



Children's Institute

Annual Report 2016



children's
institute
child rights in focus
Research • Advocacy • Education



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
(YUNIBESITHI) YASESAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



Vision

A society in which children are valued, nurtured and protected; their rights are realised; and where they are able to participate, develop and reach their full potential.

Mission

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

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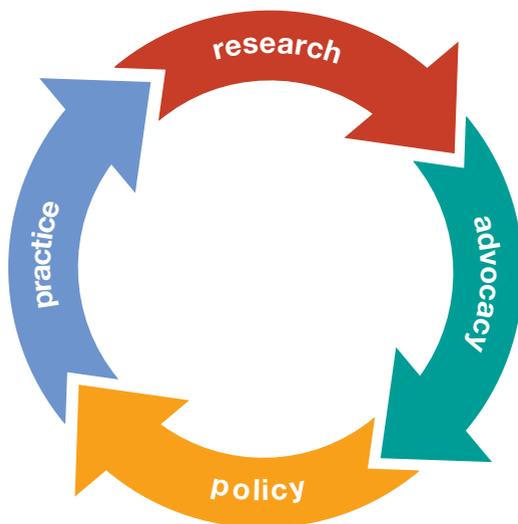
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About the Children's Institute

The Children's Institute was established in 2001 as a multi-disciplinary research institute to “promote effective development of policies and interventions” that respond to key challenges and realise the rights of all children in South Africa. Today, the Institute is recognised as a leader in child policy research and advocacy, and our activities remain focused on key challenges to the wellbeing of South Africa's children: poverty and inequality, child mortality and morbidity, violence and abuse, and limited voice.

Theory of Change

The Children's Institute aims to get research into policy and practice. Drawing on rigorous research, we generate an evidence base to guide policy and law reform. This process of engagement includes focused presentations, submissions and dialogues to communicate recommendations to key decision-makers in government and civil society; and informing public dialogue and debate through the news and social media. As determined by the issue and political context, we select appropriate advocacy strategies – ranging from technical support and capacity building through to civil society mobilisation and litigation. Shifts in policy and practice are then monitored, generating further research questions and advocacy opportunities that continue to drive the policy-research cycle.



Understanding children in context

Despite a constitutional commitment to child rights and the introduction of a number of new laws and policies that provide an enabling framework for realising these rights, much remains to be done to attain equality and fulfil children's rights in South Africa. Children account for 34% of South Africa's population, and the numbers below* highlight some of the considerable challenges facing children in South Africa.

	Demography and care arrangements 18.5 million children live in SA 21% of children do not live with either parent
	Poverty 63% of children live in income poverty 30% live in unemployed households
	Housing 31% do not have water on site 18% of children experience overcrowding 11% live in informal housing
	Health 25% of children under 5 are stunted 22% of children travel far to access health care
	Education 98% of school-aged children attend school 33% of youth aged 15 – 24 are not in employment, education or training
	Violence 1 in 3 children are victims of sexual violence and physical abuse before the age of 18

* For a more detailed analysis of child-centred indicators, see: www.childrencount.uct.ac.za

Year in review

The commemorative and reflective Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture by founding director and former Health Sciences Faculty Dean, Professor Marian Jacobs, was certainly a momentous occasion for the Children's Institute during 2016. The guest lecture by Prof Jacobs drew on her rich memories of establishing the Institute and provided the audience with a poignant narrative of the important positioning of the *South African Child Gauge*® to monitor the country's progress towards realising children's rights. This event was a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the *South African Child Gauge*, and not only was the VC lecture a resounding success but the accompanying media campaign was also nominated for the African Excellence Award in public relations. (The campaign would be named as the winner of this category award in early 2017.) Importantly, the reflections by Prof Jacobs reminded us that documenting the history of the CI is critical and should become a priority project.

On an organisational front, the year was marked by solidifying our partnerships on the international and country level with a successful research grant application with the **International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership**. This partnership brings together seven research institutes in four countries and aims to investigate the monitoring of children's participation, with a comparison across countries.

In addition, we also collaborated with Ilifa Labantwana and the Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency to publish the *South African Early Childhood Review 2016*. This publication aims to track government's progress with respect to key ECD statistical indicators, and we are exploring the potential for this to become an annual publication. We have also continued and consolidated a range of ongoing key partnerships (for a full list of partners see inside back cover).





Celebrating the launch of the *Child Gauge 2016* with partners: From left: Linda Richter (DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development), Shanaaz Mathews (Children’s Institute), Mastoera Sadan (Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development), Francie Lund (WIEGO) & Yulia Krieger (UNICEF).

Highlights

Over the past year the work of the Children’s Institute has highlighted the crucial factors necessary to realise children’s “*constitutional rights to social assistance*” through the *South African Child Gauge 2016*. This publication was timely as it consolidated a decade of sustained research, advocacy and engagement with various government departments on the effects of using the foster care system for orphans living with family members. Serendipitously, in November 2016, just prior to the launch of the *Child Gauge*, the Minister of Social Development gazetted a draft **Social Assistance Amendment Bill** for comment. It provides the legal basis for what’s known as a Child Support Grant (CSG) ‘top-up’ in place of the Foster Care Grant for orphans. This Bill is the first public support shown by government for the CSG top-up and represents an important milestone for the Children’s Institute.

Since 2014, the CI has conducted a range of research projects aimed at strengthening the development of **an integrated child protection** system. Over the past year the findings from these studies shed light on the current child protection system, both its strengths and serious deficits, its underperformance and the lack of coordination between agencies. Our evidence shows that children are experiencing life-

long adverse effects because child protection professionals are failing to identify and respond to their need for protection and psychosocial support (see page 14). South Africa urgently needs to strengthen our child protection response to protect children from further abuse and promote recovery for children as abuse compromises their wellbeing and life chances. Based on our new evidence, we convened an advocacy strategy meeting with experts from across the country and resolved to lead a multi-pronged advocacy campaign to highlight the gaps in the child protection system.

Our work and reach

The CI aims to promote effective policies and interventions that promote equality and realise the rights of all children in South Africa. This is achieved through multi-disciplinary research to build an evidence base and using this to advocate for policy, law and service reform, and through active collaboration with government and civil society.

