

**CHILDREN AND HIV-AIDS CONFERENCE -  
'ACTION NOW, ACTION HOW?'**

**Mexico City 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008**

**THE KUSASELIHLE INTEGRATED EARLY  
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE IN  
NKANDLA**

**KUSASELIHLE – A good tomorrow - a bright  
future!**





[www.tree-ecd.co.za](http://www.tree-ecd.co.za)



**WHAT ABOUT THE VERY YOUNG CHILD?**  
**‘Mobilising the community to support very young children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS’**

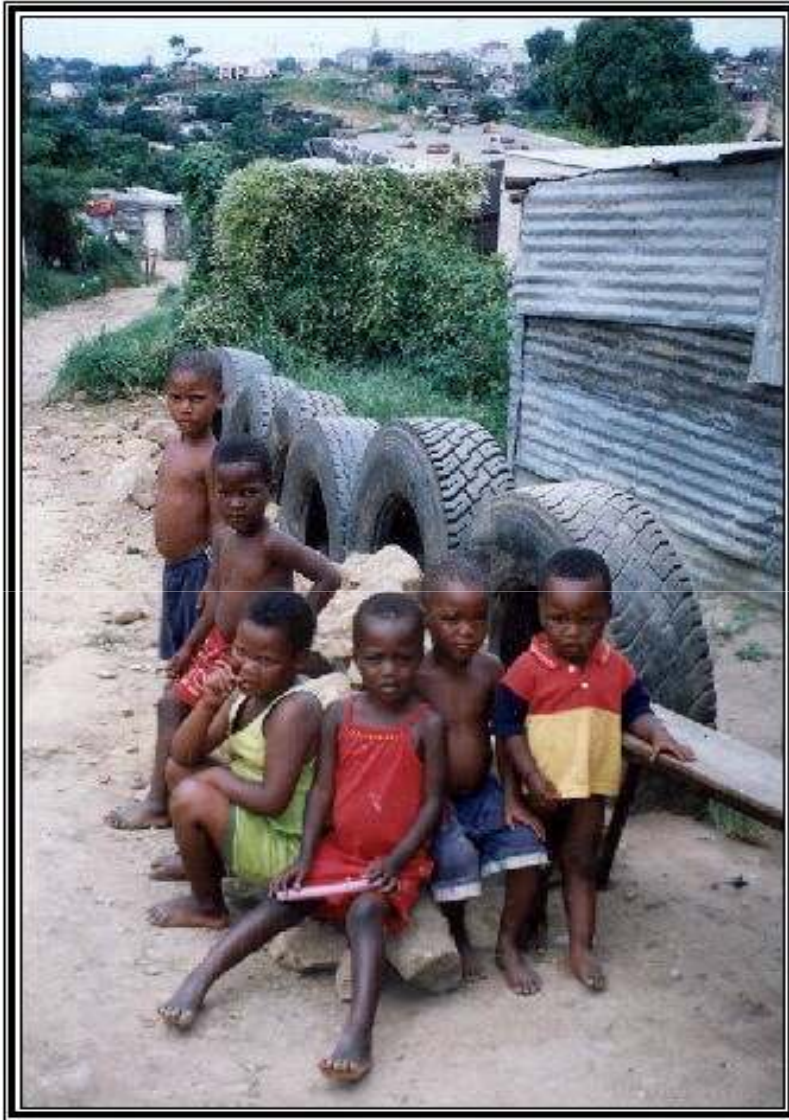
# CONTEXT

## 1. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- **The Constitution of South Africa – a firm foundation on human (children’s) rights.**

**South Africa is also signatory to:**

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- **African Charter on the Rights of the Child**



**The lives of young children in South Africa are being devastated by the twin scourges of poverty and HIV/AIDS**

# RESEARCH

**Research conducted by Linda Biersteker and Norma Rudolph for UNICEF (2003) comments as follows:**

**‘There is, as yet, little or no attention being given to the youngest children, who are most developmentally vulnerable to deprivation of consistent, responsive care, adequate nutrition and interpersonal and environmental stimulation.’**



