

Eastern Cape Provincial, District and School Development Programme, South Africa

Assignment	Management and coordination of a programme to improve the learning achievement of children in the Eastern Cape.
Client	Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECED)
Financing Agency	Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom
Partners	DECIDE Network, The Netherlands; University of Pretoria, South Africa; University of South Africa, South Africa; University of London, UK; ITC Ltd, UK
Composition of Team	<i>BMB Mott MacDonald</i> : Programme Coordinator, Accounts Administrator, European-based Programme Manager, and various short-term specialists. <i>Partners</i> : to be determined during the Programme.
Period of Assignment	January 2002 – November 2007 Staff-months: BMB Mott MacDonald: 195; partners: 350
Contract Value	BMB Mott MacDonald: USD 18.8 million Partners: USD 6.3 million
Background	<p>In January 2000 the new Minister of Education in South Africa, Kader Asmal, launched his Tirisano initiative to consolidate the reforms that had been made in education during the period of office of his predecessor. The five-year implementation plan for Tirisano identified five major programmes on which the National Department of Education would work with provincial departments. Each of these programmes is reflected in the Eastern Cape Provincial, District and School Development Programme (ECPDSDP). The Tirisano plan entails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building awareness about the HIV/Aids pandemic in schools;• Supporting schools to become centres of community life;• Reducing adult illiteracy;• Restructuring further and higher education systems;• Strengthening the provincial departments of education.
Description of Project	<p>The <i>goal</i> of the Eastern Cape Provincial, District and School Development Programme is to improve significantly the learning achievement of children in the Eastern Cape, in particular those from disadvantaged communities, with the <i>purpose</i> being to develop an effective, efficient and affordable decentralized education system in the Eastern Cape. This will be done through the accomplishment of five Programme outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Provincial Department of Education with an enhanced strategic role;• A fully functioning and developed structure providing quality support to self-managed schools;• Better educational opportunities to all children as a result of schools being transformed;

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- Improved asset management and lower cost, yielding better designed school buildings; and
 - Communities sufficiently motivated to become critically engaged with education decision makers and thus helping sustain all the above outputs.

Services Provided

The successful decentralization of educational administration, combined with devolved local ownership of ECPDSDP and the development of strategies for sustaining programme initiatives will be essential to the Programme's prospect of success. Much of the Programme is about enabling others, all the key stakeholders at both the delivery and receiving ends of educational provision. The services provided by BMB Mott MacDonald will:

- Converge with activities already underway;
- Provide a flexible approach in order to respond to any emerging requirements for development activities (including training, research, studies and pilot schemes) in partnership with ECED and DFID;
- Contribute to the creation of enabling conditions in a context which addresses the articulated need from the ECED for quality improvement in educational provision and achievement rooted in the development of a response to the overarching problems faced by the Province from the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
- Involve and empower all stakeholders in the development, delivery and evaluation of the inputs of ECPDSDP;
- Increase local ownership of education provision, which could emanate from the decentralization of planning, management and delivery, quality development and monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment;
- Increase human and institutional capacity to focus on district-based development;
- Develop improved management practices in both the ECED and District offices; and
- Increase accountability of the education administration to primary stakeholders, that is, children and their careers.

As the Programme moves into its final phase, BMB Mott MacDonald will be charged with the responsibility that the key programme outputs referred to above are fully delivered and sustained with the generation of a sustainability study and exit strategy for the Programme's management. In addition ARCADIS BMB will organize a summative evaluation of the Programme, which will draw on the formative framework, which has been developed since 2002. Furthermore, BMB Mott MacDonald will conceptualize and facilitate an international conference to be held in the Eastern Cape in June 2007 to reflect on and publicize the Programme's results as a part of a broader dissemination strategy.