

Background

By way of background, the KwaZulu Natal Education Trust Project arose from discussions between NZAID and the KwaZulu Natal Department of Education in 2004. The project aimed to implement an integrated foundational-senior phase educator development intervention, targeting mathematics, science, information technologies the language of learning and teaching in two disadvantaged districts of KwaZulu Natal. NZAID provided around NZD683,000 to the project from 2006 to 2008.

Purpose and Objectives

The evaluations purpose was to consider the extent to which activities planned and undertaken contributed to the successful implementation of the project and were aligned to achieving the results sought by the KwaZulu Natal Department of Education. The evaluation also aimed to assess programme design and delivery mechanisms and identify strengths, opportunities, lessons learned and replicability. The evaluations approach was to identify a sample of schools, implementation agents, and Department of Education district offices, as well as provincial and national stakeholders. The team interviewed key stakeholders, held focus group meetings, and observed a sample of lessons.

Main Findings

The evaluations findings noted the ambitious nature of the project against the budget allocated. Nevertheless, the project had a positive impact on the recipients of the training. Programme challenges included the low qualifications of educators in schools, the lack of basic equipment such as calculators for teaching maths and science, and the burden of additional resources needed by schools to support trainees. Aspects that could be improved upon included better compliance with contractual obligations, and improved project management design to include on-going monitoring and evaluation.

Follow-up

Evaluation recommendations related to the need to improve monitoring and evaluation, to consider the experience levels of science and maths educators and the equipment and materials needed to support the project if it were to be replicated.

To request a copy of the full report email aidevaluation@mfat.govt.nz and quote the reference number - Eva0908.