



**NDA**

National  
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# Thusanang Day Care Centre Case Study



BEYOND **10** yrs  
OF UNLOCKING  
POTENTIAL





**Thusanang Day Care Centre**  
**National Development Agency funded project**

Compiled by

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## BACKGROUND

Thusanang Day Care centre was established in 1989 by four women from the community of Mashemong in Hammanskraal. They were given a piece of land by the tribal authority under Chief Kekana, to start the centre due to unsafe conditions that children were exposed to in Mashemong. Thusanang Day Care Centre is one of the 200 ECD centres in Hammanskraal.

The centre was one of the identified ECD centres by the South African Congress of Early Childhood Development (SACECD) in 2010 to participate in the training and development of vegetable gardens at the ECD site. Thusanang Day care centre started with 80 children and to date the centre has managed to enrol 133 children and employ 12 staff members of which 6 of them are teachers.



## METHODOLOGY

Thusanang Day care centre has divided the children into four categories according to the age group. The age group categories are as follows:

- 2-3 yrs – there are currently 10 children on this age group.
- 3-4 yrs – 44 children
- 4 – 5 years – 48 children
- 5 – 6 years – 28 children

Since the centre has only 6 teachers and 133 children, it uses the ratio of 1:20 meaning each teacher teaches 20 children every day. The centre uses the food menu that was given to them by the Department of Health and Social Development; however the centre is rotating the menu every two weeks.

The school fee for the centre is R150 monthly per child. The teachers earn a salary of R2000 per month which is comprised of the R773 stipend that is received from Department of Social Development every month and R1227 from the school fees. The centre also hired five gardeners to grow vegetables for the centre whose stipends are paid by the National Development Agency.

## CHALLENGES

- Insufficient space with regards to the classrooms and a small dining hall that children can use for eating and events. When the centre has events or graduation ceremonies, they have to rent out a tent and chairs which cripples the budget of the centre.
- There are lots of needy kids and orphans that are enrolled at the centre but most of their parents cannot afford to pay school fees for them and the teachers cannot just send away or refuse to enrol the children in the centre because of this matter.
- The Centre has experienced eight cases of break in and theft due to lack of security of the premises.
- Lack of funds to build more classes as the ratio of children is continuously increasing, so the space is not enough.
- The community approaches the centre on a daily basis to enrol more children but due to limited space the centre cannot enrol more children, even though the certificate from department of health allows for 200 children.
- The classrooms are very cold in winter and very hot in summer which makes it very difficult for teachers to teach inside the classes.
- The food that is bought with the nutrition funds from DSD, which is received quarterly, is not enough to feed the children.

- The Centre is using pit toilets that are not safe for the children and also the privacy of these children.



**Figure 1: Toilets used by the children at Thusanang Centre**



**Figure 2: the conditions of the mattresses that are used at the Centre**



**Figure 3: three children share one of these blankets during sleep time**



**Figure 4: One of the Classrooms at Thusanang Day Care Centre**

## PARTNERSHIPS

Thusanang Day Care Centre only has two funders that are assisting to improve the quality and standard of the centre, these are:

- Department of Social Development – the Department is paying out the monthly stipend to all the teachers at Thusanang and quarterly nutrition funds for feeding the children on a daily basis.
- The National Development Agency (NDA) - The Agency is building the ablution structure for the Centre, purchased office equipment (Computers and printers), and provided funds to put the ceiling and flooring of the classes. The Agency is also paying the R1200 monthly stipend to the volunteers who work on the centre's vegetable garden and Human Resource staff of the Thusanang Centre.



**Figure 5: The new toilets built with the NDA grant funds.**



## CONCLUSION

The Thusanang Day Care centre has enough space with regards to land to be able to expand and increase the number of classes, although the main challenge for this is lack of funds. The vegetable garden also serves an important purpose in providing vegetables to the centre for feeding the children although it was observed that the most of the vegetables are exposed to the sun and they die due to too much of the direct sunlight.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that the Centre uses nets to cover their vegetables and also sprinklers to be installed there because water is being fetched with water cans and some of the vegetables end up not developing properly because there is only little water put in them.
- A sand play area should be built for the centre as there is only one small container filled with sand for all the children to play in and the container is always breaking and have to be replaced most of the time at a cost.
- The Centre should be assisted to build more partnerships with other Institutions that can assist or supply with blankets, mattresses and probably heaters as well.



**Figure 6: The Centre's vegetable garden**



**Figure 7: The centre's sand play area that is used by all the children**



PICTURES OF THUSANANG DAY CARE CENTRE



Figure 8: Volunteers that are working on the Centre's vegetable garden



Figure 10: One of the centre's classroom without proper shelves for hanging the children's bag alphabetically



Figure 9: Thusanang Day Care Centre staff members



Figure 11: playing time