



 **NTATAISE**
To lead a young child by the hand

Annual Report 2014



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Ntataise – 34 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 with the objective of helping women in disadvantaged rural communities gain the knowledge and skills needed to establish and sustain effective Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes for children in their care. In its early days Ntataise worked exclusively on farms. Over the past thirty years Ntataise’s training and development work has spread from farm worker communities to towns and villages across South Africa. 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 as well as a number of grassroots NGOs operating in deep rural areas. 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 Ntataise Network trainers. 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 and influence developments in the national ECD field.

Ntataise Free State

Ntataise’s work in the Free State and North West focuses on providing training and support in an effort to ensure good quality ECD programming for children which is of a high standard and will equip children for formal schooling. These programmes include an accredited training programme for pre-school practitioners (teachers); a support programme for pre-schools, practitioners and supervisors to maintain standards and improve the quality of learning in the playroom, and an outreach programme to increase access to quality ECD programmes for children not in a pre-school. This outreach programme includes: playgroups on farms surrounding Viljoenskroon; playgroups in the Rammulotsi township and at a day clinic, as well as a toy library based at the Ntataise training centre in Rammulotsi.



Trustees



Simon Mokalodise
Chairperson

Principal of Secondary School, Viljoenskroon



Anthony Evans
Treasurer

Farmer and business man



The Queen Mother Dr Semane B Molotlegi

Community affairs executive of the Royal Bafokeng Administration



Maggie Nkwe

Community leader and heavily involved in community development



David McCall

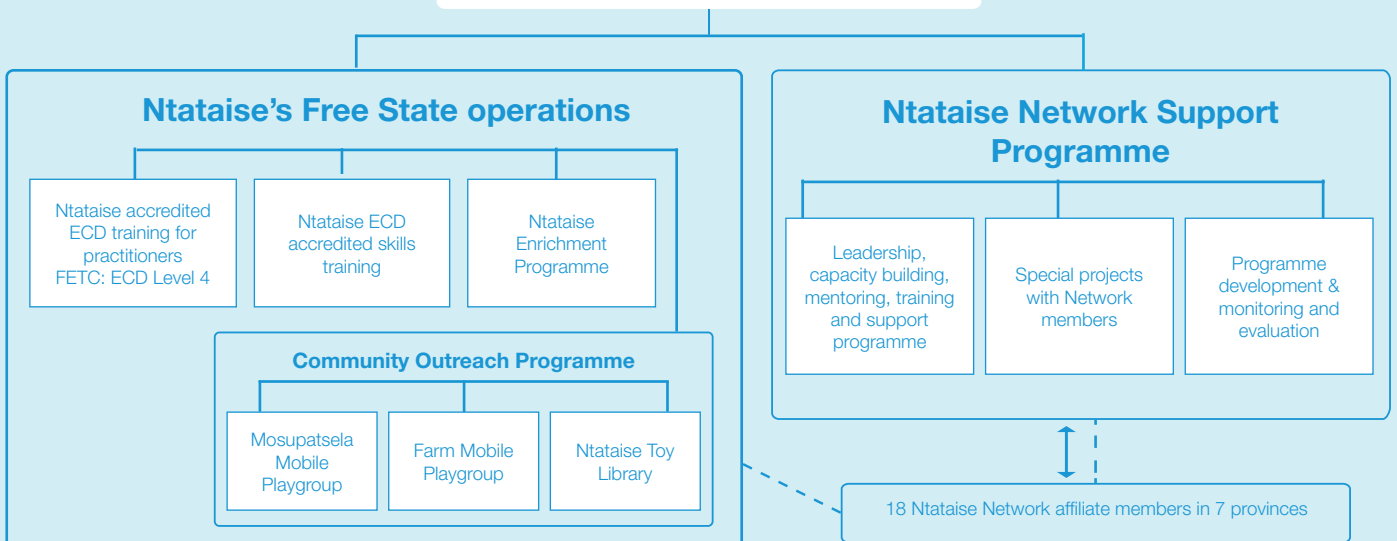
Johannesburg business man and farm owner



Jane Evans

Founder Ntataise and Director Ntataise Network Support Programme

Ntataise Board of Trustees



Ntataise 2014 financial report

The operations of Ntataise are carried out by two legal entities: the Ntataise Trust concentrates on support programmes for the Ntataise 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; and the Ntataise NPC, a Section 21 company, focuses on formal (Level 4) and skills training. In addition, special projects are undertaken to meet identified needs which fall outside those core functions, and may be implemented in partnership with other organisations or with funders. All special projects have a defined period in which to be completed.

