

UPDATE ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) FUNCTION SHIFT

Joint Portfolio Committee for Basic Education and Social Development
25 August 2021



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



social development

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Social Development
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PROBLEM STATEMENT

*“The primary purpose of Early Childhood Development will continue to be **comprehensive support** for the holistic development of young children and their families. This requires the **convergent** efforts of several departments and depends on a strong **coordinating** mechanism. While the departments of health, basic education and social development **lead** in providing services for young children, poor vulnerable families also depend on the efforts of the Department of Home Affairs for their children's birth registration in order to access state support, the Department of Human Settlements for housing subsidies, and the Departments of Energy and Water Affairs for basic services.”*

National Planning Commission: National Development Plan, November 2011

PROBLEM STATEMENT...

Quality Early Childhood Development programmes should lay a **solid foundation** for **school readiness** and **quality education** for children. The reality is the **provision** and **institutional arrangements** of ECD, which historically and currently mitigate against this eventuality. This has undermined a **coherent** and **cohesive cognitive**, linguistic, physical, and socio-emotional development of children. This is compounded by **huge inequalities** stemming from **diverse socio-economic** backgrounds that children are born with and born within, if not properly mediated through a quality integrated ECD programmes, children are likely to carry this over through their education, and subsequently for the rest of their lives.

PROBLEM STATEMENT...

The provision of Early Childhood Development (ECD) including Grade R has experienced a massive expansion over the years. Between **2001** and **2012** Grade R places in public and independent schools expanded more than threefold, from **242 000** to **768 000**, meaning **45 000** additional learners and a thousand classrooms per year. A further **55 000** children attend Grade R in ECD centres meaning a total of **804 000** Grade Rs. **78%** of 5-year olds were in some sort of education programme in 2009, up from **39%** in 2002. More than **90%** of all Grade Rs are in public schools, and **89%** of public primary schools offer Grade R.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

The NDP further observes that:

“ECD services should be flexible and responsive to the needs of children, families and communities. Some services need to be targeted at children, while others provide support to caregivers. It is essential that everybody has access to services of a consistently high standard and quality, regardless of who they are, and where they live. Specific considerations should be given to the most vulnerable children – those living in abject poverty, at great distance from existing services, or with disabilities”.

It is therefore critical to stress that the evolution of the current mandate with respect to the systematic and phased-in relocation of the responsibility and leadership for the ECD delivery, was not haphazard, but deliberate and well thought-out. Therefore, the provision of universal access to quality ECD programmes, must take into account all the requisite attributes – the *physical, cognitive, linguistic, and socio-emotional development* – which children must possess for school readiness.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

- The NDP observes that the quality and coverage of ECD services for children aged 0-4 years “*is poor*”. Grade R, which is currently the strongest element of pre-school learning and support, links ECD services with primary schooling.

“This method should be extended to include four (4) to five (5) year-olds. But it would have to build on a firmer foundation of child nutrition, health, and development from pregnancy to three (3) years of age, without which, children will not be able to take advantage of an expanded preschool experience”.

RATIONALE FOR THE FUNCTION SHIFT

- To further enhance and align ECD learning as a means to achieving universal quality access to ECD services for every child;
- Policies to promote enrolment in pre-primary schools, are critical to ensure that children arrive at primary schools well-prepared to succeed.
- ***Participation in quality and impactful ECD programmes is linked to improved attention and learning outcomes, as well as higher completion rates and school attainment levels.***
- When children enter schools with low levels of school readiness, they are more likely to score poorly, repeat grades, and drop-out; in addition, the effects can be detrimental for the overall classroom environment, not just those children who are ill-prepared.
- It can therefore be concluded the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the National Development Plan 2030, the resolutions of the 52nd, 53rd and 54th National Conferences of the Ruling Party, the 2019 Election Manifesto of the Ruling Party, and President Ramaphosa's directives during the February 2019 State of the Nation, vis-à-vis the systematic and phased-in relocation of ECD from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education, were absolutely true and correct.



MANDATE FOR THE FUNCTION SHIFT

- **CONSTITUTION:**

Section 29(1)(a) of the Constitution declares that “*everyone has a right to a basic education ...*”

- **NDP:**

“*There should be a **policy and programme shift** to ensure that the Department of Basic Education takes core responsibility for the provision and monitoring of ECD*”.

- **ANC’s 54th National Conference:**

“*The ANC must ensure there is **systematic relocation** of the responsibility of ECD from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education.*”

- **National Integrated ECD Policy**

“*There should be a **policy and programme shift** to ensure that the Department of Basic Education takes core responsibility for the provision and monitoring of ECD.*”

WHAT IS THE ENVISAGED VALUE-ADDITION TO THE FUNCTION SHIFT

- The focus on the Migration of the ECD function shift, will be on the delivery of an **integrated, aligned service delivery model** that will ensure **access to quality early learning and development opportunities for all children**, which will build on the gains instituted by the DSD and to which **DBE and DSD will jointly work towards**;
- This will be done by:
 - Increasing access through an upscaling model;
 - Strengthening the focus on integrated nurturing care, early stimulation and learning, and universal curriculum provision;
 - Strengthening collaboration with the Departments of Cooperative Governance, Health and Home Affairs, to ensure that all Departments are clear about their roles and responsibilities and that there are clear referrals to ensure the holistic support and development of the child.
 - Reviewing the current funding models to evaluate whether lessons can be learnt from the schooling sector.

WHAT IS THE ENVISAGED VALUE-ADDITION TO THE FUNCTION SHIFT

- The ECD function will be further **systematised** and **institutionalised**:
 - The ECD function will be integrated into the **Education Management Information System**. This will allow for more rigorous planning, better systematic support to the sector and for clearer communication with the sector;
 - The DBE also has institutional knowledge on implementing the **National School Nutrition Programme** and the **Integrated School Health Programme**; and
 - Improved **resource** provisioning:
 - Teacher guides, toys, LTSM, playground equipment
 - Strengthen the provisioning of **nutrition** at ECD Programmes
 - Strengthen Practitioners' implementation of **Learning Through Play** and **Nurturing Care**

Integrated, holistic ECD provisioning will therefore build a coherent starting phase within the continuum of lifelong learning.

ALIGNMENT: INTEGRATED ECD DELIVERY

	PREGNANCY	BIRTH TO 24 MONTHS	25 TO 48 MONTHS	49 TO 72 MONTHS
NUTRITION	Counselling on adequate diet during pregnancy	Exclusive breast feeding	Complementary feeding	Adequate, nutritious and safe diet
	Prevention of low birth weight			Therapeutic zinc supplementation for diarrhea
	Iron-folic acid for pregnant mothers			
		Micronutrients: supplementation and fortification		
		Household food security		
HEALTH	Antenatal visits	Routine immunization		
	Prevention of mother-to-child transmission		Deworming	
		Access to health care (Integrated management of childhood illness)		
				School health
		Family planning		
EARLY LEARNING	Mental health screening and prevention of substance abuse	Screening for developmental delay		
	Provide pregnant parents with information on early learning and nurturing care	Safe, stable, nurturing environment and responsive care at home		
		Access to play materials and age appropriate books		
		Early stimulation (caregivers touch, talk, listen and respond to children)		
		Early learning and development opportunities in ECD programmes and pre-schools (including Grades RR and R)		
				Transition to Grade R
			Transition to Grade 1	
SOCIAL SERVICES		Inclusion of children with disabilities in early learning programmes		
		Access to social services to prevent and address risk factors (including early intervention services)		
		Child protection services and psycho-social support		
	Preparation for parenting	Parental support and education programmes		
		Prevention and treatment of parental depression		
	Special care services for children with moderate and severe disabilities			
WATER & SANITATION		Access to safe water		
		Adequate sanitation		
		Safe and age appropriate hygiene practices (e.g. handwashing)		
SOCIAL PROTECTION		Birth registration		
			Access to social grants	
		Maternity and family responsibility leave		
		Childcare services for working or work-seeking caregivers*		
	Poverty alleviation and job-creation programmes			

ALIGNMENT:

