

SAFE AND CARING COMMUNITIES

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR CHILDREN: A CHILD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK

“There can be no keener revelation of a nation’s soul than the way it treats its children.” – Nelson Mandela



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Social Development extends a special message of acknowledging contributions made by different stakeholders in ensuring the Child Friendly Communities Framework is developed. These stakeholders included Save the Children South Africa, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Department of Basic Education, Department of Health, Department of Social Development, South African Police Service (SAPS), Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Provincial Offices on the Rights of the Child and some Local Municipalities. The initiative was driven by the Department of Social Development (DSD) in partnership with Save the Children South Africa.

Save the Children South Africa's contribution in providing technical support is highly acknowledged. The submissions made by children in a number of forums and child participation platforms have been taken into consideration in drafting this Framework. A child-friendly version of this Framework is available. With the identification of the Department of Social Development as source, the document may be freely quoted, reviewed, reproduced and translated, in part or in whole, but not for sale nor for use in conjunction with commercial purposes. Original sources should be acknowledged where indicated in any publication.

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FOREWORD

Director General of the Department of Social Development

South Africa has a long history and practice that recognize the benefits that derive from community based interventions. This is especially the case when it ensures the participation of those that are ultimately the primary beneficiaries of such interventions. It is for this reason that the global movement and emerging best practice examples of Child Friendly Communities initiatives was so attractive when it was first promoted by UN Habitat and UNICEF during the early 2000's. This Child Friendly Framework represents the work of many years involving a diversity of groups, individual and organizations both nationally and internationally.

South Africa was introduced to the CFC initiative through a number of stages Commencing in 2008, when the University of the Western Cape (UWC), approached UNICEF, SAVE the Children and UN Habitat to collaborate on an initiative to host a workshop together with the Office on the Rights of the Child (ORC), then located in the Presidency, and other stakeholders with the purpose of considering the possibilities of the CFC initiative for the SA context. UNICEF (New York and the Innocenti Centre, Florence) supported the development of CFC the model and implementing tools by hosting a number of international workshops and seminars. A representative from the ORC subsequently participated in a workshop in Italy, while the representative from UWC served on the global steering committee to develop the global framework and toolkit for and with implementing countries. In this way the ORC was constantly kept abreast of global developments. A number of countries implemented adaptation's of the concept with the result of similar models emerging around the world with more or less the same objectives and stimulating the development of practice networks amongst countries. The advantage is that South Africa can now draw from these variations and develop a customized adaption of the CFC initiative that its own particular context.

Within the mandate of the newly established Department of the Social Development, the Child Friendly Communities Initiative was reintroduced in 2012. It resonates with the three key strategic objectives and sub-programmes of DSD as articulated in its mandate to promote coordinate and monitor the realization of children's rights. The DSD does this by implementing its three core sub programmes i.e, advocacy, capacity building and institutional support and monitoring and evaluation. The CFCI is an implementation instrument that is especially useful and relevant for fulfilling the mandate of the DWCPD at municipality and local level. This means that the role out of the CFCI at municipality and local levels implies very specific advocacy, institutional support, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation interventions in support of the sustainable implementation of CFC initiatives.

The process of developing the framework involved key stakeholders including national and provincial government departments, municipalities and SALGA. Technical support for the initiative is being provided by SAVE South Africa.

The development of this framework and its implementation guidelines constitutes the first phase of the CFC project. The second phase will include the piloting of a few selected municipalities. The third phase will include a project evaluation and assessment with the primary objective to consider the formal institutionalization and mainstreaming of the CFC initiative into the programmes of municipalities.

The work of the Steering Committee, government departments, municipalities and other stakeholders is much appreciated. We especially acknowledge the support provided by Save the Children with regard to the finalization of this CFC Framework.

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ACRONYMS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BEM	Boys Education Movement
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
CFC	Child-friendly Communities
CFCI	Child-friendly Cities Initiative
CFCF	Child-friendly Communities Framework
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDW	Community Development Workers
COGTA	Cooperate Governance and Traditional Affairs
CSG	Child Support Grant
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CYCC	Child and Youth Care Centre
DBE	Department of Basic Education
DoJ & CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DOH	Department of Health
DSD	Department of Social Development
DWCPD	Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
FBS	Free Basic Services
G/BEM	Girls & Boys Education Movement
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDASA	Institute for Democracy in South Africa
IDMT	Inter-Departmental Management Team
IDP	Integrated Development Plans
ISRDP	Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme
IUDF	Integrated Urban Development Framework
LED	Local Economic Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NACCA	National Action Committee for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS
NCPR	National Child Protection Register
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
NPAC	National Plan of Action for Children
SAHRC	South African Human Rights Commission
SALGA	South Africa Local Government Association
SANAC	South African National Aids Council
SCSA	Save the Children South Africa
SPU	Special Programme Units
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TB	Tuberculosis
TOC	Theory of Change
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the context of an ongoing economic crisis, high levels of unemployment and the burden of disease that South Africa is experiencing, many families are under material and psychological pressure to make ends meet. Communities can no longer provide the same level of support to families and a safe environment for children as before without adequate support. Under these conditions, some children are at even greater risk of vulnerability, underdevelopment, abandonment, abuse, neglect and exploitation. One of the ways to mitigate such vulnerability is to create Child Friendly Communities (CFCs). The Child Friendly Communities Initiative has been adopted in various parts of the world to support children, families and their communities to safeguard children's rights and wellbeing in the neighborhoods where they live.

A CFC can be defined as any local system of governance, urban or rural, large or small, committed to fulfilling children's rights. It is a community where the needs, rights, priorities and voices of children are an integral part of policies, budgets, programmes and decisions. It is also a community that actively and consciously acts towards the realization of all children's rights by coordinating the efforts of all social systems and agencies, targeting major areas of a child's life, such as health, education, safety, housing and participation using an intersectoral approach. The Child-friendly Communities Framework (CFCF) has therefore been developed to provide an approach for mainstreaming children's rights into the agenda of Local Government in South Africa. Mainstreaming refers to an approach to promote, coordinate, strengthen capacities and monitor the realisation of children's rights. This Framework applies to all children including children with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

The drafting of this Framework has been a consultative process led by the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities (DWCPD). The process was first initiated in 2008 after a stakeholder's workshop. A technical committee was established comprising of the Offices on the Rights of the Child then located in the Presidency and Premiers' Offices, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children South Africa (SCSA), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Departments of Basic Education (DBE), Social Development and Health (DOH). Whilst the Framework is built on an international concept of "Child-friendly Cities", all efforts have been taken to localise it into the South African context, by looking at the situation in South Africa (S.A.), integrating the obligations contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, (ACRWC) and the South African Constitution.

Government, at all three spheres, has a constitutional and legal obligation under both national and international law to give focused attention to children's rights. Local Government is the most critical sphere for both influence and action because this is where children live. Therefore, placing children at the centre of the political and development agenda at this level requires focused actions to ensure that the rights of children are prioritized, addressed and, monitored. The CFC Framework provides the mechanism to translate this into reality.

This Framework consists of Nine Building Blocks that are necessary to "build" a child friendly community. These building blocks are interconnected and provide a framework for all municipalities, regardless of size, geographic location or capacity that they could use to design an agenda or for children. A municipality could start with one or two blocks and work its way up to a comprehensive set of actions for children. When implemented incrementally over time, a municipality may be awarded a full status of being a Child Friendly Community. It is therefore a guide to assist municipalities to integrate children's rights into their plans, programmes and budgets. The main objective is therefore to mainstream the children's issues into the core business of Local

Government and stakeholders so that institutionalization of children's rights is a norm rather than an add on function.

Through these building blocks communities will be able to:

- i. Create platforms for children to participate and influence community decisions and actions
- ii. Base community decisions on a child-friendly legal framework
- iii. Develop an inclusive community-wide children's rights strategy
- iv. Create and utilize children's rights coordinating mechanisms
- v. Empower children to assess their communities
- vi. Promote, develop and implement child friendly budgets
- vii. Produce a regular state of the community's children's report
- viii. Make children's rights known by children and adults
- ix. Support independent advocacy for children

The need to promote child participation cuts across all actions. This requires that all stakeholders take a universal design approach. Universal design is the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all persons to the greatest extent possible without the need for adaptation or specialised design. Universal design is therefore the most important tool to achieve universal access and inclusive communities.

The Child-friendly Communities Framework provides a broader description of each of these Building Blocks and identifies possible actions for municipalities. The successful implementation of the Framework depends on collective ownership, commitment by municipalities as well as partnership with government departments, civil society, donors and the private sector. It also seeks to bring harmony and synergy between partners, including children themselves and their parents or caregivers. The Framework places children's rights, needs and resources at the centre of policies, decisions and actions, taking into account their socio-economic environment.

The Framework helps municipalities and local communities to find a space in the document to explain how the Framework benefits local communities) by:

- Deepening understanding and collaboration of local government stakeholders on children's rights and the underlying causes of problems and challenges faced by children in their communities;
- Improving Local Government planning, budgeting and service delivery; and
- Facilitating the generation of evidence-based data and monitoring the status of children which could lead to improved decision making, programming, and allocating resources for children's wellbeing.

PART 1: WHY SHOULD WE WORK TOWARDS BUILDING CHILD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES?

1.1 What does the term Child Friendly Communities mean?

The concept of Child-friendly Communities evolved overtime across the globe as communities sought ways to deal with the impact that modern society trends have on the rights and wellbeing of children. The International Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) was launched in 1996 to act on the Resolution passed during the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements to make cities liveable spaces for all. The Conference declared that *“the wellbeing of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy habitat – a democratic society and good governance”*. South Africa participated in some of the international meetings and began a process in 2008 to plan for the introduction of the Child-friendly Communities Initiative (CFCI) in the country. This initial process was led by the then Office on the Rights of the Child in the Presidency, supported by SCSA and UNICEF.

A Child Friendly Community can be defined as any local system of governance, urban or rural, large or small, committed to fulfilling children’s rights. It is a community where the needs, rights, priorities and voices of children are an integral part of policies, programmes and decisions. A CFC actively and consciously acts towards the realization of all children’s rights by looking at all aspects of the lives of children such as health, education, safety, housing including the social environments of children. It focuses on coordinating the efforts of all social systems and agencies as well as the participation of children in major decisions affecting their lives in their communities.

1.2 What is the rationale for the Child-friendly Communities Framework?

Local Municipalities are the primary location where children live with their caregivers and families. As a result they have a key role to play in the promotion and realisation of the rights of the children as outlined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, other regional and international instruments particularly the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) guarantees the right to equality. South Africa subsequently ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its Optional Protocol without reservation in 2007, which places an obligation on states parties to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to opportunities and services. The concept of a CFC is therefore expanded to that of an ICFC to ensure that ALL children have equal access to and benefit from the outcomes of the Framework.

Using a child rights and wellbeing approach, the CFCF focuses on the particular needs and circumstances of children within a local municipality context. The CFC Framework specifically seeks to provide local government with guidelines and tools to implement the Inclusive Child-friendly Communities Initiative in wards and communities. It calls for strong political and administrative leadership and accountability; outlines the legislative and policy mandates for addressing children’s rights at local government level and sets forth the roles of local municipalities as well as other national, provincial, district partners and sectors in supporting positive outcomes for children within the framework of Child-friendly Communities.

Since the advent of democracy in 1994, significant progress has been made to entrench a culture of human rights in South Africa. Policies, laws and programmatic interventions in the areas of education, health and other social services have been developed and implemented with positive impacts on children’s lives. There is evidence suggesting that gains have been made in addressing the many challenges faced by children. Children have much greater access to services than before during the

apartheid era. However, there are still challenges particularly at local government level, where children spend their lives. There has been too little attention on children's needs in both urban and rural policies. There is therefore a need to initiate a more concentrated focus on the importance and well-being of children and young people in urban and rural communities. In relation to the current focus on urban renewal specifically, there is a huge gap pertaining to children and youth. In particular there is a responsibility gap. It is often argued that there seems to be no one clearly identified to be held accountable for the overall local level delivery outcomes in relation to the rights and needs of urban children. There is therefore strong potential and a need for professionals and policymakers involved with children's wellbeing at municipal and local levels to collaborate to implement ICFC initiatives towards meeting set targets for children.

There are 278 municipalities in South Africa (8 metropolitan, 44 District and 226 Local Municipalities) (2014) where approximately 18.5 million children live¹. Over the past decade attention has been given to vulnerable groups including women, persons with disabilities and youth, through the establishment of Special Programme Units (SPUs) within local government, to deal with the mainstreaming of vulnerable groups and other equity issues such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Mainstreaming guidelines and a range of capacity development initiatives, including dedicated policies and strategies have been developed for use by local municipalities. However, the mainstreaming of children's issues into Local Government Agenda has been minimal due to a variety of reasons. Observations and reasons advanced to explain this gap have highlighted the following contributory factors²:

- Perceptions that dedicated attention to children as a specific vulnerable group is an “*add-on*” function to municipalities. The common response is that municipalities already provide a range of services to households which include children and by so doing they are mainstreaming children's rights;
- Perception that children's rights is a “*soft issue*” as compared to infrastructural development;
- A lack of clearly defined indicators and outcomes for children in municipality plans and programmes;
- A lack of recognition that children are also citizens with rights to participate in decision making on matters affecting them and their governance;
- Inadequate skills, resources, budgets and guidance to deal with children's issues at local government level;
- Lack of integration across departments at local government level to maximize existing inputs to children; and
- Lack of monitoring indicators and evaluation tools reflective of focused interventions for children at local government level.

The Child-friendly Communities CFC Framework is specifically aimed at addressing these problems by providing municipalities with guidelines to mainstream children's rights into the local government agenda. It will assist municipalities not only to fulfill their constitutional and legal obligations to children, but also to ensure that:

- Children are recognized as individuals and citizens in their own right within communities;
- Children's healthy development and active participation which are crucial to the healthy future of communities and society at large, are promoted;
- Opportunities are created for children to develop into independent citizens and that they receive the support of adults in their own communities.

¹ Statistics South Africa

² Discussions at consultative meetings for the development of the CFC Framework on 27 – 28 June 2013 in Pretoria and 10-11 September 2013 in Johannesburg

Since children have no right to vote, they play a minimal role in the conventional political processes at local, provincial and national level, are provided with special arrangements to exert some influence on governance and major decisions affecting their lives. The CFCF will benefit local government in that:

- Municipalities will be able to identify, strengthen existing interventions, enhance the quality of services, extend the reach of services to children, and thus intensify impact on children.
- Municipalities will also be able to incrementally mainstream children's rights into local government plans and strategies and monitor impact on children and communities at large.
- It will give local government a useful lens through which to raise awareness of rights and participation of children as citizens in their own right.

CFCs have specific long-term benefits for children. This is because children are influenced by the environment they grow up in. They are more affected than adults by the conditions under which they live, such as poverty, poor housing, environmental pollution and poor access to basic services, etc. What happens to children in their early years significantly determines their positive or negative growth and development, which in turn determine their cost or contribution to society in later years. When communities do not attend to children, the cost implications to society overtime are exorbitant. CFC encourages children to look into the future and their role as citizens, thus contributing to a vibrant and better society. Children growing up in CFC where they are allowed to participate in governance, develop a sense of connectedness and belonging to their communities, which in turn reduces chances of their involvement in risky behaviors. They also develop much more meaningful relationships with adults in their surroundings.

1.3 What are the aims of the Child-friendly Communities Framework?

The main aim of the CFCF is to raise awareness of the needs and rights of children by working with local government structures, along with other stakeholders. The approach is designed to facilitate a systematic process that supports local government to consider children's rights in all their policies, plans, strategies and programme. In addition, to support the development of systems that will facilitate the measuring and monitoring of the impact of their interventions on children's very day lives. It also seeks to increase and strengthen children's participation in their communities. Furthermore, the Framework aims to help local municipalities to translate into action and integrate processes needed to fulfil their constitutional mandate to children as well as implement other national and international policies for children in local government processes.

CFCs have a number of benefits for children. They serve the interests of children and guarantee the right all young citizens to:

- Express their opinions on the community they want to live in and Influence decisions about their community
- Participate in family, community and social life
- Receive basic services such as health care, education and shelter
- Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse and be able to walk safely in the streets on their own without any threats and harm to their lives
- Meet friends and play
- Have green spaces for plants and animals and live in an unpolluted environment
- Participate in cultural and social events
- Be treated as an equal citizen of their community with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability.