Contributing our research evidence to the writing of the civil society's **shadow reports to the United Nations and African Union** helped strengthen an important mechanism in holding government to account for the systemic barriers to realise children's rights in South Africa (see page 9). I was privileged to form part of a four-person delegation that represented the Alternate Report Coalition-Children's Rights South Africa (ARC-CRSA) at a 73rd Pre-Sessional Working Group meeting of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRoC) in Geneva. The delegation made an oral submission to complement the ARC-CRSA shadow report, highlighting issues that civil society identified as critical for the Government of South Africa (GoSA) to report on. When the UNCROc met with the GoSA delegation in September 2016 to discuss South Africa's progress in realising children's rights, it was encouraging to see that the Committee raised questions emerging from the ARC-CRSA shadow report and the delegation's oral submission. In early October 2016, UNCROc issued their concluding observations that strongly recommended improved governance and oversight of children's rights and effective child rights budgeting to ensure that laws, policies and plans can be implemented in a manner that positively impacts on children's lives.

Over the past year we remained focused on shifting the burden of child mortality to ensure progress towards the country's Sustainable Development Goal. **The Child Death Review** pilot (a multi-disciplinary model to establish "how and why" children are dying in our setting) published its findings. (See list of journal articles, on page 32.*) The

project received much attention at national and provincial level and was featured, in a newsletter of the Department of Health, as a promising intervention with which to shift practice to reduce child mortality in South Africa. In an exciting development, the Child Death Review has been adopted by the Western Cape Department of Health as a ‘best-practice model’ which it plans to roll out across the province in 2017.

Staffing and governance

It was with great sadness that we bid farewell to one of the CI’s longstanding staff members, Charmaine Smith. She left the CI in April 2016 to embark on an amazing journey of reflection and discovery with a visit to an Ashram in India. We appointed Morgan Morris as Communications Officer to fill this gap and support our knowledge management and communications portfolio.

Taryn van Niekerk left the CI at the end of 2015 to pursue a postdoctoral post in the Department of Psychology at UCT. Ms Jenna-Lee Marco was employed in a researcher post to fill this vacant post. Paula Proudlock was on long sick leave from March to December 2016, but will return to the CI in a part-time capacity in 2017.

The CI staff and board engaged in a strategic planning process during 2016 to provide strategic direction and guide the work of the CI for 2017 to 2019. Under the leadership of Professor Susan Kidson, the governing board has supported the strategic plan and will continue to support the work of the CI across the university and beyond. Lizette Berry has replaced Charmaine Smith as the staff representative, and Lindiwe Mokate stepped down from the board at the end of 2016 when her term as Human Rights Commissioner came to an end. A replacement will be elected in 2017.



Members of the SA civil society delegation in Geneva.

Closing remarks

The past year was a successful year for the Children's Institute on all fronts. It is important to acknowledge that working towards law reform can be a slow process but it is important to persevere. This was highlighted by our work on social assistance, and following a decade of sustained advocacy that helped highlight the devastating effects of using the foster care system for orphans living with family members, the Draft Social Assistance Amendment Bill was finally published for comment in November 2016.

2016 also saw the completion of several primary research studies, focused on child protection, that will build the foundation for ongoing advocacy and policy engagement. These studies highlight the depth of the crisis within the child protection system and the urgent need to take action so that we can give effect to children's rights to protection from abuse and neglect, and to freedom from all forms of violence. Advocating for the strengthening of the child protection system will take centre stage for the next year and beyond.



Associate Professor Shanaaz Mathews
Director

Monitoring children's rights

The Children's Institute monitors progress towards the realisation of children's rights by tracking a set of child-centered indicators on its Children's Count website, through the annual publication of the *South African Child Gauge*, and more recently through shadow reports to the United Nations and African Union.

Shadow reports to the AU and UN

In 2016, the CI continued its association with the Alternate Report Coalition – Children's Rights South Africa (ARC-CRSA). In particular the Coalition's work to develop shadow reports that respond to the periodic country reports that South Africa, as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), must make to Committees monitoring the implementation of these conventions.

South Africa made its first country report, on schedule, to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1997, two years after ratifying the UNCRC. However, it failed to submit reports in 2002 and 2007, and only submitted a combined second, third and fourth report in June 2013. ARC-CRSA presented a shadow report to UNCRC in October 2015 together with other civil society organisations.

Following its submission, ARC-CRSA was invited to a pre-session meeting with UNCRC in February 2016. The CI director, Associate Professor Shanaaz Mathews, was part of the four-person delegation to represent the coalition at this meeting in Geneva. Following on from these discussions, UNCRC met with a delegation of the South African government in September 2016 to discuss the country and shadow reports, and assess the country's progress.

It was encouraging to see that, during this meeting, the UN Committee raised questions around the challenges that the Coalition had highlighted in its shadow report and oral presentation. ARC-CRSA issued press releases before and after the September meeting, sparking substantial interest in the media, culminating in several interviews and media reports. Throughout the year, the CI also participated in meetings/telephone conferences of the Coalition to guide strategic issues. In October 2016, UNCRC issued their concluding observations. Together with other members of ARC-CRSA, the CI drafted a press release.

The CI also attended an intersectoral government meeting at which government discussed progress towards the South African government's second report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). South Africa ratified the ACRWC in 2000, but failed to submit any reports to the ACERWC until 2013. An initial country report – covering the period 2000 to 2013 – was prepared by the now disbanded Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities and submitted in late 2013.

South African Child Gauge 2016

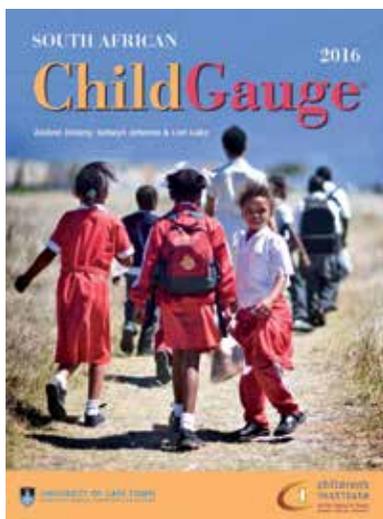
The theme of the 2016 *South African Child Gauge* was children and social assistance, with a focus on the Child Support Grant (CSG).

The 2016 publication provided an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learnt since the CSG was introduced in 1998, to consolidate the evidence of the CSG's effects on child wellbeing, and to showcase its successes in a format that is accessible to a range of audiences. A number of chapters therefore made the case for continuing and strengthening the CSG as an internationally recognised cash transfer programme. This included a chapter addressing common myths and concerns that tend to hamper the expansion of social grants as an effective policy intervention.

With this as a foundation, the *2016 Child Gauge* also provided an opportunity to present recent research on a set of policy proposals under consideration for strengthening and expanding social assistance for children. These essays and the dialogues and engagements that followed aim to bring these policy proposals into the public arena and generate debate about their strengths and weaknesses. With this in mind, the essays were presented at a policy dialogue held in August 2016 with 30 experts from academia, civil society and government. The arguments were also summarised in an accessible four-page policy brief to reach a broader audience.