INTEGRATED ECD DELIVERY

DEPARTMENT	RESPONSIBILITY of CORE DEPARTMENTS
Basic Education	<p>Development of early learning curriculum; Continuity and synergy between early learning and Grade R; Integration of key health messages in school curriculum; Training, implementation and monitoring relating to curriculum implementation for birth to four-year-olds.</p> <p>New: Ensuring universal availability and adequate quality of, and equitable access to, inclusive learning opportunities; and Development, delivery, regulation, registration, quality monitoring, improvement and evaluation of ECD programmes.</p>
Social Development	<p>Child protection; Psycho-social services; Child support grant; Access to social services to prevent and address risk factors; Parental support programmes.</p>
Health	<p>Provision of health and nutrition programmes for pregnant women, infants and children, parenting support programmes, opportunities for learning and play through health facilities and home visits for children at risk of poor development outcomes.</p>

ALIGNMENT: INTEGRATED ECD DELIVERY

DEPARTMENT	RESPONSIBILITY of CORE DEPARTMENTS
<p>Cooperative Governance</p>	<p>Every municipality should have a 5-year plan on ECD services; The Mayor of each District Municipality will establish a district intergovernmental forum. Child-minding per-child programme support will be paid through the municipality, where applicable; Any municipality will retain ownership of all facilities that are constructed with its respective budget; District municipalities are responsible for the effective coordination in each district. Local and metropolitan municipalities must participate in the planning of early childhood development services. Supporting child care facilities to meet minimum infrastructural health and safety standards; Registration of child-minding services; Development of new early childhood development service provision infrastructure Supporting municipal health services</p>
<p>Department of Home Affairs</p>	<p>Birth Registration</p>

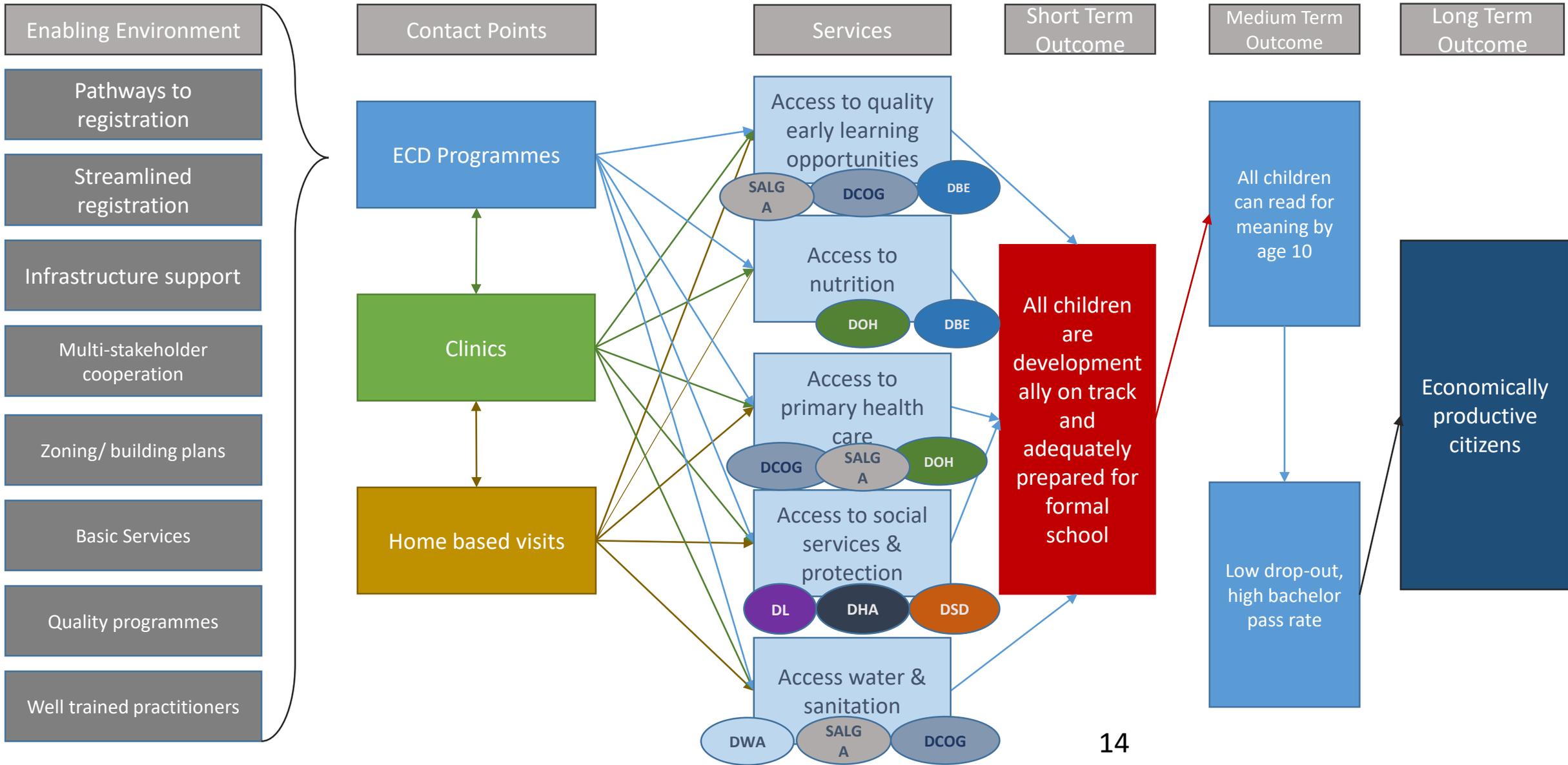
ALIGNMENT:

INTEGRATED ECD DELIVERY

- Local government has a constitutional mandate to provide child-care facilities and municipal health services (Schedule 4B);
- Departments of Health, Social Development and Basic Education have the constitutional mandate for health services, social welfare and basic education (Schedule 4A);
- This is supported by a Cabinet decision emanating from the ANC's National Conference;
- This is also in line with International trends on the location of ECD responsibilities;
- There is therefore a need for strengthened coordination at a local government level;
- This will entail integrating ECD into the District Development Model;
- A working committee has been established as a coordinating mechanism. The DBE is working with SALGA, DSD and the Department of Cooperative Governance, to integrate ECD into the One Plans of the DDM;
- The purpose is to improve on the integrated delivery of ECD on the ground level;
- This will further enable and stimulate the economic participation of women and youth;
- It will be important to also ensure that ECD is included in the 5-year Infrastructure Plans.

