - 2 practitioners and 61 children
- ▲ Rangane - 2 practitioners and 30 children
- ▲ Versailles - 3 practitioners and 31 children
- ▲ Mmadikae - 2 practitioners and 41 children
- ▲ Vonani - 8 practitioners and 226 children

Name of ECD	Number Practitioners	Number children	Number of children per practitioner
Bonani	5	40	8
Masungulo	5	47	9
Mamogokobye	2	50	25
Mish Monhlahli	2	78	39
Pfukani Rixile Creche	3	83	41
Henna Pre-School	3	164	68
Happy homes	4	164	41
Ntshuxekani Creche	8	258	32

Mazimyang Pe-School Creche	8	333	42
Malamule Day Care	4	131	43
Tipfuxeni Pre School	5	216	43
Hintekani Creche	4	163	41
Humulani Pre-School	4	140	35
Ludlow crèche	5	140	28
Bakelani	3	43	14
Mabana	4	102	26
Bumvi	2	30	15
Faith Creche	5	72	14
Lebotsisang	2	43	22
Angelo Creche Mertodes	2	94	47
Jabulani	5	112	22
Tsikedi	2	61	31
Rangane	2	30	15
Versailles	3	31	10
Mmadikae	2	41	21
Vonani	8	226	28

Information about the staff (including CWP participants)

Staff/positions at ECDs

Most ECDs are operational with four different positions, i.e. principal, practitioner/teacher, cook/cleaner and a gardener.

Gender

The gender composition at all ECDs assessed is mainly female. Where there is a male member of the staff, the job of the males are mainly to do garden work.

Highest education

The average education recorded at all ECDs is Grade 12, with a few recording NQF Level 4-5.

ECD qualifications

Five ECDs recorded no formal training in ECD. Three of the five recorded training in Computer Skills, Business Management and Certification through the Penreach programme.

Volunteer/salary

Twenty-two ECDs operate with volunteers and the remaining four speak of salaried staff.

Training received in the last year

Five ECDs have been trained in the last year, six ECDs never received training, and the rest have either been partially trained, attended workshops or courses like ABET

Number of CWP participants in the crèche

Only three ECDs do not have CWPs assisting in their crèches. On average each ECD has three CWPs assisting with their operation. Altogether there are 72 CWPs working in the ECDs which were assessed.

Do the CWPs understand their roles – Define/comments from the ECDs?

- ⤴ They always come to assist especially with repairs
- ⤴ Yes, presently in the process of erecting a pit toilet
- ⤴ Cleaner, inside and around the building
- ⤴ Obeys contract requirements
- ⤴ Yes and they assist in whatever the school asks them to do
- ⤴ yes they understand their duties and abide by them
- ⤴ Yes they assist with teaching and monitor play time
- ⤴ Yes they assist in the learning and teaching areas of pre-school classes
- ⤴ Yes they come to work on time, obey all rules according to their contract
- ⤴ They understand and perform according to their job description
- ⤴ yes, they help out in the areas where they have been assigned in the classroom and the children
- ⤴ Usually come on request
- ⤴ They come when there is a need
- ⤴ No they come late and fail to stick to their contract
- ⤴ They assist as grounds man and cleaning in general
- ⤴ Most of the time they help where it is needed
- ⤴ Yes, those assigned to help, usually come to fix and repair where needed
- ⤴ Yes they comply with their job description
- ⤴ They regularly come to the crèche to assist the staff in teaching the kids

⤴ Yes, they assist in classroom lessons

Institutional arrangements

Date centres were established

Most ECDs were established in the late nineties and through to 2011. Three ECDs did not record the dates their centres were established. The oldest ECD was established in 1985.

Registered

Twenty-one ECDs are registered as NPOs with a registration number. The remaining five have registered and waiting for their registration number.

Capacity to manage

Understood capacity in terms of space, highlighting the lack of space for the amount of children, others recorded large open space for children to play. Two ECDs understood 'capacity to manage' in terms of staff shortage and overcrowded classrooms.

Owner/principal

The ECDs never specified in terms of owner or principal, but each one indicated that there is a person in charge.

Training details of owner/principal

Two ECDs indicated no formal training, Three ECDs have NQF Level 4, Two ECDs have NQF Level 5, One ECD has NQF Level 6, Six ECDs indicated qualification through workshops and certification through Penreach, One indicated a pre-school teachers diploma and another indicated an Educare Diploma, One ECD indicated a business management Diploma

Management/ governing body?

Only one ECD indicated no management board in place.

Management training

Four ECDs indicated training of Management/Board.

Details of management training

No details of training were specified.

