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**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES QUARTERLY
REPORTS: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**
RESEARCH BRIEF

19 June 2013

The Children's Rights and Responsibilities programme (Programme 3) has the following strategic objectives within the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities:

- To facilitate and coordinate the mainstream and advocacy of children's rights considerations into Government's policies and governance processes through the development and promotion of the National Plan of Action for Children and annual advocacy campaigns in partnership with government and other stakeholders;
- To coordinate and facilitate an integrated approach to the promotion of capacity building and institutional support to enable key stakeholders in the sector to participate and contribute more efficiently and effectively in mainstreaming and monitoring of children's rights at all levels of government and civil society; and
- To monitor, evaluate and report annually on the realisation of children's rights in line with the Constitution, national, continental and international obligations.

Performance indicators and outputs for the 2012/ 2013 financial year

The following are list of key performance indicators and outputs that the Department agreed upon to action during the 2012/ 2013 financial year:

- Develop a National Plan of Action for Children
- Facilitate processes to integrate the mainstreaming of children's rights into policies and governance processes
- Coordinate the Sanitary Dignity Campaign
- Coordinate a number of social campaigns
- Strengthen child participation and self-advocacy
- Develop a comprehensive children's rights monitoring and evaluation strategy
- Review and monitor indicators for Early Childhood Development
- Finalise the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child periodic and initial country reports for South Africa
- Develop indicators for monitoring violence against children
- Compile one report on the progressive realisation of children's rights
- Convene machineries on children's rights
- Coordinate a strategy for mainstreaming children's considerations in integrated public service delivery



- Child friendly cities/ communities initiatives for realisation of children's rights facilitated and coordinated in three municipalities; and
- Develop a institutional framework for children's rights

As one can see, these are many performance indicators for one financial year for a programme with a budget of only R13.5 million and limited capacity in terms of the number of staff working in the programme. There also seems to be no coherent manner in which these performance indicators were decided on. For example, why the focus on child friendly cities or communities? This is important, but it needs to be strategically linked with a current matter facing children in South Africa. In this instance, the focus on reviewing and monitoring indicators for Early Childhood Development is justifiable, based on the Government's priority on improving the quality of education.

Tracking performance through the quarterly reports

What follows is a short analysis of whether the Department reached all its goals by achieving the said performance indicators. The performance of each indicator will be colour-coded based on its progress. Green = completed; Orange = still in progress and Red = incomplete and in need of urgent attention. At the end of this analysis you will find a graph that would give one an overview of the achievements of the Department's performance indicators in relation to the Children's Rights and Responsibilities Programme.

Performance Indicator 1: National Plan of Action for Children

The Department reported that this activity has been completed at the end of the fourth quarter. It stipulates that the National Plan of Action for Children was completed and presented to Parliament. It should be noted that the Department presented the National Plan of Action for Children as an incomplete draft to the Portfolio Committee during November 2012. The Department was sent back to finalise the document. The Department is still to present a finalised version of the document to the Portfolio Committee.

Based on the fact that an incomplete draft was presented to the Portfolio Committee, this performance indicator will receive an orange rating.

Performance Indicator 2: Facilitate processes to integrate the mainstreaming of children's rights into policies and governance processes

As a start, it should be noted that facilitating a process like this is not an easy one. It requires dedicated staff to analyse all Government policies and strategies and make recommendations to the affected Departments on how they can achieve the mainstreaming of children's issues into

The Annual Performance Plan 2012/2013 do not stipulate the amount of staff working in the various programmes. However, as seen from the revised Strategic Plan, there are only 15 people working in this Programme. See DWCPD Revised Strategic Plan 2013 - 2014 (2013) page 39.



their policies. With that said, this is a needed activity. The quarterly reports for this activity indicate that a draft strategy was completed and consulted on. During the 4th quarter the target was to disseminate this to municipalities. The report stipulates that this was only disseminated to one municipality in the North West (Lekwe) and to the Deputy President's office. Therefore, it begs the question as to when it would be disseminated to the other municipalities in South Africa.

Considering that the Department completed a first draft of the mainstreaming strategy and the fact that the performance indicator stipulates that the Department would facilitate processes to integrate the mainstreaming of children's rights into policies and governance processes, the Department would receive an orange rating for this performance indicators. The dissemination of the strategy to other municipalities is of utmost importance.

Performance Indicator 3: Coordinate the Sanitary Dignity Campaign

This performance indicator was achieved by the Department throughout the four quarters. A campaign report was developed, together with a report on the reflections about the programme. Therefore this performance indicator will receive a green rating.

Performance Indicator 4: Coordinate a number of social campaigns

In order to achieve this performance indicator, the Department finalised a social campaign concept note and the campaign for child protection week together with the Department of Social Development during the first quarter and various other campaigns during the rest of the quarters. All of the intended campaigns were implemented accordingly, together with the Government Departments responsible for the implementation of a particular right. For example, during the 3rd quarter the Department launched the Universal Access to Education for all Children campaign in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education.

Based on this, the Department will receive a green rating for the implementation of this indicator.

Performance Indicator 5: Strengthen child participation and self-advocacy

The Department listed the various dialogues they had with children regarding issues that affect them. This ranges from dialogues at schools to co-convening the Children's Parliament with the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, to involving children in the national children's day activities in Limpopo. It should be noted that the entire principle of child participation is not only for event purposes, but that the views that children state should be taken into account and implemented in Government policies and strategies. In order to achieve this indicator, it is crucial for reports to have been produced on what children said and plans by the Department on how to achieve the resolutions agreed upon by children. With that, there is no information provided on this performance indicator during the fourth quarter.

Considering that the Department did not provide any information on how they will mainstream the ideas and resolutions of children into Government policies, this performance indicator receives an orange rating.



Performance Indicator 6: Develop a comprehensive children's rights monitoring and evaluation strategy

The Department reports that during the first quarter a diagnostic study was completed, while a comprehensive first draft of the M&E strategy was completed during the second quarter. During the third quarter consultations were held and training took place for both the Department and Statistics South Africa, while during the fourth quarter a comprehensive strategy was developed.

During the oversight visit to the Department in March 2013, they presented to the Portfolio Committee a comprehensive M&E strategy and not one specifically on children's rights. Therefore, this begs the question as to when the Department will present such a strategy or table the children's rights M&E strategy in Parliament. For this reason, this performance indicator will receive an orange rating, as the Portfolio Committee has not seen any M&E strategy specifically in relation to children's rights.

Performance Indicator 7: Review and monitor indicators for Early Childhood Development

The Department of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation within the Presidency completed a diagnostic review on Early Childhood Development, as part of the Government priorities on delivering quality education. The Department indicates that they participated in this review and formed part of the steering committee in order to complete this. Therefore, this was not a performance indicator that was spearheaded and coordinated by the Department, but by the Presidency. It should be noted that indicators for Early Childhood Development was reviewed by this Diagnostic Study and the Department records that during the fourth quarter these indicators were included in the M&E Strategy for children's rights.

Therefore, this performance indicator was only partially achieved as no monitoring of the reviewed indicators took place. This performance indicator will thus receive an orange rating.

Performance Indicator 8: Finalise the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child periodic and initial country reports for South Africa

Here it is important to distinguish between the United Nations report and the report that is to be presented to the African Union. The Department can produce the same report to both the United Nations and the African Union, provided that an annex be submitted to the African Union on articles within the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which are not covered in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore an annex with a report on the situation of children imprisoned with mothers, the responsibilities of the child, children in armed conflict, and the protection against harmful social and cultural practices should be included with the United Nations report to the African Union.

The Department finalised the United Nations report and presented this to the Portfolio Committee during March 2013. However, the Department did not present the annexes to go with the African



Union report. Therefore this part of the performance indicator is still incomplete and needs urgent attention, as South Africa plans to lodge these reports during July 2013 to the United Nations and African Union respectively. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, the Department has an obligation to present the annex for the African Union report to the Portfolio Committee.

Based on this, the Department will receive an orange rating for this performance indicator.

Performance Indicator 9: Develop indicators for monitoring violence against children

During the first quarter, the Department reports that they have completed a study on violence against children in South Africa, while during the second quarter they stipulate that the indicators were developed as part of the M&E Strategy for children's rights. During the third quarter the Department states that the development of M&E indicators on violence is part of the DIFID proposal (for which they just received US\$1 million) and will commence during 2013. During the fourth quarter they state that they have consulted the indicators with provincial stakeholders. This is perplexing.

