

South Africa

Child Protection: Thematic Report

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CSG	Child Support Grant
CYCW	Child and Youth Care Worker
DoJCD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DSD	Department of Social Development
ECD	Early Childhood and Development
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IMC on VACW	Inter-Ministerial Committee on Violence Against Children and Women
NACCW	National Association of Child Care Workers
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
SAPS	South Africa Police Service
SOC	Sexual Offences Court
TTT	Technical Task Team
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAC-W	Violence Against Children and Women

Executive Summary

Although South Africa is a middle-income country, it has one of the highest rates of inequality in the world. After over two decades in the country, UNICEF South Africa continues to work towards supporting social transformation in a society still scarred by a longstanding history of violence and the legacy of apartheid. The first nationally representative study of sexual violence against children in South Africa was published in 2016 and confirmed that one in three children experience violence during their childhood (many of these children experience violence multiple times). In 2016, UNICEF supported the Government to consolidate this (and other) existing research, complementing with additional relevant data on the nature and scale of violence, to ensure that future policy was based on strong evidence and grounded in an equity focus. Research on structural determinants, children's online experiences and a diagnostic review of government's efforts to prevent violence were finalised, complementing the prevalence data produced in the Optimus Study.

Despite strong legal and policy protection for children, implementation remains a challenge. UNICEF subsequently supported the implementation of Isibindi (refer to Annex 2 for details), a community level service delivery model to support Government to better understand what works; and adapt existing service delivery models to be more adolescent-sensitive. For example, the formally evaluated Sinovuyo Teen programme, shown to reduce violence among adolescents, has been integrated into the Isibindi programme, enabling child and youth care workers in the Eastern Cape to support adolescents and their caregivers to improve communication and create a more positive caregiving environment. In addition, the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) is introducing wifi in selected Safe Parks and now includes a greater range of sports, creative arts, life skills and education support in these facilities. This has led to the increased participation of adolescents, who are otherwise at risk of other rights violations.

The greatest operation challenge, however, has been taking evidence based, existing services to scale. To do this, UNICEF has supported the Department of Social Development to develop an ambitious, national scale vision that would – if implemented – enable all vulnerable children to have their well-being tracked over time and, when necessary, be supported to access early intervention services. With child support grants already delivered at scale, Government (with support from UNICEF and strategic civil society partners) is proposing to *integrate a digitized case management system* with the provision of social assistance to bring care to children and referral to children on the CSG through. The system will be digitized as to ensure tracking of real time statistics on children on the CSG which is becoming integrated in the existing social protection information management system. This will be *combined with a social compact model for promoting greater community and private sector investment* in local violence prevention and early intervention services. Together, these two strategies seek to enable the government, in 2017, to:

- more accurately monitor the well-being of the most vulnerable children (at scale);
- more effectively refer children on the Child Support Grant to care and support and other social services; and
- ensure that community based services are rapidly expanded to meet the demand that this integrated social and child protection approach will generate.

Strategic Context of 2016

Significant progress has been made in reducing poverty in recent years, with some estimates suggesting the introduction of social grants have reduced poverty by 25 per cent. Despite these advances, for many South African children, their childhood remains characterised by inequality and poverty. Almost two-thirds (63%) of the children still live below the upper bound poverty line. Poverty is also gendered (women carry a greater burden of care for children, but are less likely to be employed or, when they are, they earn less than men); and regional (for example, children in some rural areas are disproportionately more likely to be living in poor households)¹. Poverty has been linked to adverse effects which have long term implications for children's health and capacity to thrive. For example, poorer children are more likely to be stunted in their early years and tend to have poorer performance at school later in life².

Violence also remains one of the fundamental barriers to national development (including ending poverty) and poses a serious protection risk to a large proportion of the child population. A recent national prevalence survey found that around 1 in 3 children experience violence during their childhood (and around 350,000 children per year)³. Reporting rates are much lower, with around 41,000 cases reported to police in 2015⁴. Data on the subsequent mental health outcomes for children is limited, however, it can be reasonably assumed that the inter-generational experience of violence has also contributed to high rates of mental health concerns in both children and their caregivers.

Programme and funding priorities for child protection are set at national level. Funding allocations and service delivery partnerships are managed at provincial level – requiring close and collaborative relationships between the different levels of government and with other service delivery, research and advocacy actors. This is currently achieved at varying levels of success across the country, leaving many areas underfunded⁵, and/or inadequately or inconsistently coordinated or monitored.

In addition to both poverty and violence, children face the additional challenge of a social fragmentation and a breakdown in social cohesion⁶. There are over 3.6 million orphaned children and less than one third of children live with both biological parents⁷. Many children lack consistent, caring, nurturing relationships with adults who have an influence on their development (caregivers, teachers etc.). At the same time, racial and spatial factors continue

¹ Hall, K., & Budlender, D. (2016). Children's contexts: Household living arrangements, poverty and care. In Delany A, Jehoma S & Lake L (eds) (2016) South African Child Gauge 2016. Cape Town: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town

² Grinspun, A. (2016). No Small Change: The Multiple Impacts of the Child Support Grant on Child and Adolescent Wellbeing. In Delany A, Jehoma S & Lake L (eds) (2016) South African Child Gauge 2016. Cape Town: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town.

