



Greater Kruger - Mpumalanga - South Africa
Happy Homes Creche Dining Hall

Final Report
March 2024

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – BACKGROUND

Happy Homes Creche is in Bushbuckridge Municipality within the Justicia Community in rural Mpumalanga, South Africa. The creche was founded in 2001 with its first intake of just 28 children and starting from a corrugated iron shack. In 2003, Africa Foundation and &Beyond facilitated the building of the first two brick-and-mortar classrooms at the creche, through generous donor support.

Since then, the school has continued to develop in terms of its resources and so too has the popularity of the school. Today the school has an enrollment of 166 children who are accommodated in four classrooms.

From its humble beginnings, Happy Homes creche is a great example of what is possible through the collective effort of individuals seeking to make a difference in rural communities.

Today, this creche is managed by a dedicated team of 9 school governing body members. It is an immaculate school, where parents feel confident and proud to bring their children for the very important early childhood development years.



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – BACKGROUND

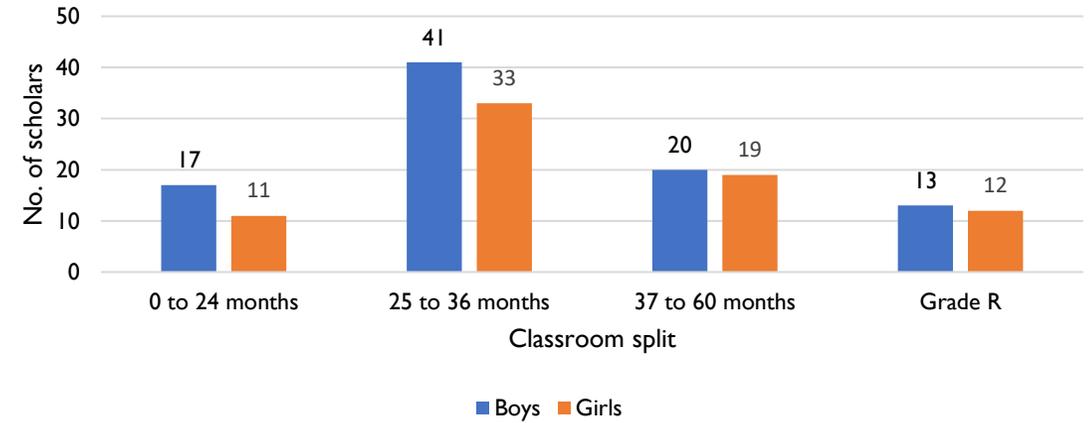
The creche currently has enrollment numbers of 166 children, aged between 0 to 5 years. These learners are accommodated in 4 classes.

Happy Homes has a staff complement of 13 members including:

- 1 centre manager
- 2 food handlers
- 2 cleaners
- 6 teachers
- 2 gardeners

There are also 3 horticulture stewards that have been placed at the creche, as part of Africa Foundation's Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) programme. The role of these Stewards are to support the creche with establishing and maintaining a food garden, the preparation of meals, teaching assistance, cleaning as well as helping with general administrative tasks.

Scholar Classroom split profile (Total 166)



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – BACKGROUND

The creche also boasts an impressive vegetable garden, supported through the Africa Foundation's 'Climate Resilient Communities' (CRC) programme. This programme is helping to improve food security within rural communities, through the development, and maintenance of climate-wise food gardens.

This garden at Happy Homes, is maintained by the Stewards from this programme.



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – BACKGROUND

Since 2001, ongoing donations from dedicated donors have helped to expand Happy Homes creche.

Through this generous support Africa Foundation has been able to build seven classrooms, a playground, a kitchen, a new sanitation block and establish the afore-mentioned food garden.

ECD and nutrition are intrinsically connected and in poorer communities the meals provided at schools are sometimes the only nutritious meals that the child is guaranteed. Early childhood development programmes provide an opportunity for intervention to improve the nutrition of young children, in addition to social protection and healthcare services.

A new kitchen was one of the early additions to Happy Homes creche. This was constructed in 2007. However, in the absence of a dining hall, the children have been eating their meals in their classrooms or outside, whilst sitting on the floor. The classroom furniture would be rearranged to create space during lunch and snack-time, and then moved back afterwards.