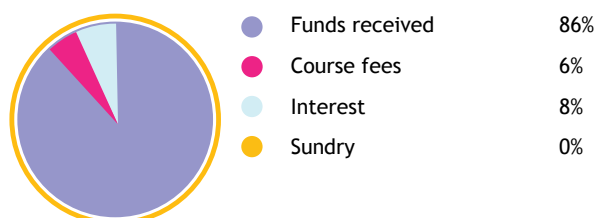
In 2014, total expenditure on core operations, excluding special projects, grew by 7.3%, and total income by 9%. The NPC grew by 14%, while the Ntataise Trust increased expenditure by 5%. Expenditure on training and support functions increased by 17%, and amounted to 66.8% of total expenditure. Administration expenses continue to be well controlled, and increased by only 2.6%, and amounted to 11.5% of total expenditure.

By contrast, expenditure on special projects declined by almost 50%, as a number of those initiated in previous years reached completion, and amounted to 15.5% of total expenditure compared with 28% the previous year. As a result, there was a decline in total expenditure of 8.6%, with Ntataise NPC declining by 4%, and the operations of the Ntataise Trust declining by 10% compared with the previous year. Total income declined by 6.7% due to the decline in funding for special projects. Excluding special projects, income increased by 9%. Funds received grew by 3.9%, and there were satisfactory increases in course fees and in interest earned.

Total investments and cash grew by 39% due to a more than doubling of the funds received in advance. Total assets also showed a big increase of 38%, while reserves grew by 4.7%. Investments and cash represent 23 months of actual expenses in 2014, and net of funds received in advance, amount to 13 months of current expenditure compared with 11 months the year before.

In summary, the accounts indicate that Ntataise's financial position remains sound, and expenses are well controlled. While expenditure on special projects shows big variations from year to year, core operations continue to grow and are well supported by funders. The improvement in funds received in advance together with the growth in reserves has further strengthened Ntataise's financial stability.

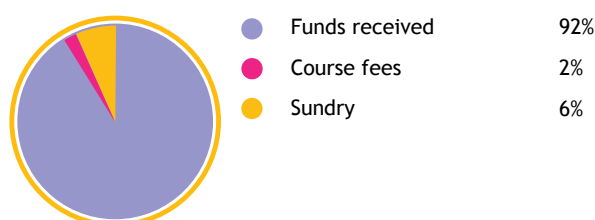
Analysis of Income 2014



Analysis of Expenditure 2014



Analysis of Income 2013



Analysis of Expenditure 2013



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 2014. 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 2014 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
DG Murray Trust
Ellerines Holdings Trust Fund
FirstRand Foundation
HCI Foundation
Ilifa Labantwana
Investec Bank Limited (through one of its Charitable and Educational Trusts)
Jim Joel Education and Training Fund
Mary Slack and Daughters Foundation
National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF)
New Settlers Foundation
Oppenheimer Memorial Trust
The Hermann Ohlthaver Trust
The Zoë Carss Education Trust
UK Fund for Charities

Donations from individuals:

Andrew Evans
Antoinette & Basil Hersov
Brigit Brammer
Gift in memory of Jean Holden "and her love for South Africa"
Julian and Tessa Ogilvie Thompson
Virginia Ogilvie Thompson

Donations in kind:

AVI Limited
Indigo Cosmetics
LAW Printing (Pty) Ltd
National Brands Ltd.
Nedbank
Olive SA & The Custoda Trust
Outovaria Viljoenskroon
Pan Macmillan (Pty) Ltd
Refract Marketing (Pty) Ltd
Rhys Evans Group Viljoenskroon
Ronnie Trieloff
Standard Bank, Viljoenskroon



Puleng Motsoeneng (left) with Tsholofelo Tshepe, CSI Practitioner, De Beers Fund, Tshikululu Social Investments



From left: Puleng Motsoeneng, Johanna Letsholo (Free State Department of Social Development) and Bonny Ntsoeleng of Ntataise

Ntataise Network Support Programme

Director's Report

Jane Evans, Director Ntataise Network Support Programme

Human resourcing has been identified in the Draft Early Childhood Development (ECD) Policy, as a critical area needing urgent attention. In order to scale-up quality ECD provision to reach every child, as expressed in the National Development Plan, hundreds of ECD practitioners / teachers need to be trained at various levels.

