

ANNUAL REPORT
2013

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CHILDREN
SHOULD
BE SEEN, HEARD
- AND SAFE

Child protection must also
mean harm prevention

UNICEF
SOUTH AFRICA

CHAMPIONS
FOR CHANGE

SECTION 06

Corporate partners and individual supporters
champion children's rights



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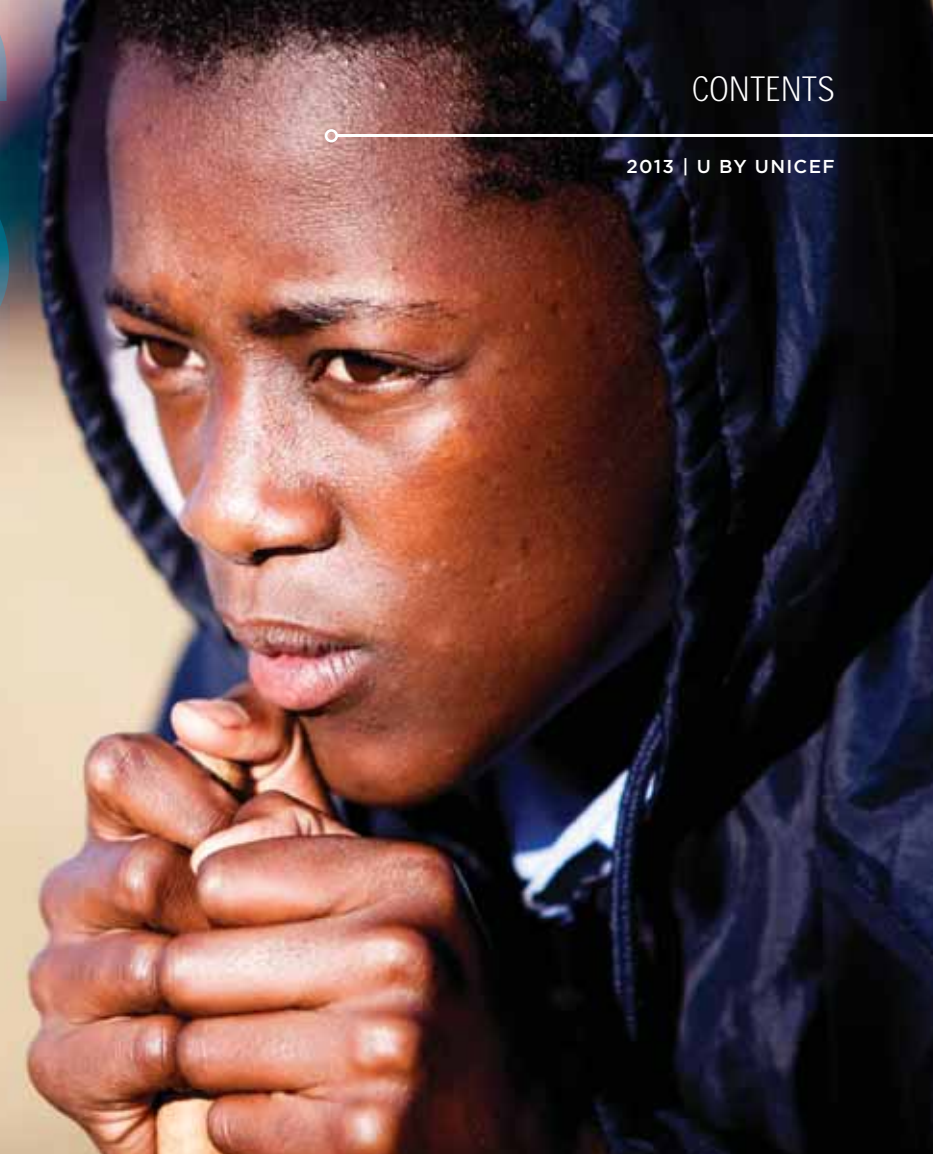
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Cover photo: In 2013, National Basketball Association All-Star Kyrie Irving played with youth during a visit to educational programmes supported by UNICEF's Schools for Africa initiative in Gauteng.



01 A PROMISING JOURNEY



A promising journey

South Africa's extensive social protection system is making a big impact on the lives of children.

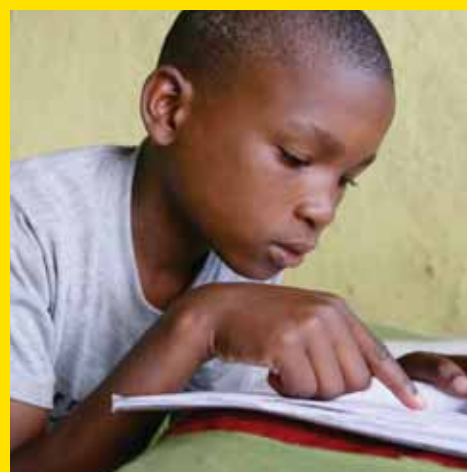
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01 A PROMISING JOURNEY

South Africa is characterised by diversity in its multitude of cultures and peoples. With a population of 53 million, of which 19 million are children, it is the 'rainbow nation' of Africa.

South Africa is a land of both contrast and opportunity, with progressive laws and public spending having improved the welfare of its children since 1994. The Government of South Africa has prioritised the well-being of children throughout its National Development Plan 2030, recognising that the advancement of children's rights is critical to the country's development.

South Africa's extensive social protection system has helped accelerate the decline in child poverty, with the Child Support Grant reaching 11 million children in 2013. The Foster Child Grant and Care Dependency Grant reached 586 000 and 119 000 children respectively. However, almost three out of five children in South Africa still live in poverty.

In 2013, the National Treasury projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in South Africa at 2.1 per cent, down from 2.5 per cent in 2012. According to Statistics South Africa, the unemployment rate stood at 24.7 per cent in the third quarter of 2013.

■ INFANT MORTALITY RATE FALLING – BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH

Overall, there has been mixed progress with global goals for children. The under-five mortality rate is at 53 per 1 000 live births, having dropped from 74 per 1 000 live births in 2002. The leading causes of death of children under five are AIDS, neonatal causes, diarrhea, pneumonia and injuries. Significant gains in

the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in recent years largely accounts for the drop in the under-five mortality rate.

One in five children is stunted and less than 10 per cent of infants are exclusively breastfed up to six months. The quality of care in the public sector remains uneven and distribution and access to essential services are unequal.

HIV prevalence among the general adult population aged 15 to 49 has decreased to 12 per cent, while 20.5 per cent of 15 to 24-year-old pregnant women and 12.7 per cent of women in the age group 15 to 19 suffer from the condition.

There are an estimated 460 000 children under the age of 14 living with HIV. Study results from a 2011 national survey on the effectiveness of the national Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme at six weeks postpartum show a national HIV transmission rate from mother-to-child of 2.7 per cent, down from 3.5 per cent in 2010.

■ EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: A HEAD-START FOR CHILDREN

By 2012, 67 per cent of children under four years old had been exposed to some form of early childhood education programme in South Africa. The need to improve the quality of early childhood education, as well as access and coverage, is well recognised by the South African Government.

In 2012, the gross enrolment rate was 99 per cent in primary schools and 89 per cent in secondary schools. However, learning outcomes remain poor and attendance at secondary school level is much less than at the primary level. The quality of education remains a challenge in most settings.

Early pregnancy compels many girls to drop out of school. About eight per cent of girls between the ages of seven to 18 years who were not attending any educational institution in 2012 cited pregnancy as the main reason for dropping out of school.