The expected outcomes for communities are:

- More responsiveness to the needs and rights of children;
- More opportunities for children are created to participate in decisions and actions affecting their lives; and
- More opportunities for children to grow and realize their full potential as active and responsible citizens.

1.4 What are the underlying principles for Child-friendly Communities CFCs?

The following principles for building a CFC are sourced from the CRC, which South Africa ratified in 1995 and are echoed in a number of national laws and policies. These are:

- **Non-discrimination (article 2)** - a Child Friendly Community is friendly and inclusive for *all* children. It aims to seek out and give special attention to any child experiencing discrimination when accessing their rights. Discrimination affects different categories of children, e.g. children living on the streets, children with disabilities, children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, children belonging to certain cultural groups and geographic areas, in many different ways. Therefore, a CFC is an equalizer when it comes to human rights. Articles 5 and 7 of the UNCRPD also echoes the principle of non-discrimination as it pertains children with disabilities. Therefore, a ICFC is an equalizer when it comes to human rights.
- **Best interests (article 3)** - a Child Friendly Community ensures that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration “in all actions concerning children”. A first call for children, putting children first, is the hallmark of a CFC. Most actions of local government affect children, directly or indirectly; therefore all departments and levels of government need to be aware of and sensitive to the impact that existing and new policies have on children.
- **Every child’s right to life and maximum development (article 6)** – a Child Friendly Community seeks to maximise the survival and development of all its children – providing the optimal conditions for childhood, for the child’s life now. Development in the context of the Convention means children’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral, psychological and social development.
- **Listening to children and respecting their views (article 12)** – Child-friendly Communities are those where children are “seen *and* heard”. Their active participation as citizens and rights-holders is promoted, ensuring them the freedom to express their views on “all matters affecting them” and making sure that their views are taken seriously – in government, in their neighbourhoods and schools and in their families. The process of building a CFC must involve children as active and informed citizens.
- **Children with disabilities and chronic illnesses ((Article 23 of the UNCRC).**–Inclusive Child-Friendly Communities are those which recognise the rights of children with any kind of disability, to special care and support as well as all the other rights in the CRC, so that they can live full and independent lives. In South Africa the rights of children with disabilities and chronic illnesses are further emphasized in the Children’s Act No. 38 of 2005, as amended which state that in any matter concerning a child with a disability or chronic illness , due consideration must be given to:
 - providing the child with parental care, family care or special care when appropriate;
 - making it possible for the child to participate in social, cultural, religious and educational activities, recognising the special needs that the child might have;
 - providing the child with conditions that ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate active participation.

1.5 What are some of the experiences of children in their communities?

According to the General Household Survey (2011) in mid-2010, South Africa’s total population was estimated at 50 million people, of whom 18.5 million were children under 18 years³. Children therefore

³ Statistics South Africa (2011) General Household Survey 2010. Pretoria

represent 37% of South Africa's population, with almost one third (31.4%) of the country's population younger than 15 years.⁴ Half of the children live in three of the nine provinces, i.e. KwaZulu Natal (23%), Eastern Cape (14%) and Limpopo (12%), which are largely rural in nature⁵. Nearly half of the children (47%) lived in rural households, making up an equivalent of 9 million children in the country. Generally, over the years, children have consistently been more likely than adults to live in rural areas, with the exception of Gauteng which has seen a slight increase in the numbers of children due to urban migration trends. Rural communities are known to have much poorer populations and children in the poorest income quintile are more likely to be living in rural areas than those in the richest quintile.

The 2011 Census and General Household Surveys currently exclude children with disabilities aged 0-4 years, making them particularly vulnerable to exclusion and neglect by planners.

Significant progress has been made since the end of apartheid in 1994 in fulfilling the rights of children in SA. New laws, progressive public spending and reorganization of administrative systems have contributed to accelerating the fulfillment of rights. For example, millions of children are benefiting from the Child Support Grant (CSG) through the extension of the age of eligibility and an extensive outreach programme by the state. The number of children receiving the CSG has doubled from 5 913, 719 in 2005 to 11 227, 832 in 2012 (SASSA 2005 – 2012).⁶ Recent changes in government's response to HIV have also been far reaching, including state provision of treatment for all HIV-infected infants at government-operated health facilities, and provision of treatment and care to HIV-positive pregnant women earlier in their pregnancies to prevent new pediatric infections. Near-universal access to primary education has been achieved and government is increasingly focusing on the improvement of the quality of education. The Children's Act (No 38 of 2005), as amended and the Child Justice Act (No 27 of 2008) provide a solid foundation for advancing child protection in the country. Altogether, progressive policies by the state in the last sixteen years or so have led to the expansion of many services for children, especially poor children.

However, children in South Africa are made vulnerable by different circumstances in their families and communities. According to the South African Child Gauge (2012) South Africa continues to struggle with inequalities especially associated with income poverty. Compared to a child growing up in the richest 20 percent of households, a child in the poorest 20 percent of households is two times less likely to have access to adequate sanitation and water; two times less likely to be exposed to early childhood development programmes; three times less likely to complete secondary education; seventeen times more likely to experience hunger; and twenty-five times less likely to be covered by a medical scheme. Whilst child poverty was reduced by 13% between 2004 and 2008, income poverty still remains very much part of inequality in South Africa and a key determinant of children's standard of living. Some 11.9 million children (64%) live in poverty. Only Gauteng and Western Cape have child poverty levels below the national average.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) has been universally recognized as an investment central to building a productive society. According to the Constitution of South Africa, municipalities have an important role to play in the delivery of ECD services. Whilst there has been substantial progress in expanding enrolment in Grade R from 15% in 1999 to 60% in 2009, the General Household Survey (2010) showed that only 18% of 0 – 2 year-olds had access to centre-based ECD programmes.⁷ By age 3 and 4, 52% had access to such services. Only 22% of children in the poorest quintile attended centre-based ECD services compared with 51% of children in the richest Quintile. Many centres in poor communities are not yet registered. 59% of children in registered centres received a subsidy whilst only 18% of all poor children under 5 years were subsidized (South African Child Gauge 2012, p54). These children attend

⁴ Mid-year Population Estimates, Statistics South Africa, 2009

⁵ South African Child Gauge, 2012: Analysis by Katherine Hall, Children's Institute, UCT

⁶ South African Social Security Agency (2005 – 2012) SOCPEN database – special request. Cited in the South African Child Gauge, 2012. The Children's Institute. University of Cape Town

⁷ South African Child Gauge (2012). The Children's Institute. University of Cape Town

centres which are of sub-standard quality and offered in physical conditions not conducive to health growth and development. Whilst the 2011 General Household Survey⁸ indicates a significantly improved 73% increase in the proportion of children attending an early learning facility, there is no indication or evidence of whether there has been an improvement in the quality of ECD services, subsidy allocation or the physical conditions under which these facilities operate.

Children have a right to adequate housing. This means that they should not have to live in informal dwellings which are characterized by poor amenities, overcrowding and exposure to environmental hazards. In 2011⁹, nearly 1.8 million children (10%) lived in backyard dwellings or shacks in informal settlements. Significantly, it is the youngest children from birth to four years that constitute the highest number of children living in informal dwellings. A further 3.9 million children lived in overcrowded housing conditions (Stats SA, 2011)¹⁰

According to the 2011 National Antenatal Sentinel HIV and Syphilis Prevalence Survey¹¹, South Africa carries the largest burden of HIV, AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) in the whole world. HIV and TB epidemics are the major causes of deaths, thus contributing to increased numbers of orphans and other children who are made vulnerable. The prevalence of HIV in children under 18 years has nearly doubled from 1.2% in 2003 to 2.1% in 2009, with the prevalence in children increasing from 2.2% to 3.6% in the same period. In 2011¹² there were approximately 3.85 million orphans in S.A. This figure includes children living without a biological mother, father or both parents. This is equivalent to 21% of all children in S.A. In addition there were about 82 000 children living in a total of 47 000 child-only households across the country. These are households in which all members are younger than 18 years.

Access to basic services such as water and sanitation is an important indicator of child wellbeing. Clean water is essential for human survival. Adequate sanitation prevents the spread of disease and promotes health through safe and hygienic waste disposal. These are key indicators which fall in the primary line of accountability of local government authorities.

In general, the number of children living in poverty dropped from 73% to 60% between 2003 and 2009; children with access to piped water increased from 54% to 62% between 2002 and 2010; access to sanitation increased by 10% to 50% in 2010; and access to electricity increased from 70% to 83%. Despite the progress made, there are still inequities in access to services between rich and poor children, children from different race groups, children living in different provinces and districts, and children living in rural areas. For example, in Limpopo province, 28% of children did not have access to safe drinking water in 2011, compared to between 2 and 3.5% of children in the Western Province, Gauteng and the Free State. Thirty-one percent of black African children, compared to 0.2% of white children, did not have access to hygienic sanitation in 2011 (South Africa Initial Country Report to the AU on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child).

Children continue to suffer as a result of crime and violence perpetuated in their homes and communities. According to the South African Police Service Crime Statistics (2012/2013), approximately 49 550 crimes were reportedly committed against children in South Africa¹³. The 2012 Victims of Crime Survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) found that 23.2% of households would not let their children move around in their neighborhoods without an adult. 15.7% of households did not allow their children to walk from home to school alone.

It is clear that the health and wellbeing of children is influenced by many factors including nutrition, access to clean water, timely access to relevant health services, sanitation, adequate housing and a safe environment, many of which are under the authority of municipalities. Physical inaccessibility to

⁸ Statistics South Africa (2003 – 2011) General Household Surveys 2001 -2011. Pretoria: Stats SA

⁹ Statistics South Africa (2012) General Household Survey 2011. Pretoria

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ S.A. National Department of Health (2011). 2011 National Antenatal Sentinel HIV, Syphilis Prevalence Study. Pretoria

¹² Statistics South Africa (2012) General Household Survey 2011. Pretoria

¹³ South African Police Service Crime Statistics, 2012/2013

health facilities for example those related to distance, availability of transport and road infrastructure also poses a to child health outcomes. Poor and unsafe roads make it difficult for children and their caregivers to access health care. Whilst there has been an improvement in access to health care between 2002 and 2011, it is estimated that a third of children (34%) in the poorest 20% of households have to travel for to access health care. In addition, physical access to school has been identified as one of the remaining problems for many children, particularly those living in more remote areas of South Africa where public transport to schools is a serious barrier to access to education and learning. Whilst this is linked to mode of transport, it is also closely related to the quality of roads as some roads are impassable especially in rainy seasons.¹⁴

The additional cost associated with disability also impact disproportionately on children, including on children with disabilities. Households with family members with disabilities are more likely to forego on essential nutrition, as well as opportunities with a built-in cost (e.g. transport), than households without dependents with disabilities.

As South Africa approaches the year 2015 with some of its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) unachieved, children remain highly vulnerable to social inequity, underdevelopment and poverty. To accelerate delivery on this important obligation to South Africa's children, key interventions on local government level must be prioritized. The CFCF seeks to address some of these key barriers to realizing children's rights at municipal level,

¹⁴ Statistics South Africa (2012). General Household Survey 2011. Pretoria: Stats SA

PART 2: WHAT CONSTITUTIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS PROMOTE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AT LOCAL COMMUNITY LEVEL IN SOUTH AFRICA?

The CFCF is informed by and aligned to a wide range of international instruments, national legislation and policies that are aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of children at all levels of government in South Africa.

2.1 International Instruments

South Africa is signatory to a range of international and regional instruments and agreements on the promotion, protection and advancement of the rights of children as well as other vulnerable groups who are charged with the care of children, particularly women and persons with disabilities. Key to the CFCF is the UNCRC, which was ratified in June 1995. The UNCRC guarantees the rights of children to protection from maltreatment, neglect and all forms of exploitation, provision of basic services and participation in all matters concerning them. As a result South Africa is required to report to the United Nations Committee every five years. The ratification of the UNCRC in 1995 marked the official recognition and commitment to the human rights of all children in South Africa.

Subsequently, South Africa ratified the CRC's Optional Protocols on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in February 2002. This protocol recognizes the special needs of those children who are particularly vulnerable to recruitment into armed forces. It commits State Parties to take into consideration the economic, social and political root consequences of the involvement of children in armed conflict. South Africa ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography in July 2003, which requires State Parties to prohibit the sale, prostitution and pornography of children. This protocol requires State Parties to take appropriate measures to protect the rights and interests of child victims of trafficking, prostitution and child pornography. It outlines standards for international enforcement of appropriate laws for dealing with child trafficking. In the same year, South Africa also ratified Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour which requires member states to take immediate action on child labour. In 2007 South Africa ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The purpose of this Convention is to protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respects of their inherent dignity. Another instrument that informs this Framework is the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communication Procedure. Commonly referred to as the Third Protocol, it introduces a communications procedure that allows children, groups of children or their representatives to submit complaints about violations of their rights to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. It allows children to approach the United Nations if their rights are not protected in their country and they have exhausted all domestic recourses to seek justice.

In 2000, South Africa ratified the ACRWC, which contains similar provisions as contained in the CRC but in addition, outlines responsibilities of children. It is a comprehensive regional instrument that sets out rights; define universal principles and norms for the status of children. Compared to the UNCRC, the ACRWC places emphasis on the African cultural values and experiences when dealing with the rights of children and further prohibits certain cultural practices deemed harmful to children. Most importantly it provides a way for children themselves to petition the Children's Charter Committee of Experts regarding any infringements of their rights, something that forms one of the building blocks of the CFC Framework.

2.2 National Obligations

At a national level, the Framework is informed by the following:

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

The South African Constitution is the supreme law of the country. Chapter 2 (Bill of Rights) of the Constitution, is specifically dedicated to human rights including the rights of children. Whilst the Bill of Rights applies to children and adults alike, Section 19 which relates to political rights excludes children from exercising this right. To emphasize their vulnerability and need for extra protective measures, the Constitution in Section 28(2) highlights additional rights of children which apply across all government departments, which include the right:

- To name and nationality;
- To basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services;
- To be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation; and
- Not to be required or permitted to perform work or provide services that are (i) inappropriate for a person of that child's age; or (ii) place at risk the child's well-being, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or social development.

The Constitution makes provision for three spheres of government which is constituted as national, provincial and local government. These three spheres are described as distinctive, interdependent and inter-related. The three spheres of government, as separate entities and as a collective, in partnership with civil society and the community, are responsible for the creation of an enabling, safe and conducive environment for children. The constitution contains local government-specific provisions such as Section 153 which prescribes developmental duties of local municipalities. It states that a municipality must structure and manage its administration and budgeting and planning processes to give priority to the basic needs of the community.

In terms of Schedule 4, Part B of the Constitution, local authorities have legislative competence to pass and implement legislation and procedures (which include policy) relating to child care facilities. Other designated functions of local municipalities that are related to child care facilities include building regulations, fire fighting services, municipal planning (which includes regulating land uses for child care facilities), and municipal health services.

The importance of the role of the municipality in alleviating child poverty is recognized in Schedule 4 of the Constitution on Functional Areas of Concurrent National and Provincial Legislative Competencies. Schedule 4 B lists "child care facilities" as functional area of concurrent competence involving expressly local government as well as the two spheres of government. The logical interpretation therefore is that children's facilities such as children's homes and child care facilities such as crèches represent the area of concurrent competence for local government, unemployment, marginalization, petty crimes as well as more serious and violent crimes. Other designated functions of local municipalities that are related to child care facilities include building regulations, fire fighting services, municipal planning (which includes regulating land uses for child care facilities) and municipal health services.

Whilst the Constitution details the powers and responsibilities of provincial and local government in Schedules 4 and 5, it lists "the functional areas without any detailed definitions of each functional area"¹⁵. There are two key areas of overlap: the first relates to the powers of the province to regulate and monitor areas falling under the jurisdiction of the municipality; the other is where there is an overlap between provincial and municipal powers. For example, authority for health services and roads is assigned to both provincial and local government, requiring complex distinctions to be drawn about where services are located and who they serve. The Framework is therefore not blind to these and other ambiguities when it comes to local government. It rather seeks to create a platform for all spheres of government to discuss and reach practical solutions on such issues so as to provide clarity in relation to regulation, monitoring and evaluation of services and their impact on children.

