

An overview of the evaluation approach, key findings and recommendations

FNB Non-Centre Based ECD Evaluation



FIRSTRAND



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Discuss where the FNB Non-Centre Based ECD programme fits in with the FRF Systemic Social Investment Strategy
3. Explain why this strategy was chosen
4. Describe the FNB Non-Centre Based ECD Theory of Change
5. Provide an overview of the Evaluation approach
6. Describe the findings and the broader implications are to the sector
7. Questions and answers

Non-centre based ECD, what and why?

- **FirstRand Foundation has deliberately focused its strategy on education and skills development;**
 - *Early Childhood Development (ECD) forms an integral part of the continuum given the return on investment achieved by investing in ECD*
 - *Evidence shows that children who attend some kind of early learning programme before they go to school do much better at school and also in life*
- **Approximately 6 million children between 0-6 years:**
 - *40% of them live in the poorest households*
 - *1.3 million children between 3 - 5 have no access to early learning programmes*
 - *An additional 1 000 000 children between 0 - 2 have no access*
- **FNBs ECD strategy aims to address this by:**
 - *Increasing access to quality ECD services for zero to four-year-old children through structured **non-centre-based programmes***
 - *Strengthening the capacity of primary caregivers to be involved with, care for and stimulate their children through training and support; and*
 - *Mainstreaming (creation of awareness, inclusion and support) of disability across the ECD programme partners.*

Systemic social investment in ECD

- **FirstRand Foundation has a two-pronged approach aimed at;**
 - **Increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of ECD prior to Grade 1 through targeted policy and systems change initiatives;**
 - *Delivered through our systemic work in Ilifa Labantwana, SmartStart and Innovation Edge*
 - **Setting a base for alternative ECD service provision for children who are not enrolled in ECD centres.**
 - *Working with local level partners to design, implement and monitor non-centre based programmes for children who do not attend formal centres*
 - *Over 5000 children reached in 2017 through a combination of playgroups and day mothers and formal centres*
 - **Continual advocacy on the innovations and monitoring and evolution**
 - *Early Childhood Development Milestones of children on the programme (ELOM)*
 - *Tracking children's development milestones for proof of concept and evidence based decision making*

Way Forward?

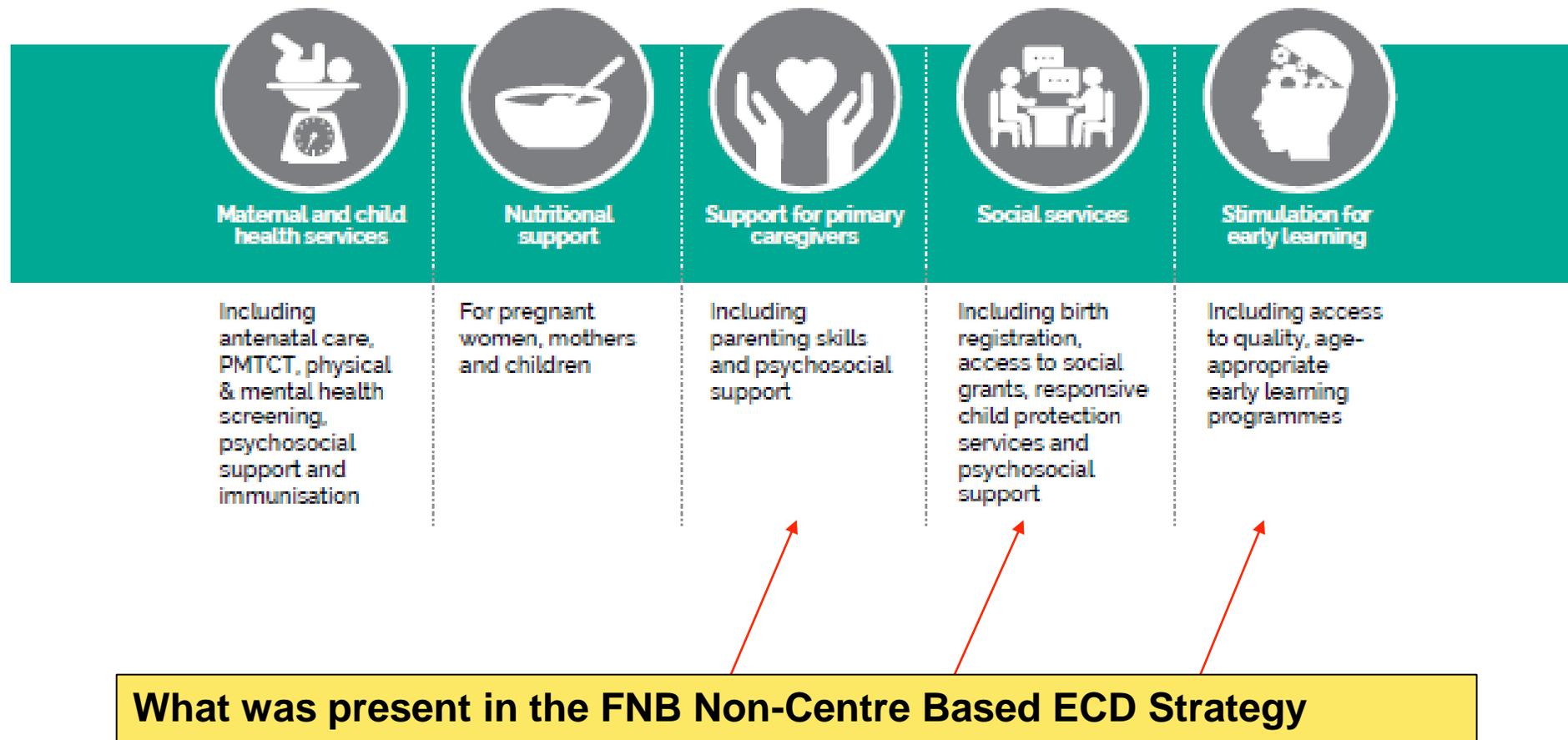
- *Continue to lead role along with our partners to advocate for increasing access to ECD, development of caregivers and stimulation of children*