To date, much of the training for ECD practitioners has been provided by NGOs such as Ntataise and its Network members. Ntataise has written and developed training programmes which have been designed to meet the needs of practitioners who have a limited education, often a poor knowledge of early childhood development, and in most cases are already working in community and home-based pre-school facilities. This training is facilitated by skilled and experienced ECD trainers many of whom have been in the field for decades.

Until now, this accredited training provided by NGOs such as Ntataise has been funded to a degree by government. Going forward however, government funding for formal accredited training will be channelled to public training colleges (now known as Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges / TVETs). Many of these colleges do not, at present, have accredited or appropriate ECD programmes and will not provide the necessary on-site support.

Although this provides an opportunity for NGOs to work with these colleges, particularly in offering the vitally needed on-site support and mentoring, there are many ECD practitioners working in rural pre-schools who require skills and support but will not be in a position to access a TVET. Training and on-site follow up support are essential services that NGOs have been providing for decades, significantly improving the standard of learning in the thousands of ECD Centres in disadvantaged, marginalised and often rural communities.

In terms of corporate and foundation donor funding, there has been a significant shift towards non-centre based ECD activities such as playgroups, toy libraries and mobile playgroup/toy units, steering away from accredited or formal qualification training. Whilst this is to be welcomed as an addition to the community centred provision, it leaves a worrying gap at centre-based programmes, particularly since it is stated in the national development plan that every child should spend a minimum of two years in a centre-based early childhood development programme. Practitioners working in centres continue to need high quality training and on-going support in order to equip children with the necessary foundations for lifelong learning. It is our hope that funders will reconsider their support of vitally needed training.

Ntataise's Network activities this past year have been in line with developments in the broader early childhood development field and have included systems management workshops, community worker qualifications for trainers and programmes to improve trainers' and practitioners' numeracy skills. A number of Network trainers will sit the IEB Mathematics Foundational learning competence exam in 2016.

In memoriam

It was with great sadness that Ntataise bid farewell to one of its founding members. Rebecca Sothoane, who died in August 2014, was one of Ntataise's first farm nursery school teachers and subsequently became one of its principal trainers. Thousands of women working in rural and farm pre-schools benefited from her wisdom and experience over the 25 years she worked with Ntataise.

Ntataise Network Support Programme Staff



Jane Evans
Director



Puleng Lydia Motsoeneng
Trainer and moderator



Cecilia Mpongo
Administration



Michelle van der Merwe
Administrator



Amanda Watermeyer
Programme development,
monitoring and
evaluation



Ntataise Network trainers and staff who participated in the Community Development training programme run by Modupi Mazibuko (back row)

“The opportunity of meeting and interacting with other organisations is a huge benefit to us. The Ntataise material is very good and will really make a difference to the organisation, (sustain the organisation) as we get contracts to train. The practitioners are also excited about the skills programme. The management systems training will lead up to professionalism and assist us in closing the gaps. I am very proud to be part of the Ntataise Network.” **Margaret Letsoalo, Director Golung Kulani Early Learning Centre, Limpopo**

