

The Children's
Institute
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2020



children's
institute

child rights in focus
Research • Advocacy • Education



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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Cover photograph: Mpepule Primary School pupils in Limpopo queue for meals. (Photo by Gallo Images / Sowetan / Sandile Ndlovu)



About the Institute

“Our staff – with backgrounds in public health, sociology, law, politics, social work, psychology and communications – pool their skills to investigate the complex social issues affecting children.”

The Children’s Institute (CI) was established in 2001 as a multidisciplinary policy research unit in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town (UCT).

Our Vision

We envision 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.

Our Mission

We aim 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.



CI at a Glance

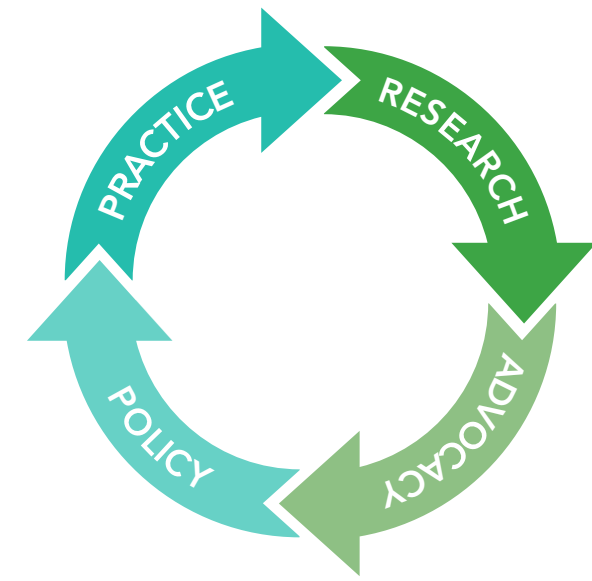
The CI’s research and advocacy agendas are aligned with the major challenges facing children in South Africa, and currently focus on three main inter-related themes:

- ▶ Alleviating child poverty and deprivation through well-designed and inclusive social protection strategies – in the context of historical and structural inequality.
- ▶ Improving child protection systems by strengthening coordination, violence prevention and response strategies – in the context of widespread violence and abuse.
- ▶ Strengthening early childhood development through a comprehensive package of services and support for children and their caregivers – in a context where children have very different opportunities from the moment they are born.

The CI staff – with backgrounds in public health, sociology, law, politics, social work, psychology and communications – pool their skills to investigate the complex social issues affecting children. Research evidence is used strategically to contribute to laws, policies and programmes that realise children’s rights and advance social justice. The CI has an annual budget of R11 million. It relies on external funding through research contracts and donations to continue its work.

Theory of Change

We strive to get research into policy and practice. Rigorous research underpins our evidence base, which guides 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 we engage strategically with mainstream and social media to inform public dialogue and debate. We select appropriate advocacy strategies as determined by the issue and political context, 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.





Year in Review



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Child hunger remains a serious threat for children – with the Child Support Grant remaining below the food poverty line.

The past year has been like none other. It has been marked by economic and social disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic with devastating effects on millions of South African children and their families. We needed to adapt our programme of work to address the impact of COVID-19 on children and protect children’s ba-

Highlights

Increasing levels of poverty and food insecurity made us rethink our strategy regarding social assistance for children. We coordinated an advocacy campaign calling for an increase in the Child Support Grant (CSG) of R500 per child for six months as a temporary relief mechanism for children and their families by getting cash to the poorest households. Drawing on our own research and that of economists (SALDRU), we worked closely with partners such as the C19 People’s Coalition, the Budget Justice Coalition,

sic needs during the pandemic and the various levels of lockdown. We focused our attention on matters where we had particular expertise, such as social assistance, birth registration, food security, early childhood development and child protection services.

UNICEF and other partners to target the advocacy messages. Our public petition by Amanda.mobi received over 600,000 signatures, with extensive media reports. Despite the clear evidence that increasing the CSG per child was by far the most effective means to get cash to millions of vulnerable households, government opted to introduce a caregiver grant of R500 (per adult caregiver) and a new temporary grant for unemployed adults. The caregiver grant and SRD represent an important shift in the social

assistance programme, opening possibilities for sustained expansion beyond the initial 6-month disaster relief period. (see page 10)

Child hunger remains a serious threat for children – with the CSG remaining below the food poverty line and the protracted closure of schools during 2020 further exacerbating the dire position of poor families. We collaborated with our partners Equal Education, Section 27, Equal Education Law Centre and the Centre for

Our work and reach

COVID-19 reduced income to government’s budget and required government to reallocate funding and a Special Budget Review was announced in June. We commissioned an economist to help with a child-centred budget analysis with a focus on: child poverty, child protection services, early childhood development and the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide. The analysis revealed that R41 billion, not R50 billion as promised, had been allocated for grants, and no additional funds were provided to the provinces for COVID-19 relief. Provinces will therefore need to make cuts to enable a re-prioritisation of COVID-19 requirements (mostly health and humanitarian response). This information was used as a basis for a submission to Parliament.

