

Introduction to the ECD Infrastructure Support System



The typical ECD centre



Needs training for its management and staff

Average of 37 kids and 2 ECD practitioners. In 38% of centres, these practitioners are not trained.

Only 20% of centres have the required number of trained practitioners.

Registration status

46% are not registered with Department of Social Development

6% are conditionally registered

46% are fully registered

Needs better infrastructure

25% need better ventilation

34% need toilets

64% need tap water inside

30% need fencing

The typical ECD centre

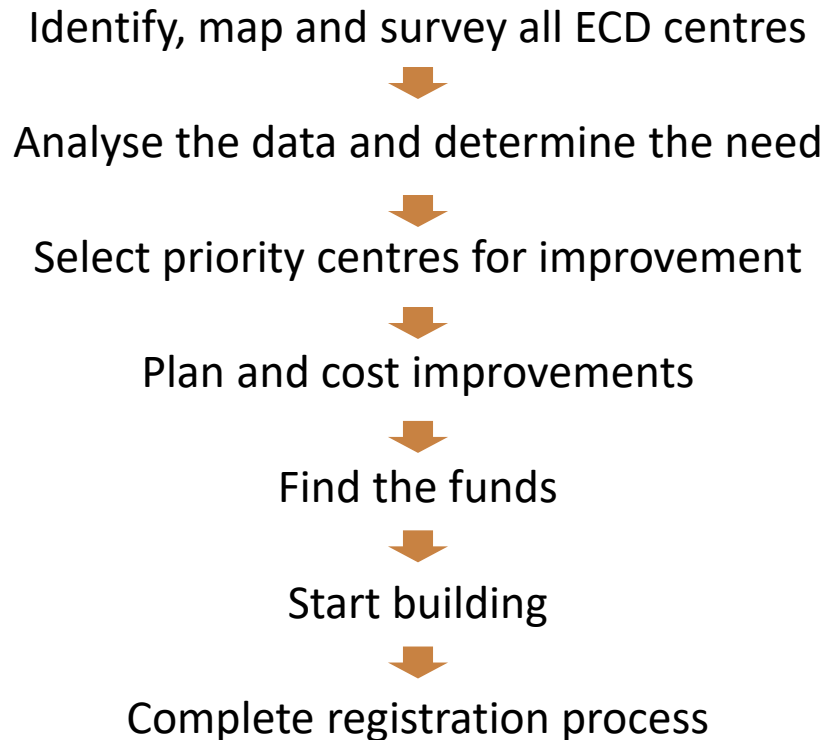


68% of centres have potential to meet norms & standards, and get registered, if they receive the right kind of support.

