

**PROGRESS REPORT FOR MPUMALANGA - EVEREST PROJECT
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2009**

1. STATISTICS

Activity	April	May	June	July	August	September
No of boys	41	41	41	41	39	37
No of girls	37	37	37	37	36	35

2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Objective	Achievements	Challenges
Psychosocial Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community leaders have agreed to assist with identifying orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC's) in the community. - Contact has been made with the social worker from the Dept of Social Development who is responsible for the community on Kiwi Farm, and she has agreed to work collaboratively with Cotlands. - A child care forum had been established that will meet on a monthly basis to determine what needs there are in the community and look at how these can be addresses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The centre coordinator will need some training on how to assist children who are identified as OVC's
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cotlands professional nurses have undertaken to assess all the children that attend the ECD centre. - During the past quarter six children were referred to the Lydenburg Hospital, who have proved to be very helpful: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A high percentage of the children present as delayed in achieving the developmental milestones, especially in the babies to 2 year age range. - Fear of stigmatisation, lack of knowledge and denial has resulted in clients refusing to have an HIV test, even when it is clinically indicated.

<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of the little girls with a low CD4 count has been started on ARV's. Her mother has also commenced treatment. ▪ A boy was referred to the ENT as he had poor hearing and was not performing in class. Wax was removed from his ears which restored his hearing so he is now able to participate more fully in the class activities. ▪ Another boy was referred for a severe squint. He will be operated on in November 2009. ▪ One child is awaiting blood results. <p>- Nutritional status: All the children are well nourished due to the balanced meals provided by the centre. One of the children that was identified as underweight has improved over the past three months.</p> <p>- We have met with the mobile clinic nurse and she too has agreed to work collaboratively with Cotlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The daily program is being effectively implemented. - The following themes have been completed: water, underground, winter, pets, farm animals, wild animals, spiders and insects, our garden and trees and wood. - The second part of the maths program has been introduced where verbal addition is explored as well as using numberlines, number cards and baseboards to explore maths concepts. - The music programme is using classical music as it enhances children's listening skills and encourages dramatization. - A new parent committee had been elected and was involved in signing the service level agreement with Department of Social Development for 2009/2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mobile clinic only visits the area once a month for about 5 hours. There is only one professional nurse attending to the clients even though the demand for the service is high. - The mobile clinic is also not able to supply medication as there seems to be a shortage of even the most basic supplies. - Health needs are neglected as the nearest hospital is in Lydenburg, and because this is far, the transport costs are too expensive for most families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is challenging to actively involve the parent committee in the governance of the school as they are unsure of their role. - The centre now has 75 enrolled children, but to qualify for the funding from Social Development we need to have 80.
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Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new income generating project has been initiated. One bag of clothes is sold for R100 to 10 mothers of children that attend the ECD Centre. The mothers then resell the clothes to the local community. - The food garden has been extended and a water tank and irrigation system has been installed. - The garden only managed to generate an income of R72 this month, although it has been winter and the only crop that was harvested was orange sweet potato. - The Department of Agriculture conducted a training session on how to make compost. - Although schooling was initially free, we have introduced a small fee (R10 per month) from May. This is partly to contribute towards the sustainability of the project and partly towards placing some responsibility on the parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to access clothing locally to resell as presently all the stock comes from Johannesburg. - We need to make sure that we plant crops that the local community will buy. - The high unemployment rate in the area impacts negatively on payment of school fees (only 27 paid for August) and payment for the annual school outing. It is also difficult to make the community understand that they need to pay for services.
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