Demographic Overview
- 6 171 schools - 2 805 621 learners - 89 939 educators
- Small farm schools with one or two staff members and schools with 2 500 learners and 70+ staff
- Densely populated urban and deep rural areas; schools spread out or sometimes clustered
- Lack of services such as running water, sanitation, infrastructure, electricity, and transport in rural areas
- Educator qualifications need to be upgraded
- Backlog in construction of classrooms, 54% of schools without electricity and telephones
- Language of instruction seldom spoken outside the classroom
- Learner to educator ratio 34:1

Policy Intervention
School library provision not supported by official policy becomes vulnerable to financial retrenchment and local educational politics
Formalised policy
  - makes subsequent action more coherent and consistent
  - provides a rallying point for development
  - prevents scattered school library programmes and marginal development

Programmes

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<th>SCHOOL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</th>
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Policies & Guidelines
- KwaZulu-Natal School Library Policy - 2004
- Reading Policy Guidelines – 2005
- Education Centre Guidelines - 2005
- Advisors’ Manual – 2005
- School Visits Handbook – 2006
- Curriculum Directory - 2007
- Reading Handbook - 2008
- ICT Guidelines – 2008
- Information Skills guidelines - 2008
- Processing Centre Procedures – 2008
- ELITS School Library Strategy – 2009
- Principal’s handbook

Progress
- 3 162 schools provided with starter collections
- 25 new school libraries established
- 60 best school libraries awarded
- 15 Education Centre libraries established and resourced
- 24 Education Centre libraries professionally supported
- 7 Mobile libraries deployed, 9 buses resourced
- 3 District School Library Forums established
- Creative writing: HIV/AIDS anthologies
- Compulsory reading hour in all schools
- 336 diplomas of Bursary programme: Advanced Certificate in Education (School Library Management)

Challenges
- National Guidelines for School Libraries
- Dedicated funding
- Posts of teacher-librarians
- Acknowledgement of the role of the school library as an educational tool