

**National School
Nutrition Programme
2008 Annual Report**

NNSNP



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

National School Nutrition Programme

Vision

Our vision is of a South Africa in which all our people have access to lifelong education and training opportunities, which will in turn contribute towards improving the quality of life and building a peaceful, prosperous and democratic society.

Mission

To provide leadership in the construction of a South African education and training system for the 21st century.

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Message from the Deputy Director-General

The past year has been an eventful one for the National School Nutrition Programme. We have seen daily feeding extended to reach over 6 million primary school learners. Significantly, the programme has been extended to secondary schools with feeding in quintile 1 schools from April 2009 – a significant milestone! This will be progressively extended to include quintile 2 and 3 secondary schools in 2010 and 2011 respectively. To-date, approximately 6,8 million learners in 19 400 primary and secondary schools benefit from the programme daily. This is no mean feat considering the impact of the escalating food prices in 2008 which sent food prices soaring, in particular the cost of the staples that provide the basis of the meals.

As part of the five-year broad priorities of the Department, the national school nutrition programme contributes towards “reducing financial cost/burden from parents in their endeavour to provide quality education to their children...” (*DoE Strategic Plan 2008-2012*). The successful implementation of the programme has, together with other initiatives of government, enabled the most vulnerable children to attend school consistently. By promoting school attendance and enhancing learning capacity, school feeding contributes to improved learning outcomes.

During the past year, partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental organisations and United Nations agencies have strengthened and contributed in various ways. A number of schools have received donations of fully equipped container kitchens that have improved the preparation and serving of meals.

In the year ahead, the programme will strengthen monitoring to ensure consistent feeding and improvement in the quality of meals. We will support provinces to be ready to cover even more secondary schools next year, and strengthen evidence-based management. Documenting and sharing lessons and best practice will also receive greater attention. In this regard, plans are already underway to develop a NSNP recipe book.

Although much has been achieved, even more work lies ahead. We are indebted to Departmental officials as well as communities and partners, who have worked tirelessly and contributed towards the fulfillment of our mandate.

Ms G Ndebele
Deputy Director-General: Social and School Enrichment
August 2009



Executive Summary

During the 2008/09 financial year, the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) reached 6 238 489 learners compared to 6 041 381 learners in the previous year. Most provinces extended the programme beyond the funded quintile 1 – 3 minimum requirements. From April 2009, quintile 1 secondary schools were also included.

A variety of cooked and uncooked meals were provided in adherence to menu specifications and quality standards. However, there is still room for improvement in the nutritional value and palatability of meals.

Programme successes include the increased funding allocation from Treasury; the successful extension to secondary school level; material development; capacity development in provinces; and a review of the programme strategy to focus on *ensuring feeding* and *quality meals*. Individual provinces demonstrated innovation and commendable practice ranging from the provision of breakfast in Gauteng, to the successful food production project in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape. Creative partnerships were established with the private sector and other government departments to leverage support for the programme.

One of the key challenges encountered was the high food prices experienced in 2008, severely affecting programme implementation. With the increased allocation in the adjustment budget from National Treasury, significant adjustments were possible in the feeding cost, feeding days and the number of learners reached. However, delays in supply chain processes resulted in five out of the nine provincial departments under-spending.

Cooking and storage facilities in schools, record-keeping, variety in the menus, and equipment and eating utensils are areas that require improvement.

In the coming year, the programme will also focus on strengthening monitoring to improve the quality of meals. Preparation to ensure feeding in quintile 2 secondary schools in 2010, strengthening evidence-based management and research, knowledge management and advocacy will also receive attention.

The NSNP is serving its purpose. Opportunities for innovation exist to make further improvements.



Acronyms

CEM	Council of Education Ministers
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
DoL	Department of Labour
DoRA	Division of Revenue Act
EC	Eastern Cape Province
EMGD	Education Management Governance and Development
EMIS	Education Management Information System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FS	Free State Province
GP	Gauteng Province
HEDCOM	Heads of Education Departments Committee
HOD	Head of Department
IDSO	Institutional Development and Support Officer
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal Province
LP	Limpopo Province
LWC	Local Women Cooperatives
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MP	Mpumalanga Province
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NC	Northern Cape Province
NDoE	National Department of Education
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NSNP	National School Nutrition Programme
NW	North West Province
PED	Provincial Education Department
SFPS	Sustainable Food Production in Schools
SGB	School Governing Body
SMMEs	Small Micro and Medium Enterprises
VFH	Voluntary Food Handler
WC	Western Cape Province

Captions opposite page:

Kitchens built by schools in Mpumalanga (main) and Gauteng (insert)

Definition of Terms

Voluntary Food Handler

An unemployed parent/ community member (usually female) who volunteers to offer services in the preparation, cooking and serving of meals to learners receiving a monthly stipend of a minimum of R500.

Quintile

A system of ranking and funding schools taking into account the socio-economic circumstances of learners (inequality and poverty). For example, the poorest quintiles 1 and 2 receive more funding in terms of the Norms and Standards for Funding.

Local Women Cooperatives

Locally organized women groups who source and distribute food items to schools with financial assistance from aid agencies.

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Introduction

This report presents the highlights of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) for the 2008/9 financial year. It is intended for senior management in the department, NSNP managers, school communities, other government departments, academic institutions, as well as private sector and civil society partners. Part A will present a national overview of programme performance by highlighting key achievements, some of the challenges experienced, the key partnerships that supported the NSNP, the financial report, as well as plans for the coming financial year. Part B will provide a synopsis of programme implementation per province, showcasing best practice in each.

Background

The National School Nutrition Programme, formerly known as the Primary School Nutrition Programme (PSNP) was introduced in 1994 as one of the Presidential lead projects under the Reconstruction and Development Programme. Its aim was to enhance the educational experience of needy primary school learners through promoting punctual school attendance, alleviating short term hunger, improving concentration and contributing to general health development.

On the 18th September 2002 Cabinet decided that the PSNP should be transferred from the Department of Health to the Department of Education with effect from April 2004, based on the fact that schools are the functional responsibility of Education.

