social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CAPACITY AND INFASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT RESEARCH PROPOSAL
SOUTH AFRICAN CHILD PROTECTION SURVEILLANCE STUDY (SACPSS)
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1. SACPSS PROJECT INTRODUCTION

South Africa's legal and policy environment embraces a child rights approach which is supported by a progressive legal and policy framework for the development and well-being of children. In pursuit hereof, the Department of Social Development (DSD) identified the need for a more systematic approach to child abuse, neglect and exploitation data and recognized the value a **surveillance system** will add to current child protection data collection efforts. This led to the establishment of a project office at the National DSD responsible for the development and implementation of such a surveillance system for child protection, the **South African Child Protection Surveillance Study (SACPSS)** Project.

2. SACPSS PROJECT BACKGROUND

The SACPSS Project has been in the making since 2004. The DSD initiated a process to explore the feasibility and likely practical implications for the development of a surveillance system for child abuse, neglect and exploitation. Following an extensive consultative process with key stakeholders, the NGO sector and other government partners, a Project Implementation Plan (PIP) was developed by the DSD. In 2008 funding for the project was secured from the **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)** and 2009 saw the establishment of the project office within the DSD.

The SACPSS Project responds to the need for accurate, reliable and timely data on child abuse as underscored in a number national instruments, including the Children's Act and the National Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (National Policy Framework), as well as international instruments on children's rights, which the Government of South Africa has ratified, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The SACPSS Project entails a research study that will be focused on understanding the scope and dynamics of child abuse, neglect and exploitation in South Africa. The data and analysis from the SACPSS Project will be translated into more targeted, effective and evidence-based child protection responses in South Africa.

3. SACPSS PROJECT PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen and improve the child protection system and services in South Africa. The purpose of the project is to conduct a national study on child abuse, neglect and exploitation to develop the foundation for a surveillance system to inform policy and program development, and advocacy for the protection of children. The intended outcomes of the SACPSS project are:

• Improved inter-sectoral coordination and communication between all child protection stakeholders

• Improved gender sensitive management of child abuse, neglect and exploitation data by selected DSD child protection workers

• Improved child protection system in South Africa

4. BACKGROUND TO THE SACPSS CAPACITY AND INFASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

After a successful launch of the South African Child Protection Surveillance Study (SACPSS) on 01 June 2010, the project is entering the Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment phase. Building on the S.W.O.T. (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis conducted last year, the Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment will be carried out in provinces. As guided by The Children's Act, it will look at the current status quo on child protection service delivery infrastructure in provinces and regions.

Logic Model: Placement of the Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment

The Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment fits within Immediate Outcome 3: Improved child protection system in South Africa. Its outputs are intended to 1) assess child protection service delivery infrastructure and 2) make recommendations for the improvement of the child protection system and services developed. In particular, it relates to activities 3.1.2.1-2 and 3.1.2.1-2. See Logic Model:

3. Improved child protection system in South Africa (Intermediate Outcome) (Child Protect System Improvement + Surveillance System)		
↑	↑	↑
3.1 (Immediate Outcome) Increased capacity of child protection workers to respond to child protection service delivery challenges		
↑	↑	↑
3.1.1 (Outputs) Proposal on a National Surveillance System on Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Developed	3.1.2 Assessment of child protection service delivery infrastructure completed	3.1.3 Recommendations for the improvement of the child protection system and services developed
↑	↑	↑
3.1.1.1 (Activities) Develop MOU on data access	3.1.2.1 Conduct internal assessment of capacity and infra-structure related to CPS	3.2.1.1 Mapping of CP service delivery points
3.1.1.2	3.1.2.2	3.2.1.2

Facilitate agreement and adoption of MOU on data access	Identify and document Best Practice Model for Child Protection	Gap analysis on CP service delivery

Expected Outcomes of SACPSS Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment

The outcomes and findings of the Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment will inform service delivery recommendations across sectors regarding the child protection system in South Africa. Recommendations will be workshopped with all provinces and a report made available for CIDA and the DSD.

5. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This assessment is guided by the following conceptual anchors:

Structural Social Work:

Structural social work theory makes a connection between daily social work practice and the structure and dynamics of the local society. There is an underlying understanding and awareness on the part of a 'structuralist' of the context in which social work interventions take place. It takes into account the history, social, cultural, political and economic realities and offers a macro approach that challenges the existing power structures which often preserve inequalities. Furthermore, this theory puts the emphasis on the societal forces and power arrangements that create social conditions that generate or add to individual problems. A similar theory to this is the **ecological model**, which informed the S.W.O.T. analysis conducted in 2009. This approach looks at the complex and inter-related dynamics between individual, relationship, community and societal factors which lead to interpersonal violence.

