



Annual Report 2013



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Highlights 2013

Ntataise receives a GOLD Impumelelo Award at the prestigious Impumelelo Social Innovations Awards ceremony in December. This award is due acknowledgement of the importance of pre-school education and of Ntataise's leading role in the field.

Ntataise Network organisations provide ECD programmes, training and on-site support to 2 839 pre-schools, 4 464 pre-school practitioners reaching 127 952 pre-school aged children.

A record number of delegates and guests attend the Ntataise Network annual conference. The opening of the conference is featured on SABC 2 "Growing Tomorrow".

Ntataise welcomes Golang Kulani, based in the Limpopo province, to the Ntataise Network.

Ntataise launches its new, exciting and informative website (www.ntataise.org).

Baby and toddler playgroup kits are distributed to 14 ECD NGOs.

Parent run playgroups are established on six farms surrounding Viljoenskroon. Ntataise equips each of these playgroups with educational toys and equipment.

Ntataise equips 65 playrooms in the Free State and North West province with educational toys and equipment.



Trustees



Simon Mokalodise
Chairperson



Anthony Evans
Treasurer



The Queen Mother
Dr Semane B Molotlegi



Maggie Nkwe



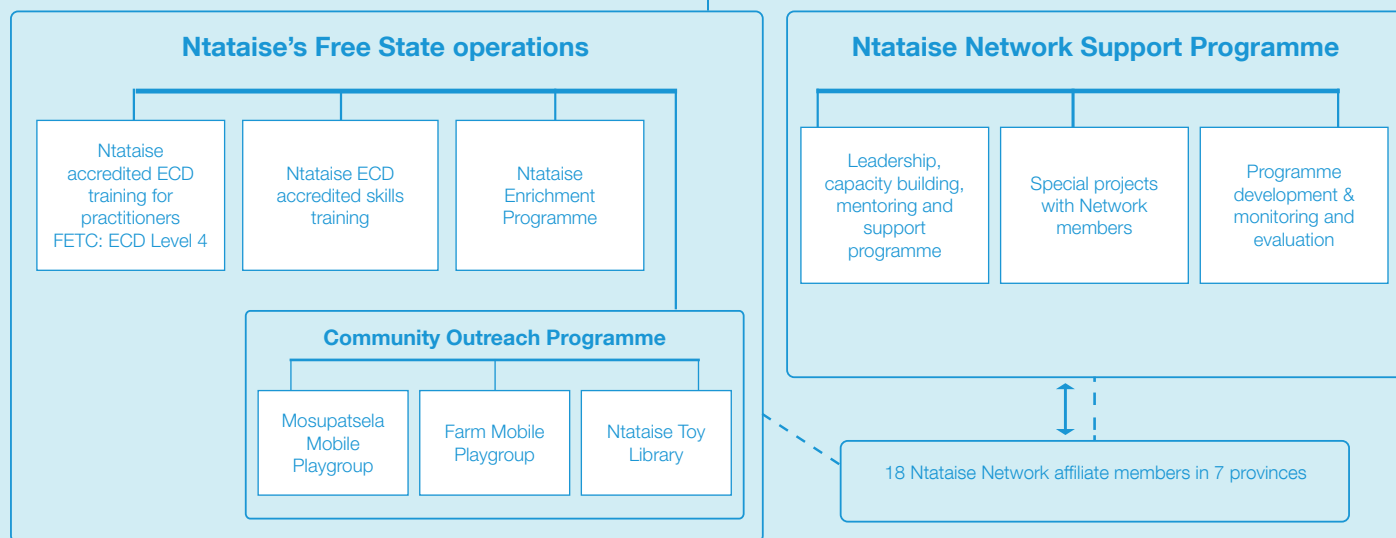
David McCall



Jane Evans

Ntataise at a glance

Ntataise Board of Trustees



Ntataise – 33 years in early childhood development

Ntataise meaning *to lead a young child by the hand* is an independent, not-for-profit organisation founded in South Africa in 1980 to help women in disadvantaged rural communities gain the knowledge and skills needed to establish and sustain Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes. Over the years Ntataise's training and development work has spread from farm worker communities to towns and villages. Today Ntataise's work is divided between its training and development programme in the Free State and its national Network capacity building and support programme.

Ntataise Network

One of Ntataise's greatest success stories is the development and growth of a Network which includes some of South Africa's leading ECD training organisations. This Network has been developed over 20 years and has made its mark in areas where there would otherwise be no ECD provision for young children. Today the Network has become one of the strongest of its kind in the country and its 18 self-sufficient and independent member organisations span seven of South Africa's nine provinces. Ntataise offers the Network accredited training programmes which include learning and resource materials, assessment and moderation systems. Ntataise also runs a comprehensive training programme for Network members. It offers organisational development and capacity building support and mentoring to directors of Network organisations. Above all it provides a forum which allows its members to keep abreast of and influence developments in the national ECD field.

