Children Count
Monitoring Child Centred Indicators

Winnie Sambu
10 June 2015

Social Indices in the SADC context
Chaminuka Lodge
Lusaka, Zambia
Children Count

- An ongoing data and advocacy project of the Children’s Institute
- Monitors the wellbeing of children in South Africa
- A rights based framework
  - International laws
  - South African Constitution
- Over 40 indicators monitored on an annual basis
Why this is necessary?

- Need to understand the demography of children
  - How many children?
  - Where do they live?
  - Who do they live with?

- To establish needs
  - Children living without adequate water and sanitation

- Monitor progress in the realisation of children’s rights

- Provide information to
  - Government - evaluate programs & policies
  - Civil Society
  - General public

- For advocacy purposes
Child centred indicators

- Using data about children
- Analysing national population or household data at the level of a child
- Child centred statistics give a different picture
Poverty (Household vs child)

![Bar chart showing poverty rates]

- **Children**: 54%
- **Households**: 43%

Children Count domains

- Demography
- Income & Social grants
- Housing & Services
- Education
- HIV & Health
- Nutrition
Indicators

Housing & Services

- Access to adequate housing
- Overcrowding
- Urban – rural distribution
- Access to adequate water and sanitation
- Access to electricity

Disaggregation

- Province
- Age group
- Gender
- Race
- Income Quintiles
Selecting indicators

- Indicators linked to rights framework
- Indicators informed by norms and standards
- Consultative process
- Data quality & availability
Data sources

- Use of survey and administrative data

- Main survey - General Household Survey

- Selecting data source

  - Data must allow for child centred analysis
  - Coverage – nationally representative
  - Allow for disaggregation (e.g. province)
  - Data must be collected regularly
What is happening with the wellbeing of children?

- 25% of children in South Africa are stunted
- Children in rural areas worse off – eg. child hunger in rural areas is 17% compared to 12% in urban areas

Stunting
Poor Socio-economic conditions
Food Insecurity
Prolonged disease
Socio-economic conditions

- 55% of children live in poverty
- Poverty levels reducing – as a result of massive expansion of the CSG

However, 64% of children live in poorest 40% of households

Disparities across provinces

Children under 6 living in poorest 40% of households

Living Conditions

- 73% of children under the age of 6 years live in formal housing
- 22% of children under 6 years live in overcrowded conditions

Children under 6 years living in formal, informal and traditional housing

- 73% in formal
- 14% in informal
- 13% in traditional

Children under 6 living in overcrowded conditions

- P=0.000

Access to adequate services

- 2 million children aged <6 live in households with no access to adequate water
- 1.8 million children aged <6 live in households with no access to adequate sanitation

## Maternal & child care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>Eastern Cape</th>
<th>Free State</th>
<th>Gauteng</th>
<th>Kwa-Zulu Natal</th>
<th>Limpopo</th>
<th>Mpumalanga</th>
<th>North West</th>
<th>Northern Cape</th>
<th>Western Cape</th>
<th>Data year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vitamin A deficiency in women (16-35 yrs)</strong></td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>SANHANES-1 (2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>% reproductive age women below the WHO standard</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anaemia in women (16-35 years)</strong></td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Low birth weight</strong></td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>DHIS (2012/13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% infants born with weight below 2500g</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vitamin A coverage in children (12 - 59 months)</strong></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>DHIS (2012/13)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


* Too few observations to record reliably
Technical issues

Data availability & quality
- Surveys not carried out regularly
- Only national estimates available in some cases

Questions on residual data

Questions on what to measure – progress or needs?

Question changes over the years and sensitivity tests

Use of confidence intervals

Use of technical notes
Dissemination

- Published on website [www.childrencount.ci.org](http://www.childrencount.ci.org)
- Published in South African Child Gauge
- Policy & Statistical Briefs
Early Childhood Development (ECD) services are fundamental to the overall development of children. With commitment from government sectors to work together, an essential package of ECD services can be delivered to all South Africa’s young children. This brief presents a set of indicators to support inter-sectoral planning, delivery and monitoring of an essential package of ECD services.