The 2016 editorial team was supported by an editorial advisory committee that included social security champions within government and civil society. The publication brought together 32 expert contributors and included introductory reflections from Professor Frances Lund, the former Chairperson of the Lund Committee on Child and Family Support that originally proposed the introduction of the CSG.

The book was launched in Pretoria in November 2016. Opening remarks were delivered by the then Director-General, Zane Dangor, on behalf of the Minister. Other speakers included Professor Frances





Contributors and partners at the Pretoria launch, from left: Yulia Krieger (UNICEF), Alejandro Grinspun (UNICEF), Kath Hall (Children's Institute), Mastoera Sadan (Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development, Aislinn Delany & Shanaaz Mathews & Lori Lake (Children's Institute), Linda Richter (DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development), Paula Proudlock (Children's Institute), Francie Lund (WIEGO) & Selwyn Jehoma (Economic Policy Research Institute).

Lund; Dr Yulia Krieger (Deputy Representative, UNICEF South Africa); lead editor Aislinn Delany and Professor Linda Richter (Director of the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development at the University of the Witwatersrand). More than 100 representatives from government, academia, civil society and the media attended the launch. A smaller celebratory gathering was held in Cape Town. Copies of the book, policy brief and accompanying poster were distributed at the two events as well as to government, civil society organisations, academics, donors, development organisations, and the media.

Findings from the 2016 *Child Gauge* have been presented in several forums, with further requests for 2017. A follow-up workshop with a focus on civil society engagement with social assistance proposals for children is planned for 2017, and forms part of our ongoing advocacy for social assistance strengthening and reform.

Child protection

Despite their constitutional right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect and abuse, violence against children remains widespread in South Africa. This programme of work aims to generate an evidence base to advocate for better protection for children against maltreatment, specifically through the development of an integrated child protection system.

Among other work, three research/policy briefs were finalised in 2016:

- *Helping children recover from trauma,*
- *Strengthening the child protection system in South Africa,* and
- *What happens to children in the child protection system?*

CI activities included presentations at the consultations on the Review of the Child Protection System that the Department of Social Development (DSD) is conducting as part of the Government Capacity Building Support Programme, as well as presentations at Parliament and the International Conference on Violence Prevention hosted by UCT's Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI) in September 2016.

The Institute's researchers also attended the deliberations on the Children's Amendment Bill and Children's Second Amendment Bill, lobbying MPs and officials. The CI and partners gave input on corporal punishment and child protection policy when the Department of Social Development engaged with civil society organisations on the structure and proposed content of the Children's Act Policy at the National Child Care and Protection Forum in March 2016.



Lucy Jamieson presented at the International Conference on Violence Prevention, hosted by SaVI in September 2016.

To build capacity within civil society, the CI assisted organisations with participation in both this gathering and a September summit that served as the culmination of the DSD's Review of the Child Protection System. The CI plans to continue work that will contribute to the improvement of violence prevention services to children.

Helping children recover from trauma

The Children's Institute conducted an outcomes assessment of a residential therapeutic programme for sexually-abused children from rural parts of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

The programme was developed by the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) and Childline South Africa in collaboration with the Department of Social Development. It forms part of the Isibindi Circles of Courage model, which aims to develop a workforce of community-based child and youth care workers (CYCWs) to respond to the overwhelming needs of vulnerable children.



This study was designed to establish the impact of the programme to facilitate psychosocial recovery in the child and the caregiver. The study found that children on the programme were more likely to disclose their abuse earlier than those not on the programme. On the other hand, it was found that the intervention is not sufficient to improve mental health symptoms. We found that this intersects with the complex and intergenerational nature of the trauma children and families are experiencing, influencing mental health outcomes for children. Risk of exposure to violence and trauma remains high, particularly as perpetrators remain at large.

The report urges the following: that safe environments should be ensured for sexually abused children; that sexual abuse treatment and intervention responses be reviewed; for improvements in the capacity of social service practitioners to respond to continuous and complex trauma; and for the implementation of community- and family-based responses.

Child Abuse Tracking Study

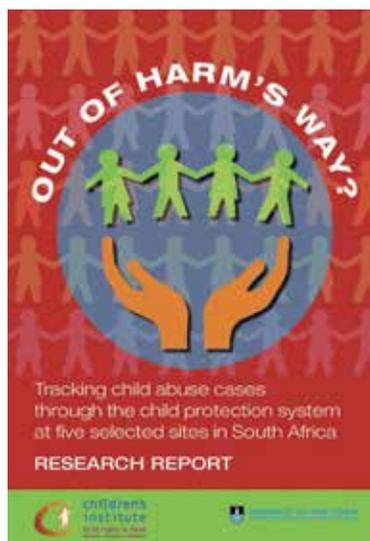
Tracking child abuse cases through the child protection system at five selected sites in South Africa, *Out of Harms Way?* reports on the findings from the Child Abuse Tracking (CAT) study, which explains that violence against children is a pervasive problem that affects many children in South Africa.

The first national prevalence study estimates that between 20 – 34% of children experienced some form of contact violence before the age of 18. At the same time, it is known that the child protection system is under-resourced and that social workers are failing to manage their foster care cases.

There are no published studies on the functioning of the child protection system in South Africa. Very little is known about the extent to which child protection workers are following protocol. The aims of the CAT study are to document how the child protection system processes reported cases of child abuse, and to make recommendations about how child protection services could be strengthened, so as to reduce the risk of trauma to children and break the intergenerational cycle of violence.

The project involved the review of 213 case files involving 258 victims (some cases pertained to multiple victims), across five sites in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal (following a pilot study in the Western Cape). Overall, 62% (158) of victims reported sexual abuse, 30% (75) deliberate neglect, and 8% (20) physical abuse as the primary form of abuse.

In particular, the study generated recommendations for the specific improvement of child protection services within the local setting.

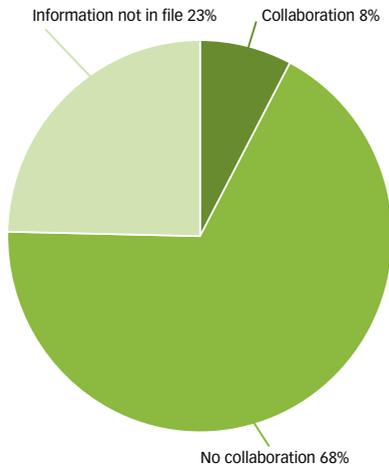


The study found that:

- physical abuse is not taken seriously,
- the needs of children with disability are not recognised,
- children are exposed to ongoing risk,
- the lack of therapeutic services increase trauma,
- poor record-keeping prohibits evidence-based planning,
- best practices could be shared,
- poor case management,
- inadequate supervision lead to children getting lost in the system,
- children suffer because professionals are not working together, and that
- the cycle of violence will continue.



