WORKING TOWARDS

Zero preventable child deaths
Zero child abuse and exploitation
Zero children denied the chance to learn
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An increasing number of young children are benefitting from early childhood development; and a no-fee policy in numerous disadvantaged schools ensures the inclusion of vulnerable children. South Africa has achieved near-universal access to primary education, but the Grade 12 completion rate and academic outcomes remain inadequate for an upper middle income country.

While South Africa’s gains in health and education are encouraging, violence remains prevalent. To counter this, government passed several laws to ensure better protection of children and women, such as the Children’s Act and Sexual Offences Act.

Significant socio-economic disparities underlie the challenges faced by children in South Africa. The gap between rich and poor is vast, and child poverty is far higher than that of the general population.

Achieving change – sustainable and systemic – takes time, but there can be no greater return on effort and investment in children. UNICEF will continue to support and strengthen government and societal efforts to improve the well-being of South Africa’s children – especially the poorest and most vulnerable.
South Africa is stepping up efforts to accelerate the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals on health.

**HOW IS UNICEF INVOLVED?**

UNICEF works with the Department of Health – at district, provincial and national level – to strengthen capacity and develop policies, laws and systems that make a significant and life-saving difference to the health of mothers, babies and children.

**IN 2012**

One major milestone in 2012 was the legislation of regulations to promote breast-feeding as the best infant feeding option. The Regulations Relating to Foodstuffs for Infants and Young Children – and the legal endorsement of the International Code for the Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes – will help to safeguard parents and health practitioners from the inappropriate marketing of breast milk substitutes. UNICEF provided technical support to the Department of Health to pass the legislation.

As part of a national programme to reduce the neonatal mortality rate, a comprehensive toolkit for essential newborn care was finalised. This serves as a guide to hospitals and clinics when upgrading facilities and training staff, shares expertise in quality newborn care and offers tools to monitor progress in service provision. The toolkit was adapted from the successful Limpopo Initiative for Newborn Care (LINC), which was initially developed with support from UNICEF and Save the Children.

The year 2012 also saw the Department of Health launch the Strategic Plan for Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Women’s Health and Nutrition 2012–2016. The aim is to reach every mother, newborn and child with high impact services, including the early identification and treatment of HIV-positive children. Community health care workers throughout South Africa were trained to promote child and maternal health. UNICEF supported the teams in KwaZulu-Natal.

UNICEF worked with the Department of Health to improve the quality and coverage of immunisation. With support from The Discovery Fund, the Reach Every District strategy was implemented in hard-to-reach communities in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape. As a result, more children were immunised, data collection was improved, children not fully immunised could be mapped; and districts with poor immunisation
services were identified and prioritised for improved service delivery.

To improve the care of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Department of Health in reviewing and finalising treatment guidelines for this deadly form of malnourishment.

The Limpopo Department of Health, assisted technically and financially by UNICEF, developed and conducted community-based outreach to boost vitamin A coverage among children under five years of age. Vitamin A deficiency impairs the functioning of the immune system and increases a child’s risk of dying.

UNICEF has also continued to support efforts by the Department of Health to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The Action Framework for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV has been implemented, which integrates mother and child health services while promoting the delivery of prevention-based interventions. An assessment of paediatric anti-retroviral treatment services was also completed, which resulted in a national action plan to improve children’s access to treatment.
South Africa has progressive policies and laws to protect children’s rights, but constrained access to essential services and rising unemployment are severely affecting young lives. Poverty among children remains far higher than that of the general population.

HOW IS UNICEF INVOLVED?

Prioritising children’s rights in high level discussions on policy, law and budgetary allocation is a key mandate for UNICEF. This ‘behind the scenes’ upstream work is pivotal in creating an enabling policy environment to promote and protect children’s interests in every sphere of society.

IN 2012

UNICEF’s advocacy role was highlighted in its development of a publication, Promoting Children’s Rights in South Africa: A Handbook for Members of Parliament, which equips Members with tools to integrate a child rights perspective into their work. In addition, UNICEF and the National Council of Provinces hosted a seminar on child rights, Investing in Children, which convened representatives from the legislative sector to debate challenges related to child rights.