³ The Optimus Study on Child Abuse, Violence and Neglect in South Africa, University of Cape Town and Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, 2015.

⁴ SAPS Annual Report 2015/16. Available at:

https://www.saps.gov.za/about/stratframework/annual_report/2015_2016/saps_annual_report_2015_2016.pdf

⁵ For discussion on this, see UNICEF and IBP. (2016). Children and South Africa's Social Development Budget Analysis. UNICEF: Pretoria.

⁶ See National Development Plan 2030. (2011). National Planning Commission: Pretoria South Africa, for a discussion on this.

⁷ National Development Plan 2030. (2011). National Planning Commission: Pretoria, South Africa.

to drive inequalities in access to services and other opportunities⁸ and a lack of coordination in service delivery further limits families' capacity to access services when they need them. As a result, efforts to address both poverty and violence must be coupled with a plan to promote greater *connectedness* – that is, greater connections between children and their families, their communities and connections between the social services and the support services that are there to assist those that are most vulnerable.

Against this backdrop, the country has developed a successful social protection programme, which includes child grants at scale; and has a network of human and infrastructure resources which span the country. Evidence suggests that “...access to the CSG, especially in the early years of life, and sustained access throughout childhood mitigates child poverty, significantly improves childhood development, health and education, and reduces risky adolescent behaviour⁹.” If combined with more coordinated referral and access to broader social services, the grants have the potential to deliver amplified and accelerated benefits¹⁰. It is also in line with the National Development Plan objective to “link up programmes delivered by other departments involved in developmental social welfare service delivery more effectively¹¹.”

There have also been advances in the development and delivery of social welfare and other basic social services. The Department of Social Development currently utilises a partnership service delivery model to violence prevention and response. Statutory functions are largely delivered by Government and civil society (in partnership with Government) delivers the bulk of prevention and early intervention services (for which they rely on a combination of public and private funding). Good practice models, such as Isibindi have been evaluated and found to be effective in prevention and early intervention for some children¹² – and with capacity to go to scale, however, there are no national scale service delivery models currently in place that offer full coverage (although Government has committed to the expansion of Isibindi). Many other promising interventions, such as Thuthuzela Care Centres, Khuseleka One Stop Centres, GBV Command Centres and Sexual Offences Courts are also in place, but remain under-funded, are implemented at limited scale, and are yet to be explicitly linked with a social and holistic child protection system.

Results in the Outcome Area

Building on the results from 2015, which focused on building a greater national and sub-national commitment to prevention and early intervention, UNICEF continued to support the Government of South Africa to transition to more strategic investments in these critical areas. To do this, UNICEF supported:

- A strengthened evidence base, more explicitly linking broader socio-economic factors with violence; and the importance of linking the social and child protection systems;

⁸ Delaney, A., Grinspun, A., & Nyokangi, E. (2016). Children and Social Assistance: An Introduction. In Delany A, Jehoma S & Lake L (eds) (2016) South African Child Gauge 2016. Cape Town: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town.

⁹ SASSA and UNICEF. 2013. Preventing Exclusion from the Child Support Grant: A Study of Exclusion Errors in Accessing CSG Benefits. Pretoria: UNICEF South Africa (p. 5).

¹⁰ Cluver LD, Orkin FM, Boyes M & Sherr L (2014) Cash plus care: Social protection cumulatively mitigates HIV-risk behaviour among adolescents in South Africa. AIDS, 28(3): S389-397;

Cluver LD, Orkin FM, Yakubovich AR & Sherr L (2016) Combination social protection for reducing HIV-risk behavior among adolescents in South Africa. Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes, 72(1): 96-104

¹¹ National Development Plan 2030. (2014). National Planning Commission. Pretoria, South Africa.

¹² There are now over 180,000 children in receipt of family strengthening services through Isibindi

- The promotion of good practice, community based service delivery models, such as Isibindi, which reached over 25,000 children in UNICEF supported sites;
- Strategic partnerships with government and civil society at national and sub-national levels, to share lessons and advocate for accelerated scale up.

Results Achieved:

Outcome:

All children have their rights to protection from violence, exploitation, neglect and discrimination recognized and fulfilled.