Ntataise's Free State operations

Ntataise's work in the Free State has spread from establishing pre-schools on farms in Viljoenskroon to training and supporting women involved in ECD programmes (both centre and home-based) in an increasing number of towns in the northern Free State and surrounding areas. Ntataise Free State's training and development programmes work directly with pre-schools, practitioners, children, parents and communities with a pivotal focus on the child.

Reach

Through its programmes Ntataise has empowered thousands of women who in turn have reached over 500 000 children in some of South Africa's most disadvantaged areas. These programmes have had a considerable impact on ECD in South Africa and significantly improved the standard and quality of learning programmes offered to young children in disadvantaged communities.



Ntataise 2013 financial report

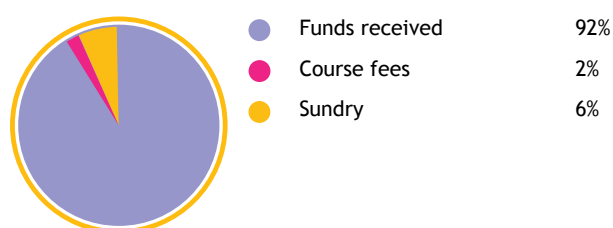
The operations of Ntataise showed growth of 1.3% in total expenditure in 2013, with the Ntataise NPC declining by 14%, while the continuing operations of the Ntataise Trust grew by 7.5% compared with the previous year. The reason for the decline in the activities of the NPC was that contracted funding from the Free State Department of Social Development did not materialise during the year. The major focus of the NPC is formal (Level 4) and skills training, while the Trust concentrates on support programmes for the Network, enrichment programmes for existing pre-schools, and the introduction of training programmes into new areas thus increasing access to pre-school education for children in disadvantaged rural communities.

Expenditure on training and support functions declined by 17%, largely the result of the delayed receipt of funding referred to above, but still constituted 56.6% of total expenditure. Expenditure on special projects declined by 10% due to the successful completion of a number of projects. This category amounted to 28% of total expenditure. Administration expenses were well controlled, and increased by only 3.7%, and amounted to 10.2% of total expenditure. Material development is now carried out in-house rather than being outsourced.

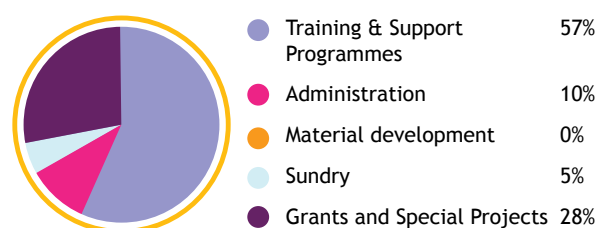
Total income remained at the same level as in 2012. Funds received grew by 7.4%, but this was offset by declines in course fees received and in interest earned.

Total investments and cash declined by 2.1% due to a decline of 17% in funds received in advance. Total assets also showed a small decline of 2.9%, while reserves grew by 3.6%. Investments and cash represent 15 months of actual expenses in 2013. In summary, the accounts indicate that Ntataise's financial position remains sound, and expenses are well controlled.

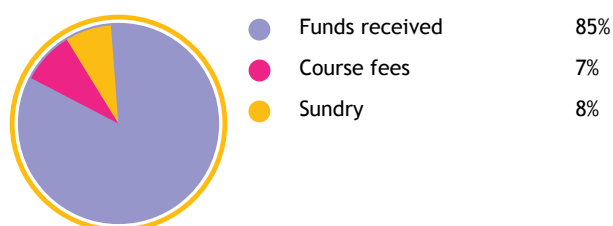
Analysis of Income 2013



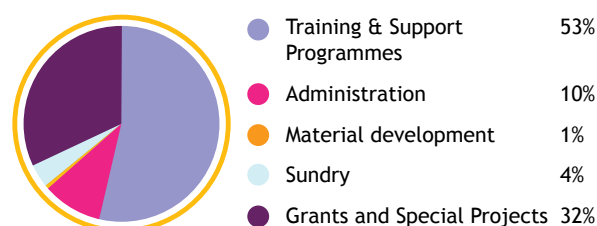
Analysis of Expenditure 2013



Analysis of Income 2012



Analysis of Expenditure 2012



Donor support

Financial support from trusts, foundations, individuals, the South African corporate sector, and the Free State Department of Social Development made it possible for Ntataise to continue its work in 2013. This support is vital to Ntataise's ongoing operations.

