



Hospital Road, Manguzi, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa  S -26.98509 E 32.75472  
PO Box 661, KwaNgwanase, 3973  
T +27(0)35 592 9681/10  M +27(0)79 490 2864  F +27(0)86 662 9681  
 tholulwazi.uzivikele  E hello@tuproject.org  www.tuproject.org  
015-411 NPO  PBO 930021528  VAT 4020240844

21 October 2016

drinC

## **Piloting of two-bucket filtration system at ECD Centres**

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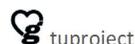
Tholulwazi Uzivikele is situated in a deep rural area within uMhlabuyalingana Local Municipality. The area is characterised by low levels of income, with little economic opportunities. Communities, are generally, dependent on open sources for water, including dams and streams, as well as from harvesting rainwater. Such water sources are sometimes shared with animals. Such water contains rust and germs, which can lead to diarrhoea. In partnership drinC, Tholulwazi distributed the 2-bucket filtration system to 10 ECD Centres with the aim to improve the quality of drinking water to children attending these community crèches. This is also in line with the constitution of South Africa, which states that every person has the right to sufficient water. This right was upheld by the Constitutional Court. Implied in access is physical accessibility, including “vulnerable” individuals, such as children. Sufficient in turn has a quality component, which means “free of adverse substances”, with consideration for “taste, odour, and appearance”. The right to adequate water is also found in the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), especially in rural areas, which highlights the gender aspect to water, especially also in rural area.

With the above in mind, the pilot with drinC is an excellent initiative in KwaNgwanase, considering the sources of local sources, and resulting quality of water. Implementing the project in crèches is an additional benefit, as diarrhoea is one of the leading causes of deaths among children.

The 10 ECD Centres that participated in the pilot are: KwaNdaba, Mnyayisa, Khulanolwazi, Nondwayiza, Masakhane, Siyakhula, Osizweni, Vikelani Abantwana, Thandanani, and We Deserve It. All centres reported they clean their buckets two times per month instead of after 25 days because water is too dirty in the area which causes the filter to be unable to work properly. This is in line with the experience in Tholulwazi’s office, where the filter becomes blocked at 2 weeks. The latter is quite alarming, as we mainly use water supplied through municipal infrastructure.

Mrs Mntambo at We Deserve It ECD Centre reported that Children are no longer coming with their own water bottles, and they are using water from the drinC 2-bucket filtration system because children prefer the taste of the water. We found that children also enjoy using the bucket system because the tap is a novelty, which is easy to use. Centres reported a notable decrease in diarrhoea, although we did not collect “hard” evidence in this regard.

**THOLULWAZI UZIVIKELE**  
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Mrs Mntambo shared that their bucket system helped to improve the relationship between them and the neighbouring primary school, because teachers from the school are coming to their centre to drink this “magic water”.

A staff member at Tholulwazi shared the amount of money she spent on bottled water due to a chronic “running stomach”. However, since implementation of the drinC filtration system, this condition has disappeared.

These 10 ECD Centres are members of the KwaNgwanase ECD Forum, where they shared about implementation of the bucket system and its results. ECD Practitioners from non-participating crèches have asked what they can do to obtain buckets. The KwaNgwanase ECD Forum steering committee has also enquired as to how the filtration system can be rolled out to all 86 of their members.



Children at Osizweni ECD Centre lining up for water after lunch.



Delivering the 2-bucket filtration system to Masakhane ECD Centre

Yours sincerely,

**Kobus Meyer**  
Director