

Family Support for ECD

Programme Objective

Sikhula Sonke's motivation to implement this project in Khayelitsha at Enkanini informal settlement is driven by the need to support vulnerable children and vulnerable families. Sikhula Sonke believes that all caregivers and parents should be informed and involved in nurturing and enhancing the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of their children.

The FCM programme aims to extend a supportive and capacity-building service to the caregivers and parents, to broaden their knowledge base on the development of children and access to supportive services, as well as increasing the families' support-based network.

This programme provides a primary level of intervention for care and support for the family at a household level. It is estimated that 50 percent of young children's early childhood care and development interventions take place at home through parents, extended family members, older siblings and other caregivers.

At the household level the following needs of young children should be met: *psycho-social care and support, adequate food/nutrition, socialisation, breastfeeding, safe housing, safe water, good hygiene, birth registration, stimulation and play.*

The NIP recognises that we need to develop a large number of ECD field workers who will be able to assess, support, intervene, and refer families and children as needed. This is due to the huge numbers of vulnerable children and families in our country. The FCM programme that has been developed by ELRU is perfectly able to meet this demand.

The FCM programme aims to:

- ❖ Raise awareness around children's rights.
- ❖ Support the growth and development of vulnerable children from birth to nine years by increasing access to government services such as child support grants, with a key focus on the under-sixes in home and family settings.
- ❖ Enhance the knowledge and skills of caregivers regarding the developmental needs of children by building on their existing beliefs and child-raising practices.
- ❖ Support women and men in their role as primary caregivers and encourage men to play an active role in the lives of young children.
- ❖ Promote the inclusion of children with disabilities, chronic illnesses, HIV and AIDS and displaced or refugee children.
- ❖ Use a rights-based approach to address the power inequalities between men and women.

Programme Description

The focus is on the primary caregivers of children aged 0-9 years who are the child's first teachers. The motivators work with caregivers using an adult-centred developmental approach taking the needs of the caregivers as well as the needs of the children into account.

- ❖ They identify the knowledge and skills parents and family members have and what information they need in order for them to support the healthy growth and development of the children in their care.
- ❖ They build networks of support for families by developing links to government services and other needed resources.
- ❖ They support caregivers' efforts to access the child support grants, emergency food parcels and income-generating opportunities.
- ❖ They provide psycho-social support for the caregivers' own needs and they monitor changes in the caregivers' attitudes and behaviour towards the children.

In everything that he/she does, the motivator starts by building on the caregivers' own beliefs and practices around raising a child.

Intended Outcomes

- ❖ Increased community awareness of the rights of children.
- ❖ Increased number of children and caregivers who have information on community services.
- ❖ Increased number of children who are registered and can access Government's social security system.
- ❖ Positive change in the parent/caregiver's attitudes and behaviour in caring and stimulating their children.
- ❖ Increased rate of referrals of children with special needs to social workers and service providers.
- ❖ Increased access to childcare information for parents and caregivers.
- ❖ Increased number of families accessing community services.

We seek an improvement in the quality of life of these children and their families. We measure and track the following indicators:

- ❖ Number of families recruited.
- ❖ Number of children registered for Social Support.
- ❖ Number of family visits per fieldworker.
- ❖ Number of cluster workshops held per community.
- ❖ Number of referrals per family to support agencies.
- ❖ Number of families joining a support network.
- ❖ Number of children identified with disability or special needs and referred for special assistance.

- ❖ Increase in the soft skills of family care givers (numeracy, literacy, life skills).
- ❖ Quality of life indicators.

Budget for FCM Programme - 2011

Budget Category	Estimated Budget 2011
Project Coordinator/ Supervisor	R84 000
Travel/Accommodation/per diem	R18 000
Office Expenses	R7 500
4x FCM fieldworkers	R96 000
8 Cluster workshops (1 per quarter per area)	R24 000
Printing and stationery	R2 000
Toy and book kits	R9 000
Grand Total	R240 500