We partnered with Queens University Belfast (QuB) to conduct an evaluation of the ‘Towards Independent Livings’ formal mentoring programme (TIL) offered by the SAYes Trust to

Child Law to advocate for the National School Nutrition Programme to be re-activated for all 9.6 million learners. We drafted an affidavit drawing on our data and legal submissions that foregrounded children’s right to basic nutrition, and the state’s obligation to prioritise children’s rights in a pandemic. The judgment compelled the Department of Basic Education to provide food to all eligible learners. (see page 12)

young people in residential care in Cape Town. The research started in 2019 and in February 2020 we hosted the QuB research team (four researchers), as well as Prof Pat Dolan (Galway University, Ireland) and Prof Mark Brennan (Penn State University, United States)—UNESCO Chairs in Community, Leadership, and Youth Development—for a week of workshops to share research methods with a focus on child participation and engaged scholarship. (See page 19)

The Children’s Amendment Bill (CABill) proposes a comprehensive review and amendment of the Children’s Act. Since 2014, when the Department of Social Development first started drafting the bill, the CI has been engaging with various clauses of the bill and keeping a network of children’s sector organisations informed about the bill’s progress and opportunities for participation. The CABill was finally re-approved by Cabinet in late June 2020 for tabling in Parliament. We supported civil society to make sub-





We have learnt a great deal about changing our ways of working but still struggle to provide staff with the necessary support to cope with the demands of juggling family and work as well as the emotional strain of losing loved ones due to COVID-19.



missions and supported children and young people to engage with the CABill, understand the parliamentary process and raise support for their issues in the runup to public hearings on the Children’s Amendment Bill. We also created a series of web pages for children and young people dedicated to helping them understand the bill and provide support to participate in the parliamentary hearings. (See page 21)

Our Director, Shanaaz Mathews, was elected to serve on the Lancet Commission on Gender-based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People in February 2020. The commission seeks to generate new tools and data to enable policy makers and advocates to catalyse and scale up effective policies, interventions and programmes

in health, education and gender equality. She is part of a working group that is exploring the ways in which women’s movements have engaged in promoting and influencing policies on violence against women and children. All meetings have moved online because of COVID-19, we are excited to contribute our knowledge to influence the global agenda on GBV and child maltreatment

CI also participated in the Leading Minds Online Conference hosted by the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. The second conference took place virtually in May 2020 and Shanaaz was invited to be part of the panel that focused on the implications of COVID-19 on children’s lives – with a focus on violence in the home.

Staffing and governance

Four new staff members joined CI during 2020. Neziswa Titi and Mbonisi Nyati started at CI as researchers in January and Lwazi Sibisi joined as our Communications Officer in February. They hardly had time to settle into office life when COVID-19 struck and we all started working remotely. In addition, Lehlegonolo Makola, a third researcher, joined the team in April whilst we were in hard lockdown. Induction for new staff needed to be carefully considered as the move to “working from home” in March 2020 affected how we remained connected as a team as well as the psychosocial support we were able to

provide during difficult times. In addition, navigating the terrain of setting up home offices and ensuring all staff had access to all the tools necessary to function such as Wi-Fi connections, was not easy. A new staff member who who lived in a rural area needed to connect to Wi-Fi from her car at the nearest clinic as this was the only good connection point. We have learnt a great deal about changing our ways of working but still struggle to provide staff with the necessary support to cope with the demands of juggling family and work as well as the emotional strain of losing loved ones due to COVID-19.

Closing remarks

The crisis we face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is still unfolding. The pandemic and lockdown have exacerbated inequalities, plunged the country into recession and put children at increased risk. With many competing demands there is a high risk that children’s grants and services will be further contracted over the next three years. We will need to be vigilant to

protect children from losing the hard-won gains we have achieved since democracy to ensure that children continue to thrive.

On a sad note, we lost a valuable team member, Ilke Nakardien to COVID-19 at the end of December 2021. She joined the CI as an intern in 2019 contributed significantly to various aspects of our work.



We will need to be vigilant to protect children from losing the hard-won gains we have achieved since democracy to ensure that children continue to thrive.

"The entire universe will conspire to make a reality that is meant for you.

Let go.

Of everything.

Do what you can.

Trust that what is meant to be will be.

Step away from yourself.

Try to change the world."

Ilke Nackerdien

In honour of a young life so beautifully lived



Ilke joined the Children's Institute in 2019 as a student research assistant. We needed someone who went beyond the skills on their CV, who could anticipate the needs of the team, and deliver excellence when networking with our partners in the children's sector and the media. CI was just one of three jobs she held in addition to pursuing her studies. *"Her focus and ability to enforce boundaries in her personal and professional life amazed me at her age. It became hard to know who was teaching whom at times because in moments of extreme stress our shared optimism got us through those crazy work deadlines."* (Margot)

When lockdown descended and everyone scrambled for information, Ilke diligently screened and curated resources and useful information into an accessible resource for those working on the hu-

manitarian response. *"It is rare to find someone like Ilke with such a powerful skill set, she was an incredible asset to the Gauge team and to the CI as a whole, but more than that She was always such a pleasure to work with - warm, enthusiastic and willing to go the extra mile."* (Lori)

The hardship she experienced in her childhood imbued Ilke with empathy and compassion. Qualities she used to mentor other students and bond with the CI team, *"Ilke was a strong, vibrant, confident, funny and loving friend, who touched my heart with her charisma, kindness, strength, passion and determination for her studies and community."* (Natasha)

"Ilke was a very generous and humble person with an incredible work ethic, and a cheeky sense of humour, but she also had a sharp mind and strong sense of social justice." (Lucy) She had ambitions of doing her Master's degree at the University of Berkeley, where she hoped to nurture her passion for gender politics and apply her intellect to challenging conventional notions of beauty and stigma against fat women. She didn't make it to California but wherever she is now she will be having an adventure. *"In Ilke we knew a colleague with a magic wand. I bet she'll be doing a lot of miracles in heaven."* (Neziswa)

Ilke was one of the many people who succumbed to COVID-19 during the pandemic, *"We have lost a wonderful person - she is gone too soon and will be truly missed."* Professor Shanaaz Mathews, Director.

Our Work in Context



RESPONDING TO CHILDREN IN CRISIS DURING COVID-19

MONITORING CHILD RIGHTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE

PROMOTING CHILD PARTICIPATION



Responding to Children in Crisis during COVID-19

The past year was marked by economic and social disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic with devastating effects on millions of South African children and their families. Many of government's decisions and relief responses did not consider or proactively respond to the urgent needs of children or their caregivers.

As an applied policy research and advocacy unit the Children's Institute (CI) was well placed to contribute to the crisis response. With the support of some of our funders we quickly adapted our programme in an attempt to protect children's basic needs during the lockdown. We played a role in highlighting the needs of chil-

dren during the unfolding pandemic and lockdown, in engaging with and supporting government departments, in helping to coordinate civil society engagement, in conducting research and compiling existing evidence, in advocating for interventions to protect children and alleviate the effects of the lockdown, and in supporting litigation.

We focused our attention on matters where we had particular expertise, namely birth registration, social assistance, nutrition and food security, early childhood development, and child protection services. We provide some examples below:

Campaign for an increase to the Child Support Grant

We campaigned for a temporary top-up to the Child Support Grant (CSG) to provide some protection against the economic effects of lockdown. The CSG, a cash transfer of R440 per month in 2020, was below the food poverty line and not enough even to provide basic nutrition for a single child. But it had the advantage of wide reach and pro-poor targeting. A substantial increase to the CSG would immediately reach 13 million children and seven million caregivers, as well as a large share of the poorest households and those that depended on informal sector income. We worked closely with policy advisors to the Presidency, as well as civil society groups

including SALDRU, C19 People's Coalition, Budget Justice Coalition, UNICEF and other partners in crafting and targeting our advocacy campaign. Our strategy included widely endorsed letters to the [President](#) and the Ministers of Social Development and Finance and a public [petition](#) by Amandla.mobi which received nearly 600 000 signatures, and extensive media advocacy. Our campaign helped to escalate pressure on the state to introduce a disaster relief package for poor households. This included a R300 increase to the CSG for May 2020 and, from June to October, a caregiver grant of R500 for all CSG caregivers. All other existing grants were topped

up by R250 and a new COVID-19 unemployment grant of R350 was introduced. We continued to engage with civil society groups around the call for the extension of the disaster relief programme after October 2020, and for continued expansion of the social protection programme, especially for children and their caregivers. The Minister of Social Development acknowledged publicly in May 2020 that the amount of the CSG was below the food poverty line and should be addressed. At the end of 2020 the Department of Social Development issued a TOR for research to review the value of the CSG and outline the impacts of increasing it. We are awaiting the outcome of our bid.



