

# Implementing Early Childhood Development in South Africa: strengthening institutional capacity for evidence use. M Sadan, S Haricharan and P Parenzee

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# Outline of presentation

- South Africa Context
- PSPPD
- ECD Case Study: Eastern Cape Province



# South Africa

- 24 Years of democracy
- South Africa population – 57,7
- GDP – 7524 USD (2017)
- Unemployment – 27%
- Poverty – 55%
- Inequality – 0.72 (2006) 0.68 (2018)



# ECD Policies and Programmes

- Since 1994 long history of commitment to ECD
- Since 2009 science of ECD gains momentum (first 1000 days)
- 2012 National Development Plan (ECD in health and education)
- **2012 Diagnostic Review (DPME)**
- 2013 National Integrated Programme of Action Moving Ahead (2013-2018)
- **2015 National Integrated ECD Policy adopted**



# Diagnostic Review 2012 (Gaps)

- Doing very little to support parenting
- Doing almost nothing for the care of 0-2y (28% of whose mothers work) or to prevent, identify, and assist children with disabilities
- Emphasis on the per-child registered centre subsidy
  - Private provision, fee-based
  - Without population planning
    - = Better off families pay for services in better off centres
- Little serious investment in alternatives



# Most pieces in place – must be strengthened and coordinated

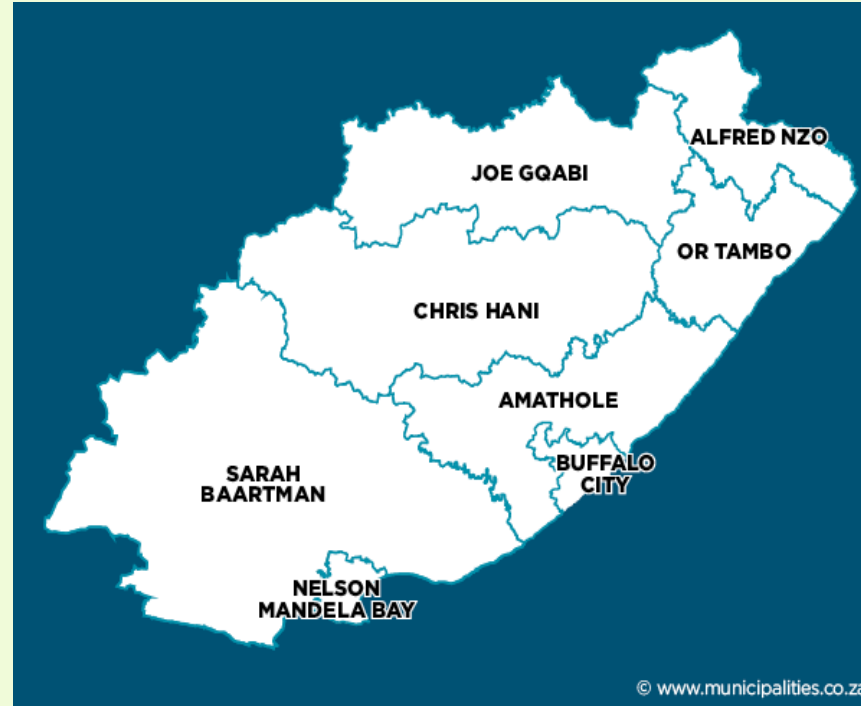
- Health care – free and community services (poor quality)
- Nutrition – PHC, centres and schools (stunting 27%)
- Education – free + preschool year (poor quality)
- Social protection – birth registration + social assistance
- Social services fragmented and responsive
- ECCE in subsidised NGO and private centres
- Engaged NGO and private sector