The key objectives of the National School Nutrition Programme are:

- To contribute to enhanced learning capacity through school feeding.
- To promote and support the implementation of food production initiatives in schools.
- To strengthen nutrition education for school communities.

The NSNP is funded from a Conditional Grant allocated to provinces according to the Division of Revenue Act (DORA), 2008 as well as other directives from the Department of Education and National Treasury (Grant Framework 2008/09). The allocation to provinces is poverty-based in accordance with the poverty distribution table used in the National Norms and Standards for School Funding as gazetted by the Minister of Education in September 2007 (Grant Framework 2008/09). The grant framework stipulates certain conditions to which provincial departments must adhere, inter alia:

- National and Provincial Education Departments to develop and submit annual business plans to National Treasury
- 93% of the grant is intended to cover recurrent expenses specifically for meals (foodstuff)
- 7% of allocation is intended to cover non-personnel recurrent items that have direct impact on operation of programme
- All learners in the targeted quintile schools should be fed on all school days
- Feeding cost per meal at an average cost of R1.50 per learner

Failure of Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to meet the requirements of the Conditional Grant may lead to the Department of Education taking steps (e.g. withhold transfer of allocation).

The National Department of Education oversees the programme ensuring adherence to policies and other relevant legislation through monitoring. Procurement of goods and services for the NSNP is the mandate of the PEDs. Meals provided follow the Food Based Dietary Guidelines which provide for a variety of food items inclusive of vegetables and fruit.

Part A:
National Performance Overview

**Performance by National Department
Financial Report**

National Overview

The NSNP office at the National Department of Education (NDoE) plays a key role in providing strategic leadership, guidance and support as well as programme monitoring and evaluation to ensure that implementation is in line with the DoE strategic goals, and meets agreed-upon criteria.

As can be seen from Table 1 below, Mpumalanga (MP) and the Western Cape (WC) have met the requirement to provide meals on all school days (198). KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) has continued to progressively increase the number of feeding to 167 in the year under review compared to 162 during the previous financial year.

All provinces provided meals beyond the funded quintile 1-3 primary school learners resulting in the compromise of feeding days or cost due to limited funds. Although the feeding cost should be R1.75 (inclusive of honorarium), provinces are far below this requirement. Notable adjustments in the feeding cost and the number of learners reached were made following the allocation of the 2008 Adjusted Budget; MP increased feeding cost from R1.20 to R1.50; Western Cape (WC) increased learner numbers by 100 953 to reach all learners in quintile 1-3 primary schools discontinuing individual learner targeting; KZN increased the number of schools by 116 to include quintile 3 primary schools that had previously been excluded from the programme. The projected increase of the Conditional Grant as per the 2009 MTEF Allocation will enhance compliance to the minimum norm by provinces in subsequent financial years.

Due to the increase in the number of learners at the beginning of the 2009 academic year, the number of food handlers in KZN and WC were increased by 218 and 159 respectively. Although the required minimum for honorarium is R500 per month, Limpopo Province (LP) and MP are below this minimum.

Table 1: Annual Performance Indicators per Province

Performance Indicators	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC	TOTAL
Number of feeding days	193	184	182	167	187	198	189	193	198	187 (average)
Number of schools	5039	1427	1491	3924	2601	1357	440	1057	998	18 334
Number of learners	1 376617	413 546	525 803	1 541 268	998 313	573 000	181 500	415 567	334 287	6359901
Number of cooked meals served per week	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
Number of uncooked meals served per week	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Number of service providers	135	12	103	1476	233	67	298	1057	5	3386
Number of local community based co-operatives contracted	1	0	0	38	101	-	0	1057	1	1198
Number of community based SMMEs contracted	134	0	93	1438	132	67	267	0	3	2134

Performance Indicators	EC	F§	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NC	NW	WC	TOTAL
Macro/ large businesses			10	-	-	-	31		1	42
Number of fulltime officials employed for the programme	41	21	10	99	136	35	21	52	18	433
Number of NSNP allocated vacancies funded	41	23	16	12	160	14	29	0	18	313
Number of contracted posts	40	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	7	78
Number of food handlers receiving an honorarium	6800	2072	2560	4484	10 144	3181	1494	local co-operatives	2169	32904
Honorarium per month	400	500	500	400	300	400	600		320	420 (average)
Number of vegetable gardens	1412	300	260	1607	1056	185	341	304	258	6503
Meal cost per learner per day (R)	1.69	0.89	1.55	1.50	1.26	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.4 (average)

Human resource capacity at NDoE

At national level, a team of 7 officials was responsible for the management of the programme. Key responsibilities include monitoring, support to Provinces in implementation, reporting and facilitation of sharing best practice and research. Plans are afoot to increase capacity at national office with thirteen contract posts due to the expansion of the programme to quintile 1, 2 and 3 secondary schools between 2009 and 2011.

Human Resources in Provinces will be included in the provincial reports in Part B.

Key achievements

- **Increased budget allocation**
The Department facilitated the 2008 MTEF bid for additional funding of the school nutrition programme. A major achievement was the announcement by the Finance Minister to extend the programme to all quintile 1, 2 and 3 secondary schools with a budget allocated at R4 billion over the 2009 – 2012 MTEF cycle. This included an adjustment budget of R344 million for 2008. Of this amount, R250 million was set aside for an inflation adjustment to mitigate high food prices and R93,7 million for preparation to extend the programme to quintile 1 secondary schools.
- **Preparations to extend programme to Q1 secondary schools**
The national NSNP office successfully took the lead in supporting and providing guidance to provinces in preparation for extension to quintile 1 secondary schools. All provinces were visited by both NSNP officials and senior management to assess the state of readiness, provide feedback and guidance. A status report was then presented to the Heads of Departments Committee (HEDCOM) and Council of Education Ministers (CEM) to ensure readiness with effect from April 2009.
- **Programme review**
Following the final report on the NSNP evaluation conducted by KPMG in 2007/08 which was printed and distributed to provinces, the Department, jointly with UNICEF, conducted workshops in all provinces to disseminate key findings of the report. During the workshops, Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) developed implementation plans to address the identified gaps, assisting them to incorporate key lessons emanating from the evaluation into their 2009/10 business plans.



