RE- INVENTING THE FUTURE
ECD TRAINING AND THE
CHANGING ROLES OF RTO’S

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Brief Background & Context

- Issue 1 Acknowledging the problem
- Issue 2 Reflecting on some key successes
- Issue 3 Confronting the Challenges & Building coalitions
First, The Numbers speak loudly!

- 5 million children below the age of 5 in SA today
- 2.3 million are affected by abject poverty.
- 6 per cent of them have special needs.
- 23-30 % of children under 5 are stunted through malnutrition.
- Many children under 5 die from preventable diseases & injuries.
- Few children under one have a birth certificate and access the Child Support Grant.
- Less than 25% have access to any form of ECD programme.
- Where programmes exist they are generally poor in quality.
- Gross inequity
Brief Background & Context

- Historically the NPOs and in particular the RTOs have played a critical role in the establishment of a vibrant ECD sector in terms
  - ECD qualifications Training
  - ECD direct service delivery
  - ECD Advocacy & policy engagements
  - ECD programmes innovation
  - Championing the cause for ECD
  - Guided the Donor community investment strategies

- This was good, familiar predictable and also a comfortable place to be!
Where did we come from?
What are our notable Achievements
New Context for ECD IN SA

.. maybe we should try to think out of the box?

Innovation Department

It can be a little intimidating!
Can we meet the Universalisation goal for ECD?

- The ECD training NPO sector is relatively small and diverse, and currently lacks capacity for the scaling up of ECD services and programmes for children aged 0–4.
- There is a significant imbalance of distribution, with most ECD training NPOs located in metropolitan areas, particularly Gauteng and the Western Cape, whereas, in terms of child numbers, the rural provinces are significantly under-serviced.
- ECD NPO sector training role eroded by policy support for public sector providers and there is no on-going quality improvement plan.

( Ilifa Labantwana - survey of 76 ECD Training NPOs 2013)
The ECD sector in South Africa is rapidly changing
We find ECD RTOs at the cross roads!
What now?
Reflective Intent

Being aware of our intentions, our work, our environment, and changes in the Sector.

Self Awareness

Awareness of our work our expertise, Our power together
Some Opportunities knocking

GROUP 1
- Changing policy environment, political window
- Increased attention and focus on ECD globally and nationally

GROUP 2
- Changing landscape for training – TVETs taking over
- More children than services – geographic spread
- Not enough sites, not enough practitioners, no register of practitioners, no professional body

GROUP 3
- Quality challenges with provision – infrastructure poor, resources, funding etc
- Management systems are weak (registration, etc)

In your group, consider some of the opportunities that present in the current context. Now develop an elevator pitch to the president of SA clearly stating what you might do as an RTO to find and add value to this opportunity.
This is our sector too
Crafting our space jointly

What are still key issues to be addressed,
What do you want more of?
What do you want less of?
What is missing/Concerning?
Overall High level recommendations?

What Quality Measures including Work Place Experience & Mentoring should be in Required?
Who should be providing the training?
Who should be trained and Why?
How should partnerships or twinning be set up?
Some recommendations to consider....

- A strategic High Profile Conversation is urgently required by all role player
- The Development of an Overall ECD HR strategy for the sector
- Practical Joint Planning between government departments and other stakeholders
- Initiating provincial and national best practice dialogues and workshops for modelling and testing of fundable pilots

- Agreed and negotiated qualifications should be available for the training of ECD Practitioners and other low entry level staff. (ETDP SETA, DSD)
- What Programmes should public providers, RTOs and private providers be training practitioners for
  - Home- and community-based programmes
  - Comprehensive and integrated ECD programme
Thank you