Underlying causes of the poor quality of education include: inadequate qualifications, large class sizes, poor physical conditions at schools, lack of proper sanitation facilities (especially in rural areas) and widespread violence in and around schools.

■ CHILDREN IN DIRE NEED OF SAFEGUARDING

Violence against children is of critical concern. In 2012/13, there were 49 550 reported child crime victims. Sexual offences contributed to almost half of reported crimes against children.

In 2011, just below one-fifth of all children, representing approximately 3.6 million individuals, were orphaned. Twenty-six per cent of children live without either biological parent, while the poorest children are the least likely to be living with their biological parents.

Migrant children, including unaccompanied minors, are particularly vulnerable to neglect, exploitation, abuse and discrimination. The plight of this socially excluded group remains a concern. While there is legislation and budgetary commitment to child protection, the gap between legislation and practice is a serious challenge to ensuring an effective child protection system.



"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 care for and protect our people."

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
1918 - 2013



UNICEF in South Africa

THE OVERALL GOAL OF UNICEF IN SOUTH AFRICA IS TO SUPPORT THE COUNTRY IN ITS STRIDES TO ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNICEF's work is aligned with the South African Government's Medium-Term Strategic Framework for 2009–2014, including its 12 priority outcomes and the priorities outlined in the National Development Plan. Within this context, UNICEF focuses on reducing inequities, addressing child poverty and promoting children's rights.

UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other commitments, including the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.



FOR EVERY CHILD TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE

South Africa has made remarkable progress in reducing the rate of HIV transmission from mother to child, which is now lower than two per cent in some provinces. High-level political commitment and collaborative partnerships on the ground have played a decisive role in saving lives – and addressing other critical public health challenges.

“Immunisation coverage remains at over 90 per cent nationally.”



Malnutrition, low rates of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months and unequal access to and availability of quality services are among the most pressing challenges facing South Africa's health system.

The country has set the target of reducing the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds by the Millennium Development Goal deadline of 2015, yet 23 000 newborn babies die in South Africa every year; notwithstanding an estimated 20 000 stillbirths*.

More than a third of all child deaths in South Africa occur within the first month of life – a disturbing reality that illustrates the urgent need for improvements in care of the mother before, during and after giving birth, as well as the critical need for better neonatal care and follow up of both the mother and the baby in the postnatal period.

It is against this backdrop that in 2013, the National Department of Health placed a focus on understanding bottlenecks and prioritising actions at local levels in order to improve health outcomes for maternal and child health, especially newborn health. One key achievement was the improvement in the co-ordination and monitoring of services delivered to mothers and

children, with the finalisation of a dashboard to track the progress of key indicators.

With technical support from UNICEF, major priority areas to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality were identified. The national newborn care implementation plan was finalised, which is essentially a road map to reducing neonatal mortality over the next five years. As part of the implementation of this plan, specific action plans at district and medical facility levels were finalised across all 52 districts, with an agreed template to track and monitor progress.

* *Saving Babies 2008–2009: Seventh Perinatal Care Survey of South Africa. Ed RC Pattinson. Tshepesa Press, Pretoria, 2011.*

■ NUTRITION AND MALNUTRITION

Malnutrition, especially among younger children, seriously compromises children's cognitive development and immune systems, making them more susceptible to diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia.

In 2013, UNICEF supported efforts of the Government to fast track the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Women's Health and Nutrition in South Africa 2012 – 2016. The strategy is based on the most cost-effective, evidence-based interventions necessary to improve the health and survival of mothers and babies, including breastfeeding.

To help address South Africa's low exclusive breastfeeding rate, UNICEF provided technical support to the development of a breastfeeding training and advocacy package for

“More than a third of all child deaths in South Africa occur within the first month of life.”

decision-makers. The Mother-Baby Friendly Initiative, formerly known as the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, has also continued its steady progress.

Capacity-building for community health workers was completed in selected districts in the KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Eastern Cape provinces, and included key training programmes in infant and young child feeding.

The Diagnostic Review for Nutrition was completed in 2013 under the leadership of the Presidency, and highlighted gaps and challenges for nutrition programming for children under the age of five years. The report, available in 2014, will provide strategic direction to scale up high impact nutrition interventions.

■ MILESTONE YEAR FOR HIV PREVENTION

It was a milestone year for South Africa's Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme. The clinical protocols were revised, and all women living with HIV, regardless of their CD4 count, are receiving single fixed-dose triple-drug therapy throughout pregnancy, through to the cessation of breastfeeding.

UNICEF continued supporting the Government in the roll-out of the revised guidelines, which included

training health workers and consulting with civil society and women living with HIV. There has been significant improvement in the numbers of HIV-positive pregnant women receiving treatment and prophylaxis through the PMTCT programme, as well as a decrease in the rate of transmission of HIV to babies.



The Department of Health conducted quality improvement workshops in priority districts in all nine provinces with a view towards improving the quality of service delivery, with UNICEF providing technical support. Additionally, the booklet for standard operating procedures for PMTCT, integrated with maternal and child health, was finalised.

The national and provincial estimates of HIV prevalence, including PMTCT and paediatric HIV, were completed. Technical support was provided for

capacity-building workshops and work is ongoing to develop district-level estimates.

South Africa's first national integrated HIV/TB/PMTCT review was completed in 2013, which generated evidence to inform policy and improve programmes, and refocus on adolescents and children.

Immunisation coverage remains at over 90 per cent nationally; however, there are variations across provinces and districts, and this requires decentralised planning and response.

An innovative project based on the linking of mobile technology to electronic medical records in select sites across two districts in KwaZulu-Natal will continue through 2014. The health outcomes of nearly 3 000 women enrolled in this project are being tracked with UNICEF's support. An external evaluation is planned for 2014.

■ OUR PARTNERS IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The National Department of Health, The Provincial Department of Health, The Praekelt Foundation, North West University, The Institute for Health Programme Systems, Health Development Africa, The Foundation for Professional Development, The Centre for Rural Health, The University of KwaZulu-Natal, The Human Science Research Council; The Medical Research Council and Zivikele Community Media Trust Child Priorities Association. ♦

Putting the 'breast is best' principle into action

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF BREASTFEEDING IS CRITICAL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIGH LEVELS OF INFANT MORTALITY



When Laqhama's tiny fingers grab onto Siphokazi's hand at the Nkwenkwezi Clinic in the Eastern Cape, it is a moment of bonding between the three-day-old baby and his 19-year-old mom, who has come to the clinic for a regular check-up.

The baby nuzzles up to her breast and sucks on her nipple for milk. This, too, will be a moment of deep bonding. But, this is far more than just a bonding experience – it is a priceless investment in his health.

For more than a decade, HIV-positive mothers were told they could prevent mother-to-child transmission by not breastfeeding their babies, and many opted for formula as a result. But, by doing so, they made their children

more vulnerable to diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Chantell Witten, a nutrition specialist with UNICEF, explains: "Infants and newborns' immune systems are not developed, and by opting for formula feeding, mothers run the risk of introducing deadly contaminants."

In 2012, the South African Government, with support from UNICEF, rolled out a policy that has been crucial to bringing down South Africa's high levels of infant and child mortality. It promotes exclusive breastfeeding for at least six months – even for HIV-positive mothers – and counteracts the messaging contained in marketing campaigns for formula. Mothers are informed that the risk of mother-to-

child transmission drops to just one to two per cent if the mother is on antiretroviral treatment.

