

The Thogomelo Project

PROVINCIAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS: FREE STATE

“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

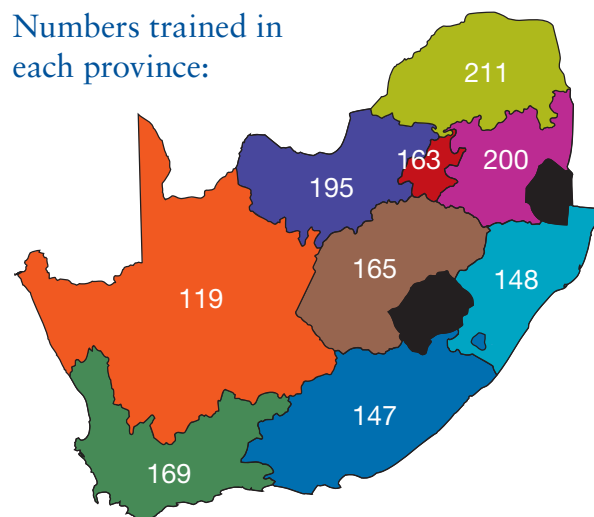


National project achievements to date

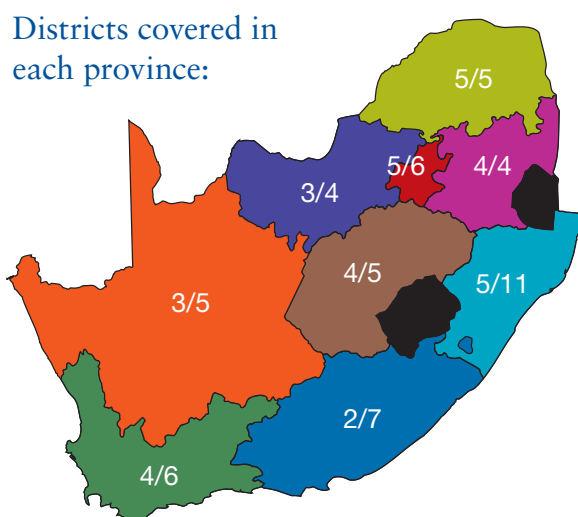
- Development of three curricula registered with the Health and Welfare SETA (see table on previous page).
- Capacity development of 12 provincial training service providers in curriculum content, facilitation methodology and accreditation requirements.
- A total of 1 526 community caregivers and supervisors 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: Free State (Years 1-3)

Development of provincial accreditation capacity in psychosocial support

Training service provider	Facilitators	Assessors	Moderators
NALEDI HOSPICE	2	1	1

Total learners trained in psychosocial support SDP:

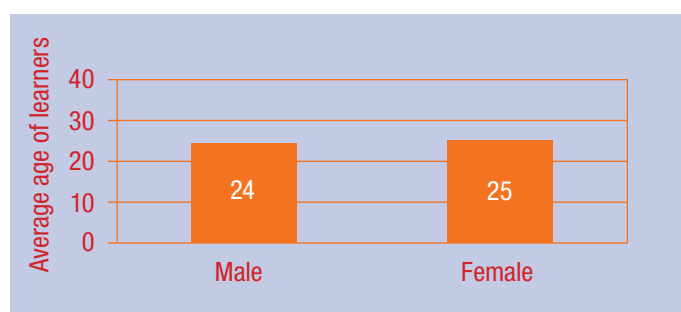
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
55	90	20	165

District reach

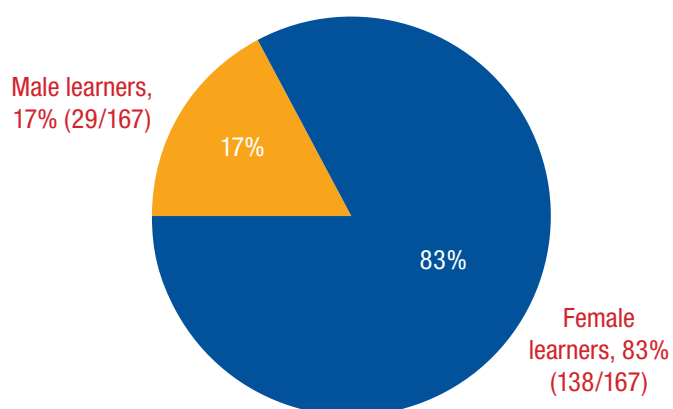
Learners from 4 out of the 5 districts in the Free State have been trained:

Lejweleputswa, Mofutsanyane, Motheo and Qwa Qwa.

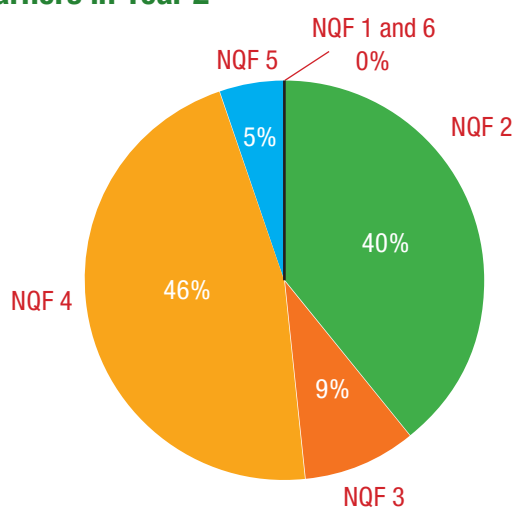
Average age of male and female learners 2010



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 Free State?

- The learners' impact on their organisations, their capability and their confidence increased.
- More information and skills shared with other colleagues and caregivers leading to sustainability of project.
- Facilitators praised for their support, caring and understanding.

What needs to be strengthened in Free State?

- Communication and involvement between the different partners needs improving, especially around learner selection, capacity-building and support.
- DSD and TSPs need to adhere to the selection criteria and follow up with learners about results of the training.
- Learners need more support and better briefing around learner selection.

Action required in Years 4 and 5

- Sharing of information and experiences should be improved.
- Someone from DSD should be dedicated to the programmes.
- The relationship between DSD and the TSP needs to be developed to ensure sustainability during the hand over.
- TSPs need to engage with the tendering process to prepare for the hand over.

Evidence of Impact

- Improved community networks and linkages.
- Learners can identify and refer children at risk to appropriate services.
- Learners more comfortable speaking with community members and children about sensitive issues.
- More trust and respect for learners.

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

The training helped me to communicate meaningfully with my family and friends. I now know how to open up about issues and deal with anger constructively.

This was really an excellent training, a real eye-opening experience.

It transformed and renewed my way of thinking and empowered my wellbeing.

It was not just training, it was life changing!



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