South Africa enjoys some of the world's strongest legislative and regulatory frameworks, including constitutional protections, a comprehensive Children's Act and a well-trained and coordinated social welfare workforce. Against this backdrop, however, violence remains an everyday experience for many South African children. The Optimus Study (2016) offers the first ever nationally-representative data on violence against children, finding that between one in five and one in three school-aged boys and girls, respectively, reported having experienced some form of sexual abuse in their lifetimes. An overwhelming majority of children (82 per cent) reported experiencing some form of violent victimization, such as criminal victimization or exposure to family or community violence. Despite the strong legal and policy protections for children, violence is rooted in historical and structural inequalities and the demand for, access to and quality of prevention, early intervention and response services for survivors of violence remains vastly inconsistent across the country. As a result, the elimination of violence against children requires a comprehensive and multi-sectoral effort, considerable political will and much greater investment from all actors.

In this context, UNICEF has focused on documenting what works to prevent violence against children and supporting the generation of evidence to inform the implementation of anti-violence policies, laws and programmes, playing a key coordination and convening role among diverse partnerships in the anti-violence policy arena and promoting quality in service delivery.

Complementing other significant pieces of work (including the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention's Optimus Study which provides prevalence data; and the economic and social burden documented by Save the Children), UNICEF has supported key pieces of research that are now informing the government's and other partners' strategies for addressing violence against children. This includes a comprehensive analysis of the direct and indirect social determinants and a diagnostic review of the bottlenecks to implementation of the government's overarching National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children. These pieces of research are now being used to guide policy discussions in key forums, including the technical task team for the National Programme of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children 2013–2018, the Child Care and Protection Forum, the think tank on orphans and vulnerable children and the child protection system reform process. Close collaboration with UNICEF Innocenti also enabled key research initiatives to both benefit from, and inform, global initiatives related to parenting programming and online safety.

UNICEF has also solidified its coordination and convening role among government, academia and non-governmental organizations. The organization continued to enjoy a reputation as a neutral and credible broker and has used its strong professional relationships to advocate for the meetings by the Inter-Ministerial Committee and to ensure the regular convening of its technical task team. The violence prevention sector continues to face challenges with

coordination, with multiple coordination forums, overlapping mandates, inconsistent degrees of political will and limited collaboration across government departments at provincial and national level, and between government, civil society and the private sector. Ongoing support for brokering and fostering collaboration will remain a critical role for UNICEF in the coming years, as multiple child protection-related reforms and scale-up efforts take shape.

At the same time, as part of preventing violence through positive caregiving practices and promoting quality in service delivery, UNICEF directly supported over 25,000 children to access Safe Parks and home visits. This was part of the national Isibindi prevention and early intervention programme, and was an opportunity to support the Department of Social Development and the National Association of Child Care Workers to infuse emerging good practices into the standard service delivery model. The good practices included the Sinovuyo Parenting Programme, the Sonke MenCare Programme and a more sophisticated service delivery monitoring system. The lessons learned from these initiatives are now available to inform and promote a more comprehensive package of services, as Isibindi continues to expand across the country.

Whilst advances in research, coordination and service delivery have each contributed to raising the profile of the violence prevention agenda and leveraged additional resources, cost efficiencies and partnerships, and sustainable and comprehensive expansion efforts remain elusive. Efforts in 2016 have subsequently focused on defining and supporting the national and provincial governments to resource, roll out, monitor and replicate successful scale-up strategies, seeking to promote the 'whole of government' approach demanded in the diagnostic review.

Output 1:

National child protection system that prevents and responds to violence, exploitation, neglect and discrimination and ensures the care of vulnerable children.

UNICEF partnered in a study of the structural determinants of violence against women and children by the University of Cape Town and the Children's Institute. Findings from the study, which utilized structural equation modelling to construct explanatory models that reflect pathways and sequencing for violence victimization and perpetration in relation to women and children, confirmed the need to invest in family strengthening interventions, with a focus on home visitation and parenting, to prevent and mitigate those risk factors that continue to place children at risk of becoming victims and/or perpetrators of violence. This study has now been endorsed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (IMC-VAW/C) and will continue to play a central role influencing the broader child protection system reform.

Building on this, UNICEF has also supported the IMC VAW/C to undertake a diagnostic review on violence against women and children. This looked at the 'whole of government' response and identified overarching challenges faced by 11 key departments tasked with addressing violence against women and children. The diagnostic review, completed during the reporting period, found that the national Programme of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children required a more coordinated effort within government; and stronger engagement with civil society. Promoting coordination has subsequently remained a key strategy in UNICEF's effort to strengthen the government's response. UNICEF has also maintained ongoing engagement with the technical task team of the IMC, which met several times in 2016.

UNICEF continues to also play a key supporting role in the DSD's efforts to advocate for greater priority and national attention to violence prevention. For example, UNICEF undertook an analysis of national budget allocation and expenditure in social development, finding that

only 4 per cent of the national budget is assigned to actual services. This information is now informing national policy discussions related to the child protection system reform, the think tank on orphans and vulnerable children and the technical task team's improvement plan (related to the implementation of recommendations from the diagnostic review). UNICEF has also continued to promote collaboration across the child protection civil society sector. This has included convening and/or participating in a range of dialogue and advocacy forums, including the Child Care and Protection Forum and 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Children.