"At the clinic they explained that my milk is best for Laqhama as it will help him to grow up strong and healthy. And unlike formula, it doesn't cost me a cent," says Siphokazi.

Currently only eight per cent of babies are exclusively breastfed in South Africa, and challenging outdated practices is a long process, but efforts by the Department of Health and UNICEF are bearing fruit.

"At the antenatal classes I was taught a lot about breastfeeding and caring about my baby," says Siphokazi. "It made me feel more confident as a first-time mother."

Zolani Mahola hits the right notes on breastfeeding

ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST PROMINENT MUSICAL CELEBRITIES, ZOLANI MAHOLA, ADDED HER POWERFUL VOICE TO BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS WEEK, WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY UNICEF TO PROMOTE THE MOST NUTRITIOUS CHOICE FOR NEWBORN BABIES: BREASTMILK



At the time of the campaign, Zolani was expecting her first baby, and the artist was excited about giving her newborn the best start in life.

"I have an inherent need to take care of my baby, and it is my hope that all mothers-to-be would feel the same way about the lives they are bringing into this world," says Zolani. "And with this need comes the desire to respect this child, and what better way to do this than by investing in his or her health by breastfeeding."



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Supporting women in their life-giving journey

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY LINKS PREGNANT WOMEN AND MOTHERS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES



As Neliswa leaves home, her hand instinctively stretches across her belly. Inside is her unborn child, and for twenty-one weeks now, her body has prepared and transformed itself for the journey from pregnancy into motherhood.

"It's my first pregnancy and I am excited and nervous at the same time," she says as she heads out to the clinic for a check-up. In the beginning, it was difficult to feel excited, she says. Without a partner to share this experience with, she felt overwhelmed.

But then, Lerato Molefe, a nurse at her local clinic, suggested that she sign up for the MomConnect programme. Supported by UNICEF, this programme generates pregnancy and health-related messages which are sent to women's mobile phones via SMS.

Reminder messages are also sent when a woman is due for a check-up at her local clinic, and healthcare workers are able to follow up when patients miss their appointments. It

also updates medical records in real time, so women who don't always return to the same facility still have current records.

"I immediately felt less alone," says Neliswa. "On a day like today, I might have missed my appointment, but I received a MomConnect message and it reminded me." She will continue receiving these messages until her baby turns 18 months.

"As soon as Neliswa misses an appointment, MomConnect will generate an alert that will be picked up by us at the clinic, so we will know to send a healthcare worker to follow up with her wherever she is in the community," Lerato says.

MomConnect is still in its pilot phase but the next phase will focus on its scale-up across all regions in South Africa. But for now, Neliswa and many other mothers-to-be are already enjoying the programme's benefits. As she leaves the clinic, Neliswa takes comfort in knowing that another message will come through soon.

"...I might have missed my appointment but I received a MomConnect message and it reminded me."

A passport to optimal growth

A USER-FRIENDLY AND EFFECTIVE BOOKLET PROVIDES VALUABLE INFORMATION AND TRACKS A BABY'S PROGRESS FROM THE FIRST WEEK OF LIFE



Thozama stands outside with Thando, her month-old baby, in her arms. They are waiting for a visitor.

Soon, community health worker Noluphelo arrives. The two women greet each other like old friends and Noluphelo gives Thando's tummy a little tickle.

Noluphelo is here for Thando's medical checkup and to inquire about Thozama's health: she is a first-time mother and is HIV positive. During her pregnancy, she began antiretroviral treatment. She also reached out to

other women in her community for support and advice, but came away disappointed. "People here are very reserved," she says, "I felt hurt but knew I had to keep a positive attitude for my baby's sake."

Thozama hands Noluphelo a *Road to Health* booklet, and they discuss the progress Thando should be making during his first month. Health workers use the booklet to record babies' health from the first week.

It is also a guide for mothers on the prevention of disease and the promotion of health. It tells Thozama,

for example, that baby Thando should be tested for HIV at six weeks. Every child born in a South African health facility receives a booklet, which has been updated to incorporate World Health Organisation standards by the Department of Health, with UNICEF's assistance.

The booklet is especially important when mothers are not easy to reach by health workers and in cases where a child is on the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme, detailed accounts of progress are vital to track the child's development. "Before the booklet it was not easy to give all the necessary information to mothers," explains Noluphelo.

She examines Thando, and then helps Thozama to wash him. "You have to talk to your baby while you're washing him. Tell him that you love him, because it is so important for him to hear it even at this age," Noluphelo says and smiles.



03

Analytical work key to concrete results for children

One policy decision can affect millions of children, for better or for worse. UNICEF's policy engagement and advocacy is about yielding tangible benefits for children. Analysis and advocacy are pivotal levers for effecting positive change in the lives of children and their families.



■ GENERATING KNOWLEDGE

During 2013, UNICEF continued its partnership with the University of Cape Town's Children's Institute in the publication of the annual *Child Gauge*, a key reference tool for practitioners, policymakers and decision-makers. The 2013 edition focused on early childhood development and outlined the package of essential services and

support that young children need in order to reach their full potential.

■ CHANGING LIVES

South Africa's socioeconomic policies and budget allocations are among the most progressive on the continent. They proudly place the promotion of equity and the realisation of children's rights at the forefront of

the Government's agenda. The Child Support Grant is regarded as one of Government's most successful social policy tools for combating child poverty.

An evaluation supported by UNICEF has documented the highly positive impact of the grant on family well-being, notably by increasing overall

consumption. It enables poor households to participate in productive economic activity and invest in the health, education and nutrition of their children, as well as helping to reduce risky behaviour in adolescents.

In spite of its success, about one-fourth of eligible children are still excluded from receiving the grant. To address

this gap, UNICEF collaborated with the South African Social Security Agency in 2013 to identify bottlenecks that prevent eligible children and caregivers from accessing the grant. The findings have informed the development of a plan of action that will seek to resolve current challenges that impede access to the grant by eligible children in South Africa.

South Africa also reached a critical milestone in 2013 when it submitted, to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, a body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by State parties, a periodic country report on children's rights, prepared with the support of UNICEF.

Equally important was the approval by the Cabinet of the National Plan of Action for Children, which promotes a rights-based framework for the implementation of national policies and programmes in the public sector. UNICEF supported the development of a child-friendly version to ensure wide dissemination of the plan of action among its key constituency: South Africa's children.

■ CHILDREN MUST BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE

To promote the right to participation and ensure young voices are

heard, UNICEF helped to facilitate the engagement of 300 children with members of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities in their respective constituencies. During 2013, UNICEF joined civil society partners to advocate for an ombudsperson for children, with a view to fostering independent oversight of child rights in South Africa.

■ FURTHERING CHILD RIGHTS ONLINE

The knowledge hub on children's rights, Policy Action Network: Children

(<http://children.pan.org.za>) continued to expand its digital resources in 2013, reaching thousands of subscribers with publications and up-to-date information on children's rights and equity in South Africa.

PAN: Children is a partnership between the Human Sciences Research Council and UNICEF. Two round tables were hosted during the year to spur debate on issues deemed critical for South African children. The discussions focused on the root causes of violence against women and children, and the prohibition of corporal punishment of children in the home.

■ OUR PARTNERS IN SOCIAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY

To further its policy and advocacy work, UNICEF engages with a range of Government, civil society and academic partners. Fruitful partnerships nurtured during 2013 included those with the Department of Social Development, the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, the National Treasury, Parliament, the South African Human Rights Commission, Statistics South Africa, the Human Sciences Research Council and the Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town. ♦

"THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT IS REGARDED AS ONE OF GOVERNMENT'S MOST SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL POLICY TOOLS IN COMBATING CHILD POVERTY."