New initiative

- *Focus on the 1 000 days through nutrition at pre and post-conception*

Components of the essential pack for ECD support

The components of the essential package are:



Key methodology used to answer the evaluation questions

Method



FIRSTRAND



Evaluation questions

- What is the context in which the programmes are being implemented?
- Who are the beneficiaries of the programme? How are their needs being served?
- How is the programme being implemented? What are the elements of the programme that are key to its delivery?
- What has the programme achieved to date?
- What difference has the programme made on the lives of primary caregivers/children/facilitators?
- What difference has the programme made on the lives of children participating in non-centre based programme activities?
- What lessons have been learned through implementation?
- How can the programme/strategy be strengthened in future to meet the current demands of ECD in South Africa?

METHOD

Conducted
site visits
across 7
provinces



Low income
and rural parts
of the country



12 programme
partners

FOCUS GROUPS

Primary Caregivers: 54



Facilitators: 50

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS



Programme
management
staff: 33

REVIEW PROGRAMME REPORTS

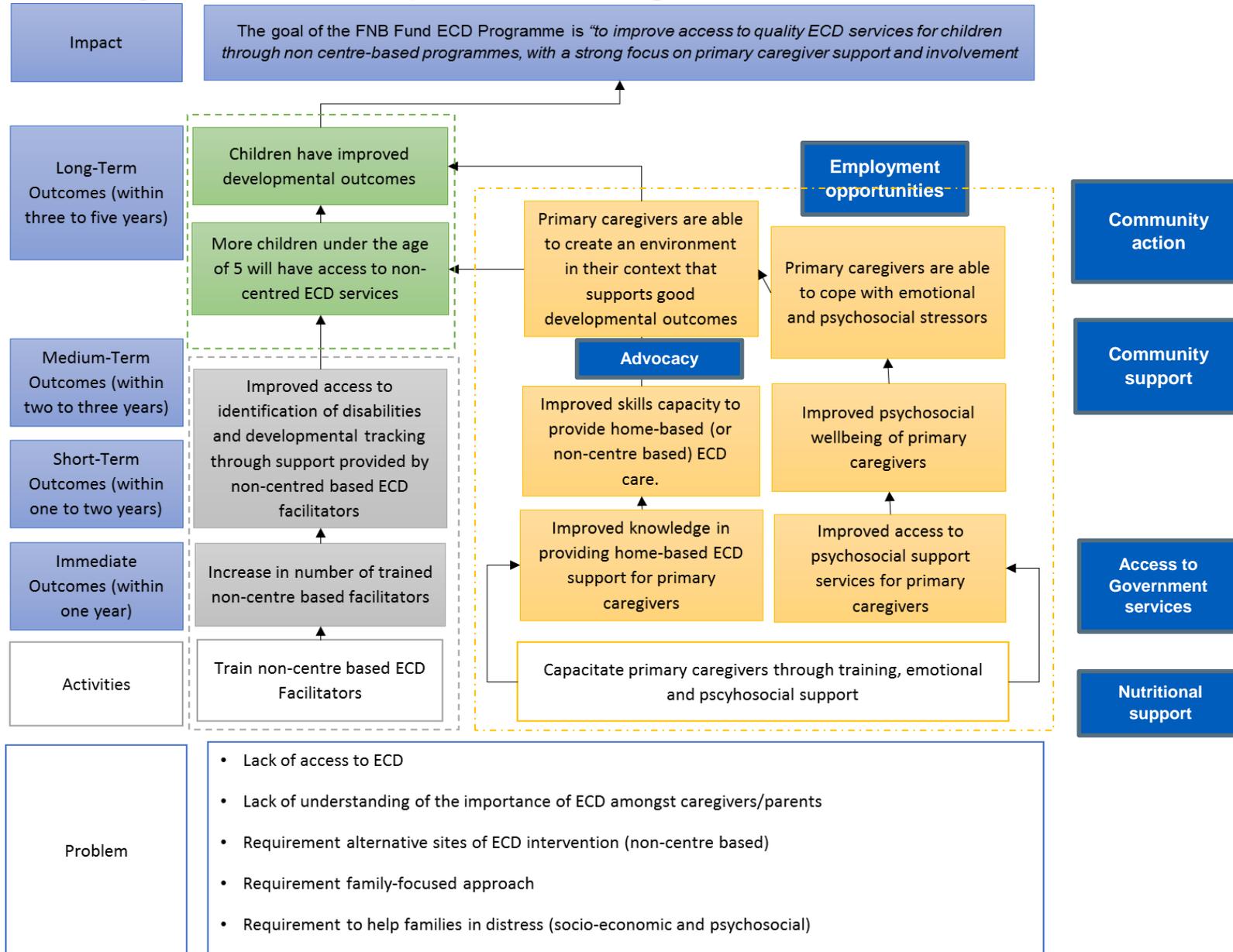


3 years of data,
across 12
programme
partners

FNB Non-Centre Based ECD Programme Partners

Programme Partner	Training and QA practitioners 	Home visitation 	Family support 	Resources 	Training Psychologists 	Weekly playgroups 	Identifying vulnerable beneficiaries 	Identification of disability (mental/physical) 
ELRU								
SS								
Ububele								
LETCEE								
Lesedi								
Midlands								
Penryn								
Wits HI Hopes							x (bi-monthly)	
Bulungula								
Khululeka								
Tshepang								
Ntataise								

Emergent Theory of change



Programme performance against the ToC



Non-Centre Based Early Childhood Development 2015-2017



Number of children participating in the programme
11832

Number of Caregivers participating in the programme
8748

Number of programme beneficiaries (facilitators, children and primary caregivers) with disabilities taking part in the programme
554

Caregiver Well-being
92% have a Moderate to High Level of Psychosocial well-being

Caregiver Skills and Knowledge
84% have an Average to Good level of knowledge on ECD/Parenting