Ntataise once again thanks its donors most sincerely for their continued support and for their interest and belief in Ntataise and its work.

In 2013 donations were received from:

Anglo American Chairman's Fund
ApexHi Charitable Trust
De Beers Fund - De Beers Trust
Department of Social Development Free State Province
Ellerines Holdings Trust Fund
FirstRand Foundation
Friends of South African Rural Preschool Development Trust (USA 501(C)3) (raised by the children of PS98M Shorackappock Elementary School)
Ilifa Labantwana
Impala Bafokeng Trust
Investec Bank Limited (through one of its Charitable and Educational Trusts)
Jim Joel Education and Training Fund
Lewis Stores (Pty) Ltd
Mary Slack and Daughters Foundation
National Development Agency (NDA)
New Settlers Foundation
Pearson SA (Impumelelo Gold Award)
The Donaldson Trust
The Hermann Ohlthaver Trust
The RB Hagart Trust
The Robert Niven Trust
UK Fund for Charities
UNICEF (ABSA Award)
Volkswagen of South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Donations from individuals

Antoinette and Basil Hersov
Clifford Gundle
Dr C. Strauss
Gift in memory of Jean Holden "and her love for South Africa"

Jack and Jill Gerber
Julian and Tessa Ogilvie Thompson
Robyn Evans
Virginia Ogilvie Thompson

Donations in kind

AVI Limited
Indigo Cosmetics
LAW Printing (Pty) Ltd
National Brands Ltd.
Nedbank
Outovaria Viljoenskroon
Pan Macmillan (Pty) Ltd (donation of Sesotho copies of "Long Walk to Freedom")
Pick 'n Pay Mini Market Viljoenskroon
Rhys Evans Group Viljoenskroon
Standard Bank, Viljoenskroon



Tsholo Tshepe of De Beers Fund (2nd from left), Stacey Souris of Mary Slack and Daughters Foundation (Centre), Elinor Kern of Anglo American Chairman's Fund with Ntataise staff members.



Ntataise Network Support Programme

Director's Report

Jane Evans, Director Ntataise Network Support Programme

On the eve of twenty years of democracy in South Africa, the improvements we have seen in providing our nation's youngest children with the foundation they will require for lifelong learning, are noteworthy. As of 2010/11, government spending on education as a whole has been the largest single line item in the budget and ECD (Early Childhood Development) has received its share. With the support of government, civil society and donors, we have seen the establishment of community based ECD centres across the country with an ever increasing number of these sites registered with the Department of Social Development and receiving a subsidy. Access to ECD for children who are not able to attend a pre-school has gained significant attention over the past few years. A number of Ntataise Network members, have successfully implemented mobile playgroup programmes, toy libraries, home visiting programmes and parent support programmes. Private-public collaboration between government, civil society and donors has rendered some remarkable developments in ECD. One such example is the joint project between the Department of Social Development, Ilifa Labantwana, Ntataise and ELRU in the North West province which is now in its third year of implementation.

Yet despite these achievements, the need for good quality ECD programmes in disadvantaged communities is as great now as it was 33 years ago when Ntataise was founded. There are currently discussions in the industry examining ways and means of reaching greater numbers of children. One option being considered is the concept of social franchising. Ntataise's focus has always been on the provision of high quality programmes, and any plans for expansion should not result in a lowering of those standards.

At the centre of quality ECD programming are the ECD practitioners, be they pre-school practitioners, playgroup practitioners, family community motivators or toy librarians. Training for ECD practitioners is one of the crucial issues that needs ongoing attention.

With the bulk of government funding for practitioner training going to FET Colleges, much of this training will in future therefore focus on theoretical learning. Experience has shown that theoretical learning does not on its own translate into a quality programme in the playroom and that practitioners need regular on-site support and mentoring. Added to this there are still large numbers of practitioners who do not qualify for or simply cannot access an FET College.

Ntataise's commitment and that of its Network, to the provision of quality ECD training programmes for ECD practitioners as well as the development of appropriate ECD programming of a high standard for young children, has over the years had a profound impact on thousands of children and equipped them with the necessary foundation for lifelong learning. Over the past twenty years, in addition to increased government support, NGOs have continued to be a significant provider of ECD programmes. These organisations hold a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise. It is important that the NGO sector works together with government and that the role of the NGOs should not be overlooked.

Ntataise would once again like to thank its team of Trustees, management, administration, training and housekeeping staff who have contributed to another successful year.