National School Nutrition Programme

A Guide for Secondary Schools

A national strategic review and planning session was held in December 2009 with all provinces, facilitated by an independent consultancy. The aim was to review programme objectives through looking at the evolution of the NSNP from the past, through the present to the future. The session identified the need to document current models of delivery, review national indicators to focus on strategic oversight, and investigate other implementation models for efficiency and effectiveness. Addressing quality of meals and strengthening human resource capacity will thus be critical imperatives moving forward.

- **Building capacity at provincial level**

During the past year, the major focus was on building capacity at provincial and district level. Amongst the activities undertaken were:

- Workshops on food safety, health and hygiene, food production and nutrition education with 73 newly appointed provincial and district officials in the Eastern Cape Province (EC)
- Gas safety training in Free State Province (F5) attended by 17 provincial and district officials
- As a critical area of the programme in schools, food safety workshops were held with deputy educators, the regional director and Food Handlers in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga to promote good hygiene in food preparation. Flowing from this, the province planned to conduct similar workshops covering all schools in 2009.

- **Monitoring**

The Department continued to monitor the programme as a key responsibility in line with the requirements of the Conditional Grant Framework. During the past year, all provinces were visited and selected schools monitored with the aim of ensuring that implementation guidelines and business plan outputs are carried out.

In addition, monthly and quarterly reports as well as quarterly inter-provincial meetings were used to report and monitor provincial implementation, review plans and share information on successes. The reports were also used to track provincial financial performance.

- **Materials development**

An easy-to-use *Guide for Secondary Schools* was developed and 3 000 copies were printed and distributed to provinces in preparation for feeding Q1 secondary schools. Additional copies were printed for Q2 and 3 secondary schools that will start feeding in 2010 and 2011 respectively.



To promote healthy lifestyles as part of nutrition education, a comic titled “*Wanna be a Star*” targeted at Grade 5 learners was developed and distributed to provinces, districts and schools.

Partnership:

Creative partnerships have been established with other government departments and the private/NGO sector towards collaborating and supporting NSNP

- Department of Health – A strategy review on Healthy Lifestyles was developed towards collaborating in nutrition related activities. A collaborative plan to celebrate Nutrition Week in October 2009 is underway.
- Inter-Ministerial Task Team on High Food Prices – In collaboration with sector departments, the Department participated in inter- departmental meetings to mitigate the high food prices and made input towards a cabinet memo as a response to high food prices.
- Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Task Team (IFSNTT) – with the Department of Agriculture as lead department, the Department participated with other sector departments to develop a collaborative strategy jointly with HSRC. The aim is to ensure data management and project alignment in issues related to food security.
- DoE/Food and Agricultural Organisation Technical Cooperation Project (FAO/TCP) – a memorandum of understanding between DoE and FAO was signed and 2 consultants were appointed to conduct a baseline study on school communities’ nutrition and food production and to develop Guidelines/manuals for Nutrition Education and Food Production.
- FUEL – developed a systems description of all 9 provinces which outlines each provincial programme status and implementation process. 7 reports have been signed off by the Heads of Department while plans to obtain the last 2 are underway.
- Retail stores MAKRO and GAME Stores donated fully equipped container kitchens to some schools countrywide. This has improved the preparation, storage and serving areas in schools. Plans are underway to finalise a Memorandum of Agreement for additional kitchens and other projects.

Caption opposite page:

Mobile kitchens donated by Game Stores

Financial Report

Financial performance by the national department

A total budget of R7, 782 million was allocated at national level for the management of the programme. Total expenditure as at 31st March 2009 is R7, 609 million (98%). The budget has been increased to R16 million for the 2009/10 financial year for improved management and increased human resource capacity in line with programme expansion.

Plans for the 2009/10 financial year

In line with the programme focus areas, plans for the 2009/10 financial year include:

1. Strengthening monitoring
2. Improving the quality of meals
 - Review of menu options
 - Development of a recipe book
3. Preparations to extend the programme to quintile 2 secondary schools
4. Evidence-based management and research
 - Conduct a baseline survey on nutrition education in collaboration with FAO
 - Development of national implementation guidelines and training manuals for food production and nutrition education (with FAO)
 - Conduct a survey on lunch boxes, tuck shops and school vendors
 - Baseline study on the nutritional status and educational outcomes of secondary school learners
5. Knowledge management and advocacy
 - Document lessons and best practice
6. Strengthening partnerships
7. Strengthening the human resource capacity for programme management, including recruiting additional staff

Part B: Provincial Narrative Reports

Eastern Cape

Free State

Gauteng

KwaZulu-Natal

Limpopo

Mpumalanga

Northern Cape

North West

Western Cape



Background

In the year under review, the Provincial Education Department (PED) extended feeding to 1 353 063 learners in 4 986 primary schools for 169 days. There was a significant increase of 87 768 learners in comparison to 2007/8 with notable success in coverage especially in poorest areas.

Food is delivered to schools by service providers through a tender procurement system.

Human Resource Capacity

In the past year, the provincial department increased its personnel especially at district level. A total of 21 officials and 6 contracted workers are responsible for the management of the programme at provincial level. Other functions include facilitating food production, processing claims and general coordination of NSNP activities.

In each of the 23 districts, one permanent and 2 contracted officials are responsible for monitoring. Increased capacity at district offices has improved reporting on implementation.

Training and development

The PED conducted capacity building workshops for school gardeners and food handlers, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health. The key areas for development included sustainable food production, nutrition education and meal preparation in line with the key objectives of promoting food gardens and healthy lifestyles. School gardens provided an opportunity to teach sustainable use of natural resources such as water and soil to learners.

Menu

The provincial department served only an uncooked menu (bread menu). However, from July 2008, the PED initiated a pilot project of a cooked menu in 230 schools, targeting 10 schools per District. This was progressively increased to 2 031 schools by the end of the 2008/09 financial year. In assessment of the current menu, significant changes will be necessary in line with prescribed menu options with a variety of food including fruit and vegetables.

