

The Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, has been publishing the *South African Child Gauge*® every year since 2005 to track progress towards the realisation of children's rights.

The *South African Child Gauge 2017* is the twelfth issue and focuses on how to use the Sustainable Development Goals to create an enabling environment in which South Africa's children not only survive, but thrive and reach their full potential. It also discusses recent policy and legislative developments affecting children in the country, and provides child-centred data to monitor progress and track the realisation of their socio-economic rights.

The Children's Institute aims to contribute to policies, laws and interventions that promote equality and improve the conditions of all children in South Africa, through research, advocacy, education and technical support.

The annual *South African Child Gauge* is without question the pre-eminent national publication on the subject of children, and society owes a debt of gratitude to the Children's Institute for this evidence-led investment in the future.

Jonathan Jansen, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Free State

Within the South African context, the *Child Gauge* fulfils a three-fold purpose. First, it mobilises the resources of the university to promote engaged scholarship that seeks to better understand and address the challenges faced by South Africa's children. Second, it makes this evidence accessible to those in government who are responsible for the design and delivery of services for children. Last, but not least, it supports the efforts of civil society and an informed citizenry who can then challenge rights violations and hold government accountable.

Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and Associate Professor, Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights, University of the Western Cape

We view the work of the CI, both the research and the policy engagement, as an invaluable contribution to the objective of increasing the use of research evidence in the policy-making and implementation process. The CI successfully bridges the gap in translating research into products for use in the policy community. Through the PSPPD's collaboration with the CI on the *Child Gauge*, and by supporting innovative policy relevant research, we are able to put children's issues at the forefront of the policy agenda.

Mastoera Sadan, Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development (PSPPD), Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The *Child Gauge* collates and interrogates the latest research evidence from a child-centred and policy perspective. In the process of seeking to make research relevant and accessible to policy-makers and practitioners, it helps to identify blind spots, knowledge gaps and areas for further enquiry.

Linda Richter, Director of the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development, University of the Witwatersrand

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