¹⁵ Steytler and Fessha "Defining Provincial and Local Government Powers and Functions" (2007) 124 SALJ 320 - 338

The Children's Act (No. 38 of 2005), as amended

The Children's Act is the primary legislation that regulates protection and developmental services to children. For local government, it identifies partial care, early childhood development and drop-in centres as facilities and programmes that can be assigned to municipalities, provided that the provincial head of DSD is satisfied that municipalities comply with the prescribed requirements with regard to the capacity of that municipality to perform the functions concerned. The Act also sets out norms and standards to which ECD services and partial care and drop-centre facilities should comply. It gives the DSD the responsibility for registration of these programmes and facilities based on their compliance with standards. The Act recognises the multisectoral approach to the protection of children as well as the role of other departments such as Education, Finance, Health, Provincial and Local Government as well as Transport in the delivery services to children.

The Act contains extensive provisions for the protection of all children. It obliges, among others, members of staff and volunteers at a partial care facility and other facilities for children to report abuse to the police, designated child protection organisation or provincial Department of Social Development. Further protections for children are provided for through the National Child Protection Register. The Act requires that persons whose names do appear in Part B of the National Child Protection Register are persons not suitable to work with children. People working with children and those in regular contact with children will have to be screened for their suitability to work with children. These include staff members and volunteers in children's programmes as well as other officials and sectors involved in the implementation of the Act. With regards to Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCS), local government has a key role in regulating their compliance to health and safety standards. Municipalities are also responsible for zoning and land allocation to such facilities as well as providing a range of municipality services.

For municipalities, the Act makes provision for them to carry out their responsibilities to the benefit of children. Hence this document is designed to build a framework for action which will define how Municipalities could create a child friendly environment as their contribution to the protection of children.

The National Development Plan (NDP)

The National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030 notes that South Africa has an urbanizing, youthful population. The NDP emphasizes the need for nutrition intervention for pregnant women and young children and to facilitate the access of younger children especially during their first two years of life, to quality early childhood development programmes and services. Chapter 12 (Building Safer Communities) of the NDP acknowledges personal safety as a human right necessary for human development, improved quality of life and enhanced productivity. It especially places emphasis on the importance of the safety of children in unsafe locations. It calls for the Local Government and DSD to establish shelters for women and girls.

The National Plan of Action for Children 2012 -2017

The DWCPD initiated a review of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) adopted in 1996. This Plan has not been used effectively in the past to guide the implementation and monitoring of children's rights across sectors. The 2012-2017 NPAC includes key responsibilities and local government actions for children. The NPAC has the following core themes which are consistent with the building blocks of the CFC Initiative:

- i. *Child Survival*: for reduction in child mortality by ensuring that babies are born healthy and stay alive; keeping children healthy by providing them with good nutrition; supporting children with HIV and AIDS live healthily and stay alive.
- ii. *Child Development*: to ensure that all children grow, learn and develop to be the best persons that they can be. This theme is concerned with early childhood development and child stimulation; education for children with disabilities; access to developmental opportunities for

children in rural areas; opportunities for play and recreation which is critical for children's development.

- iii. *Protection and care:* of children to ensure that wherever they are, they are safe. This theme is about: protecting and supporting children who are victims of abuse, neglect and violence; protecting children from rape and sexual exploitation; protecting and preventing abuse of different categories of children such as children living in child-headed households, children accused of crimes, children living on the streets, refugee and unaccompanied children, children living in alternative care, etc.
- iv. *Standard of living of the children:* this is about the provision of services that are aimed at providing quality of care for children. These are services aimed at taking care of poor children; services aimed at improving living conditions that children live in; ensuring that children have access to clean water, sanitation and other basic service. This theme talks more to the role of local municipalities and the need to create their awareness as well as build their capacity to understand and address children's rights issues.
- v. *Participation* of children in policy and good governance processes.

The Child Rights and Wellbeing Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy (M&E)

The DWCPD has developed Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy which is aligned to government's priorities and outcomes. The M&E Strategy includes a strong emphasis on both rights and results-based monitoring. The monitoring chapter (5) of this CFC Framework is thus aligned to the M&E Strategy. The monitoring chapter aims to support and strengthen the capacities of municipalities to gather information needed to monitor their performance on child rights delivery. It also includes a strong emphasis on children's and public participation. This will ensure the participation of citizens in the monitoring of child rights delivery at local level and that indicators for local government is responsive to the rights and needs of children.

2.3 Local government Legislation and Policy

Local government, being geographically the closest to the people, is well placed to respond to the needs and rights of children. Each local municipality has a responsibility to take steps to ensure that its residents have access to adequate services and resources at local level. The argument for local government's involvement in children's lives lies in the fact that it is a process by which municipalities can fulfill their constitutional obligation and provide services for its youngest and most vulnerable citizens. The government of South Africa has developed a number of laws and policies to enable local municipalities to fulfill their constitutional mandates to local citizens. These are described below.

The White Paper on Local Government (1998)

The White Paper on Local Government articulates the enabling environment provided by municipalities as a "local sphere where citizens can participate in decision-making to shape their own living environment and exercise and extend their democratic rights". Section B (1) states that "developmental Local Government is local government committed to working with citizens and groups within the community to find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs and improve their quality of life". These groups include women, youth, disabled persons and children. This intention resonates with the CFC Initiative.

Municipal Systems Act (No. 32 of 2000), as amended

Chapter 3 of the Municipal Systems Act (No. 32 of 2000) provides for the development of culture of participatory governance. It authorizes local municipalities to exercise their executive and legislative authority to respect the rights of citizens protected by the Bill of Rights. It mentions particularly the

special needs of people who cannot read or write, people with disabilities, women and other marginalized, vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. Even though it does not mention children, the reference to citizens and other people protected by the Bill of Rights provides enough scope for the interpretation to include children, who are especially protected by the Constitution in terms of Section 28.

Chapter 4 provides for the development of a culture of participatory governance. This Act sets up municipality Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) as points of departure for managing and evaluating performances, budgeting and allocating resources. Section 28 (1) of the Municipality Systems Act requires municipalities to adopt a process to guide the planning, drafting, adoption and review of its IDPs. Municipalities are encouraged to create conditions for local communities to participate in their affairs. This includes the participation of all citizens (including children) in the preparations, reviews and organization of IDPs.

The IDP is a principal strategic instrument which guides and informs decision-making with regard to planning, management and development in the municipality. It binds the municipality in the exercises of its executive authority and achievement of its development goals as outlined in the Constitution. The process contains several stages from preparation, conducting situation analysis and identifying critical challenges to be addressed, defining objectives and strategies to address those challenges, to program design, including costing for agreed upon strategies and activities. Any efforts at mainstreaming should be informed by a legislated IDP process with a supporting budget allocation. The IDP process consists of the following stages:

- The situation analysis – this is the first and critical stage in the IDP process. It provides citizens an opportunity to raise issues to inform and influence priorities for service delivery within the municipality. A situation analysis is an in-depth, focused analysis to identify challenges, key drivers thereof, opportunities and success factors. This is usually based on an environmental scan, census data or any relevant study or studies conducted on challenges facing citizens as well as inputs from citizens themselves. Other government departments as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also provide inputs into the situation analysis. A report on these issues is compiled and submitted for consideration in the IDP. Meetings are then convened by IDP Strategic Working Groups to discuss and finalize the situation analysis reports, which inform planning around strategic priority areas. Therefore, any efforts to mainstream children's issues should be informed by the legislated IDP process with a supporting budget allocation.
- Setting objectives, developing operational plans and strategies.
- Based on the situation analysis, priorities for target groups are defined. The focus is on formulating strategies, identifying projects and programmes to be budgeted for and implemented.
- Budgeting – *this is a* critical component of the IDP which begins months before the budget is debated at Council. A budget is allocated based on priorities and identified programmes.
- Approval of the Plan and Budget – Council adopts and approves the plan and budget.
- Implementation of IDP.

The IDP is reviewed annually through a consultative process. Since the IDP is a critical planning and development management instrument for municipalities, it is important that it integrates children's rights as children are one of the vulnerable groups requiring focused attention. The IDP is therefore a powerful vehicle through which to reflect the impact of socio-economic challenges on children and to begin formulating positive outcomes for them. This Framework promotes the use of the IDPs to ensure that children's experiences and voices are reflected in the situation analysis; adults adopt a children's perspective when planning municipality services; and that there is a focus on equitable outcomes for children, based on a thorough assessment and analysis of assets required.

Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, No 13, 2005

South Africa is based on a democratic model of cooperative governance that is enshrined in the Constitution and provides a foundation for intergovernmental relations. Chapter Three of the constitution identifies three spheres of government: national, provincial and local. Although each sphere has different roles and responsibilities, the Constitution recognizes that the spheres cannot work independently of each other. The three spheres of government are obliged to cooperate, negotiate and find ways of agreeing on administrative, political and financial issues. Chapter Three also requires Parliament to pass an Act that provides for structures and institutions that foster cooperative government and intergovernmental relations. The Act that regulates such relations is the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (No 13 of 2005). Cooperative governance is particularly important where there are national or provincial programmes that may not be easily implemented without the participation of local municipalities and traditional leadership. This Act can be used to strengthen plans and interventions to children as it promotes coordinated actions of various organs of state in implementing policy and legislation, thus avoiding unnecessary wasteful duplication of effort.

Indigent Policy

Due to the levels of unemployment and poverty within municipal areas, there are households and citizens who are unable to access or pay for basic services. This group is referred to as “indigents”. Municipalities have adopted and are implementing Indigent Policies to ensure that “indigents” have access to a package of services included in the Free Basic Services (FBS) programme. Indigent Policy is a critical planning document that is crafted with a municipality’s IDP and financial planning instrument. It allows municipalities to target the delivery of essential services to citizens who experience a low quality of life. Therefore, this Policy will play an important role towards ensuring that children’s rights are taken care of in their respective households. In implementing the Indigent Policy, municipalities should develop Indigent Registers for households benefiting from FBS. These Registers can be valuable sources of information as they articulate the socio-economic conditions under which members of households live. For the purpose of this Framework, the Indigent Policy can be used to identify children and the conditions under which they live, and could be used to inform the situation analysis at local level.

The Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF)

Cities and large towns in South Africa are homes to a population of 69% and data shows evidence of increasing migration to urban areas in provinces such as Gauteng and Western Cape. It is estimated that by 2030 nearly 71.3% of the South African Population will live in urban areas. The urban population is increasingly young, characterized by low levels of education and is predominantly poor. The IUDF is concerned with urban spaces and issues such as access to services, unemployment, and poverty. It will assist municipalities to manage urbanization effectively and also contribute to rural development. It seeks to provide guidance on how various government programmes and resources can be used to break the negative spiral of impoverishment that characterizes urban settlements such as townships and informal settlements. In relation to children’s rights, the IUDF include issues of crime prevention, through building vibrant communities where children can play safely. Physical planning should be aimed at amongst other things, reducing the level of crime in urban spaces. One of the government programmes that the IUDF draws from is the “Crime Prevention for Safer Public Spaces”, which takes a holistic approach to urban safety by drawing on communities into shaping solutions to reduce the negative impacts of severe social deprivation. The Integrated Urban Development Framework is therefore important in influencing CFCs.

Comprehensive Rural Development Strategy (CRDP)

The Comprehensive Rural Development Strategy (CRDP) encapsulates the evolution of policies and thoughts regarding rural development. It confirms the prominent role granted to district municipalities in harnessing national and provincial capacity at local level to bring about development. The ISRDP is designed to fit into the local IDPs. The programme has a powerful poverty focus. It describes how government working with rural people, aims to achieve a rapid and sustained reduction in rural poverty.

This programme is important for children in view of the fact that nearly half of the population of children live in rural areas of South Africa. It is therefore crucial that the child friendly community's framework is mainstreamed into the ISRDP.

The Disability Framework for Local Government 2009-2014

The Disability Framework for Local Government 2009-2014, published by DPLG and SALGA, calls on municipalities to respect for the evolving capacity of children with disabilities and respect for their right to preserve their identities

Other Laws which have an impact on CFC are:

- Municipal Finance Management (Act No 56 of 2003), which provides for sustainable management of financial affairs of municipalities and municipal entities, including the management of revenues, expenditure, assets, budgets, financial planning processes and related financial matters.
- Division of Revenue (Act No 2 of 2013), which provides for equitable division of revenue among three spheres of government as well as promoting transparency and accountability in resource allocations by ensuring that all allocations are reflected on budgets of provinces and municipalities and that all expenditures are reported on by receiving departments and municipalities.
- Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act (No 97 of 1997)
- Public Finance Management Act (No 56 of 2003)

PART 3: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME AN INCLUSIVE CHILD FRIENDLY COMMUNITY?

3.1 What theoretical orientation underpins the CFC Framework?

Bronfenbrenners' Ecological Systems Theory¹⁶ is helpful in understanding the circumstances under which children develop. This theory highlights the fact that children as individuals are influenced by different spheres which include family, peers, school, community and the broader society. Within each sphere lie risk and protective factors. Risk factors are events or circumstances that increase the children's exposure to factors which compromise their rights to development, safety and protection. Examples are poor parenting, high levels of crime in the community, unsafe neighbourhoods, easy and uncontrolled access to alcohol, etc. The more risks children are exposed to the less likely they are to experience positive outcomes. Protective factors on the other hand are those positive factors which interact with risk factors to mitigate the negative impact on children's lives, reducing children's exposure to risks thus enhancing children's wellbeing. Examples of protective factors include safe neighbourhoods, stable family units, availability of child care facilities, caring adults in families, schools and communities, etc. In the context of municipality services, for example, access to electricity and improved lighting in the homes and streets can be regarded as protective factors as they increase children's safety and wellbeing. Whilst risk factors in one sphere may compound risk factors in the others, protective factors in one sphere may compensate for risks in other settings. The ecological model thus resonates well with the spirit of the CFCF which promotes the development of protective factors at local community level. Child-friendly Communities seek to increase protective factors by increasing communities' capacity to respond to children's needs as well as creating conditions for early identification and early intervention for children at risk. Therefore, CFCs take on a primary prevention approach by trying to mitigate community risk factors.

Theory of Change (TOC) for CFC

The TOC process is a strategic way of describing a set of assumptions and steps that lead to the long-term goal for achieving desired programme outcomes. It begins by articulation the long-term goal and goes on to identifying all the necessary and sufficient preconditions required to bring about the long-term outcomes. This approach to planning is designed to encourage very clearly defined outcomes

The implementation of the CFCF will be facilitated through the adoption of a TOC by municipalities. This TOC has the following elements:

- Definition of desired long-term goal;
- Identification of key dimensions to achieve long term goal;
- Setting out pre-conditions necessary for bringing about these long-range goals;
- Putting in place strategies for change to occur.