Caption opposite page:

Learners enjoying meals – Eastern Cape

Achievements

In recognition and rewarding excellence in schools, the PED facilitated the 4th Annual School Gardens competition held in Uitenhage. Schools showcased successful food production initiatives that encourage healthy food choices in line with the key objective of promoting healthy lifestyles.

Special events

To celebrate World Food Day in October 2008, the province collaborated with the Department of Agriculture in presenting NSNP menus and distributing information brochures to raise the profile of the programme.

Conclusion

The acceleration of cooked menus shows that the Province is progressively working towards implementing the programme as per requirements with commitment to roll out to all schools before the end of the 2009/10 Financial Year. Despite interruptions in feeding in certain districts, an effort was made to pay outstanding suppliers' claims to ensure continued and improved implementation. The payment process will need to be reviewed.

Background

In the year under review, the Provincial Education Department (PED) extended feeding to 417 681 primary school learners for 184 days. There was an increase of 4 135 learners on the programme in comparison to 2007/8.

Food is delivered to schools by service providers through a tender procurement system. Schools in turn appoint Volunteer Food Handlers (VFHs) for cooking and serving the meals. The PED could not transfer funds for fuel and stipend to schools from October 2008 to March 2009 due to cash flow problems in the province. This resulted in non-feeding in schools that had no other source of funding, impacting negatively on the goals of the programme.

Human resource capacity

The PED had 7 permanent posts at provincial level, 2 of which were specialist posts- a Dietician and Agriculturalist- the latter assisting in promoting food production initiatives in schools. Two posts were vacant. Within the 5 districts, 15 officials were responsible for processing claims, monitoring and general coordination of NSNP activities. With the identified short-comings in human resource capacity, the provincial department made a proposal for increased staffing.

Training and development

The PED conducted capacity building workshops for school gardeners and food handlers in partnership with the Department of Agriculture. The key areas covered included sustainable food production, nutrition education and meal preparation in line with key objectives of promoting food gardens and healthy lifestyles.

Menu

The provincial department served 5 meals per week which were all deficient in fresh fruit and vegetables. This deficiency leads to weakened immune system. Two of the meals were deficient in protein sources. Protein deficiency has negative effects on the growth of learners. The menu was reviewed to include dehydrated vegetables so as to improve its vitamin A content.



Achievements

The provincial department used skilled officials from different directorates to train districts and schools in preparation for secondary school feeding.

Special events

For World Food Day on the 16th October 2008 Potato South Africa introduced a potato project to school communities at Relekile Secondary School in Hoopstad, Lejweleputswa district.

About Week (15 September 2008) was celebrated and jointly sponsored by the PED and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. The topic was greening the environment to prevent an increase in global warming.

Conclusion

Although funds are transferred by National Treasury for the implementation of the programme, the learners in the Free State province did not receive regular meals as intended. The province experienced serious challenges which will require the intervention of the national and provincial education departments as well as Provincial and National Treasury to resolve.

Caption opposite page:

Food handlers preparing meals – Free State



Background

By the end of March 2009, the school nutrition programme in Gauteng was reaching 525 803 learners, compared to 400 096 in 2007/8. This reflects the department's commitment to progressively extend feeding to the poorest learners in the province.

A tender procurement method was used with suppliers contracted to deliver food to allocated schools.

Human resource capacity

The PED employed 12 permanent officials within the provincial staff structure to manage the programme. 1 post was vacant. The responsibility of monitoring resides with Institutional Development Support Officials (IDSOs) and four interns in each of the 15 Districts.

Training and development

During the year, capacity building workshops were conducted on Nutrition Education and on sustainable food production for district officials, NSNP staff and school gardeners.

Menu

A flavoured instant cereal was provided daily for breakfast. In addition, the PED offered a variety of cooked meals as a second meal.

Achievements

The Provincial Department has been successful in pioneering the provision of breakfast before the start of school. Reports from school managers indicate marked improvement in punctuality and concentration levels of learners.

In an effort to provide well functioning systems, 48kg LP gas cylinders were procured and delivered to all schools in the province further enhancing operational functioning programme. Many systems, such as project management teams at provincial, district and school level, data base development, procurement of services, etc were put in place in order to implement and manage the programme effectively.

Caption opposite page:

Learners washing hands before meals – Gauteng

The Provincial Department built brick kitchens in 2 schools in the Johannesburg South district.

A colorful 12 months feeding calendar with messages on health and good nutrition was developed, printed and distributed to all schools to promote healthy lifestyles among educators and learners.

Special events

In celebration of Arbor day 1st September 2008 and World Food Day 16th October 2008, the PED showcased the school nutrition programme by distribution information brochures thus creating awareness of the programme to local communities.

Conclusion

All learners in quintiles 1-3 primary schools benefited from the programme. The province will need to consider the employment of dedicated NSNP staff in districts as interns do not have dedicated transport to enable school visits.

Background

In the year under review, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Education Department (KZN PED) extended feeding to 1 541 268 learners in primary schools, 73 856 more learners than in the 2007/08 financial year, due mainly to the inclusion of quintile 3 primary schools that had previously been excluded from the programme. The PED provided meals on 162 feeding days. In January 2009 following an inflation adjustment, feeding days were increased to 164.

There are two centralised procurement models used in the province, namely the quotation method and Local Women Cooperatives:

- The quotation method provides training for schools to directly source food items from service providers for the provision of food items. Schools then appoint voluntary food handlers to prepare meals.
- The Local Women Co-operatives on the other hand, act as service providers to deliver meals to the allocated schools. The Cooperatives are also responsible for food preparation and serving. The responsibility of monitoring service providers resides with schools, districts and the PED before payments are made.

Human resource capacity

A provincial team of 19 officials is responsible for the management and monitoring of school feeding activities, coordination of school food production and nutrition education activities, and processing of claims.