Structural social work involves a two-tiered process: immediate relief or tension-reduction on one level accompanied by longer-term institutional and structural change. The logic model and the Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment for the SACPSS project can address both of these tiers. Service delivery challenges may come to the surface by understanding

the disparities, capacity and infrastructure within each province's child protection system as defined by Immediate Outcome Number 3. For example, an effort to relieve institutional challenges such as IT infrastructure could be a challenge. The response or immediate relief conducted on the part of the social worker, agency or government department is therefore more responsive and able to meet the needs of children and their families once these challenges are implicit.

Gender Mainstreaming & Social Relations Approach:

Furthermore, gender sensitive data will be collected in order to uncover and address the gender-specific aspect of child protection. Gender is a significant issue in South Africa when it comes to child protection, both with regards to service delivery and service users. Firstly, women are over-represented in all aspects of the implementation of the SACPPS. Notably, women are involved in leadership roles within the child protection sector. For example, the composition of the National Child Protection Committee is mainly women. Similarly, direct service provision in child protection (both statutory and NGO-based) is mainly conducted by women, as 95% of all registered social workers are female. Additionally, it is imperative that the surveillance study informs the basis of child protection system that will benefit the millions of women and their children who are impacted by maltreatment in South Africa.

Specific attention will be paid to the lives of women and children affected by violence in gathering the data (both in methodology and instrumentation) in order to inform gender-aware, gender-specific or gender-redistributive policies. A social relations approach is useful in conceptualizing the study. This approach asserts that gender and other inequalities are created and reproduced within structural and institutional factors by looking at the state, the market, the community and the family. These institutions all have: rules, resources, people, activities and power all of which engenders social relations. Based on analysis of the operation of these institutions, can policy be informed that can potentially enable women to work to change the identified factors that constrain them. Analysis for planning an effective child protection response in South Africa needs to examine how structural factors and the networks of social relations impact and/or are responsible for problems faced by women and what those effects are on women/children involved in the system. By bearing these institutional factors in mind when conducting the SACPSS study can 'gender-sensitive' data be realized.

Social Work Values & The Children's Act

Core social work values are found within in the South African amended Children's Act, 2005 therefore fundamentally guide the work of the South African Child Protection Surveillance Study (SACPSS) as well as the entire Children's Directorate. The post-apartheid era has brought about many changes in the social structure of South Africa, and since the democratization of government in 1994, a transformation of social welfare as related to children was required. The Act responds to new social order as well as the consequences of apartheid. A few critical values to note are:

Human Rights / Rights-based: Guided by the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as well as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the new Act strives to put the rights of the child before all else. For example, a child was removed from his/her home where abuse or neglect was present under the old laws. Rather, the new Act calls for the perpetrator to be removed so that the child's family life situation has less disruption. The Act also calls for Prevention (education, maternity health, grants, education) and Early Intervention (identifying 'at risk' or vulnerable parents) programming for children and families. The previous Act governed that government got involved only once harm had already been done to children.

Social Justice: Social justice within social work stands for the creation of a society in which people, individually and in community, can live decent lives and realize their full human potential. One example of how the Act strives to achieve this calls for the use of a Child Protection Register. The details and information of person's who abuse, neglect or exploit children will be kept on a Register (in Part B). The goal of this aspect of the Register is to capture and report information on child offenders so that they are deemed 'unsuitable' to parent or work with children and employers can access this information readily. By monitoring child abuse offenders on a nation-wide scale, equal access to the benefits of society for all South African children may be achieved. The Register is intended to prevent further harm from offenders and actively promote the social justice of children, as their life shall be free from harm, regardless of what province they live in.

Diversity Awareness / Sensitivity: There is a section in the new Act entitled Social, Cultural and Religious Practices which explains which practices are not allowed and which are under certain restrictions. These include: virginity testing, male circumcision, marriage and female genital mutilation. Various definitions of 'abuse' have also been taken into account including forms of exploitation and trafficking. The Act also allows for sensitivity to specific reasons behind certain religious or cultural practices and recognizes the ways each citizen is unique and different from others.

Indigenizing: The Act recognizes the unique situation of many of South African children and relies on the wisdom of local knowledge in how to respond. Approximately 2/3 of South African children live in poverty as a result of the apartheid

system, and approximately 7% of all South African children are orphans. Special protection regarding early childhood development, partial care, exploitation, trafficking, orphans and child-headed households has been taken into account and special provisions determined in the writing of this Act to deal with local issues. This information regarding the specific needs of South African children was gained by listening and utilizing local information.

Inter-professional Collaboration: The Act calls for a united front against Children's abuses using an inter-sectoral strategy. In addition to the Department of Social Development, Education, Finance, Health, Justice, Constitutional Development, and Police are heavily involved in the protection of children. There is also a clearly defined Child Protection System which includes the National Department of Social development, Provincial Departments and Designated Child Protection Organizations which are often NPOs (Non-Profit Organizations). A more unified approach is sought out in order to respond more comprehensively to children's needs.

