The status of child care in the first 1000 days in South Africa

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Agenda

- What is child care?
- Can we measure child care?
- What do the indicators tell us?
- Can we trust the indicator data?
- How should we respond to the current situation?
What is child care (in the first 1000 days)?

- Being born alive
- Being born healthy
- Having a mother/father/caregiver
- Receiving shelter, food, warmth, ...
- Having birth registered
- Surviving the neonatal period and infancy
- Being protected from disease and ill health
- Being protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Receiving love and play
- Opportunities for early learning (stimulation)
Can we measure child care (and what do the indicators tell us)?

- Being born alive
- Being born healthy
- Having a mother/father care for you
- Receiving shelter, food, warmth, ... 
- Having birth registered
- Surviving the neonatal period and infancy
- Being protected from disease and ill health
- Receiving love and play
- Being stimulated
Only a third of children live with both parents in South Africa.
Figure 2a: Children living in income poverty, by province, 2003 & 2011

(“Lower bound” poverty line: Households with monthly per capita income less than R604, in 2011 Rands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Proportion of children (%)</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>2,688,000</td>
<td>1,993,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
<td>843,000</td>
<td>625,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>1,350,000</td>
<td>1,139,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
<td>3,004,000</td>
<td>2,828,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>2,346,000</td>
<td>1,706,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
<td>1,028,000</td>
<td>846,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>76.1%</td>
<td>1,123,000</td>
<td>804,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>245,000</td>
<td>279,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>696,000</td>
<td>578,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td>13,185,000</td>
<td>10,796,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis by Katharine Hall, Children’s Institute, UCT.
Figure 18: Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) from VR/RMS and neonatal mortality rate (NMR) from VR/DHIS, 2000-2013 (after adjusting for incompleteness)
How effective is coverage of existing child care services and activities?

- Safe birth
- Breast-feeding
- Growth promotion
- Immunisation
- Developmental screening
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Deworming
- Child support grants
### Child social support grants (millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of grant</th>
<th>2007/08</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2010/11¹</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13 Projected</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>% Growth per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old-age</td>
<td>2,219</td>
<td>2,344</td>
<td>2,490</td>
<td>2,647</td>
<td>2,729</td>
<td>2,786</td>
<td>2,844</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War veterans</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>1,413</td>
<td>1,372</td>
<td>1,299</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>1,265</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td>1,315</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster care</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care dependency</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child support</td>
<td>8,196</td>
<td>8,765</td>
<td>9,381</td>
<td>10,336</td>
<td>10,977</td>
<td>11,303</td>
<td>11,589</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,375</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,066</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,779</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,892</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,713</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,223</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,709</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.1%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Can we trust the indicator data?

- Mortality
- Low birth weight and prematurity
- Immunisation
- Breastfeeding
- Child support grant
Are there things we do not know (nationally)?

- Nutrition
  - Hygiene (hand washing with soap)
  - Zinc delivery
- Developmental problems
- Who cares for young children?
- What opportunities for early learning (stimulation) provided?
- .... much more
What’s the problem?

- Inadequate and inequitable **coverage** of key services
- **Under-provided services** - food and nutrition, child care and early learning, parenting support
- **Exclusion** of vulnerable children – youngest, poorest and in under-serviced areas
- **Poor quality** linked to funding, poor qualifications and limited quality improvement
What barriers to effective child care service provision need to be overcome?

- A poor or absent legislative framework,
- Insufficient or no public funding,
- Poor governance, including institutional arrangements
- Inefficiencies
- Leadership
- Co-ordination
What are the opportunities for effective child care and how can they be realised?
Best good news for 2015?

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

DRAFT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY”
An essential package for the first 2 years of life

Health Care
Child: Health care, HIV testing & treatment, de-worming, disability (DOH)
Mother: substance abuse, mental health, exposure to violence (DOH)

Nutrition
Growth monitoring, breastfeeding, Vit A, complementary & responsive feeding, nutrition counselling, supplementation when necessary (DOH)

Birth Registration & Social, Child Protection
CSG (SASSA), screen abuse & neglect (DOH, DSD)

Parent Support
Parent support and skill building (DOH)

Opportunities for learning
Home visits, community & facility groups (DOH), child minding (DSD)
- Birth registration
- Child Support Grants (DSD/SASSA)
- Large part of Health & Nutrition (DOH)

- Nutrition support
- Screening, support & referral
- Maternal mental health, substance use, exposure to violence
- Child abuse, children with disabilities
- Centre- and programme-based early learning

- Parent support
- Home, child minder and community opportunities for learning for young children (<2y)
- Community- and media-based promotion of child development, growth, health, safety and learning

- Already in place
- Must be expanded or State supported
- New services needed
How does one rapidly expand the Essential Package?

International and local experience of achieving high coverage

- India: International Child Development Services (ICDS)
- USA: Early Head Start
- Britain: Sure Start
- Latin America: Chile, Colombia
- South Africa: Grade R
Responsibilities of an ECD “agency”

- **Plan, coordinate & monitor** national programme of ECD
- **Support** key government departments
- **Develop & support implementation of specific programmes**
  - Nutrition support.
  - Parenting support
  - Early learning
- **Establish high level targets** and norms and standards
- **Strengthen alignment of budget** bids with the national ECD Policy
Priorities for ECD “agency”

- Home- and community-based support for children <2 years
- Expanded opportunities for learning for children 2-5 years
- Clear strategies to prevent stunting
- Support for children with developmental difficulties and disabilities
- Communication and public information about ECD
Infrastructure
- Service delivery
- Management

Human Resources
- Mother and Child health workers
- ECD practitioners
- Child minder supervisors
- ECD Management

Training

Monitoring, evaluation and quality control

ECD Agency
DOH: Pregnancy, Birth–2 years

- **Pregnancy**
  - 2 home visits (vulnerable mothers - <19, HIV+, substance abuse, mental ill-health, exposure to violence)
  - Clinic- and community-based mother support groups

- **Birth to 2 Years**
  - Home visits for 9 months to vulnerable mothers
  - Home visits to 9 months for vulnerable infants
  - Clinic- and community-based mother support groups, mother-baby early learning groups (e.g. WHO/UNICEF Care for Child Development)

- **By whom?**
  - New Mother & Baby Community Health Workers
DSD/DBE: Birth-2 and 2-5 Years

- **Birth to 2 Years**
  - Support to Child Minders

- **2 – 5 Years**
  - Centre- and community-based early learning groups and parent supports
  - Backed-up by toy and book libraries

- **By whom?**
  - ECD practitioners

- **Possibility of pre-Grade R year at 3.5 years**
Conclusion

- Child care is very much on the national agenda
- The data we have is modestly robust, and limited, but indicates that our performance varies (from great to poor)
- Many of the key elements of an Essential Package are already in place, but require quality improvements
- The challenge now is to debate the currently proposed strategies and identify other (cost) effective strategies, and
- most importantly... get on with implementation