In collaboration with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), UNICEF reviewed the national budget from a child rights perspective. Recognising the right of children to participation in matters that affect them, the SAHRC’s complaints-handling procedures were also reviewed, which led to the development of a child-friendly complaints mechanism.

The Human Science Research Council (HSRC) and UNICEF launched the web-based Policy Action Network on Children (PAN: Children). This comprehensive resource of knowledge on children in South Africa targets local and international policy makers and practitioners. Academics and research institutions also benefit from this knowledge hub’s up-to-date publications, case studies, case laws, country studies and news related to children.

The Child Support Grant is widely regarded as one of government’s most successful social protection interventions. This was confirmed by a UNICEF-supported evaluation, which found it has a positive impact on children’s health, nutrition and access to education. However, an estimated two million children who are eligible for the grant are not receiving it, mainly for administrative reasons; and UNICEF is working with the Department of Social Development and the South African Social Security Agency in order to reach these children.

As a party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), South Africa is required to report on its progress in implementing the Convention, as well as the status of child rights in the country. UNICEF assisted with the preparation of the report, for submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

South Africa also developed a plan of action for children based on the CRC. UNICEF provided technical support in the development of the National Plan of Action for Children in South Africa 2012-2017 – a holistic framework that calls for the rights of children to be promoted when policies and programmes are developed and implemented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of children receiving Child Support Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>5,913,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>7,975,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>9,071,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>11,227,832</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Every child has the right to live free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Children’s Act forms part of South Africa’s child protection framework and recognises that parents, caregivers and service providers play a pivotal role in creating a safer society for children.

**HOW IS UNICEF INVOLVED?**

Laws alone are not enough to ensure a child’s right to protection is fulfilled. The effectiveness of the entire child protection system is key to reducing – and preventing – crimes against children. This is why systems strengthening is core to UNICEF’s work: the aim is to entrench children’s rights, layer upon layer across a multitude of systems, to end the spiral of neglect, exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF supports the training of social service professionals, the roll out of support services for orphans and other vulnerable children and victims of sexual violence – while emphasising the need for early intervention and prevention measures.

**IN 2012**

There are almost four million orphaned children in South Africa. Many of them also face multiple deprivations. The one model that has proved most successful in identifying these children – and getting them the help they need – is Isibindi, a community-based programme designed by the National Association of Child Care Workers and supported by UNICEF. Isibindi reached almost 115,000 children at 107 sites countrywide in 2012, and is being scaled up by the Department of Social Development.

To enable more effective targeting of services to orphans, UNICEF provided technical expertise in the development of a national database on children supported through home-based care. This database details vulnerabilities, government responses and access to basic services to maternal orphans.

In addition, a specialised assessment tool that enables social workers to assess risk factors in a child’s environment was created by the Department of Social Development, in partnership with UNICEF.

A study detailing the extent of violence against children in South Africa was produced through the collaborative effort of UNICEF, the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities and the Department of Social Development. The Violence Against Children in South Africa research found that in 84 per cent of cases involving violent acts against children, the perpetrator is known or trusted by the victim. In response to the findings, UNICEF, UNFPA and Save the Children UK launched the Safer South Africa Programme, aimed at helping government to address all types of violence against children and women.

Providing integrated support services to victims of rape and sex crimes helps to lift additional burdens from already traumatised survivors. The Thuthuzela Care Centres address this by offering hospital-based medical, psychosocial and legal services under one roof. More than 28,000 people – half of them children – were helped at these centres in 2012. UNICEF supported the construction and refurbishment of an additional nine care centres.

In recent years, there has been an increase in migration into South Africa. Estimates place the number of immigrants between one and eight million; and many are children, either separated from their families en route or who arrive in the country unaccompanied. They are a particularly vulnerable group, at risk of exploitation by human traffickers. Standard operating procedures for the care and treatment of unaccompanied minors were developed by the Department of Social Development with UNICEF support, and are awaiting approval and implementation.
The right to education

Improved access to early childhood development services and high enrolment rates in primary and secondary schools are testament to South Africa’s ongoing investment in education.