ALIGNMENT

INTEGRATED ECD SERVICE DELIVERY



2 PROCESSES RUNNING CONCURRENTLY

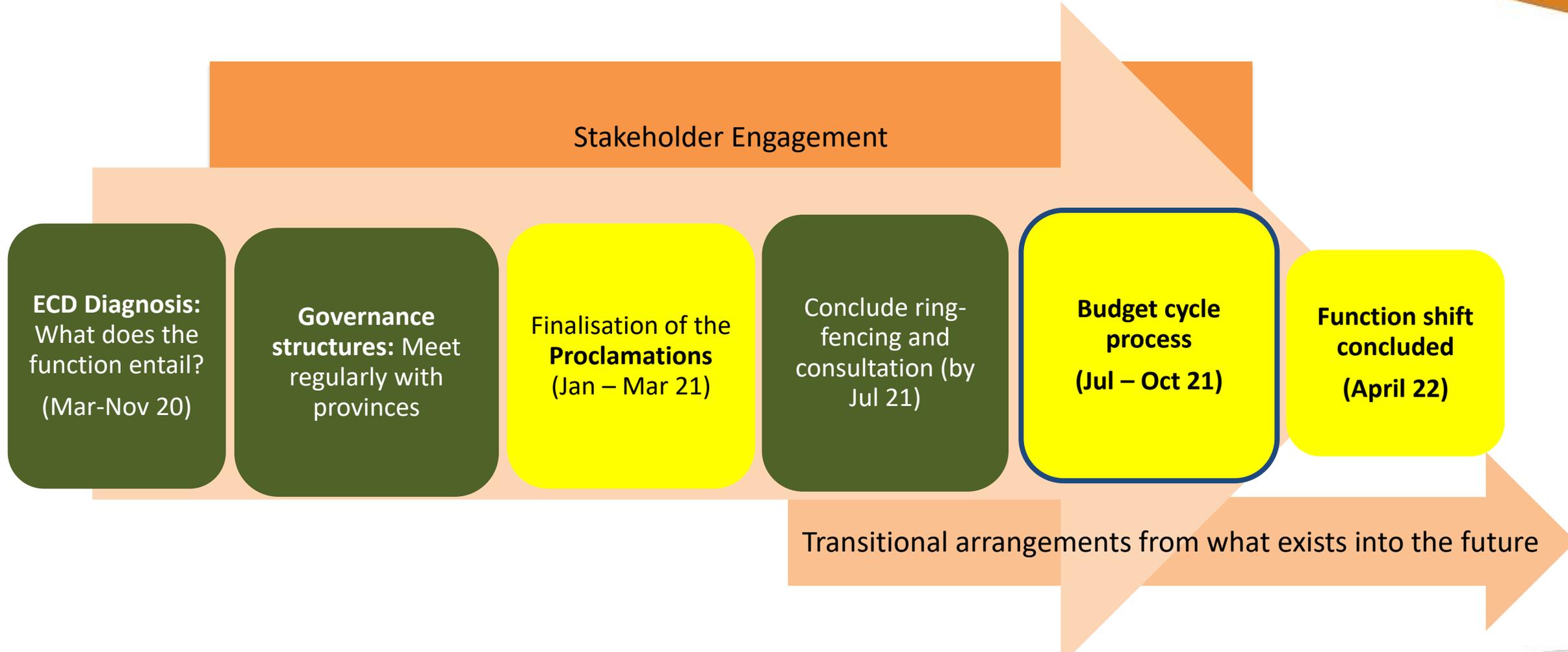
- **Function shift**

- Focusses on shifting the responsibility to the Department of Basic Education.
- Follow process outlined by the National Treasury and Department of Public Service Administration.
- Principle to follow: ring-fence the 'as-is' function and transfer it.

- **Function improvement**

- Entails preparations for improving on the service delivery of the ECD function.
- We have started with preparations for these improvements in 2021, but they will be rolled-out systematically over the next 5 to 10 years.
- The changes will be communicated clearly and well in advance.

REVISED TIME LINES



Date of function shift implementation: 1 April 2022

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

GOVERNANCE



- Legislation and contracts
- Human resources
- Finance and budgets
- Movable and immovable assets
- Data, information, monitoring and evaluation
- Communication and stakeholder engagement
- Implementation programmes

These structures will also oversee the transitional period

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

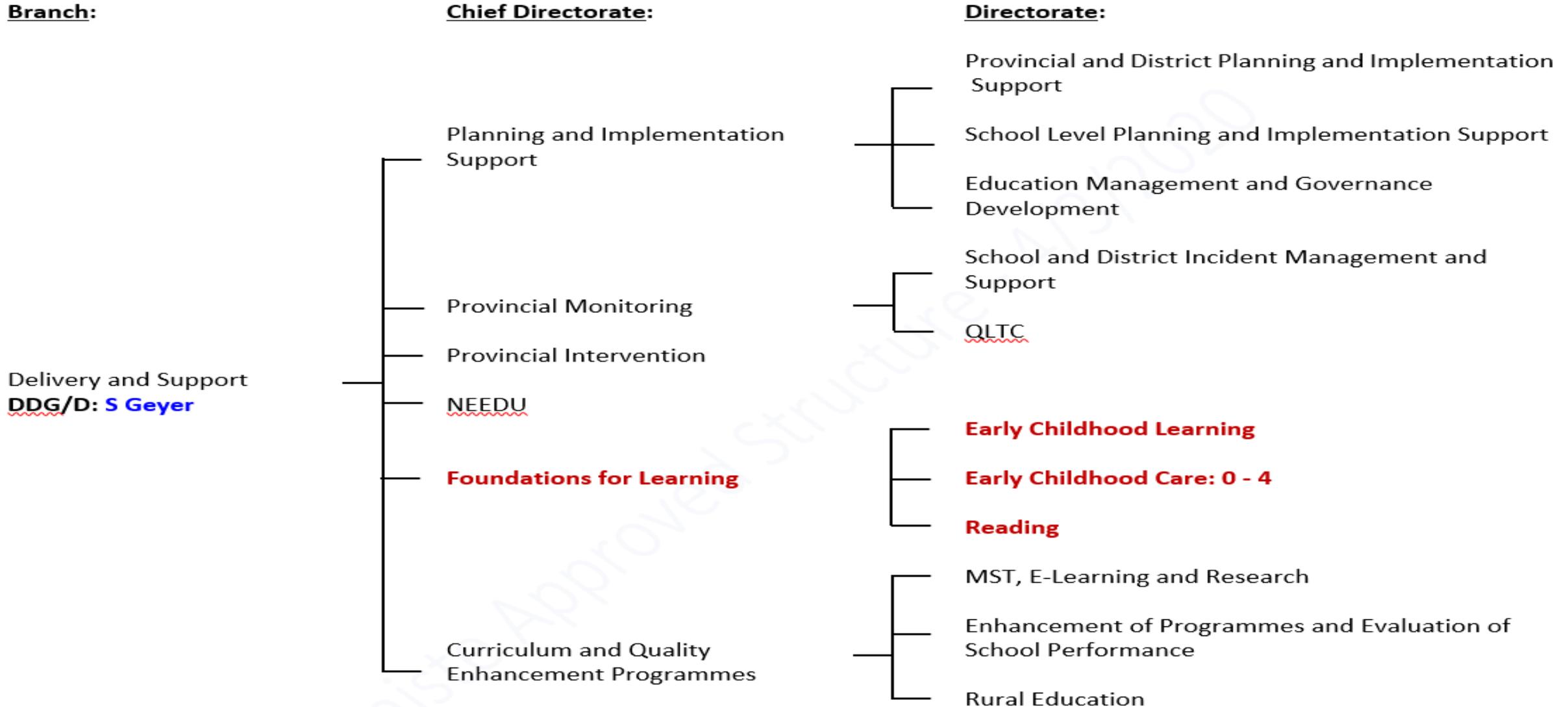
NATIONAL PROGRESS

- **National Proclamation** has been signed and **gazetted** on 30 June 2021.
- The proclamation is supplemented with an MoU between DSD and DBE to oversee transitional arrangements.
- The **NMOG submission was signed** by both Ministers and submitted to the DPSA on 21 July 2021.
- The submission is currently on route for the signature of the Minister of Public Service Administration who will then write to the Minister of Finance to **provide a determination**.
- The matter will be taken to the Technical Committee on Finance (TCF) on 27 August 2021 to request that the matter is tabled at the next Budget Council meeting on 17 September 2021.
- The ECD function shift will then be announced in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS), which the Minister of Finance tables in parliament at the end of October 2021.

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS: NATIONAL PROGRESS

- **Labour requirements** for the function transfer to happen as per policy pronouncements and considering PSA/PSR, LRA as well as NMOG/PMOG requirements.
- **Developed the criteria** to be used for the ring-fencing of the staff complement.
- **Consultation with organised labour** commenced with a presentation to the NITT at the PSCBC in July 2021 & a second follow up meeting has been held in August 2021. The matter was adopted without concerns.
- The function shift and post relocations from DSD to the DBE organisational structure is a standing item in the Departmental Bargaining Chamber.
- **Consultation with affected staff** are taking place within DSD, departmental bargaining chambers and have been presented to the PHSDBC and the ELRC.

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS: NATIONAL REVISED ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS: NATIONAL REVISED ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

- The Minister of DBE **approved the revised organisational structure** on 4 March 2020.
- The proposed structure was submitted to the MPSA for concurrence during July 2020.
- Although the MPSA has raised issues that, in their opinion, need to be addressed before they are willing to support this structure, the composition and placement of the Foundations for Learning Chief Directorate has been supported in principle.
- The DSD national has confirmed that **7 posts will be migrating** to the DBE.
- They will be accommodated in the DBE building and sufficient office accommodation has been confirmed.