¹⁶ Bronfenner U. (1979). The Ecology of Human Development: Experiments by Nature and Design. United States of America: Harvard

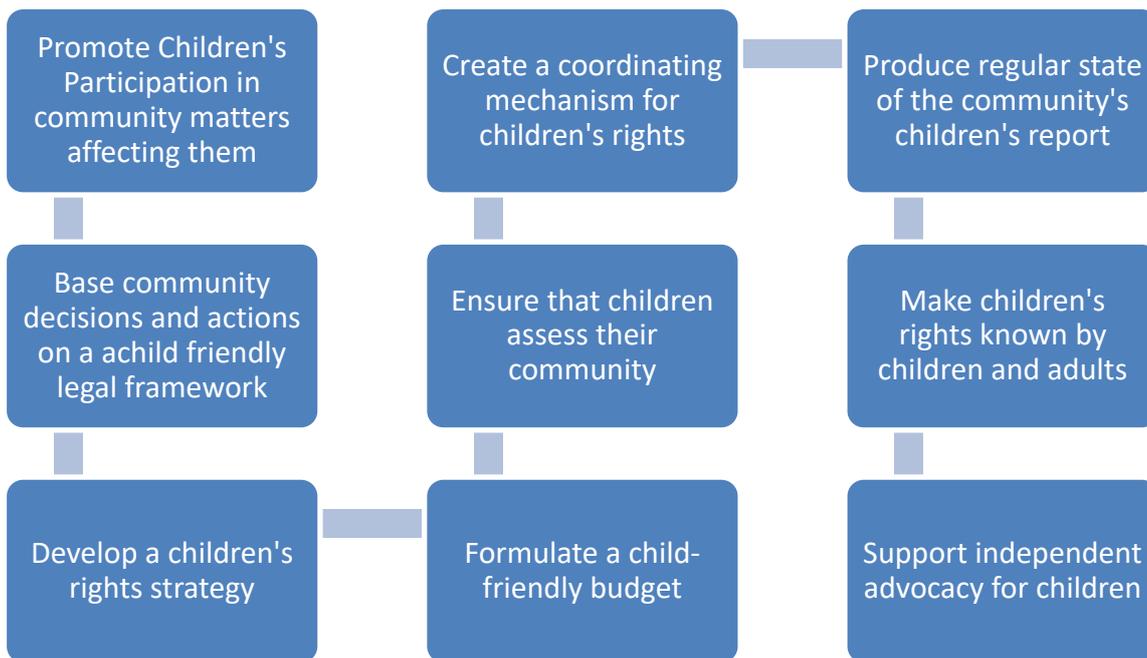
Diagram 1: Theory of Change for CFC

3.2 What are the Building Blocks for Child-friendly Communities?

Becoming a CFC is a process that entails different steps that have been defined as Nine “Building Blocks” which are interconnected and inter-dependent. These building blocks can be implemented independently and incrementally over time for a municipality to be granted a full CFC status. These building blocks are designed to ensure that a community:

- i. Creates spaces for children to participate in community decisions and actions
- ii. Bases community decisions on a child-friendly legal framework
- iii. Develops a community-wide children's rights strategy
- iv. Creates and utilize children's rights coordinating mechanisms
- v. Allows and empowers children to assess their communities
- vi. Formulates child friendly budgets
- vii. Produces a regular state of the community's children's report
- viii. Makes children's rights known by children and adults
- ix. Supports independent advocacy for children

Diagram 2: Nine Building Blocks of CFC



3.2.1 Creating space for children to participate in community decisions and actions

What does children’s participation mean?

Article 12 of the UNCRC is central to children’s participation. It assures a child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting him or her. Article 7 of the UNCRPD places an obligation on states parties to “ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.”

The child’s views are given due weight in accordance with the child’s age and maturity. This right does not give children a right to autonomy and control over all decisions irrespective of their implication for either themselves or others. Contrary to common belief, it does not give children the right to roughshod over the rights of other people. However, it introduces a profound challenge to traditional attitudes which assume that children “should be seen and not heard”. If children are to express their views freely it is necessary for adults to create opportunities for them to do so. Therefore there is an obligation on adults in their capacity as parents, professionals, leaders, politicians, to ensure that children are enabled, empowered, encouraged and supported to contribute their views on relevant matters affective their lives in their communities. When children are allowed to express their views and participate meaningfully, they are enabled to challenge abuses and neglect of their rights and are able to take action to promote and protect their rights. Therefore this building block is the foundation for building CFCs.

What constraints do local communities face in relation to children’s participation?

In South Africa, like most parts of the world, society’s constructs of childhood suggests that children are not able to express their views in public; when they express themselves society does not think that their contribution is valuable and therefore should be taken seriously. When children raise issues, the tendency is not to follow up and use the information to influence policies, plans and service delivery. When opportunities are created for children to participate, these are on an ad hoc basis and not sustained. At government level there is a tendency to have once-off events like Children’s Parliaments,

often these outcomes are not sufficiently used to inform laws, plans and the attitudes and actions of government and other duty bearers. Whilst local government has a Public Participation Programme which influences amongst others, the development of IDPs, children are rarely given an opportunity to participate in these processes.

What opportunities can communities draw from to strengthen children's participation?

Despite the challenges cited above there are a number of opportunities that communities can draw on to promote the participation of children in local governance processes. Some municipalities have structured Junior Councillors and Mayoral systems. These are made up of democratically elected high school learners from communities who use the platforms they have to address a range of governance issues and mobilise other young people in their communities. Children's Parliaments have become an annual event, with children representing different provinces converging to engage with parliamentarian, politicians and government officials on a range of issues affecting their lives. Some Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), with the support of donors and the private sector have established Children's Committees who mobilize other children in their communities and engage local leadership in addressing matters affecting children. Schools are natural platforms for mobilising and enhancing children's participation, both within the formal governance structures of schools as well as extramural platforms such as the Girls and Boys Clubs (Gem and Bem). Faith based communities have a long tradition of children's participation in varying formations. These could be more strategically encouraged and coordinated at local government level. Children's participation is an essential part of any society's development agenda.

Different government departments are also increasingly conducting Institutionalised engagements with children during key children's events such as National Child Protection Week. The DBE is implementing the Girls and Boys Education Movement (G/BEM) programme which create a number of opportunities for systematic participation of school going children in governance issues.

Municipalities¹⁷ also have a range of participation mechanisms for IDP development and review processes. These include: Ward committee meetings; IDP Forum meetings, community *izimbizo* and Road Shows, public meetings and Council meetings that are open to the public. Community Development Workers (CDWs) are also placed in different municipalities as agents of change facilitating interaction between government and communities. These are just some of the opportunities that could be fully utilized to promote participation of children in governance processes at a local level.

How can local communities strengthen children's participation?

In implementing this building block, local communities are encouraged to address the following key questions:

- Do community leaders include and take on board the views of children?
- Are children given opportunities to articulate the conditions under which they live as required for the first step in the development of the IDP?
- Are children meaningfully and without discrimination especially those who are at particular risk of exclusion and discrimination consulted on all matters affecting them?
- Are "specialist" groups of children consulted and involved in "specialist" issues? (Children in care on care issues; children in child-headed households, children living and working on the streets, children with disabilities, etc.)
- Are local municipalities creating opportunities and strengthening structures for children's participation?

¹⁷ Such mechanisms exist across municipalities in more or less the same manner. Other municipalities have established and launched the Women, Youth, Disability and Older Persons Forums, along with the Women's Caucus and Metro AIDS Council as platforms for vulnerable groups to participate in the municipal planning processes and advice the on issues which impact on them. They need to be strengthened to include the participation of children themselves.

This Framework suggests that communities must do more to strengthen collective efforts aimed at promoting and sustaining child participation. The following actions may be considered:

- **Information dissemination:** Consider changes in the form and dissemination of information to children, in the structures for debate and consultation, and in the organisation, timing and agendas of meetings to ensure maximum participation of children. Discussion of goals and measures should involve participation by young people themselves, recognising that different approaches to engaging children and young people are required across the age spectrum.
- **Participation in IDP processes:** Create opportunities for children to participate in these at ward level as well as in their normal spaces, such as schools and recreational facilities; existing platforms can be utilized to enable children to participate in all stages of the IDP process;
- **Education and support:** Support and educate children on their rights to participate as well as on participation skills; develop the capacity of children to participate in governance processes including the development of IDPs and that of government officials, municipality structures, community leadership structures, human rights and democracy; parents and communities on understanding, facilitating and advocating for the voices of children to be heard in matters affecting them; develop capacity of ward committees and local government officials to understand and promote child participation in IDP processes.
- **Removing barriers:** Ensure that children with disabilities have access to all information by making reasonable accommodation measures such as using only wheelchair accessible venues, providing information in braille and large print, making available sign language interpreters as well as augmentative and alternative communication support.

3.2.2 Basing decisions and actions on a child-friendly legal framework

What does a child-friendly legal framework mean?

This building block is about ensuring that legislation, regulatory frameworks and procedures at local government level consistently promote and protect the rights of all children. Local municipalities must ensure that all aspects of the legal framework which are under their control promote and protect children's rights. Local government should act as a strong advocate for children to try to ensure that legislation is translated into real action.

What constraints do local communities face in relation to a child-friendly legal framework?

One of the challenges facing the country at different levels of government is the implementation of existing legal mandates addressing children's rights as well as their translation thereof into plans, strategies and budgets. At local government level, there especially appears to be a lack of clarity on the devolution of powers and the mandate of local government in terms of the implementation of laws pertaining to children, such as the Children's Act. In addition, there are concerns about the alignment of some of the municipalities by-laws to the constitution and other child legislation. As a result, implementation of service delivery pertaining to children is generally not uniform in all municipalities, is often ad hoc and events or projects driven rather than institutionalized through a comprehensive service or action plan systematically implemented and adequately funded. There is an apparent need to strengthen and develop specialized capacities in terms of knowledge and understanding of legislation including personnel working with children, adults and children.

What opportunities can communities draw from to implement this building block?

South Africa has a number of very good legal and policy frameworks that seek to promote children's rights. Some of these have been highlighted in this document. There are already a number of pieces of legislation and policy frameworks that target women, youth, children and elderly rights, as well as rights of people with disabilities. Municipalities have a constitutional and legislative mandate to realise the rights and wellbeing of children, specifically the Municipal Systems Act. It is for example through this Act

that many communities are already driving a children's agenda through mainstreaming it in their IDP's. Some of these practices are translating the provision on the assignment of functions to municipalities as provided for in the Children's Action to actions at district and local municipality level. Others are looking at providing child-friendly programmes and spaces in their regular programmes such as library and recreational services. These models demonstrate what could happen when there is municipality leadership that understands, respects and promotes children's rights. The aim of the CFC framework is to strengthen this and to build a strong community of practice that embrace these Lessons and others towards building child friendly communities. taking place around the country for the implementation of this Framework.

How can local communities use legislation and policies to strengthen CFCs?

When implementing this building block, the following question could be posed:

- Have local authorities reviewed all legislation under their control to ensure it understands, respects and implement the international (UNCRC) regional (ACRWC) child rights instruments, Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and related laws for children?

The following actions are proposed for the implementation of this Framework:

- Place children at the centre of all planning processes
- Existing policies and legislation that cover a range of children's rights should be promoted and utilized.
- There should be awareness raising and training for officials and local government structure families & children on all relevant legal frameworks for children.
- Guidelines for municipalities to implement municipal-specific provisions in the Children's Act, including the assignment of responsibilities to certain aspects of child care to municipalities should be developed and publicised for actions.
- Municipality by-laws that relate to services to children should be documented, analysed and reviewed. This will assist the process of aligning them with current legal frameworks relating to children's rights.

3.2.3 Develop a Community-Wide Inclusive Children's Rights Strategy or Plan of Action

What does a community children's rights strategy or plan mean?

This building block is about developing a detailed, comprehensive strategy or agenda for children, based on the commitments contained in UNCRC, the UNCRPD, the ACRWC, the Constitution and national legislation. Within this context, and following from the National Plan of Action, Provincial Plans of Action municipalities are encouraged to develop Local Plans or Strategies for children that response to these commitments (LPAC).

This process requires of all government and civil society groups to participate in a collaborative process involving the following:

- (i) formalising and sustaining the institutional mechanisms for integrated, systematic and coherent planning and resourcing local services for children. Such mechanisms would contribute to the alignment with provincial and national child rights institutional mechanisms.
- (ii) building local capacities to understand the importance of generating good and systematic information about children at a local level to monitor the status of children should in the communities where they live.
- (iii) aligning with the IDP processes.. This is a critical vehicle to align and reflect on the situation of children and to address critical challenges faced by children.

What constraints do communities face in developing children's rights strategies or plans?

At every level of government, all services impact on children directly or indirectly. Coordination therefore is important and must be strengthened. Within local government, different sectoral plans impact on children, yet there seems to be a lack of a coordination mechanism to facilitate or monitor progress made on achieving government's national commitments, priorities, goals and targets for children. For this reason, it is imperative that a children's strategy or Plan of Action is developed at municipality level. Such a plan will serve the purpose of driving and monitoring government's transformative agenda for children. Children themselves must be primary and active participants in this process. When children are not consulted during the assessment stage, they are denied an opportunity to contribute to the development of a strategy that could articulate their needs and inform programmes and actions that are appropriately designed and implemented to meet their needs.

What opportunities can communities draw from to develop children's rights strategies or plans?

Amongst the important prerequisites for development of children's rights strategies/plans is conducting a situation analysis on the conditions of children in municipalities. There may already be some information on the situation of children collected through General Household Surveys that could provide a starting point for this purpose. Noting that information on children with disabilities aged 0-4 years is not available. In addition, community surveys, including surveys with children can be conducted to determine the conditions and perceptions of children. This would facilitate the development of need-based plans and strategies. Research institutions and universities are valuable partners and could contribute further to the necessary process of providing periodic data on the situation of children in the country.

One of the strengths for municipalities in implementing this building block is the opportunity for alignment with the IDP processes. In this way, municipalities have access to a range of sectoral plans and strategies which present opportunities for mainstreaming children's rights. Thus, they can be used to facilitate the implementation of the CFCF. These include:

- Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy that strengthens the capacities of families to adequately meet the needs of their children
- Housing Sector Plans (which includes a beneficiary housing needs database for equitable allocation procedures to benefit vulnerable groups)
- Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement Plan
- Integrated Environmental Management Plan (promoting safe, healthy and sustainable environments)
- Water Service Development Plan
- Integrated Transport Plan

Municipalities could use these plans to articulate and mainstream children's rights within them directly. Most importantly, there are five (5) key local government performance areas in South Africa which directly impact on children, namely:

- Basic Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development
- Municipal Transformation and Organizational Development
- Municipal Financial Viability and Management
- Local Economic Development
- Good Governance and Public Participation

Children's rights can be mainstreamed through these areas, with key performance indicators for managers identified for each performance area. Some municipalities have over the past few years developed different strategies for certain categories of vulnerable groups, such as women, youth and people with disabilities. They can use these experiences to develop children's rights plans and strategies as advocated by this Framework.

What can local communities do to strengthen plans and strategies for children?

For the implementation of the CFC Framework, municipalities are encouraged to address the following questions:

- Are local authorities developing children's rights strategy or plans focused in line with the c CFC framework?
- In developing the Strategy of Plan, has there been widespread consultation to engage children and young people, NGOs and all those working with and for children in its preparation, also specifically targeting those children most at risk of being excluded?

The following strategic actions are proposed:

- High level municipal leadership and champion for the children's rights strategy/Plan.
- Municipalities to develop plans for the development of children's rights strategies, publicize this for maximum participation by children and all partners in the local governance system.
- Compile of a situation analysis on the conditions of children at a local level, involving children themselves in soliciting the views of other children.
- A specific and clearly defined section on a children's programme of action in municipality IDPs.
- A better coordination mechanism to promote, coordinate and monitor children's rights across departments and sectors, as well as looking at municipality resources to promote better planning for children's rights.
- Involvement of children, parents, caregivers as well as CSOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) in the development of IDP, ensuring that children's rights are included. This will help improve the articulation of children's needs and rights in the development of local strategies, which is missing in most IDPs.
- Ensuring that children participate in performance monitoring processes in municipalities
- Development of children's rights specific indicators, based on the constitution and the NDP outcomes, to monitor progress.

3.2.4 A Children's Right Coordinating Mechanism

What does a children's rights coordination mechanism?

This building block relates to the development of permanent structures in all spheres of government to ensure priority consideration of children's issues. The machinery of local government should be designed in such a way that accountability is ensured. The importance of a coordination mechanism has been touch upon in the previous building block as well. In any setting, building a CFC demands that children become very visible at the heart of local government. One way of seeking to achieve this is to establish a high profile cross-cutting unit or coordinating mechanism. To facilitate participation there should also be representation at district; provincial and national machineries (institutional mechanisms/representative structures).

What constraints do communities face in relation to coordination?

In South Africa, the coordination of children's rights at different spheres of government remains a challenge. Various structures have been established at different levels of government to ensure intersectoral coordination of children's services and programmes. Examples include the National Child Care and Protection Forum coordinated by the DSD; the National Action Committee for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS (NACCA) – coordinated by the DSD; Inter-Departmental Management Team (IDMT) - coordinated by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA); South African National Aids Committee (SANAC) – coordinated by the DOH; National ECD Coordinating Committee coordinated by the DBE, the National Interdepartmental Committee on ECD coordinated by the DSD and the National Intersectoral

Child Justice Steering Committee coordinated by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD) and the National Children's Rights Machinery coordinated by the DWCPD. At Provincial level, there are Offices on the Rights of the Child. In some provinces these coordinating offices has been moved to a government department for example, DSD. The Offices of the Premier have an important role to play in coordinating children's rights. It is clear that there is a need to have specialist forums and platforms relating to specific thematic areas as indicated above. The need seems to be a coherent coordination structure convened by the provincial ORC's with representation of municipalities.

At municipality level, the institutional mechanisms are not standardized neither are they at metro level. They also often are structured and capacitated differently.

