

The Thogomelo Project

PROVINCIAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS: MPUMALANGA

“Building South Africa’s capacity to care for its community caregivers and protect vulnerable children”

The Thogomelo Project aims to build the capacity of community caregivers (CCGs) to care for themselves and in turn to enhance the quality of care and protection they provide to vulnerable children and families. The project was initiated in 2008 by the national Department of Social Development with the support of USAID. The project is implemented by a consortium consisting of PATH, Health and Development Africa (HDA) and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance (IHAA) in close partnership with community caregivers (learners) and their

supervisors; provincial training service providers (TSPs); and district and provincial Departments of Social Development.

The Thogomelo Project is now in the third year of its five-year pilot phase. This document profiles the provincial achievements, reach and impact as reflected in the Mid-term Process Evaluation of June 2011. This information aims to support decision-making, quality assurance and sustainability of project results.

Thogomelo curricula

Curriculum	Child protection
Thogomelo Psychosocial Skills Development Programme for CCGs	<p>Levels: 1 & 2 of National Qualifications Framework</p> <p>Target: Community caregivers</p> <p>Content: Understanding and dealing with psychosocial stress; maintaining psychosocial wellbeing and sources of psychosocial support; and basic child protection skills</p>
Thogomelo Child Protection Skills Development Programme for Supervisors of CCGs (and other child caring occupations)	<p>Levels: 3 & 4 of National Qualifications Framework</p> <p>Target: Supervisor/coordinators of community caregivers</p> <p>Content: Knowledge and skills to respond to child abuse, neglect and exploitation; and referral networks</p>
Thogomelo Supportive Supervision Skills Development Programme	<p>Levels: 3 & 4 of National Qualifications Framework</p> <p>Target: Supervisors of community caregivers</p> <p>Content: Supportive supervision skills; enhancing caregiver and organisational wellbeing</p>



social development
Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

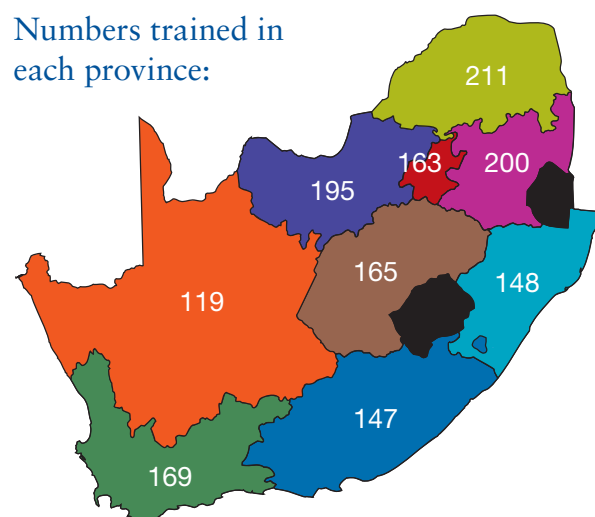


National project achievements to date

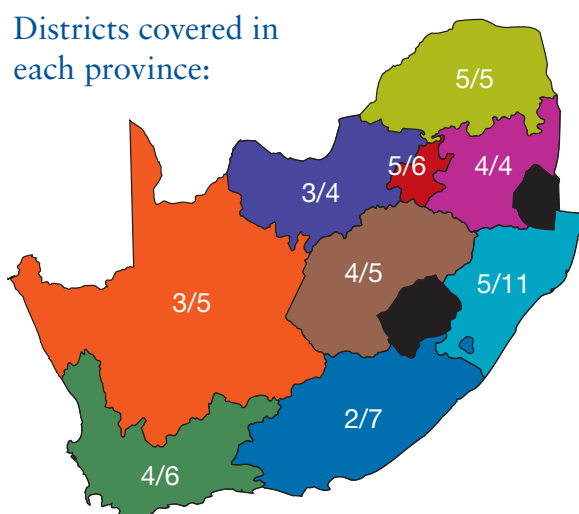
- Development of three curricula registered with the Health and Welfare SETA (see table on previous page).
- Capacity development of 12 provincial training service providers in curriculum content, facilitation methodology and accreditation requirements.
- A total of 1 526 community caregivers and supervisors were trained. In Psychosocial Support 1 289 learners were trained, in Child Protection 207 were trained and 21 learners were trained in a Field Review of Supportive Supervision for Supervisors of community caregivers (Years 1 to 3), verification of 193 community caregivers in Year 3.
- Production of three good practice case studies on the development of accredited curricula, capacity development of training service providers and incorporating gender in capacity development.
- Resources for community caregivers: a child protection CD-Rom containing relevant policy and legislation; a psychosocial support diary for caregivers; resource guides in child protection and psychosocial support; and a costing model for use by the Department of Social Development, training service providers and stakeholders to accurately cost the Thogomelo accredited training.