In each of the 12 districts there is a relatively small team of between 6 and 8 officials dedicated to the programme. The key responsibilities of the district team are to monitor programme implementation at school level and to facilitate the payment of the claims of service providers. The PED has identified a need to increase district capacity in financial and data management.

Training and development

432 Local Women Cooperatives from 72 wards were trained in catering, business management, conflict management and communication in October 2008, in partnership with the Department of Economic Development in KZN.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

A Balanced Diet



AND EXERCISE



= A HEALTHY BODY



Voluntary Food Handlers were trained on food safety.

In promoting food production in schools, 6 districts received a total of 6 tunnels and 6 nurseries donated by the Flemish government. Groundsmen were trained on using the tunnels to grow vegetables. The nurseries will also assist surrounding schools with seedlings.

The Flemish government also donated R7, 8 million for Food Security which was transferred into the Education Trust for use by school communities to develop school gardens.

Menu

The provincial menus for primary schools were well balanced with a composition amongst others, of soy, maize, rice and cooked vegetables served five days per week. Fruit is served once per week. The impact of escalating food prices resulted in the removal of fruit which compromised the vitamin content of the menus. In addition, starch portions were reduced from 90g to 60g for primary school learners and fruit served once a month. The menus for secondary schools have been selected from the 14 nationally approved options. Recipes were developed and tested in both rural and urban schools and were well received.

Achievements

A poster on healthy eating was developed and distributed to all the schools.

Booklets on “Nutrition and Youth” and Nutrition and HIV/AIDS were also published and distributed to all schools to promote awareness of good nutrition.

The menu and recipes for secondary schools were developed and tested in both rural and urban schools. These will be published into a recipe booklet for use by schools in preparing tasty and nutritious meals.

The province provided protective clothing (aprons and caps) to all schools to promote safety and hygiene.

Special events

World Food day was celebrated in 16 October 2008. The event was held at KZN Wild life, Premiers office, District and Provincial office. Schools were given fruit trees and seeds.

Conclusion

The provincial department achieved its objective of extending the programme to quintile 3 primary schools that were previously excluded. The Department increased the participation of women and trained 432 women as Local Women Cooperatives. Nutrition Education and Food Production in Schools were strengthened to improve knowledge and skills in promoting healthy lifestyles and developing food gardens.

Background

The 2008/9 financial year was one of the most successful in the implementation of the NSNP in the Limpopo Department of Education. 998 313 learners were fed in primary schools compared to 1 117 770 in the 2007/8 financial year. The decrease in numbers was due to the transfer of some schools to Mpumalanga Province. The tender system and the local women's cooperatives models are both in use to procure meals. 132 service providers were appointed in July 2009 for a period of two years. Additionally, 16 local women cooperatives with 101 members were appointed at Mogalakwela and Bakenberg South circuits as a pilot project.

Human resource capacity

The programme had a total of 166 staff comprising 7 officials at provincial level. Each of the 5 districts had 25 officials dedicated to programme support. 134 clerks based at circuit level render direct support and daily monitoring in schools.

Training and development

Workshops were held on Project Management and basic vegetable production.

Menu

Learners were provided with four cooked meals and one uncooked meal per week, with vegetables twice a week and a fruit once weekly.

Achievements

The province established resource centers for food production in each district to be used as a model for all schools.

Learners were fed in classrooms under supervision creating a healthy environment that enhances learners' table manners and etiquette.



Wednesday (Wednesday)
Thursday (Thursday)
Friday (Friday)
Saturday (Saturday)
Sunday (Sunday)
August 2000

Dubha tulo rino



cholera



Special events

A provincial summit on Sustainable Food Production was held 26th February 2009 with the purpose of presenting the annual report to stakeholders. Letsema Pilot Project was also held to encourage schools to establish food gardens. World Food Day was celebrated on the 10th October 2008 by profiling the NSNP and distributing brochures and seedlings to community members.

Conclusion

The NSNP indeed contributed in enhancing the learning capacity of learners. Schools reported increased attendance and an increase in the number of learners enrolling in schools in the programme. However, a lot of work still needs to be done to ensure that all schools feed learners in classrooms. Efforts will thus be strengthened to encourage all educators to be involved in the NSNP. Interventions to improve the storage, food preparation areas and eating utensils will be similarly strengthened.

Captions opposite page:

Main: Teachers supervising meals

Insert: Local Women Cooperative that supplies food – Limpopo



Background

During the past year, the school nutrition programme was extended to 573 000 learners in primary schools compared to 572 876 in the 2007/8 financial year. The province uses the centralised tender process to source and deliver food items to schools.

Human resource capacity

At provincial level, 5 officials managed the implementation of the programme. Schools were monitored by a total of 20 monitors who reported to the responsible official in each of the 4 regions. The province had a nutritionist in each region.

Training and development

Workshops were conducted on nutrition education, and to provide feedback on the evaluation of the programme by KPMG. Workshops were also held at Ehlanzeni Region on personal hygiene and food safety for Volunteer Food Handlers.

Menu

The province provided a cooked menu. Due to the high food prices, green vegetables and fruit had been removed from the menu. This will be corrected in the new financial year.

Achievements

Additional funding from the provincial equitable share enabled the province to feed beyond the minimum mandate and include deserving learners in quintile 4-5 primary schools.

Special events

The province celebrated World Food Day in Kwagafontein in October 2008. NSNP staff displayed food produced in school gardens and prepared meals using this produce.

Arbor Day was celebrated in Belfast on 8 September 2008. A number of schools received fruit trees from the Department of Agriculture. Also in September, celebrations were held in Thulamahashe to mark Landcare encouraging learners to preserve the land.

Caption opposite page:

State-of-the-art kitchens in 22 schools – Mpumalanga

Conclusion

Although the province experienced challenges with respect to limited HR capacity and the freezing of posts, inadequate vehicles and provincial financial constraints impacting on programme cashflow, most learners were fed and the programme monitored. Most schools also had established food gardens with the produce used to augment feeding and distributed to orphans and vulnerable children.

