



ECD CENSUS 2021 FACTSHEET



Basic Education
Social Development

The LEGO Foundation



ECD CENSUS FACT SHEET

What is the ECD Census 2021?

The Department of Basic Education has commissioned the ECD Census 2021 to collect data on all Early Childhood Development programmes in the country to better understand the childhood development landscape in South Africa. The ECD Census will count all registered and non-registered ECD programmes to build a data management information system for the ECD sector. Fieldworker contracted by Ikapadata, a survey research company, will make an appointment to visit each ECD programme to conduct interviews with the principal or relevant representative and record observations.

Why is the Department of Basic Education collecting information on the ECD programmes?

The President of South Africa announced in his February 2019 State of the Nation Address that the Department of Basic Education (DBE) will be given the responsibility of leading and coordinating the Early Childhood Development (ECD) sector. However, the responsibility of ECD is an integrated service, with the Departments of Basic Education, Social Development, Health and Cooperative Governance playing a key role in delivery. The programme is placed within the Business Intelligence Branch and is co-lead by the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and the Research Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation (RCME) Directorates.

Migrating the responsibility of Early Childhood Development to the Department of Basic Education will consolidate the continuum of education and allow the Department of Basic Education to manage the educational journey of young children from their first engagement with a play-based programme up until they finish Grade 12. Through this function shift, the Department of Basic Education seeks to ensure access for all children, efficiency in service delivery, quality play-based learning and equity in providing ECD services to all learners. A key barrier to effective planning in the ECD sector is the lack of data on ECD programmes and data systems. The Department of Basic Education, in partnership with the LEGO Foundation, will conduct a national Census of all ECD programmes in South Africa to build a data management information system for the ECD sector.

How will the ECD Census be conducted?

Fieldworkers employed by Ikapadata, a survey research company, will make contact with each ECD programme to schedule a physical visit to conduct a short interview and record observations of the facility. The visit will take no longer than 60 minutes.

The interviews are designed to establish basic information around the type of service and programme offered, programme offered, operating times, fees and funding structures, affiliations, registration status and access to nutrition programmes. The principal or owner of the programme will be asked for information about the registered children, the number and qualifications of staff and attitudes towards learning and playing.

The observation of the facility will focus on the GPS verification of the location of each programme and note basic infrastructure including the existence and use of sanitation, electricity, indoor and outdoor space, play equipment, and learning resources.

What are the expected outcomes of the ECD Census 2021?

The ECD Census will count all registered and non-registered ECD programmes to build a data management information system for the ECD sector. The data and indicators will provide a basic assessment of the enabling environment for quality learning through play by gathering accurate, verified information around:

1. Geographical spread of ECD programmes
2. Number of staff and number of children
3. Registration status of ECD programmes
4. Contextual challenges facing ECD programmes
5. Basic indicators on learning through play

How will existing data or the data collected through Vangasali be used?

Ikapadata, the survey research company, will use the existing data already collected through previous campaigns facilitated by Department of Social Development and the Nelson Mandela Foundation's Vangasali Registration Massification project to form a baseline list of programmes for the ECD Census. Ikapadata will use these databases as a starting point for making appointments to visit the ECD programmes throughout the country. The survey company will try to locate and document many more programmes that are not currently included in any lists. ECD programmes, both registered and unregistered, are encouraged to contact Ikapadata directly

through WhatsApp 060 0702 994 to ensure that their contact details are included in the list of ECD programmes to visit.

How does the ECD Census differ from the Vangasali campaign?

The focus of the Vangasali campaign is to identify ECD programmes and support them with becoming registered.. The ECD Census 2021 will develop a database of all registered and unregistered programmes that will integrate ECD into the Education Management Information System (EMIS). As the first national census of the ECD sector it will highlight opportunities to broaden the access to quality learning for every child in South Africa and expand education support and play-based learning programmes. The Vangasali and ECD Census 2021 teams are working closely together to support and build on each other's processes.

What does this mean for ECD programme registration?

The ECD census project is a data collection and verification exercise, and will not lead to registration. Reference to registration will only be made during field interviews where principals or owners will be asked about the registration status of the programme with DSD, EMIS, DBE, NPO or CPIC. Participation in the ECD Census 2021 will not constitute or form part of a registration process. ECD programmes will also not be penalized in any way for not being registered. The Department of Social Development is still responsible for registration until April 2022, and all programmes should see if they can get involved with the Vangasali project in an effort to get registered.

Who will be conducting the ECD Census?

Ikapadata, the survey research company, has employed and trained 129 teams of fieldworkers who will visit more than 50 000 sites across 4 392 wards during 12 weeks starting on 23 August 2021. Using the information available to them from various data sources, the fieldworkers will make appointments to visit each ECD programme.

How will the ECD programmes be able to identify the fieldworkers who will be conducting the ECD Census?

The fieldworkers will schedule an appointment with the principal, owner or relevant person at each ECD programme. The fieldworkers will be able to present an official letter signed by the Departments of Basic Education and Social Development and will be wearing facemasks and name tags branded with the ECD Census logo.

How will the data collected during the ECD Census 2021 be used?

The information gained through the ECD Census 2021 will be used to inform the planning for the expansion of access and quality to early learning programmes. The data collected will be used to:

1. Integrate ECD into the Education Management Information System (EMIS)
2. Plan for the expansion of education support and play-based learning programmes
3. Plan for greater inclusion of children with disabilities
4. Plan for the delivery of integrated programmes in terms of health, safety, transport etc.

How will the personal information collected through the ECD Census be protected?

The information collected through the ECD Census 2021 will be used by Department of Basic Education to compile a complete list of all Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes in the country and to assess their accessibility, capacity and impact in terms of ECD in the country. The ECD sector will benefit from this project as the data will allow Department of Basic Education to understand the needs of the ECD programmes within the country and provide assistance where possible.

The information collected will be treated confidentially according to the provisions of POPIA. The collection, storage, use and sharing of the information will relate to the mandate (work) of the DBE and its Provincial Departments to understand, plan for and support the ECD sector. The names of ECD programmes will not be mentioned in any publication or document resulting from this project. It is only the name and contact details of the ECD Programme that will be listed on the National ECD Database to be used by:

- The DBE and Provincial Education Departments to support ECD programmes; and
- The public to find our programme for purposes such as but not limited to enrolment of children, campaigns and other projects.

How can ECD programmes ensure that their contact details are included in the list that will be contacted to participate in the ECD Census?

ECD programmes can submit their contact details to the WhatsApp number 06 0702 994 or www.wa.me/27600702994