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

22 July 2013

The Children's Rights and Responsibilities Programme has the following three sub-programmes:

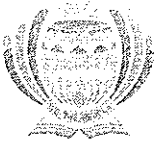
- Advocacy and Mainstreaming
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Institutional Support and Capacity Building

Challenges

This document is slightly altered from a previous summary I wrote on the Children's Rights and Responsibilities Programme performance for the 2012/ 13 financial year. The reason for altering the document is because the Department sent another version of the quarterly reports. The first challenge in this regard is the discrepancy between the later version of the presentation that the Department sent us. Our request was that they combine all the quarters into one presentation, as opposed to the 4 different presentations for one programme. This meant that there should not have been any differences in the content, especially as it relates to performance indicators, targets and outputs achieved. However there seems to be a difference in the latter. For example, in the powerpoint presentations sent in June the Department stipulated that they received a total of R788 000 in donor funding, while in the current presentation they stipulate that they received R 1 246 447 in donor funding.

General Challenges

- In the first powerpoint presentations that the Department sent, it seems to have indicators which were still incomplete, which were not only incomplete since the 2012/ 2013 financial year, but also from the years before that. An example would be performance indicator 13 on child friendly cities/ communities, which is still incomplete. However, this position changes in the current presentation. Most targets have been met. See the table below. The performance indicator on child friendly cities/ communities went from "not-achieved" in the first powerpoint presentation to "partially achieved" in the later version.
- The Department only achieved 14% of its performance indicators for the 2012/ 2013 financial year in relation to the Children's Rights and Responsibilities Programme, based on the information provided in the first power point presentations. This position changed to 68% achieved during the updated powerpoint presentation.



	Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved
Q1	9	3	1
Q2	9	2	2
Q3	8	5	0
Q4	12	0	0

- The table above comes as a surprise, because the Department only had a staff compliment of 15 people for this Programme (as stipulated in the 2013/ 2014 Annual Performance Plan) and had 14 Performance Indicators to reach during the 2012/ 2013 financial year and yet seemed to achieve most of its targets.
- The performance indicators are not strategic in relation to Government Plans or Goals and need to be given proper thought.

Budget related issues

- This programme had a budget of R13.525 million for the 2012/ 2013 financial year.
- If the Department only managed to reach 68% of its performance indicator targets, how is it that they managed to spend R13.525 million during this financial year on this programme? The financial report seems to show that this Programme actually overspent during the entire financial year. The powerpoint presentation shows that the Programme's expenditure amounted to: R24.233 million. The amount thus overspent on = R10.708 million.
- In relation to donor funding, the Department first reported that it received R788 000.00 from UNICEF to complete the following documents:
 - Review of the National Plan of Action for Children
 - Support the completion of the Combined UN Children's Rights report
 - Diagnostic Report for M&E and integrated M&E framework; and
 - Support for an inter-sectoral policy dialogue



- These were all achieved or in the completion phases. With R788 000.00 the Department seemed to have completed or are in the process of completing all of this.
- In its updated powerpoint presentation, the Department reports that it received a total of R1 246 447 in donor funding from both UNICEF and UNFPA.
- Therefore the Department would have to answer in relation to the expenditure of R9 461 553.

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. Final strategy and comprehensive report on Sanitary Dignity Campaign
 - c. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in relation to Children's Rights and the Diagnostic Study that was completed in this regard
 - d. Study on violence against children
 - e. Institutional Framework report
 - f. 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?
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?
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 compliment to achieve these fairly detailed and time-consuming 14 performance indicators?
5. How does the National Plan of Action for Children link to the 4 social campaigns that the Department coordinated?
6. Child participation activities should not just be tokenistic in nature, but should actually be incorporated into government plans. Therefore, how are the recommendations and discussions in relation to child participation and self advocacy incorporated into the work of the Department?
7. How are the ECD indicators different to that developed by the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency?