



#DoMore4Nkomazi Newsletter

CREATING A PLACE WHERE YOUNG CHILDREN FLOURISH

JULY 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT LEAD

The new year began with much anticipation around the Early Childhood Development (ECD) function shift from the Department of Social Development (DSD) to the Department of Education (DBE) with many new relationships and plans being formed in Nkomazi.

Here are a few highlights from the work we've done with our partners and stakeholders during this time:

- The **Ibhayi Lengane programme** has started in Nkomazi - training Community Health workers with the support of Department of Health (DOH) senior managers.
- As part of our ongoing **partnership with Sikunye**, team members visited Nkomazi communities (Mzinti, Malelane, and Schoemansdal) to support caregivers, parents, churches, and families through their early life programme.
- The **Riverview Prep School teachers** continue to support ECD programmes, recently delivering training on how to use everyday household items as toys, assessing children's competencies in a fun way, and tips/tricks to deal with challenging behaviors.
- **JOJO Tanks** has come on board to help with the issue of portable water - donating water tanks that benefitted 10 ECD centres.
- We have had a full schedule of **exciting training for ECD practitioners** at our monthly Young Child Forum, specifically around lesson planning, the ECD National Curriculum Framework Training (looking at the ELDAs), as well as critical safety norms and standards for ECD centres.



The amazing technical committee made up of key local stakeholders continues to drive the LNYCB agenda by ensuring quality ECD programming and ensuring that all children between 0-5 are prioritized. We hope you enjoy reading more about our top stories for this year!

THE IBHAYI LENGANE PROGRAMME

With the support of Dlalanathi, 60 Community Health Workers have been trained on Ibhayi Lengane, and are ready to help families prepare for the arrival of newborn babies.

In addition to promoting both pillars 2 and 5 of the Road to Health Booklet - love and extra care for pregnant women - this programme engages the whole family in preparation for the birth of a child. We have successfully implemented the pilot programme over the last six months and are ready to expand it to other wards and communities. This initiative has been well received by 100 pregnant mothers' families so far.



CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

The Grow Great Campaign is being implemented in Nkomazi through the Champions for Children programme in partnership with DOH to ensure children have access to basic health services.

These services include deworming, immunization, developmental screening, and growth monitoring. During this period, the programme has reached 4,326 children!



[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAMME](#)

HELPING PREGNANT MOMS FLOURISH!

The first thousand days of a child's life (from conception to age 2) is when the foundation is laid for academic success, health, and general well-being. The Flourish programme brings awareness to this critical point through a national network of antenatal and postnatal classes that support, celebrate and empower mothers through the critical first 1000 days of a child's life.

During the reporting period, 100 pregnant mothers have benefitted from this incredible programme in Nkomazi which aims to celebrate and empower pregnant and new mothers in a unique and impactful way.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAMME](#)



SIKUNYE PARTNERS TO DOMORE

We have partnered with Sikunye (an Early Life initiative) in Nkomazi to empower faith-based organisations to support caregivers/parents and children in the critical first thousand days of life. This period offers an incredible opportunity for local churches to make a positive impact on the developmental trajectory of children and help strengthen families.

The Sikunye team recently held a workshop to form partnerships with over 40 church leaders who attended. Together, the team will work with leaders to inspire, mobilise, and train the church to best support parents, caregivers, and families in providing nurturing care for their children in their first thousand days.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAMME](#)



AMAZING ELOM ASSESSMENT RESULTS!

The Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) is a reliable, standardized population-level tool that provides fair assessments of children from across the socioeconomic spectrum in all 11 South African languages. ELOM assesses 5 domains including gross and motor development; emergent literacy and language; cognitive and executive functioning; emergent numeracy and mathematics; as well as fine motor coordination and visual-motor integration. The children's scores are then classified into three bands: achieving the ELOM standard; falling behind the standard; and at risk of not reaching the standard.

In Nkomazi, this measure was conducted with a sample of 20 children from the graduating class aged 60-69 months to determine how ECD programmes are performing after years of investment into capacity building and resourcing.

We are proud to announce that the final results indicated that 80% of the children are achieving the standard and only 20% are falling behind. In the case of the children assessed, they fall under Quintile 1 ECD programmes, which are designated for the poor.

This shows that children can thrive regardless of where they are located, provided they have the necessary resources and support. With the right investment in the right places, we can give ALL children the chance to thrive.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL REPORT](#)



SUNBAKE TONGA JOINS THE PROJECT

Proper nutrition is essential to children's health and well-being. In Nkomazi, Sunbake is #DoingMore for young children by providing bread twice a week to 6 ECD centres that participate in the EAT LOVE PLAY TALK parenting programme.

This has provided additional meals to over 460 young children who benefit every month from this generous donation. Thank you Sunbake for #DoingMore with us!



JOJO TANKS ARRIVE IN NKOMAZI

In order to promote healthy living and safe environments for children, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are essential. WASH conditions can negatively impact children's growth, especially in relation to childhood stunting. JOJO tanks have come on board to support 10 ECD centres with 5000-liter water tanks. As a result of JoJo Tanks' generous donation, ECD centres in our project areas will have access to clean water. A special thank you goes out to JOJO tanks for always doing more for young children.



NEXT BIG STEPS

Over and above the programmes and initiatives mentioned in this newsletter, the project team will be focusing this next reporting period on supporting ECD programmes to be best prepared for the Function Shift planned for the 1st April 2022 and conduct a baseline Assessment for Phase 2 ECD programmes in Nkomazi as part of the expansion and scale of the LNYCB initiative.

Should you wish to partner on any of the above aspects or if you would like to discuss any stories mentioned in our newsletter in more detail, please contact the Young Child portfolio lead at the DO MORE FOUNDATION - Jabu Mthembu-Dlamini

[CLICK HERE TO CONTACT YOUNG CHILD PROJECT LEAD](#)

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT

- Promote early learning by providing educational toys to ECD Centres.
- Sponsor books for young children to go to their homes and early learning programmes (R10/book).
- Support the training of ECD principals, practitioners, cooks, and caregivers.
- Contribute or get involved in infrastructure upgrades of ECD centres (i.e mending and erecting fences, gates, toilets, or classrooms where there is overcrowding).
- Support and help expand food gardens at ECD centres through the provision of implements, fencing, and other needs.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



“ IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER! ”

- AFRICAN PROVERB -