This reports celebrates the completion of the dining hall funded by your generous donations.



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – DINING HALL – DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

The contract for constructing the Happy Homes creche dining hall, was initiated in August 2023, and it was completed by 28 February 2024. The dining hall is equipped with tables and chairs. Breakfast is served at 09:30 and lunch at 12:00 noon daily. All children can now enjoy their meals in this beautiful, hygienic new structure.



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – THE COMPLETED DINING HALL – EXTERIOR VIEW



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – THE COMPLETED DINING HALL – INTERIOR VIEW



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – THE IMPACT YOU HELPED US TO ACHIEVE

Having a dining hall at Happy Homes Creche, is important for several reasons.

Firstly, many children in the community come from low-income families who may struggle to provide regular meals at home. This dining hall ensures that all children can now access their daily school meals, in a safe and hygienic environment. It furthermore helps to instill good manners and hygiene practices, such as:

- eating at a table – as opposed to on the floor,
- practicing good table manners,
- washing hands before and after meals, as well as
- cleaning and sanitization of utensils and surfaces.

All of this helps to build social skills and help prevent the spread of germs to promote overall child health. Finally, this dining hall can serve as a multipurpose space for various activities beyond meal-times at the school. This can be used for group learning or play sessions for which crowded classrooms are too small, storytelling, and arts and crafts, or for free play inside, when it rains.



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – TESTIMONIAL



P.O BOX 31 98
JUSTICIA
1289

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR THE NEW DINING HALL

DEAR OUR DEAREST DONORS

GREETINGS WITH LOVE AND HAPPINES TO THOSE WHO MADE MY DREAMS COME TRUE I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE ON BEHALF OF HAPPY HOMES ENGLISH MEDIUM PRE-SCHOOL FOR INCREDIBLY GENEROUS DONATION THAT MADE THE CONSTRUTION OF OUR NEW DINING HALL POSSIBLE .YOUR SUPPORT HAS NOT ONLY TRANSFORMED THEPHYSICAL SPACE OF OUR PRE-SCHOOL BUT HAS ALSO CREATED A POSITIVE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR YOUNG LEARNERS.

THE DINING HALL WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ENHANCING THE OVERALL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR PRESCHOOLERS, PROVIDING THEM WITH ACOMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING SPACE TO ENJOY THEIR MEALS AND ENGAGE IN SOCIAL INTERACTIONS .YOUR COMMITMENTTO THE WELL-BEING AND EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN IS TRULY COMMENDABLE.

WE FEEL PRIVILEGED TO HAVE DONORS LIKE YOU WHO SHARE OUR VISION FOR PROVIDING A CONDUTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG MINDS.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION.WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTRIBUTINUED GROWTH AND SUCCESS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR SUPPORT.

WITH SINCE APPRECIATION,

YOURS FAITHFULLY

HAPPY HOMES CENTRE MANAGER

HAPPY HOMES
ENGLISH MEDIUM
29 FEB 2024
PRE - SCHOOL
BOX 3198, JUSTICIA, 1289



HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – TESTIMONIAL

“We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the recent addition of the new dining hall to the school premises. This significant development has brought immense joy and relief to all of us. Since the establishment of the school, one challenge that we have continuously observed was the lack of a dedicated space for our children to enjoy their meals.

Prior to this, our children had no choice but to eat their meals in their classrooms.

The addition of the dining hall not only addresses a fundamental need but also reflects the school's commitment to continuously enhance the learning experience and well-being of our children. We appreciate the dedication of Africa Foundation and all those involved in making this project a reality.

As the SGB, we are deeply grateful for the thoughtful gesture given to our children's welfare and comfort. The new dining hall stands as a testament to the school's unwavering dedication to providing a nurturing and enriching environment for our children's educational journey.

Once again, thank you for prioritizing the well-being of our children and for making a difference in their daily lives. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact of this development.”

Khesani masinga, SGB Member, Happy Homes Creche



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – TESTIMONIAL

"We, as food handlers, are immensely grateful for the construction of the new dining hall. Previously, serving meals to the children was a bit challenging due to the distance between the kitchen and the dining area. However, now that the kitchen is located closer to the dining hall, our work has been simplified.