It recommends that supervision and monitoring are improved, that the needs of children are assessed to determine which children are at risk, that safe environments are ensured for abused children, that intersectoral collaboration/joint risk management are improved, that children reporting abuse are provided access to appropriate therapeutic and support services, and that a proper information management and planning system is put in place.



Verified intersectoral collaboration on cases between the police and social services

Determinants of violence against women and children study

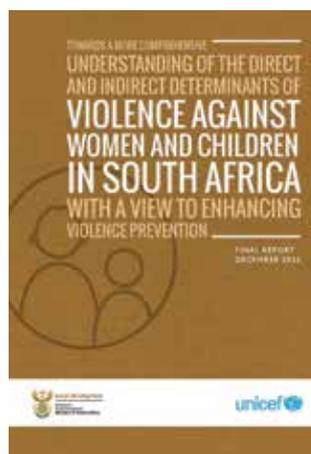
A study by the Children's Institute and other members of the Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI) at UCT was named as one of UNICEF's best research projects for 2016.

The study was commissioned by UNICEF for the Inter-ministerial Committee on the root causes of violence against women and children. The study sought to offer a "critical analysis of the risk and protective factors associated with violence – physical, sexual and emotional – against women and children in South Africa, and establish the pathways to victimisation and later perpetration of violence". The goal of the research was to provide an evidence base to strengthen the SA government's response to violence.

The study showed a significant relationship between childhood experiences, such as conflict in the home, and later female victimisation or male perpetration of violence. It also showed that children who have been exposed to some form of crime and substance abuse at home are at greater risk of experiencing violence outside the home – but they are also significantly more likely to perpetrate violence against others, be it in the home, the community or at school.

Emotional, physical and sexual abuse suffered by women as children was found to be a key determinant of whether they later became victims of violence. In turn, men who had suffered emotional, physical or sexual abuse as children were found to be significantly more likely to perpetrate violence – and in many instances childhood abuse was the single most significant risk factor.

The study highlights the need for early intervention and prevention, more detailed research on the prevalence of violence, the rollout of intervention programmes at scale, and improved information and surveillance systems. In its compilation publication, UNICEF noted that this study "could serve not only as an important step forward for South Africa in this regard, but also as an example of good practice for other (African) countries".



Early childhood development

Policy and programme development

In December 2015, Cabinet approved the country's first national Early Childhood Development (ECD) policy, the National Integrated Policy for Early Childhood Development (ECD), which recognises that Investment in early childhood development is one of the most effective long-term strategies for poverty eradication. The National Integrated ECD policy aims to provide an overarching and enabling framework for ECD services; define a comprehensive package of ECD services and support and prioritise essential components; identify the relevant role players and their roles and responsibilities; and establish a national ECD leadership and coordinating structure.

The national policy goes hand in hand with endorsements of the scaling-up of quality ECD programmes in the National Development Plan and the South African Integrated Programme of Action for Early Childhood Development – Moving Ahead (2013/14 – 2016/17), approved by Cabinet in 2013. The Children's Institute contributed to drafting the national policy, and will be monitoring its implementation from 2018.

South African Early Childhood Review

Over recent years, the CI has begun to monitor indicators of service access and child outcomes with a focus on young children. In 2016, the CI in collaboration with Ilifa Labantwana and the Department for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency, published and launched the *South African Early Childhood Review 2016*. This statistical publication focuses on 0 – 6-year olds, and contains information on maternal and child health, nutrition, primary caregiver support, social services, and early learning. These domains converge with the essential components of the comprehensive package of ECD services and support promoted in the National Policy.

The review presents a set of indicators to support intersectoral planning, delivery and monitoring of the essential components, which can be updated annually. The report highlights a number of data gaps, which are critical in tracking progress in the future. The possibility exists to establish the *Early Childhood Review* as an annual publication. It is also envisaged that the CI will, in 2017, collaborate with Ilifa to develop an administrative data system for ECD. The review highlights the urgency of delivering comprehensive ECD services, and the state's obligation to provide those services.



Investing in social assistance

Using the Statistics South Africa upper bound poverty line, the percentage of children living in poverty declined from 79% in 2003 to 62% in 2015.

This poverty line allows just enough to meet nutritional needs and cover the cost of basic essentials. The decline in the child poverty rate is primarily a result of South Africa's strong social assistance programmes, of which the Child Support Grant (CSG) is by far the biggest in terms of the number of people reached. In the face of little improvement in adult unemployment rates, investing further in the CSG will enable the child poverty rates to continue to decline.

There were two main areas of work in 2016: discussions around the expansion of the CSG, and strengthening income support for orphans living with relatives. The Department of Social Development has indicated an intention to expand the CSG and over the past four years has been exploring options. The CI has therefore focused on research and advocacy aimed at generating debate and promoting decision-making on social assistance reforms. In late 2016, government finally released a long-awaited discussion document outlining a vision of comprehensive social security which contained a number of proposed reforms, making this focus particularly pertinent.

The use of the Foster Child Grant (FCG) for orphans in the care of relatives has proven unsuccessful. Despite increased investment in state social worker posts and dedicated task teams to decrease the backlogs in applications and extensions, the number of children accessing the FCG has been steadily declining over the past five years. The proposal to provide a larger CSG to relatives caring for orphans (a 'CSG top-up') could solve this challenge of access for orphans, as well as free up social worker and court time to provide improved protection services to children who have been abused or neglected. The CI has been leading a research and advocacy project aimed at promoting the adoption of the proposed CSG top-up in an appropriate form.

Work done in 2015 came to fruition in 2016 with two influential bodies hearing our concerns and recommending to government that they prioritise the reform we are recommending. These were the Ministers Committee on Review of



30%
of children live in
UNEMPLOYED
HOUSEHOLDS

the White Paper on Social Welfare (which reported in October 2016), and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (which issued its concluding observations to the SA government in October 2016). A further milestone occurred when the Minister gazetted for comment a draft Social Assistance Amendment Bill that gives the Ministers of Social Development and Finance the authority to pay a larger valued CSG to relatives caring for orphans.