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

NATIONAL DSD'S PERMANENT POST FOR TRANSFER

Description of Functions Identified for Transfer	No. of Funded Posts				Total Posts	Total Compensation (filled and funded vacancies) R million
	No. Posts filled by affected staff		No. Vacant funded post identified for transfer			
	SL	No	SL	No		
Partial care facilities that provide ECD programmes & ECD programmes	14	1	0	0	0	Not to be transferred
	12	2	12	2	2	R1,898,298.00
Programme 1 (Finance)	0	0	0	0	0	No Support posts to be transferred
TOTAL POSTS AND COMPENSATION	0	2	0	0	2	R1,898,298.00

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS: NATIONAL DSD CONTRACT POST FOR TRANSFER

Description of Functions Identified for Transfer	No. Employments Additional to the Post Establishment		Total Employments	No.	Total Compensation R million
	SL	No			
Partial care facilities that provide ECD programmes & ECD programmes					
ECD conditional grant	13	1	1	1	R1,057,326.00
ECD conditional grant	9	2	2	2	R753,192.00
ECD conditional grant	8	2	2	2	R1,145,450.00
Programme 1 (Finance)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL EMPLOYMENTS AND COMPENSATION		5	5	5	R2,955,968.00

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS: PROVINCIAL POST FOR TRANSFER

Description of Functions Identified for Transfer	DSD Posts	Conditional Grant Posts
Eastern Cape	85	12
Free State	56	8
Gauteng	173	2
KwaZulu-Natal	63	7
Limpopo	47	19
Mpumalanga	43	7
North West	82	7
Northern Cape	16	5
Western Cape	48	11

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

PROVINCIAL PROGRESS – HR & LR

KEY ACTIVITIES		NAT		EC		FS		GP		KZN		LP		MP		NC		NW		WC		
		DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	
1. Proclamations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proclamations signed by President and Premiers 													OTP					OTP		OTP	
2. Ring fencing of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of staff identified for transfer 																					
3. Organisational Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Org structures developed 																					
4. Joint Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed off by CFO, HoD's and MEC's 			HOD	HOD					HOD	HOD											
5. Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented to PSCBC 								Presented on 8 July 2021													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented to PHSDSBC / ELRC 								Presented on 12 July 2021													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation at PPSCBC / with staff 																					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Notices to staff 																					
														25								

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

PROVINCIAL PROGRESS – FINANCE

- The PEDs indicative transferrable total amount of R3,3 billion
 - CoE transferrable R238,9 million;
 - Good & Service Transferrable R85,8 million;
 - Transfers to Institution R2,9 billion; and
 - Capital Assets R18,5 million.

BUDGET TRANSFERRABLE

PROVINCIAL EQUITABLE SHARE					
2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR					
	Compensation of Employees	Good and Services	NPO/ Transfers	Capital Assets	Budget Agreed Upon for 2022/23
PROVINCES	R`000	R`000	R`000	R`000	R'000
Eastern Cape	30,660	916	192,971	661	225,208
Free State	25,873	10,826	244,420		281,119
Gauteng	50,325	33,040	315,570	4,916	403,851
KwaZulu-Natal	26,339	725	340,954	10,264	378,282
Limpopo	22,196	4,595	277,656	89	304,536
Mpumalanga	15,158	14,328	191,343	180	221,009
Northern Cape	7,202	2,589	52,823		62,614
North West	24,483	3,218	45,316	2,296	75,313
Western Cape	24,714	1,092	263,396	117	289,319
TOTAL	226,950	71,329	1,924,449	18,523	2,241,251

BUDGET TRANSFERRABLE

CONDITIONAL GRANT					
2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR					
	Compensation of Employees	Good and Services	NPI/ Transfers	Capital Assets	Budget Agreed Upon for 2022/23
PROVINCES	R`000	R`000	R`000	R`000	R'000
Eastern Cape	2,025		170,949		172,974
Free State	3,872	2,381	51,450		57,703
Gauteng	820	853	165,288		166,961
KwaZulu-Natal	2,646	453	243,659		246,758
Limpopo	-	4,431	141,800		146,231
Mpumalanga*			73,630		73,630
Northern Cape	2,552	6,317	15,327		24,196
North West			85,511		85,511
Western Cape			101,631		101,631
TOTAL	11,915	14,435	1,049,245		1,075,595

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS: PROVINCIAL PROGRESS – INFRASTRUCTURE

KEY ACTIVITIES		NAT		EC		FS		GP		KZN		LP		MP		NC		NW		WC	
		DSD	DBE																		
1. List of ECD Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect lists of ECD centres that are scheduled for maintenance etc. 																				
2. Develop roll out plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for rolling out maintenance & renovations is developed 																				
3. Conduct Readiness assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure management assessment conducted 																				
4. Develop roll out plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for constructing new ECD centres is developed 	n/a														n/a					n/a

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

PROVINCIAL PROGRESS – DATA, INFORMATION, MONITORING

KEY ACTIVITIES		NAT		EC		FS		GP		KZN		LP		MP		NC		NW		WC	
		DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE	DSD	DBE
1. List of datasets and information systems identified for transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and submit all data and information system 	On-going process until 31 March 2022																			
2. Identify indicators and reporting requirements for transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and submit reporting indicators and data standards 																				

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

PROVINCIAL PROGRESS – PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

KEY ACTIVITIES		NAT				EC				FS				GP				KZN				LP				MP				NC				NW				WC							
		DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E	DS	D	DB	E				
1. List of tools for ECD registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify processes and collect tools used to assess registration of ECD centres 																																												
2. Develop ECD plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan for managing registration of ECD centres with DBE Develop a plan for assessing new applications for registration with DBE Develop a plan for conducting assessment audits in line with norms and standards 																																												

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS: PROVINCIAL PROGRESS – PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

KEY ACTIVITIES		NAT		EC		FS		GP		KZN		LP		MP		NC		NW		WC	
		DSD	DBE																		
3. Conduct Readiness assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readiness assessment of ECD centre registration by DBE 																				

FUNCTION SHIFT PROGRESS:

PROVINCIAL PROGRESS – COMMUNICATION

KEY ACTIVITIES ON TRANSFER OF ECD FUNCTION TO DBE

1. Communication Strategies

- All submitted

2. Comms Budgets Confirmations

- PEDs & PSD waited for proclamations

3. Joint Media Briefing

- TBC BY DSD & DBE

4. Key Messages

- Agreed and Finalised

5. Consultation

Among communicators in provinces done.
Awaiting next steps

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

Activity	Status
Establish national governance structures	Completed
Conduct a function diagnostic	Completed
Identify powers & functions to be transferred	Completed
Validate the function diagnostic at a national level	Completed
Validate the function diagnostic at a provincial level	Completed
Revise Proclamations based on function diagnostic	Completed
Get concurrence between DBE and DSD on Proclamations	Completed
Updated proclamations shared with OSLA for finalisation & preliminary certification	Completed
Identify policies, models and systems applied to manage infrastructure	Completed
Collect databases of ECD centres from all provinces	Completed
Identify office furniture, equipment, vehicles & other movable assets	Completed
Confirm number of people responsible for managing infrastructure	Completed
Assessment for ECD registration processes, systems & capacity	Completed
Compile a list of existing info. databases & systems for NDSD & PDSD	Completed
Collect lists of ECD centres that have been funded for construction and maintenance	Completed
Determine capacity funded to manage the Conditional grant	Completed
Share background information including projects	Completed
Identify indicators and reporting requirements for transfer	Completed
Develop stakeholder engagement plan	Completed
Finalised and translated proclamations	Completed
Both Ministers signed proclamations	Completed
Finalised MOU between departments	Completed
Both Ministers signed MOU	Completed