In memoriam

It was Nelson Mandela who said, “My dear young people: I see the light in your eyes, the energy of your bodies, and the hope that is in your spirit. I know it is you, not I, who will make the future. It is you, not I, who will fix our wrongs and carry forward all that is right with the world.” As we at Ntataise mourn Madiba’s passing, we rejoice in the love and compassion he had for this beloved country’s children. Our deepest condolences go to his wife, Graça Machel and his family.

Our thoughts are with Sandi Kay Frank, long-time friend of Ntataise, whose husband Burton Stern died in November 2013. Burton Stern was Chairperson of Friends of South African Rural Pre-school Development in the USA. Our sincere condolences also go to all those in Ntataise and its Network who lost family and friends during the past year.



Ntataise Network support programme staff



Jane Evans
Director



Puleng Motsoeneng
Trainer and moderator



Cecilia Mpongo
Administrator

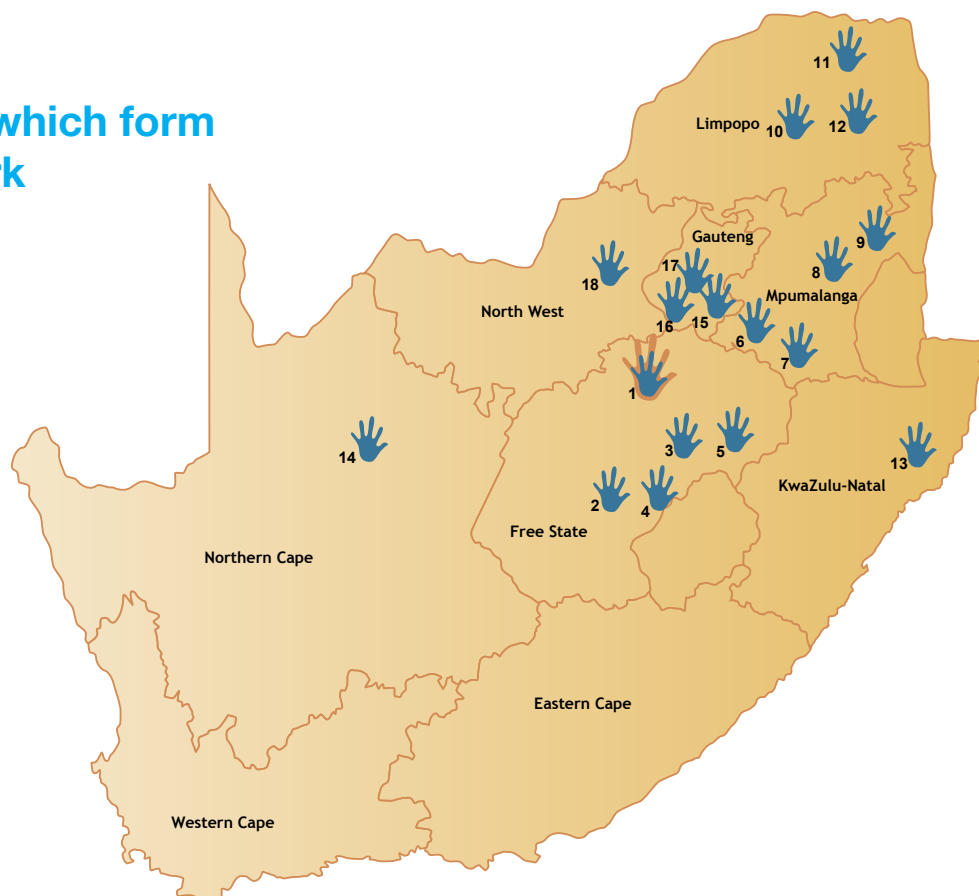


Michelle van der Merwe
Administrator



Amanda Watermeyer
Programme development,
monitoring and evaluation

ECD organisations which form the Ntataise Network



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 
Ntataise Training Centre
(Viljoenskroon) | 
Siyathuthuka Nursery School Project
(Eastern Highveld - Devon, Delmas, Balfour) | 
Ikhulubone Trust
(Stanger, Verulam, Tongaat, Umhlali, Shakaskraal) |
| 
Ntataise
(Bothaville, Kroonstad, Steynsrus, Edenville, Viljoenskroon, Rammulotsi, Welkom, Parys and Vredefort) | 
Masakane Trust
(Greylingstad, Standerton) | 
Custoda Trust
(Ulco, Delpportshoop, Barkley West, De Aar, Kimberley) |
| 
Lesedi Educare Association
(Western, Central, Central-Eastern, South-Western, Southern, South-Eastern Free State, Sterkspruit (Eastern Cape)) | 
Sithuthukile Trust
(Urban and rural areas of Middleburg, Witbank, Hendrina and Roossenekaal) | 
Katlehong Early Learning Resource Unit (KELRU)
(Kathorus area which includes Katlehong, Thokoza, Vosloorus, Daveyton, Tsakane, KwaThemba and Wattville) |
| 
Tshepang Educare Trust
(Harrismith, Lindley, Fouriesburg, Petrus Steyn, Senekal, Arlington, Clarens, Warden, Frankfort, Tweeling, Reitz, Villiers, Memel, Cornelia and Vrede) | 
Ntataise Lowveld
(Nelspruit, Komatipoort, Kanyamazane) | 
Greater Soweto Association for Early Childhood Development
(Gauteng, Soweto and its informal settlements) |
| 
Realeboga-Bakubung Training & Development Agency
(Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo, Ladybrand) | 
Thušanang Trust
(Haenertsburg, Duiwelskloof, Segwase, Makgeng) | 
Baobab Early Learning Training Programme
(Soweto, Alexandra, Germiston and Central Johannesburg) |
| 
Ntsoanatsatsi Educare Trust
(Maluti-a-Phofung Municipality which covers QwaQwa, Kestel and Harrismith) | 
Khanimamba Training & Resource Centre
(Mopani District, Greater Giyani Municipality) | 
Keletsong Community Training and Resource Centre
(North West Province) |
| | 
Golang Kulani Early Learning Centre
(Tzaneen and operating within the Mopani District Municipality) | |

ORGANISATION	Number of practitioners reached in 2013	Number of pre-schools reached in 2013	No. of children reached for 2013 in both centre and non-centre based programmes
FREE STATE			
Lesedi	233	169	9 525
Ntataise	337	173	10 944
Ntsoanatsatsi	534	117	9 400
Realeboga-Bakubung	138	75	2 891
Tshepang	169	127	6 742
GAUTENG			
Greater Soweto	31	25	1 075
KELRU	469	101	3 215
BAOBAB	145	120	4 350
KWAZULU NATAL			
Ikhulubone Trust	120	120	1 256
MPUMALANGA			
Masakane	118	98	5 800
Ntataise Lowveld	276	205	7 850
