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Open-air
classrooms
in informal
settlements

Emthonjeni



VIOLENCE
PREVENTION
THROUGH URBAN
UPGRADING



Buhle loves her Emthonjeni

Buhle lives with her unemployed parents in a shack dwelling in Monwabisi Park informal settlement. With a small government grant as only income source for her parents, the future looks bleak for Buhle. She plays in the unsafe vicinity of her home in water puddles, picking up twigs and old rusted cans which serve as her toys.

One day in September, Buhle accompanied her mum on mum's washing day to the nearest Emthonjeni. It was here that Buhle experienced children of her age actively playing with colourful toys, crayons and paints.

“She marveled at the colourful toys. She could not contain her excitement and ran towards the other children and joined in on the activities. It was love at first sight...”

For her who had not known that beyond the world of scrap and dirt, there are real colourful toys for children like herself.

Buhle's parents are noticing the difference at home. They observe how Buhle has become more receptive since she attends the daily sessions at the Emthonjeni. Her parents are starting to understand why education is a ladder towards a brighter future that goes far beyond literacy skills.

There are hundreds of children like Buhle with no access to Early Childhood Programmes and educational resources which are crucial to develop cognitive skills and open up the learning channels towards future chances of job acquisition.

“The Emthonjeni Programme offers children like Buhle the opportunity to develop holistically. The toys draw the children into a world of imagination and development. Buhle and other children in her community are now able to develop optimally and enjoy the prospects of a better future.”

“Emthonjenis provide safe spaces for Early Childhood Development - according to the World Health Organisation the most impactful and cost effective way to reduce poverty, ill-health and criminality.”



Limited access to water



Limited access to education



Uninspiring and unsafe spaces

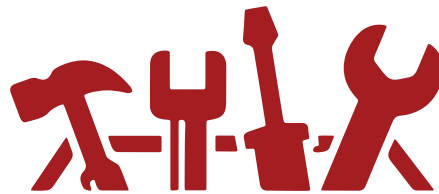


BEFORE

why co-creating an emthonjeni?

Emthonjeni's are practical examples to transform unsafe, underutilized public spaces into safe places of quality learning. The goal is to build social cohesion, improve safety and provide access to dignified communal water points in dense informal settlements. We believe spaces that hold clean and healthy water, regular quality education programmes, and are consistently monitored and evaluated are catalysts for an attractive and vibrant neighbourhood.

We acknowledge that crime prevention starts with Early Childhood Development. VPUU's Emthonjeni Programmes aspires to connect 80% of children in a community to Early Childhood Programmes mitigating risks for children to become victims and perpetrators of crime and violence.



PREVENTION

COHESION

PROTECTION

EVIDENCE

VPUU STRATEGY

what is an emthonjeni?

Emthonjeni is a Xhosa word for the place where water originates. Emthonjeni's are socially transformed water collection points. They are dynamic, multifunctional spaces for gathering, playing, washing and business opportunities. Safe walkways link to other key points, such as crèches. In Cape Town's Monwabisi Park and Lotus Park, they provide safe spaces for Early Childhood Development activations and encourage safe play and equitable access to education and health for children in informal settlements. It can also be activated by Youth or Entrepreneurs. The focus is to develop small scale solutions to improved quality of life in partnership with local communities.