Key Terms and Definitions

Abuse:	in relation to the child, means any form of harm or ill-treatment deliberately inflicted on a child, and includes-
	a) assaulting a child or inflicting any other form of deliberate injury to a child
	b) sexually abusing a child or allowing a child to be sexually abused
	c) bullying by another child
	d) a labor practice that exploits a child; or
	e) exposing or subjecting a child to behavior that may hard the child psychologically or emotionally
Child:	a person under the age of 18 years
Child protection:	is a broad term to describe philosophies, policies, standards, guidelines and procedures to protect children from both intentional and unintentional harm. The goal of child protection is to promote, protect and fulfill children's rights to protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

Child protection services: aim to safeguard the well-being of children. Protection services include prevention and early intervention services and are usually provided within the context of a legislative and/or strategy framework and include statutory services. These empower designated people or institutions to take specific actions that are deemed necessary to protect the integrity and well-being of the child within the social context of the family and community. Protective services work towards having families, children and individuals living in a safe and nurturing environment where their rights are promoted and their well-being is ensured.

Child protection system (1): refers to an integrated and coordinated network of services designed to promote the well-being of children by ensuring safety, achieving permanency, and strengthening families to successfully care for their children.

Child protection system (2): Comprehensive approaches to the protection of children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence and to the fulfillment of children's rights to protection.

Designated child protection organization: an organization designated in terms of section 107 to perform designated child protection services

Designated social worker: a social worker in the service of-

a) the Department or a provincial department of social development

b) a designated child protection organization

c) a municipality

Exploitation: in relation to a child, includes-

a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, including debt bondage or forced marriage

b) sexual exploitation

c) servitude

National Child Protection Register:	means the register referred to in section 111
Neglect:	in relation to a child, means a failure in the exercise of parental responsibilities to provide for the child's basic physical, intellectual, emotional, or social needs
Social Service Professional:	includes a probation officer, development worker, child and youth care worker, youth worker, social auxiliary worker and social security worker who are registered as such in terms of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act 110 of 1978)
Social Worker:	a person who is registered or deemed to be registered as a social worker in terms of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act 110 of 1978)
Surveillance:	where we find purposeful, routine, systematic, and focused attention paid to personal details, for the sake of control, entitlement, management, influence or protection.
Surveillance (within child protection):	a) can include a 'vertical' watching over of children across DSD systems including provinces, regions and NGOs. Also considers linkages with inter-sectoral departments such as justice, SAPS, education, health, home affairs and labor.
	b) can include a 'horizontal' watching over of children across protective systems and/or services. Considerations for (1) services, (2) IT systems and (3) laws and policies

6. SACPSS CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE METHODOLOGY

This assessment utilizes the strategy of inquiry called Community Based Research (CBR). CBR is defined as:

- a collaborative approach to research which acknowledges the unique contributions of each partner, seeks to meaningfully involve all partners in the research process, and strives for social change through the integration of knowledge and action

- various partners may be involved in CBR; however, it typically refers to bringing together community members, government and community-based organization representatives, and researchers to engage in research

- three components of CBR (collaboration, capacity building, and action) are particularly relevant to enhancing research engagement within the social service sector

Components are applicable to other disciplines but specific guidelines and resources for social service providers and researchers are needed given the complexities and uniqueness of the social service sector:

- building research collaborations between social work researchers and diverse, inter-professional social service agencies in light of limited fiscal and human resources specific to this sector

- reducing negative stereotypes about research held by social service practitioners through increasing levels and types of involvement to enhance research capacity given increasing pressures for research engagement in the social service sector

- ensuring that research contributes to social action in order to meet agency mandates of advocating for vulnerable populations and taking direct action to enhance social justice and well-being

<u>Research Questions:</u>

The conceptualized research themes and questions will be piloted by conducting informal visits with selected sites, to both Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. The research themes and questions are:

1. **CHILD PROTECTION DATA** – WHAT SYSTEMS (IT OR OTHERWISE) ARE IN PLACE FOR THE GATHERING, COLLECTING AND REPORTING TO PART A OF THE NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER? HOW IS INFORMATION ON CHILD PROTECTION CASES CAPTURED?

2. **CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE PROVISION** - HOW DOES CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE PROVISION AND DELIVERY TAKE PLACE IN THE PROVINCE? WHAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NGOS PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE SERVICE DELIVERY?

3. **CHILD PROTECTION WORKFORCE** – WHAT IS THE HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY OF THE CHILD PROTECTION WORKFORCE IN THE PROVINCE?