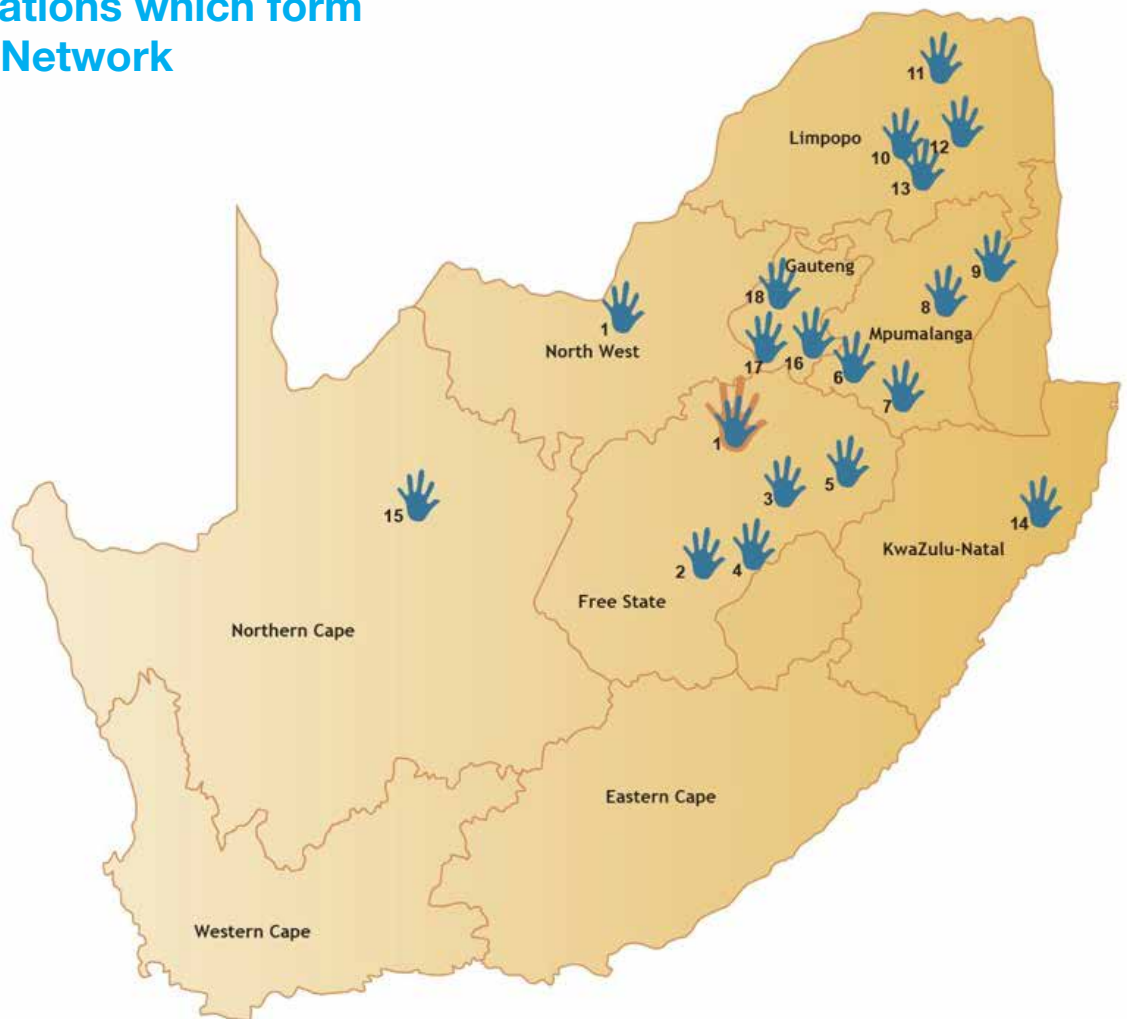
“Being part of the Network provides us a positive acknowledgement and recognition to the external world. It exposes us to current trends in ECD and partnerships in organisational development and capacity building activities.” **Sophie Masilela, Director Sithuthukile Trust, Mpumalanga**





















René King (5th from right, standing) with Ntataise Network directors and staff who participated in the the Sytems Management training

“Since we have been part of the Network, we have been updated with new ECD updates, policies, materials and issues of the curriculum. The training of trainers and directors has motivated us and boosted staff morale. The Ntataise Network Support Programme also raises funds in order to train the members on new updates that is of great value.” **Mapule Mabandla, Director Ntataise Lowveld, Mpumalanga**

ECD organisations which form the Ntataise Network



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Ntataise Training Centre
(Viljoenskroon) |  Siyathuthuka Nursery School Project
(Eastern Highveld - Devon, Delmas, Balfour) |  Thukakgaladi
(Mankwange area. Polokwane municipality, Capricorn district) |
|  Ntataise
(Bothaville, Kroonstad, Steynsrus, Edenville, Rammulotsi, Welkom, Parys, Vredefort, Ratlou & Kagisano-Molopo municipalities in the North West province) |  Masakane Trust
(Greylingstad, Standerton) |  Ikhulubone Trust
(Stanger, Verulam, Tongaat, Umhlali, Shakaskraal) |
|  Lesedi Educare Association
(Western, Central, Southern, South-Eastern Free State, Sterkspruit (Eastern Cape)) |  Sithuthukile Trust
(Urban and rural areas of Middleburg, Witbank, Hendrina and Roosenekaal) |  Custoda Trust
(Ulco, Delpportshoop, Barkley West, De Aar, Kimberley) |
|  Tshepang Educare Trust
(Harrismith, Lindley, Fouriesburg, Petrus Steyn, Senekal, Clarens, Warden, Frankfort, Tweeling, Reitz, Villiers, Memel, Cornelia and Vrede) |  Ntataise Lowveld NPC
(Nelspruit, Komatipoort, Kanyamazane) |  KELRU
(Kathorus area which includes Katilehong, Thokoza, Vosloorus, Daveyton, Tsakane, KwaThemba and Wattville) |
|  Realeboga-Bakubung Training & Development Agency
(Thaba Nchu, Botshabelo, Ladybrand) |  Thusānang Trust
(Capricorn, Mopani and Vhembe Districts of Limpopo) |  Greater Soweto Association for Early Childhood Development
(Gauteng, Soweto and its informal settlements) |
|  Ntsoanatsatsi Educare Trust
(Maluti-a-Phofung Municipality which covers QwaQwa, Kestel and Harrismith) |  Golang Kulani Early Learning Centre
(Tzaneen and operating within the Mopani District Municipality) |  Baobab Early Learning Training Programme
(Soweto, Alexandra, Germiston and Central Johannesburg) |