Households participating
89% have a moderate to high level of safety and hygiene

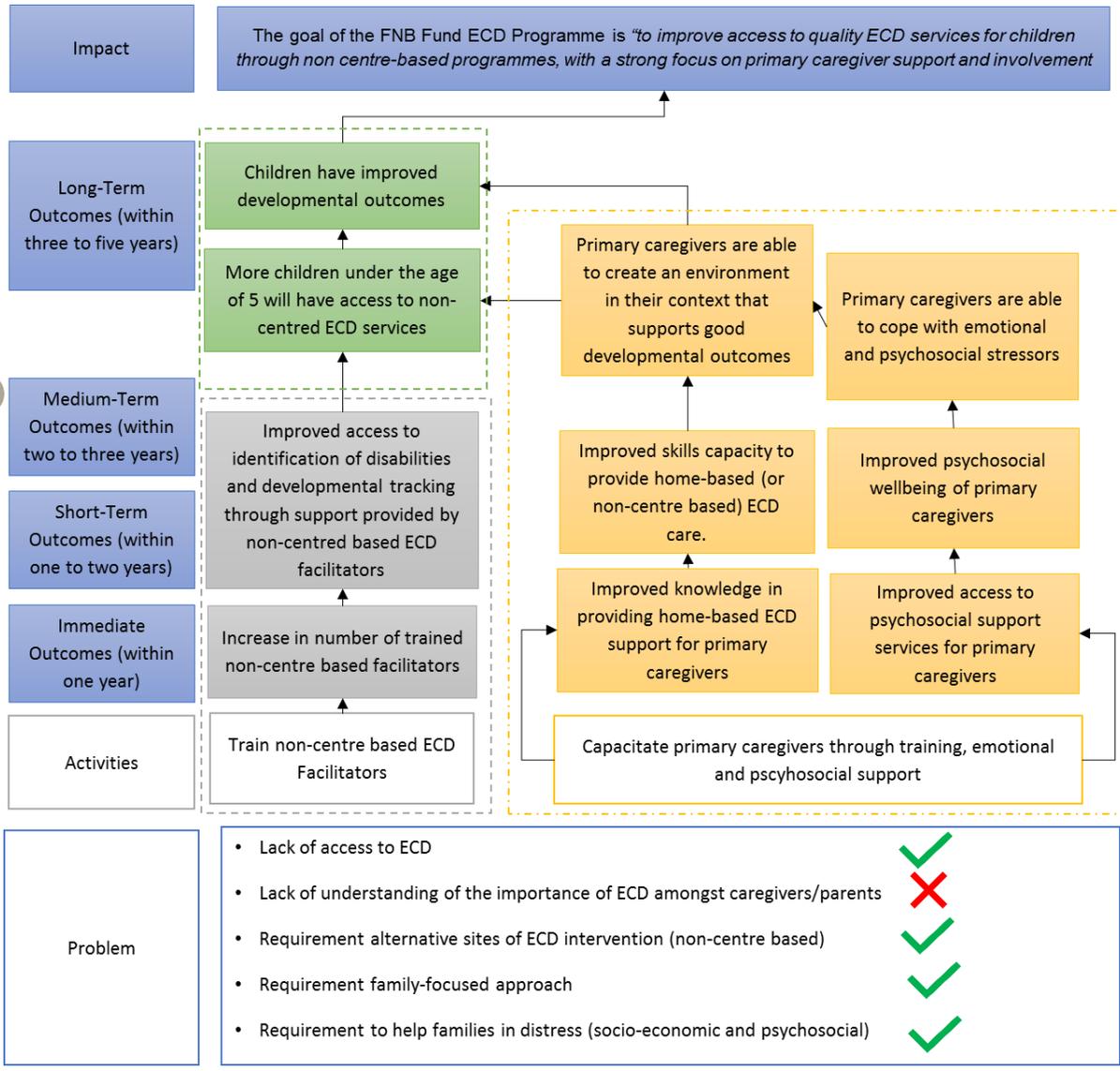
Facilitators trained
524

Number of households with access to age appropriate learning resources
3842

1:9 Ratio of FCM/CP Playgroup Facilitator per Household/Family/Playgroup

Early Childhood Development Milestones of children on the programme (average over three years across programme partners)

- 51% fall within the cognitive development milestone
- 59% fall within the gross motor development milestone
- 55% fall within the language development milestone
- 67% fall within the social and emotional development milestone
- 55% fall within the fine motor development milestone



Dominant themes and its relationship to the ToC

Primary caregivers	Facilitators	Children	Contextual factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Skills usage ● Improved confidence ● Access to nutrition ● Access to income generating opportunities ● Access to a peer support network ● Access to government services ● Ability to manage emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improved confidence ● Improved knowledge of ECD ● Access to employment ● Being recognised as a leader in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to nutritional support ● Improved developmental outcomes ● Scholastic performance at primary school ● Sibling learning benefits ● Children are valued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poverty ● Unemployment ● Gender-based violence and intimate partner violence ● HIV/AIDS ● Crime ● Substance abuse ● Sexual abuse ● Hunger ● Teenage pregnancies ● Primary caregivers that require special care
<p>Programme Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mainstreaming of disability ● Changing the mindsets of primary caregivers 			

Based on consolidating feedback across focus groups (programme partners, primary caregivers and facilitators) and the Evaluator's view on what could be included

Recommendations



FIRSTRAND



Recommendations for the programme

- Explore nutrition as part of the programme delivery model
- Reconsider the stipends of facilitators
- Reconsider the number of facilitators facilitating programme sessions
- Reconsider access to psychosocial support services for facilitators
- Provide facilitators with further training
- Provide referrals to job opportunities or initiatives that provide primary caregivers access to income

Recommendations to the programme

- Provide referrals services to schools
- Consider running facilitated sessions at a safe and sheltered venue
- Run more M&E capacity building workshops
- Use standardised tools for measurement
- Track individual beneficiaries consistently over time
- Improve partnerships with government departments and ECD forums through formalising the relationships

Recommendations for internal team

- Reassess how the strategy is positioned and how to best measure impact
- Plan for a future impact assessment
- Use other partners to leverage the work of programme partners at a policy level

What does this mean in context?

- Non-centre based ECD provides an essential ECD service to low income communities
 - Referrals to services
 - Psychosocial support
 - Community strengthening
 - Knowledge on how to provide holistic support to a child (safe and hygienic environment, understanding ECD milestones and how to stimulate your child)
- Provides an alternative method of ECD education through peer to peer learning for non-centre based ECD facilitators, primary caregivers and their families (intergenerational learning)
- There is a need to facilitate cross departmental relationship between government departments
- Primary caregivers understand the importance of ECD education, and value the service provided by the Programme Partners
- Some of the feeder primary schools in surrounding the Programme Partners reported better participation and performance in Grade R compared to other children who had received conventional ECD intervention

Thank you for participating!