An opportunity for the implementation of the CFCF exists through the Children's Rights and Responsibilities Institutional Arrangement and Capacity Development Framework which has been drafted by the DWCPD, to facilitate the coordination and monitoring of children's rights at different spheres of government as well as across sectors. This Framework envisages the establishment of Children's Rights Machineries at local level in order to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the Delivery Agreements as they pertain to the realisation of children's rights as well as to address institutional blockages.

At some municipalities, Special Projects Units (SPUs) have been established. This is a positive development. However, the challenge that is experienced, with the exception of large metropolitan municipalities, is that SPU's are under-resourced and thus not able to focus on children's rights only, as they have to address other vulnerable groups such as women, people with disabilities, moral regeneration, HIV and AIDS, etc. In many cases they are not able to coordinate internally and across government departments.

For the implementation of the Child-friendly Communities CFC Framework, the following questions should be addressed:

- Is there an identifiable department, unit or coordinating mechanism within local municipalities responsible for:
 - promoting the CFC?
 - ensuring co-ordination of policy affecting children?
 - drafting the children's strategy?
 - monitoring the strategy?
 - reporting on the children's strategy?
- Does this unit have the necessary authority and resources to pursue the implementation and coordination of the children's strategy?
- Does this unit have direct contact with children, their families, caregivers, communities and partners working directly with children?
- How does this unit link to the provincial and national child rights coordinating structures?

The implementation of this Block will therefore require a strong and well-resourced Unit for Children at local level. This Unit needs to be given authority at the highest political level, with direct links if not based in the office of the Mayor to pursue the implementation of the Child-friendly Communities CFC Framework to ensure effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the children's strategy/LPAC. Such a Unit will not take over the functions of other government departments relating to children rather, its purpose is to promote, coordinate and monitor the realisation of children's rights and wellbeing at local government level.

3.2.5 *Enabling children to assess their communities*

What does this building block mean?

This building block is directly linked to the monitoring and evaluation chapter of the CFC Framework and must be read and understood within that context. This building block is about ensuring that there is a systematic process to enable children to assess the impact of laws, policies and service delivery on their lives. Children must be enabled to assess their own local municipalities and give leaders feedback on their experiences in the community. Consistent with the UNCRC and the ACRWC local governments are required to ensure that the best interests of children are a primary consideration in all actions concerning children. No government can know whether this principle is being fulfilled without there being a rigorous process in place to assess the impact of laws, policies and practices on children. According to the Child-friendly Communities Initiative, there should be independent child impact assessments, assessments by NGO as well as assessments by independent human rights bodies. Therefore children's direct involvement in the process of impact assessment should be facilitated and supported. At a local level, such assessments will be valuable to feed into IDP processes. The monitoring chapter of this CFC framework includes the rationale and discusses the instruments that are available to support children's self assessments of their communities.

What constraints prevent children from assessing their communities?

One of the key issues is lack of opportunities and adequate platforms for children to participate in assessments of their communities. There are often no consultative mechanisms to listen to the voices of children about the impact of laws and services on their lives. Where these opportunities exist, they are ad-hoc and the children's perceptions are rarely utilized to improve laws and programmes. Other challenges include a lack of standardized child-friendly community assessment and data collection tools as well as a lack of common understanding of monitoring children's rights. The monitoring and evaluation chapter of this framework as aligned to the DWCPD M&E Framework seeks to make a primary contribution towards filling this gap.

What opportunities can communities draw from to implement this building block?

Municipalities, implementing this CFC Framework will work closely with the DWCPD M&E unit to administer and implement the self assessment and other monitoring tools. The IDP processes presents key opportunities for the inclusion of the child impact assessments in the annual reviews. The monitoring chapter of this Framework includes a discussion of the Self-Assessment Tools designed for individual children and their parents or caregivers. These tools are designed to cover a range of child wellbeing areas around key municipality focus areas. It is envisaged that these tools will be utilized to gather information as possible from children to inform the IDP processes as well as to inform any future planning for children's rights programming.

What should communities do to enable children to assess their environments?

For the implementation of this CFC Framework, municipalities should address the following questions:

- Is there regular evaluation of the actual impact of municipality services on children?
- Do these processes involve children?
- How will children, families and caregivers provide feedback on the impact of services?
- How are the results communicated to children, community and all role-players?
- How are results used to improve service delivery to children?
- What mechanisms will be utilized to report on indicators for children?

The implementation of this building block requires the following actions by local municipalities:

- Develop a process to ensure that child impact assessments and evaluations are conducted and thereof integrated into key planning processes.
- Develop the capacity of officials, NGOs and other partners to administer the child impact assessment tools.
- Develop the capacity of children to administer the child impact assessment tools.

- Compile reports, publicise them through municipality channels, including Council sittings and State of the Province or State of the Municipality Reports.
- Integrating children’s voices as an integral component of municipal performance management processes

3.2.6 Formulation of a child- friendly budget

What does a child-friendly budget mean?

A child-friendly budget is a budget that has been drawn at national, provincial and local level, to channel resources to respond to challenges faced by children in their communities, to improve service delivery and minimise harm to children. A child-friendly budget is based on the understanding that in order to support children’s rights, there should be advocacy for funding to children’s wellbeing. The financial plan has specific programmes and outcomes particularly for children. This building block also seeks to ensure that there is adequate resource commitment and budget analysis for children. Budgets are one particular way in which actions by a local government affect children, and so, budget analysis forms an important aspect of child impact assessment. The UNCRC requires States to implement economic, social and cultural rights of children “to the maximum extent of available resources”. No state or local government can determine how well it is fulfilling this obligation without detailed and accurate budget analysis, including a framework for examining how expenditures impact upon children budget.

As with all the building blocks for a CFC, a key purpose is to ensure that children are visible in budgeting as in other government activities. Without that visibility, there is little hope of children getting the share that they have a right to. Just as local government needs to act as an advocate for its children in relation to national laws, so it does in relation to national budgeting, ensuring that its children, in particular disadvantaged children, are getting their “fair share of resources”.

What are some of the constraints communities face in developing child-friendly budgets?

One of the challenges facing municipalities is that there is often a limited budget to carry out their wide mandate to communities. The focus of service delivery at local level often tends to prioritize infrastructure. Children’s rights tend to be regarded as a “soft issue”. Budgeting is an intrinsic part of planning. Moreover, when there is no situation analysis on the conditions of children, it may be difficult to convince Treasury to allocate adequate resources for children’s programmes. A critical component of the IDP process is budgeting, which begins months before the budget is debated at Council. Municipalities have mechanisms to promote citizen participation in budget and planning debates. However these exclude children and those who advocate and monitor progress made on realizing their rights as citizens. The degree to which municipalities provide budget information to all its citizens is also not always known. Many municipalities do not have special budget allocations for children’s programmes. It is often difficult to track what has been spent on children, other than once-off expenditures on special events. For this reason the development of a costed Programme of Action for Children/ local strategy is imperative at local government level.

What opportunities can communities draw on in developing child-friendly budgets?

Various opportunities to influence budgets and promote the participation of children budgets exist in the IDP processes and these include IDP/Budget Road shows and IDP stakeholder forums – for IDPs, budget performance, performance assessment and service delivery agreements. The development of a Local Plan of Action for Children (see 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 above) will facilitate effective budgeting and the monitoring of budgets for child rights delivery.

In South Africa there are organisations that have piloted children’s budget processes such as the Children’s Budget Unit of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) Cape Town. Lessons can be drawn from their experiences as well as the curriculum they developed to train children. Save the Children and its regional partners have developed budget training tools that can be adapted for use in

South Africa. Treasury has also participated in costing exercises around children's issues as part of planning for the implementation of the Children's Act as well as the Child Justice Act.

What can communities do to ensure that they have child-friendly budgets?

One of the critical questions to be addressed as part of implementing this Framework is:

- Are the overall municipality budget and elements within it analysed adequately to reveal the proportion spent on children?

The implementation of this element of the CFC Framework requires the following actions by local municipalities:

- Develop a system to analyse if children have a fair share of the resources in the budget.
- Develop a system to analyze the proportion of budgets spent on children's rights.
- Promote budget knowledge for children, officials, municipality structures, NGOs and partners working with children.
- Consult with children in budget discussion.
- Share and disseminate information on budgets and resources allocation to children.
- Create or utilize existing mechanisms to enable children to monitor and evaluate expenditure patterns as they pertain to children's rights.
- Conduct capacity building sessions on child responsive budgeting.

3.2.7 A Regular State of the Community's Children Report

What does this building block mean?

This building block should also be read and understood within the context of chapter 5 of this CFC Framework which deals with monitoring and evaluation. Ensuring sufficient monitoring including data collection on the state of children and progress made on realising their rights is one of the most important components of the Child Friendly Community Framework. Child-friendly Communities should keep a constant check on the state of their children by systematically collecting a range of statistics and information on the full range of children, from birth to 18 years. This is fundamental to child-centred policy development.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has identified disaggregated data collection as a vital general measure for implementation of the UNCRC. African States are also obliged to report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Such data should be collected through Census, Household Surveys, research reports, and feedback from rights holders and their communities. The CFC Framework specifically advocates for the use of children themselves to contribute an accurate assessment of progress made on realising their rights and wellbeing. Children should participate as researchers and be involved in carrying out assessments, proposing solutions as well as writing reports. Statistics and information that are collected should then be analysed and written up, and the report published, disseminated and used as a building block for the CFC. Child-friendly versions of the report should be produced, disseminated through different channels. Formal and regular debates on the report should be organised among politicians, parents, communities, civil society organisations to raise awareness of children's issues as well as among children themselves.

What constraints do communities face in producing a regular State of the Community's Children Reports?

A key barrier to the development of a municipality report on the status of children is the lack of a coordinating structure. If these structures are located and resourced from a central office such as the Mayors offices it will facilitate and coordinate the development of periodic status reports on children in every municipality to which every department contributes. It will also carry the necessary authority and feed into and contribute to the provincial and national and international child rights monitoring and reporting obligations. Another challenge facing municipalities is that there is limited disaggregated data on children.

At this point, the State of the Municipalities Reports produced annually does not adequately cover the status of children. There is no uniform reporting tool for municipalities and where reporting tools exist, children's indicators are not included. Municipality performance systems do not include indicators for children. Chapter 5 of this framework seeks to address some of these weaknesses.

What opportunities can communities draw from to produce these reports?

In addition to the suggestions made above, there are strengths to build on when it comes to the implementation of this building block of the Framework. Many municipalities contribute towards Country reports and are now reporting according to the MDGs. What should be established is the degree to which children's well-being is covered in the reports that municipalities produce. Municipalities also produce reports as part of IDP Review processes. There are different reporting structures such as Council meetings, Mayoral Committees, where children's rights must be regularized on the agenda. On an annual basis, Municipality Mayors present "State of the Municipality Reports", which are a means by which municipalities assess their performances and impact of their programmes on citizens. Whilst there is no evidence that children contribute to this report, this is an excellent opportunity to obtain the views of children through the self assessments and report on the impact of services on their lives and include in this report as section on the State of the Municipality's Children.

What can communities do to ensure that they have Regular State of the Community's Children Reports?

For the implementation of this element of this Framework, the following questions should be addressed:

- Is sufficient statistical and other information about children in the community collected to assess progress towards being a child friendly community?
- Is there a "State of the Community's Children Report" for the municipality?
- Is the report published and disseminated in ways which make it accessible to key policy-makers, children, their parents and caregivers as well as to those working with and for children?
- Are the specific issues of children particularly at risk of exclusion and discrimination sufficiently addressed?

The following actions can be implemented by local municipalities:

- Development of a reporting system including indicators that are aligned to chapter 5 of this framework and the DWCPD Child Rights Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy.
- The Status of the Municipality report should reflect government's global and national child rights commitments as reflected in the UNCRC, ACRWC, the MDGs and the NPAC.
- Such reporting systems should be linked to institutional mechanisms established in terms of the Children's Rights and Responsibilities Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Development Framework.
- Development and adoption of standard municipality reporting tools, mechanisms and agreement on reporting cycles
- Alignment of municipality reports with International and national reporting obligations
- Developing the capacity of children as researchers
- Compilation of the "State of the Community's Children Report" and wide dissemination and discussion thereof coordinated in the office of the Mayor.
- Incorporation of indicators and targets for children in performance management systems of senior officials

3.2.8 Making Children's Rights Known by children and adults

What does making children's rights known mean?

This building block calls for the development and implementation of an effective advocacy plan accompanied by an adequately resourced capacity building strategy. Collaboration with the relevant DWCPD units is therefore essential.

Human rights, including children's rights, must be **known** to be useful. In a CFC, children's equal status as rights-holders is promoted by all those working with and for them. The Convention on the Rights of the Child assigns to States a specific obligation to make its principles and provisions "widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike". Article 29 of the Convention, on the aims of education, requires education to be directed at, among other things, "the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms". If a State or a community is committed to building a culture of human rights, it is logical that process must have a special focus on children. The ACRWC likewise calls for the promotion and facilitation of deep understandings of children's rights.

Including human rights and teaching on these human rights instruments in the formal curricula of schools is an important start. In addition to the content of lessons, the ethos and the organisation of schools must reflect the Convention. As a part of this process, initial and in-service training should be organised for all those who work with and for children – including politicians and government officials - to promote awareness of, understanding and respect for children's human rights. Small and Large scale advocacy campaigns focussing on the various domains of children's rights and using a diversity of advocacy strategies are essential ways of making children's rights known.

What are the constraints faced by communities in understanding children's rights?

There seems to be misconception by many parents and the public that the language and practice of children's rights make children disrespectful and irresponsible. As a result some adults and professionals tend to disregard any initiative that bears the label "children's rights" in the belief that it promotes a culture of entitlement, yet when adults speak of their rights, it is acceptable. Before the advent of democracy, civil society organisations were very active in introducing the language and culture of human rights, which was eventually adopted when the Constitution was drafted. There has been over the years a number of civil society initiatives to promote children's rights. However, this rigorous focus seems to be on the decline as a result of for example, funding.

During the past decade, South Africa has seen a dwindling of child rights activism, which has been attributed to the closure of some organisations involved in promoting children's rights. The rate of expansion and further development of a strong child rights cadre seems to have ground almost to a halt. The blatant violation of children as seen in the scourge of violence, exploitation and abuse of children attests to a decline in the respect for children's rights. The fact that many municipalities have not integrated children's rights into their plans is a concern that this CFC Framework seeks to address. Municipality strategies for communicating children's rights are rather weak and sometimes, non-existent.

What opportunities can communities draw from to make children's rights known?

In South Africa the culture of children's rights is entrenched through the country's Constitution. South Africa has ratified a number of international and regional instruments which promote the rights of children. There is a groundswell of CSOs that have over the years worked with children and communities to raise awareness of children's rights. At government level, efforts continue to be taken to reform laws and practices that are regarded as a violation of children's rights. This is evident in the abolishment of certain practices deemed harmful to children and more stringent regulation of other practices to ensure that children are safe from harm. Examples are the abolition of corporal punishment in schools.

The existence of the DWCPD whose mandate is to ensure the mainstreaming and monitoring of children's rights into policies and programmes is an opportunity that should be utilized maximally to promote child rights knowledge. This department has also developed a Ten Year National Rights and Empowerment Advocacy Strategy for Women, Children and People with Disability (2013/14 – 2023/24) which outlines a direction to be followed to guide advocacy efforts by all stakeholders to work towards a common goal of mainstreaming the rights and empowerment of women, children and people with disabilities. South Africa still have dedicated academic, research, donor organisations and the private sector companies continue to work tirelessly to promote knowledge of children's rights. These include institutions such as SCSA, UNICEF, SAHRC and others that are committed to promoting Children's Rights in the Country – in some instances they and the private sector support municipalities to address children's rights issues

The observance of national days such as National Child Protection Week, National Children's Day, 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children has also brought in a number of new role players, notably from local government to raise their voices against the violation of children's rights. The existence of Special Programme Units (SPUs) at local government is a positive development. These Units however should be strengthened with resources and supported to develop, implement and monitor children's rights. These are opportunities to strengthen advocacy for children's rights.

What can communities do to promote knowledge of children's rights?

For the implementation of this CFC Framework, the following questions should be addressed:

- Is there a strategy to ensure knowledge development and dissemination of knowledge on children's rights among both children and adults?
- Does initial and in-service training for all those who work with and for children at community level include teaching about and promotion of respect for the human rights of children?
- Are advocacy strategies and campaigns coordinated with local stakeholders including FBOs, with consistent messages about children's rights?