# The Eastern Cape Province

Poverty rate  
72,9%

80% of children  
under 6 years  
below (UBPL)  
R965 per month

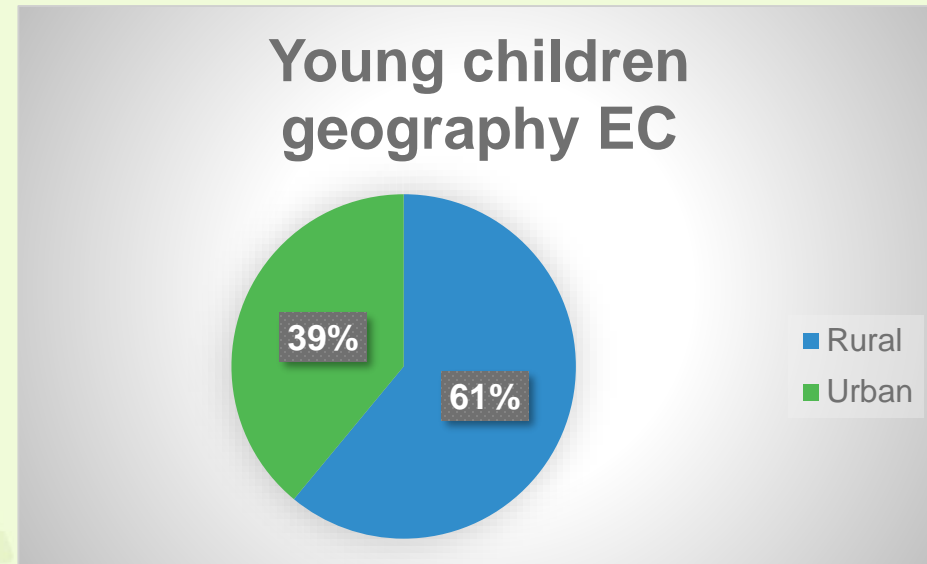
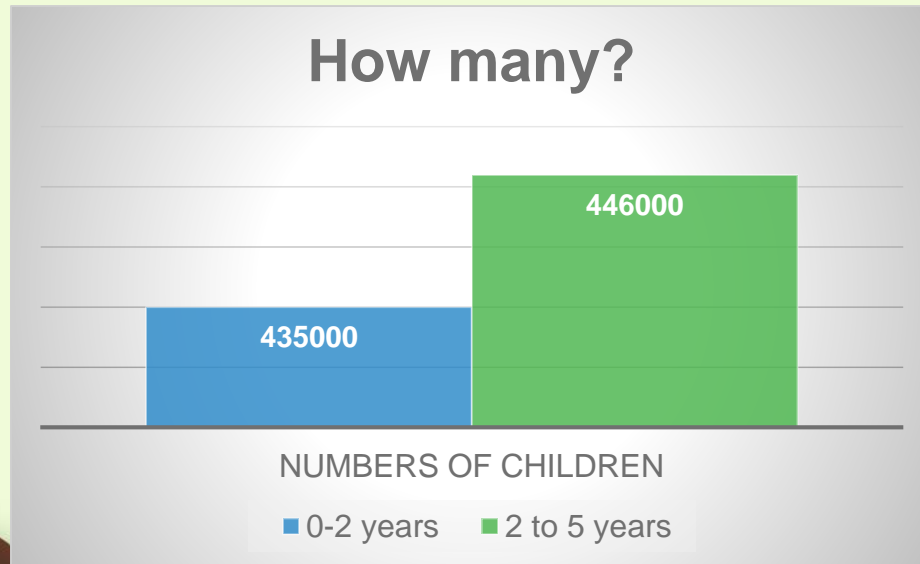


# How many and where are the young children in the EC?

Close to one million young children under (881 422 in 581 000 households) (Stats SA 2015)

Half are under 2 (in their 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 days) and half are 2 – 5 years

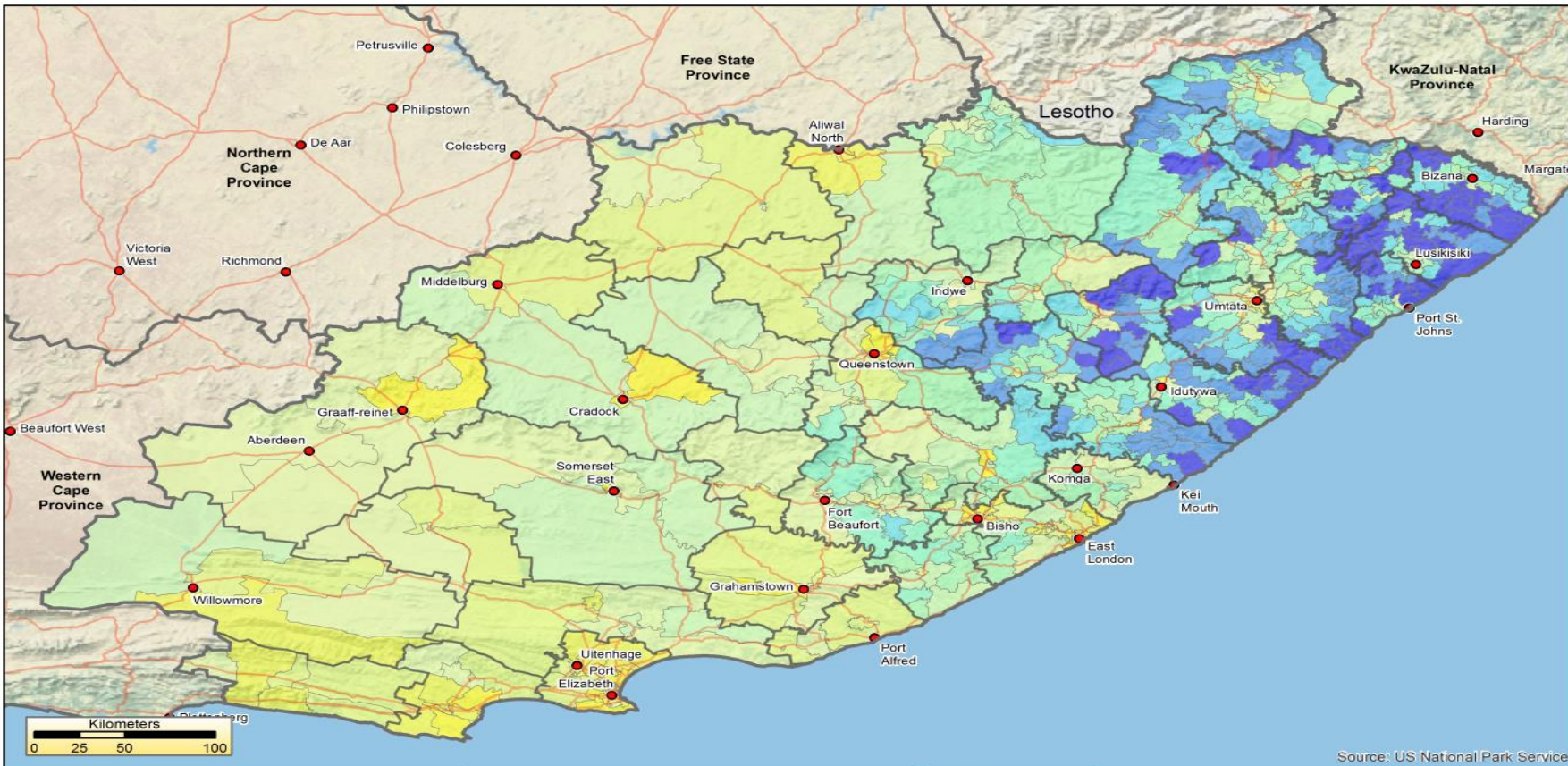
2/3<sup>rd</sup> live in rural areas (523 000) and 1/3 in urban areas (347 000)