National reach

Numbers trained in each province:



Districts covered in each province:



Provincial status: Mpumalanga (Years 1-3)

Development of provincial accreditation capacity in psychosocial support

Training service provider	Facilitators	Assessors	Moderators
MARANATHA	3	3	2
CHILDLINE	2		2

Total learners trained in psychosocial support SDP:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
58	56	30	144

Total learners trained in child protection SDP:

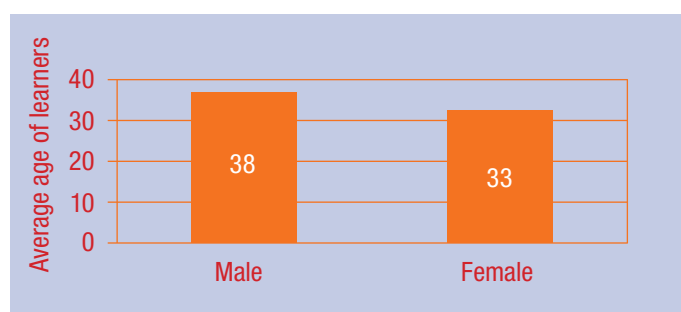
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
		26	26

District reach

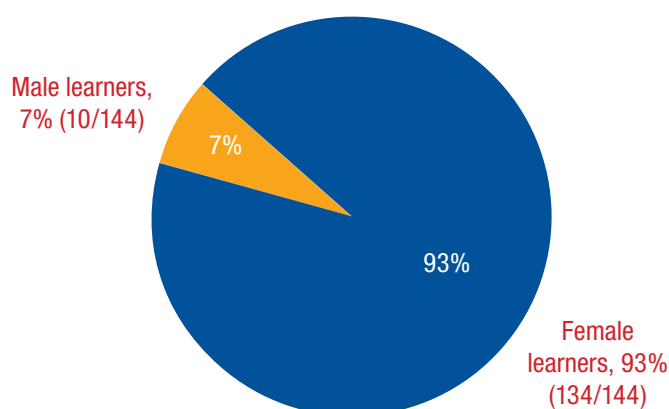
Learners from all four districts have been trained in Mpumalanga:

Nkangala, Gert Sibande, Ehlazeni and eMakhazeni.

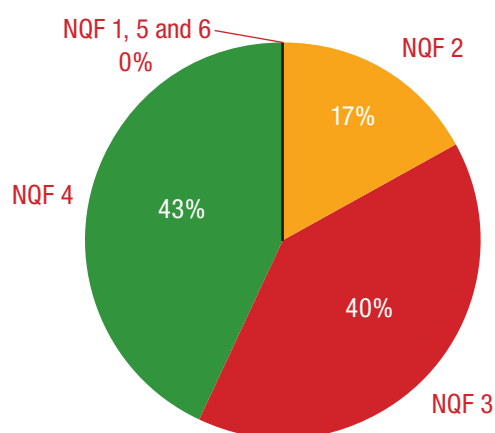
Average age of male and female learners 2010



Percentage of male and female learners trained in PSS



Educational (NQF) levels of PSS training learners in Year 2



Province specific findings of the mid-term process evaluation

Conducted with national, provincial and district Departments of Social Development, training service providers, home community-based care organisations and learners through a qualitative stakeholder analysis, including focus group discussions with learners.

What are the project successes in Mpumalanga?

- Learners' desire for knowledge increased.
- Learners became trusted and respected resources for the community and other caregivers.
- Assessor, moderator and facilitator training improved the TSP capacity.
- The Thogomelo Project met the strategic objectives and provincial mandate of the DSD.
- Learners shared information and skills gained with other colleagues and caregivers.
- 113 learners have been verified.

What needs to be strengthened in Mpumalanga?

- Amount of time allocated to complete the course work needs to be increased.
- Learners need better briefing on the details of the training.
- The selection criteria need to be clarified and adhered to by DSD and TSPs.
- Synergies and links with other services in the province need improving, as well as other programmes and training opportunities in the region.
- Provision of health kits to protect learners from injuries.

Action required in Years 4 and 5

- Learners need to be briefed on the project and the selection criteria.
- TSPs should be more involved in the training with follow-up support.
- Additional resources needed to expand training opportunities.
- DSD needs to develop different costing models and funding options.
- DSD and the TSPs need to develop their relationship to ensure sustainability of project.

Evidence of impact

- Learners were given space to think about themselves and their emotional health.
- The training helped learners (particularly males) to communicate better with family and friends.
- Greatest impact was at community level with improved quality of care.

Cost of training

- The cost to train 30 learners excluding materials, travel, accommodation, venue hire and catering is R134 484. The cost per learner is R4 482.80 (including assessment, moderation and verification costs).
- The cost for TSP staff to attend accredited facilitator/assessor/moderator training is a minimum of R3 000 per trainee (excluding travel, accommodation, venue hire and catering).

What our learners say

I feel like Gugu was showing my own life! Everything she was going through, I am going through.

It was important to take care of our own health and wellbeing before we could provide effective care for others in the community.

The training allowed us to reflect on what it means to be a caregiver and how much we contribute in that role.

This training was an eye opener. This was not just a training, it was life changing!

Contact details of Thogomelo Project Team: Candy Msimang (National coordinator); Sbusiso Malope (Mpumalanga coordinator); Email sbusiso.malope@hda.co.za; Tel: 087 310 5000