Based on the fact that the Portfolio Committee has not seen any M&E Strategy specifically in relation to children's rights and that the Department's reports on the development of indicators to monitor violence against children seems to provide more questions than answers, this performance indicator receives a red rating.

Performance Indicator 10: Compile one report on the progressive realisation of children's rights

The Department reports that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child country report is the report on the progressive realisation of children's rights for 2013. This seems to provide one with different viewpoints, as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child country report was a completely different performance indicator that the Department stipulated it would achieve. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child country report is also in a format that the United Nations requires and not one that specifically looks at one or two rights and provides recommendations on how to realise these rights within the South African context.

This performance indicator therefore receives a red rating as incomplete and in need of urgent attention.

Performance Indicator 11: Convene machineries on children's rights

During the first quarter, the Department states that the machinery will be held on 3-4 September. During the second quarter, the Department states that this was held on 26 – 27 September. During the third quarter, the Department states that this was held during 3-5 September and during the fourth quarter, the Department stipulates that it held a joint machinery with SALGA on 11 February 2013.



Notwithstanding the fourth quarter, the Department has to stipulate when exactly it held the children's right machinery during the second quarter, as the reporting for the first, second and third quarter provides different dates for this.

Based on the anomalies provided, this performance indicator receives an orange rating.

Performance Indicator 12: Coordinate a strategy for integrating children's considerations in integrated public service delivery.

During the first quarter a draft strategy was developed and reported that it will be refined during the second quarter. During the second quarter, the target set was not achieved as the process had to be aligned with the consultation process of the National Plan of Action for Children. During the third quarter the Department reports that this has been partially achieved as a draft is in place. The report is ambiguous, as it seems to refer to the draft that was completed during the first quarter. During the fourth quarter it also did not achieve any results with this performance indicator as the Department had to conduct training on the National Plan of Action for Children and the M&E Framework for children.

Therefore this performance indicator will receive a red rating.

Performance Indicator 13: Child Friendly Cities/ Communities initiatives for realisation of children's rights facilitated and coordinated in three municipalities

The Department produced a draft model for implementation and coordination during the first quarter. During the rest of the quarters, this model had to be implemented in one municipality, per quarter. During the second quarter the Department still awaited for finalisation of the terms of reference with the German Development Bank. During the third quarter consolidation and finalisation was still pending and during the fourth quarter nothing was reported.

Based on the above, one can come to the conclusion that the Department did not facilitate or coordinate the child friendly cities/ communities in any municipality. Therefore this performance indicator receives a red rating.

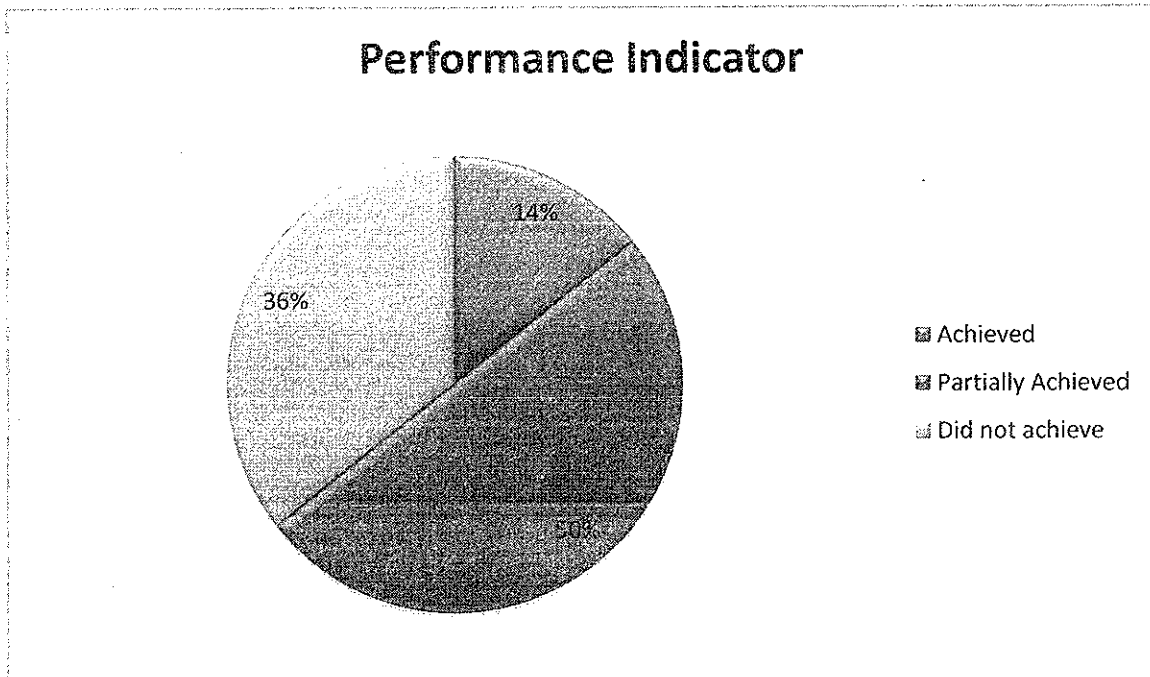
Performance Indicator 14: Develop a institutional framework