HOW IS UNICEF INVOLVED?

Although about 14 per cent of government expenditure is invested in basic education, quality remains a challenge. To remedy this, UNICEF works with the Department of Basic Education to strengthen early childhood development (ECD) services and primary schooling, while also providing technical expertise to provinces and co-developing initiatives to improve learning and teaching.

IN 2012

UNICEF supported the Department of Basic Education in the development of the ECD curriculum for children aged 0-4, many of whom are excluded from vital early learning because of poverty and a lack of services. The developmental benefits of ECD are globally recognised; and The National Development Plan: Vision For 2030 declares that all children should have two years of formal ECD exposure before Grade 1.

Collaborating with the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency, UNICEF assisted with a diagnostic review of ECD that identified challenges in service delivery and proposed strategies to improve access.

With support from UNICEF, the Department of Basic Education conducted an analysis of government spending in the education sector as a whole. Carried out by leading education economists, it found that most problems relate to inadequate planning, implementation and monitoring. To address this, UNICEF provided technical expertise in the training of district, provincial and national officials in the management and use of data. Further training is scheduled over the next two years.

Low pass rates, violence, sexual abuse and teenage pregnancy are prevalent in numerous disadvantaged schools in South Africa. This is why UNICEF continues to support the Safe and Caring Child-Friendly Schools programme, which is led by the Department of Basic Education.

This initiative, which catalyses change within schools and their surrounding communities, expanded to Mpumalanga.

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in 2012, to benefit 840,000 more learners. Of the 5,500 schools involved in the initiative in South Africa, more than 1,100 benefit directly from UNICEF assistance.

To support government’s improvement plan for provinces where learning outcomes had not met acceptable standards, UNICEF partnered with one of South Africa’s biggest media houses to ensure the delivery of educational material to Grade 12 students in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo.

Sport for Development (S4D), a programme that promotes life skills, health and values through sport, has been scaled up to all 24,369 public schools in South Africa. UNICEF and the departments of Sports and Recreation and Basic Education consulted Special Olympics South Africa to ensure that S4D was in line with the School Sports Policy Action Plan. As a result, sports leagues – a key component of S4D – were set up at 14,000 schools to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities.

Techno Girls, a public-private partnership characterised by corporate mentorship and ‘job shadowing’, is now supported by more than 180 companies. This initiative encourages girls to excel in maths, science and technology, in order to pursue careers in these traditionally male-dominated fields.

The Girls and Boys Education Movement (GEM/BEM) continues to gain in popularity. These extra-curricular clubs enable young people, with the support of their educators, to transform their schools and communities. These learner-led clubs – which were launched in South Africa in 2002 – are now active in 6,000 schools.

PARTNERS
Department of Basic Education; Department of Sports and Recreation; Provincial Department of Education - Limpopo, Moutonangala, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape; UNAIDS; South African Human Rights Commission; South African Council of Faith-based Organisations; Universities of Limpopo, Stellenbosch and Free State; The Nelson Mandela Institute for Rural Education; Uneso Consulting; SPORTEC; ABSA Bank; Department of Social Development; Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities; National Prosecuting Authority; National Child Care and Protection Forum; UNPAM; Save the Children; Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; National Treasury; Parliament of the Republic of South Africa; Statistics South Africa; South African Social Security Agency; Children’s Institute; University of Cape Town; Human Sciences Research Council; Wits Health Consortium; Praekelt Foundation; Kheth’Impilo; Centre for Rural Health; University of KwaZulu-Natal; National Department of Health; Provincial Department of Health; Medical Research Council; The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief; Kaelo Engage; Unilever Foundation and Discovery Fund

URLs
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Resources by donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds utilised (2012)</th>
<th>USD</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Regular resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set aside funds</td>
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<td><strong>Other Resources:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Committees for UNICEF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including MAC Aids Foundation):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland; France; Germany; Spain;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands; United Kingdom</td>
<td>6,433,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bilateral: Canadian International</td>
<td>1,766,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Agency, Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>of Denmark, United Kingdom,</td>
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<td>Total SA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual giving</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2008

Early pregnancy forcing 13-19 year old girls to drop out of school.