"South Africa's socioeconomic policies and budget allocations are among the most progressive on the continent."

Making sure the Child Support Grant reaches all who are eligible

A RECENT STUDY IDENTIFYING GAPS IN GRANT ACCESS HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Four years after the fall of apartheid in 1994, the South African Government introduced the Child Support Grant (CSG). Since then, its reach has been expanded through various policy reforms, and today, it is seen as one of the best social protection systems in the developing world.

Unfortunately, despite these efforts, many eligible children are still not able to access grants, which is a cause for concern as the CSG has demonstrated its positive impact on recipients. To help alleviate this situation, UNICEF conducted a study to determine how many eligible recipients are not accessing the grant, and the reasons for this.

Two groups have been identified as most likely to 'slip through the cracks' of the system: children less

than a year old and adolescents. Researchers are now in the process of finding out what these barriers are.

Preliminary indications point to a misunderstanding of the means test, problems with accessing documentation and the long distances that must be travelled by many recipients to reach the relevant facilities.

The report generated by the study suggests various measures which could help overcome these challenges. It is anticipated that once in place, corrective measures will have

a direct impact on the reduction of child poverty in South Africa.

The report has been submitted to the senior management of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the Department of Social Development, in charge of administering social grants.

The main outcomes of the CSG survey have also been shared with other Government partners involved in the delivery of the grant. Training programmes will be offered with the aim of streamlining the delivery of the CSG. ♦

“By meeting and discussing ways to overcome challenges facing their communities, young people hold the keys to the future.”

Benedictor is determined to challenge misconceptions about disabilities

Eighteen-year-old Benedictor Mokoena takes one final look in the mirror before leaving for class. Her braids are swept back in a bun and she wears a red blazer to stay warm. She ties the shoelaces of her trendy sneakers even though today, like all other days, the soles of her feet won't touch the ground.

As the sound of students' footsteps fill the hallway at the University of Pretoria, Benedictor propels herself forward in her wheelchair. The last time she used her legs was five years ago when she climbed onto the back of a truck meant to take her to school.



Children with disabilities are less likely to have access to adequate housing, water and sanitation, and are more vulnerable



to abuse – sexual and physical – and neglect.

But for Benedictor, her disability simply made her more determined. She stayed at her mainstream school, and in grade 11, she joined the Girls and Boys Education Movement (GEM/BEM).

This is an initiative of the Department of Basic Education, supported by UNICEF, which encourages learners to become active social change makers in their community. Club members meet weekly at their schools, and find ways to overcome challenges.

“Before joining, I was very shy,” Benedictor says, “but I soon realised that my fellow club members were not judging me. They encouraged me to be myself and that is how I found my voice.”

She says GEM/BEM has inspired her to be a change agent for life.

“A person in a wheelchair with a will can do so much more than a person with two healthy feet but no will,” she says. ♦

Publications

01 CONNECTED DOT COM: YOUNG PEOPLE'S NAVIGATION OF ONLINE RISKS

Four in five children in South Africa have access to a mobile phone in their household, and half of them use a one to access the Internet – especially social media. This study explores the use of information and communications technology and social media by young people, the risks they face online and the ways in which they negotiate their safety. Published by Centre for Justice and Crime prevention and UNICEF.

02 PREVENTING EXCLUSION FROM THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT: A STUDY OF EXCLUSION ERRORS IN ACCESSING CSG BENEFITS, 2013

South Africa's social grants, especially the Child Support Grant (CSG), have been shown to yield very positive impact on the reduction of child poverty and deprivation. This study aims to determine the size of CSG's exclusion error by looking at the number and characteristics of children and caregivers who, despite being

eligible to receive the grant, are not accessing it. Published by the South African Social Security Agency and UNICEF.

03 CHILD GAUGE

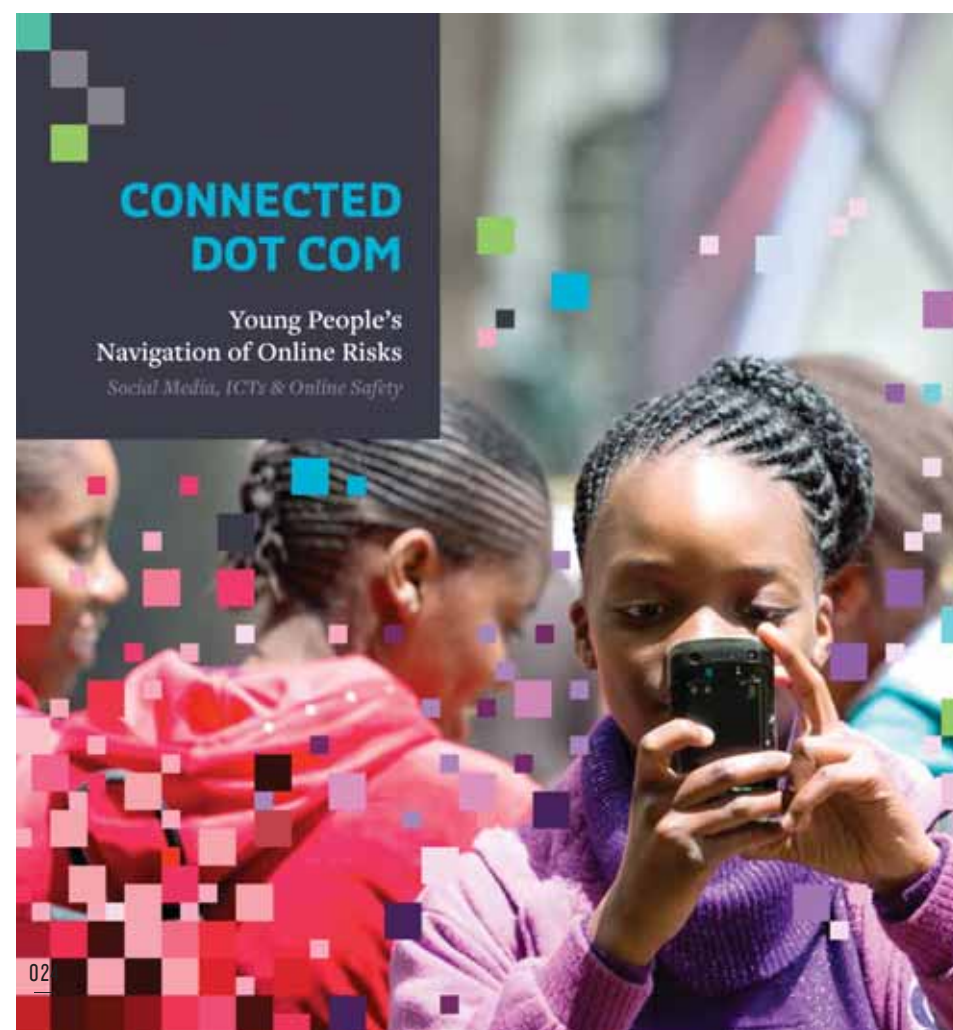
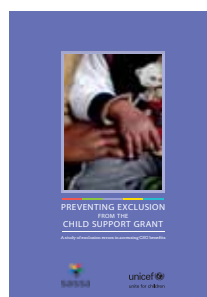
The South African Child Gauge provides an annual snap-shot of the status of South Africa's children. The 2013 issue focuses on early childhood development and its impact on society. Published by the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town.