ORGANISATION	Number of practitioners reached in 2014	Number of pre-schools reached in 2014	No. of children reached for 2014
FREE STATE			
Lesedi	259	195	10 013
Ntataise Free State	489	189	12 396
Ntsoanatsatsi	182	88	10 020
Tshepang	169	127	6 742
RLB	76	36	918
GAUTENG			
Greater Soweto	31	25	1 075
KELRU	333	93	3 215
Baobab	95	80	3 200
KWAZULU NATAL			
Ikhulubone Trust	98	98	2 455
MPUMALANGA			
Masakane	150	101	8 230
Ntataise Lowveld	180	147	7 592
Sithuthukile	213	150	6 628
Siyathuthuka	243	138	7 198
NORTHERN CAPE			
Custoda	539	524	15 920
LIMPOPO			
Khanimamba	293	203	10 470
Thusanang	294	221	7 350
Golang Kulani	215	140	1 694
Thukakgaladi	310	200	6 200
TOTAL	4 169	2 755	122 234

Training Programmes 2014

Ntataise's training programmes include courses, assessment systems, training materials and learning and teaching aids for ECD practitioners and children. These are constantly 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 2014	Total number of participants
Pre-school Orientation Programme	2	171
Pre-school Introductory Programme (PIP), Level 1	3	102
Further Education Training Certificate in Early Childhood Development, Level 4	10	492
Ntataise Enrichment Programme	4	107
Ha re Baleng Let's Read - early literacy programme	1	10
Making Resources	1	15
Babies and Toddler Programme	2	53
Management training programme	2	35
Skills programmes	6	301



Ntataise Network Support Programme activities 2014

Organisational development and capacity building

Training and support provided to Network directors, trainers and staff in 2014 included:

- A [Systems Management training course](#) for 28 Network directors and management staff. The objective of this training course was to build the capacity of Network member organisations in the effective use of management systems designed to strengthen organisational efficiency, enhance staff job performance and morale and improve organisational sustainability. The training course, facilitated by René King of Khululeka, consisted of three workshop sessions each of 3 to 4 days over a four month period. The theoretical components of the course were interspersed with hands-on experiential learning where participants were required to implement learning at organisational level and then reflect on and review the practical application. A noteworthy output of the training course was the high level of engagement and commitment of all participants.
- A [Community Development training programme](#) for 21 Ntataise Network trainers. This accredited programme has extended the capacity of women working with ECD NGOs, in developing community development programmes in an effort to extend access to early childhood development opportunities for a greater number of children from poor, disadvantaged communities. The programme was a 6-week accredited training course presented by Lesedi Educare Association, a member organisation of the Ntataise Network. Activities included six one-week training workshops once a month followed by assessment of participants and monitoring and evaluation of the project.
- A project to [Strengthen knowledge of Early Numeracy in ECD NGOs](#). The project started in June 2014 and will continue to April 2016, working with 28 Ntataise Network trainers to develop a deeper understanding of mathematics and the specialisation of these trainers in training ECD practitioners to improve knowledge and implementation of early numeracy activities for children in playrooms. The training programme consists of four one-week training workshops with the objective for participants to write the IEB level 4 mathematics exam. The training course has been developed and written by Amanda Watermeyer, Ntataise programme developer.
- Ntataise Network member organisations were kept abreast of policy changes, ECD trends and sector initiatives through five [Ntataise Network Directors' meetings](#). Ntataise also attended [meetings, conferences and seminars](#) to keep Network member organisations up to date particularly in respect of the Draft National ECD Policy.
- Ntataise actively contributed to the [National ECD Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#) and participated on the CoP training task team mandated to interrogate the new QCTO ECD Practitioner qualification. Ntataise also participated in the [ETDP SETA profiling and development of the ECD occupational qualification](#).
- Individual Network members participated in the [National ECD Alliance](#) elections. Ntataise's [Puleng Motsoeneng](#) was elected vice chairperson.

Support to ECD in the North West

The first phase of the ground-breaking project in the North West province was completed in 2014 and planning for the second phase started in the latter part of the year. The project is a private-public partnership between the North West Department of Social Development, Ilifa Labantwana, Ntataise and ELRU and will in the second phase include Cotlands. Ntataise provided support to 41 ECD Centres in the municipalities of Ratlou and Kagisano Malopo. This support included training, on-site support and capacity building workshops for both practitioners and supervisors as well as provision of educational materials and resources to these centres.

Ntataise Network Conference

The role of the NGO and the need for collaboration within the ECD sector was the central theme at the 34th annual Ntataise Network Conference held at Glenburn Lodge in Muldersdrift from 18 - 20 August 2014. Professor Mary Metcalfe, Sector Specialist: Development Bank of Southern Africa, in her opening address spoke of the need for improved collaboration between government and the ECD sector; “The role of ECD has been recognised as a priority to improve the quality of education and long-term prospects of future generations.... In order to fulfil the targets of the NDP (National Development Plan) we need to take it forward collectively. There are so many wonderful things happening in this country and we have to collaborate.”

Commissioner Elias Masilela of the National Planning Commission (NPC) in his presentation on the status of the NDP added, “Government through the NPC has mapped a course in which the provision of Early Childhood Development is critical... This is one of the most crucial investments we can make as a nation. But clearly Government cannot take on the full responsibility for implementing the plan... The private and voluntary sectors, will always be central in delivering ECD as well as the broader NDP dream.”

Professor Linda Richter, Distinguished Research Fellow: Human Sciences Research Council gave delegates background and insight into the draft National Early Childhood Development Policy. She too was cognisant of the role of NGOs within the sector; “Throughout its recent history, South Africa has had a long standing commitment to ECD. There is a lot of experience in our country about delivering ECD services”. André Viviers, Education Specialist (Early Childhood Development) UNICEF South Africa; Bernadette Moffat, Executive Director The ELMA Foundation; and Bertha Magoge, National Chairperson National Early Childhood Development Alliance, updated delegates on their role in the ECD sector.

Presentations from sector experts once again allowed conference delegates to explore new ideas and keep abreast of developments and trends in the sector. These included Gael Beckett, Psychologist and long standing friend of Ntataise; Wiedaad Slemming Lecturer: Division of Community Paediatrics, University of Witwatersrand; Brent Hutcheson Director: Hands on Technologies; René King Project Director: Khululeka; Dr Nkidi Phatudi and Gloria Ledwaba from the University of Pretoria.

A panel discussion with government and civil society gave Ntataise Network directors further opportunity to unpack the current and future position of ECD in South Africa and their role in it. Panellists included Marie-Louise Samuels, Director ECD Department of Basic Education; Zanele Twala, Director Sector Expert Early Childhood Development The Presidency National Planning Commission Secretariat; Hlalefang Raziya, Qualifications Development Co-ordinator ETQA ETDP SETA; Sheila Drew, Programme specialist Early Childhood Education SAIDE; André Viviers, Education Specialist ECD UNICEF; Linda Biersteker, Independent M & E Consultant and Leonard Saul, Chief Executive Officer SA Congress for ECD. This close interaction between civil society and government is essential for the strengthening and scaling up of ECD for the county’s most vulnerable.



From left: Professor Mary Metcalfe, Jane Evans and Puleng Motsoeneng



From left: Marie-Louise Samuels, Gloria Ledwaba and Dr Nkidi Phatudi



Ntataise Free State Operations

Director's Report

Puleng Motsoeneng, Director Ntataise Free State

Quality versus quantity was the focus of Ntataise Free State operations in 2014. André Viviers, Education Specialist ECD for UNICEF South Africa made the comment at the 2013 Ntataise Network Conference that "...access without quality is just a little better than warehousing children." Ntataise Free State operations, over the past few years has invested time and money in developing programmes which extend access to early stimulation for children not in any ECD programme. In 2014, our focus has been to ensure the quality of this and all Ntataise programming.