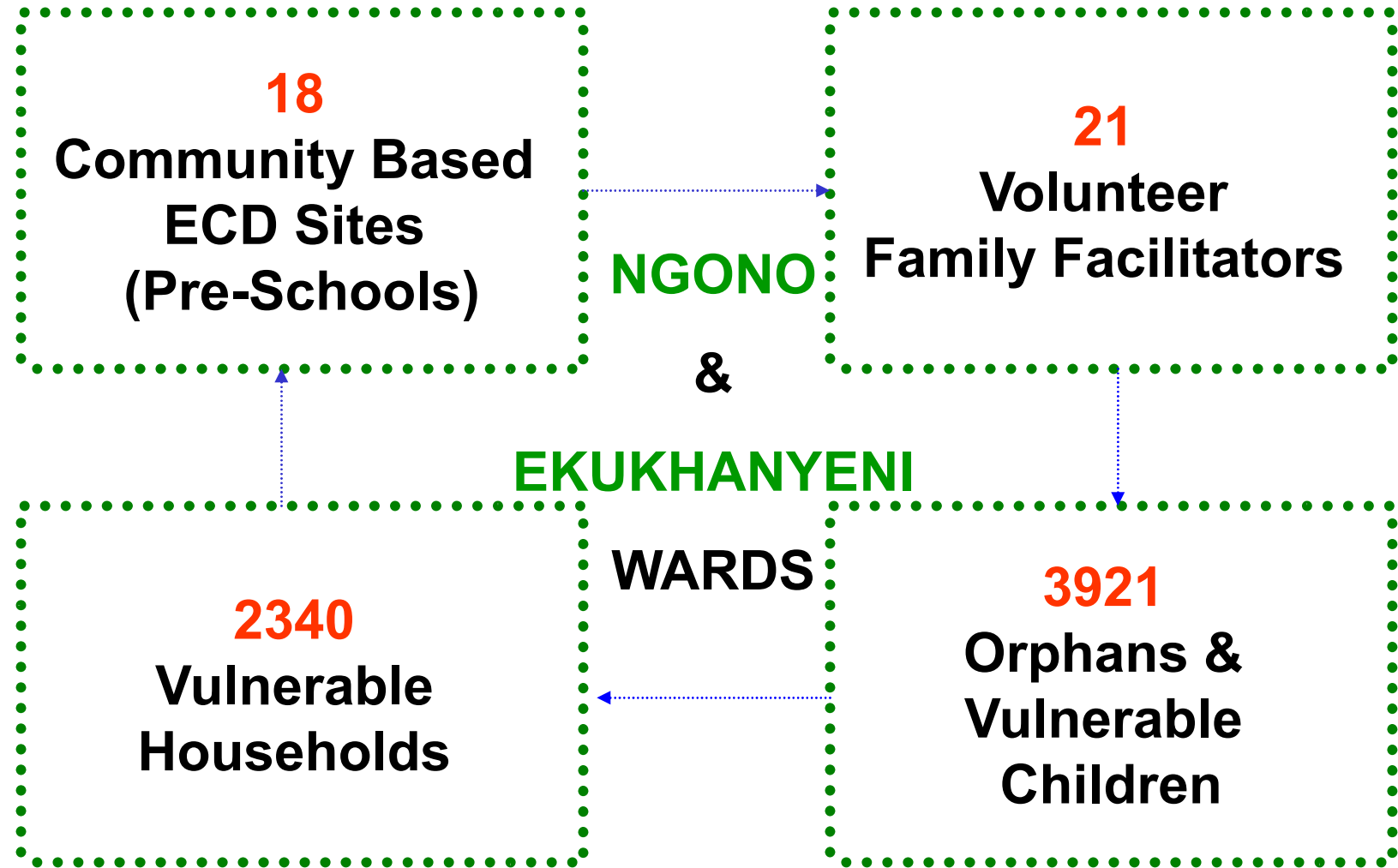
# TREE Early Childhood Development Training and Projects in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape







# NKANDLA MUNICIPALITY



**NKANDLA MULTI SECTORAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM**

**Community Based ECD Sites  
( Pre-schools/ Parent/Committees/  
Supervisors/Practitioners  
(teachers) Children (age 2-6)**

**Child Care  
Forums**

**Volunteer  
Family Facilitators**

Vulnerable  
Households  
**ELDERLY  
CAREGIVER**

Vulnerable  
Households  
**PARENT ABSENT,  
SICK, DYING**

Vulnerable  
Households  
**CHILD HEAD OF  
HOUSEHOLD**

Vulnerable  
Households  
**DISABILITY**

Vulnerable  
Households  
**ABUSE**

Vulnerable  
Households  
**EXTREME  
POVERTY**

# Phakathwayo Pre-School

- capacity building in ECD, child health, accessing documents and grants, HIV/AIDS, toy making, C-IMCI, facilitating Parenting Programmes, caregiver support programme





# **VOLUNTEER FAMILY FACILITATORS**

- **work at household level to ensure children's rights are fulfilled.**
- **capacity building in C-IMCI (16 Key Family Practices) – World Health Organisation/UNICEF strategy adopted by Department of Health.**
- **entry point to household is through toy kit – toys, games, stories and songs with the children and encouraging caregivers to initiate play.**
- **Practical support and referrals: ID documents, grants/pensions, nutrition, food parcels, seeds for food gardens, hygiene practices, health care and disease prevention, immunisation, Vit A supplements, Road to Health Cards, PMTCT follow up, psycho-social support, Memory Boxes, school attendance.**



**Kusasihle Project Coordinator & Family Facilitator : Makhosazana Mathenjwa with a proud recipient of an ID.**



**Ms Ntombela, a committed member of the community tending the garden and safe-keeping the household while the children are at school.**

**Child-headed household – girl aged 18 (mother of 1 year old) – still at school; girl aged 17; boy aged 13; boy aged 10; boy aged 4; girl aged 1.**



# CHALLENGES

## **Sustainability & resourcing:**

- Stigma mitigates against early identification of HIV+ children and early commencement & support of paediatric ART.
- Recognising, supporting & rewarding volunteers.
- Effective monitoring & evaluation to demonstrate impact.
- Building community capacity to manage programmes & resources
- Necessity of government adopting a minimum package of services for children.
- Identifying key components for scale up.
- Supporting government to provide the framework & resources to take such programmes to scale to ensure impact on the critical mass of young children.