Output 2:

Prevention strategies and services strengthened to prevent and mitigate factors that place children at risk of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination.

The government remains committed to and driven by evidence-based planning and UNICEF continued to play a key role in promoting good practice models in the Eastern Cape that can inform a national and provincial scale-up policy. This is also consistent with recommendations made from the evaluation of the Safer South Africa Programme (funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development).

Isibindi is a family-strengthening programme implemented by over 40 partner organizations in 67 sites across the country. The social franchise is overseen and coordinated by the NACCW, and the national government has committed to increasing the number of child and youth care workers (CYCWs) to 8,000 by the end of 2017. Building on this commitment and seeking to ensure that this investment for children is maximized, UNICEF has partnered with the NACCW to infuse promising practices into its family-strengthening model. Through this partnership, UNICEF directly supported 24,528 children, adolescents and youths to access 14 Isibindi sites in Eastern Cape, with NACCW, the Department of Social Development and Clowns Without Borders. Each site employs 25 CYCWs, who support over 250 vulnerable families through monthly home visits, psychosocial support, accessing essential services and entitlements, ensuring that orphans are provided with appropriate, alternative parental care, and helping families through practical and participative measures to restore functionality. Each site has a Safe Park where young children receive ECD programmes and older children gather after school for supervised recreation, life-skills training and homework. The Parks are run and funded by small local civil society organizations. UNICEF supported NACCW's network of mentors to provide coaching and mentoring support to CYCWs; and provided the supplies and funding for upgrading and maintenance of Safe Parks. These lessons are now also being progressively applied across Isibindi, which now reaches an estimated 280,000 children per year.

In addition, UNICEF supported the NACCW to infuse new strategies into the family strengthening programmes. For example, Sinovuyo Teens (a positive parenting programme) was initiated and evaluated through a randomized control trial which found that participating families reported reductions in physical and emotional abuse and increased use of positive caregiving practices. Based on this success, the programme was adopted by the Eastern Cape provincial government in 2016 and is being rolled out in two more provinces, with social workers expected to be fully trained mid-2017.

Sonke MenCare, a programme designed to encourage men's participation in caregiving, is also being rolled out as part of an enhanced Isibindi family-strengthening model. The training of government officials is complete in Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape and officials are now reaching out to an expected 1,800 fathers and male caregivers over the next six months.

An assessment of the family-strengthening programme has been commissioned and the fieldwork has been completed. Analysis of results is expected in the first quarter of 2017, and together with an assessment of a pioneering residential therapeutic programme implemented by ChildLine and NACCW (completed this year), this will inform NACCW and the DSD's scale-up strategy.

Output 3: Child victims and witnesses of violence and neglect access child-friendly, multi-disciplinary services.

Given the limited available resources and the considerable progress which has already been made by the government in child justice, UNICEF has focused efforts on advocating for the scale-up of specialized sexual offences courts (SOCs) for survivors of sexual violence. With the establishment of the SOCs, the need for operational research has taken on greater significance, as it will enable the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJCD) to respond appropriately to survivors and witnesses of sexual violence. In 2016, a baseline assessment on the experiences and satisfaction of witness and survivors accessing regional courts was finalized. It highlights the challenges that these survivors face in accessing the courts and indicates that the regional courts still need to be prepared/equipped with required infrastructure, staff know-how and clarity in roles and responsibilities; it also reaffirms the importance of specialized staff and survivor-sensitive processes.

A second baseline assessment is under way, which is examining the extent to which existing SOCs have upheld the rights of survivors; and identified the need, experiences and satisfaction of victims and witnesses vis-à-vis available services, facilities, information and their access to established SOCs in nine provinces. The assessment will provide recommendations for strengthening these courts to ensure stronger protection of survivors' and witness's rights before, during and after court proceedings. These lessons will also be used to inform a more accelerated and effective transition of normal courts to specialised courts. The survey will be completed in first quarter of 2017.

While the findings of both surveys will pave the way for improved services of SOCs, it has also been realized that the services provided by the courts are not sufficiently well communicated to the people and communities. In order to inform and educate people on the role of SOCs, child-friendly processes and available services/assistance, and the pathways to access those services, a review and development of information, education and communication materials is also being conducted. The review will identify gaps in existing materials and develop materials for targeted groups/audiences (survivor, witness, court personnel, community, etc.) that are sensitive and suitable with regard to culture, age and sexual orientation, as well as being suitable for people with disability. This will be completed in first quarter of 2017.

In terms of humanitarian support, an initial rapid assessment was conducted to document drought-related protection risks and 200 children were supported with referrals and psychosocial support. Additional support for direct service delivery was not requested by the government and therefore UNICEF focused on providing assistance for broader preparedness efforts, including technical assistance on the drafting of new national minimum standards; and monitoring the situation through inter-agency forums such as the National Steering Committee on Separated and Unaccompanied Children. In 2017, efforts to support access to sexual violence response services will remain focused on supporting reforms to the national sexual offences courts while promoting a scale-up, particularly in the provinces most affected by drought.