The accessibility to the dining hall allows us to cater to the children in a more efficient manner. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for this thoughtful improvement, as it not only benefits us as food handlers but ultimately contributes to the overall well-being and satisfaction of the children we serve.

Thank you"

Sandry Ndlovu

Food Handler, Happy Homes Creche



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HAPPY HOMES CRECHE – FINANCIAL REPORT

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GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Mpumalanga may be one of South Africa's smallest provinces but "the place where the sun rises" is home to incredible diversity in landscape and wildlife. It is here, where the Highveld meets the Lowveld; the spectacular contrast of mist-shrouded mountains and low plains creates breath-taking panoramic views that recede into the endless distance. It is a place that invites exploration. With its warm people, stunning scenery and abundant flora and fauna, Mpumalanga is an essential destination for any visitor to South Africa.

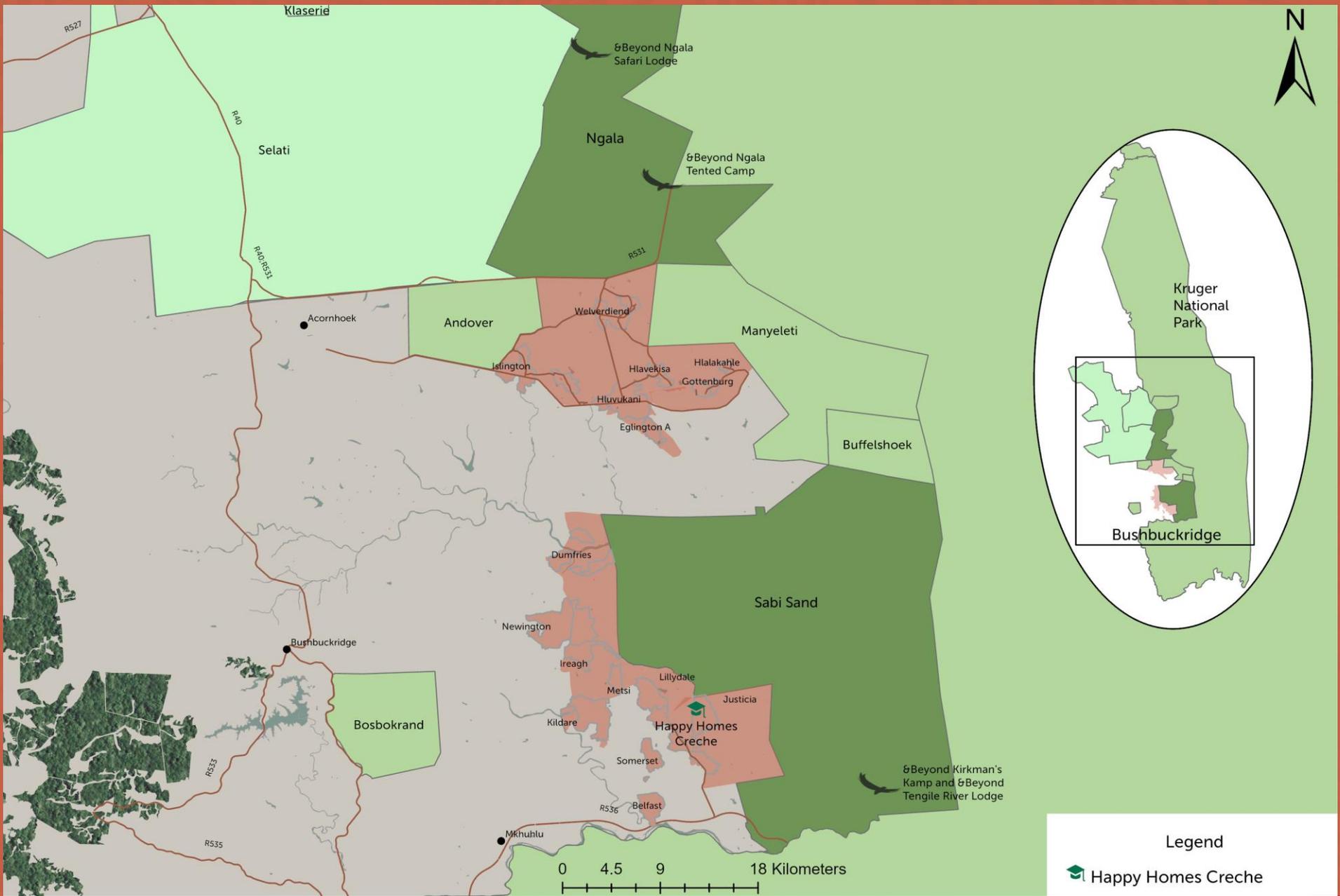
It is home to an array of world-class game parks, including South Africa's oldest and largest game viewing destination, the Kruger National Park. Most private game reserves in the province arguably provide some of the best game-viewing in the world thanks to the abundance of game and proximity to the Kruger National Park. Here you will find the classic savannah landscape that is so many people's first image of Africa.