Local municipalities should consider the following actions:

- The executive leadership of local government should be knowledgeable about children's rights. A broader approach to children's rights and child rights governance should be adopted.
- An integrated strategy to communicate and make children's rights known by different sectors of local government should be developed and implemented. It could be integrated into public participation and education programmes.
- Communication and information packages on children rights should be developed for children, parents, community leadership structures such as Ward Forums and the community at large.
- New and existing training programmes for government and local government officials should cover mainstreaming of children's rights. Existing training programmes on mainstreaming children's rights into local government should be utilized.

3.2.9 Supporting Independent Advocacy for Children

What does Independent Advocacy for children mean?

This building block is about the adequate promotion and facilitation of justice for children in relation to having access to responsive justice and complaints mechanisms. There are a number of good practice examples internationally and nationally that supports this important building block.

In South Africa the Constitution and an extensive regime of legislative provisions makes provision for children's active participation and representation in matters that affect them. There are a number of independent Chapter 9 institutions that provides for children to bring any matter before them for independent facilitation of their access to justice. There has also been a long standing advocacy movement that calls for an independent office of an Ombudsperson/ office for children and argues that whilst the SAHRC has a Children's Desk, this is not enough to address the number of violations of

children's rights that have become a daily feature of South African life. A fully capacitated, equipped and decentralized institutional mechanism can address children's challenges better.

This building block is also about supporting NGOs and developing independent human rights institutions or commissioners for children in order to promote children's rights and their access to justice. It is also about ensuring that communities have platforms that promote and facilitate representation of children to have the voices heard. Any sphere of government that is committed to building a CFC should have the courage to strengthen independent platforms where children can share their opinions and perspectives without fear or favour.

What constraints do communities face in relation to this building block?

South Africa does not have an independent ombudsperson for children. At local level, there are some nongovernmental structures that receive and take up children's rights issues for further action. These are very rare. Mostly the attempts by civil society, academic institutions, concerned individuals and the media are ad-hoc and unsupported. There is a tendency to react only after a gross violation of children's rights has occurred and there is no sustained action as there is no body to monitor responses and changes on a continuous basis. Whilst the SAHRC has a Children's Desk, this is not enough to address the increasing numbers of violations of children's rights.

What opportunities can communities draw from to support independent advocacy for children?

South Africa has established Chapter 9 Institutions such as the SAHRC and the Office of the Public Protector which can act independently to advocate for children and hold government accountable for respecting human and children's rights. The SAHRC is internationally recognized as one of the best advocating for children's rights in the world and has developed a child friendly complaints procedure. NGOs have played and continue to play a critical role in representing the interests of children and holding government accountable. It is important to note that some land mark court decisions have had a lasting impact on the promotion of human rights and realisation of socio-economic rights in South Africa. Such cases have been brought about by independent and ordinary individuals¹⁸ as well as NGOs. Whilst the Framework emphasizes the importance of establishing independent human rights institutions to monitor, promote and protect children's rights at national level, it also promotes municipalities to lobby for and advocate for the establishment of such institutions. Where such institution exists, such as the Human Rights Commission, municipalities should be able to call on these systems to monitor and advice on children's rights violations at local level.

South Africa has not yet signed or ratified the third Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on Communications procedures (2011). This instrument facilitates children's access to international complaints mechanism should all the options at country level not head satisfactory outcomes that is in the best interest of that particular child.

What can communities do to support independent advocacy for children?

For the implementation of this building block, the following questions should be considered:

- Are there effective platforms for child justice at local government level ?
- Has local government developed partnerships with a broad and appropriate range of NGOs?
- Has local government considered establishing or utilizing local mechanisms to monitor and report on violation of children' rights?

The following actions should be considered:

- Development of child-friendly municipality –based complaints mechanisms for monitoring and reporting violations of children's rights. These mechanisms should be linked to existing national reporting institutions that feed into regional and international reporting mechanisms.

¹⁸ In the Grootboom case (Grootboom and Others vs the Government of the Republic of South Africa and Others) a South African Court issues a declaratory order which requires the state to devise and implement a program that included measures to provide relief to those desperate people who had not been catered for in a state programme – a victory for socio-economic rights that benefitted women and children.

- Capacity and partnership development with civil society around monitoring children's rights.
- Developing capacity of children to report and monitor any violation of children's rights in their communities.

PART 4: WHO ARE THE PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS FRAMEWORK?

The Children's sub-programme of DWCPD will provide oversight for the refinement and implementation of this Framework. Support for the implementation of the framework is aligned to the three key mainstreaming strategies of DWCPD including advocacy; institutional support and capacity building; monitoring and evaluation.

Institutional arrangements at national, provincial and local government levels as envisaged in the Children's Rights and Responsibilities Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Development Framework will be strengthened and utilized to render support for the implementation of the CFC Framework and the monitoring thereof. These include the Children's Rights Machineries at national, provincial and local level.

The leadership and identifiable champion at municipal level is a vital element for the successful ownership and success of the implementation of the CFC Framework. It is therefore strongly advised that the relevant Municipal Mayors and local councillors actively drive the CFC initiatives.

The following role-players have an important role in the implementation of this Framework.

Local Municipalities' specific roles and responsibilities

- Offices of the Mayors and management
- Provincial ORC's
- Government departments
- SALGA
- Co-ordinating community-level processes for the implementation of the Framework;
- Ensuring that participation mechanisms are sufficiently accessible and sufficiently proactive to enable the participation of children in the implementation of the Framework
- Allocating resources and other supports to the process
- Local level monitoring and evaluation

Roles and responsibilities of Municipal Structures and Officials

Municipal structures as well as officials have a significant role to play in promoting and implementing this Framework. They represent political commitment to issues affecting all citizens, including children. It is therefore critical that their roles and responsibilities are clarified. Table 1 below sets out these roles, which must be implemented and monitored.

Table 1 : Recommended Roles and responsibilities of Municipal Structures and Officials

Role-players	Roles and Responsibilities
Executive Mayor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides political leadership including coordination • Ensures that the positions to drive the CFC function effectively
Executive Mayoral Committees and Mayoral Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve municipality programmes and child-focused IDPs • Approve budgets for CFCI • Advocate for children's rights
Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that ward councillors champion children's rights in their wards
Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion and promote children's rights and child participation in the wards with support from ward committees

Ward Forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion children's rights and child participation in IDP processes at ward level • Support coordination of children's initiatives at ward level • Promote participation of children in planning, decision making and governance processes
Municipal Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that municipality plans, projects and programmes mainstream children's issues • Provides oversight and capacity development to Special Programmes for the implementation of the Framework • Advocate for integration and mainstreaming of youth in all municipality programmes • Support all aspects of the integration of the elements of the Framework into Municipality plans and programmes • Ensures adequate allocation of resources towards the realisation of CFCI
IDP Manager	<p>Ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the IDP process allows for the voices of children to be heard and their opinions considered • Ensures that various IDP components address the Framework • Ensures that Child rights governance is mainstreamed through the implementation and monitoring of the IDP
IDP Representative Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that children are represented and are able to express their concerns and opinions in respect to their rights
Heads of municipal departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that sector plans, programmes and projects implement elements of the Framework
Municipal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that voices of children are heard in Council meetings • Approves IDP and budget that is responsive to children's issues • Coordinates and monitor implementation of the Framework • Creates sustainable opportunities for the representation of children in Council meetings
Parliamentary Portfolio and Select Committees on Women, Children and People with Disabilities and their provincial counterparts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the implementation of the Framework • Exercise oversight on children's issues (Monitoring and evaluation)
The Non Governmental sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement children's programmes • Ensures that municipality plans, projects and programmes mainstream children's issues • Provides capacity development to Special Programmes for the implementation of the Framework • Advocate for integration and mainstreaming of children in all municipality programmes • Support all aspects of the integration of the elements of the Framework into Municipality plans

Children

This Framework is to promote the realisation of children’s rights and child wellbeing at local level. The participation of children in all aspects of this Framework is critical.

Parents and Caregivers

The Framework recognises the important role played by parents and caregivers in supporting children to participate in governance issues. As such mechanisms should be put in place to support parents in both representing the interests of children as well as in creating opportunities at all levels for children to participate in making decisions in matters affecting their lives in their communities.

National and provincial partners

The following are some of the roles and responsibilities of the key national and provincial partners:

Table 2: Roles and Responsibilities of national and provincial partners

Sectoral Partner	Roles and Responsibilities
The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops, test out and promotes the Framework • Advocates for and promotes the Framework with parliamentarians • Develops capacity for the implementation and monitoring of the Framework • Mobilises resources with Treasury for the implementation of the Framework • Provides overall oversight, monitoring and evaluation
Offices of Premiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support capacity building for implementation of Framework • Support advocacy and provide advice and guidance to facilitate implementation • Support coordination • Monitor implementation • Allocates and mobilise support for the Framework
DCOG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support municipalities in implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Framework
SALGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for the development and implementation of Framework • Support capacity building for its members
Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Children and People with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the implementation of the Framework youth development • Exercise oversight on children’s issues (Monitoring and evaluation)

National sector departments

- COGTA
- Education
- Social Development
- Health
- Treasury
- Department of Home Affairs

Other Partners

- NGOs
- Donors
- Academic and Research Institutions
- Private sector

PART 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION: ARE OUR COMMUNITIES BECOMING FRIENDLIER TOWARDS CHILDREN?

5.1 How does the CFC Framework relate to the monitoring of children's rights at local government level?

Child Friendly Communities Initiatives emerged around the world in recognition of several important trends including the rapid transformation and urbanisation of global societies and the growing responsibilities of municipalities for communities and their populations, in the context of decentralisation. It aims to help local municipalities adhere to and implement national and international legal instruments, in the case of South Africa, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Constitution, and all other legislation such as the Children's Act and the Child Justice Act that pertains to children. But to provide credible answers to the question of whether progress are being made on the implementation of these commitments and obligations, equally reliable monitoring systems must be put in place to ensure positive outcomes for children and to promote evidence based programming and resourcing for children. The CFCF provides a systematic framework including key steps to support municipalities and local communities to do this.

This chapter of the CFCF specifically deals with the question of how municipalities, children, parents and communities can contribute to the monitoring and reporting on progress made at municipality level in regard to realising children's rights and wellbeing. This chapter must be read and understood within the context of the DWCPD's Child Rights and Wellbeing Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy.

5.2 What approach is used for this process?

The M&E approach used for the CFC Framework is conceptualized and based on the DWCPD's M&E Framework and specifically the Strategy for Child Rights and Well-Being. It applies both a rights- and results-based conceptual framework and seeks to facilitate the enhancement of data gathering, evaluation, monitoring and reporting on children's rights and well-being at local government level.

The rights based approach is designed to measure the realisation of children's rights and wellbeing at local government level. It measures progress made on implementing South Africa's child rights commitments, the implementation of the CFC Framework and the experiences of children and their families with regard to these processes and practices.

The results based orientation provides a systematic framework for duty bearers to set measurable targets to achieve desired outcomes for children. This then provides a platform for municipal level service providers to constantly assess, monitor and evaluate their objectives and progress in meeting their child rights delivery obligations.

The following provides a diagrammatic representation of this process indicating that whatever the inputs that are invested for children it will determine the outputs, outcomes and the lasting impact on children's rights and well-being.



On-going, effective monitoring can therefore be used as a tool to provide feedback on the progress made on the achievement of set objectives for children. An evaluation process of the CFC framework

itself could likewise systematically and objectively assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of the CFC Framework in terms of its design, implementation and results, to ultimately determine its impact. This process would provide credible and useful information to enhance decisions by duty bearers and partners.

The monitoring and evaluation system, must therefore include the mechanisms, processes and data that will be cable of respond to these objectives. Specifically it must be designed to include guidance on what should be monitored, why, when, and how.

For this reason, the design, development, implementation and sustainability of a child rights and wellbeing M&E framework at local government level demands collaboration with all relevant national, provincial and local government departments, civil society and development partners.

The following underlying characteristics informed the development and shaping of the monitoring chapter of the CFC Framework.

The child rights monitoring regime at local government level should:

- Incorporate and link different aspects of children’s lives to explain outcomes, in terms of a variety of environmental factors at individual, family and community levels;
- Articulate and examine, key developmental stages, its linkages with environmental conditions and child outcomes (short- and long-term);
- Disaggregate data across a number of key dimensions of children’s lives
- Attune to the South African context, to show change and trends in the lives of children.

In line with the rights and results based approach, the aim of promoting sustainable local level development is to realise the rights of children and to bring about improvements in their daily lives. To monitor the achievement of this goal, an integrated set of indicators that covers all aspect of children’s rights was developed to measure different dimensions related to the realisation of each right.

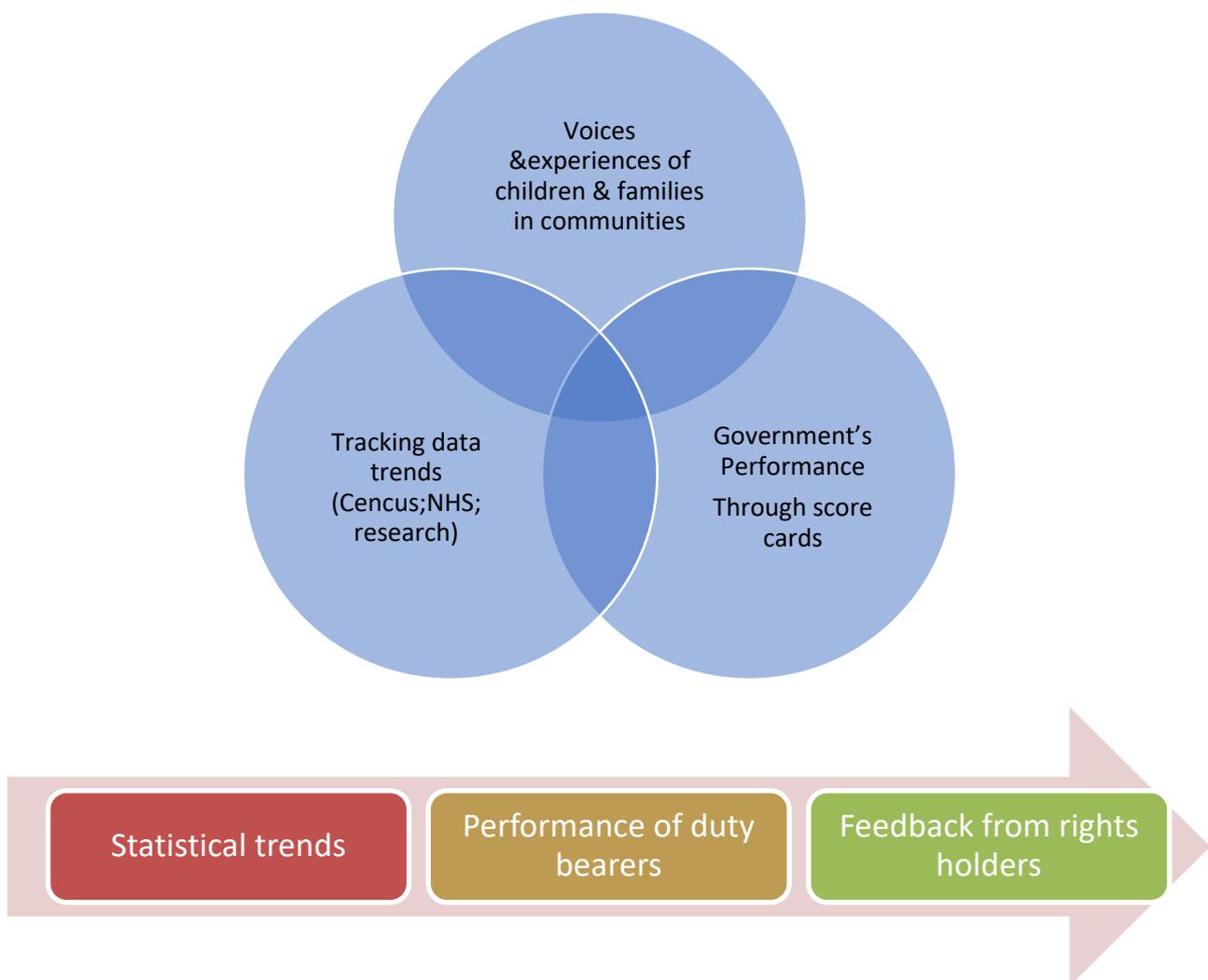
In line with DWCPD’s M&E Framework, this CFC monitoring framework suggests a monitoring regime that includes the monitoring or tracking of three dimensions of change. These are changes in accountability, equity, and participation. Changes in the accountability of duty bearers could for example be made more concrete by measuring changes in policies, laws and resource allocations, and changes in attitudes, values and practices. Although it should always be remembered that changes in laws and policies do not automatically translate into improvements in the lives of poor and excluded people. It is therefore also necessary to monitor how people themselves experience the intended changes in policies and practices, in equity and non-discrimination through active participation in the monitoring and evaluation processes. For this reason, the rights and results based M&E strategy includes these three common dimensions of change to monitor children’s rights and wellbeing. These are:

- (a) Monitoring changes in equity and non-discrimination of children and young people. Focussing on questions such as: whether rights are being better fulfilled, which rights are no longer being violated and are the most marginalised children reached. Such changes can be measured by tracking statistical trends on key indicators.
- (b) Changes in the performance of duty bearers pertaining to the implementation of policies and practices affecting children and young people’s rights. Responding to questions such as: Are duty bearers more accountable for the fulfilment, protection and respect of children’s rights and are policies developed and implemented that take into account their best interests and rights.
- (c) Changes in children’s and young people’s participation, active citizenship as articulated by themselves as rights holders. For example, are children claiming their rights or are they supported to do so and does opportunities exist to facilitate participation and the exercise of citizenship by children’s groups and others working for the fulfilment of child rights.