04 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN: FINDINGS OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS SURVEY, 2008/2009

This report represents a selection of findings and tables based on the data collected by Statistics South Africa through the Living Conditions Survey 2008/2009. It seeks to understand the differences between the adult and child populations through profiling their living circumstances and levels of poverty. Published by Statistics South Africa.

05 GENERAL COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: A COMPENDIUM FOR CHILD RIGHTS ADVOCATES, SCHOLARS AND POLICY MAKERS

This booklet is a compilation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comments as published on the committee's website. The aim is to create a single document where practitioners can find the General Comments and search for key provisions across the comments. Published by UNICEF.



Children should
be seen, heard –

AND SAFE

Despite progressive child protection laws and well-grounded child protection systems, children of all ages continue to experience chronic violations of their right to protection from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Statistics alone cannot tell the tragic stories of young lives shattered and cut short by violence. UNICEF strives to tackle violence against children through a complex and multifaceted response system.

Minimising risk to children means strengthening the entire child protection system, which encompasses laws, policies, social norms and attitudes. It means working with the Government, parents, teachers, caregivers,

institutions, businesses, civil society organisations and children themselves.

The need for a collective approach is acknowledged by the Government, which fostered co-ordinated action by establishing an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on violence against women and children. The IMC brings

together numerous state authorities tasked with planning and implementing an integrated response to violence against women and children.

UNICEF's work with the IMC during 2013 included the formulation of the Plan of Action for the Prevention and Response of Violence against Women and Children 2013–2017 and the development of a conceptual framework to inform social and behaviour change.

In addition, UNICEF is supporting the IMC in conducting a diagnostic review of key Government interventions to help assess their effectiveness in addressing violence against women and children, and is recommending areas for improvement. To further support the IMC, UNICEF partnered with the University of Cape Town to conduct a study on the determinants of

“Minimising risk to children means strengthening the entire child protection system.”



“Isibindi scaled up services to reach 130 000 children in all NINE of South Africa’s provinces, through 1 000 community workers.”



violence against women and children. These findings will help ensure the design of effective violence response and prevention programmes.

■ UNACCOMPANIED AND AT RISK

As unaccompanied minors who cross South Africa’s borders are at high risk of abuse and exploitation, specific interventions to protect these children are especially critical.

To this end, UNICEF shares technical expertise with the Department of Social Development in disseminating Standard Operating Procedures for the tracing, reunification or alternative care placement of unaccompanied and separated children. Technical support was also extended to the South African

Police Service in reviewing guidelines for the provision of age-appropriate assistance and protection for this particularly vulnerable group of children.

■ SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Survivors often suffer further stress after reporting abuse, a phenomenon defined as ‘secondary victimisation’. To help find solutions for this, UNICEF forged a new partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to support the re-establishment of the Sexual Offences Courts. These special courts aim to reduce the secondary victimisation of survivors, ensure the provision of victim-centered services and, at the same time, increase the conviction rate of perpetrators.

During 2013, UNICEF celebrated the completion of the Sinawe Thuthuzela Care Centre in uMthatha, Eastern Cape, bringing the total number of centres to 52 across the country. These one-stop crisis centres are equipped to provide appropriate gender and child-friendly services for survivors of abuse, and fulfil a critical need within communities marked by high levels of sexual violence. Thuthuzela facilities are attached to hospitals, which helps

“UNICEF’s efforts to strengthen the child protection system focuses on assisting Government authorities in preventing and responding to abuse and sexual violence, and to protect vulnerable children.”

to ensure access to this critically important service.

■ ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Isibindi, a community-based programme focused on care for orphans and vulnerable children, is managed by the National Association

of Child Care Workers, with the support of the Department of Social Development and UNICEF. Isibindi scaled up its services to reach 130 000 children in all nine of South Africa’s provinces, through 1 000 community workers.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Department of Women, Children



and People with Disability to revise the 365-day National Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children; helped strengthen the organisational capacity of the National Council for Gender-Based Violence; and also initiated discussions on the establishment of the first national monitoring system for gender-based violence. Moreover, UNICEF

assisted the Department of Social Development in forging a five-year national prevention

and early intervention strategy.

UNICEF and sister United Nations agency, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, worked with the Department of Social Development to finalise the new Orphans and Vulnerable Children National Plan of Action (2012–2016). This plan aims



■ PARTNERS IN CHILD PROTECTION

Closing gaps in protective measures, building on positive developments, scaling up effective interventions and mobilising social change reflect the ongoing priorities of South Africa to enhance child protection. This is achieved through key partnerships with the Government

to co-ordinate care, protection and support services to orphans and other vulnerable children and ensure they receive their social grants.

Because extreme inequalities and poverty often result in many families being unable to adequately care for their children, in many instances these children are placed in special facilities known as Child and Youth Care Centres. These centres, which have become home to tens of thousands of children, also provide care to children who are abused, neglected and abandoned.

In 2013, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Department of Social Development in analysing the recommendations arising from audits of Child and Youth Care Centres. This collaboration helped to initiate the development of provincial plans to improve the delivery of services to approximately 14 000 children in care.



and the collaborative efforts of civil society organisations, academia and the private sector. Valued partners include, but are not limited to: the Department of Social Development, the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the National Prosecuting Authority, the National Association of Child Care Workers, the University of Cape Town's Safety and Violence Institute, the University of Cape Town's Children's Institute, the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Institute for Child Witness Research and Training. ♦

Isibindi Safe Park

The Isibindi model of care is a community-based programme that trains unemployed, yet accredited, community members in the provision of integrated child and youth care services for child-headed households and vulnerable families.

As part of its integrated services, the programme also focuses on creating safe spaces in communities where children can play, get assistance with their homework and confide in counsellors about domestic abuse, learning problems or any other challenge they may be facing that prevents them from living a carefree life.



“... children can play, get assistance with their homework and confide in counsellors.”



These exclusive safe spaces are referred to as Isibindi Safe Parks. “Where drugs and alcohol are involved, domestic violence is often a byproduct,” says Isibindi childcare worker, Lazola. “At the Safe Park, children are given the opportunity to confide in someone they can trust. The Safe Park also gives us as childcare workers the opportunity to identify potentially vulnerable children.” ♦

Guiding vulnerable children to a brighter future

A MODEL OF CARE THAT ALLOWS VULNERABLE CHILDREN TO BE CARED FOR IN THEIR OWN HOMES CAN CREATE HOPE OUT OF DESPAIR

As 15-year-old Bongile begins to write her name on a piece of paper, her brow furrows in concentration and her hand begins to tremble.

Finally, after she has formed each letter, she looks at her achievement with pride and a smile pushes through.

Born with mild cerebral palsy, she is not able to speak and will never be as physically mobile as other children. A year ago, she would not have been able to write to her name at all. Back then, she was confined to the small one-bedroom house she shares with her mother. She never went to school, and rarely left the house.

The turning point came when Lazola, a trained Isibindi community worker living three doors down, began enquiring about her not going to school.

“I was concerned about her,” recalls Lazola. “I was told that she couldn’t go to school because of her disability and was not allowed to leave the house.”

From there, the two embarked on a journey that would change Bongile’s



life, and that of her aunt (her main caregiver) and her mother.

The Isibindi model of care was developed by the National Association of Childcare Workers (NACCW) and supported by UNICEF. It screens and trains community members to support vulnerable children in their own homes with accredited, integrated child and youth care services. They also accompany children to school, clinics or hospital, and help them get official documents.

Another milestone for Bongile was when Lazola found a facility for children with special needs. It also meant her aunt could return to work.