Expanding the CSG to reduce child poverty

Showcasing evidence for investing further in the CSG

To help build the political will required for the expansion of the CSG, we focused the 2016 edition of our flagship report, the *South African Child Gauge*, on the CSG. The editorial board, which included social security champions within government and in civil society, advocated strongly for the *Gauge* to collate and showcase existing evidence on the reach and impact of the CSG to provide a strong foundation for the discussion of expansion reforms. A number of *Gauge* chapters were therefore aimed at making the case for continuing and strengthening the CSG. These chapters provide a useful contextual resource that will be accessible to a range of target audiences and can be used as credible and accessible advocacy materials.

Describing, analysing and debating CSG reforms

Because most of the reform proposals had not received much attention within government or in the broader public, we identified the need to provide opportunities to air the options and debate their strengths and weaknesses. The first step was to compile an accessible document that described the proposals and brought them into the public arena. We devoted a chapter of the *Gauge* to describing each proposal in detail, presenting a list of constitutional and good governance principles to assess the proposals, and analysing the strengths and weaknesses of the proposals. The essay was also summarised into an accessible four-page policy brief to reach a broader audience.



Aislinn Delany, lead editor of the 2016 Child Gauge.

Not only did this *Gauge* chapter on CSG policy reform proposals represent the first public resource that captured the proposals, the process of compiling it facilitated dialogue between civil society and government. The authors, editorial team, peer reviewers and policy dialogue participants came from government, academia and civil society and included, for example, the original architects of the CSG from both government and civil society, human rights advocates who campaigned for the expansions of the CSG since its inception, the former and current DDGs for Social Security, and the incoming DG for Social Development. The discussions that occurred between these stakeholders via the writing and reviewing process and the policy dialogue revealed a wealth of new evidence with regard to the political environment; the design of the proposals; their strengths and weaknesses; and new variations and combinations of proposals that could be considered.



Literature review of evidence on the cost of feeding a child

We finalised a literature review on existing evidence on the food component costs of caring for a child. This research will link to a body of work on child nutritional outcomes that is being conducted under the auspices of the Centre for Excellence in Food Security at the University of the Western Cape and the University of Pretoria. The evidence will be useful when debating the proposal for increasing the amount of the CSG and the amount of the CSG top-up.

Research on child migration in South Africa

The frequent movement of children between households due to internal migration is one of the factors to consider in the design and implementation of CSG reform proposals, yet there is little evidence available. During 2016 Katharine Hall finalised a study on internal child migration which will be submitted as a PhD thesis in early 2017. Titled *Children’s Spatial Mobility and Household Transitions: A study of child mobility and care arrangements in the context of maternal migration*, the study analyses trends in household form and child migration within the country.

South Africa has uniquely high rates of parental absence from children's lives. Apartheid-era restrictions on population movement and residential arrangements contributed to family fragmentation, particularly when adults – mainly men – migrated to work in cities and on the mines. Despite the removal of legal impediments to permanent urban settlement and family co-residence for Africans, patterns of internal and oscillating labour migration have endured, dual or stretched households continue to link urban and rural nodes, and children have remained less urbanised than adults. Importantly for children, migration rates among prime-age women have increased, alongside falling marriage rates, declining remittances and persistently high unemployment. Households, and women especially, may have to make difficult choices about how to manage the competing demands of child care and income generation. It is the mobility patterns and household configurations arising from these strategies that are the focus of this research.

The thesis uses a mixed-method approach to explore children's geographic mobility and care arrangements. Using micro data spanning two decades, it traces children's co-residence arrangements with parents and describes changes in household form from the perspective of children. It maps recent patterns of child migration within South Africa using four waves of a national panel study and compares these with patterns of maternal migration to reveal various dynamics of migration in mother–child dyads: co-migration, sequential migration, independent migration, and immobility. The child-focused analysis augments the existing migration literature, which has tended to focus on adult labour migration and ignore children or regard them as appendages of migrants. A single, detailed case study spanning four generations adds texture to the analysis by demonstrating the complexity of household strategies and child care arrangements in the context of female labour migration. This in turn helps to reflect on the value of micro data for describing and analysing household form and migration patterns, particularly among children.



Strengthening income support for orphans living with relatives

Generating and publishing child-centred statistical data

We continued our annual analysis of national datasets to monitor trends in child poverty, orphaning, care arrangements, grant uptake and grant lapsing. This child-centred statistical data is essential evidence for the design of an appropriate solution to support kinship care of orphaned children. The data is published annually in an accessible format on the Children Count website and in the *2016 South African Child Gauge*. In 2016 the data was used in a number of *Gauge* essays and in presentations on the CSG top-up.

Research on vulnerability and specific needs of orphans

We completed an assessment of the available evidence on the vulnerability of orphans to aide thinking on an appropriate reform solution. We looked at a number of outcomes to assess whether the evidence showed heightened vulnerability for orphans – and if so, the nature and extent of the vulnerability. Much of the literature has focused on potential differences in educational outcomes, but the findings tend to be contradictory. Concerns about psychosocial wellbeing and the risk of child abuse are particularly pertinent to our work on an appropriate reform solution, and so will form the focus of a working paper to be completed in 2017.

Engaging with the Ministerial Committee on Foster Care

The Minister of Social Development established a committee to gather evidence on the foster care crisis and advise on reform. After a number of approaches to the committee we were invited to make a presentation of our evidence and recommendations to the committee executive in Pretoria, together with a partner from the Social Work Department at the University of Pretoria.

Engaging with draft amendments to the Social Assistance Act

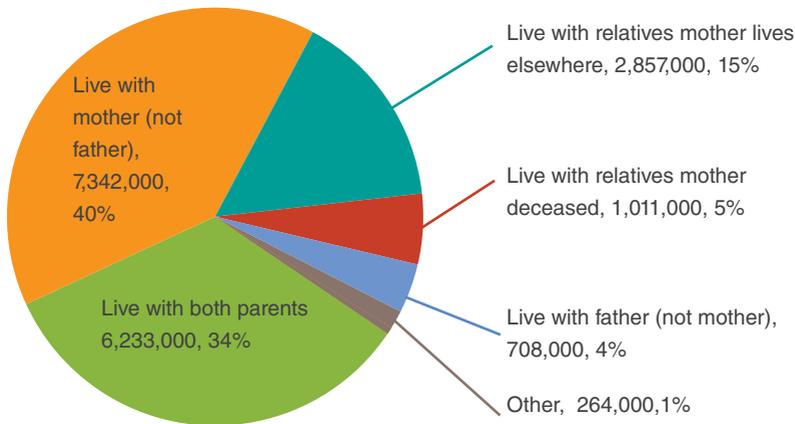
On 1 November the Minister of Social Development gazetted for comment a draft Social Assistance Amendment Bill that paves the way for the introduction of the CSG top-up. We made a submission on the draft bill supporting the amendment and calling for public debate on the details of the CSG top-up; in particular the amount, the target group and procedure for application.