Ensuring that all children are registered, have identity and can claim entitlements

During April and May 2020, Home Affairs closed all its offices and withdrew its service points from maternity wards. We predicted this could negatively affect over 100 000 babies (approximately 20 000 per week) who were born during level 5 lockdown and also delay their access to the CSG. We therefore advocated for a) the registration of the 'lockdown' babies to be prioritised by Home Affairs and SASSA once they are re-opened; b) the 30-day period for birth registrations to be ex-

tended to 90 days so as to prevent these families from having to go through a late birth registration process; and c) for breastfeeding mothers to be able to bring their babies with them to Home Affairs. This resulted in a positive response from the Minister of Home Affairs and SASSA and Parliament held the Minister of Home Affairs accountable for reporting on plans and progress in registering these newborns.

“Our campaign helped to escalate pressure on the state to introduce a disaster relief package for poor households.”

Ensuring unregistered children's grants were not terminated during lockdown

During 2020, SASSA continued their practice of terminating unregistered children's grants every three months if the caregiver did not have a receipt from Home Affairs to prove that they had applied for a birth certificate. Caregivers could not meet this requirement as Home Affairs offices were closed or operating at reduced capacity. We drew on our individual client cases to demonstrate the problem and requested data to be extracted from the social grants database so that we could quantify the extent of the problem. We calculated that in March and April alone, 992 children nationally had lost their grants due to the punitive implementation of the three-month rule. We had a series of virtual meetings with the

DSD and SASSA during which they agreed to reinstate all terminated grants and to suspend the three-month cancellation practice. SASSA also agreed to facilitate a consultation with civil society and provincial SASSA officials with the aim of finding a systematic solution to the implementation challenges with regards to grants for children without birth certificates. A roundtable was held in October, SASSA committed to updating their internal strategy document to clarify the rules and procedures for officials; and publishing accessible information on their website explaining how children without birth certificates can access grants.

Ensuring the National School Nutrition Programme was resumed

When South African entered lockdown and schools were closed, 9.6 million learners stopped receiving daily meals at school. The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) is targeted to lower quintile schools and reaches the poorest 70% of learners. In the context of widespread job loss and rising poverty, it was essential to maintain existing programmes to supplement child nutrition. We joined forces with Equal Education, Section27, Equal Education Law Centre and Centre for Child Law to advocate for the

NSNP to be reactivated for all the learners who usually receive food during the school term. The campaign started off as a series of [letters](#) to the Minister of Basic Education and culminated in successful litigation with the High Court compelling the Department of Basic Education to provide food to all eligible learners and to report to the court every 15 days until the programme is fully functional. Our full amicus submission and expert affidavit can be found [here](#).

Training for child and youth care workers

We were meant to do fieldwork as part of a project to develop a replicable model for multidisciplinary team management of child abuse cases. But all fieldwork was suspended due to the COVID-19 lockdown so instead the team diverted its focus into supporting frontline workers who were providing essential services to children and their families. We worked in partnership with the National Association of Child Care Workers, Jellybeanz, and UNICEF to create an online training course for child and youth care workers. We adapted the empathic care

and self-care sections of the programme we had intended to pilot. This in-service training supports Child and Youth Care Workers to safely serve children, families and communities during the COVID-19 crisis as it evolves and address the longer-term impacts within their scope of practice. The course was accredited by the South African Council for Social Service Professionals (SACSSP). According to the SACSSP, 51 organizations and 1,923 individuals had completed the training by the end October 2020.

Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work

A CHILD AND YOUTH CARE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A FREE in-service training designed to rapidly support the work of all child and youth care workers in South Africa to enable them to safely serve children, families and communities during the COVID-19 crisis as it evolves and the longer term impact after that within their scope of practice.

Message by the Chairperson of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work

In celebration of International Child and Youth Care Worker's Week the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work presents to you an in-service training programme for child and youth care workers on all aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that it is an open source training so it is freely available. Registered child and youth care workers will receive CPD points for completing it. The course is immediately available, and can be facilitated by registered, experienced child and youth care workers, supervisors and trainers. Send an email (email address on brochure) to request the training, and let's all get upskilled and keep safe in these times.

