



What are the key priorities facing child protection system reform in 2023 in your country?

- **The lack of credible and reliable data on the numbers and characteristics of children in institutions has a very negative impact on budgeting, which explains why the sector and especially services for children with disabilities within the continuum of care is under-resourced and unsatisfactory.**
- **Despite a useful policy agenda, children with disabilities routinely end up in CYCCs instead of in family or community-based care because of a lack of community-based services, health care and inclusive educational options. The following conclusions apply to all children including children with disabilities.**
- **The family is not currently placed at the centre of all development initiatives and all-of-government work in South Africa. This has a knock-on effect on human rights, capacity of families to provide positive, sustainable and nurturing growth eco-systems for their children and leads to record levels of poverty, violence and abuse.**



Statistics South Africa conducted the 2011 census including the Washington Group of Short

Set of Questions¹ to indicate the number of persons aged 5 years and older classified as having disability 5.2% of the population. However, a 2010 DSD (Department of Social Development of South Africa) report estimated that 28% of children in CYCCs (Child and Youth Care Centres) are children with disabilities. Due to the lack of proper assessment, this is at best an estimate.



¹

<https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03014/P030142011.pdf>



Chapter 13 of the Children's Act provides for the establishment, management and running of CYCCs. A CYCC is a facility for the provision of residential care to more than six children outside the child's family environment in accordance with a residential care programme suited for the children in the facility which also sets out operational regulations, norms and standards.

Given the lack of regulation and oversight, there is no credible data available on the numbers and characteristics of children and young people placed in CYCCs across South Africa.

	Number of Orphans ²	Total beds in CYCCs ³	Number of state-run CYCCs ⁴	Number of NPO run CYCCs ⁵	NPO run drop-in centres ⁶
Eastern Cape	90841	1415	3	27	29
Free State	33241	1270	2	52	128
Gauteng	162899	5058	8	114	168
KwaZulu-Natal	126347	3943	7	63	217
Limpopo	60374	920	5	9	455
Mpumalanga	40613	1206	2	24	111
North West	58289	747	1	10	77
Northern Cape	13078	465	1	10	n.d.
Western Cape	29501	2998	7	54	15
Total	615,183	18,022	35	362	1200

Numbers of children in institutions produced for the 2019 UN Global Study of Children deprived of liberty.

	Full data		Official data	
	Lower value	Higher value	Lower value	Higher value
<i>Page 39, Table A22⁷</i>	15,554	15,554	71,855	74,500
<i>Page 41, Table A23</i>	0.08%	0.08%	0.38%	0.39%

²

https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Docs/exe_rq_na/68b4141d-f746-4c71-83ad-938276777d0a.pdf

³ The bed capacity nationally in Child and Youth Care Centres
https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Docs/exe_rq_na/68b4141d-f746-4c71-83ad-938276777d0a.pdf

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https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Docs/exe_rq_na/68b4141d-f746-4c71-83ad-938276777d0a.pdf

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Supplement to: Desmond, C., Watt, K., Saha, A., Huang, J. and Lu, C., 2020. Prevalence and number of children living in institutional care: global, regional, and country estimates. The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health, 4(5), pp.370-377.



What are the other headlines or issues that Hope and Homes for Children are working on in terms of child protection system reform?

CYCCs and Secure Care Facilities

- There are limited oversight mechanisms for CYCCs and Secure Care Facilities. Urgent legislative review is needed to strengthen the effectiveness of mechanisms provided for in the Child Justice Act, 2008, (Act No. 75 of 2008), the Probation Services Act, 1991 (Act No. 116 of 1991) and the Children's Act.
- Many of these facilities do not have an established complaints' management system and there are inconsistencies in complaints reporting and management at these facilities.
- The Child and Youth Care Application Information Management System, which records the number of children in care, is not consistently used.
- Independent appointments to quality assurance teams are not funded, which creates difficulties in attracting qualified persons; and
- There is no policy for sentenced children in Secure Care Facilities, resulting in process inconsistencies across provinces.

According to DSD data, the average budget of a CYCC looking after 75 children = R31m per year R413,333 per child per year, R34,444 (€1770) per child per month. Therefore, it costs about 500% more to care for a child in an institution than at home with a family (current monthly foster care grant is R480 + R240 a total of R720 (Approx €37)).

Of the CYCCs surveyed by One Child One Family Hope and Homes for Children South Africa, we found that the child population had the following key characteristics:

- 74% remained in CYCCs between 2 – 10 years.
- 66% in the 0 – 12 years range.
- Only 9.2% orphans.
- Main push factors linked to family breakdown – neglect, abuse, poverty, abandonment.
- Temporary safe care placements de facto long-term residential care placements.
- N.B. disability specific data unavailable.



The biggest positive change in the country over the last 12 months

- Foster Child Grant refers to a grant paid to a foster parent in terms of Section 8 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (Act No 13 of 2004). In 2021, 309,453 recipients received the Foster Care Grant. The Child Support Grant (CSG) Top Grant started operating as of 1 June 2022 and introduced a higher value for the (CSG) which is R480 + R240 a total of R720 (Approx €37, compared to about €1700, in CYCCs) per month for orphans in the care of relatives and does not need a court order to access it.

The biggest negative change in the country over the last 12 months.

- The NGO response to the social development service-level agreement (funding / subsidies to NGOs) has been to embark on a strike action which in turn affected service delivery to children at risk very negatively.
- While we support the government action to finance targeted and focused service-delivery from the NGO sector and the shift to focus funding and service-delivery on mitigating / preventing key societal problems that lead to family separation; it is important to properly support and scale up good practice models of service provision to families in communities.

Leaving care

The table below indicates the number of residents over the age of 18 years who are currently residing in CYCCs in each province:

Province	Beyond 18yrs ⁸	Age of the oldest resident currently staying in a CYCC ⁹
Free State	59	20 years
North West	53	20years
Gauteng	138	21 years.
Eastern Cape	45	21 years old.
Western Cape	CYCC =71 DSD CYCC =52	21 years old.
Limpopo	34	20 years
KZN	72	22 years
Northern Cape	3	19 years
Mpumalanga	64	23 years

⁸ <https://pmg.org.za/files/RNW1391-200903.docx>

⁹ <https://pmg.org.za/committee-question/14516/>



Latest developments, e.g., Laws, policy, and moratoria

Positive

1. White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016.
2. White Paper on Families 2021.
3. White Paper on Special Needs Education; National Mental Health Policy Framework 2013 – 2020 and 2023 – 2030.
4. In February 2022, Finance Minister announced that the extended child support grant payment would be implemented. This benefits both double and single orphans with the objective of allowing these children to grow up in the care of extended family (kinship care) with the financial support to the family through the extended child support grant. This is a very significant step forward because this means that there is no need for double or single orphans to be institutionalised/placed into foster care.

Negative

1. Over the last two decades, the Government of South Africa has promulgated a robust range of laws and policies relating to child protection. There have been several high-profile cases brought by civil society, academia, and legal experts as part of a concerted effort to call the government to action in establishing a modern system of alternative care, that no longer relies on institutions. The strategic litigation has demonstrated a significant gap between the letter of the law and the implementation and provision of services for South Africa's most vulnerable children, with several cases still pending.

"As children, we need to be consulted about everything. I feel that adults sometimes don't understand this."

Boy, 15–17, South Africa¹⁰



¹⁰¹⁰ https://familyforeverychild.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/dgd_survey_report_web_en-2.pdf



What is the main thing Hope and Homes for Children wants the government or international donors to know about in 2023?