Background

In 2008/9 meals were provided to 181 500 learners in both primary and secondary schools as compared to 169 772 in the 2007/8 financial year. Due to the vast distances between towns and villages, funds are transferred to schools for purchasing of food and utensils and monitored by the school governing bodies for implementation.

Human resource capacity

The programme was managed at Provincial and District level by 27 officials (16 permanent, 4 seconded and 7 on contract). The Nutritionist and data capturer posts were vacant.

Training and development

Capacity building workshops on gas and food safety were held.

Two staff members attended an accredited Financial Management Training Course. A total of 50 capacity-building and advocacy workshops were conducted for Educators, Learners and Parents on Sustainable Food Production, food safety, health and hygiene.

Menu

The province provides a quality cooked menu which is approved by the nutritionist.

Achievements

The province developed implementation guidelines for the NSNP programme with all relevant information for schools. The document is updated yearly with inputs from various stakeholders.

The programme was not only monitored by NSNP staff but also by Departments of Health and Social Development. Monitoring feedback reports were given to schools after each visit for corrective action and improvement on the programme.

Special events

School garden competitions were held at both provincial and district level. Prizes ranged from

CLEAN HANDS
ARE
HEALTHY HANDS



R50 000-R10 000 cash. Barkly West Primary received top honours in the advanced category awarded by Woolworths Trust Eduplant.

Conclusion

This has been a good year for the programme notwithstanding the abnormal food hikes. The province received positive feedback from the evaluation by KPMG whose recommendations will assist in improving the programme further.



Background

In 2008/09, the programme reached 415 567 learners in 1 092 primary schools compared to 416 891 learners in 1 117 schools the previous year. The PED uses the quotation system to procure food items from contracted service providers, who are mainly local women, to provide and prepare meals.

Human resource capacity

There were 6 officials at provincial level, with one vacancy. 11 officials were based in the 5 districts, supported by 34 officials at area project offices (circuit level) who were responsible for monitoring programme implementation in schools.

Training and development

To enhance internal systems and capacity in programme administration, NSNP officials received training in computer literacy, record keeping, asset management and Walker system, a system for financial management. This has improved efficiency in processing claims and turnaround time.

The Department of Labour was brought in to train 160 service providers in hospitality, cooking and financial management. 362 school principals, Area Project managers, Institutional Support Coordinators and EMGD officials and 998 schools also received training on the adjudication procedures for the new procurement model.

NSNP officials in partnership with the Department of Health trained food handlers on food safety, health and hygiene. During the workshops, various cooking methods were demonstrated. A total of 1783 food handlers and 1058 educators were trained.

Workshops on sustainable food production were also held with educators, learners and parents to provide practical skills that can be replicated in schools.

Menu

The PED offers a variety of cooked meals daily.

Captions opposite page:

Main: Sustainable food production in schools – North West

Insert: Volunteer food handlers provided with protective clothing

Achievements

The PED has provided protective clothing (aprons and caps) for all volunteers, promoting hygienic food preparation and serving, and providing a professional image for volunteers.

The Department has developed strong partnerships with NGOs and the private sector who contributed towards 28 workshops reaching 225 participants. Partners include Lomin Platinum, Food and Trees for Africa, Vegetable Ornamental Plant Institute (VOPI), Food Garden Foundation and EduPlant who provided training on trench and herb garden, earth-worm farming, poultry farming, permaculture food gardening and community nursery.

Special events

To celebrate World Food Day on 14 October 2008, the PED, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, disseminated information brochures on NSNP activities. Learners also performed drama promoting healthy eating and the impact of climate change and bio-fuel.

Conclusion

The school nutrition programme was implemented with challenges. It is out of the lessons learned that significant changes can be made to progressively improve the delivery of the programme in the North West Province.

Background

During the year under review, the Western Cape Provincial Education Department provided meals to a total of 334 287 learners in 998 primary schools. An additional 21 590 learners in 120 secondary schools also received nutritious meals, beyond the mandate of the NSNP. In comparison to 2007, 31 974 more learners were reached by the programme.

The Provincial Education Department (PED) used the tender procurement model to source food. 5 service providers (large supplier companies), 3 SMMEs and 1 cooperative were contracted to supply and distribute food to schools.

Human resource capacity

A total of 5 officials managed the programme at provincial level. In addition, 1 official was temporarily appointed for administrative support.

In each of the 8 districts, a district coordinator monitored the programme in schools with 2 officials responsible for administrative support and field-work. A Nutritionist was employed in one of the districts to provide technical input in ensuring quality meals. 1 fieldworker post is vacant.

Training and development

NSNP officials participated in 5 capacity building workshops and educational visits covering aspects such as stakeholder engagement, food safety, health and hygiene. The greater awareness of health and nutrition is shared with school officials and volunteers during school visits.

1 800 Volunteer Food Handlers in 794 schools received training on Training Programme 2, which forms part of a series of training programmes, to build capacity and skills on Hygiene, Food & Gas Safety.