It is especially imperative to monitor and facilitate children’s own monitoring of the intended changes in policies and practices, in equity and non-discrimination through their active participation in the monitoring and evaluation processes. Promoting empowerment and development of the realization of children’s rights and well-being is about transforming structures, while also developing capacities of children and their families to engage in these processes. Children have long been excluded from environmental design and planning processes; but they are not future citizens—they are active citizens here and now, and must be engaged with, in respect of their realities as well as be an integral part in providing feedback on changes. Children are capable within their own developmental stages, of contribution if engaged in participative, creative ways, to provide this important but meaningful input.

5.3 How is this aligned to the DWCPD’S M&E Strategy?

The above discussion is in line with the DWCPD’s M&E conceptual framework for children’s rights and well-being as presented by the following diagrammatic representation. The diagramme indicates how the three dimensions of change can be monitored using an integrated monitoring regime and including 3 data streams:



- The DWCPD M&E Child Rights Strategy also include a description of the key stakeholders, methods and outputs involved to monitor children’s rights and well-being in each of the data streams described below. *Monitoring the trends in children’s well-being over time*

This implies the tracking of statistical/data trends (current and evolving aspects over time) in relation to the rights of children. This monitoring pillar (data stream) comprises mainly statistical data on the status of children.

- *Monitoring governments performance in realising the rights of children*

Monitoring municipal performance focusing on the activities that ensure that the realization of children’s rights and well-being are met in an effective and efficient manner in relation to the constitutional obligations and national goals

- *Monitoring the voices and experiences of children, families and communities*

The purpose of this data stream is to facilitate active participation of children, their families and communities in the monitoring and evaluation of their rights and well-being. This approach to a child rights and results-based M&E strategy enables the incorporation of qualitative data gathered from a range of stakeholder groups thus triangulating with the other two streams. The latter focuses on ‘external’ data sources, as opposed to hearing from those directly affected. Through a range of participatory engagements with local stakeholder groups, this pillar or data stream will involve:

- Identifying gaps in service delivery;
- Supporting and generating visibility for community needs and community-based solutions that will inform local, provincial and national dialogue
- Facilitating evidence-based government and civil society action work
- Regularized reporting and recommendations for change

Building strong relationships with civil society and monitoring organisations will therefore go a long way to strengthen the validity and integrity of the M&E process at local government level.

5.4 How can the CFC Framework strengthen local child rights monitoring systems?

Due to the absence of an existing local government level child rights M&E framework, the DWCPD together with key stakeholders developed a proposed M&E regime in line with the underlying principles and the DWCPD M&E Framework as described above. Accordingly, the CFC monitoring framework includes the following local government data streams:

- (a) A core set of municipal level child rights and wellbeing indicators to track child focused statistical trends
- (b) A instrument designed to assess the performance of municipalities on the implementation of the CFC Framework
- (c) A self assessment instrument designed to assist children and their parents to assess the responsiveness of municipalities to their needs and rights.

A discussion on each of these follows below.

5.4.1: Developing a core set of indicators to track statistical trends of children's rights and wellbeing on municipal level

The purpose of developing a core set of children's rights and well-being indicators was to strengthen and support local government level child rights and wellbeing monitoring systems and processes. This will promote informed advocacy and better evidenced based programming and resourcing for child rights delivery.

An "indicator" as used here, is a statement that can be scored to provide evidence that a certain condition exists; and "...a human rights indicator derives from, reflects and is designed to monitor the realization or otherwise of a specific human rights norm, usually with a view to holding a duty-bearer to account."¹⁹

In this context, human rights indicators, as with other types of indicators are about measuring the extent to which the duty bearer is meeting their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of its children; and the extent to which the rights holder (children) is enjoying their rights. At duty bearer level, indicators can be used to measure the extent to which municipalities are responsive and accountable; have knowledge and respect for children's rights, and have capacities to implement laws and policies in regard to child rights delivery.

For the purpose of the CFC Framework, the *process* of developing the indicators itself was as important as delivering the final set of indicators. This process therefore required a broad and structured consultative approach that included all the stakeholders that may ultimately have a stake in implementing the framework and using the indicators. This work was coordinated by a Steering Committee, comprising DWCPD, key government departments, technical experts, SAVE the Children South Africa and SALGA.

The process started with a literature review which culminated into a draft set of 100 indicators. The next phase involved the review and alignment of this initial list of indicators with a set of municipal level indicators received from the Department of Corporative Governance (DOCG). The DOCG indicators were used as a baseline to assess the availability of data and relevance of the indicators. It was important that the local government stakeholders could identify with the selected indicators and also provide data values for them. The two lists were integrated and served as the basis for consultations with the relevant sectors. This process was then followed by a further consultative process that finally resulted in the attached matrix of carefully selected key indicators for tracking child focused statistical data on children at local government level. The indicator set now include 45 indicators on the quality of the children's developmental context, their care situations and the services which they have a right to access. The following dimensions of children's lives are covered by the indicators:

- Social dimension
- Economic dimension
- Environmental/infrastructural dimension

As can be seen in the attached Annexure 1, a total number of 45 indicators were finally developed and clustered under the child rights domains as aligned and to respond to the reporting obligations of the international and regional treaty and country child rights priorities and obligations. These domains include: The right to an adequate standard of living; The right to survival, health and related services including mental health; The right to basic education and development; The right to safety to protection and safe physical environment and the right to participation.

The Children's Rights and Well-being indicators will strengthen the capacities and local municipality M&E systems, its data collection measures and the monitoring of progress in regard to children's rights and wellbeing. It is important to emphasise that most of the selected indicators are already an integral component of the existing municipality indicators. Those that impact on children have been reviewed,

¹⁹ (OHCHR. 2002. Draft Guidelines: A Human Rights Approach to Poverty Reduction Strategies, pp. 7-8)

selected and rephrased to reflect a child rights, well-being and governance perspective. The long term objective is to develop and capacitate the local government child rights monitoring framework and to incorporate these indicators into the DWCPD's Ulwazi Ngabantwana data system.

An overview and abstract of the selected child rights indicators for local government/municipalities

Domain	Description of domain	Example of an Indicator
The right to an adequate standard of living	This domain describes physical characteristics of children's home environments such as housing types, access to services such as water and electricity. It also includes indicators of economic well-being, access to social grants where eligible.	No. of households with children, assisted with rate rebates
The right to survival, health and related services including mental health;	This domain includes indicators of their physical well-being. It also includes indicators that describe their behaviours that place them at risk. Indicators of service provision are included	Rate of infant mortality per municipality
The right to basic education and development;	This domain includes indicators that describe children's enrolment in education, and their progression through the school system. Indicators of education service quality are included.	% of annual municipal budget allocations to ECD services and infrastructure
The right to safety to protection and safe physical environment;	This domain describes children who have been affected by maltreatment and abuse	No. of programmes in communities on child abuse, neglect, exploitation, substance abuse and gender based violence
The Right to participation.	Children will be included in the design, planning and evaluating of all processes that affect them	No. of active municipal based structures established to support, monitor and consult on children's rights

The number of indicators in each domain varies. There are more indicators in some domains that cover several elements of child rights and well-being. It is important to note that in some instances indicators will be relevant to more than one domain.

5.4.2: Assessing performance in regard to the implementation of the CFC Framework at the level of implementing municipalities and or wards.

This second tier or pillar of the CFC M&E Framework focuses on monitoring the performance of implementing municipalities and wards. The first essential step in the implementation of the framework is the development of a detailed plan that includes goals, objectives, partners, resources, budget and timelines. The implementation plan should incorporate as many information as possible and break down all the steps – from the administration of an event to the communication to the stakeholders, the schedule of meetings or trainings, the collection of survey data, the compilation of reports – that need to be undertaken. This will help to determine roles and responsibilities for all municipal services and civil society partners; have an overview and record of actions required towards the establishment of a child-friendly community and ensure accountability and transparency of the process.

In order to inform the development of the aforementioned implementation plan and support municipalities to evaluate how well they are performing regarding the CFC framework, a set of simple indicators has been developed. These indicators aim to inform municipalities on the principal processes that need to be carried out in order to better fulfil children’s rights and the progress they are making towards that goal.

The indicators are based on the nine building blocks presented in the framework (Children’s Participation, Child-Friendly Legal Framework, Community-Wide Children’s Rights Strategy, Children’s Rights Unit or Coordinating Mechanism, Child Impact Assessment and Evaluation, Children’s Budget, Regular State of the Community’s Children Report, Making Children’s Rights Known, Independent Advocacy for children) and the interventions, strategies or mechanisms that would need to be implemented.

The indicators suggested in this performance scoring M&E tool are rather output indicators, which means that they give information on the type of services or mechanisms that are put in place rather than on longer term results regarding children’s rights. For example, one of the indicators measures whether or not a coordination structure has been put in place and is meeting regularly but not if this structure is generating tangible results for children. For a results-based implementation of the CFC framework, it is essential for municipalities to analyse conjointly these indicators with the municipality-level indicators (see chapter 5.4.1). This would ensure constant learning about which strategies have produced improvements in children’s lives.

This tool can of course be adapted to the specific needs or current situation of municipalities. The indicators should therefore be used to guide initial strategic planning discussions and be amended thereafter. The tool is attached as annexure 2 of this framework.

5.4.3 Self-assessment instruments to facilitate the participation and inclusion of the voices of children, their parents and communities

This third tier or monitoring pillar is representative of including children’s active participation in monitoring the progress in relation to the responsiveness of municipalities to their rights and needs. This Self-assessment toolkit adapted from the global CFC toolkit, was designed to ensure that the voices of children and their parents/caregivers are heard within the monitoring process. It assesses, from their point of view, how child friendly their communities are. The tools consist of assessing primary focus areas of the home environment; educational resources (schools, libraries etc.); safety; work, play, recreation; community solidarity and social inclusion; community governance. These self-assessment tools will be administered individually and/ or in group settings, to children and their parents/ caregivers.

Qualitative data is collected that is analysed to identify priority areas for action to enhance living conditions for children. Whereas the quantifiable information obtained through the indicators has strengths in providing accurate and precise “hard data” to prove that certain problems exist, within a broader population; while establishing baseline information which can be used for evaluating impact.

measurements can be sequenced with qualitative methods to provide in-depth analysis of why changes have or have not occurred.

The questionnaires enable children, parents or caregivers to provide their perceptions of the current situation of children's living conditions in a given community. Enabling children in a community, and the adults who care for them, to respond to the questions on children's rights and living conditions, would drive a richer, more inclusive monitoring process.

This assessment process could be conducted in a school, and other settings to ensure that children who are not in schools have opportunities to participate and in order to obtain the high levels of representativeness required in the community. Children with disabilities, or those not attending school or living on the streets, may not always feel comfortable or confident to share their perspective. If some children consistently live and sleep on the streets of the community their perspectives also need to be obtained by working through those who have the closest contact with them. Hence NGOs could assist in administering the questionnaires, to ensure that children's involvement in the assessment; monitoring and evaluation will be safe, pragmatic and meaningful.

It is proposed that the following community participatory workshops be held, which will form the key part of the Community assessment:

- Municipal-wide children or youth forum, if one exists
- Community service providers (e.g. NGOs, CBOs) (in each of the identified communities)
- Children aged 13 – 18 (in each community) (divided into boys and girls for discussion where appropriate)
- Parents of children aged less than 9 (in each community)

Workshops using the adapted Community assessment tools could be held with these groups. The specific guidance on by whom and the logistics of implementing the self assessments is a discussion best held with specific participating municipalities rather than in this general CFC framework. The self assessment tool is annexure 3 of the framework.

The M&E guidance and tools provided above is a unique and fairly new M&E practice. For this reason it is seen as developmental in both its design and application. Consistent reviews and feedback on its usefulness will therefore be a key element of the implementation of the CFC Framework.

CONCLUSION

This CFC Framework will be accompanied by a set of implementation guidelines issued by DWCPD at workshops with implementing municipalities, wards and communities.

CFC initiatives are rapidly developing in other regions of the world. They indicate the creativity and commitment of communities, children and their governments to place children at the centre of the development agenda. a daily practice. Likewise, the development of the CFC Framework in South Africa could provides an important opportunity to reflect on the practical implementation of Children's Legislation, and to have a shared vision with local communities, that care deeply for its children, by practically improving the conditions of their daily lives. This demonstrates the commitment of our nation as articulated in the following words of, the late former President Nelson Mandela:

“Our Children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who will be responsible for and protect our people.” Nelson Mandela (3 June 1995).