ABOUT THIS TRAINING

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR: Child and youth care workers. The training is designed with a specific focus on child and youth care practice. Registered student child and youth care workers may also register for this training course.

COST: FREE!

HOW TO ACCESS THE TRAINING: Organisations, child and youth care centres, government departments and other employers of child and youth care workers as well as child and youth care workers can contact the **Secretary** of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work to indicate their interest in running the training at: WubobengM@sacssp.co.za

WHO WILL FACILITATE THE TRAINING: Any child and youth care worker registered in the professional or auxiliary category of registration with the South African Council for Social Service Professions who is a supervisor, a mentor, a trainer, or has 5 or more years' experience in child and youth care work.

METHODOLOGY: The in-service training is designed for remote delivery particularly during the lockdown period using platforms such as Zoom, MS Teams, WhatsApp, or similar.

DURATION: Six sessions of 2 1/2 hours each (total 15 hours)

PLEASE read page 2 for all the details

South African Council for Social Service Professions | NACCW | children's institute | UNICEF for every child

NON NOBIS – Not for ourselves

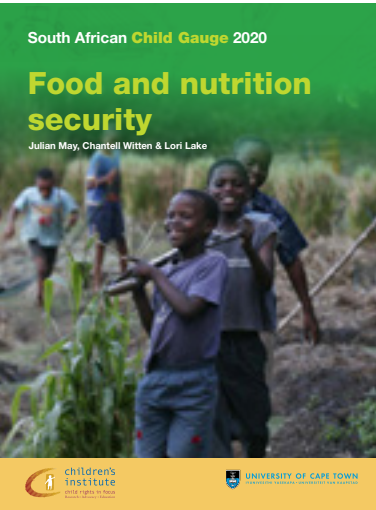
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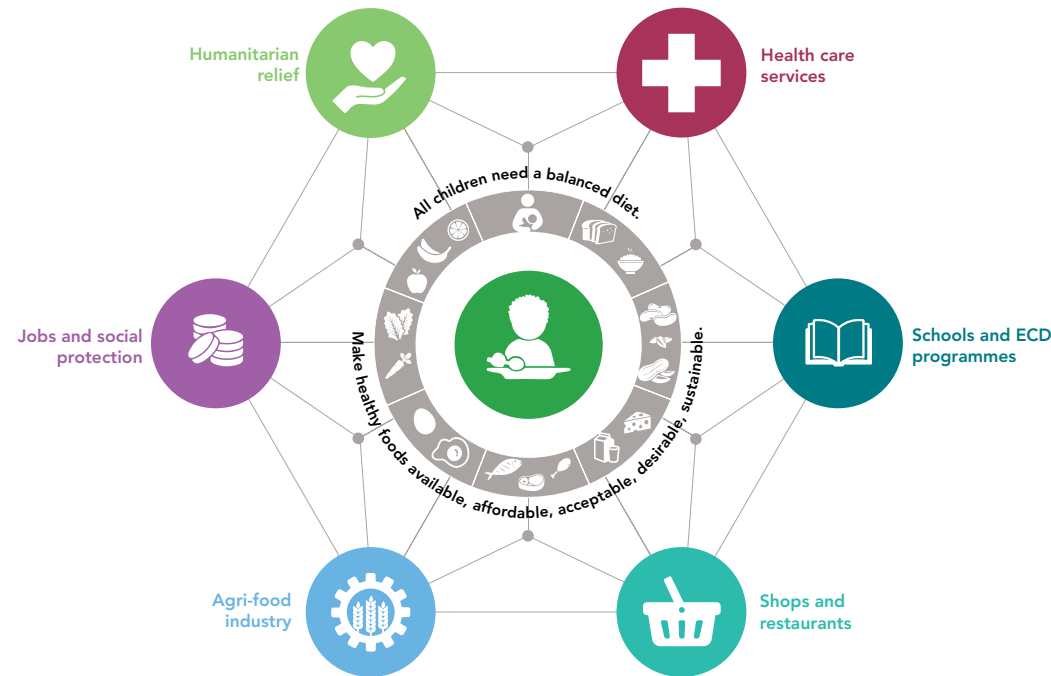
Monitoring Children's Rights



South African Child Gauge 2020: Food and nutrition security

We continued to produce our annual flagship publication on the status of children in South Africa. The *Child Gauge 2020* focused on the highly topical theme of Child Nutrition and Food Security. COVID-19 and lockdown had a significant impact on the timeframes and production of the *Child Gauge* as authors were caught up with responding to the immediate challenges of child

hunger and malnutrition, and in shifting university courses online. Despite these challenges, the *Child Gauge* team brought together over 60 contributors from across the country drawing on the latest evidence to reflect on current and emerging challenges through a series of nine chapters, complemented by a series of 25 case studies to help illustrate challenges on the ground, and/or