“Before Lazola, Bongile was withdrawn,” says Isibindi child protection specialist Moefeeda Salie-Kagee. “She has become the girl she has always been deep inside. She can now distinguish colours, and for the first time is making friends.”

She also gets to play outside with other children in the community.

Because of Isibindi’s intervention, Bongile no longer stands apart from society. Not only that, she is also a beacon of hope for others. ♦

15 Today's learning shapes tomorrow's future

Quality education sets children – and nations – on the path to a bright and prosperous future. Quality comprises far more than academics and encompasses safe school environments, gender equality, appropriate sanitation facilities, adequate learning, comprehensive teaching resources, child-sensitive educator skills and broad-based Early Childhood Development services.

The importance of Early Childhood Development (ECD) is well documented, and is both a national priority and prominent feature on the children's rights agenda.

In 2013, UNICEF continued to support South Africa's development of a new ECD policy that will include State-backed delivery and financing models. Following the finalisation of the National Curriculum Framework

for children under four years of age, UNICEF is also supporting the development of a strategy to train ECD educators and care-givers through a comprehensive pre-service training programme.

In the Eastern Cape Province, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to provincial education authorities in the development of an Early Childhood Centre of Excellence model, which aims to provide capacity-building activities to ECD

facilities in the catchment area. The Imizamo'yethu Centre will be used to test the new National Curriculum Framework.

While more than a third of children under four years of age have access to ECD programmes in South Africa, the Government has renewed its commitment to improve and accelerate expanded access, which is best reflected in nine out of every 10 schools now offering grade R classes.





“To achieve gender equity in education, barriers to girls’ access to education must be removed.”

■ PRIMARY EDUCATION

The majority of South Africa’s children are enrolled in primary school, and a significant proportion of public expenditure goes towards education. The matric pass rate has increased steadily, reaching 78.2 per cent in 2013. However, the quality of education remains a challenge, and teacher training, infrastructure development and social barriers such as violence are priorities. To promote children’s right to participate in decisions that affect

their lives and communities, UNICEF has supported the Department of Basic Education with the development of a Social Cohesion Toolkit. This will help schools conduct dialogues with learners, educators and community members and has a strong focus on preventing gender-based violence. Other topics include teenage pregnancy, vulnerability of teenage girls to HIV, and gender norms and stereotypes.

UNICEF also supported the development of online training

resources for teachers on gender-based violence, bullying and sexual harassment. The training package is ready to be rolled out to 180 000 teachers in 20 targeted districts.

Technical assistance was provided to enhance school health through the national implementation of the Integrated School Health Programme, which aims to provide access to information, life skills education and child-friendly health services. A draft five-year implementation strategy was also developed with support from UNICEF and will be completed in 2014.

■ BRIDGING THE GENDER DIVIDE

To achieve gender equity in education, barriers to girls’ access to education must be removed. As gender audits are key to influencing education policy and planning, UNICEF supported the Department of Basic Education in conducting a gender audit, which led to the development of a new Policy on Gender Equality and Equity. The policy aims to create a gender-sensitive environment to improve performance for learners and minimise potential for abuse in schools.

Techno Girl, a programme led by the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities and supported by UNICEF, reached an estimated 11 380 girls in 2013. The programme aims to increase girls’ participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

UNICEF’s support to the Girls and Boys Education Movement (GEM/BEM) also continued in 2013. This initiative of the Department of Basic Education provides youth leadership, life skills, sports, music and other creative programming in schools, to half a million active learners throughout the country. The sports component of this

programme reached 18 000 schools in 2013.

■ USING DATA TO DRIVE FOR RESULTS

Critical gaps in data hinder effective decision-making. Using new information dashboards, which show data relevant to each district, education authorities can now better identify – and remove – obstacles to the achievement of quality education. Results from the Annual National Assessments, conducted from grades one to six, show improved academic performance of at least 15 per cent in 22 education districts. In collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch, UNICEF supported the Department of Basic Education in training 400 education officials on results management using the Education Management Information System (EMIS).

■ OUR PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

The Department of Basic Education, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the University of Stellenbosch, the University of Cape Town, the Nelson Mandela Institute for Rural Education at University of Fort Hare, Unilever Santam, the Centre for Education and Policy Development, AREPP Theatre for Life, the Human Sciences Research Council, Ask Afrika, RED&T, SportsTech, Supersport, the Mr Price Red Cap Foundation, Mango Airlines, UWESO Consulting Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, Save the Children and Mxit Reach/RLABS. ♦

A sporting chance at a better future

Cape by the Department of Education, its first-ever multipurpose playing facility was launched in June 2011.

This came about as a result of the Department of Basic Education and UNICEF’s Sport for Development

SPORT IS A POWERFUL TOOL TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A SENSE OF PURPOSE, IMPROVE THEIR LIFE SKILLS, AND EMPOWER THEM TO REACH THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL

The sound of cheering rises above the field where two teams of young boys go head-to-head in a rugby match. The spectators clap in excitement as the ball flies neatly between the goal posts and lands on the green grass below.

The place is Hanover Park and, not so long ago, it was a place where gunfire and sirens might have been more likely sounds.

For years, this community was associated with ongoing gangsterism and violence, and the dusty field at Mount View High was just another ‘hopeless’ space on its bleak landscape.

But then, after the school was identified as one of the most critical in the Western

programme. It is an intervention that uses sport and recreation to build life skills, empower learners, and promote positive change in communities where learners face daily struggles.

The programme is based on the principle that sport is not only crucial for healthy bodies and minds, but is also a useful platform where leadership skills and learning outcomes can improve, too.

“Sport has given me the opportunity to inspire younger children like my brother and sister,” says Fiyaaaz Jonathan, a grade 11 learner at the school. “I made some bad decisions in life, and am amazed at how far I’ve come.” He says that peer pressure controlled his life until he was introduced to rugby and football.

For the principal of the school, Archie Benjamin, a much-improved grade 12 pass rate can be attributed to Sport for Development.

“By allowing children to play on the sport fields, we are keeping them off the street and ultimately giving them the chance to a brighter future,” he says. ♦



Mentoring young women to fulfil their potential

ONCE DISCOURAGED FROM ENTERING MALE-DOMINATED CAREER FIELDS LIKE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MANY YOUNG WOMEN, WITH APPROPRIATE MENTORING, HAVE BEGUN TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES



When 19-year-old Nokulunga Dladla puts on her white lab coat, leaves her apartment and heads off to university each day, she feels one step closer to fulfilling her dream: graduating from dentistry school and finally becoming 'Dr Dladla'.

This is something she could never have imagined growing up: like many young women in South Africa, she was raised to believe that girls had no place in male-dominated careers, and she had little aspiration to study beyond secondary school.

"But then," she says, "everything changed in grade 10 when I was enrolled in a career mentorship programme called Techno Girl." From here, she began to realise what her potential really was.

The Techno Girl programme equips young women from under-resourced communities to pursue careers in science, mathematics and technology by enrolling them in mentorships with suitable companies.

It is a collaboration between the Department for Women, Children and People with Disabilities, the Department of Basic Education and UNICEF.

"It not only gives girls access to technology, but exposes them to the world of work," says UNICEF adolescent development specialist Nokuthula Prusent.

"The programme has seen more than 10 000 girls enrolled in mentorships."

"The end result is that girls going through the programme feel motivated by what they have experienced, and begin to focus more intensely on their schoolwork."

