



## South Africa



**End Violence  
Against Children**  
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

### Government focal points

**Conny Nxumalo**  
Deputy Director General of the  
Ministry of Social Development

Pathfinding since December 2017



**Government  
Contacts and  
References**

### Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

**2000**

South Africa ratified the [African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child](#).

**2005**

The Children's Act was adopted, putting into effect certain rights of children as set forth in the Constitution and setting out principles related to the care and protection of children within the national policy framework. The Act was put into effect in 2010.

**2012**

South Africa's Cabinet established an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to address violence against women and children.

**2013**

South Africa's Cabinet approved a 5-year Programme of Action (POA-VAWC 2013-2018) to address violence against women and children. The programme was implemented by national child protection stakeholders and VEP sector.

**2018**

South Africa began a review of the POA-VAWC 2013-2018.

In November, a presidential summit took place with commitments to end gender-based violence and femicide.

**2018**

In November, the Constitutional Court debated the constitutionality of a law banning "moderate and reasonable chastisement," but has not yet delivered its judgment as of April 2019.



**Multi-stakeholder  
Collaboration and  
Consultation  
with Children**

The Inter-Ministerial Committee is composed of ministers from different government agencies, including Social Development; Justice and Constitutional Development; Women, Children and People with Disabilities; Health; Home Affairs; Police; Communications; and Basic Education.

A revision process of the 2015-2018 Programme of Action, under the leadership of the Department of Social Development (DSD), found that it had never been officially launched or fully implemented and that the drafting process had not included consultations with children and civil society. To remedy this, the drafting of the next Programme of Action has attempted to address previous shortcomings by convening a consultation process with national childcare and child protection stakeholders in order to most effectively plan, deliver, and evaluate interventions. The revised National Programme of Action (NPOA) will include stakeholders from multiple sectors, including from civil society and provincial governments, and will promote greater investment into prevention and early interventions by various strategic partners. Women, children, adolescents, and LGBTIQ representatives were consulted in the revision process to ensure that their views were reflected in the plan and its interventions. The revised NPOA was originally expected in February 2019, but has been delayed to align it with developments from the presidential summit on gender-based violence in November 2018. The NPOA will be aligned with the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence Against women and Girls, a broader government plan under the leadership of the President.

### Investments from the End Violence Fund

- **UNICEF South Africa** is building knowledge and skills, strengthening legislation and engaging with industry to implement online safety standards.
- **South Africa** is one of the 14 countries where the large-scale data collection and research project supported by the Fund, **Disrupting Harm**, will assess the scale, nature and context of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 14 countries across Southern and Eastern Africa and Southeast Asia.



## Data Collection and Situation Analysis

- In 2015, Save the Children Africa conducted a study which indicated that violence against children cost the country the equivalent of US\$17 billion over the course of the year for services provided to children who experienced different forms of violence.
- In 2016, the Optimus Study on Child Abuse, Violence and Neglect in South Africa was released, tracking lifetime prevalence of violence against children as self-reported by 15-17 year old South Africans. The study includes information on the prevalence of child sexual abuse, non-sexual child maltreatment, exposure to family violence and exposure to other forms of violence. The study found that exposure to and experience of violence against children is not uncommon for both girls and boys. They have also recently reviewed prevention and responses to ending violence against children in order to implementation and scale up evidence-based programmes and services.
- In 2016, South Africa completed a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), which included questions on child discipline and domestic violence.



## Collective Action and INSPIRE

- As part of implementing the recommendations from the Stockholm Solutions Summit, the Department of Social Development (DSD), in consultation with stakeholders and civil society, adopted the use of INSPIRE's seven strategies model to structure the revision of the National Plan of Action for Children. In December 2018, in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs), INGOs and UNICEF, the Department of Social Development initiated a South African Positive Parenting Campaign in prevision of a ban of corporal punishment of children in the home through a Constitutional Court judgment or the amended Children's Act.
- A historic Presidential Summit in November 2018 leveraged commitments to ending gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide, including against girls. An Interim Structure on GBV has been put into place, operating through various task teams to address key areas to ensure that services for victims of violence are more streamlined, a GBV Council is set up to coordinate interventions, and an NSP is developed based on previously existing plans.
- In October 2018, 30 representatives from non-governmental organizations, government departments, international organizations and the research community gathered for the seventh session of the National Dialogue Forum. The Dialogue Forum has brought together stakeholders since 2015 to work collectively to bring evidence-based programmes to prevent violence to scale in South Africa. It is convened by the Institute for Security Studies with a driver group comprised of officials from different governmental departments as well as UNICEF, GIZ, and Save the Children SA. The forum has mapped the policy environment and produced four policy briefs authored by various stakeholders on different topics, including the importance of violence prevention, resourcing for violence prevention, the significance of implementation research, and factors that stand in the way of violence prevention.
- Media Monitoring Africa, ISS, Save the Children SA, DBE, DPME, DSD, SVRI, and UNICEF have launched a two-year campaign to raise awareness around VAC focusing on engaging political parties and politicians, religious leaders, and senior policymakers around the topic of ending violence against children.

## Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2016.  
Underwent UPR 2017.



Reported to the High-Level  
Political Forum in 2016.



Will submit next CRC report  
in 2022.



## Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

### Build political will/ global movement

1. Use the Children's 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment bill as an opportunity to fully prohibit corporal punishment in the home.
2. Communicate on and implement 2018's Presidential Summit commitments to eradicate GBV and femicide, including by establishing a more effective multi-sectoral coordination mechanism between line departments and civil society at all levels.
3. Assist with, track progress, and follow documentation as South Africa presents its progress in monitoring SDG goal 16.2 at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019.

### Resource mobilization

4. Use the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) in October as a moment to organize a donor roundtable around the drivers of violence study, to launch the national action plan (expected end of summer 2019), to assist with a mapping of services for victims of violence, and for allocation at the provincial level for prevention and early intervention programmes.

### Equip practitioners

5. Document the Cash and Care program in Johannesburg.
6. Based on the Dialogue Forum, design coordinated actions around INSPIRE based on sub-national action plans.
7. With ISS and Save the Children, review how the seven INSPIRE strategies are translated to identify gaps and future actions.
8. Finalize the Intersectoral Protocol on the Prevention and Management of Violence, Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation and train practitioners in the protocols.