Key strategic partnerships and interagency collaboration

UNICEF has continued to work directly with key justice and social welfare departments, including the national Departments of Social Development, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Planning and Monitoring and the South African Police Service. Key civil society partnerships included the Children's Institute, the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW), Clowns Without Borders, World Vision and Sonke Gender Justice. Provincial partnerships with the Eastern Cape provincial administration and the local NACCW team were critical to ensure that service delivery models were implemented and monitored and that results were documented.

UNICEF has also facilitated preliminary dialogue between the Government and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, with a view to South Africa joining the list of pathfinding countries. Advocacy related to this will continue in 2017.

Monitoring, studies, evaluations

As mentioned in the sections above, UNICEF finalised four major studies that generated evidence on VAC:

1. **Structural Determinants of Violence Against Women and Children:** Building on work that commenced in 2015, this study provided critical analysis of the risk and protective factors associated with violence (physical, sexual and emotional) against women and children in South Africa, as well as an in-depth understanding of the relationship between the relevant variables and to recommend practical violence reduction and prevention interventions. The study was carried out by the University of Cape Town (and commissioned and the final report was endorsed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Prevent and Respond to VAC-W).
2. **Diagnostic Review to Assess the Effectiveness of Government Programmes to Address VAC-W:** Commenced in 2015 by the Department of Performance Management and Evaluation this review assessed the geographical and demographical coverage of government programmes across the three pillars of Protection (including key institutional arrangements in place and resource allocation); and assessed the effectiveness of selected government funded programmes in addressing Violence against Children and Women. As mentioned above, this review found that, broadly, a more coordinated effort within government; and stronger engagement with civil society was needed to deliver more effective programmes. Based on the recommendations of this review, the Government is now preparing an Action Plan that will seek to strengthen government efforts to implement the National Programme of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children.
3. **Kids Online Country Report:** This study explored children's online experiences – both positive and negative - as part of a global initiative to better understand the opportunities and the risks associated with children's increased access to the internet. The study involved interviews with over 900 children aged between 9 and 17 years of age and 532 of their caregivers, from a range of different socio-economic groups from 3 provinces in South Africa. This was complemented with focus groups with 49 children and 20 caregivers. The study found that around 1 in 2 child internet users have regular

access to the internet and whilst a majority of children reported positive experiences, there was also confirmation that they are also exposed to risks. UNICEF is now responding to some of the recommendations from the research, including trialing free wifi in Safe Parks for young people, forging new collaborations with Government and the private sector and identifying ways to systematically collect and monitor data on online safety.

4. **Outcome assessment of the Isibindi-Childline residential care programme for sexually-abused children:** This study is one of the first evaluations to explore the impact of the provision of therapeutic services for sexually abused children in South Africa, through a short-term intensive residential programme. The findings suggest that the residential programme, in its current format, may be better suited for younger children, who are more dependent on family support, than for adolescents. While children showed some behavioural improvement, no significant change in post-traumatic and depressive symptoms was found that can be attributed to the intervention. The research also provided recommendations for strengthening the current service delivery model, with a view to providing more concrete results for child survivors of sexual violence.

Critical factors or constraints

As outlined above, in 2016, UNICEF invested in addressing many of the constraints identified in 2015, including the need for a stronger evidence base and promoting greater civil society/government collaboration. Whilst some progress has been made in these areas, these constraints persist and are coupled with additional challenges as outlined below:

Fiscal space: As noted in the Budget Brief for the Department of Social Development, DSD receives a significant share of the national GDP, however, most of this funding goes to social assistance (such as the child grant, care dependency; and foster care grants). With a zero-growth forecast and strong political commitment to maintain current levels of expenditure on social assistance, there is little opportunity to grow the Department of Social Development's budget in 2017. As a result, it is unlikely that the Department will have sufficient resources to fully scale up existing prevention and early intervention programmes (such as Isibindi). UNICEF will invest in developing new private sector partnerships and supporting provincial governments to find cost efficiencies, to mitigate the impact of the government's fiscal constraints.

Scaling up services: Many government led services are already at scale (health, education and social assistance), however, coverage and quality of the largely NGO-implemented welfare services remain inconsistent. UNICEF has been supporting NACCW to implement Isibindi (a large scale family strengthening programme with coverage in 9 provinces with 337 sites) and Government has committed to scale up to 10,000 child and youth care workers across 400 sites, by 2018. If this programme is to go to full national scale, however, even this ambitious target would need to be increased. Whilst the NACCW (and many other NGOs and civil society alliances) have capacity to further scale up, these efforts remain hampered by a number of factors. National priorities are set by the national government, but provincial

governments retain the autonomy to design and resource their own provincial strategies. There is now sufficient evidence on the scale and scope of violence against children, however, academia requires support to make this information more accessible to policy makers at provincial level; who in turn, need support to translate this into policy. In terms of evidence generation, there remains a need to shift to a stronger focus on generating evidence related to the effectiveness of scale up (rather than small pilots) and identify whether the most vulnerable children benefit equitably.

