



A GENDER SENSITIVE APPROACH TO FUNDING OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

COMMISSION FOR GENDER
EQUALITY

9-10TH APRIL 2013



Commission for Gender Equality
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

CGE MANDATE

- **CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE**
- *TO PROMOTE, PROTECT, DEVELOP AND ATTAIN GENDER EQUALITY*
- **LEGAL MANDATE**
- TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE, UNDERTAKE RESEARCH, EVALUATE LEGISLATION, RECEIVE AND RESOLVE COMPLAINTS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANY GENDER RELATED MATTER TO PARLIAMENT.



INEQUALITY OF CHILDREN

- THERE ARE 18,1 MILLION CHILDREN IN RSA WITH THE FOLLOWING PROFILE:
- 60 % LIVE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH LESS THAN R575 PER PERSON MONTHLY
- 43 % LIVE IN FORMER HOMELANDS WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO SERVICES AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
- POVERTY, DIARRHOEA AND RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS ARE PRIMARY CAUSES OF DEATH IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS.
- 65 % OF CHILD DEATHS IN HOSPITALS ARE DUE TO MALNUTITION.
- ONLY 12 % OF DOCTORS AND 19 % OF NURSES SERVICE THE RURAL.
- 95% OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL ARE POOR WITH 54 % OF 16 -17 YEAR OLDS HAVING COMPLETED GRADE 9 IN THIS CATEGORY.



GENDER FACTS

- THE GENDER DIVISION OF LABOUR CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE HOW FAMILIES FUNCTION. WOMEN TYPICALLY ASSUME MORE HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES, SPEND A LARGER PORTION OF THEIR TIME ON UNPAID CARE WORK THAN MEN (2000 TIME USE SURVEY). THIS MEANS THAT WOMEN HAVE LESS TIME TO EARN A WAGE.
- THE GENDER DIMENSION TO POVERTY WITHIN FAMILIES TENDS TO FAVOUR MEN IN THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF FEMALES STOOD AT 27,5 % WHILE FOR MEN IT WAS AT 22,8 % AND EMPLOYED WOMEN STILL EARN LESS THAN THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS (STATSA - 2010).
- THE ABOVE IS ALARMING GIVEN THAT NUPTIAL PATTERNS INDICATE A PREVALENCE OF FEMALE – HEADED HOUSEHOLDS STANDING AT 47,4% IN 2010 (SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR RACE RELATIONS)
- 2,5 MILLION CHILDREN IN RSA HAD LOST A PARENT DUE TO AIDS BY 2007.
- 54 225 CHILDREN WERE VICTIMS OF CRIME IN THE 2010/11 FINANCIAL YEAR (SAPS CRIME REPORT)



RECOMMENDATIONS

- OVER 11 MILLION CHILDREN RECEIVE THE CSG (R 290 IN 2013). This COST- R 35,6 BILLION IN 2011 AND IS ASSOCIATED WITH BETTER NUTRITION AS WELL AS INCREASED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. MORE WOMEN RECEIVE THIS GRANT. THE CSG SHOULD BE INCREASED.
- HEALTH CARE REFORM IN THE FORM OF NHI MUST DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES MORE EQUALLY TO ENSURE IMPROVED ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE. ALSO MORE COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICANS SHOULD BE TARGETED TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL CHILD HEALTH CARE AT DISTRICT LEVEL.
- INEQUALITIES IN WORK OPPORTUNITIES AND REMUNERATION OF WOMEN MUST BE ADDRESSED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN IN WOMEN HEADED HOUSEHOLDS ARE NOT DISADVANTAGED FUNDING OF CHILD CARE IN THE WORKPLACE WOULD ASSIST.
- THE FUNDING OF NPO'S TO DELIVER SOCIAL SERVICES MUST BE MORE EFFICIENT AND NEW MODELS MUST BE INVESTIGATED. A MORE EFFICIENT SYSTEM UNLOCKS WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE FOR SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS.
- DESPITE CALLS FROM SOME QUARTERS TO SCRAP THE FUNDING OF SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH IS CURRENTLY AT ABOUT R600 BILLION . SOME PEOPLE FEEL THAT ALLOCATION IS EXCESSIVE BECAUSE IT TENDS TO CREATE A WELFARE STATE. AND FURTHER ARGUE THAT THIS CANNOT BE SUSTAINED AND A NEW MODEL MUST BE DESIGNED WHERE SAVINGS AND SELF – SUFFICIENCY IS ENCOURAGED.



Gendered Impact of the Child Welfare Services in South Africa

- Majority of beneficiaries are women since 1998
- Grants targets poor households and particularly the very poorest
- Grants play a key role in reducing income poverty among very poor and especially in women headed households



Gendered impact continues

- The child support grant has positive multiplier effects on, household food security, school attendance and performance, improved nutrition of children, care of children, family cohesion, access to services and the empowerment of women



Gendered Impact continues

- Research by University of Johannesburg into the Gender dynamics and impact of the Child Support Grant in Doornkop, Soweto reflects that grant monies mainly used for food (74.2 %), basic non food items such as school fees and uniforms (64.9 %), health and Transport (42.9%), reduce indebtedness (21,7 %) and to build up savings (17.1 %) to protect themselves against risk.

Gendered Impact continues

- Beneficiaries also spent grant monies on health, transport, electricity and water that should be freely available to them.
- Such expenditure erodes the value of the grant which is largely due to inefficiencies in the delivery of public services and in gaining access to some of the free services



Gendered Impact continues

- The CSG enhances women's power and control over household decision making in financial matters, general household spending and in relation to child well being
- Women's increased capability to make decisions and to exercise freedom of choice about the grant is spent and generate valuable outcomes to the lives of women and girls.

Gendered Impact Continues

- CSG contributes directly to a sense of empowerment of female grant beneficiaries and it has some positive social transformative effects.
- Furthermore, women's contribution to the care economy and in subsidising social welfare programmes remains invisible.



Recommendations

- Continue funding Child Welfare services including early childhood but informed by development approach with development approach in mind
- A data base of beneficiaries should be accessible to all government, Non Governmental organisations and private in order to provide work, cooperate with beneficiaries in businesses, provide bursaries to students etc

Recommendations

- Encourage beneficiaries to start cooperative and provide bulk services to government
- Private and Public service need to improve the coordination of services and empower beneficiaries to be able to sustain themselves and not rely on child welfare
- The private maintenance system still continues to fail South Africa. Improvements are needed in the maintenance court system.

Recommendations continues

- The scaling up of coverage and access to basic services will go a long way in improving the impact of the CSG. An example is the City of Johannesburg's social package (free water, electricity and sanitation services) which has been extended to all CSG beneficiaries
- Data base of beneficiaries who have been in the system but deregistered as a result of being self sufficient.

Conclusion

- Thank you colleagues

