

ELOM in Practice: Using Data Drive Tools for the First Time

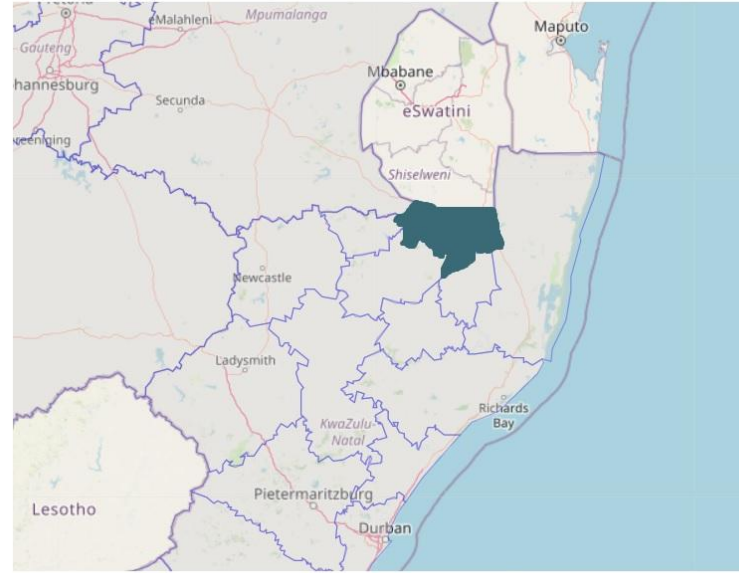
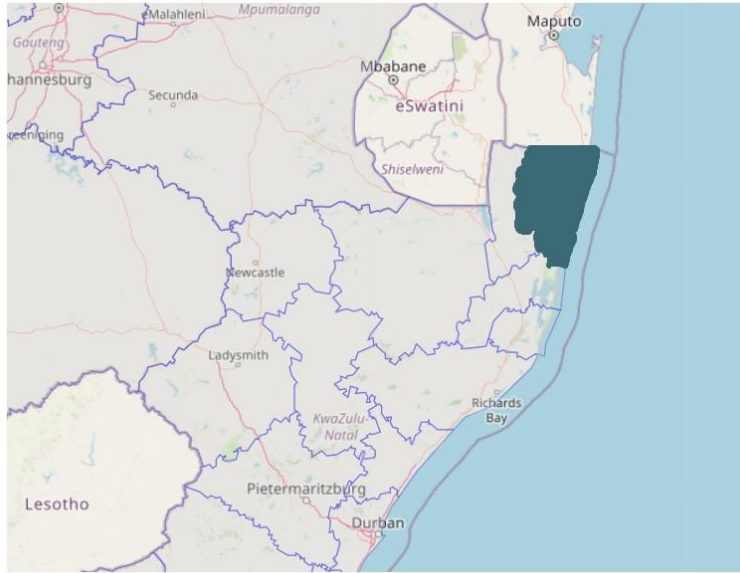
23 April 2025





uPhongolo (Zululand)
uMhlabuyalingana (uMkhanyakude)
KwaZulu-Natal

About Lulamaphiko



Train, equip and mentor parents, ECD practitioners and foundation phase educators to enrich the lives of young children.



Collaborate with multiple stakeholders (government, business, civil society and traditional leaders) to improve services and infrastructure.



Focus:

- Pregnancy to 9 years
- Early Childhood Development
- Language and Early Literacy
- Food gardens and nutrition

REACH: **175** *ECD programmes*
8686 *Children in ELPs*
5226 *Children receive nutrition support*
1400 *Parents at home*
2958 *Children at home*

Tools, When, Where



ELOM assessor

Pumla Mkhiva conducted the assessments in isiZulu

ELOM 4&5 assessment tool
(GMD, FMCVI, ENM, CEF, ELL)



Socio-emotional functioning



Height-for-Age (Growth)



November 2023



**8 ELPs in deep rural communities in
uPhongolo, Zululand
(Quintile 1)**



Sample: 31 children



42% boys

58% girls

Average age 60.65 (months)

Why ELOM?

We implement the Do More Foundation's (DMF) basket of services for their *Young Child Programme* in uPhongolo.

DMF wanted to know the **developmental performance** on the ELOM of 4-and-5-year-olds enrolled in early learning programmes in the municipality.

A **dipstick** study was chosen for the end of the school year.

ELOM is increasing seen as the gold standard when assessing young children – ethical, locally relevant, and reliable.



What we learnt – the results

- **ON TRACK**

Higher than comparison scores

61% Emergent literacy and language

13.14 uPhongolo

10.50 National average

6.41 Quintile 1 sample average

68% Gross motor development

- **SATISFACTORY CONCENTRATION**

68 % Task Orientation

- **NORMAL GROWTH**

100% Height-for-age

77% Emotional readiness for school

- **FALLING BEHIND / FAR BEHIND**

Similar to comparison scores

32% Emergent numeracy and mathematics

32% Fine Motor Coordination and Visual-Motor Integration

29% Cognition and Executive Functioning

- **NOT MEETING THE STANDARD**

55% Socio-Emotional functioning, relations with peers and adults

What we learnt - the process



As a first-time user

Talk to the DATA DRIVE team and others who have used ELOM.

Use the DATA DRIVE website to immerse yourself in the tools, the steps.

Be clear about why you are doing the assessment and what data you want.

Find an assessor you have confidence in.

Understand age ranges, use the Age Calculator and select the sample carefully.

Discuss the results with the DATA DRIVE team.

Community engagement and feedback

- Pre-assessments planning workshop with 8 ECD principals
- Daily check-in with the assessor
- Identified key info with Data Drive and Linda Biersteker to share with ECD Forum
- Assessor presented results to 75 ECD Forum members – feedback loops
- Platform for ECD Forum members to share their responses, recommendations, practices





How we used the data

Addressing the low scores in the three FALLING BEHIND areas.

- 1. Emergent Numeracy and Maths - In 2024 we selected Book Dash books with content on numeracy and maths concepts and provided training and resources for practitioners and parents.**
- 2. Fine Motor Coordination and Visual-Motor Integration – Provided more training and resources for practitioners to promote drawing, cutting, pasting, creativity, etc.**
- 3. Cognition and Executive Function - We are looking for a programme/ways to to build these skills (possibly partner with Singakwenza).**

Plans

***Funda Engadini* (Learning in the garden) programme for 4-5 year olds**

Lulamaphiko's nature-based curriculum.

Planning ELOM pre and post assessments to support the programme's development.



Enablers

- **DO MORE FOUNDATION'S** commitment including financing of the assessments
- **DATA DRIVE'S** availability, information resources and online support
- **Lulamaphiko** team's passion for learning and development
- **Buy in** from the ECD workforce



Challenges

- Finding a skilled assessor
- Understanding all the elements and processes
- Costly for small NGOs
- Timing is critical

I wish I had understood more about how to select the ages of children to be assessed

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Website

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