PREPARING FOR THE FUNCTION

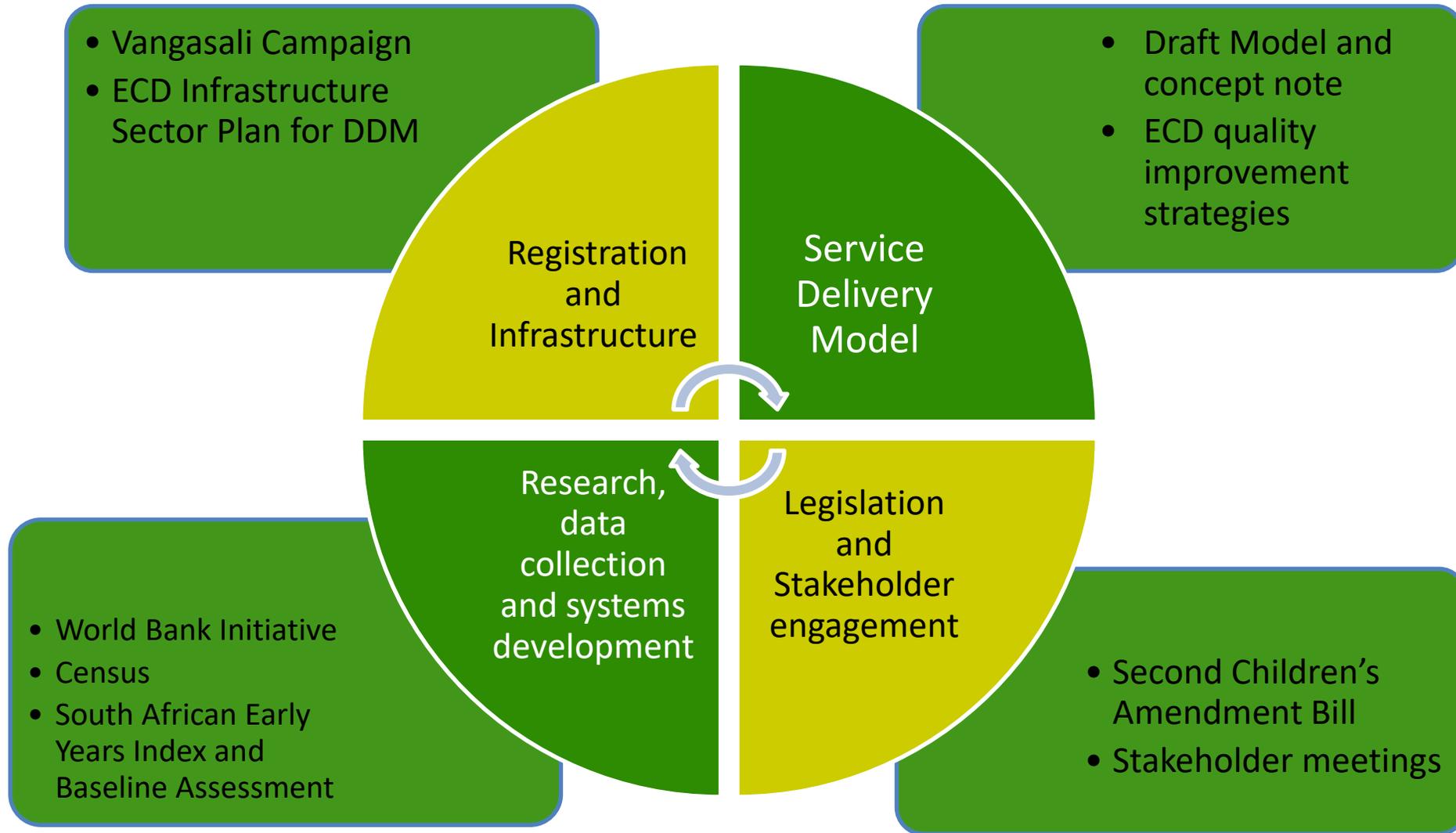
- On 1 April 2022, provincial DBEs will need to be ready to **fund** and **register** ECD programmes.
- In order to do this, we will need to:
 - Be able to register ECD programmes
 - Business process in place
 - Process of entering into SLAs in place
 - A capturing system in place
 - Be able to fund/ pay ECD programmes
 - Upscaling and funding strategy has been developed
 - Need to understand this strategy and the funding norms and standards
 - Need to understand and establish the payment business processes.
 - Be able to support ECD practitioners
 - Need to have an HR strategy and implementation plan ready
 - Government Support Staff
 - ECD Practitioners

All provinces and districts have received first training on Vangasali Registration Process
Approximately 24,000 application packs have been distributed to districts nationally

All current SLAs being transferred, workshop on funding model is also planned

HR plan will be developed based on Service Delivery Model

CONTEXT OF IMPROVEMENTS



FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: ENVISAGED ECD SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

- **ECD Service Delivery Model**

- DBE developed a concept note which has been approved for consultation by HEDCOM and CEM.
- The five strategies for improving the quality of ECD in South Africa:
 1. Curriculum-based **early learning** for all children birth to 5 years – implementing the NCF;
 2. Early childhood development **programmes** for all children birth to 5 years – a continuum of programmes;
 3. **Training** and development for all those working in ECD – career paths, with intensive but flexible training opportunities;
 4. Co-ordination of all early childhood development **services**; and
 5. A flexible **funding and provisioning** framework.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: ENVISAGED ECD SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

- **Strategy 1: Curriculum-based early learning**
 - Increased focus on **quality of early learning**
 - Be informed by:
 - The *National Curriculum Framework for children from Birth to Four (NCF)*; and
 - The *National Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement for the Foundation Phase (CAPS)*.
 - Be inclusive of young children living with disabilities.
 - The implementation of NCF will be supported by a **quality assurance and monitoring system**; and will include early childhood development programmes in the Education Management and Information System (EMIS).

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: ENVISAGED ECD SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

- **Strategy 2: ECD programmes for all children:**
 - Use **different modalities** to ensure progress towards universal access for all young children by 2030.
 - The modalities proposed will provide flexibility for parents/caregivers through three possible programme options: **centre-based programmes** at facilities with fixed infrastructure; **playgroups** and **home-based care**.
 - The DBE will review existing norms **for the provision of different modalities** of ECD programmes in geographical areas, similar to that of schools. However, these will consider unique features linked to users of these programmes, for example, age, distance, etc.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: ENVISAGED ECD SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

- **Strategy 3: Training and development**

- The competency of ECD practitioners and educators directly determines the quality of ECD programmes.
- DBE will develop a **Human Resource Strategy** that will include:
 - Obtaining qualifications at different levels;
 - Continuing professional development and in-service training, including recognition of prior learning;
 - Guidelines for early learning and development (caregivers);
 - Registration with SACE for ECD educators and practitioners; and
 - Norms for admin and other support staff
- The Strategy will build on two policy documents:
 - *The Human Resources Development Strategy for Early Childhood Development (based on the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy) (2018); and*
 - *The Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Early Childhood Development Educators*

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: ENVISAGED ECD SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

○ Strategy 4: A coordinated approach

- DSD is currently convening the ECD intersectoral and Interdepartmental Committee on a quarterly basis and all sub committees (co-chaired by government and NGO supporting different areas are functional.
- The DBE will lead and strengthen the existing **coordination between departments**, as well as the private and non-profit sectors and will lead the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Early Childhood Development, the National Inter-departmental Committee for Early Childhood Development as well as the Inter-sectoral Forum for Early Childhood Development.
- Inter-departmental coordination and collaboration on early childhood development will ensure that the government's investments are complemented by other critical investments in the early years such as health, nutrition, social protection, early learning, child protection and birth registration amongst others.
- The Inter-Ministerial Committee will include the Ministers of Basic Education, Health, Social Development, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Home Affairs, Treasury and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: ENVISAGED ECD SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

- **Strategy 5: Funding and provisioning**

- The DBE will draw from its experiences, with adjustments over the medium-term, in respect of norms and standards for the **funding and provisioning** (geographical and types of programmes).
- Be responsible for **securing sufficient funding** for the provision of ECD through an increase of public funds from Treasury.
- **Mobilise resources** from development partners, donors and the corporate social investment sector towards the funding of ECD.
- Develop a **national integrated ECD funding framework** that will regulate, coordinate and support the mobilisation and coordination of funds towards the attainment of national integrated ECD priorities.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD

- **World Bank Collaboration on Public Expenditure and Institutional Review**
 - Purpose: To determine the amount of funding that is being spent on ECD by the different spheres of government, as well as the different Government Departments.
 - The ECD PEIR in South Africa will include an expenditure analysis on ECD in South Africa, as well as an institutional analysis on the prioritised ECD outcomes.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD

- **ECD Census**

- The main purpose of the Census will be to collect standardized information that can be used to develop a baseline EMIS database for ECD;
- Pilot in June 2021 in 3 districts in KZN; and
- Data collection to be done between Aug – Dec 2021.

