

Annual Performance Plan for Fiscal Year 2012/13

Programme 3: Children's Rights and Responsibilities (CRR)

The purpose of the Children's Rights and Responsibilities programme is to promote, advocate and monitor the progressive realisation of children's rights through Government's policies and programmes. This programme has three sub-programmes these are as follows:

- Sub-programme 1: Advocacy and mainstreaming children's rights and responsibilities
- Sub-programme 2: Monitoring and Evaluation
- Sub-programme 3: Institutional Support and Capacity Development

Strategic Objectives

<i>As per the strategic plan</i>	<i>As per annual performance plan</i>	<i>As per presentation</i>	<i>Concern/Question</i>
Advocacy and mainstreaming of children's rights. To facilitate and coordinate the mainstreaming 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 campaigns and partnership with Government and other stakeholders.	To mainstream children's rights considerations into government's policies and governance processes.	To monitor and evaluate the mainstreaming of children's rights considerations into government's policies, governance processes and programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are the strategic objectives formulated differently in the presentation as compared to the strategic plan and annual performance plan? • Last year's annual report (2011-2012) stated the following two objectives for this programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objective 1: Promote human dignity and

Monitoring and evaluation of the realisation of children's rights into Government's policies and programmes. To monitor, evaluate, and report annually on the realisation of children's rights in line with the Constitution, national, continental and international obligations.	To monitor and evaluate the mainstreaming of children's rights considerations into government's policies, governance processes and programmes.	To monitor and evaluate the mainstreaming of children's rights considerations into government's policies, governance processes and programmes.	advance child survival, protection and development. 2: To coordinate, monitor, evaluate and advocate on child rights delivery
Institutional support and capacity building for children's rights. To coordinate and facilitate an integrated approach to the provision to the provision of capacity building and institutional support to enable key stakeholders in the sector to participate and contribute more efficiently and effectively in the mainstreaming and monitoring of children's rights at all levels of government and civil society.	To provide an integrated approach for institutional support and capacity building for the realisation of children's rights into government policy and programme, civil society and the private sector.	To provide an integrated approach for institutional support and capacity building for the realization of children's rights into government policy and programme, civil society and the private sector.	The Department has to remain consistent in its reporting in order for the Committee to monitor the Departments progress effectively.

Programme 3: Questions and Concerns

- What is the status of the National Programme of Action for Children, which is intended to provide a national perspective on furthering children's rights in the country? The Annual Performance Plan (2012-2013) indicates that a draft should be complete by the first quarter of this fiscal year.
- According to the Annual Performance Plan (2012-2013), consultations with national Departments will be held with regards to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and treaties. This process is meant to commence in the first quarter. What has been the progress made in this regard thus far?
- The Sanitary Dignity Campaign has an allocated budget of R200 000 this amount partly cost for an integrated strategy for the campaign. What does this entail?
- How has the Department involved children in drafting departmental programmes and budgets aimed at and for children?

General

- What systems has the Department put in place to oversee the work of other Government departments in relation to promoting the rights of women, children and people with disabilities?



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Programme 2: Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality (WEGE)

Purpose:

- To facilitate the translation of national and international commitments into empowerment and socio-economic development programmes
- To oversee and report comprehensively on the national realisation of women's rights and the progressive realisation of equality

Three sub-programmes:

- Advocacy and mainstreaming (R9.3 million)
- Institutional Support and Capacity Development (R5.9 million)
- Monitoring and Evaluation (R5.6 million)

Budget Allocation:

- This programme is allocated R 79 463 million, however R58 530 million (73.6%) of this amount constitutes the transfer payment to the Commission for Gender Equality, leaving the programme with an operating budget of R20.9 million

Strategic Objectives:

2012 – 2017 Strategic Plan	2012/13 Annual Performance Plan	2011-2015 Strategic Plan
Advocacy and mainstreaming to empower women and achieve gender equality	To facilitate and coordinate women's empowerment and gender equality through mainstreaming in all Government's policies, programmes and governance processes, as well as advocating, lobbying and awareness raising	To mainstream women's empowerment and gender equality considerations into government's policies, governance processes
Institutional support and capacity development for women's empowerment and gender equality	To provide an integrated approach for institutional support an capacity building	To coordinate institutional support and capacity development programme
Monitor and evaluate progress on women's empowerment and gender equality	To monitor compliance and conduct impact assessments on women's empowerment and gender equality as well as compile reports to meet national, regional, continental and international commitments	

Civil Society inputs/concerns

- Lack of detail in documents – there is a lot of “WHAT”, but not enough “HOW”
- Relationship between Department and other National Departments and Provincial Government is critical – how will the Department assert itself?
- Department is establishing a National Council against Gender Based Violence, however the Annual Performance Plan contains very little regarding the Department’s plans to combat gender-based violence.
- In terms of Programme 2, the monitoring and evaluation of women’s empowerment and gender equality is the Department’s core oversight function, yet very little resources is allocated to this Strategic Objective.

Overall Concerns/ Questions

- In terms of identified risks, the Department identifies the same risks in both the current and previous strategic plans, namely, insufficient budgetary allocations, lack of compliance and accountability and a lack of skills and capacity. Has the Department not implemented any mitigating mechanisms in the last financial year?

- The Department indicates in the Strategic Plan (pg 28) that the growth in the number of staff is dependent on the establishment of the Secretariat for the National Council against Gender Based Violence, however the annual performance plan indicates that the Secretariat will be housed under the sub-programme: Management in Programme 1 (Administration) – this was also indicated by the Deputy-Minister in her response at the Committee’s engagement with civil society organisations. Clarification is needed.

- Difficult to gauge whether all targets in the 2011/12 Annual Performance Plan have been met as in some cases there appears to be a duplication or overlap with the 2012/13 APP e.g. National Policy Framework on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment – the 2011/12 APP indicates that the policy was to have been submitted to cabinet for approval in the 4th quarter of the last financial year, however this is once again a target for the 1st quarter of the new financial year.

Overall Concerns/ questions (continued)

- Concern that the Department indicates that “many of the programmes and projects will only be starting during the 2012/13 financial year as it still needs to finalise the establishment of all supporting units”. Which units does this refer to? It is also disconcerting that projects and programmes will only be implemented as from now.

- The Department highlights as part of its expenditure trends summary (pg27) that Goods and Services will be mainly used to fund awareness campaigns, consultative meetings and the production of materials – at what point will the department be developing tools and mechanisms to track progress on women’s empowerment and gender equality?

- If monitoring and evaluation is the Department’s core function, why has the budget allocation for this sub-programme decreased? Previously the total budget for this programme was R16.6 million in 2011/12, of which 89.8 per cent was used for goods and services. This year (2012/2013) the budget for this sub-programme has decreased to R 9.3 million.

- Has the Department signed any MOU’s with other Departments of Provincial Government insofar as programmes for women’s empowerment and gender equality is concerned?