



Help us feed the children - In the lockdown to limit the spread of COVID-19, schools and early childhood development centres (ECDCs) have been closed and the children are spending their days at home. This is necessary to manage the pandemic but the ECDC principals lose the income from fees paid by parents, the ECD practitioners lose their pay and the children lose the nutritious meals which are vital to their health and development.

Please help us to reduce the impact by providing food parcels for the ECD practitioners and supplementary meals for the children, now and when the ECDCs reopen.

There are 100 ECDCs in our ECD programme in Philippi, which are not registered with the Department of Social Development and receive no subsidy, depending entirely on fees from parents, which range from only R150 to R350 per child per month. Since the sudden and unexpected closing of the centres, they have not received fees from parents for March and will not be paid for April. Without outside help, they have not been able to pay their staff for last month, and will not be able to pay them or provide meals for the children when the centres reopen.

There are more than 300 staff employed by the ECDCs and they care for more than 4 000 children from birth to 6 years of age. Apart from providing a safe caring environment, the ECDCs are an important source of food for the children, create jobs in a poor community and contribute to the local micro economy.

R340 will feed a family of 4 for a month. Your donations of R340 will buy Relief Boxes from a local supplier to feed the ECDC staff and children. If necessary, we may provide electronic food vouchers to the same value instead of boxes.

With your help, we can stop these children and dedicated staff members going to bed hungry during the time the centres are closed, and afterwards while the economy recovers from the lockdown.

Click here <https://www.saep.org/donate> to donate through our website, use the reference **"Feed children"** and provide as many Relief Boxes or vouchers as you can. Please send the proof of payment to donate@saep.org so that we can acknowledge your donation.

Help us to feed the children.