Sithuthukile	146	130	7 892
Siyathuthuka	243	138	7 198
NORTHERN CAPE			
Custoda	521	519	14 211
NORTH WEST			
Keletsong	32	30	1 795
LIMPOPO			
Khanimamba	445	356	24 814
Thusanang	292	196	7 300
Golang Kulani	215	140	1 694
TOTAL	4 464	2 839	127 952

Training Programmes 2013

Ntataise's training programmes include courses, assessment systems, training materials and learning and teaching aids for ECD practitioners and children. These are constantly being updated to meet the ECD and other needs of the communities in which it works.

Training programmes, courses and materials developed and offered by Ntataise include:

Ntataise accredited training programmes

- Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC): ECD at Level 4 on the National Qualification Framework (NQF)
- Skills programmes which contribute credits towards a General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) qualification:
 - Care for babies, toddlers and young children
 - Demonstrate basic understanding of child development
 - Prepare an environment for babies, toddlers and young children
 - Interact with babies, toddlers and young children
 - Maintain records and give reports about babies, toddlers and young children

Ntataise development programmes

- Pre-school Orientation Programme
- Pre-school Introductory Programme (PIP)
- Making Resources
- Committee Training Programme
- Basic Financial Management Training Programme
- Enrichment Programme - improving learning in the playroom
- Ha Re Baleng Let's Read - early literacy programme
- Mosupatsela Playgroup Programme

Ntataise resource and learner materials

- 14 theme-based daily pre-school activity books
- 21 children's story books in English, South Sotho and Zulu
- Financial management package including guide, workbook and DVD
- 10 ECD training DVDs in Afrikaans, English, South Sotho, Xhosa and Zulu.

Training Programme	Number of Network organisations which used the programme in 2013	Total number of participants
Pre-school Orientation Programme	4	222
Pre-school Introductory Programme (PIP), Level 1	2	80
Further Education Training Certificate Early Childhood Development, Level 4	8	400
Making Resources	4	117
Management training programme	1	25
Ntataise Enrichment Programme	6	276
Ha Re Baleng Let's Read - early literacy programme	7	647
Skills programmes	7	447

Ntataise Network Support Programme activities 2013

Organisational development and capacity building

This training and support provided to Network directors, trainers and staff in 2013, included:

- Human Resource workshops presented by Ronel Burger of Regenesys.
- Monitoring and evaluation workshops for Network directors and senior staff were presented by Linda Biersteker of ELRU.
- A budgeting workshop was held with Network directors and administrative staff, facilitated by Sarah McGuigan of Ntataise and concentrated on effective budgeting essential for organisational planning and control.
- One-on-one sessions were held with Network organisations' leadership and provided practical hands-on support focused on fundraising and budgeting.
- Training of Network trainers focused on up-grading trainers' teaching skills. A short course for Ntataise Network trainers on how to teach adults was presented by Ursula Segers and Rafeekah Patel of ELRU.
- Ntataise Network members attended an Ntataise programme orientation workshop presented by Ntataise's Amanda Watermeyer.
- Ntataise Network directors were kept abreast of important developments in the ECD sector through quarterly director's meetings. These meetings addressed critical sector trends and organisational development.