- **South African Early Years Index and Baseline Assessment**

- Nationally representative survey of the early learning and development outcomes in children aged 4-5 years;
- Contextual questionnaires: understand context into infrastructure, governance, qualifications, resources, nutrition and curriculum implementation; and
- Data collection: August and September.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: SECOND CHILDREN'S AMENDMENT BILL

- In 2018, the DSD commenced with the **Children's Amendment Bill** Process. The amendment process has multiple purposes, one of which is to amend Chapters 5 and 6 of the Children's Act that relates to Early Childhood Development (ECD).
- The Children's Amendment Bill was introduced to Parliament on 31 August 2020.
- The consultation process with the Portfolio Committee came to a halt early in March when the Portfolio committee requested that DBE and SALGA be further consulted on the amendments to Chapters 5 and 6.
- It was subsequently decided that the DBE will play a more active role in providing strategic inputs and direction into the contents of the Second Children's Amendment Bill. **DBE + DBE will co-lead the Technical Task Team, as well as the processing of the Bill**, given that it is already part of their parliamentary process.
- This Technical Committee was subsequently established on 2 July 2021 and is co-led by the Chief Directors for Legal Services in the Departments of Basic Education and Social Development. The Technical Task team consist of members from the DSD, DBE, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG) and the Inter-Sectoral Forum.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: SECOND CHILDREN'S AMENDMENT BILL

- During the public hearings on the Children's Amendment Bill, the sector welcomed the proposed amendments to the Act to alleviate the complex registration processes including other related amendments.
- On 1 April 2022, the Minister of Basic Education will become responsible for Chapters 5 and 6 in the Children's Act, in so far as they relate to ECD. One of the proposals in the Second Children's Amendment Bill is to consolidate all the ECD related matters in Chapters 5 and 6 into one chapter.
 - Conceptually, this will be to the benefit of the ECD function shift, since it will simplify the sharing of the partial care facilities under Chapter 5.
 - It will also enable the DBE to institute a single-streamlined registration process sooner than what would be possible in the drafting of the new legislation.
- The process relating to the amendments to the Bill is currently before Parliament and is envisaged to be concluded in the current year.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

- **Stakeholder Engagement Sessions**

- In collaboration with the NECT, monthly stakeholder engagement sessions will be held on specific themes regarding the challenges in the sector.
- DSD has held ECD summits in GP, WC and FS. The remaining provinces will conclude their summits by the end of the second quarter.
- DSD continues to convene the ECD intersectoral forum in order to provide updates on the function shift amongst others.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD UPSCALING AND FINANCING STRATEGY

What does current access look like for poor children?

Analysis of the 2017 GHS provides a picture of what access looks like for children aged 0-5 in quintiles 1-3 (children in poor households).

- The 2017 GHS tells us that poor children are currently accessing a range of different ECD services.
- Under 2.2 million poor children are accessing some form of ECD service.
- There are 1.6 million poor children in centre-based services, and
- Over 581 500 in non-centre-based programmes.
- 537 803 in childminding programmes
- 43 751 in playgroups
- 10 247 in other forms of ECD programmes (e.g. mobiles).

Based on National Baseline Report (number of registered centres) and assumptions applied from analysis of Audit data regarding children per centre,

- Estimated that of the children accessing ECD centres, 719 667 are in registered ECD centres.
- Based on DSD data, around 600 000 children are funded, assumingly in centres.
- This leaves around 120 000 children in registered but unfunded centres
- And a further 880 000 in unregistered unfunded centres

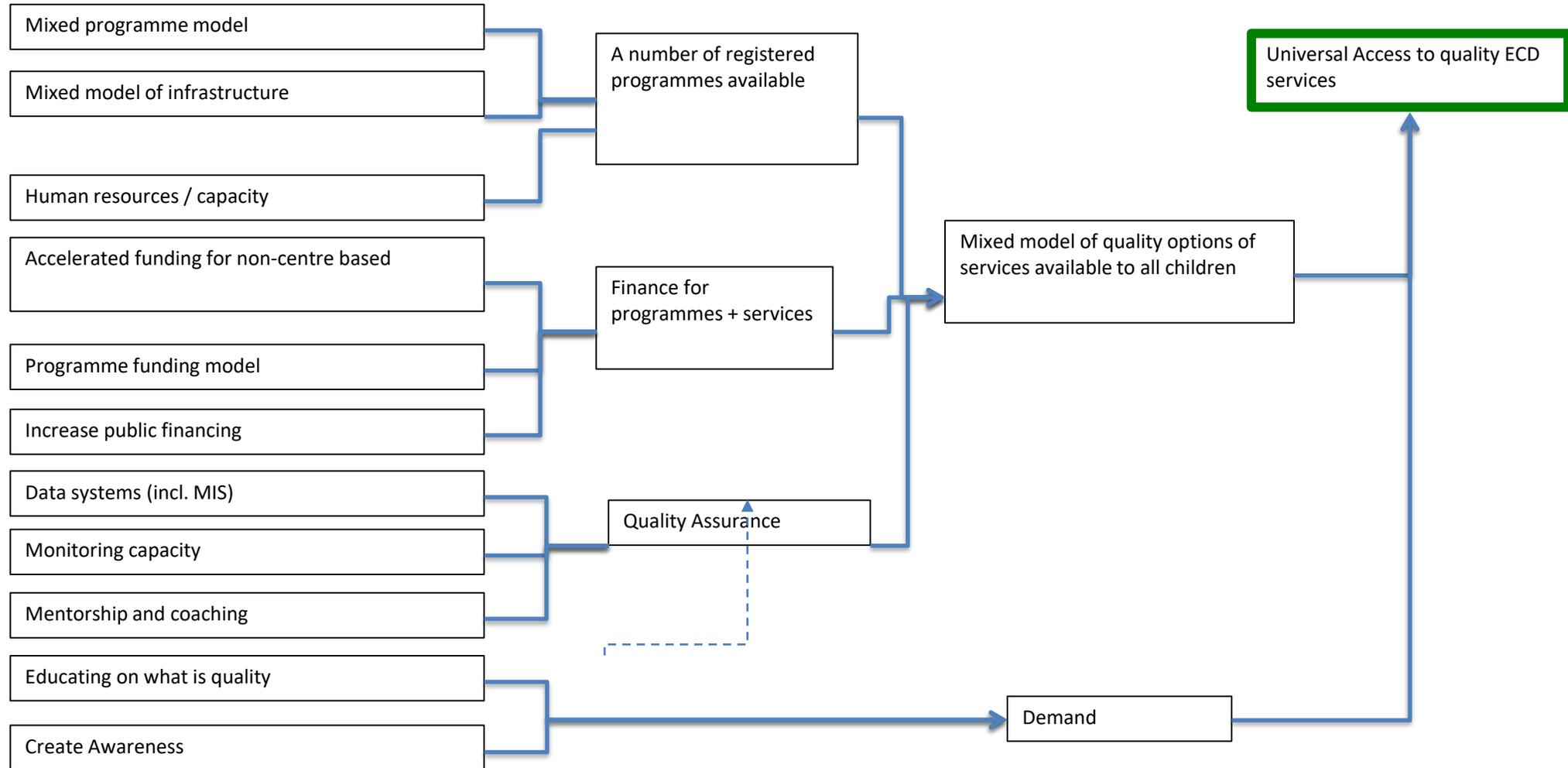
FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD

- **Financing and upscaling strategy**

- The NDP sets a target of achieving universal access to quality ECD services by 2030.
- Currently, there are just over 7 million children under six years in South Africa. Using quintile three as a poverty line, there are
- 4.3 million children under six years old living in poor households. Only approximately 700 000 receives subsidy from DSD in line with the allocated resources
- The DSD has recognised that a mixed model of quality services, including both centre- and non-centre-based programmes, must be available in order to achieve universal access.
- The upscaling strategy advocates for adopting a mixed delivery model that ensures children have access to a range of ECD services, including full-day ECD services or sessional non-centre-based services.
- It also provides for the additional expenses required to accommodate children with disabilities

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD

Components to upscaling ECD services



FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD

Defining mixed delivery model

	Centre-based	Non-centre-based				
Modality	Centre	Home visiting	Child minders	Playgroups	Toy libraries	Mobile ECD
Dosage	More than 20 hours per week. In practice, often daily for the full day	Minimum once a month	More than 20 hours per week. In practice, often daily for the full day	Three X 4 hour sessions per week	Based on demand	Three X 3hour sessions per week
Cooked meals	Yes	Uncooked snack	Yes	Uncooked snack	Uncooked snack	Uncooked snack
# children	More than 6	One (or more if there are siblings in the same home)	6 or fewer	Average 10 per group	N/A	Average 15 per group

- Both centre-based and child minding modalities provide daily full-day programmes
- DSD develop guidelines for registration of non centre based programmes to operationalise the non centred based

