The journey of the eggs

2
Acknowledgements

Preface
The ethos and culture of the KTT underpin the evolution and development of this statement. This ethos is characterised by mutual support, collaborative processes, interdependent partnerships and collective ownership. These materials are still in a developmental stage and will be further refined following a period of piloting in the 12 project schools in Khayelitsha.

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6. Acknowledgements
   Parents, pupils and teachers of the 12 Site C and Site B Schools, School Health Nurses and District Managers (PAWC, Dept. of Health), Ms Dwane and Mrs. Bongo (WCED Kuhlriver Area Office), District Managers and Environmental Health Officers (City of Cape Town – Tygerberg Administration), Dave Galland and Mike Kantey (PSFA), Edgar Carolissen (CMA Healthy Cities)

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ISBN No. 1-919809-38-4
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Production of Learn about Worms would not have been possible without generous support from the Peninsula School Feeding Association, Anglo American Chairman’s Fund, AngloGold Fund, De Beers Fund and SAB Corporate Social Investment.
Thandi and Siziwe are working in the school vegetable garden with their teacher (Mrs Dlamini). Siziwe offers Thandi a bite of a carrot.

Thandi says: “No, don’t eat it! You need to wash it first. Otherwise you might get worms.”

Siziwe: “You must be joking, Thandi! I don’t see any worms on this carrot.”
Mrs Dlamini says “Thandi’s right. It’s not earthworms that are the problem. Have a look at this poster. Here is another kind of worm that lives inside your body. The eggs of these worms come out with your pooh. The eggs are so small that we can’t even see them. So it is easy to get them on our hands and in our mouths without knowing it.”

“Once the eggs get inside you, they grow into worms that eat the food inside you and make you sick. Thandi is right. We do need to wash vegetables before we eat them.”
Danger Worms!
Thandi and Siziwe are washing carrots under the outside tap in the school yard. “That’s better,” says Thandi. “But we need to wash our hands, too!”
Thandi and Siziwe go to the school toilets. Siziwe holds her nose. She says to Thandi: “These toilets are disgusting! There's no toilet paper and how are we supposed to wash the sand off our hands without any soap?”
The girls leave the school to play netball. Siziwe points to a boy near the wetland nearby. He is poohing outside. “I’d rather use the bush like that boy over there.” says Siziwe.

“But that’s how worms spread!” says Thandi. “The worm eggs come out in our pooh. Then the rain washes the eggs into the sand. The eggs live in the sand for years. Can you imagine how many worm eggs there must be in that sand?”
The girls play netball on a piece of open ground. Siziwe shouts: “Lumka! Be careful!” Thandi is about to stand in someone’s pooh.

“Thanks Siziwe,” says Thandi. “I wish they would build a toilet here. I hate to think how many worm eggs are in this sand.”
The girls stop at a stall selling fruit to buy something to eat. It's windy and the sand is blowing everywhere.

"Yuck!" says Thandi. "Look at all the sand on these apples. Did you know that the wind helps to spread worms? When the wind blows, it carries the sand and the eggs all over!"

"You're making me feel sick, just talking about it," Siziwe replies. "Let's take our apples home and wash them before we eat."
The girls finally arrive at Thandi’s house. The dog, Inja is pleased to see them and licks Thandi’s face to welcome her home.

Thandi pulls a face: “Inja, you smell revolting! What have you been rolling in this time?”
Thandi picks up her baby brother, Nico.

Thandi says “Oh no, Nico! Your bottle is in the sand again.” Siziwe picks up his bottle that is lying in the sand and says. “Let’s give it a wash otherwise he might get worms too!”
The girls wash the fruit and bottle in a basin next to the outside tap. In the background is an open rubbish bin with lots of flies around.

Siziwe says: “It feels good to wash my hands. I’ve been feeling dirty ever since you started talking about worms. It feels like the eggs are everywhere.”
Inside the kitchen, Thandi's mother, Nosipho, is preparing sandwiches. The kitchen is neat and tidy but there are a lot of flies around. “Look at all these flies. They are disgusting!” says Thandi, “Do you know they carry the worm eggs on their feet? We need to cover the food.”

Nosipho says: “Yes, your right, Thandi. The flies are bad today. I don’t know where they’re coming from.”
“Look Ma,” says Thandi.
“The rubbish still hasn’t been collected!”

Nosipho sighs: “All these flies carry disease — I wonder how many children in this street have worms? There must be something we can do.”
All these things help spread worms. Can you find each of these things in Thandi’s story. How do you think they help to spread worms?