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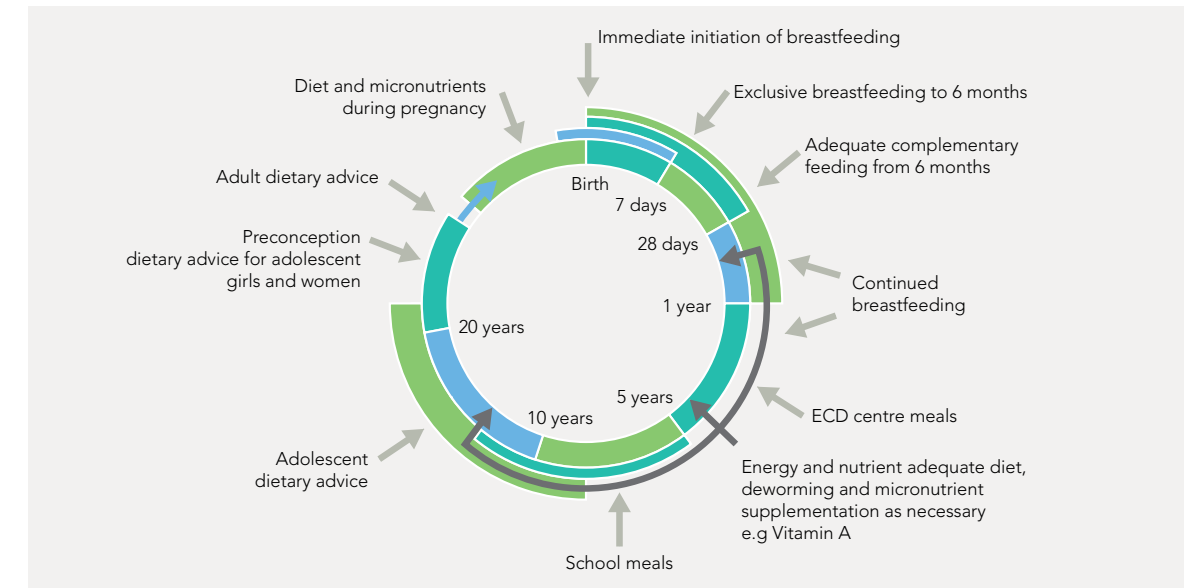
showcase promising practice. This issue was led by Professor Julian May (University of the Western Cape) and Dr Chantell Witten (University of the Free State) and fully funded by the Centre of Excellence in Human Development, UNICEF South Africa, the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation and the DG Murray Trust.

The 2020 issue drew attention to the lifelong impact of poor nutrition on children and identified critical points for intervention, motivating for urgent and early investment in order to enhance children's health, education and employment prospects; reduce the risk for obesity and NCDs; and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, ill-health and malnutrition.

The book comprises three sections. The first three chapters describes the context within

which food security and nutrition is provided to children. It includes a discussion of the burden, drivers and long-term impacts of child malnutrition, a child-centred analysis of the food system, and a reflection on the underlying discourses that shape attitudes, behaviours and engagements with this system. The second section adopts a life course approach to trace the development of a child from the womb to adolescence. This highlights the opportunities and challenges for food security and nutrition at each stage of the child's development. The final section offers a call to action and provides recommendations to bring about nutrition security for South Africa's children – a focus on double-duty actions and social protection.

“The 2020 issue drew attention to the lifelong impact of poor nutrition on children and identified critical points for intervention.”



Nutrition-specific interventions across the lifecycle



Early Childhood Development

Safe, inclusive and participatory early learning

One of the biggest challenges in the early learning sector is how to reach the poorest and most marginalised children while ensuring high quality services. Countries around the world are moving to compulsory preschool and early education programmes; this creates a pivotal moment for understanding the opportunities and challenges in different contexts. In South Africa, the state has committed to compulsory education for preschool-aged children through the National Development Plan 2030; plans toward fulfilling this promise can be seen in the pending leadership shift for Early Childhood Development (ECD) provision, including early learning programmes, from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education. This creates an opportunity for understanding and supporting the development of quality early learning programmes in our unique context.