In recognition that the major debates in 2017 will be centred on the details of the CSG top-up, we wrote an accessible essay in the 2016 *Child Gauge* – together with two partners from the University of Pretoria – that outlined in detail the evidence and argument for the CSG top-up and discussed the details of the proposal.

Facilitating a civil society advocacy campaign

Throughout the year the CI sent alerts and briefings on law reform developments to the Child Rights Advocacy Network (an email list with 103 members, both individuals and organisations). The two main moments for advocacy were a consultative meeting on the Children’s Act Policy hosted by the Department of Social Development, and a call for submissions on the draft Social Assistance Bill. The CI rallied partners to attend the consultative meeting, and assisted with travel arrangements and costs. When the Department gazetted the draft bill, we sent an alert to our partners, outlining in detail the import of the proposed amendment and the issues for debate.

Children’s co-residence arrangements, 2014



Source: Statistics South Africa (2015) *General Household Survey 2014*. Pretoria: Stats SA. [Weighted data] Calculations by Katharine Hall.

Teaching

Through our formal teaching and short courses, the CI aims to deepen health and social service professionals' understanding of children's rights and the challenges affecting children, so that they are better able to advocate for children and give effect to children's rights in their practice. These engagements inform and enrich further cycles of teaching and advocacy, and the *2017 South African Child Gauge* will draw on the Global Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals to consider what children in South Africa need to thrive and reach their full potential.

Short Course in Child Rights and Child Law for Health and Allied Professionals

In 2011, the CI developed a five-day intensive course on Child Rights and Child Law for Health and Allied Professionals (CRaCL). This continuous professional development course is accredited with the Health Professionals Council of South Africa and the South African Council of Social Service Professions. Now in its sixth year, the course attracted 42 students – including paediatricians, nurses, social workers and allied health professionals working in community health centres, tertiary hospitals, forensic and emergency services – many of whom are responsible for managing services or teaching in university settings.

Postgraduate Diploma in General and Community Paediatrics, and other teaching

Building on this foundation, the CI was invited in 2015 to contribute to the Postgraduate Diploma in General and Community Paediatrics. The CI convenes a Child Rights and Advocacy module (PED4008F) which aims to build leadership for child health at district level and extend students' thinking and practice beyond a purely clinical focus to a broader appreciation of children's rights and the social determinants of child health.

The course culminates in an advocacy project of students' choice – with students advocating for improved living conditions for mothers in a kangaroo mother care (KMC) ward, free transport to enable children's caregivers to accompany them to tertiary hospitals,





The persona dolls are one of a number of tools used to enhance children's participation in health and decision making.

and an integrated service for victims of child abuse and sexual offences in Ceres.

Other undergraduate and postgraduate teaching included contributions to the Masters of Public Health and Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery and Nursing, and teaching medical students about children in context, and the consent provisions and reporting obligations outlined in the Children's Act and recently amended Sexual Offences Act.

This formal teaching was complemented by a series of workshops and presentations that have helped put children's rights and child law on the agenda at UCT's Paediatric Refresher Course; the national Child Health Priorities Conference; and the International Conference on Emergency Medicine. The challenges identified through these engagements with health professionals informed an article in the *South African Medical Journal*, which used a child rights approach to motivate health professionals to play a more proactive role in preventing violence against children.

The CI has also continued to contribute to broader debates around social responsiveness and health sciences education through Lori Lake's participation in the Engaged Scholarship Programme, UCT's Teaching and Learning Conference and Health Sciences Education Research Conference, and the Stellenbosch University's Humanisation of Health Sciences Seminar.



(From left) The CI's Lori Lake with Jaco Murray, Nomlindo Makubelo and Thandi de Wit – all graduates of the Postgraduate Diploma in General and Community Paediatrics - at the 2016 Child Health Priorities Conference.

Advocating for child health

The CI plays a central role in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health's Advocacy Committee, which provides a platform to advocate for child health and promote the realisation of children's rights through the department's teaching, research and clinical services. For example, in 2016 the committee hosted an advocacy symposium to focus attention on the increasing incidence and severity of child abuse and neglect at Mowbray Maternity and Red Cross Children's War Memorial Hospital, raised concerns about the role of the breastmilk-substitute industry in sponsoring paediatric conferences, and drafted a submission on the National Health Insurance White Paper identifying critical gaps and opportunities from a child health perspective.

Paediatric Refresher Course

In February 2016, the Committee co-hosted UCT's Paediatric Refresher Course, which targets paediatricians in private practice and the public service. While the course has traditionally focused on clinical skills, contributions by the CI and the Advocacy Committee helped raise critical questions about the status and social determinants of child health; paediatricians' role in promoting optimal care, nutrition and

development in the first 1,000 days of life; the impact of violence; and strategies to address high levels of burnout. The conference was opened by Nigel Rollins of the World Health Organisation speaking to global health priorities and drawing on evidence from the *Lancet* series to advocate for greater investment in breastfeeding.

Child Health Priorities Conference

The CI also served on the organising committee of the 2016 Child Health Priorities Conference which aimed to inform, challenge and inspire frontline workers in child health. Over 200 delegates attended the three-day conference which introduced the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, and considered its implications for child health in South Africa. Looking beyond child survival, the conference focused on early childhood development, showcased good practice initiated by the District Clinical Specialist Teams, and motivated for increased investment in community-based services.

Finances

The Children's Institute is a soft-funded unit, with all staff, operations and projects covered through grants and self-generated income. The exception is a contribution to the Director's salary from the general operating fund of UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences.

The University also supports the Institute by providing access to its academic and administrative infrastructure, and through the allocation of office space. The Faculty of Health Sciences finance hub provides purchasing support and other financial support services. Within the Children's Institute, a Finance Committee meets on a monthly basis to monitor income, expenditure and cost recovery.

Income

The total income for the financial year 1 January – 31 December 2016 was R6.1 million. Two-thirds of the total income (66%, or R4 million) came from funders.

University transfers and funds for teaching or secondment within UCT amounted to 5% (R320,596) of total income. A further 10% (R641,521) was generated from interest on investments, while R500,000 was committed by the Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development (PSPPD) in the Presidency to direct costs for the *2016 South African Child Gauge*. The remaining income was derived from consultancies and commissions (7%, or R431,670); course fees and sale of publications (1%, or R76,247); and miscellaneous income (2%, or R101,761).