- As socio-economic conditions worsen in South Africa, we are seeing an exponential increase in poverty, crime and violence. The failure / very poor delivery of basic service delivery in the country has a profound impact on families, especially families living in extreme poverty in under-serviced / non-serviced communities.
- Government should make every effort to improve basic service delivery across the country.
- Unemployment and especially youth unemployment is at record levels in South Africa. The failing education system and lack of access to properly resourced early childhood development services plays a significant part in increasing the number of NEETS in South Africa. The struggling economy and unfriendly business environment further reduces the available number of formal employment opportunities in the country. A reformed child protection system that is child-in-family-in-community focused and in which all-of-government places the family at the centre of development initiatives, will significantly alter the engagement and successful completion of education and training initiatives for young people, reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and resulting drop-outs from education as well as facilitate the key four-way partnership between government, corporates, civil society and communities which is a key requirement for sustainable and positive growth trajectories in-country.
- There is however good political will for reform of the child protection system evident in South Africa. We are supporting the development of the SA National DI Policy that is being written by the Southern African Policy Development Nexus group in collaboration with relevant government departments. Broad-based inputs gained from NGOs and community-based organisations across all 9 provinces will support a sustainable implementation plan and ownership of the reform process in-country to maximise benefit to children and their families.
- For a pro-active, child-in-family-in-community based child protection system to be effective, the reform process must include all-of-government to place families at the centre of development. This will be the most impactful and sustainable way to grow more positive and development-pathway focused eco-systems around families and children in South Africa.



Hope and Homes for Children/OCOF calls on the government to:	Hope and Homes for Children/OCOF calls on the European Union/ international donor community to:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Commit to care reform for a pro-active child-in-family-in-community based child protection system through adoption of and implementation of the SA National DI Policy (currently being developed).2. Place the family at the centre of all-of-government development initiatives.3. Commit to delivering quality basic services to communities.4. Initiate, grow and support meaningful public-private partnerships between government, corporate sector, communities and civil society with a unified focus on opening developmental pathways for children and young people.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support commitment to and implementation of care reform for a pro-active child-in-family-in-community based child protection system in South Africa.2. To cease funding of institutions in South Africa.3. To insist on the sanctity of human rights as a pre-condition for funding in South Africa, including the right of the child to grow up in a safe, sustainable and loving family within a safe, sustainable and nurturing community.

HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Country Factsheet 2023

SOUTH AFRICA

One Child One Family HHCSA

Unit 1 West Wing
Kerfield House Kyalami Business Park
24 Kyalami Boulevard
Midrand
Gauteng
1632
South Africa

Website address:
<https://1child1family.org.za/>

Tel: +27 10 143 4429

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/1child1family>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/1child1family>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/1child1family/>

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/one-child-one-family/>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@1child1family/>



About our country factsheet

This country factsheet provides an overview of the work of Hope and Homes for Children in Ukraine. It is intended to inform policymakers, donors, and the wider public about the scope of child protection system reform in each country, highlighting efforts to transition from institutions (orphanages) to family- and community-based alternatives.

Each country snapshot outlines both the strengths and weaknesses of current policies and actions within the child protection system. It provides a summary of publicly available data that we have been able to source, alongside our expert analysis of this information as it pertains to overall child protection reform. We also offer key recommendations for future interventions to drive continued improvement.

These insights are based on over 30 years of experience from Hope and Homes for Children. While significant progress in child protection reform is possible, challenges remain, especially in gathering comprehensive data and aligning definitions. Where applicable, definitions and programmes discussed are based on local legal and policy frameworks. For this reason, they are not readily comparable to country factsheets, produced by us for another country or jurisdiction.

Data disclaimer

The data is primarily sourced from official state sources. The situation with children in alternative care is dynamic, and changes may not necessarily be captured in present data set. All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented herein compiled. However, Hope and Homes for Children provides this data as the guidance only and cannot guarantee its accuracy, timeliness, or completeness. Nor can we be held responsible for its use.

Hope and Homes for Children – Head Office Hope and Homes for Children
The Guild, King Street, Salisbury, SP2 0RS
Tel: +44 (0)1722 790111 office@hopeandhomes.org www.hopeandhomes.org

Hope and Homes for Children – EU liaison office: Rond Point Schuman 6, 1040, Brussels, Belgium

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