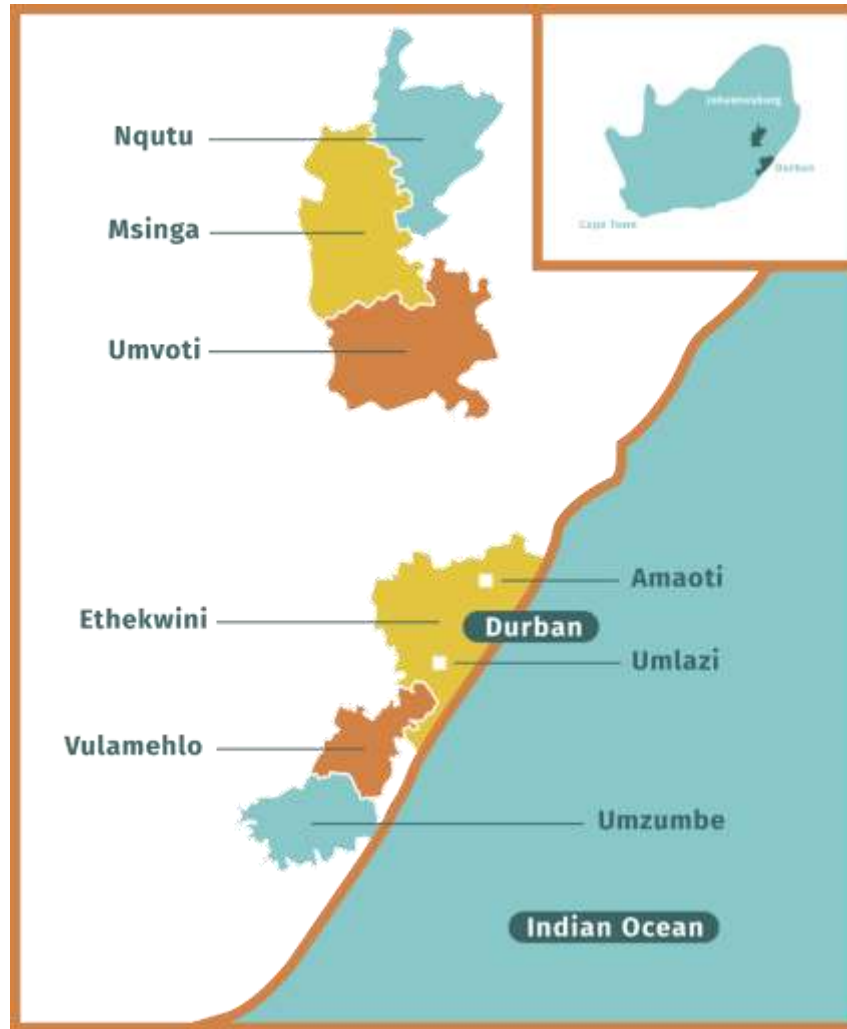
What is the ECD Infrastructure Support System?

The ECD Infrastructure Support System was developed to help make decisions on how to allocate limited infrastructure and resources in the most cost-effective way to the ECD centres with the highest potential.

ECD Infrastructure Support System in 7 steps



We piloted ECD Infrastructure System Support in 6 KZN municipalities



Step 1: Find & survey all centres

We developed a mobile data-collection tool and fieldworkers surveyed every centre that could be found in six KZN municipalities.

Municipality	Number of centres	Number of children
Vulamehlo	52	1 615
Umzumbe	102	3 700
Msinga	110	4 038
Umvoti	72	2 396
Nquthu	98	3 938
eThekwini (2 areas only)	81	3 913
All surveyed areas	516	19 600