Ronel Burger (front row far right) with Ntataise Network directors and administration staff.



Ntataise Network directors and trainers with Linda Biersteker (far right standing).

Ha Re Baleng – Let's Read early literacy programme

This innovative project to improve early literacy levels of young children was extended to babies and toddlers between the ages of 0 and 2 years.

Thirteen Network organisations participated in the project. Each organisation received Baby and Toddler literacy kits. These kits consisted of specially selected books, toys, puzzles, puppets and musical instruments appropriate for babies and toddlers between

the ages of 0 and 2 years. The kits also contained a carry bag that enables community development practitioners and Enrichment Programme trainers to easily carry the resources they need when doing home or site visits.

Three comprehensive workshops were held for Network Enrichment trainers and community development practitioners with a focus on planning, organising and implementing integrated literacy programmes aimed at babies and toddlers using the arts as a vehicle for stimulation and development. These workshops were conducted by the Curriculum Development Project and the University of Pretoria with which Ntataise has worked for many years.



Baby and toddler early literacy workshops conducted by the Curriculum Development Project.

Support to ECD in the North West

The ground breaking public-private partnership between the North West Department of Social Development (DSD), Ilifa Labantwana, Ntataise and ELRU in the Kagisano- Molopo and Ganyesa municipalities of the North West province completed its third year of implementation.

In addition to practitioners, ECD training was extended to DSD social workers and auxiliary social workers in 2013. Ntataise worked with social workers and demonstrated how to support and monitor ECD sites. This collaborative work has enabled many ECD sites to be registered and/or receive a DSD subsidy, as well as assisted DSD to meet their targets and improve the quality of ECD services in the North West province.

In 2013, plans were developed to extend the project to further marginalised areas of the North West province.

Ntataise Network Conference

A record number of delegates attended the Ntataise 2013 Network Conference held at the Roodevallei Conference Centre in Pretoria. Amongst the 150 delegates were guests from the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Social Development, UNICEF and ECD funders. The Conference is an opportunity for members of the Ntataise Network along with funders and government to concentrate on development in the broader South African ECD field and to ensure each Network member's relevance in the field.

In her key note address, Marie-Louise Samuels, Director of Early Childhood Development, Department of Basic Education, emphasised that the future of ECD lies in combined and inclusive programmes, working together with government and business that cover the full range of the needs of children from conception to school age. "None of us can do it alone ... We have to look at mechanisms that allow us to work together," she said.

David Harrison, CEO of the DG Murray Trust, in his presentation on the concept of social franchising, highlighted the need for ECD NGOs to embrace a common vision and work together to provide a full range of age-differentiated services in an essential package for young children. "We have to find a way to understand good community practice, high quality services and find a way to incrementally expand the gamut of services that are provided. At the same time we have to develop models of large scale delivery through mechanism such as a franchise; some sort of solid brand with a high consistency of services."

Dr Juliana Seleti of UNICEF reiterated the idea of partnership to create a more comprehensive and valuable approach, saying "The value of partnership lies in combining complementary strengths of two or more parties, so as to achieve greater impact and synergy than when operating separately." Ms Shona Young of Trialogue, also noted in her address "CSI funding and the current funding situation" that "national projects receive the lion's share of CSI funding."

"Thank you so much for the wonderful conference. It is always so well organised and planned. The speakers were informative and interesting and left us with lots to think about." Terry Morgan, Thušanang



From left Marie-Louise Samuels, Jane Evans, Linda Biersteker and Dr Juliana Seleti.



From left Dr Nkidi Phatudi and Gloria Ledwaba from the University of Pretoria, Louise Erasmus Department of Social Development.



Ntataise Free State operations

Director's Report

Puleng Motsoeneng, Director Ntataise Free State operations

One of the most effective ways of improving the quality of education available to our children, is to improve adults understanding of the importance of a child's development in his/her early years. Over the past year parent involvement in various of the Ntataise programmes improved significantly.