In order to ensure quality, programmes need to be effectively monitored and evaluated to gauge impact. All Ntataise Free State programmes have specifically designed tools to collect evidence and measure impact. Pre- and post-assessments across programmes together with hands-on practical demonstrations, mentoring support, role plays, written tests, assignments and observations kept a track of progress in an effort to maintain quality.

In 2014, this model was replicated in the North West Province where Ntataise trained 25 practitioners in the FETC:ECD NQF Level 4 training programme and provided workplace, hands-on support demonstrations. Twenty-two practitioners graduated the programme in the Kagisano Molopo local municipality and a further 25 learners in Ratlou completed five Ntataise ECD Skills programmes at Levels 1 to 3 on the NQF.

Fifty playrooms in the North West province were enriched with selected educational toys, books and posters which further enhance the learning opportunities in these playrooms. Twenty eight ECD centres in Viljoenskroon, Parys, Vredefort, Bothaville, Kroonstad, Henneman and Odendaalsrus participated in the Enrichment Programme this year, and these 28 playrooms were also enriched with educational toys, books and equipment. The teaching techniques and teacher-child interaction in these playrooms improved significantly, particularly around reading story books to children for language development and early literacy. This largely a result of the Ha Re Baleng training Let's Read programme initiated with trainers in 2013.

The ongoing training of Ntataise staff continued to be of utmost importance in ensuring that we continue to deliver quality programming to the practitioners, parents and the children we work with. Ntataise trainers participated in the training programme to strengthen their mathematical skills as well as the Community Development training course offered by the Ntataise Network Support Programme. Several of Ntataise Free State administrative and management staff also participated in the Systems Management Programme. Congratulations go to Aletta Matshediso who obtained a National Professional Diploma in Education NQF Level 5 from North West University.

In conclusion, special thanks must go to the Ntataise Board of Trustees for their continued support and input and 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.

In memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the greater Ntataise team who have lost loved ones this past year.

Ntataise Free State Staff



Puleng Lydia Motsoeneng
Director Ntataise Free State,
assessor and moderator



Bonny Ntsoeleng
Ntataise Outreach Programme
co-ordinator



Nthakoana Maseola
Ntataise administrator, trainer
and assessor



Emily Rammile
Administration



Aletta Matshediso
Ntataise Toy Librarian,
trainer and assessor



Sarah McGuigan
Fundraising and reporting



Elizabeth Manyeke
Trainer and assessor



Tibi Sebogudi
Trainer and assessor



Sandra Mokwena
Enrichment Programme
facilitator



Margie Norval
Financial management



Amanda Watermeyer
Programme development
and support



Martha Moloke
Trainer and assessor



Dikeledi Tsuela
Administration



Martha Molungoa
Mosupatsela Come and Play
Facilitator



Cecilia Mpongo
Administration



Ellen Mokitlane
Mobile unit facilitator



Melita Kakudi
Mobile unit facilitator



Sam Modiakgotla
Driver



Florinah Tonyane
Housekeeping



Emmah Guza
Housekeeping



Margaret Sothoane
Housekeeping

Ntataise Free State areas of operation

Area	Practitioners	ECD Sites	Number of children
Bothaville	53	12	1266
Bultfontein	1	1	21
Edenville	18	6	315
Henneman	19	10	374
Kroonstad	99	20	2262
Odendaalsrus	17	13	246
Parys	41	14	701
Rammulotsi	48	14	1140
Rammulotsi playgroups	2	4 playgroups	88
Steynsrus	20	5	308
Vredefort	19	10	800
Viljoenskroon playgroups - farms	8	5	40
Welkom	8	20	2000
Kagisano-Molopo - North West Province	25	25	728
Ratlou - North West Province	25	16	472



Formal training programme

In 2014 the [Ntataise Further Education and Training programme ECD: Level 4](#) included the on-going training of 101 ECD practitioners working in pre-schools in (areas). This vocational training programme provided in-service training with short periods of intensive workshops interspersed with on-site, hands-on support, mentoring and assessment.

A specific example of the impact this training programme has had, not just on practitioner's ECD knowledge but on the sustainability of a pre-school and creating awareness around the value of early childhood development, is that of Tseleng Mkhwanazi, a volunteer practitioner and ward councilor in Rammulotsi, Viljoenskroon:

Tseleng Mkhwanazi is the ward councilor for Ward 22 Rammulotsi, Viljoenskroon. She also volunteers at the Jabulani Day Care Centre every day. As a ward councilor Tseleng spends a lot of time in and meeting with her community. It was during a door-to-door campaign that she noticed the Jabulani Day Care Centre was significantly understaffed with only one practitioner as the other was on maternity leave. Tseleng offered to help and despite that the second practitioner has returned from maternity leave, she has continued to volunteer assisting the two practitioners at Jabulani Day Care Centre.