ANNEXURE 1: PROPOSED INDICATORS OF CHILDRENS' RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING AT MUNICIPALITY LEVEL

Disaggregation	Sex: male, female
	Age group: <5 years (6-59 months), 10- 17 years
	Location: urban, rural, ward
	Timeframe: per annum

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source
DOMAIN: THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING (UNCRC ARTICLE 27; SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION S.26)						
THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY (UNCRC ARTICLE 26; SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION S.27.1c)						
Demography		1	No. of children In South Africa	Disaggregation in District, gender, age group, race, children with disabilities, income quintile		StatsSA, GHS, Children's count (www.childrencount.ci.org.za)
Services	% of population that have access to electricity	2	No. of households that have access to electricity	Proportion of children living in a household which using the GHS definition has electricity from the mains supplier. Disaggregate by Province, Income Quintile, population group, gender, and age (0-17; 0-5; 6-12; 13 – 17).		Sources: StatsSA, GHS Local Government

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source
Services	% of population that has access to refuse removal services Number of households with basic waste collection No. of licensed landfill/waste disposal sites Proportion of population that have access to sanitation services	3	No. of children who have access to adequate sanitation in their homes	Proportion of children living in a household which using the GHS definition has a flush toilet, chemical toilet or pit latrine with ventilation pipe. Disaggregate by Province, Income Quintile, population group, gender, and age (0-17; 0-5; 6-12; 13 – 17).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe water for usage and good hygiene practices due to improved amenities for sanitation, refuse etc. 2. Children are exposed in water & sanitation consideration campaigns to ensure clean, safe water and adequate sanitary habits. 3. Water and sanitation facilities are balanced in terms of gender and age. 4. Communal latrine and bathing cubicles for children are in safe locations identified by children, provide privacy, are adequately illuminated and are accessible for those with disabilities. 5. Long queues and other burdens pose a risk to women and children and should be avoided. 6. There should be sufficient taps to ensure there are not long queues 7. There should be separate latrines for boys and girls, to protect safety and respect of boundaries. 8. To determine if children are exposed to abusive behaviour by caregivers, educators, peers or other adults, especially in relation to physical and emotional 	Sources: Local Government StatsSA, GHS
Services	No. of indigent households with access to free basic water	4	% of households that have children who have access to safe piped water in their dwelling or yard	Proportion of children living in a household which using the GHS definition have safe piped water. Disaggregate by Province, Income Quintile, population group, gender, and age (0-17; 0-5; 6-12; 13 – 17).		Local Government; StatsSA GHS. http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of housing units allocated vs. total number of houses built Hectares of municipal land released for human settlement development No. of low cost houses allocated in a financial year 	5	No. of dwellings allocated to child-headed households	<p>Adequate Housing: Proportion of children living in a formal dwelling defined in the GHS as: a structure built according to approved plans, i.e. house on a separate stand, flat or apartment, townhouse, room in backyard, rooms or flat elsewhere. Disaggregate by Province, Income Quintile, population group, gender, and age (0-17; 0-5; 6-12; 13 – 17).</p>	<p>abuse.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Children need to have a shelter that protects them from the weather. This is an indication of economic status and child equity within households. According to Children Count (http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za): “Formal brick or cement-block houses that meet the standards set by the State for quality housing can be considered ‘habitable housing’ if they meet the other requirements for habitability, whereas informal housing, such as corrugated-iron shacks or plastic shelters, would generally not be considered ‘habitable housing’.” For international reporting (UNCRC, African Charter, Millennium Development Goals To monitor government performance. 	<p>StatsSA GHS. Department of Human Settlements</p> <p>StatsSA GHS. Department of Human Settlements</p>
		6	No. of dwellings allocated to families with disabilities			
		7	% of households who are living in overcrowding conditions			
Infra-structure	No. of regional bulk infrastructure projects completed	8	% of public, school, and other municipal facilities meeting accessibility design standards			<p>Sources: GHS Local Government DBE</p>

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source	
Child Poverty	No. of indigent households with access to free basic water	9	No. of households with children, assisted with rate rebates	The poverty line was set at a per capital household income of R575 per month in 2010. Per capita income is calculated dividing total household income (including all grants), by the number of members of the household. Disaggregate by Province, group, gender, and age (0-17; 0-5; 6-12; 13 – 17).	Child poverty is associated with the widest range of insults to child survival, health and development. For international reporting (UNCRC, African Charter, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The UNCRC refers to children having an “adequate standard of living”.	Measure: The poverty line was set at a per capital household income of R575 per month in 2010. Per capita income is calculated dividing total household income (including all social grants), by the number of members of the household. Disaggregate by Province, population group, gender, and age (0-17; 0-5; 6-12; 13 – 17). Source: Statistics South Africa General Household Surveys (GHS). See also http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za	
			% of caregivers accessing Child support grants	Number of children in receipt of the grant. Disaggregate by Province, Income Quintile (to estimate need), population group, gender, and age (0-12 months 0-17; 0-5; 6-12; 13 – 17).	Monitors access of children to social security, which protects their right to an adequate standard of living for survival and development.	Source: South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) SOCPEN System.	
			% of caregivers accessing foster care grants				Source: South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) SOCPEN System.
			% of caregivers accessing Care Dependency grants				Source: South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) SOCPEN System. http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za
DOMAIN : THE RIGHT TO SURVIVAL, HEALTH AND RELATED SERVICES INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH AND RISK BEHAVIOUR UNCRC ARTICLES 3, 6, 23, 24, 25 & 39; SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION S. 27 & 28							
Access to primary health care	No. of clinics that have access to basic services	13	% of children below 5 years fully immunised		This is access to preventive health services and predicts future well-being. To have a card displaying vaccinations for TB; polio drops; OPV2; OPV1; OPV3; DPT; measles according to national standards on the complete set	Sources: NDoH – DHIS/HST; MRC Local Government Stats SA	

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source
		14	Rate of infant mortality per municipality	IMR is the number of deaths of infants under 12 months of age, in a given period of time, per 1 000 live births in the same period.	of immunizations and age standards Track reductions in infant (under one year) child mortality. Proxy measure of determinants of survival, including socio-economic and health service status of a country. For international reporting (UNCRC, African Charter, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)).	Sources: MRC, NDoH & StatsSA. Deaths obtained from the National Population Register; Birth estimates derived from the AASSA2008 model.
		15	% of women who have at least a minimum of 5 pre-natal visits		Make sure that all the affected population has access to health facilities including: orphans, child-headed households, street children, young girls, children with disabilities	Source: NDoH Local Government
		16	No. of primary health care clinics managed by the municipality			Source: NDoH-DHIS/HST Local Government
		17	No. of health facilities within a 5 km radius	The GHS question is: "How long does it take when using the usual means of transport to get to the health facility that your household normally goes to?" Children Count states that where "children would have to travel more than 30 minutes to their usual health facility, the distance is categorised as 'far'. In cases where children would spend 30 minutes or less to reach their health care facility, the distance is	According to Children Count (http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za) this indicator reflects the distance from a child's household to the health facility they normally attend. Proximity to health services is essential for accessing both preventive and treatment services. To monitor Provincial DoH performance.	Source: GHS. NDoH-DHIS/HST Local Government

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source
				categorised as 'not far' ³³ Proportion of children reported to travel 'far' to reach their nearest health facility. Disaggregate by Income Quintile and population group		
Access to pre-natal health care, services if pregnant, sexually active, have sexually transmitted diseases		14	No. of children who received information on sexual reproductive health from local health centres			Source: NDoH Local Government
		15	HIV prevalence in children			ASSA2008/ Johnson
		16	HIV prevalence in pregnant women			NDOH Ante-natal
Nutrition programmes		17	No. of programmes to educate on healthy & balanced nutrition aimed at children			Source: NDoH SADHS, NYRBS Local Government
Risk behaviours -		18	Teenage birth rate (13 – 18 years) per district	Proportion of all live births during a specific year that are to women who are between 13 and 18 years of age, irrespective of marital status per 100 births among women of all ages.	Teenage pregnancy and childbirth disrupt the life of a child and increases the risk of poor developmental outcomes in her offspring. It reduces educational and work opportunities for the mother and is likely to contribute to inter-generational poverty.	Source: NDoH: Maternal Registry
		19	No. of pregnant adolescents provided with anti-natal services			
DOMAIN: THE RIGHT TO BASIC EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT 1: EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING GRADE R						
UNCRC ARTICLES 3(3), 7, 18, 23						
Schools to have basic amenities		20	No. of schools with or have access basic services		1. Need to determine children who progressed in school by checking if	Source: DBE; EMIS, NEIMS

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source		
School attendance		21	No. of children who dropped out of primary school in the last financial year	Learners who leave the education system without completing a given grade, expressed as a percentage of learners who remain in the education system in a given grade. Disaggregate by Province and by School Quintile as an equity indicator, and by gender. Report drop-out rate for ELSEN.	they are passing grades. If children have dropped out of school to understand why this has happened. Is it due to lack of financial means, school too far, or sick, does not like school, needs to care for sick children 2. Location of the school (short and safe distance from home) 3. All children have access to school, included separated children, orphans, disabled children and street children. 4. Children are informed and there is a mechanism for supporting, reporting cases of abuse or exploitation and that actions are taken to prevent and treat such cases. 5. There exists a "safe school" policy with clear implementation actions. 6. There is a complaint mechanism for the affected population as well as reporting and investigating protocols for problems (e.g., cases of abuse and exploitation, discrimination in service delivery etc.)	Source: DBE		
		22	No. of children who dropped out of secondary school in the last financial year					
Early Childhood Development		23	No. of ECD facilities provided per municipality	Using the GHS definition: Proportion of 0-4 year olds attending a day care centre, crèche, early childhood development centre (ECD), playgroup, nursery school or pre-primary school. Disaggregate 0-2, 3-4		they are passing grades. If children have dropped out of school to understand why this has happened. Is it due to lack of financial means, school too far, or sick, does not like school, needs to care for sick children 2. Location of the school (short and safe distance from home) 3. All children have access to school, included separated children, orphans, disabled children and street children. 4. Children are informed and there is a mechanism for supporting, reporting cases of abuse or exploitation and that actions are taken to prevent and treat such cases. 5. There exists a "safe school" policy with clear implementation actions. 6. There is a complaint mechanism for the affected population as well as reporting and investigating protocols for problems (e.g., cases of abuse and exploitation, discrimination in service delivery etc.)	Source: StatsSA, GHS, /Local Government; DSD	
		24	% of annual municipal budget allocations to ECD services and infrastructure	Annual budgets allocated for ECD services in each relevant department: social development, health and education (including services to families and community-based programmes).				
Municipal education programmes and budgets		25	No. of ECD Centres with or have access basic services				they are passing grades. If children have dropped out of school to understand why this has happened. Is it due to lack of financial means, school too far, or sick, does not like school, needs to care for sick children 2. Location of the school (short and safe distance from home) 3. All children have access to school, included separated children, orphans, disabled children and street children. 4. Children are informed and there is a mechanism for supporting, reporting cases of abuse or exploitation and that actions are taken to prevent and treat such cases. 5. There exists a "safe school" policy with clear implementation actions. 6. There is a complaint mechanism for the affected population as well as reporting and investigating protocols for problems (e.g., cases of abuse and exploitation, discrimination in service delivery etc.)	Municipalities and Treasuries; Provincial DSDs
		26	No. of libraries per municipality					

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source
Proximity to school		27	No. of schools within a 5 km radius	The draft Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for School Infrastructure (DBE, 2008) provides that each school should have a catchment area radius of up to 3 kms and a total walking distance to and from school will be up to 6 kms.	South African data from the 2010 GHS shows that more than 76% of learners walk to school. 3% of the school population (300,000) walk for more than an hour to get to school. This is a function of both lack of transport and distance from home to school.	Source: Local Government DBE
DOMAIN: THE RIGHT TO SAFETY AND PROTECTION AND TO A SAFE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:						
1: ABUSE, NEGLECT AND VICTIMISATION						
(UNCRC ARTICLES 9, 19, 34, 39, 40; SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION S12 (1.c), S28 (1.d,e,f,h); CHILDREN'S ACT CHAPTER 7)						
Child Protection		28	No. of programmes in communities on child abuse, neglect, exploitation, substance abuse and gender based violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ill-treatment of a child; allowing ill-treatment of a child; abandonment of a child by a parent or guardian; failure to care for a child by a person who is legally liable to maintain them. This means that the parent, adoptive parent, foster parent or guardian must provide the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter and medical assistance; the commercial sexual exploitation of a child; allowing commercial sexual exploitation of a child to occur on your property; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community protection structures that are created that are child friendly and protect children and other vulnerable groups, at all times including after dark so they can feel safe and access services Children have access to psycho-social and medical support Children have been informed on Children's Rights, Protection, Gender-based Violence and HIV. 	Source: DSD DBE Municipalities NPOs CBOs
		29	% of children who accessed counselling services			Source: DOSD
		30	% of children who accessed supportive services for sexually abused children, including HIV testing, PEP and treatment for STIs			Source: DOH DOSD Municipality
		31	No. of child-headed households per municipality			GHS NDoH
		32	Orphaning including due to AIDS-related deaths			Measure: For each orphan category, the number and Proportion of children. Data at

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source
		33	No. of designated child protection organisations per municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orphans are classified as a) Double: both parents deceased; b) Maternal: mother is deceased; c) Paternal: father is deceased. Total orphans are the sum of a), b) and c). 		National and Provincial level to be provided and stratified by Gender and age (0-17; 0-5; 6-12; 13 – 17). Denominator is the relevant child population. Source: MRC, NDoH, StatsSA, GHS; DSD, Actuarial Society of South Africa (ASSA) models Source: DSD NPOs
		34	No. of Drop-in Centres per municipality			
Child Safety		35	No. of child victims of accidents (including accidental burnings) in their homes			Source: NDoH Stats SA SAPS GHS
		36	No. of speed humps in the vicinity of a school per municipality			Source: Local Government DBE
		37	No. of bridges constructed to ensure safer access for children to schools			Source: Local Government DPW
		38	No. of pedestrian crossings per school, per municipality			Source: Local Government DBE DoT
Safe spaces		39	No. of street lights installed in residential areas per municipality			Source: Local Government
		40	% of hotspots for crimes against children identified and safeguarded for children			Source: SAPS DSD Municipalities
		41	No. of Violence Prevention programmes initiated by the			Source: DSD Municipalities NGOs

Category	Municipal Indicators	No	Recommended Indicators	Definitions	Reason for use/ Purpose	Data source
Safe Parks		42	<p>municipality</p> <p>No. of designated secured play areas per municipality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is about having the opportunity to express a view, influencing decision-making and achieving change; is the informed and willing involvement of all children, including the most marginalised and those of different ages and abilities, in any matter concerning them; Is a way of working and an essential principle that cuts across all arenas – from homes to government, from local to international levels 		Source: Local Government DBE
DOMAIN: THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION						
UNCRC ARTICLE 12						
Child Participation		43	No. of structured programmes and platforms to facilitate children's participation	Child-friendly information material on IDP development and review processes, municipal policies, budgets and children's rights initiatives	<p>The purpose of the indicator is to measure the quality and the scope of child participation</p> <p>1. Children are involved from the beginning in the analysis, planning, design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation of projects that affect their well-being based on their 'evolving capacities to participate'.</p>	Source: Municipalities SALGA
		44	No. of children participating in local government IDP activities			Source: Municipalities SALGA
		45	No. of active municipal based structures established to support, monitor and consult on children's rights			Source: Municipalities SALGA Local Government

ANNEXURE 2: MONITORING PERFORMANCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CFC FRAMEWORK

Category	Indicator	Definition	Mean of Verification
Children's Participation	No. of information materials targeting children on IDP processes developed and disseminated	Child-friendly information material on IDP development and review processes, municipal policies, budgets and children's rights initiative	Information materials
	No. of children participating in local government IDP activities	Children participating in ward committees, public meetings, council meetings open to the public, community surveys, Izimbizo, IDP Road shows and other participation mechanisms during IDP development and review processes	Attendance Registers, surveys
Child-Friendly Legal Framework	No. of local government policies reviewed to ensure alignment with UNCRC, the South African Constitution and related policies for children		Policy review documents
	No. of guidelines on the implementation of the Children's Act and other policies for children municipal-specific provisions developed		Guidelines documents
Community-Wide Children's Rights Strategy	Situation analysis on the condition of children in the municipality conducted		Situation Analysis document
	Community-wide coordinated Children's Rights Strategy developed and implemented		Children's Rights Strategy document
Children's Rights Unit or Coordinating Mechanism	High level and cross-cutting Children's Rights Unit established	This Unit is responsible for the following: promotion of the CFC framework, coordination of policies and plans affecting children, drafting, development and monitoring of the Community-Wide Children's Rights Strategy	Terms of Reference
	No. of meetings of the Children's Rights Unit held		Attendance Register
	No. of Departments that		Attendance Register

Category	Indicator	Definition	Mean of Verification
	participated in at least half of the Children's Rights Unit meetings		
Child Impact Assessment and Evaluation	No. of children, parents or caregivers participating in the impact self-assessment		Self-assessment forms
	No. of reports publicising the results of the Child Impact Assessment	Reports disseminated through municipality channels, including Council sittings and State of the Province or State of the Municipality Reports	Reports
A Children's Budget	Budget Analysis on expenditures towards children conducted	The Budget Analysis should contain a framework to examining how expenditures impact upon children budget	Budget Analysis report
	% increase/decrease of budget spent on children's rights	Difference of current budget in comparison with previous financial year that is allocated to children's rights, access to services (health, education, protection, social care) and infrastructures dedicated to children	IDP annual budget
A Regular State of the Community's Children Report	No. of indicators from the CFC children's rights and well-being framework against which data is collected, collated and analysed		CFC children's rights and well-being framework
	State of the Community's Children Report developed and disseminated		State of the Community's Children Report
Making Children's Rights Known	Integrated communication strategy on children's rights developed		Integrated communication strategy document
	% of local government officials working with and/or for children trained on children's rights and legal framework for children		Training material, attendance register
	No. of existing training programmes for local government officials amended to cover the mainstreaming of children's rights		Training materials
Independent Advocacy for children	Municipal complaint mechanism for violations of children's rights	The mechanism should be linked to existing national reporting institutions	TOR, concept documents

Category	Indicator	Definition	Mean of Verification
	established and functioning	(Chapter 9) that feed into regional and international reporting mechanisms	
	No. of formal partnerships between local government and civil society organisations for the monitoring of children's rights		MOUs, partnership agreements, CSO annual reports



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