For the past two years, in partnership with the Free State Department of Social Development, Ntataise piloted a mobile playgroup programme targeting pre-school children on farms who did not have access to ECD. A modified truck equipped with educational equipment and run by two experienced ECD practitioners held a weekly playgroup with children and their mothers on six farms in the Viljoenskroon district. In 2013 these women took it upon themselves to turn the weekly playgroup sessions into daily ECD programmes which they ran in a voluntary capacity. Ntataise provided educational toys and equipment and extra workshops for the women involved.

Parent participation in the Ntataise Mosupatsela playgroup programme also increased in 2013, as did parents attendance at the Ntataise Toy Library. This was as a result of Ntataise's intensified input with parents and a desire on the part of those parents who could not afford to send their children to a pre-school to become involved in their early development.

Practitioner training continued to be a priority and 95% of practitioners who enrolled in the Ntataise FETC:ECD level 4 programme in 2012, completed the programme in 2013, a significant achievement.

The ongoing training of Ntataise staff is paramount to ensuring that we continue to deliver quality programmes to those we work with. Ntataise training and administration staff participated in training programmes offered by the Ntataise Network Support Programme. Nthakoana Maseola and Sandra Mokwena completed their Diploma in ECD NQF Level 5. Aletta Matshediso graduated her National Professional Diploma in Education NQF Level 5.

In conclusion, special thanks must go to all Ntataise funders, without whose support we would not be able to achieve our objective of providing quality ECD programmes to the most vulnerable children in our communities.

Ntataise Free State staff



Puleng Motsoeneng
Director Ntataise Free State,
assessor and moderator



Bonny Ntsoeleng
Community Outreach Programme
co-ordinator and facilitator



Nthakoana Maseola
Ntataise administrator and
facilitator



Emily Rammile
Administration



Aletta Matshediso
Ntataise Toy Library facilitator,
assessor and moderator



Sarah McGuigan
Fundraising and reporting



Elizabeth Monyeke
Training co-ordinator, facilitator,
assessor and moderator



Tibi Sebogudi
Facilitator, assessor and
moderator



Maria Moleme
Enrichment Programme
co-ordinator, facilitator and assessor



Sandra Mokwena
Enrichment Programme
facilitator and assessor



Margie Norval
Financial management



Amanda Watermeyer
Programme development
and support



Martha Moloke
Facilitator and assessor



Dikeledi Tsuela
Mosupatsela Come and Play
facilitator



Martha Molungoa
Mosupatsela Come and Play
facilitator



Cecilia Mpongo
Administration



Ellen Mokitlane
Mobile unit facilitator



Melita Khumalo
Mobile unit facilitator



Ntjomangana Ntje
Driver



Florinah Tonyane
Housekeeping



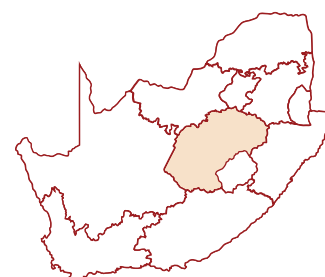
Emmah Guza
Housekeeping



Margaret Sothoane
Housekeeping

Ntataise Free State areas of operation

Area	Practitioners	ECD Sites	Number of Children
Allanridge	3	2	110
Bothaville	30	8	1 092
Bultfontein	1	1	42
Edenville	10	6	356
Hennenman	6	4	238
Kroonstad	50	22	2 391
Odendaalsrus	18	9	631
Parys	33	14	1 078
Rammulotsi	35	14	1 194
Rammulotsi playground	2	4	93
Steynsrus	19	5	375
Vredefort	21	7	485
Viljoenskroon farm playground	2	6	101
Welkom	56	20	1 613
North West	51	51	1145
Total	337	173	10 944



Ntataise Free State Programmes

Training Activity	Number of courses/ workshops	Number of participants	Number of pre-schools/ ECD sites	Number of children impacted
ECD core unit standards: Level 4				
Core unit standards: Module 1	10	30	27	980
Core unit standards: Module 2	10	30	27	980
Elective unit standards				
Manage ECD Service	5	30	27	980
Conduct a structured meeting	5	30	27	980
HIV/Aids	5	30	27	980
Anxiety and Trauma	3	30	27	980
Fundamental training: Level 4				
Language and communication	30	73	67	2 485
Mathematical Literacy	35	68	63	2 380
Skills programmes				
5 skills programmes - Free State	25	20	13	700
3 skills programmes - North West	15	26	26	910
Development Programmes				
Mosupatsela Playgroup Programme	78	148	4	93
Farm Playgroup Programme	121	183	6	101
Toy Library	320	360	1	360
Enrichment Programme				
Workshops - Free State	10	34	27	1 190
Workshops - North West	7	25	25	875
Special Projects				
Babies & Toddlers Programme	4	78	64	1 560
START Special Needs Training	10	50	50	1 500

Formal training programmes

Seventy-one ECD practitioners completed the Ntataise FETC:ECD Level 4 programme at the end of 2013. In 2013 a further 30 pre-school practitioners from Bothaville, Kroonstad, Viljoenskroon, Vredefort and Parys started the programme.