Access to water



Access to education



Inspiring and safe spaces

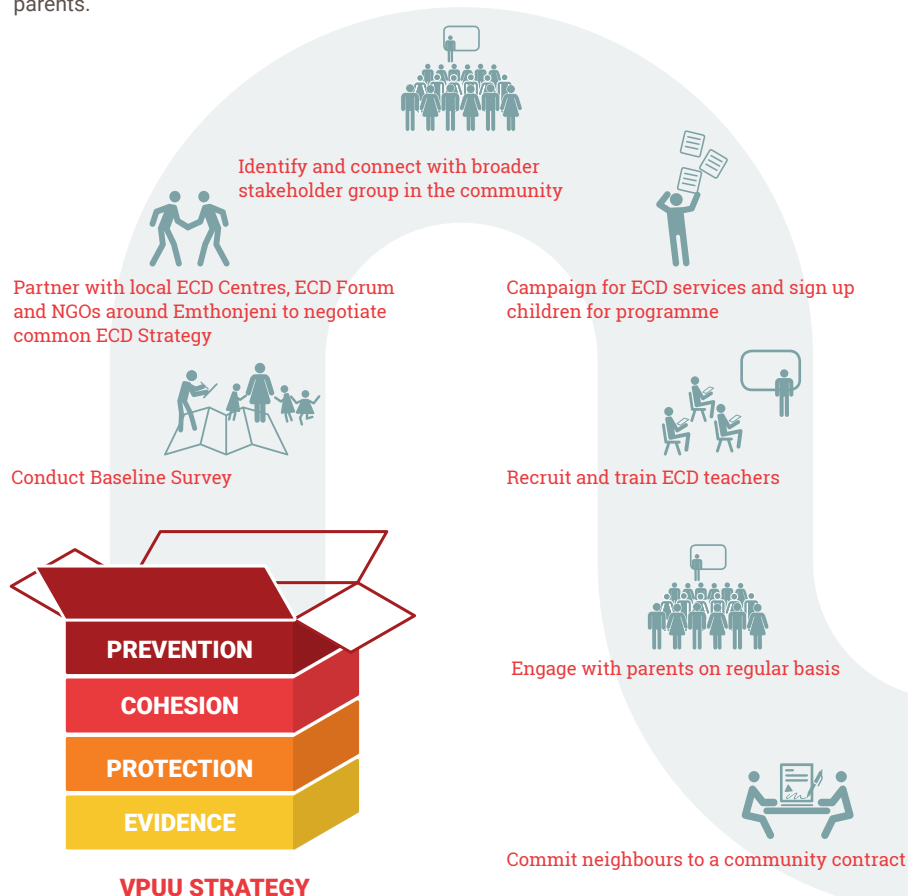


AFTER

how does an emthonjeni work?

Emthonjenis are safe spaces for ECD outreach. Trained facilitators conduct programmes following the Unlimited Child Curriculum, educational toys and other learning materials. Each child's clinic card is checked regularly and parents are encouraged to visit a clinic for vaccinations. Regular attendance is monitored to assist with impact evaluation based on Early Learning Outcome measures. Safety is ensured by working together with Neighbourhood Watch Groups, community leadership and parents.

“A space designed and created with the community for the community. Emthonjenis contribute towards deepening a sense of pride and citizenship.”





where can you experience an emthonjeni?

Since 2009 we co-created more than 15 safe spaces in Monwabisi Park and Lotus Park. By June 2017, our Early Childhood Development Outreach Programmes have recorded **16 581** children attendances at 3 Emthonjenis in Monwabisi Park and **3 110** children attendances in Lotus Park. We have reached **553** children in Monwabisi Park and **287** in Lotus Park. Emthonjenis only work if the community and parents share one vision. We interacted with 2035 parents via ECD Outreach in Monwabisi Park and Lotus Park.

3101 children attendances
107 children reached

EMTHONJENI M15



6337
294

EMTHONJENI C04



7143
152

EMTHONJENI A15

ECD

CAPE PENINSULA

CAPE TOWN

GUGULETHU
LOTUS PARK
NYANGA

KHAYELITSHA

MONWABISI PARK

“
Monwabisi Park is an informal settlement of 25 000 residents on the fringes of Cape Town's biggest township Khayelitsha. Lotus Park is located on the Cape Flats in Gugulethu and home to 6000 people.

By June 2017,
840 children have experienced ECD at an Emthonjeni.



3110
287

LOTUS PARK
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



“We build trust to upgrade existing public open spaces in community partnership to educate children. We are guided by the whole of society strategy.”

emthonjeni toolkit

+ tree



+ safe route



+ table



+ seating



+ play area



+ water access point



+ regular and quality ECD programme activations



what makes it an emthonjeni?

Community ownership and trusted partnerships are key success factors to plan, design, build, activate and maintain an Emthonjeni. Depending on the size of the Emthonjeni, the process of community participation, co-design, local construction and activation takes between 6-12 months. Transparency, integrity, promotion of voluntarism and accountability are crucial elements throughout this process. VPUU is the facilitator between local partners, strategic and research partners in a holistic and participative process of design, decision-making and practical problem solving.

“VPUU aims to co-create safe and sustainable neighbourhoods to improve the quality of life for all residents.”

#GetInvolved

Our holistic participatory approach engages the community from the very beginning, throughout the process of design, construction, activation and innovative monitoring and evaluation system.

Our work is aimed towards deepening citizenship, pride, encouraging partnerships and improving the overall quality of life. We promote:

- Life Long Learning
- Building community social capital
- Safe Communities
- Having evidence of positive impact

We work in partnership with communities, government, private sector and civil society to achieve our vision. Joint learning is intended at all levels of engagement.

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R250 pays a local teacher to implement ECD programmes for one day



R410 will buy one child an educational resource kit



R440 feeds 1 child for 60 days



R1 550 trains one teacher in the basic module of Early Childhood Development Curriculum



R1420 plants a tree at the Emthonjeni play site

R7810 helps us reach 200 parents during a Community Open Day Event where we protote benefits of ECD

“The Emthonjeni Programme is embedded in the Lifelong Learning Prevention strategy focusing on development of children and young people.”



#get involved
Give NOW on Global Giving:
<https://goto.gg/29482>

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