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#DoingMore4Hammarisdale: A multi stakeholder collaborative initiative

The young child sector in Hammarisdale remains vibrant on all fronts. The DO MORE FOUNDATION is privileged to engage with many stakeholders in the community including Early Childhood Development (ECD) forums, the public sector, civil society organisations, and academia to continue building on the goal of making Hammarisdale a multi-stakeholder collaborative initiative.

As the end of the year approaches, we reflect with our community partners on the level of program implementation quality and successes achieved as well as the challenges that they and the Foundation faced. We also take some time to discuss our collective learnings and how these may be implemented in the new year.

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Measuring What Matters: DO MORE FOUNDATION'S updated Theory of Change

When it comes to development organisations, one will always get the question, "What is your Theory of Change?" We at the DO MORE FOUNDATION took the bold decision in 2023 to revise ours to align with our new strategy and growth after six years!

A Theory of Change (ToC) stands as a guiding document, outlining the strategic pathways that lead to transformative outcomes and motivation behind the 'Why' of any organisation. At its core, a ToC provides a high-level, strategic overview of a program, mapping out the causal relationships between interventions and intended outcomes within the target population.

It should not be seen as a static document; rather, it evolves in response to real-world results and changing contexts, ensuring continuous learning, reflection, and adaptation. It is for this reason that DMF its ToC to reflect the dynamic and interrelated nature of its work.

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DO MORE FOUNDATION celebrates nationwide impact of EAT LOVE PLAY TALK programme on ECD outcomes for South Africa's children

A year on from winning the prestigious Mandela Rhodes Foundation Aanit Prize, Dr Jessica Ronaasen, National Programmes Lead at the DO MORE FOUNDATION (DMF), and key partners have uplifted 42 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in vulnerable communities across South Africa through the parent education programme EAT LOVE PLAY TALK (ELPT).

In September 2022, Dr Ronaasen along with three other Mandela Rhodes Scholar alumni, received the Aanit Prize, which recognises projects that have strong potential to deliver meaningful social impact for Africa's most marginalised populations. In the case of Dr Ronaasen and DMF, this funding was channelled into the new ELPT programme.

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Real Reform champions young children's right to nutrition

The Real Reform for Early Childhood Development's (RR4ECD) 2022-2023 advocacy agenda culminated in the launch of the Right to Nutrition Campaign, a comprehensive effort that delves deep into the essential link between adequate nutrition and a child's holistic development. Adequate nutrition is not merely a basic need; it is an inherent right of every child enshrined in South Africa's Constitution.

The government's subsidy of R17 per child per day to registered early learning programmes, with only R6.80 allocated for nutrition, falls drastically short of meeting the needs of the children it aims to support. RR4ECD's response to this issue was rooted in extensive research conducted by three dedicated task teams. These teams explored the legal basis of children's right to basic nutrition, the definition of adequate nutrition in the context of health, and practical recommendations for expanding and improving nutrition support in early learning programmes.

The campaign serves as a call from the ECD sector to the Department of Basic Education to urgently address the gaps in the existing nutrition support system. RR4ECD's evidence-based approach underscores the importance of a national ECD nutrition programme that guarantees nutritious meals to all eligible children, bridging the gap between policy and practice. DMF's Programmes Lead, Dr Jessica Ronaasen, co-authored the second research report exploring what constitutes adequate nutrition under the leadership of Anna Marie Muller from the DG Murray Trust.

RR4ECD's Nutrition Reforms are built on three research papers:

- The Legal Report:** Highlight the legal basis of children's right to basic nutrition, and the state's duties in respect of that right.
- The Adequate Nutrition Report:** Explain what constitutes adequate nutrition from the standpoint of health, and how this is provided at early learning programmes.
- The Implementation and Costing Report:** Recommend ways of expanding and improving nutrition support to eligible children at early learning programmes.

All three summarised in the following [synthesis](#) report.

The DO MORE FOUNDATION continues to partner with the RR4ECD to support the organisation's growing advocacy initiatives that champion better quality early learning programmes and nutrition support for South Africa's young children.



Turning pages, igniting minds: A collaborative journey with Book Dash

Book Dash is a South African social impact publisher of open, African picture books for very young children. Their vision is that 'every child should own a hundred books by the age of five', long before they enter school. Book Dash gathers creative professionals who volunteer to create new, African storybooks that they can freely translate and distribute.

Last year, through the partnership with Book Dash and the financial support of MySchool, we embarked on a three-year mission to gift 16,000 young children in Worcester, Nkomazi, and uPhongolo each with three of their very own story books written in their home language. We call this programme Read and Play at Home.

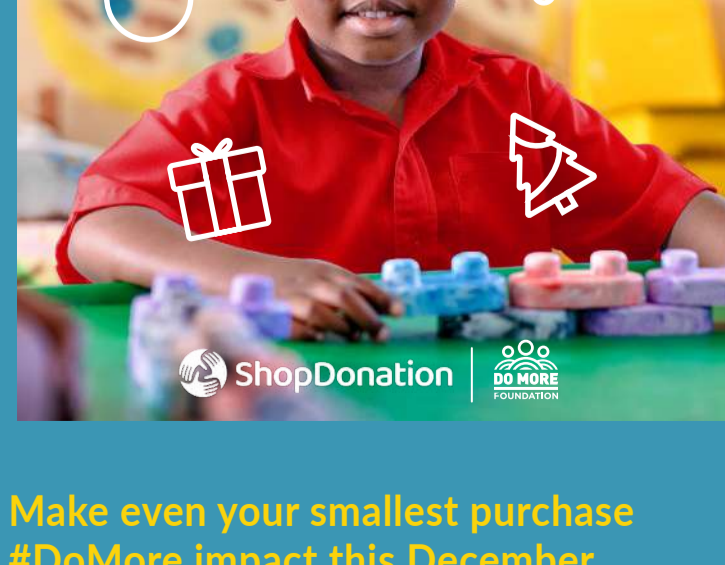
The programme is backed by growing evidence of the importance of 'Books in Children's Hands and Homes'. In other words, emphasizing that when children have physical books in their homes, they are set up with a sound foundation for good literacy skills. [The 2021 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study \(PIRLS\)](#) – the fifth cycle conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) – revealed a staggering 81% of South African Grade 4 learners could not read for meaning. This is up from 78% in 2016; in both assessment cycles, South Africa was ranked last among 57 countries.

This year, our implementation partners have been working with local ECD practitioners to lead community-based workshops that equip parents to create nurturing reading environments using our specially crafted booklets. Parents leave these workshops with booklets with information targeted at them and children's books, ready to embark on a reading journey with their little ones. [In a recent study conducted by Book Dash](#), findings showed that parents now understand the importance of reading and how it is not confined to school premises. They are becoming responsive and engaged parents, promoting literacy, and strengthening the parent-child bond.

Based on the success of the programme so far, our goal is to roll this out in all eight of our communities in the upcoming years by bringing more partners on board.



Simple ways you can #DoMore this month



Together, we can make a BIG difference through small actions.

You can provide a meal to a child for as little as R1.50 Do a little more today to fight malnutrition. Contribute via Zapper, SnapScan, Card payment, or PayPal.

Make even your smallest purchase #DoMore impact this December.

The DO MORE FOUNDATION is partnered with ShopDonation to help you #DOMORE easily and without having to pay more when you shop at your favourite retailers online.

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