Financial Analysis

Table 1: Planned budget by Outcome Area

Outcome Area 6: Child Protection		
South Africa		
Planned and Funded for the Country Programme 2016 (in USD)		
Intermediate Results	Funding Type	Planned Budget
06-08 Child Protection # General	OR	311,000
06-08 Child Protection # General	OR	3,223,000
06-08 Child Protection # General	OR	200,000
Total Budget		3,734,000

Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 2016

Outcome Area 6:			
Thematic Contributions Received for Outcome Area 6 by UNICEF South Africa in 2016			
Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Australian Committee for UNICEF	SC1499060118	50,000	50,000
Total		50,000	50,000

Table 3: Expenditures in the Outcome Area

Outcome Area 6: Child Protection				
South Africa				
2016 Expenditures by Key Results Areas (in US Dollars)				
	Expenditure Amount			
	Resources - Emergency	Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
Organisational Targets				
06-01 Data and Child Protection		8,753	1	8,754
06-02 Child Protection systems		137,356	206,673	344,028
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse		557,043	251,058	808,101
06-04 Justice for children		38,217	24,184	62,401
06-07 Child Protection # strengthen families and communities		123,005	62,450	185,455
06-08 Child Protection # General		(234)	(0)	(234)
Total		864,140	544,365	1,408,505

Table 4: Thematic expenses by programme area

Outcome Area 6: Child Protection	
South Africa	
Thematic Expense by Programme Area (in USD)	
06-01 Data and Child Protection	8,071
06-02 Child Protection systems	82,155
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	294,898
06-04 Justice for children	34,344
06-07 Child Protection # strengthen families and communities	108,533
06-08 Child Protection # General	(216)
Total	527,785

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Outcome Area 6: Child Protection	
South Africa	
Expenses by Specific Intervention Code	
06-01-02 Child Protection and violations # routine administrative data collection and analysis	8,073
06-02-01 Child Protection systems strengthening	211,742
06-03-01 Violence against children (general)	80,051
06-03-03 Prevent and address gender based violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation	151,057
06-03-05 Adolescent development # protection from violence	373,554
06-04-01 Access to justice (for all children)	45,519
06-07-01 Child Protection # parenting programmes	141,013
08-02-08 Monitoring # General	49,602
08-03-01 Cross-sectoral Communication for Development	13,319
08-03-02 Communication for Development at sub-national level	18,292
08-09-06 Other # non-classifiable cross-sectoral activities	111,127
08-09-10 Brand building and visibility	69,347
09-01-18 HQ technical support to Cross-sectoral areas	560
12-02-01 Private sector fundraising (Offset budget)	75,547
4022 Access to justice for marginalized, excluded and most vulnerable	23
4901 Staff costs (includes specialists, managers, TAs and consultancies) for multiple OTs within FA4	(216)
5011 Situation Assessment and Analysis (SITAN) and MDG monitoring	77
7911 Representative and governance	59,459
7921 Operations # financial and administration	361
Total	1,408,505

Future Work Plans

With a strong evidence base now in place to demonstrate the value of a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach to violence prevention and early intervention, UNICEF has consolidated internal resources to better link social policy and child protection programmes. This is also aligned to a new vision, developed with the Department of Social Development, which seeks to embark on a new approach to maximise its investment in the well-being of children.

The current social protection system represents one of the country's most successful efforts to reduce poverty, promote resilience and reach families – at scale. Even without any further strengthening or adaptation, it reaches over 12.6 million children and has demonstrably contributed to improved health, food security, nutrition and education outcomes. It is also credited with accelerating birth registration (which is now reportedly at around 97 per cent of children under 5).

Current processes are already contributing to the identification and assessment of vulnerable children – one of the core components of a case management process. This means that the Government already knows who a significant proportion of the most vulnerable children are; and where they are located. This assessment is currently limited to poverty based vulnerability criteria, linked to the means test, but if linked with broader well-being and protection assessments, has the capacity to rapidly increase the number of children who are assessed and subsequently referred and supported to access other services, thus amplifying the benefits of the social grants. Similarly, vulnerability assessments are already being done by other government and government-supported actors (for example, Isibindi), albeit on a smaller scale. If these assessments were combined, there is also the opportunity to identify children who constitute the 18% exclusion error for access to child grants, increasing the reach of this service and accelerating the community wide poverty alleviation efforts.