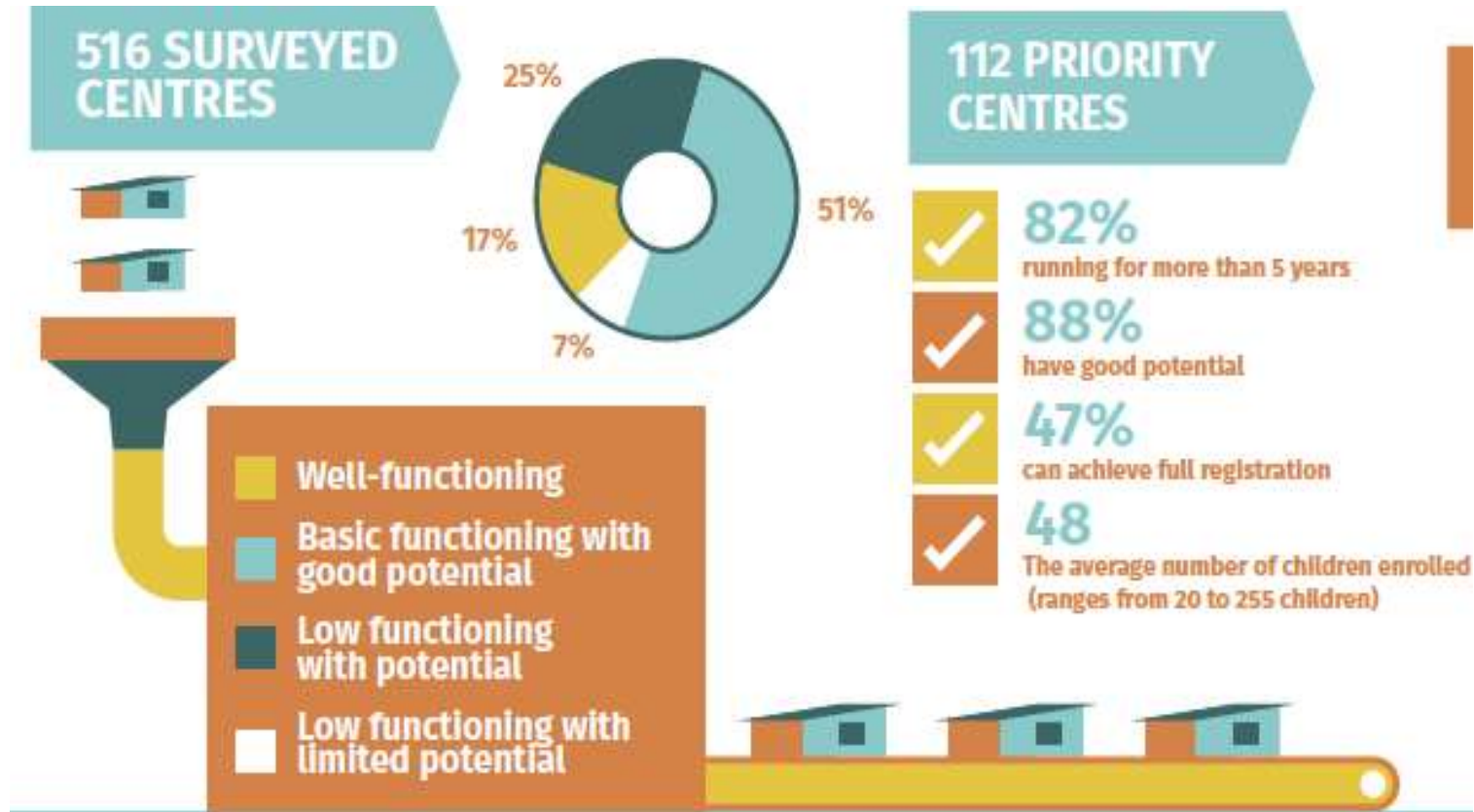
Step 2: Analyse the data

We found that 90% of the centres needed some kind of infrastructure improvement so that they can 1) be safe for children to attend, 2) offer a better quality ECD service, and 3) meet the national norms & standards so that they can register with DSD.

Other findings:

1. Only 36% of centres (attended by 8 965 children) were receiving the government subsidy
2. 46% of surveyed centres were unregistered
3. 33% of surveyed centres were unknown to the Department of Social Development

Step 3: Select priority centres



Step 4: Assess, plan & cost

We worked with quantity surveyors to assess and cost the building work needed. We developed a plan to improve the infrastructure of the 112 priority centres and costed it at R24.4 million.

This equals R4 297 per child for a mix of improvements and new buildings.

Why not just build new centres?

It's much cheaper to improve what already exists than starting from scratch. Building a new centre costs between R15 500 and R29 000 per child. This is, at least, three times more expensive than improving existing centres.

Step 5: Find the funds

Once the plans to improve infrastructure have been drawn up and are in place, it's time to secure the funding. These are some of the possible sources:

- Municipal Infrastructure Grant
- Urban Service Development Grant
- Integrated Cities Development Grant
- Local Government Equitable Share
- Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant
- DSD ECD Infrastructure Grant
- National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
- Private donors

Step 6: Start building



The process of the actual building will depend on the funder.
Wherever possible, local builders and material supplier will be used.

Step 7: Scale up



A survey of all centres should be done in all South African municipalities. Once complete, it will inform plans to systematically support and improve existing ECD centres and to determine where new ones are required.

Contact details

Liesel du Plessis, Project Preparation Trust

lieseldp@pptrust.co.za

+27 (0)41 368 3821

Ayanda Mvovo, Ilifa Labantwana

ayanda@ilifalabantwana.co.za

+27(0)71 198 8940



social development
Department:
Social Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