As a soft-funded unit that must continuously work to ensure sustained funding, the Children's Institute has been fortunate to benefit from core grants since its inception, first from Atlantic Philanthropies and then from the ELMA Foundation. The most recent three-year core grant from the ELMA Foundation concludes at the end of 2018.

The Institute has continued to diversify its funding sources, while also maintaining and strengthening multi-year partnerships with existing funders and partners. UNICEF South Africa, the PSPPD, the DST-NRF Centre for Excellence in Human Development at the University of the Witwatersrand, and the FNB Fund all once again supported the annual publication of the *South African Child Gauge* in 2016, as well as project-related activities. The RAITH Foundation also continued to support the Institute's advocacy initiatives and engaged scholarship on strengthening the child protection system and social assistance reform.

INCOME STATEMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016		Rands
Investment Opening balance as at 1 Jan 2016		7,003,860*
INCOME		
Grant Income		
Centre of Excellence - Human Development (Wits)		450,000
DG Murray Trust		585,000
Mary Oppenheimer & Daughters		250,000
NRF/Thuthuka		120,000
The Elma Foundation		2,000,000
UNICEF SA		629,804
Total Grant Income		4,034,804
Other Income		
Consultancies & commissions		431,670
Sale of publications		4,997
Child rights short course fees		71,250
Teaching/secondment uct		37,851
University support		320,596
Miscellaneous income		100,761
Interest on investment		641,521
Direct expenditure support for Child Gauge (PSPPD)		500,000
Total Other Income		2,108,647
TOTAL INCOME		6,143,451
EXPENDITURE		
Personnel		7,209,633
Service Provider & ad hoc support costs		247,456
General Operating Costs		148,437
Consumables		19,674
IT equipmnet & peripherals		29,617
Organisational development		54,059
Communication products		3,300
Travel		30,538
Project Activity costs		1,182,275
UCT Levy		328,938
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9,253,926
SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)		(3,110,475)
Investment Closing balance as at 31 Dec 2016		5,612,665*

*without project roll-over balances

Expenditure

Expenditure for this period was almost R9.3 million. Staffing costs amounted to 78% of the expenditure, while project activity costs accounted for 13%. General operating costs constituted 2%. The remaining expenditure comprised payments for faculty finance and *ad hoc* support costs, information technology support and consumables, organisational development and communications, as well as local and international travel and conferences fees.

Soft-funded units pay levies to the University on grant income received. In 2016, the levies paid to the UCT by the Children's Institute accounted for 8% (or R328,938) of total grant income.

The Children's Institute recorded a shortfall of R3.1 million for the year. Based on our income and expenditure, we show a deficit; however, funds were raised in previous years that are not reflected as income for 2016 but were allocated for expenditure in 2016. In addition, some funding that was expected as income in 2016 was only received in 2017.

Balance

Over a number of years the Institute has worked to build up an investment fund to ensure its financial stability in the event of funding shortfalls. The opening investment balance in January 2016 stood at R7 million. The Institute drew on these reserves in 2016, and as at 31 December 2016 the balance of funds was R5.6 million.

Staff

Director

Associate Professor Shanaaz Mathews, specialist researcher

Research and advocacy staff

Zulfah Albertyn, research assistant
Lizette Berry, senior researcher
Aislinn Delany, senior researcher
Katharine Hall, senior researcher
Lucy Jamieson, senior researcher
Paula Proudlock, programme manager
Stefanie Röhrs, senior researcher
Winnie Sambu, researcher

Research associates

David Coetzee, Health Impact Assessment, Western Cape Department of Health; School of Public Health and Family Medicine, UCT
Lorna Martin, Division of Forensic Medicine, UCT
Ria Reis, Medical University of Leiden/University of Amsterdam
Chris Scott, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, UCT
Birgit Weyss, independent

Communication staff

Lori Lake, commissioning editor
Morgan Morris, communication officer (from July 2016)
Charmaine Smith, communications and knowledge manager (up to April 2016)

Administration, finance and IT staff

Avril Campbell, senior finance officer
Isabbel Cooper, finance officer
Kevin Ernstzen, part-time IT & liaison officer
Zelda Warrin, administrative officer
Bronwen Williams, administrative officer



Publications and communication outputs

Journal Articles

International

Abrahams N, Mathews S, Martin LJ, Lombard C, Nannan N & Jewkes R. 2016. Gender differences in homicide of neonates, infants and under-five year olds in South Africa: Results from the 2009 national child homicide study. *Plosmed*. 13(4): 1-15. e1002003. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1002003.Africa”

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Lake L & Jamieson J (2016) Using a child rights approach to strengthen prevention of violence against children. *South African Medical Journal*, 106(12): 1168-1172. <http://DOI:10.7196/SAMJ.2016.v106i12.12128>

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- * Mathews S, Martin L, Coetzee D, Scott, C, Naidoo T, Brijmohun Y & Quarrie K. 2016. The South African child death review pilot: a multi-agency approach to strengthen healthcare and protection for children. *South African Medical Journal*, 106(9), 895-899.

Books and Book Chapters

Delany A, Grinspun A & Nyokangi E (2016) Children and social assistance: An introduction. In Delany A, Jehoma S & Lake L (eds) *South African Child Gauge 2016*. Cape Town: Children's Institute, UCT.

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Hall K & Budlender D (2016) Children's contexts: Household living arrangements, poverty and care” in Delany A, Jehoma S & Lake L (eds) *South African Child Gauge 2016*. Cape Town: Children's Institute.

Hall K, Sambu W, Berry L, Giese, S, Almeleh C & Rosa S (2016). *South African Early Childhood Review 2016*. Cape Town: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town and Ilifa Labantwana.

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Mpike M, Wright G, Röhrs S, Mohamed Z and Mzankomo L (2016) Common concerns and misconceptions: What does the evidence say? In Delany A, Jehoma S & Lake L (eds) *South African Child Gauge 2016*. Cape Town: Children's Institute, UCT.

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Research Reports

Mathews S, Berry L, Marco JL, Jamieson L (2016) *An outcome assessment of a residential care programme for sexually-abused children in South Africa*. Children's Institute . December 2016. University of Cape Town. (Research Report).

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Policy briefs

Delany A, Proudlock P and Lake L (2016). *Social assistance: Investing in children.* Cape Town: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town. [A four page policy brief summarising the Gauge key messages and the details, strengths and weaknesses of the 5 options for expanding the Child Support Grant.]