The national social protection information management system and the civil registration and vital statistics systems are already linked – for example, a child’s unique ID number from their birth certification is also used to identify the child on the national social assistance system. There remains a similar opportunity to link care and protection services with these databases (such as Drop In Centres, Isibindi services and other prevention, early intervention and statutory response services), using the child’s unique number to consolidate screening and assessment data; and tracking their access to services. It will also identify service delivery or coverage gaps, which can, in turn, inform the planning for, and scale up of, effective care and support services.

Based on the above, DSD and UNICEF are seeking to support strategic interventions across the prevention, early intervention and response domains. These interventions are broadly categorised as:

Cash: This includes support to DSD/SASSA to reduce exclusion and integrate the current child grants assessment and delivery system with broader efforts to promote child well-being. This includes developing an *electronic, real time information management system*, built around the Child Status Index, which is consistent with existing poverty and well-being measures (which are currently being used by many of the partners to this strategy).

Care and Support: Linking both national child protection and poverty reduction priorities, this component of the strategy is largely based around support to scale up family strengthening initiatives (home visits and parenting/caregiver training), Drop-in Centres and community Safe Parks for children. This scale up is premised on a *Social Compact* model that brings together Government, civil society, private sector and the community in a joint effort to establish, maintain and sustainably resource these prevention and early intervention services.

Protection: UNICEF’s support to the formal system will seek to bolster the capacity of existing services by strengthening integration, coordination and collaboration, through technical contributions to scale up of Thuthuzela Care Centres, GBV Command Centres, Khuseleka One Stop Centres and Sexual Offences Courts. It will also involve support to link these services with the Care and Support Services that will provide pre- and post-trial support and seek to prevent recurring abuse and violence.

Linkages with the broader social services sector: The introduction of an integrated case management system across each of the above domains is also designed to ensure that linkages are also built, strengthened and amplified with education, health and other social services. In addition to providing psychosocial support, safety, life skills and social development outcomes for children, the Drop-in Centres, Safe Parks and Family Strengthening Programmes offer an opportunity to identify children who are not accessing – but would benefit – from other services; and facilitate this access and monitor adherence to, attendance at, and effectiveness of, these services. By promoting an integrated case management approach, this strategy also ensures that the most at-risk children are targeted and prioritised, and service delivery intensity and complexity increases as a response to vulnerability.

In the long term, the Government would also have real-time data on the well-being of a majority of the most vulnerable children, data which is critical to improving access to services, informing future and contemporary planning and leads to cost-effective resource allocation.

Table 6: Planned budget for 2016

Outcome Area 6: Child Protection				
South Africa				
Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2016				
Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
001 - IR 3.1: CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM	OR	2,000,000	1,649,620	350,380
006 - IR 3.2 PREVENTN. STRATEGIES AND SI	OR	1,800,000	1,563,936	236,064
007 - IR 3.3 ACCESS TO CHILD FRIENDLY SER	OR	300,000	6,380	293,620
Total		4,100,000	3,219,936	880,064

Expression of Thanks

UNICEF South Africa wishes to express its most sincere appreciation for the thematic funding. The funds provided through SC149906 have been catalytic in providing strategic technical support to the Department of Social Development for improving children's and women's rights to protection in South Africa. The flexibility of the funding has enabled UNICEF to be responsive to the changing context, exploit emerging opportunities and ensure that our programme was able to adapt when necessary to maximise our results.

Annex 1: Human Interest Stories

Isibindi: Guiding tomorrow's leaders

"I am an example of the success of this programme" asserts 19-year old Vuyo Gqotholo, as he sits in the shade provided by one of the former shipping containers that make up this Safe Park on the outskirts of King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa.

A colourful 'Welcome to Isibindi' sign greets visitors to this large, well-maintained site that sits on a small hill surrounded by the five villages which it serves. In existence since 2008, the park comprises three former shipping containers and a few playground facilities. Home to between 30 and 50 children daily, the Park also hosts a soup kitchen every Friday for the needy children in this economically deprived community.

Vuyo, comes from one of these impoverished households where his mother had passed away in 2008 and where he and his siblings were dependent on the old age grant of his grandmother. Fortunately, the child and youth care worker in his area noticed the plight of Vuyo and his siblings, including their absences from school, and intervened to support the family.

The child and youth care worker, using family counselling skills gained through Isibindi, encouraged the family to talk about their emotional difficulties and how to express them. A 'memory box' was made by Vuyo and his four siblings in which items of personal worth and meaning were stored. They were then encouraged by the child and youth care workers to speak about their past and how they deal with it. For Vuyo, the memory box was a reminder that "you can change and make your future."

A household routine was then introduced to ensure that the children were aware of their responsibilities. Budgeting skills were taught and an expenses plan drawn up and assistance was provided to plant a vegetable garden. In terms of long term support, the children were encouraged to attend the Safe Park in order to build a sense of belonging and to provide a welcoming sanctuary.