The South African government has an obligation to provide ECD services

All children have rights to survival, health, protection and development. These rights are protected in the highest law of our land, the Constitution, and also in international law. To make these rights real, the Children’s Act says a comprehensive national strategy must be developed to enable a properly resourced, coordinated and managed ECD system. Provincial MECs for Social Development are tasked with developing a provincial strategy. The Act says that planning for ECD services must be led by social development in collaboration with basic education, health, provincial and local government, and the finance and transport sectors.

ECD services are urgent

The 1.25 million children who were born this year cannot wait for government to progressively realise comprehensive ECD services. Early childhood, especially the first 1000 days from conception to two years, is a particularly sensitive and rapid period of development, laying the foundation for all future health, behaviour and learning. When children do not get the necessary input and support to promote their development during this critical period, it is very difficult and costly to help them catch up later. In some instances, such as for children whose growth is stunted, it is impossible. While a comprehensive package will be ideal in the long-run, the immediate priority is to deliver a package of essential services for all young children. Such a package, if universally available, would enable the realisation of the most
Children Count Website
Statistics on children in South Africa

PLEASE NOTE: The interactive data are in the process of being updated and should be up soon.

Welcome to the Children Count-Abantwana Babalulekile site

On this site you will find information about children in South Africa: their living conditions, care arrangements, health status, and access to schools and other services. These child-centred statistics are based on the best available national data. The website includes downloadable fact sheets on 40 indicators, as well as an interactive tool that enables you to view tables and graphs for different years and provinces.

Children Count - Abantwana Babalulekile is an ongoing data and advocacy project of the Children’s Institute. To find out more about the work of the Children’s Institute, follow the link on the menu bar.

Enjoy your visit!

Find statistics on:

Demography

Nearly 10 million children live in South Africa. It is

Income and Social Grants

Children in South Africa bear a huge burden of
Over 13 million children live in poverty (less than R604 per month)

Children in South Africa bear a huge burden of poverty because they are disproportionately represented in households situated in poor areas where there is little employment. Children have a constitutional right to social assistance, and over 9 million children receive social grants. Without these grants, child poverty rates would be even more severe.

56% of children live using the lower poverty line of

Number and proportion of children living in income poverty

South Africa has very high rates of child poverty, and children are disproportionately represented in poor households. In 2012, five out of
### Children in South Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>3,017,000</td>
<td>2,890,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>1,094,000</td>
<td>925,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>2,876,000</td>
<td>3,529,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN</td>
<td>4,269,000</td>
<td>4,071,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>2,494,000</td>
<td>2,230,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>1,535,000</td>
<td>1,555,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>1,201,000</td>
<td>1,273,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>437,000</td>
<td>418,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>1,030,000</td>
<td>1,873,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>16,020,000</td>
<td>18,574,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Source**  
Analysis by Katharine Hall & Winnie Sambu, Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town.

**Notes**  
1. Children are defined as persons aged 0 – 17 years.  
2. Population numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.
## Data

### Bar Graph

#### Children living in poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>2,581,000</td>
<td>1,051,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>857,000</td>
<td>511,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>1,526,000</td>
<td>1,106,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN</td>
<td>3,344,000</td>
<td>2,648,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>2,183,000</td>
<td>1,576,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>1,202,000</td>
<td>972,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>977,000</td>
<td>756,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>316,000</td>
<td>223,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>776,000</td>
<td>512,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>13,760,000</td>
<td>10,347,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>FS</th>
<th>GP</th>
<th>KZN</th>
<th>LP</th>
<th>MP</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>WC</th>
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</table>

### Trend Graph

- **Lower**: Orange bars represent the lower limit of the range of children living in poverty.
- **Upper**: Green bars represent the upper limit of the range of children living in poverty.
- **$1.25-a-day**: Yellow bars show the proportion of children living on $1.25-a-day.

Data

Children living in poverty

$1.25-a-day Race

Age
Gender
Province
Race

Proportion of Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td>7,795,000</td>
<td>2,720,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloured</td>
<td>208,000</td>
<td>121,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>8,018,000</td>
<td>2,853,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes
1. Children are defined as persons aged 0 – 17 years.
2. Population numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

Analysis by Katharine Hall & Winnie Sambu, Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town.

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1. Children are defined as persons aged 0 – 17 years.
2. Population numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.
3. Poverty line is set at R322 per month in 2000 Rand, inflated using CPIx for July of each year. The real value of the per capita poverty line is R371 in 2002 and R515 in 2008.