The Ntataise Skills programme was specifically developed for practitioners who do not qualify for Level 4 training and carries credits towards a General Education and Training Certificate (GETC). In 2013, practitioners from pre-schools in Kroonstad and Steynsrus enrolled on the programme. They participated in six five-day workshops which focused on the cognitive and physical development needs of young children including health and nutrition.

Special training programmes included workshops for 78 practitioners working predominantly with babies and toddlers from pre-schools in Kroonstad, Odendaalsrus, Bothaville and Viljoenskroon. These workshops focused on developing practitioners' skills in caring for children in the 0 - 2 year age group. Ntataise also held a five-day Special Needs workshop for 50 practitioners from pre-schools in Kroonstad and Viljoenskroon. The objective of this workshop was to build the capacity and knowledge of practitioners to identify and support children with learning barriers.

Development programme

Improving learning in the playroom – Ntataise Enrichment Programme

The Ntataise Enrichment Programme is a vitally important mentoring and support programme which assists pre-school teachers who have completed level 4 training in implementing what they have learned and improving the learning environment for children in the playroom. Fourteen ECD practitioners participated in the Ntataise Enrichment Programme in 2013. Activities included workshops for practitioners coupled with on-site demonstration visits to pre-schools by an experienced Ntataise trainer. The outcome of this programme has been a considerable improvement in the daily programmes, activities and playroom layout at pre-schools. Children are more interactive and enjoy being at school and participating in activities that stretch their mental, physical and emotional development.



An Ntataise enrichment trainer at an on-site demonstration visit to a pre-school.



Practitioners at an Ntataise Enrichment workshop.

Community Outreach Programme

Two mobile playgroups and the Ntataise Toy Library make up the Ntataise Free State's community outreach programme. The objective of this programme is to increase access to play and learning opportunities for pre-school aged children not in a pre-school or home based ECD programme.

Ntataise mobile playgroup programme

Ntataise's two mobile playgroups include one reaching farm workers children on farms surrounding Viljoenskroon and another that operates in the township of Rammulotsi. In 2013, 93 pre-school aged children together with 55 of their parents/caregivers attended the Mosupatsela playgroup in Rammulotsi and 101 children with 82 parents/caregivers attended the farm mobile unit. A highlight of the programme was the increased enrolment and improved attendance of children as well as their parent / caregiver. Child attendance (up 58.5% on 2012 attendance figures) was consistent and regular and children continued to attend when parents were absent. Parent attendance was also significantly improved with a 46% increase in regular parent attendance in comparison to 2012. ECD facilitators also reported that parents were active in assisting to set-up the play area and during sessions openly discussed child development issues they were experiencing.



A Mosupatsela playgroup.



Children and parents at a playgroup session at a farm.

In particular this increased parent attendance has had a significant outcome for the farm mobile playgroup programme. Parents asked Ntataise to assist them to extend the programme and run it themselves. Six parents, one from each farm volunteered to run the playgroups. Ntataise ran a week long workshop for these volunteers and provided each with a kit of appropriate educational toys and equipment needed for a playgroup programme. In 2014, each of these volunteers will run a daily playgroup programme for the children and their parents on each farm. In 2014 the Ntataise farm mobile playgroup programme will be extended to a further 5 farms in the area of Viljoenskroon.

Ntataise Toy Library

In 2013 some 360 children registered with the Ntataise Toy Library. These children ranged in age from 2 to 12 years and included children who did not attend an ECD programme; children from the Mosupatsela playgroup; children attending pre-schools in Rammulotsi as well as primary school children living in Rammulotsi.

A new feature of the programme in 2013 were regular visits by 6 pre-schools in Rammulotsi. These pre-schools have limited educational toys and equipment and these sessions provided children with the opportunity to play with the age-appropriate toys, games, puzzles and art material available at the toy library.



Children at play in the Ntataise Toy Library.

Parent support workshops

In 2013 Ntataise introduced and held quarterly support workshops for parents of the children who attend the Mosupatsela playgroup programme and the Ntataise Toy Library. Workshop topics included child development; child nutrition; “Me and my child’s needs”; and how to identify signs of child abuse and where to find support systems. These workshops were well attended with an average of 40 parents attending each workshop.

Notes





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