Vuyo in particular found great solace in the Park and quickly became involved in the various youth forums as well as the Adolescent Development Programme and then the Young Men Empowerment Programme, all of them Isibindi initiatives. These programmes, he says, taught him "effective decision-making, analysing skills, how to minimise weaknesses and maximise strengths as well as respect and responsibility."

He excelled as a speaker during debates and group discussions facilitated by the Park coordinators and this translated into him doing well in his Grade 12 exams. As a result, this confident, polite young man is now beginning his life as a student at the University of Fort Hare where he will be studying Social Work.

The enthusiastic welcome he receives from the staff of the Park when he arrives is testimony to this dynamic young leader's popularity and the good example that he provides to other youth in this community which, like many, is plagued by high levels of substance abuse, school absenteeism and violence, both domestic and criminal.

Vuyo is adamant that this positive change in his life is due to the Isibindi programme and, in particular the child and youth care worker who worked closely with him, Jeff. Through Jeff, he had his text books provided, was given after school tuition and has assistance in accessing a financial study grant.

The fatherly support that Jeff continues to give Vuyo is evident in their interaction and the pride that Jeff feels for this remarkable young man whom he has mentored for several years, is palpable. A Safe Parks coordinator for 11 years, Jeff managed 24 child care workers in the area and is heavily involved in the Adolescent Development Programme where issues around adulthood, sexuality, and responsibility are raised in an open and interactive way.

For both Jeff more such safe parks are needed to support the many children and youth in the Eastern Cape who face a range of socio-economic challenges. He would like to see more sports facilities in the Park so that it can attract young men and teenage boys who would then not have the influence of bars and drug dealers.

Vuyo fully agrees with this sentiment and waves goodbye before reiterating that he is grateful for the support he has received. “Isibindi,” he declares, has been with me every step of the way.”



(Vuyo, talking with a Child and Youth Care Worker at his local Safe Park)

UNICEF provides financial and technical support to the National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers in support of the Isibindi programme in Eastern Cape.

Annex 2: Programme details

Cash, care and protection	This is the 'catch-all phrase' that encompasses UNICEF and the Government's strategy to respond to violence and abuse through a holistic, integrated model. This model seeks to ensure that the most vulnerable children receive the full range of basic social services to which they are entitled, ranging from social assistance, family strengthening programmes and access to health, education and vocational training opportunities.
Child support grant	This is a monthly cash payment that is provided to caregivers to assist them to provide for children in their care. Eligibility is based on a means test and is currently being provided to over 12.7 million children in South Africa.
Case management	<p>The process of helping individual children and families through direct social-work type support, and information management. It involves a structured process – assessment, development of a tailored action plan, support to implement the plan and a process of review and adaptation where necessary to ensure that the plan continues to address the child's needs.</p> <p>For more information: http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CM_guidelines_ENG_.pdf</p>
NACCW	<p>The National Association of Child Care Workers is an independent Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) in South Africa which provides the professional training and infrastructure to promote healthy child and youth development and improve standards of care and treatment for orphaned, vulnerable and at-risk children and youth in family, community and residential group care settings. NACCW, together with the Department of Social Development, oversees the roll out of the Isibindi Programme in South Africa.</p> <p>For more information: http://www.naccw.org.za/about-naccw</p>
Child and Youth Care workers	<p>Child and youth care workers are trained professionals who provide services to children and youth in their homes by the trained and supervised child and youth care workers (CYCWs). CYCWs connect with children and build relationships with them through the use of daily life events – they help the family with basic household chores and educate about general hygiene, gardening, health, nutrition, and household care.</p> <p>For more information: http://www.naccw.org.za/what-exactly-is-child-and-youth-care-work-part-3</p>
Isibindi Circles of Care	<p>'Circles of care' is a phrase that embodies the spirit of the Isibindi programme – that seeks to provide vulnerable children with care and support in all aspects of their life – at home and in their community – but providing practical and emotional support, building connections and relationships and ensuring that children are surrounded by people who understand their responsibility to care for them.</p> <p>For more information: http://www.naccw.org.za/isibindi</p>
Isibindi safe parks	Safe Parks provide exactly this – safe places for children to play where they have access to adult supervision and can play in peace and safety. Especially important for children heading households, the model is implemented by organisations in a formal way where land is allocated by local authorities and equipment is in place. But the model is also implemented informally where and resources are scarce. The key ingredient for the success of the model is the nurturing and exciting presence of child and youth care workers! Children like

	<p>to play where adults are! They also like to play with adults, and get involved in structured activities.</p> <p>For more information: http://www.naccw.org.za/isibindi/safe-parks</p>
Sinovuyo Teen Parenting Programme	<p>The Sinovuyo Teen Programme is an evidence-informed, group-based, 14-week parenting programme that uses social learning and parent management training principles to reduce the risk of violence against young people in at-risk families with 10–17 year olds.</p> <p>For more information: http://www.cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/teens</p>