Jamieson L & Röhrs S (2016) *Proposed Change to Duration of Foster Care Orders Is a Violation of Children's Rights*. Cape Town: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town.

Mathews S, Berry L & Lake L. (2016) *Helping children recover from trauma*. Cape Town: Children's Institute, UCT.

Proudlock P (2016) *Minister announces CSG Top-Up for orphans in the care of relatives*. Children's Institute, University of Cape Town. Electronic briefing document for Child Rights Advocacy Network. 21 November 2016

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Hall K (2016) *Maternal and child migration in post-apartheid South Africa: Evidence from the NIDS panel study*. Cape Town: SALDRU, University of Cape Town. SALDRU Working Paper Number 178/ NIDS Discussion Paper 2016/5.

Opinion Editorials

Röhrs S (2016) *Corporal punishment: Sparing the rod is constitutional in Mail & Guardian* 12 February 2016 and *Daily Maverick* 16 February 2016 [reprint].

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Weyss B, Ally N, McLaren D (2016) *School funding: South Africa can learn from the world* in *GroundUp* 9 December 2016.

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Jamieson L, Lake L, Mahery P, Proudlock P, & Lansdown G, (2016) Module 4: Making children's rights a reality in professional practice (revised December 2015) In: Lake L & Proudlock P (eds) *Child rights and child law for health professionals: A short course*. Children's Institute, University of Cape Town

Lake L, Jamieson L. (2016) *Child Rights and Advocacy – design and development of an online distance education module which forms part of the Postgraduate Diploma in General and Community Paediatrics*, Children's Institute, UCT.

Research Presentations at conferences, symposiums, congresses and meetings

International

Jamieson L (2016) *Consent a child rights based perspective*. International Emergency Medical Conference, 18-21 April 2016; Cape Town, South Africa.

Lake L (2016) *Understanding the rights of the child in the emergency setting*. International Conference on Emergency Medicine, 19 April 2016; Cape Town, South Africa.

Lake L and Jamieson L (2016) *Child rights and consent*. Paediatric Emergency Medicine Market Place, International Emergency Medical Conference, 18-21 April 2016; Cape Town, South Africa.

Mathews S (2016) *Breaking the cycle: What works to prevent violence against children in Africa*. African Children Policy Forum, 28 September 2016; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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National

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Jamieson L (2016) *Law reform affecting child and youth care workers in 2016: The Children's Amendment Bill and the Children's Second Amendment Bill*. NACCW Leadership Forum, 3 June 2016; Johannesburg.

Jamieson L (2016) *Teen sex: How amendments to the Sexual Offences Act affect your obligations to report abuse and neglect*. UCT Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Seminar Programme, 12 February 2016; Cape Town.

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Lake L (2016) *Foreign children's rights to health care*. Child Health Priorities Conference, 1-3 December 2016; Cape Town.

Mathews S (2016) *Breaking the cycle of violence - protecting children*. Keynote address, Child Welfare Society of SA National AGM, 16 September 2016; Bloemfontein.

Mathews S (2016) *Child Death Reviews: Lessons from the pilot*. National Child morbidity and mortality committee Meeting, 25 February 2016; Johannesburg.

Mathews S (2016) *Insights being gained from the Child Death Review process*. Western Cape Department of Health Boland Conference, 15 August 2016.

Mathews S (2016) *Unpacking Child Wellbeing*. LINC Fellows Meeting, 12 July 2016; Stellenbosch.

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Mathews S, Berry L, Marco JL, Jamieson L (2016) *Preliminary Findings: Strengthening models of care - Evaluation of the residential therapeutic programme for sexually abused children*. PSPPD Grantees Meeting, 18 March 2016; Pretoria.

Mathews S & Martin L (2016) *The SA Child Death Review Pilot – a multi-agency approach to strengthen healthcare and protection for children*. Western Cape Department of Health Research Day, 4 November 2016; University of Stellenbosch.

Proudlock P (2016) *Towards a comprehensive legal solution to the foster care crisis: What reform is in the best interests of all children affected by the crisis?* Ministerial Committee on Foster Care, 25 February 2016; Pretoria.

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Sambu W (2016) *A statistical overview – the state of children in South Africa*. National Adoption Coalition Workshop, 2-4 November 2016; Johannesburg.

Sambu W (2016) *Children Count – tracking progress for children in South Africa*. UCT Department of Paediatrics & Child Health Annual Research Days, 27-28 September 2016; Cape Town.

Sambu W (2016) *South African Early Childhood Review – ECD Indicators*. PATH ECD seminar, 28-29 June 2016; Johannesburg.

Other seminars and lectures

Lake L (2016) *Making children's rights a reality in professional practice*. Postgraduate Diploma/Honours in Psychiatric Nursing, Stellenbosch University, 16 September 2016; Stellenbosch.

Lake L (2016) *Understanding the rights of a child in the clinical setting*. Paediatric Pain Management Symposium, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, 17 March 2016; Cape Town.

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Partnerships

We like to thank our partners for their support over the past year, for enriching our thinking and practice, and for helping translate our work into real change for children:

Anglo American

DG Murray Trust

ELMA Foundation

DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development,
University of the Witwatersrand

FNB Fund

Ilifa Labantwana

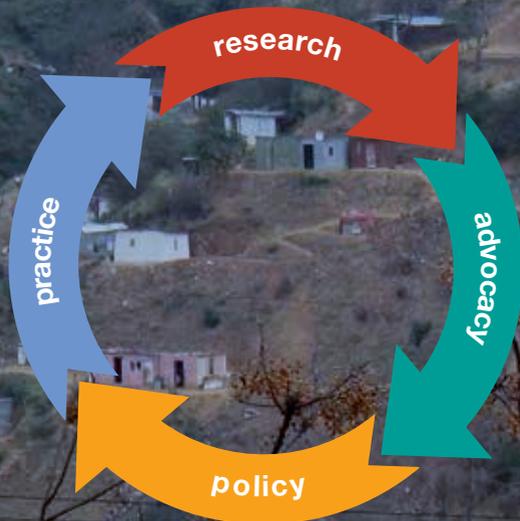
Mary Oppenheimer and Daughters

NRF Thuthuka Programme

Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development,
Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Raith Foundation

UNICEF South Africa



Children's Institute, University of Cape Town
46 Sawkins Road, Rondebosch, 7700
Phone: +27 21 650 1473
Fax: +27 21 650 1460
Email: info.ci@uct.ac.za
Web: www.ci.uct.ac.za