



## Improving the quality of education at ECD centres

FRF has implemented several interventions to support education in South Africa, including initiatives aimed at upskilling and training ECD practitioners.

According to the Department of Basic Education, there are 54 503<sup>1</sup> practitioners working in ECD facilities in South Africa. Investing in ECD programmes improves the competencies of practitioners, the quality of care and education they provide and helps to ensure that children are well prepared for school.

In 2023, FRF committed R70 million in funding to ten ECD initiatives across the country.

### **FRF's objectives for its ECD portfolio are to:**

- **Improve ECD practitioner competency in teaching literacy and numeracy** by providing training courses, curriculum support and additional teaching resources (e.g. books, toys and teaching materials).
- **Improve the literacy and numeracy skills of children aged 4 to 6**, including the communication and oral-language competence of young children and their readiness to develop early mathematical language and ideas.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Basic Education 2021 ECD census report.

## Improving the quality of education at ECD centres *continued*

### Some initiatives supported in 2023 include:

	Background and objectives	Impact	Commitment	Footprint
<p><b>Little Elephant Training Centre for Early Education (LETCEE) capacity building programme</b></p> 	<p>LETCEE aims to strengthen ECD services in rural communities through programmes that include accredited ECD practitioners' training, access to learning and resources, and social services. The organisation establishes strong partnerships with communities and includes them in the design of projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 young women were provided with training to become ECD professionals.</li> <li>• Training provides opportunities for professional growth and development, leading to higher job satisfaction, improved teaching techniques, and a deeper understanding of child development principles.</li> <li>• Children who experience high-quality ECD programmes are better prepared for formal schooling, with improved language and cognitive skills.</li> </ul>	<b>R10 million</b>	KwaZulu-Natal
<p><b>Grassroot Educare Trust</b></p> 	<p>Grassroots is dedicated to empowering ECD practitioners. The provision of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 4 training is designed to equip teachers and principals with the knowledge and skills required to implement high-quality programmes in preschool environments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 practitioners were provided with NQF level 4 ECD training.</li> <li>• Increased number of trained and knowledgeable teachers.</li> <li>• The trained teachers and principals are expected to positively impact 25 preschools and 1 270 children.</li> <li>• Other teachers, parents and community members will also benefit.</li> <li>• More children are well prepared for their transition to the next age cohort.</li> </ul>	<b>R3 million</b>	Western Cape
<p><b>Custoda Trust training and development</b></p> 	<p>Custoda recognises the importance of training and developing ECD practitioners to address underdevelopment in children. The training programme equips women with the skills and knowledge to promote play-based and engaging teaching methods to develop young children under the age of 5.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120 individuals provided with training will obtain an ECD NQF level 4 qualification.</li> <li>• ECD practitioners will be able to facilitate the National Curriculum Framework and provide quality learning and development for children.</li> <li>• Equal opportunities and access to quality ECD services for vulnerable children and those with special needs are promoted.</li> </ul>	<b>R10 million</b>	Northern Cape
<p><b>The Environment and Language Education Trust (ELET)</b></p> 	<p>ELET is committed to providing comprehensive and effective education programmes, including NQF level 4 and 5 ECD learnership programmes, and recognises the importance of education for individual and community development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacitate the unemployed and existing practitioners who do not have qualifications.</li> <li>• Qualifications were provided to rural women, allowing them to attain further qualifications and join the formal economy.</li> <li>• By deploying competent ECD practitioners, it improves access to quality ECD services and impacts the development of vulnerable children.</li> </ul>	<b>R5 million</b>	KwaZulu-Natal