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD

Infrastructure required to provide ECD services

1. ECD centre-based approach

- Brick and Mortar
- Alternate Buildings
 - Converted shipping container
 - Prefabricated ECD structure
 - Park Home structures

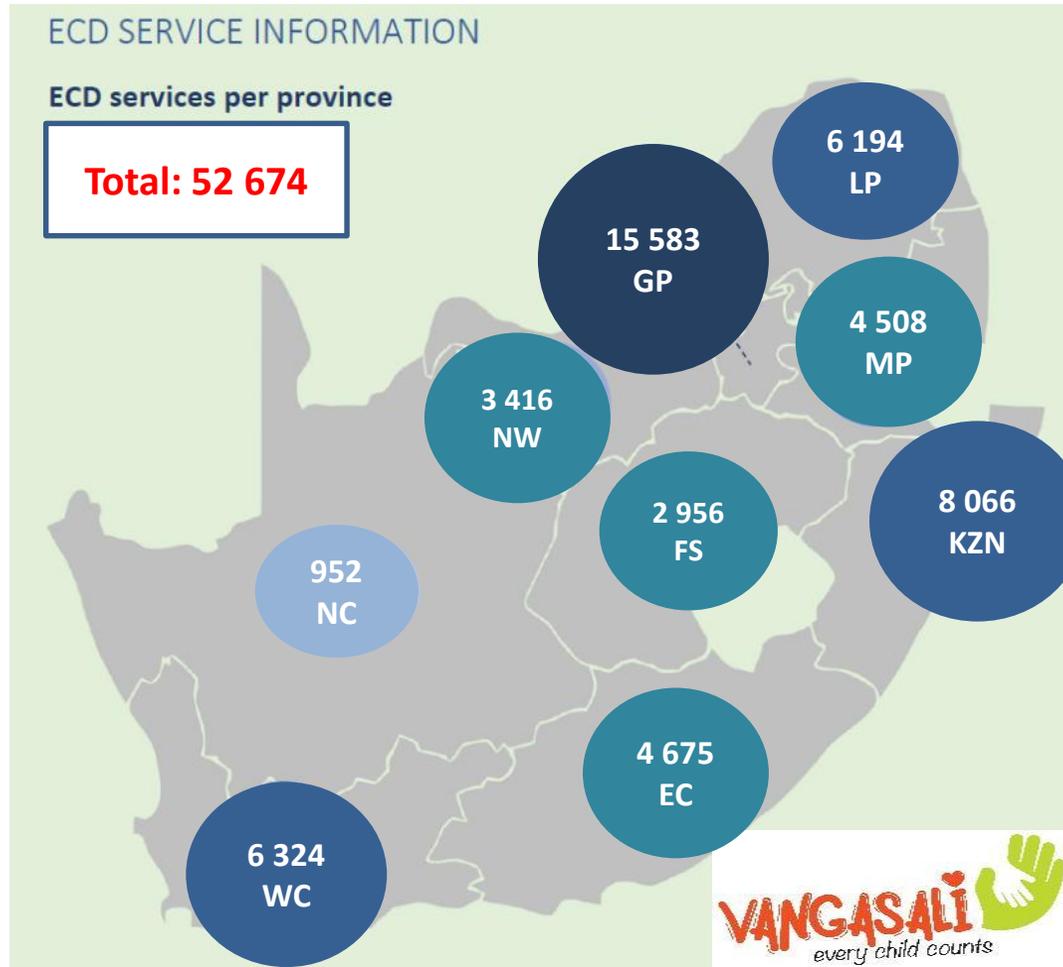
2. ECD non-centre-based approach

- A package of support for playgroups and child minders to meet minimum health and safety requirements (e.g. first aid kit, fire extinguisher, etc.)
- Mobile ECD vehicles

3. ECD management infrastructure

- An ECD Resource Hub is a facility equipped to provide resources, oversight, monitoring and support to ECD programmes within the radius of the ECD Hub.

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR ECD VANASALI



***NOTE:** This data will be loaded onto the ECD Registration Tool (including duplicates & data which needs to be cleaned); ECD-ESRF data is also loaded onto the Tool

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD

Problem statement

- An informal sector with the majority of unregistered services but providing services to the children in the conditions that threatens their safety
- Majority of these services are located in disadvantaged community where access is a problem

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR ECD-VANGASALI ROLLOUT

Phase 1
Identify All ECD Services

Phase 2
All ECD Services apply for registration

- Standardisation of registration processes
- Understanding of process and receiving application packs
- Standardised application packs
- Application submission and site assessments
- Further regulatory amendments to align with the Registration Framework (Bronze, Silver, Gold)
- Online registration tracking tool

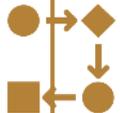
Phase 3
All Registrations Assessed and Decisions Made

- ECD sites needing support to meet Bronze level requirements
- Through DSD resources and local government, donors, NGOs and private sector stakeholders would also assist in facilitating this.
- Distributed approximately 24 000 packs translated in 7 languages (IsiXhosa, Setswana, Isizulu, English, Isiswati, Xitsonga, Afrikaans)

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD VANGASALI ECD REGISTRATION MANAGEMENT TOOL



Store details of identified ECD services for registration



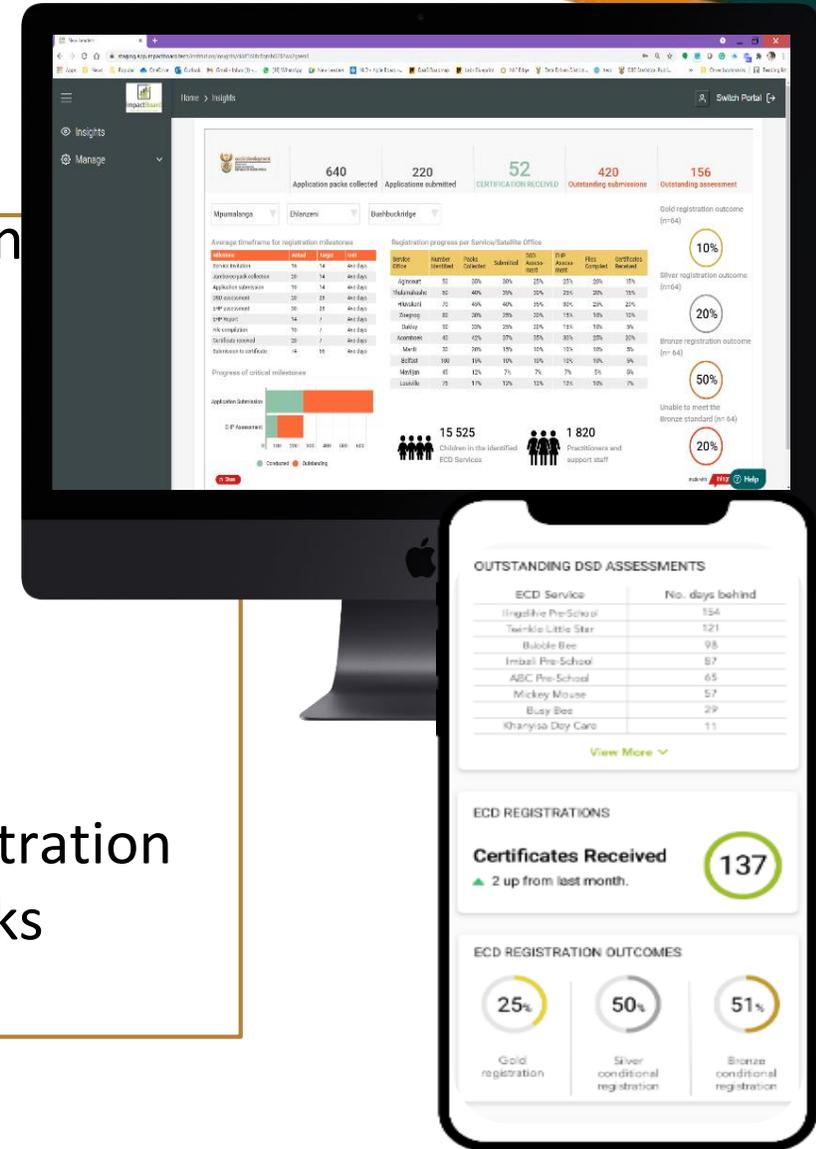
Track registration progress of each ECD service



Capture responses to the ECD Framework of each registration to determine levels of compliance