13%
UNICEF calls attention to legislation that outlaw all forms of child abuse.

The annual “State of the Children” report released – highlighting urbanization.

UNICEF and WHO welcome South Africa’s efforts to promote and support breastfeeding.

Research shows South Africa’s Child Support Grant is critical in reducing vulnerability in children.

UNICEF launches the “Believe in Zero” campaign against violence and abuse.

A South African learner, Mongamotjotjo Rogers, selected to run with Olympic Torch following his involvement in the International Inspiration programme.

UNICEF joins Google, civil society and government in launching the Online Family Safety Centre.

UNICEF Ambassador and Manchester United manager, Sir Alex Ferguson visits vulnerable children.

UNICEF and government launch new integrated school health programme.

The annual “South African Child Gauge” released – highlighting high levels of poverty and inequality among children.

Unilever Foundation and UNICEF partner to promote hygiene and sanitation.

Celebrity Lady Gaga visits an Isibindi safe park in Soweto to speak to children and young people about youth empowerment.

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Orlando Bloom visits the Young Reporters’ Network in Atlantis, near Cape Town.
**WORKING TOWARDS**

- zero children denied the chance to learn
- zero child abuse and exploitation
- zero preventable child deaths

**Population**
- 9,071,862 children living
- 98%
- 99%
- 99%
- 99%
- 93%
- 99%
- 11,227,832

**Share of population by housing type**
- Urban Formal: 46.6%
- Urban Informal: 22%
- Traditional Area: 6.5%
- Rural Formal: 8.3%
- Rural Informal: 3.6%
- Urban Traditional: 6.9%
- Rural Traditional: 5.7%

**Share of population by province**
- Gauteng: 18.2%
- Western Cape: 9.5%
- KwaZulu-Natal: 21.9%
- Northern Cape: 2.2%
- Eastern Cape: 14.7%
- North West: 6.9%
- Free State: 5.7%
- Mpumalanga: 8.2%
- Limpopo: 12.7%

**Access to health facilities**
- 75.1% are exclusively breast-fed
- 90.0% use antenatal services
- 100% of children under 5 years of age under-treatment
- 75.0% of children admitted to hospital within 24 hours

**Reported attendance at educational institution by age**
- 5-9 year old children exposed to corporal punishment at school 69.4%
- 10-14 year old children exposed to corporal punishment at school 71.5%
- 15-17 year old children exposed to corporal punishment at school 68%

**Compulsory schooling age**
- 16%
- 43%
- 73.9%
- 13%

**Protection**
- 29%
- 71%
- 74%

**Health & nutrition**
- 60.2% of children have access to a child health centre within 30 minutes
- 53.2% of children live within 40km of the nearest hospital

**Poverty**
- Children living in extreme poverty: 2.2%
- 60.2% of households with monthly per capita income less than R575 in 2010
- 37.8% of households with monthly per capita income less than R575 in 2009
- 80.1% of households with monthly per capita income less than R577 in 2009 prices

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**Sources:**
- National Antenatal Sentinel HIV & Syphilis Prevalence Survey in South Africa for 2011, National Health Laboratory Services
- Census 2011: Statistical Release, Statistics South Africa
- South African Child Gauge 2012. Cape Town: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town
- The National Audit of ECD Provisioning in South Africa, Early Childhood Development Unit, Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town
- South Africa’s Children: A Review of Equity and Child Rights
- Social profile of vulnerable groups in South Africa 2002-2011, Statistics South Africa

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**Significant Data Points:***
- 2013: 5,607,000 People living with HIV
- 2011 2015: 748,000 Children (0-17 years) the chance to learn
- 2001-2009: 5,600,000 People living with HIV
- 2013: 2,000,000 Children (0-17 years old girls to drop out of school
- 2003: 73.1% Child Support Grant
- 2010: 5,913,719 Number of children receiving
- Lower-bound poverty line: Households with monthly per capita income less than R575 in 2010
- Upper-bound poverty line: Households with monthly per capita income less than R577 in 2009 prices
- 2012: 18.2% Share of child population by province
- 2010: 8.2% Share of child population by housing type