# Eastern Cape Province Ward-level SAIMD 2011

Ward-level SAIMD 2011  
Eastern Cape Province (Eastern Cape Deciles)



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# Institutional Arrangements: Provincial Departments

- **Department of Social Development (lead department)**
  - Coordination function across three departments
  - Service provision age 3-4 years (registration ECD centres, funding and monitoring of registered centres)
- **Department of Health (age 0 to 2 years)**
  - provincial planning and management: maternal and child health, ECD centres at schools
- **Department of Basic Education (age 5years)**
  - develop and provide training on national ECD curriculum and training of ECD practitioners



# ECD Support Process

- Literature and data review
- Entry and contracting
- Letters to DG in OTP and HOD's of DSD, Health and DBE
- Approval given, series of meetings and consultations
- Process of engagement – key activities



# Scan of ECD in Eastern Cape

- Leadership and governance
  - Inter-governmental capacity and collaboration
  - Capacity and capability
  - Access and infrastructure
- **Data, information and knowledge**
    - Systems and processes fragmented
    - Rudimentary and incoherent
    - Admin data weak
    - Data use for planning limited



# Design of ECD Support

- Intervention at institutional level
- Focus on management, governance, coordination and institutional structures
- Objectives of intervention
  - To develop leadership capacity
  - Build sustainable relationships
  - Promote evidence use in ECD decision making



# OD and Mentoring Process

- Focused on stakeholders critical to ECD service delivery,
- Support in the translation of the national ECD policy into a provincial ECD strategy and plan
- Building leadership capacity within the DSD ECD team
- Facilitating collaboration across departments
- Building technical skills to generate and use evidence



# Working with individuals and teams

- The ECD Team received mentorship over a two and a half year period
- The mentorship involved guidance in how to formulate implementation strategy and plans,
- individual support in identifying existing as well as gaps in knowledge relevant for the fulfilment of job functions and
- at first, shadowing and then supporting team leadership practice at key events directed at building interdepartmental team responsible for ECD



# Support to the Eastern Cape Province

- Technical support to lead Departments of Social Development, Health and Basic Education
  - consultant organisational development (OD)
  - mentorship
  - training (EBPM, Poverty and Inequality)
  - learning opportunities (visit to KZN, seminar on Chile Crece Contigo in Eastern Cape, Study Tour to Chile)
  - support to ECD Centre of Excellence at Fort Hare University





# EC visit to Chile



# Implementation Challenges

- Bureaucracy, hierarchy and organisational culture
- Management stability
- Commitment
- Resources
- Systems



# Key reflections and discussion on ECD support

- Building management and leadership capability
- Promoting evidence use, information and knowledge
- Building bridges through partnerships



# Building State Capacity

*“To Address poverty and inequality, the state needs to play a transformative and developmental role. This requires well-run and **effectively coordinated state institutions** with **skilled public servants** who are committed to the public good and capable of delivering consistently high-quality services”. NDP (2012)*