Structural assessment

Description of ECD facility

- ⤴ 21 ECDs operate from a separate free standing site
- ⤴ 4 ECDs operate from a community building
- ⤴ 1 ECD operates from a private home

Building condition

- ⤴ One ECD does not have a structure on their free standing site
- ⤴ 4 structures are in an excellent condition, 4 in a good condition, 11 in a fair condition, 5 in a poor condition, and the one operating from a private home never gave an indication of the conditions.
- ⤴ Building repair requirements:
 - ⤴ Most of the buildings require repairs to windows, door, roofs and floors.
 - ⤴ Other Details of Repair include:

- ▲ Painting
- ▲ Division of the wall especially those operating from community centres
- ▲ Carpets
- ▲ Plastering of cracks in the walls
- ▲ Own building needs to be erected, even those operating from community centres wish to have their own building
- ▲ General makeover of buildings and furnished

Number/type and condition of toilets

- ▲ Two ECDS operate without any toilets
- ▲ All toilets attached to the ECDS are pit latrines. One ECD has pit latrines and flush toilets
- ▲ 2 ECD Toilets are in an excellent condition, 4 in a good condition, 5 in a fair condition, 6 in a poor condition, 6 ECDS gave no indication of the condition of their toilets and 1 ECD indicated that a new pit must be erected even though they have one.

Security fencing and condition

18 Centres are fenced, 4 indicated that the security fences are in an excellent condition, 2 in a good condition, 7 in a fair condition, 4 in a poor condition, 1 did not indicate the condition of the security fence.

Fencing requirements – repairs:

Seven ECD fences require repair, 2 need a new gate.

Fencing requirements - new

11 ECDS need new fencing and 1 ECD has the materials, the fence just needs to be erected.

Cook house

Availability:

- ▲ 13 ECDS have a cook house on the premises.
- ▲ 1 ECD cooks over an open fire.

Cook house condition and repairs needed:

- ▲ 4 Cook houses are in an excellent condition, 1 in a good condition, 4 in fair condition, 2 in a poor state and 2 gave no indication.
- ▲ 13 ECDS - cookhouse needs to be built urgently
- ▲ 3 ECDS require repairs and renovations (larger space), including tiling, the roof, stoves and sinks.

Water

Availability:

▲ On 2 ECD site there is no water available. 3 have excellent water availability, 5 good water availability, 1 fair availability, 15 poor water availability.

Rainwater harvesting:

- ▲ 8 ECDS harvest rainwater.

No. of tanks:

- ▲ 14 ECDS have no tanks.

Repair requirements:

▲ 14 ECDS expressed the need for new tanks to be erected, 1 ECD needs an extra tank, 2 ECDS need a water tank truck or an extra tank, 1 ECD needs an extra stand for a tank, 1 ECD needs new tap switches, 1 ECD needs an extra tank.

Food security

Food garden Yes/No

^ 13 ECDs have food gardens which are fenced and vary in size.

Is there a gardener

^ 17 ECDs have recorded a gardener as part of the staff.

^ What is the food used for

^ 10 ECDs use the produce from the garden to cater and feed the children. 2 ECDs, also cater for the children and sell to the communities. One ECD has a garden fenced but has done no planting to date.

Food packs provided for the children

^ 10 ECDs receive either food packs or money from Social Development.

Does ECD provide food?

^ 23 ECDs provide food for the children in the form of meals.

No of meals per day

^ 7 ECDs provide 4 meals per day, 9 ECDs provide 3 meals per day, 7 ECDs provide 2 meals per day, at 1 ECD the children bring their own meals, at 2 ECDs no meals are provided.

No of children fed

^ The amount of children fed through each ECD vary from 30 - 332 per crèche.

Food supplied by

^ Spar, Shoprite, Social Service, the parents, Bozi, Mandzovo Distributors, Muzimhlope Café, Pick 'n Pay, Buza and Metro.

Do you ever not have food to feed?

^ 10 ECDs stated that they never run out of food, 1 ECD mentioned that they run out of food when social services do not supply, and the rest said 'yes they do, sometimes' run out of food.

Other foodstuff provided

^ 19 ECDs provide fruits and some also provide snacks, biscuits yoghurt, milk and eggs.

Crèche setup

Are there designated play areas ?

^ Yes, 25 ECDs have designated areas for Arts, fantasy, construction, cognitive, numbers, Books for language, music and outside play, some more than others.

Condition and size of the play area

^ The majority of the ECDs understood this question as *playground area* and not so much *designated play areas*. However one can gather that the designated play areas are generally small, and not fixed or permanent areas.

Is there a detailed routine that is followed?

^ Each ECD indicate a structure day mainly mornings focusing on assembly, health routine and lessons. Some also do news in the morning as well as devotions. Midday is structured around lunch and the

Afternoons are used for free play or sleep depending on the age group.

Is there sufficient materials ?

⤴ 25 ECDs indicated that there is insufficient learning and playing materials.

Indicate which materials are needed

⤴ Mattresses, blankets, chairs and tables, carpet, jungle jims, swing, wheels, puzzles, educational toys, dolls, teddy bears, construction toys, soccer balls, tunnels, crayons.

Is there storage to store materials

⤴ 17 ECDs have no storage space, 9 ECDs have either 1 cupboard, a bookshelf, a pin-up board or toy boxes, but never everything or enough.

⤴ Please indicate storage needed

⤴ The main storage needs recorded by all ECDS are Bookshelves, toy boxes, Easels, pinup boards cupboards and screens.

Do they make toys from waste

⤴ 23 ECDs recycle waste for toys.

