



*Building stronger foundations for children through
the people and environments that shape their
earliest years.*

SAEP continued to strengthen the foundations children need to learn, grow and thrive from nutritious meals and primary healthcare to safer, more responsive ECD environments.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Numeracy Training



Financial Training



Nutrition Training



Literacy Training



SAEP invested in the people and practices that shape children's earliest experiences, bringing together numeracy, literacy, nutrition and financial literacy training for ECD practitioners and caregivers. Through practical, hands-on learning, participants gained tools to make classrooms more engaging, support healthier everyday choices, strengthen financial decision-making, and turn everyday moments into opportunities for children to explore, communicate and problem-solve. Together, these interventions are strengthening the quality of care and learning children receive, helping build the foundational skills, confidence, health and supportive environments they need to enter school ready to learn and thrive.



Since I started using more play-based learning, my classroom feels completely different. The children ask more questions, want to count, calculate and read, and they are so excited to go home and tell their families what they learnt. Learning has become something they want to do, not something they have to do.

- Nolufefe ECD Practitioner



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, CREATING SAFE CHILDHOODS

SAEP works with parents and caregivers as critical partners in creating safe, nurturing environments for children. Through parenting workshops led by our social workers, parents are equipped with practical, trauma-informed skills to understand children's needs, strengthen communication, navigate the challenges of caregiving and prevent child maltreatment.

The sessions create a safe space for parents to reflect, learn and build confidence in responding to children with greater care, patience and understanding.



Bringing Primary Healthcare Closer To Children

We continued bringing essential primary healthcare closer to children by taking services directly into the ECD centres they attend. At Imizamo Yethu Educare, children accessed immunisations in a familiar and accessible environment, while SAEP's partnership with SHAWCO enabled health professionals to conduct screenings that can identify concerns early, some of which parents had never been aware of before. For families in under-resourced communities, where accessing routine healthcare can be difficult, these services create a vital bridge to preventative care, early intervention and referral.

By identifying health needs before they become bigger barriers, SAEP is helping children stay healthy, participate in learning and build stronger foundations for their development. The goal is simple but significant: ensuring that where a child lives does not determine whether they can access the healthcare they need to learn, grow and thrive.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

TURNING ENVIRONMENTAL LESSONS INTO EVERYDAY ACTION



Learners from Cedar Primary School took environmental learning beyond the classroom during a visit to the Smart Living Education Centre in Green Point. Through practical activities, they explored water conservation, waste reduction, electricity savings and sustainable living. The experience showed learners that small everyday choices can make a meaningful difference to the communities that they live in.



During National Arbor Week, SAEP joined learners from Bonga Primary School to plant trees and turn environmental learning into action. Thanks to the generous donation of trees from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), learners experienced first-hand what it means to contribute to greener, healthier communities.



Learners from Solomon Qatyana Primary School, Langa High School and other SAEP-supported schools explored the UWC Cape Flats Nature Reserve, discovering the biodiversity and ecological systems around them. These experiences introduced learners to fields such as ecology, conservation, biodiversity and environmental research—pathways they may rarely encounter.



At Bokbaai Nature Reserve, SAEP learners stepped beyond the classroom with Nature Connect to explore, observe and experience the environment first-hand. They returned with greater confidence, curiosity and a deeper connection to nature, some even imagining themselves as future conservationists.



Asanda Tshazi , “I come back asking more questions, investigating everything and I am now dreaming of becoming an environmental conservationists.”



CREATING ACCESS TO THE FOUNDATIONS FOR

LEARNING

For many children, learning begins with something as essential as having enough nutritious food. This quarter, SAEP provided ECD centres with food parcels, including fresh vegetables and essential staples, enabling them to prepare healthy meals and provide children with sufficient food throughout the day.

This work addresses food insecurity as a critical barrier to children's development and learning. A well-nourished child is better able to concentrate, participate and engage, strengthening their opportunity to learn, grow and reach their potential during the crucial early years.

STRENGTHENING SAFETY AND CARE IN ECD

CENTRES

ECD practitioners were equipped with Level 2 First Aid training, strengthening their ability to respond confidently to emergencies and protect children in their care. Through practical sessions on the recovery position, choking response and wound dressing, practitioners developed essential skills to provide immediate assistance when it matters most. By investing in the preparedness of those who care for young children, SAEP is helping create safer ECD environments where children can learn, grow and thrive.

A PANTRY FULL, A COMMUNITY CELEBRATING

Fountain of love Educare ECD centre shared a joyful reflection: "Our food pantry is always full each month, even before month-end. Thank you, SAEP, for always stretching your hands to us when we need them." That support was brought to life during their Farmers Day celebration, where food items received through SAEP helped the centre create a vibrant celebration for the children. More than filling shelves, the partnership is helping centres feel supported, prepared and able to create joyful moments where children can learn, celebrate and thrive.



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To our donors, partners and
volunteers you are changing lives
every day. Your investment creates
lasting impact one child at a time.

Thank You



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