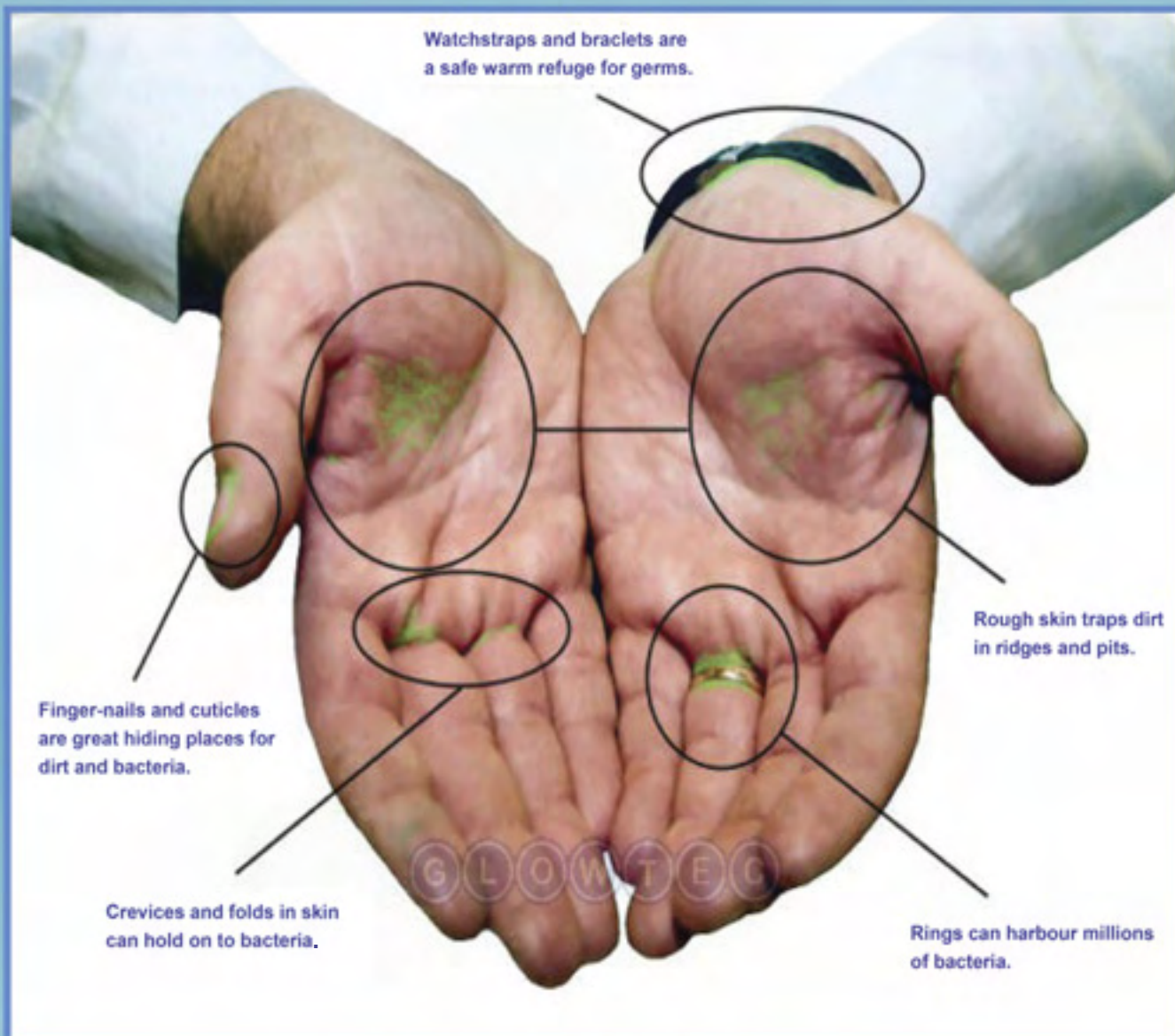
The PED also conducted 24 food production workshops in 61 schools for educators, learners and parents. The critical focus areas covered include management of vegetable gardens, soil fertility, and soil and water conservation. The outcome of these workshops is reflected in the 258 food gardens developed and maintained in schools.

NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME

WESTERN CAPE

“ENERGISING THE MIND”

TRAINING PROGRAMME 3



Menu

The PED provided 4 cooked and 1 uncooked meal per week in line with the prescribed menu specifications. However there is still room for improvements in providing a variety of protein sources such as pilchards or milk as provided in specifications. Dried vegetables can be substituted with fresh vegetables because of the higher nutritional value.

Achievements

When the cooked menu was introduced, most schools had inadequate preparation and cooking facilities. As a result, a mobile kitchen project was initiated and once-off additional funds allocated with assistance from a network of private donors. A total of 195 mobile kitchens have been installed in targeted schools.

In the past years, both administrative and operational systems were developed to streamline the programme. These include, amongst others: monitoring tools, guidelines, information booklets, templates for submission and processing of claims, school administration systems, volunteer administration systems, procedures and bid tender systems.

The province also developed guidelines for training of Volunteer Food Handlers on food, gas safety, health and hygiene. All Volunteer Food Handlers have received ongoing training.

The development of food gardens at targeted schools has increased considerably from approximately 100 in 2006 to 284 in 2008. This is attributed to ongoing skills development workshops on establishing and managing a food garden targeted for educators, learners and parents. Partnerships with the Departments of Health, Agriculture, Water and Forestry and Social Services and many other network partners have further facilitated success in this area.

To promote health and hygiene, posters on good eating habit and hand washing were developed in the dominant languages of the province viz. English, Afrikaans and Xhosa.

Special events

An Appreciation Evening was held during the strategic planning workshop in December 2008. The PED highlighted the achievements of the NSNP since 2004. Programme officials were awarded Certificates of Appreciation and a small gift.

Caption opposite page:

Resources to train volunteer food handlers on food safety – Western Cape **Annual Report April 2008 – March 2009**

World Food Day was celebrated on the 10th October 2008, jointly with the Department of Agriculture at Merweville and in six schools in the Overberg district.

A Garden Competition was held in schools in Hermanus sponsored by the NSNP, DoA and Department of Water and Environmental Affairs. Monteith and De Bron Primary Schools were tied in first place and received R1000 each. Second place was awarded to Oosthuisen Primary and received R750. Third place was awarded to Glebe Primary and received R500.

Conclusion

This was a good year for the programme with an increase in the number of learners reached. 63 more schools were able to purchase mobile kitchens to improve facilities for cooking.

The programme received positive feedback from the evaluation by KPMG, and acknowledgement from the WC PED. In moving ahead, the NSNP team in the Western Cape will continue to build on programme experiences and lessons to produce the best possible results for the learners of the province.

