

IMPERATIVES FOR
STRONGER FAMILY
SUPPORT SYSTEM

MONICA
WOODHOUSE

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An initiative led by the South African Child Rights Coalition (SANCRC) for supportive, nurturing families in South Africa



South Africa has a weak family support system



We have pieces, but when put together they do not succeed in promoting well-being, prevention



Too much invested in protection



System of family support to promote thriving families and children is marked by gaps

THE PROBLEM

**RE-ACTIVE
NOT
PRO-ACTIVE**

WHAT DO CHILDREN NEED TO SURVIVE, BE PROTECTED AND DEVELOP TO FULL POTENTIAL?

Nurturing Care

- ✓ Health
- ✓ Nutrition
- ✓ Responsive caregiving
- ✓ Safety and security
- ✓ Learning and stimulation

WHO, UNICEF and World Bank global, evidence-based framework



WHY STRONGER FAMILY SUPPORT?



WHEN FAMILIES THRIVE – CHILDREN THRIVE!!!

Our Goal

To strengthen the system of integrated and comprehensive support provided to parents, families and caregivers to enable their provision of nurturing care across all **five domains** required to secure the development of the children in their care to their full potential.

OBJECTIVES OF FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

ONE:



To strengthen government-wide systematisation of the **National Child Care and Protection Policy** and the **National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy** to establish and operationalise the developmental child care and protection system the policies commit to institutionalizing, specifically to strengthen the promotive and preventative components of the system through the following activities:

- a. **Critical review of progress and gaps in systematising the two policies**
- b. **Research** as to the **support vulnerable families require** in South Africa's current socio-economic context to overcome their risks and challenges to provide nurturing care
- c. A **national nurturing care conference** to share results and develop a system strengthening agenda for nurturing care
- d. **Development** and distribution of **policy and advocacy briefs highlighting systemic weaknesses and system's strengthening measures** required
- e. **Advocacy** at global, regional, national, provincial and

OBJECTIVES OF FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

TWO:



The adoption of **effective laws mandating government-wide** actioning of the policy commitments through **prioritisation, planning, provisioning, monitoring and accountability** for the full suite of integrated services required to **build resilience and capacity of parents, families and caregivers to promote children's development and prevent abuse and poor development outcomes** through the following activities:

- a. **Legislative review** to identify key legal impediments and gaps preventing or inhibiting implementation of the policy commitments
- b. **National conference** of members and stakeholders to review results and develop legal amendments to strengthen the enabling environment
- c. **Advocacy** at global, regional, national, provincial and local levels for strengthening the enabling legal framework for nurturing care.

OBJECTIVES OF FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

THREE:



The **development** and **delivery** of critical developmentally promotive and **preventative programmes** and services as part of an integrated **package of family support** currently not provided, including:

- i. **Health and nutrition** for development and prevention of disability and stunting;
- ii. **Parenting support for responsive caregiving.**

This objective will be pursued through the following activities:

- a. The development of **evidence-based, costed programmes** to be delivered through integration into existing delivery platforms such as the primary health care platform and **community-based outreach programmes**
- b. **Advocacy** at global, regional, national, provincial and local levels for implementation of the programmes.

OBJECTIVES OF FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

FOUR:



Improved human resources for **developmental planning for the provision of nurturing care** and for delivery of developmentally supportive **services to families** and children at risk through the following activities:

- a. **Review of current planning and delivery capacity** of government and civil society role players against the requirements for effective developmental planning and implementation to **identify strengths, weaknesses** and develop recommendations for strengthening the workforce for nurturing care
- b. **Advocacy** at global, regional, national, provincial and local levels for implementation of the recommendations.

OBJECTIVES OF FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

FIVE:



Budget

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Increased allocation of public resources to support implementation of a **package of promotive and preventative support** services for nurturing care through the following activities:

- a. **Budget review** – national, provincial and local of allocations for promotive and preventative services for nurturing care
- b. **Costing of the programme** of nurturing care defined under item 3 above
- c. **Advocacy for increased and equitable allocations** in the national, provincial and local budgets to implement the programme of family support for nurturing care.

OBJECTIVES OF FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

SIX:



Strengthen information management and monitoring systems to ensure:

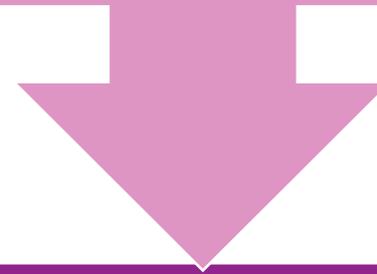
- i. The **identification of families and children at risk** and their referral for support
- ii. The **monitoring and reporting of family / caregiver** access to the package of support required to enable nurturing care (not just access to some services) and children's access to all nurturing care domains
- iii. The **dissemination and use of data** by all role players to **improve planning** and provisioning for support for nurturing care

This objective will be pursued through the following activities:

- a. A **review** of current information **management systems** and development of recommendations for **strengthening an integrated system**
- b. **Advocacy** at global, regional, national, provincial and local levels for implementation of the recommendations.

QUESTIONS FOR THE MEMBERS

Do we as members agree with this as a thematic focus area and recognise the strategic importance of the goal and objectives?



Do we have any questions and suggestions for additional priorities

- a. General members
- b. Children's organisations/representatives