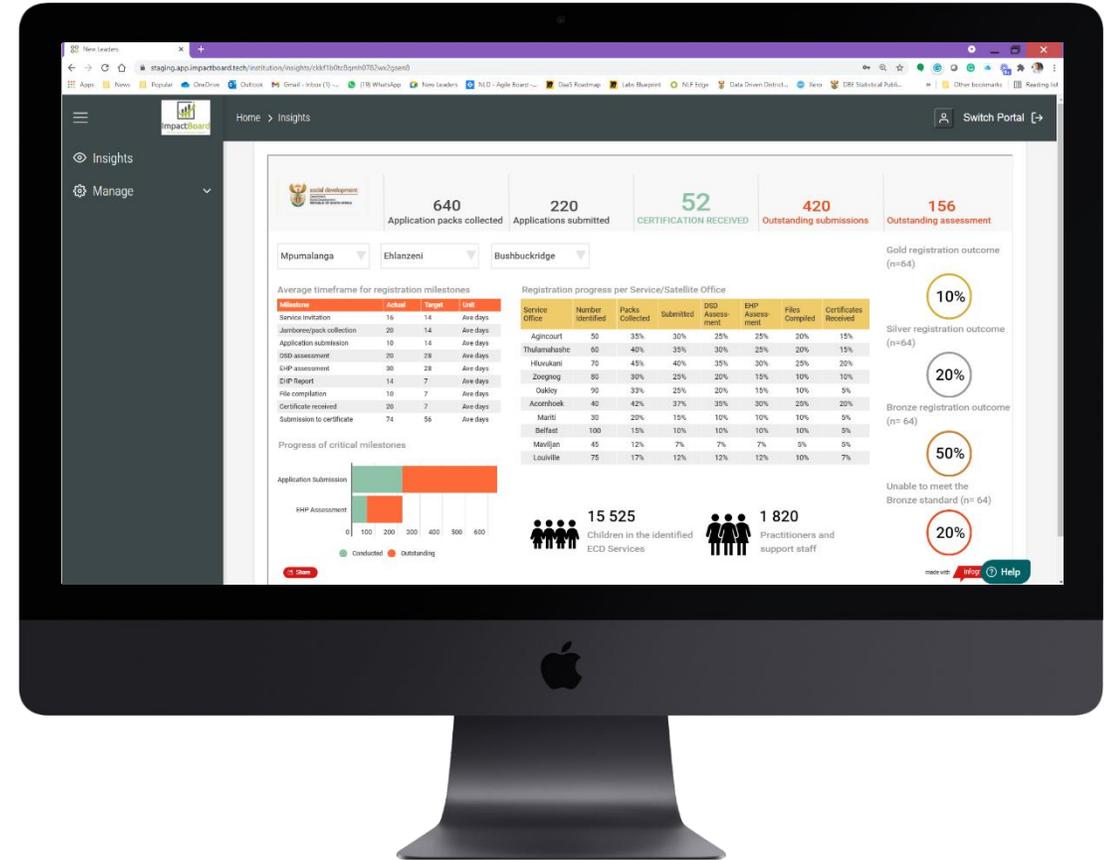
Report on leading and lagging indicators for the registration throughput to drive efficiency and highlight bottlenecks



FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR ECD

TRAINING ON ECD REGISTRATION MANAGEMENT TOOL

PROVINCE	TRAINING DATE	USERS CREATED	USERS LOGGED IN
MPUMALANGA	12-Jun-21	29	29
LIMPOPO	17-Jun-21	23	23
KWAZULU NATAL	23-Jun-21	22	12
GAUTENG	29-Jun-21	115	20
FREE STATE	30-Jun-21	10	5
NORTHERN CAPE	07-Jul-21	63	8
WESTERN CAPE	5-Aug-21	15	15
NORTH WEST	1-Sept-21	TBC	
EASTERN CAPE	15-Jul-21	191	7



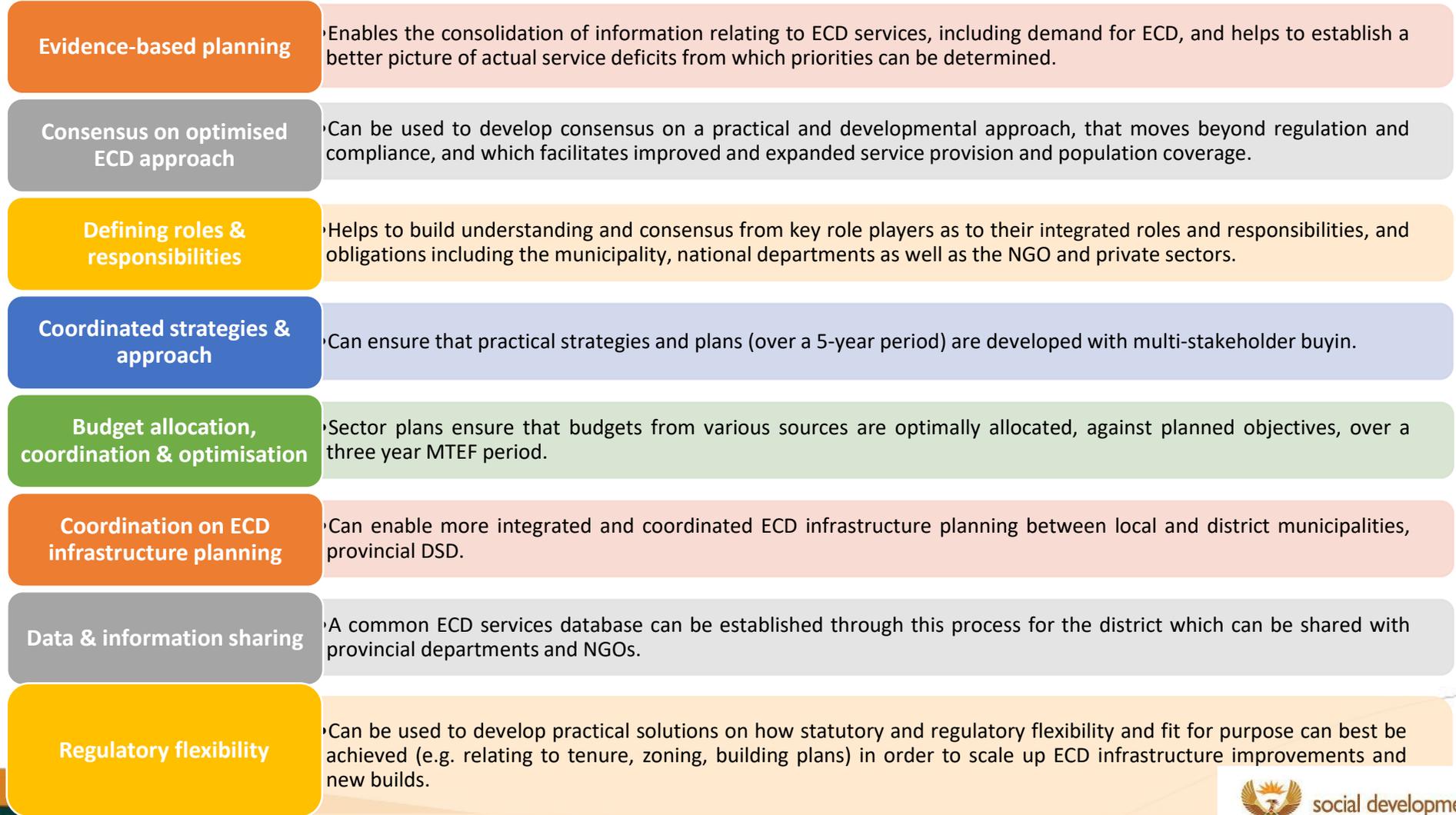
FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD

PLANS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

- Scaling up ECD registration using Vangasali methods
- Merge all available ECD data into the Online Registration Management Tool to enable a smooth handover to DBE
- Capacity Building with DBE officials at National, provincial and district level is ongoing

FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT: PROJECTS FOR ECD HR SECTOR PLAN

- DSD commenced engagements with SALGA in 2018
- The aim was to elevate the delivery of ECD services in local government
- Through a series of engagements over 18 months, parties agreed a sector plan needed to be developed
- It is ready to be submitted to COGTA to be incorporated into the District Development Model



#ECD IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



Thank you...