Tseleng is one of the learners enrolled on the 2014 Ntataise FETC:ECD Level 4 training programme. She spends her mornings at the day care centre or attending the training workshops and in the afternoons attends to her ward meetings and community feedback. Through the training Tseleng is learning about the various developmental stages of children and how to nurture their physical, mental, social and emotional development; new skills that she is using every day in her volunteer work at Jabulani Day Care Centre. What is most significant for Tseleng however is the understanding she is gaining of the need and importance of good quality early childhood development opportunities for young children and it is this learning that she is taking back to her community as a ward councilor. With her growing knowledge of ECD, Tseleng has reported that she feels better equipped to pro-actively address community needs and give feedback to the Mayor. She has subsequently also been elected as a member of the Mayoral committee and now leads the portfolio committee on community development, a position that enables her to advocate for improved ECD programming for the children in her community.



2014 Ntataise FETC:ECD Level 4 graduates

"I learned that children have various developmental needs and the daily activities should be planned for the needs and interest of the children. I help them develop their needs and interests, this helps me too because at our ECD Centre there were no differentiated types or time for performing activities. The training has opened my eye and mind about scheduling the daily programme that will provide the time in which we are trying to meet our health and goals for young children."

Motshabi Mokitlane from Ibanathi Pre-school, Rammulotsi

Development programmes

Improving learning in the playroom – the Ntataise Enrichment Programme

The [Ntataise Enrichment Programme](#) continued to be an essential programme in improving the learning environment for children in the playroom. Thirty-two ECD practitioners from pre-schools in Viljoenskroon, Parys, Vredefort, Bothaville, Kroonstad and Steynsrus participated in the [Ntataise Enrichment Programme](#) in 2014. This project transformed 32 pre-school playrooms from stark and colourless to bright, vibrant and exciting learning environments for children. Facilitators reported a significant improvement in the layout of the pre-school environment both in the playroom and in the outside playground. Special activities such as symbol boards; wall calendars; morning news and attendance boards adorned the walls of playrooms and were common in all centres. As part of the programme, Ntataise provided each playroom with a set of [specifically selected toys, books and educational equipment](#). The workshops and support programme, together with the provision of toys and equipment has significantly improved the learning opportunities for children in these pre-schools.

“I just flow with my work, nothing stands in my way. Mother in the kitchen (cook) always stops me and tells me and children it is lunch time. My daily programme runs smoothly. Well planned activities keep children busy and focused. My interaction with children add value to the play and activities provided.” [Vuyelwa Thuthani from Inkanyezi pre-school in Vredefort.](#)



(Left and centre) The Enrichment Programme improves early literacy in the playroom. (Right) A practitioner learning to make early learning resources in an Enrichment Programme workshop.

Community Outreach Programme

The [Mosupatsela playgroup programme](#), the [Ntataise farm mobile playgroup unit](#) and the [Ntataise toy library](#) make up the Ntataise Free State’s community outreach programme. This programme increases access to play and learning opportunities for preschool aged children not in a pre-school or home based ECD programme. These initiatives offered a structured learning programme consisting of activities which focus on school readiness. They were presented by experienced Ntataise facilitators who assisted children in their play ensuring that they got maximum benefit from the specially selected, age appropriate educational toys and equipment.

One hundred and twenty eight pre-school aged children together with 100 of their parents/caregivers attended the [Ntataise mobile playgroups](#) in 2014. Two mobile units, equipped with specially selected educational toys visited four different locations in Rammulotsi and 6 farms surrounding Viljoenskroon. The playgroup programme has been compiled to cover various developmental needs of the children including cognitive, fine motor, social and emotional areas of development required to lay a solid foundation for formal schooling.

The [Ntataise Toy Library](#) at the Ntataise training centre in Rammulotsi is heavily subscribed by both centre based pre-schools which do not have sufficient play equipment and children who do not attend a centre. In 2014 some 200 children used the Ntataise Toy Library. It is also used by large numbers of primary school children who come to play with the various puzzles and concept activities in the afternoons.



Ntataise Mosupatsela mobile playgroup



Ntataise Toy Library



Ntataise

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