Appendix A

Partnerships

N\$NP Partnerships

Partner	How N\$NP is supported
Limpopo	
Coca Cola	Supply of nutritious drink
Department of Agriculture	Initiated Greening Sekhukhune Programme in which 38 schools within Makhuduthamaga Municipality received 1000 seedlings each and five fruit trees. Technical advice to schools.
Department of Public Works	Provided protective clothing for Letsema Project at Polokwane circuit.
Food and Trees for Africa	Provided training on permaculture workshops
DoH	School monitoring visits
Lonmin Mining Company	Provided food to 7 primary schools
Mpumalanga	
Department of Health	Donated four flipcharts on food guidelines. Provide vitamin A supplements to learners.
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture	Provided Agricultural starter packs to 66 schools. Provide extension service to schools. Hold food production competition and donate prizes. Coordinate the drilling of bore holes in selected schools.
First National Bank	Assist schools in the establishment of food gardens by providing training and agricultural starter packs to nominated schools. Hold competitions and donate prizes to winning schools.
Woolworth Trust EduPlant	Train school communities on the establishment of food gardens with more emphasis on permaculture. Provide seeds and garden tools to participating schools. Hold food garden competition and donate prizes.
Departments of Health and Social Services	Support schools with garden tools and irrigation system.
ARC	Vegetable garden competition Drilled boreholes for winning schools

Partners	How N\$NP is supported
Mpumalanga (continued)	
Department of Health and Social Service	Provide nutrition education to schools. Encourage healthy eating by monitoring the food supplied to schools and food sold by food vendors.
Botanical Gardens	Donated ornamental and fruit trees to schools
Ecolink	Vegetable garden competition Supply garden tools, spray irrigation to winning schools
North West	
Agriculture, Conservation & Environment	Technical support , advice & Monitoring, Garden inputs Garden tools
Local Government & Housing	Not clearly defined
Local Government & Housing	Not Clearly defined
Health-Health Promoting Schools	Menu Options Nutrition Specialists Monitoring Health promotion projects
Water Affairs and Forestry	Greening Project, Boreholes
Social Development	Food Parcels Workshop Facilitators
Agricultural Research Council- Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Unit (VOPI).	Workshop Facilitators Technical support, advice & monitoring.
Food and Trees for Africa	Workshop facilitators Permaculture food gardening School Garden Competitions Workshop materials Catering
Lonmin Platinum Mining Company	Workshop facilitators on food garden skills Eco-schools clubs

Partners	How N\$NP is supported
North West (continued)	
SENWES	Garden Inputs Technical advice, support & monitoring.
AgriTV-ULIMO	Media coverage of our workshops in SABC 2 TV
Medical Research Council	Workshop facilitators, Research & Development
Media in Education Trust	Funding Garden Inputs Monitoring 18 Bore holes in 18 schools.
University of North West Potchefstroom Campus Faculty of Health Sciences	Research & Development Monitoring Workshop facilitators Exhibitions
Food Gardens Foundations	Garden Inputs, Garden Tools Workshop facilitators & Workshop materials and Catering Seeds, seedlings & herbs
Health-Health Promoting Schools	Menu Options Dieticians Monitoring Workshop facilitators
Western Cape	
Game Stores	Provided funding for 5 Mobile Kitchens, and
Bernard Centre	has promised funding for 6 more. 6 ladies collected food and fruit for learners in Mount Pleasant Primary in Overberg.
Molteno Brothers	Donated 5 boxes of apples a week to learners at Glen Elgin Primary.
Hermanus Enlighten Trust	Provided fruit every day to learners at Lukhanyo Primary/Zwehelie Grade R, and also gave the volunteers an extra R500 per person.

Partners	How N\$NP is supported
Western Cape (continued)	
Mrs Marshall, Social Services PSFA	Provided extra food for learners at certain schools in the Central District. Donated mobile kitchens to some schools.
Catholic Board	Assisted Sacred Heart school in the West Coast in developing a Food Garden. A Farmer then assisted by donating shade-cloth and compost.
City of Cape Town	Donated good quality manure and garden equipment to Du Noon Primary.
Department of Agriculture	Has given technical advice to schools. Organised a Garden Competition for schools in Hermanus Area. Combined with DOE on World Food Day project in Meweville. The Land Care Section (Overberg) held a camp at Hermanus for a local primary school on natural conservation and organic gardening.
Goedgedacht Agricultural Resource Centre (GARC)	Donated manure to Naphakade Primary School.
Heidelberg Nature Reserve	Supplied water tanks and equipment to a school in the Strand.
Masinedisane (an NGO in Du Noon)	Has assisted a school in the area and offered assistance to others, as well.
Meals on wheels	Conducted a Permaculture workshop at Struisbaai Primary and focused on the installation and use of water-saving irrigation equipment. They also demonstrated the art of seed-sowing in trays.
N2 South Cape District Rural Foundation (N2 SCDF)	Helped establish a food garden at a school in the area.
Soil for Life (NGO)	Supports 6 schools – 1 in Touws River, 3 in Guguletu, 1 in Mitchell's Plain, and 1 in Nyanga.
School Social Workers (2)	In Swellendam, are involved in the establishment of food gardens in schools in the area.

Partners	How NSNP is supported
Western Cape (continued)	
UCT	Conducted an environmental programme at fifteen schools in the District of Overberg, where educators were trained in environmental issues and food gardens, and were also given equipment.
UWC	Provided Human Ecology students on Thursdays to Eros school in Athlone to assist in the maintenance and development of the food garden at the school.
West Coast Foundation	Conducted a garden project at a primary school in Malmesbury.
Woolworths	Donated shade cloth, poles and seedling trays to a primary school in Atlantis.
Woolworths Trust Eduplant	Conducted 5 Permaculture workshops in the Province.
Department of Health – Catherine Perreira (Dietician)	Assisted with nutrition information, poster layout and photo- shoot for the NSNP Meal Posters.
Evolution Marketing – Henda & Faiz Evans	Printed additional posters at no cost.
Department of Health: Environmental Health	Environmental Health Practitioners assist with the following: the peanut butter sampling procedure & the recommendation of the approval of food samples, warehouse visits and any particular case in which the safety of food is threatened. They also assist in terms of capacity building of NSNP staff.
Practitioners & Dieticians	Dieticians assist with the review of menu options and any changes in terms of menus. Also with the finalisation of food requirements for bid tender specifications. They also provide advice where required.



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