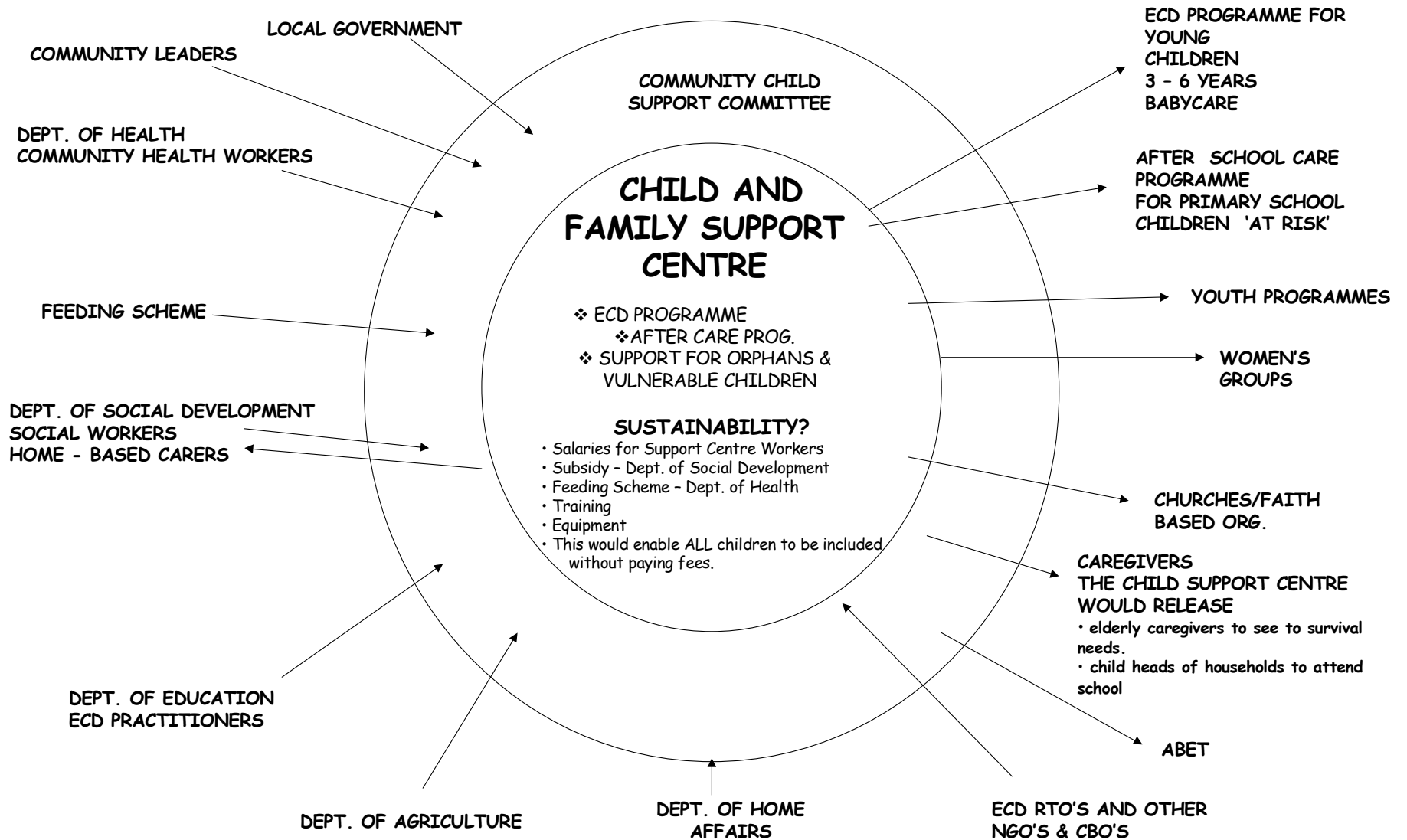






# TREE VISION FOR COMMUNITY BASED CHILD & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRES

To meet the rights and needs of young orphans and vulnerable children for survival, protection and development



## TREE'S VISION FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRES

### would release:

- **ELDERLY CAREGIVERS**, who are staggering under the burden of caring for increasing numbers of young orphans and vulnerable children.
- **CHILD HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS**, who are unable to attend school because of the responsibility of caring for younger brothers and sisters.

# SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE





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**TREE** in partnership with  
**Nkandla Municipality** and  
**UNICEF**