The programme has seen more than 10 000 girls enrolled in mentorships, and it also recently launched the Techno Girl Alumni Association, where those who have been through the programme mentor other young girls who wish to break through the gender barrier into male-dominated careers.

Nokulunga is a proud member of this association, and hopes her story will inspire others. "The internship really boosted my confidence," she says with a big smile. "It showed me that, as a girl, I can pursue any career I want!" ♦



The Girls and Boys Education Movement

The Girls and Boys Education Movement – simply known as GEM/BEM – has become a powerful platform for social change among young people in South African schools and communities. These school-based clubs offer learners an opportunity to be leaders and agents of change by discussing societal issues, receiving training and strategising around solutions to challenges they face in their lives and communities. Ultimately, the GEM/BEM clubs provide girls and boys with an avenue to discover their potential and shape them as potential leaders for South Africa's future.

"I joined GEM/BEM because I knew it would help me develop my leadership skills," says 15-year-old Tebogo. "In the three months since I've joined I have already learnt how to communicate more effectively with my peers and other members of our community and how to encourage them to open up about their problems." ♦

Communications and partnerships with UNICEF

06



■ Young people's navigation of online risks

A STUDY CALLED CONNECTED DOT COM FINDS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF ONLINE RISKS AND HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

Four out of five children in South Africa have access to a mobile phone, and almost half of them use mobile phones to access the internet. Taking stock this conclusion, UNICEF and the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention teamed up in 2012 to determine how children in South Africa use mobile technology and ensure their safety online.

"As children and young people spend an increasing amount of time online, we need to be actively present in that space, too," says Thierry Delvigne-Jean, chief



of communication and partnerships at UNICEF South Africa.

Through focus groups with 1 600 learners in 93 schools across the country, the study – the first of its kind in South Africa – found that one in five secondary school learners has experienced some form of cyberbullying or other violence online.

But, the study also found that children and young people are aware of the dangers they can encounter online and have developed their own strategies to deal with these risks.

DISPELLING MYTHS

The Connected Dot Com study dispels some common myths about online safety and children:

■ **MYTH: CYBERBULLYING AND OTHER ONLINE RISKS ARE AN EPIDEMIC THAT THREATENS THE WELL-BEING OF ALL CHILDREN.**

Cyberbullying clearly warrants concern and attention, but it remains

less common than bullying in the physical world. This does not mean that attention should not be paid to preventing these behaviours, or to their impact on young people. Rather, they should be seen within the framework of violence more generally.

■ **MYTH: ALL CHILDREN ARE EQUALLY VULNERABLE TO CYBERBULLYING AND ONLINE HARM, GIVEN THAT PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL BOUNDARIES LARGELY DISAPPEAR ONLINE.**

Research worldwide suggests a strong correlation between young people being vulnerable to offline violence and being more vulnerable to online harm. Similarly, it is these vulnerable children who are most likely to experience negative social interactions online.

■ **MYTH: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE OF THE DANGERS AND RISKS THAT EXIST ONLINE, AND THEY NEED TO BE PROTECTED.**

There is substantial evidence to suggest that young people are well aware of online and offline risks associated with online behaviour. This awareness allows children to develop appropriate responses and protection measures of their own, which helps them to better navigate the internet and protect themselves.

■ **MYTH: ONLINE RISKS AND THE DANGERS FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE**

ARE THE SAME AS ACTUAL HARM.

The majority of children are aware of possible risks they face online. In fact, very few of the risks that present themselves to young people online result in actual harm, either physical or emotional, to the child. This is nowhere more marked than when online encounters evolve into offline contact. The most serious of the dangers faced by children – harm associated with offline contact – is probably the least common.



■ **MYTH: CONTROLLING ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE INTERNET WILL SERVE TO PROTECT CHILDREN.**

The most likely results of such restrictions are: young people being excluded from the developmental opportunities this technology presents, young people being placed at a learning disadvantage as technology increasingly infiltrates schools and classrooms and social exclusion, which may itself increase the risks of other forms of harm. ♦

Young voices on the airwaves

BECAUSE RADIO IS SUCH A POPULAR MEDIUM IN SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITIES, IT IS ALSO THE PERFECT PLATFORM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT THEM



“I kept thinking: what if they don’t pick me?” he recalls. But they did.

Keketso grew up to the sound of the radio playing in the background. The voices on the airwaves were as familiar as those of his family members, and he often dreamed about being the person behind the microphone.

Then, opportunity knocked when the Young Reporters Network set up a group of youth radio reporters in his hometown in Limpopo, and Keketso added his name to the audition list.

“I kept thinking: what if they don’t pick me?” he recalls. But they did. And that is how Keketso, along with 14 other young people from his area, began to play an active role in giving a voice to young people in his community.

The Young Reporters Network is a partnership between UNICEF and the Children’s Radio Foundation. It was established so that young people’s views on topics like HIV, health, domestic and sexual violence, and several other issues could be heard.

Working with 14 community radio stations across the country, the

programme has seen close to 200 young people being mentored to produce and broadcast their own 30-minute show at each station every weekend. This means that across South Africa, an estimated 856 000 listeners tune in every week.

“Children account for 35 per cent of the South African population – their opinions and experiences cannot be ignored,” says UNICEF chief of communication and partnerships Thierry Delvigne-Jean. “Giving them the opportunity to speak about relevant matters is key to putting children’s rights into action.”

The young reporters are far more than just voices behind a microphone. They venture into their communities, microphone and notepad in hand, approaching community members for their take on issues affecting them.

“We are touching so many lives out there as we speak to other young people and community members live on air,” says Keketso. Like the other young reporters, he can now confidently say he is an agent of change in his community. ♦

Coalitions for change

UNICEF's trusted brand, convening power and global commitment to results for children makes it the partner of choice for many leading corporates and individual supporters



The three pillars of UNICEF's private sector alliances in South Africa are systemic change, sustainability and integration with Government priorities. The purposeful alignment of national development goals and corporate social responsibility (CSR) objectives results in initiatives that make a meaningful, measurable difference to children's lives and CSR agendas.

UNICEF believes that collaborative relationships with both the private and public sectors are essential to deliver results for children.

Partnerships that evolve and strengthen over time, and fulfil shared goals, symbolise corporate commitment beyond compliance. UNICEF South Africa's partnerships with Santam, Unilever, Mango Airlines and SuperSport are testament to this.

■ SANTAM

Launched in early 2013 in support of Safe and Caring Child-Friendly Schools (SCCFS), the focus of Santam's partnership with UNICEF is quality education within the context of safer schools and the strengthening of life skills, with a specific focus on some of the greatest risk factors faced by learners in South Africa. Santam is supporting the roll-out of the rights-based SCCFS model to 175 schools in Mpumalanga.

During 2013, Santam also celebrated the 50th year of its Child Art initiative – the longest-running CSR programme in South Africa. Each year, a different theme for the project is chosen, and UNICEF was pleased when Santam agreed

to 'children's rights' as the theme for the next Child Art Project. Work started in 2013, the results of which will be realised in 2014 and beyond.

■ UNILEVER

As part of UNICEF's global partnership with the Unilever Foundation, UNICEF and Unilever in South Africa forged an alliance in health promotion, with a specific focus on hygiene and hand-washing. This cross-cutting programme includes outreach to primary school-children, work with adolescents and support to community and school health initiatives.

Allied to the partnership activity, Unilever's Lifebuoy brand also recognised the efforts of the Young Reporters Network, which promoted and programmed hand-washing via various community radio stations in support of 2013's Global Handwashing Day.