Key Partners

- Provincial Departments of Social Development, and in particular, Child Protection NCPC Provincial Coordinators will be our point of entry into Provincial offices to establish Regional and District capacity and infrastructure.
- CIDA provided technical support during the development of the SACPSS Logic Model
- TEAG will provide input and feedback to the Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment report and recommendations.

Instrumentation and Data Collection

The primary research method used during the Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment is **semi-structured focus group discussions** with 1-6 respondents, depending on the availability of provincial stakeholders at each identified site. The discussions are geared towards gathering information on the three themes mentioned above: child protection data, service delivery and workforce. A set of questions have been loosely devised, however, the primary interviewers (Miss Benjamin and Miss Strumm) are able to adapt the set of questions accordingly to suit the context, respondents and responses given. This gives the respondents a greater degree of ownership over the research process and will given them the space to openly discuss issues. Another advantage to this method is that it is relaxed and free-flowing without interruption by the researcher's agenda or bias. This approach allows for additional themes to emerge from the research context and issues are identified from the respondent's perspective.

Supplementary Data

Secondary data that will also inform the results of this assessment are found in the:

- South African Council for Social Service Professions live database of registered social workers nationally.
- National Child Protection Register.
- National Department of Social Development's Non-profit organizations (NPO) live database.
- Anecdotal notes/feedback from site visits to Child Welfare League South Africa regarding their role in Child Protection.
- Organograms collected from each provincial office
- Provincial Department of Social Development's database of Child Protection Non-governmental organizations (NGO) used within each district

Data Management & Analysis

Focus groups will be voice-recorded and transcribed by a contracted service provider. Transcribed conversations will then be analyzed and disseminated using Atlas TI qualitative software.

7. PLAN, BUDGET AND TIMELINE

See appendix A.

8. CONCLUSION

The Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment is an exciting step in the 5 year life of SACPSS. Information gathered will act as a baseline of information to learn from as the child protection system is sought to be improved within South Africa.

APPENDIX A:

PHASE	PRIMARY TASKS	SPECIFICS	DATE SPAN	APPROX. COST
1	➢ LIT REVIEW ➢ SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS	1. SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN DOCUMENT 2. SWOT DOCUMENT 3. REVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTION PROVISIONS UNDER THE NEW CHILDREN'S ACT 4. NPO DATABASE MEETING 5. REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER DATABASE AQUISITION 6. LITERATURE REVIEW ON SURVEILLANCE AND CHILD PROTECTION 7. AUDIT OF CHIEF DIRECTORATE RELATED ACTIVITIES 8. RESEARCH QUESTIONS, METHOD AND APPROACH (PROPOSAL) 9. LOGIC MODEL CONCEPTION	JUNE 7 -9 JUNE 7-9 JUNE 10 JUNE 14 – 16 JUNE 7 - 11 JUNE 14 - 16 JUNE 28 – JULY 2 JULY 5 – 10 JUNE 17	0 ZAR
2	➢ INSTRUMENTATION DEVELOPMENT	1. DEVELOPMENT OF INSTRUMENT 2. DESIGN OF DATA CAPTURE PROGRAMME	JUNE 7 – JULY 9 JUNE 7 – JULY 9	0 ZAR
	➢ DATA COLLECTION APPROACH AND SET-UP	1. OBTAIN CONTACT LIST 2. DRAW UP SCHEDULE FOR PROVINCIAL VISITS[1] 3. TELEPHONIC CONTACT TO SET-UP TIME FOR MEETING AND DATA COLLECTION 4. EMAIL DATA COLLECTION FORM	JUNE 14 – 16 JUNE 14 – 16 JUNE 16 JULY 9	0 ZAR
3	➢ DATA COLLECTION	1. PROVINCIAL VISITS AS PER SCHEDULE (DATA COLLECTION) 2. CAPTURING OF DATA 3. DATA CLEANING AND PREPARATION FOR ANALYSIS	JULY 12 – AUG 6 AUG 9 AUG 10	TOTAL:1 7 500[2]

[1] Tentative Provincial Visit Schedule: Western Cape July 15-16/North West July 27/Eastern Cape July 29-30/ Kwazulu-Natal Aug 4-5

[2] Tentative Cost Projections: FLIGHTS: 8 000 ZAR/HOTEL: 5 000 ZAR/TRANSPORT: 2 000 ZAR/FOOD & DRINK: 2 500 ZAR

PHASE	PRIMARY TASKS	SPECIFICS	DATE SPAN	APPROX. COST
4	➤ ANALYSIS AND REPORTING	1. ANALYSIS 2. WRITE-UP: REPORT OUTLINE 3. WRITE-UP: INTRODUCTORY SECTIONS 4. WRITE UP: ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	AUG 11 AUG 2 – 6 AUG 2 – 6 AUG 12 - 13	0 ZAR

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