



MASAZANE
SOUP KITCHEN & CHILD
PROTECTION PROJECT

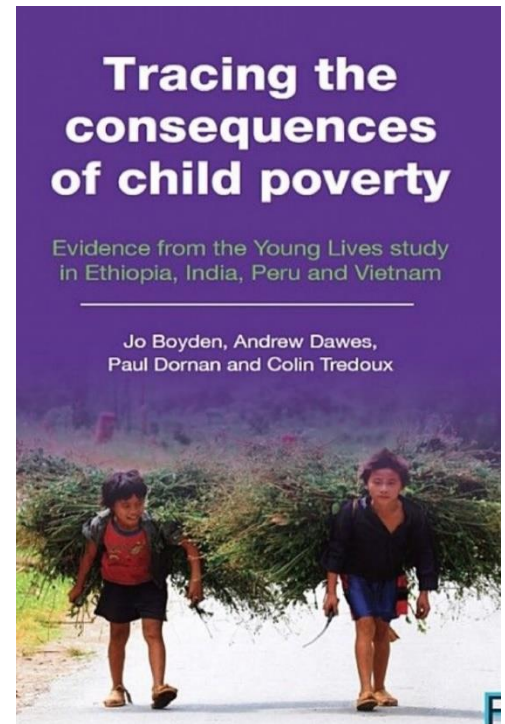
Update: June 2019

This recently published study (*right*), under the auspices of Young Lives, and initiated by the UK government's Department for International Development, began in 2001 and collected detailed information on a wide range of topics, including health, nutrition, education and psychosocial wellbeing, from 12,000 children.

The study examines children's development and the trajectories that they go through as they grow up. In recent years, the first 1000 days of a child's life from conception, has come to be recognised as the critical period of foetal and infant vulnerability. Health, nutrition and learning opportunities during these earliest months and years of a child's life shape the developing brain.

But one of the findings of the study is that the period of middle childhood can pose new challenges, as children enter school and develop in important new social contexts.

School feeding schemes were found to impact positively on the physical growth and health of children, which was linked to better performance in class. While the current generation of children is doing much better than previous generations, there are still multiple hazards. **"Children in the study were particularly worried about food insecurity. Using school as a platform for enhancing children's nutrition and development was shown to bring immediate benefits and lead to longer-term developmental gains"** (p.79). One nine-year old commented: "We need to study. We need to answer the questions and we must eat well – if we eat well, we can study".



The **Masazane Soup Kitchen**, with its focus on providing the most nutritious meals possible to the school children served, is thus contributing to changing the life trajectories of Mbekweni children affected by poverty. We are so proud of the gogos who so faithfully prepare food for hungry school children every day.

And we are glad that this report endorses the importance of the work that they do, and which our supporters make possible. **Thank you!**

WE CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON AND VALUE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PROJECT



In the first half of 2019, we have:

- Welcomed a new volunteer, Nosihlalo Mditjana (on the right in this photo), who has brought energy and a delightful sense of humour to the kitchen;



- Extended the shade cover for children while they eat (and sometimes play!);

- Enjoyed an excellent talk on food hygiene and food safety;

and

- Implemented a more reliable system of counting how many meals are prepared on a daily basis.



26,435

This is the number of meals served in our kitchen over the first 4 months of 2019. Children from both Mbekweni Primary School and Imiboniselo Primary School benefitted.

We also are pleased to be able to report that the distribution is phased so that the youngest children are not crowded out by older children, and that Mbekweni School's **learners with physical and learning disabilities** are also given preferential treatment.



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<https://www.facebook.com/Masazane-Soup-Kitchen-and-Child-Protection-Project-1408662505907226/>

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Donations to:

Masazane Soup Kitchen and Child Protection Project

First National Bank
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Account number: 62783960894

Swift code: FIRNZAJJ

NPO: 207-414

Please request a tax receipt from us should this be helpful.

We are thankful for the support from Rondebosch United Church, Cape Town, through their Samaritan Partners Trust, contributions from church services, and ongoing prayer support.

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