



**NATIONAL SCHOOL
NUTRITION
PROGRAMME**

INTRODUCTION

- Programme taken over from Health in April 2004 – 90 days ago
- A very large programme (R800 million per year), delivered at dispersed sites around the country, with huge risks in many areas
- Initial aim: to take over the programme and to meet at least the existing standards, with quality improvements over time.

NSNP BUDGET ALLOCATION

Province	Gazetted Allocation R million	Transfer ed to Province April 2004 R million	Total Number of Targeted Schools	Total Number of Learners Fed
Eastern Cape	R 177.259	R 44.315	5188	948 574
Free State	R 49.1	R 12.275	1132	164 852
Gauteng	R 75.73	R 18.933	1024	325 036
KwaZulu Natal	R181.42	R 45.355	3027	1 255 960
Limpopo	R 153.125	R 38.281	2794	912 800
Mpumalanga	R 64.079	R 16. 02	1379	491 362
Northern Cape	R 22.469	R 5.617	1460	300 678
North West	R 72.401	R 18. 1	274	111 3384
Western Cape	R 36.617	R 9.154	866	149 035
TOTAL	R 832.2 million	R 208.05 million	17 144	4 659 571

Targeting Criteria

- Poorest schools, prioritising rural and farm schools, and informal settlements
- Grade R in public schools, and progressively to other grades as resources permit
- KZN, EC and LP get largest share

Variations in Targeting

- Gauteng have extended to some Secondary schools, using their own budget
- Eastern Cape has spread the net wider, covering all pupils, but only up to Grade 4
- Free State is considering extending feeding to targeted Secondary schools

Coverage of the NSNP

- Nearly 5 million children in 15 000 schools across the country
- Schools occurring mainly in rural, farm, informal and township areas
- Delivery problems:
 - Eastern Cape: collapse of tender process
 - KwaZulu Natal: procurement problems, with 3000 individual school contracts
 - Generally, the “daily deliveries” model is not effective in rural areas

Menus

- 22 menu options approved for provinces to select on basis of social acceptance, availability and cost
- EC and WC currently follow a cold menu:
 - brown bread, margarine, peanut butter, nutritious drink
- FS, GP, KZN, LP, MP, NC and NW follow a warm menu:
 - pap and beans or soya, samp and beans or soya, with vegetables whenever possible

Priority Areas for Improving Quality 1

- Re-visit targeting criteria
- Align with other government poverty alleviation interventions
- Increase community involvement
- Reduce fraud and corruption
- Ensure safe drinking water and sanitation
- Increase monitoring of nutrition quality, food safety and hygiene

Priority areas for Improving Quality 2

- Establishment and support of food gardens to supply much needed fresh vegetables
- Workable models that tap local resources, in contrast to imports that are rife with breakdowns in service and corruption
- Nutrition education for learners and parents

Challenges

- Capacity constraints:
 - human resources
 - financial management systems and
 - communication
- Supply chain too long with many distribution weaknesses
- Volunteer women and local small commercial ventures not well positioned to benefit from business with NSNP

Further Challenges

- Ownership and support by communities low
- Unavailability of workers on farms to volunteer to assist
- Integration of government food security initiatives – hunger persists after school and affects families, not just targeted learners.

Focus on Nodal Areas

- Audit of infrastructure for food gardens in nodal areas is being completed
- Early findings point to a need for improved water supply and erection of fences around gardens
- Skills audit of volunteer cooks in nodal areas to be completed by August 2004, in relation to:
 - food preparation, health and hygiene, stock control and business management
- Capacity development and new delivery models to pave way for EPWP in nodal areas

Progress in building the system

- Communities are being mobilised to embrace food gardens, with some outstanding successes
- DoE is engaging provinces on models of food distribution that are community centered versus models of food made and delivered from outside
- DoE finalising the appointment of 12 Assistant Directors to be deployed to provinces for food production

Next steps

- Support of public representatives in Parliament and legislatures is still required, for:
 - Advocacy and lobbying
 - Monitoring of schools and communities, and
 - Advice to the Department.

Thank you

Enquiries and information:

Mrs Cynthia Mpati, Director – School Nutrition

Tel: 012 312 5081

Fax: 012 324 0260