Bushbuck Ridge Municipality, where the name Bushbuck Ridge was given because of the large herds of bushbuck found there in the 1880s. The town of Bushbuckridge grew around a trading store that opened in 1884 and has since grown to a community of people. In South Africa, the majority of children are adversely affected by a range of social and economic inequalities, there is no equitable access to quality Early Childhood Development opportunities and resources.

Justicia B is a small village community within the greater Bushbuckridge-area of Mpumalanga. Its population is just 3 000 – 5 000 people, most of whom immigrated from Mozambique due to extreme poverty and various other challenges. It is on the fence line of the renowned Sabi Sands Private Reserve

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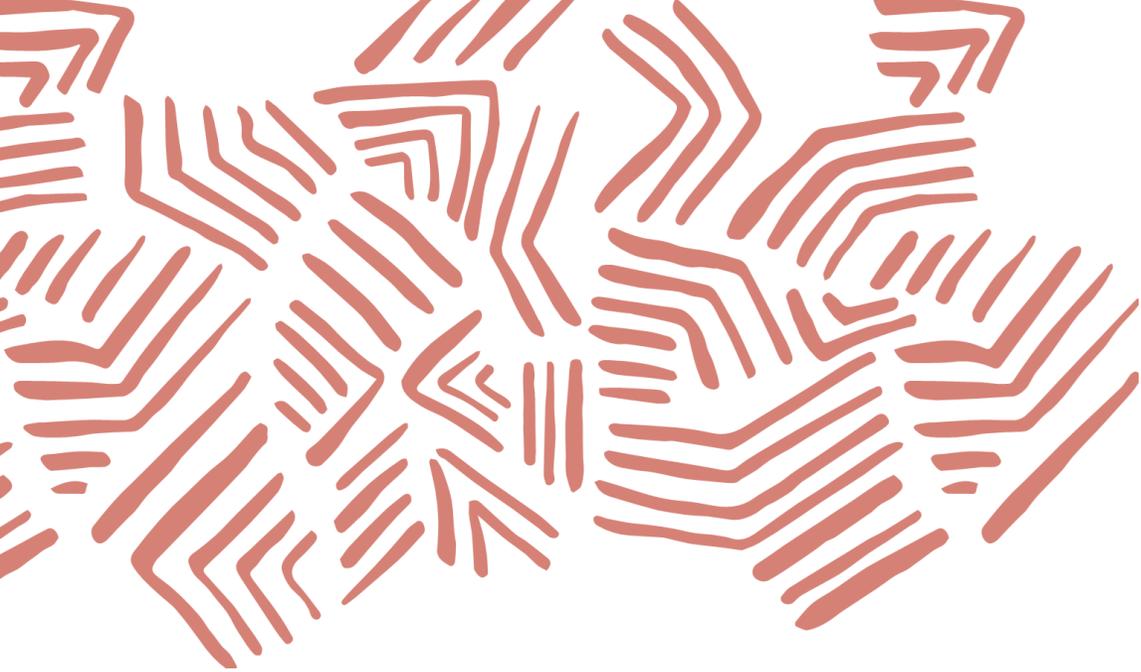




**JUSTICIA COMMUNITY CONTEXT WITHIN THE GREATER KRUGER
CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE**

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Thank you for supporting the Dining Hall project at Happy Homes Creche.

Your contribution has helped us improve conditions and create a more conducive environment for teachers and learners at this creche, in the Greater Kruger Landscape, Mpumalanga, South Africa.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Africa Foundation's Senior Partnerships Manager:

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