During the first quarter the Department did not develop a draft. However, during the second quarter the Department reports that it consulted a draft document provincially, while during the third quarter the draft was still being consulted at the children's rights machinery (which, according to performance indicator 11 actually took place during the second quarter). During the fourth quarter the Department did not achieve target to have a consolidated report in place.

Considering that the reports provides one with anomalies as to when a institutional framework was completed and when it was consulted, together with when it was finalised, this performance indicator receives a red rating.



To give you an overall view of how the Department fared in implementing its Annual Performance Plan in relation to Children's Rights and Responsibilities, the following pie chart with the all the ratings was developed.



What this chart indicates is that the Department achieved only 14% of its intended performance indicators for children's rights and responsibilities during the 2012/2013 financial year, with 36% of its performance indicators not achieved and 50% of its performance indicators in progress or partially achieved.

Donor funds

During the Department's budget and strategic plan meeting with the Portfolio Committee, the Portfolio Committee requested that the Department send a breakdown of all the donor funding received during the 2012/ 2013 financial year. Firstly it should be noted that the report received by the Department in the form of Annexure 2 stipulates the donor funding received for 2011/ 2012 financial year and not 2012/ 2013.

Be that as it may, it stipulates donor funding received mostly for the Children's Rights and Responsibilities Programme from UNICEF. In this regard it should be noted that most of these activities were completed and reported on during the 2012/ 2013 quarterly reports. This seem to indicate that the performance indicators actually achieved was achieved because of a contractual obligation in terms of receiving donor funds, while the performance indicators for results from the Department's annual funds received from Treasury seems to either be incomplete or not achieved at all. This, despite the fact that only 1% of the entire Department's funds constitute donor funding.



Key questions for consideration

1. When does the Department plan to present final versions of the following documents to the Portfolio Committee by tabling it in Parliament?
 - a. National Plan of Action for Children
 - b. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in relation to Children's Rights
 - c. The initial country report on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
2. How will the Department catch-up with regards to the incomplete performance indicators, specifically in relation to the following indicators:
 - a. Facilitate processes to integrate the mainstreaming of children's rights into policies and governance processes
 - b. the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
 - c. Review and monitor indicators for Early Childhood Development
3. What will the Department do in order to complete the outstanding performance indicators, taking into account the fact that the financial year in question (2012/ 2013) is over? The performance indicators referred are as follows:
 - a. Develop indicators for monitoring violence against children
 - b. Compile one report on the progressive realisation of children's rights
 - c. Coordinate a strategy for integrating children's considerations in integrated public service delivery
 - d. Child Friendly Cities/ Communities initiatives for realisation of children's rights facilitated and coordinated in three municipalities
 - e. Develop a institutional framework
4. How many consultants were used to assist with certain performance indicators and including consultants used by way of donor resources, considering that the Children's Rights and Responsibilities Programme only has a very small staff complement to achieve these fairly detailed and time-consuming 14 performance indicators?