■ MANGO AIRLINES

UNICEF's long-running partnership with Mango continued in 2013, with passengers encouraged to make a voluntary donation to UNICEF when booking tickets online. Additionally, the airline made available, cost-free, valuable communication opportunities through its in-flight

entertainment system and *Juice* magazine. The sponsorship of flights during 2013 was also greatly appreciated by UNICEF and added tremendous value to various initiatives throughout the year.

■ SUPERSPORT'S LET'S PLAY

SuperSport's Let's Play, a key partner to UNICEF for many years, has actively supported the Sports for Development programme and its focus on mitigating violence in and around schools. SuperSport, through its media platforms, helped to promote play and sport in schools, mobilise support for under-resourced communities and contributed to broadening the outreach of UNICEF's anti-violence campaign material.

■ THE WESTIN CAPE TOWN

In addition to participating in the Starwood Hotels' global Check Out for Children campaign, The Westin Cape Town also arranges an annual ball, and outstanding raffle prizes in support of UNICEF South Africa. The 2013 event was a resounding success and was supported by UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Yvonne Chaka Chaka.

2013 UNICEF TIMELINE

11 FEBRUARY

UNICEF joins Google SA, Mxit and other partners to mark Safer Internet Day at Dainfern College in Johannesburg, bringing together more than 200 learners, teachers and parents.



13 MARCH

Santam partners with UNICEF and the Department of Basic Education to promote safer schools and quality education in Mpumalanga. The programme will benefit 175 primary schools in disadvantaged communities.

15 APRIL

Health professionals from over 50 countries gather for the Global Newborn Health Conference in Johannesburg to discuss the challenges and opportunities in scaling up life-saving, innovative interventions at birth.



30 MAY

UNICEF releases its flagship publication State of the World's Children 2013 during Child Protection Week, highlighting the rights of children with disabilities.



2 JUNE

A team from IKEA visits schools in Mpumalanga to see first-hand the progress of the Safe and Caring Child-Friendly Schools Programme.



16 JUNE

On National Youth Day, the Youth Radio Awards recognise the work of the Young Reporters Network, which reaches an audience of one million people through community radio stations across the country.



11 JULY

UNICEF staff spend 67 minutes at a crèche in Pretoria to mark International Nelson Mandela Day – symbolic of the 67 years Mr. Mandela gave in service and sacrifice to humanity.



1 AUGUST

Freshlyground lead singer and new mother Zolani Mahola takes a stance in support of breastfeeding during World Breastfeeding Week.



12 AUGUST

National Basketball Association (NBA) All-Star Kyrie Irving participates in educational programmes supported by UNICEF's Schools for Africa initiative in Gauteng.





10 OCTOBER

South Africa's Child Gauge 2013 highlights the importance of investing in children early in life for long-term economic growth and social cohesion.



12 OCTOBER

Ahead of Global Handwashing Day, UNICEF and the Unilever Foundation launch a national competition recognising the best radio programmes on hand-washing produced by the Young Reporters Network. Teen Express from Atlantis FM is the overall winner.



2 NOVEMBER

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Yvonne Chaka Chaka lends her voice to a fundraising event organised by The Westin Cape Town – inspiring guests with a message of hope for children in South Africa.



13 NOVEMBER

UNICEF renews its partnership with SuperSport's Let's Play programme in support of the Sport for Development Initiative, which has already benefited hundreds of thousands of learners.

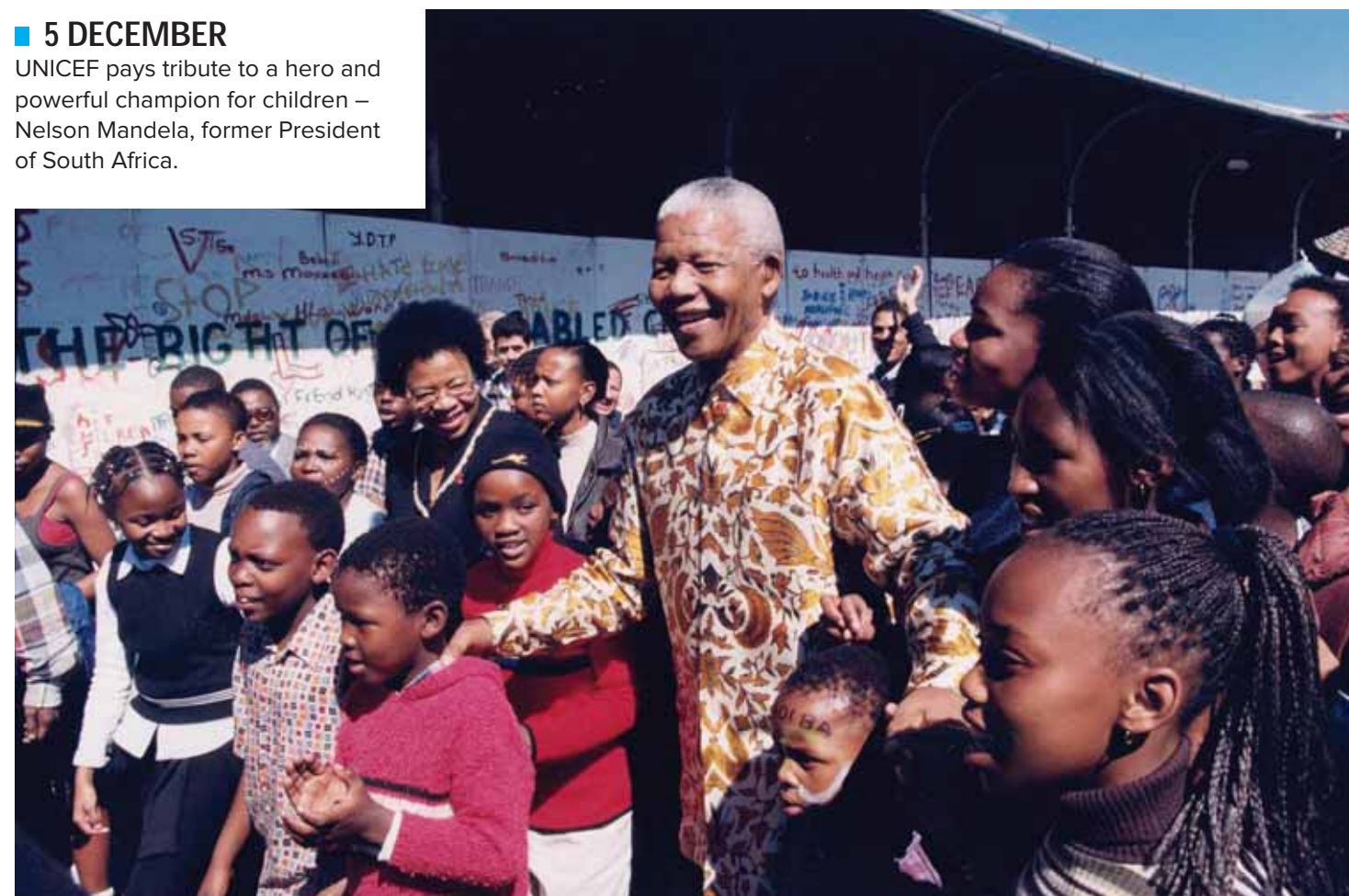
28 NOVEMBER

UNICEF and the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention releases Connected Dot Com: Young People's Navigation of Online Risks, a study exploring how children and youth in South Africa make use of social media and how they negotiate their safety online.



5 DECEMBER

UNICEF pays tribute to a hero and powerful champion for children – Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa.





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