The CI and University of Edinburgh have been awarded a research grant, as part of a multi-country, four-year study. The project focuses on families in vulnerable settings with children below the age of compulsory primary schooling. It aims to explore and apply the concepts of safe, inclusive and participatory learning practices in early learning settings, and to support local and cross-national ECD programme devel-

opment and capacity building. The project intends to develop a sound evidence base for national and community-based policy and system analysis focussed on the core concepts. It has a strong emphasis on community engagement, using a case study methodology. Participatory methodologies will be applied, including young children, their caregivers, and ECD service providers as study participants. The study will also be co-produced with ECD service providers and leaders from the case community.

In 2020, the CI commenced with community engagement activities, in Vrygrond, the local case study site in Cape Town. Communication with community partners and stakeholders was severely hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. Online forms of communication were adopted; however, it was impossible to engage at the same level with the appropriate stakeholders, and the desired depth and quality of engagements could not be achieved. Subsequently, many of the community-based activities shifted to 2021. The CI research team primarily focussed on the policy review activities and completed an exercise in collating, reviewing and analysing relevant legislation and policy documents to develop an understanding of the state's intentions regarding safety, inclusion and participation in early learning contexts.

Group care for the First Thousand Days

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that 94% of preventable maternal deaths occurred in low-resource settings. In recognition of the importance of timely and adequate maternal health care, the WHO's updated recommendations include more antenatal visits and higher quality services to achieve a 'positive pregnancy experience' for all women. These latest recommendations highlight group care as a promising model to improve quality of care. Group care is the provision of antenatal care in a group setting with a strong focus on health promotion, self-care and empowerment. It has been shown to transform the delivery of maternal, newborn and child health care and make a significant positive impact on the health and well-being of mothers, families and children. The approach has been well-tested and shows beneficial outcomes for vulnerable women, however implementation of the model in low- and middle-income settings requires further investigation. This local research study is part of a larger European Commission-funded research project with a focus on establishing demonstration or implementation site/s in settings that serve vulnerable women and girls. In this four-year study, the CI aims to test the feasibility of delivering group antenatal care, after it's been adapted for implementation in a South African setting, in partnership with the University of Witwatersrand, and the West-

ern Cape Department of Health's First Thousand Days programme.

In addition, the study intends to explore the viability of integrating the model into the existing public antenatal care system. Stakeholder engagement is therefore critical to enabling implementation of the project and facilitating its sustainability. In early 2020, we commenced with engagement with the provincial Department of Health and other stakeholders to determine suitable implementation sites. However, the COVID-19 pandemic severely compromised the normal functioning of the health sector, which had significant implications for our ability to engage with key stakeholders, causing a delay in project progress. The initial phase of liaison to determine implementation sites was drawn out significantly. The pandemic's impact on the health system resulted in health care officials needing to place emphasis on re-building and maintaining existing services, rather than initiating and testing new initiatives. Many of these activities were therefore carried over to 2021. The groundwork in 2020, however, contributed to the development of important relationships between district and provincial health officials with the CI team, resulting in the formation of a joint task team to steer the implementation of the project.



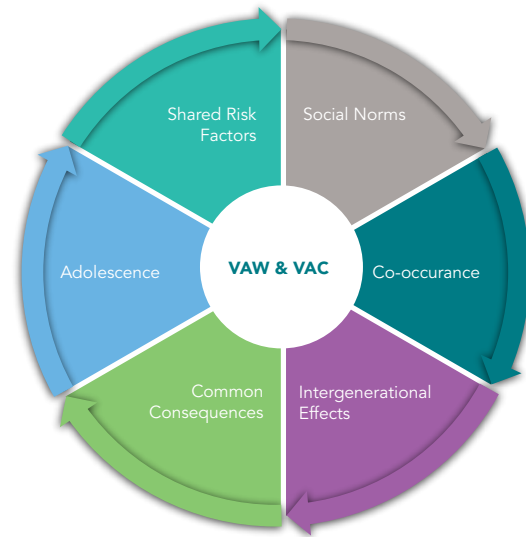
It has been shown to transform the delivery of maternal, newborn and child health care and to make a significant positive impact on the health and well-being of mothers, families and children.



Protecting Children from Violence

Developing an understanding and response to the intersections between VAW & VAC

In February 2020, thanks to funding from the Ford Foundation and a full-time researcher we conducted a scoping review to deepen our understanding of the intersections of Violence Against Children and Violence Against Women. We used our research findings to feed into a five-part series of webinars promoting an understanding of the intersections between violence against women and children that we hosted together with the South African Medical Research Council Gender and Health Research Unit, Sonke Gender Justice and the African Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Each of the live events attracted between 100 and 150 participants from across Africa and the recordings have been viewed almost 1,000 times. Through presentations to the technical workstreams and engagement with key decision-makers, we advocated to have children included in the National Strategic Plan for Gender-Based Violence and Femicide and got the chair to agree in the face



of strong resistance from the gender sector. Our review of the NSP Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund led to inclusion of a section on the intersections between Violence Against Children and Violence Against Women.