Detail what is created from waste

⤴ houses, cars, balls, stoves, painting sheets, shelves, chairs, tables, construction blocks, musical instruments, pencil holders, files, masks, animals, people, trees and bowls.

Health and safety

First aid kit available

⤴ 10 ECDs have first Aid kits.

List of emergency numbers available

⤴ 13 ECDS has a list of emergency numbers, some only have the numbers of the ambulance or EMS, while others indicated by a simple yes without detailing.

Are teachers/volunteers trained in first aid

⤴ 7 centres have certain training in first aid, one indicated that only the principal was trained.

Awareness

HIV/AIDS

⤴ 6 ECDs do not teach HIV and AIDS awareness, the remaining 20 focus on teaching children about the dangers of touching spilled blood or the blood of their friends, prevention is also taught.

Nutrition

⤴ The children are taught about food which are healthy and good for them e.g. fruit and vegetables, the children are also able to identify nutritious foods.

Water and sanitation

⤴ The children are taught general hygiene and cleanliness, the main focus in all the ECDS is washing hands after toilet routine. Water is also monitored.

Children's rights

^ The main focus at all the ECDs are the right to education, love and protection. One ECD also created their own posters depicting the rights of children.

General comments and feedback

^ Surrounding of the crèche and inside the building is fairly clean.

^ A building needs to be erected, at the moment their crèche is under a tree.

^ The playroom is very dusty, if the surrounding areas could be paved, then the room would be good to work in.

^ The crèche was established three decades back, but it looks like a month old, the building, surrounding, inside the building needs an extreme makeover.

^ The crèche does not have their own structure since they use the community centre, but they have their own stand with play area (outside). Just under construction, but they don't have enough funds to build a crèche. The center which they are using is too small for the amount of children, the kids cannot move freely, and they don't have outside play structures.

^ Henna Pre-School is a well-fenced crèche, good infrastructure from classrooms to play area. They have a large number of learners and are short of fantasy toys.

^ Crèche is situated along the Sabi-sand game reserves, most tourists from abroad donate toys and equipment to the school. They also receive some food from the game lodge. The ECD services a total of 1275 households with a total population of 6669 inhabitants.

^ The crèche is situated next to the main road and the clinic also where safety is not at risk. The crèche have enough water, enough outside play structures and also they have enough spaced classrooms with capacity to manage the crèche.

^ The crèche is well monitored, with excellent infra-structure when it comes to play area (outside and inside) together with the classrooms have large space. They have enough water and teachers also, their only concern is toys.

^ The ECD set up is neat with huge space for outside play. There is a designated dining area. The ECD appreciate the support of the CWP. There is a shortage of teachers and classrooms. There are 862 households in Kildare with a population of 4717.

^ The school is over-crowded, space is very limited, and the ECD accommodates a large number of children, they have educational tools, but due to space are unable to make efficient use of the tools, neither on the walls, or create play corners. There is no dining area, classes are used as dining areas.

^ The crèche was established in 1989, and the building was erected five years later, since then no changes have been made to the building and now the roof leaks, cracks lining the wall and potholes on the floor. The condition of the crèche is not up to scratch, approximately the whole crèche needs renovating.

^ This is a well-developed crèche where the classrooms, playground and cook house are all neat and in a good condition. The crèche is well recommended from me, since it has everything, from staff to the fencing of the crèche, the crèche has a good security system.

^ Well build structure in need of a makeover.

^ The roof of the crèche is in a bad condition and can be a great hazard to the children.

^ A well-built structure, which needs a makeover and inside playrooms.

^ The crèche is attached to a private home in a very small room, this can be hazardous to kids health in general.

^ The building is incomplete, if completed this will create more playrooms.

^ The practitioner must be assisted to upgrade her qualifications as a preschool teacher.

⤴ The building is not in a good condition since it was built 15 years ago, the classes are not spacious for children to learn in, there are no chairs, poor cooking area. The creche does have enough water but the garden is not big enough due to fencing problems and also the supervision of the children is not stable.

⤴ It is a well built crèche that needs to be upgraded and refurnished.

⤴ Playroom too small for 61 kids.

⤴ The crèche is attached to the church an own building needs to be erected.

⤴ The playroom is extremely small for 31 kids this can expose the kids to infectious diseases.

⤴ They playroom is too small for 41 kids.

⤴ The cook house is not functional, because they have to prepare food in larger pots, they are compelled to cook outside on wood fire, this becomes impossible during rainy days.

Conclusion

Based on the information given by each crèche, the individual needs of the institution can be addressed. The CWP intends to direct many of the issues to the Department of Social Development and Department of Education for additional support, intervention and collaboration with the CWP ECD programme. The key focus areas of the CWP going forward include:

- Additional training in ECD for practitioners including CWP participants
- Implement a programme to create awareness in the community about Children's Rights
- Assist in developing the necessary play equipment/areas required at crèches
- Improve condition of the crèches. Infrastructural repairs and maintenance and where possible construction, especially focussing on water and sanitation.
- Food security – continue providing support to school food gardens
- Institutional arrangements – assist in registration of schools
- Develop stronger partnerships with all relevant stakeholders