We used our research findings to feed into a five-part series of webinars promoting an understanding of the intersections between violence against women and children.

Media education on violence against children

In partnership with Media Monitoring Africa we developed a one-day training course for reporters covering ethical guidelines and integrated aspects of violence against women and children into the training. Approximately 28 journalists, producers and editors showed interest in participating in the workshop. Nineteen journalists, producers and editors participated in the one-day workshop, held on November 18 in Johannesburg in a face-to-face workshop, adhering to

all COVID-19 regulations. The workshop created a platform for engagement and helped build a network of journalists that we could draw on during the 16 days of activism against women and children in late November. To date, the conversation on the intersections of violence against women and children has been on current affairs shows where our staff have been invited to participate.

Youth mentorship programme evaluation

In partnership with Queens University Belfast (QuB), CI conducted a qualitative evaluation of the 'Towards Independent Living' formal mentoring programme (TIL) offered by the SAYes Trust to young people in residential care in Cape Town. The project started in 2019 with two waves of data collection. The first wave of data collection was during 2019 with the second planned for April 2021.

The QuB research team visited CI in February 2020. Besides hosting a week-long knowledge sharing workshop, we also hosted a joint a symposium to share the preliminary findings of the qualitative evaluation. We brought together practitioners, academics and policy makers to engage with the findings and to engage in dialogue on the needs and experiences of youth living in out-of-home care and the potential of mentoring to help equip them for the transition

to independence. The programme included presentations from practitioners, academics (United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa and the US) working with youth mentoring programmes and care leavers from South Africa.

COVID-19 restrictions meant that face-to-face interviews for the second wave of data collection was not possible. Data collection needed to move to an online platform. Simultaneously the mentorship programme also faced similar challenges and moved to an "e-mentoring" approach. This allowed us to document this experience as it was adapted - and writing it up as a peer-reviewed publication.

We also led a further engagement process with alumni from the TIL programme. The engagement took the form of virtual workshops over a number of sessions. The workshops, initially conceptualised as a once-off event, changed to



The media workshop created a platform for engagement and helped build a network of journalists that we could draw on during the 16 days of activism against women and children.



... we need to reorientate our message to shift the ways that people think to establish the links between violence against women and violence against children and to address the structural drivers of both.

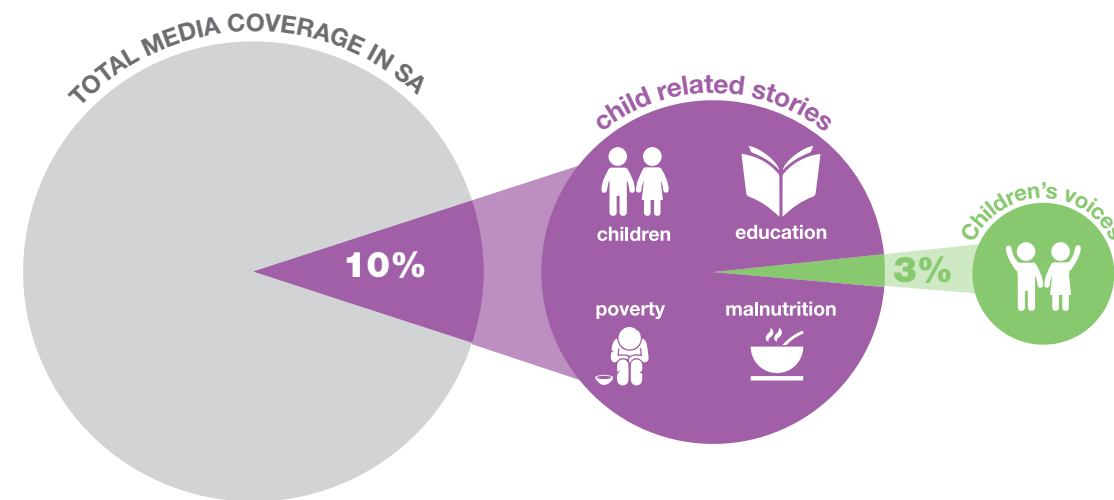
multiple sessions as an adaptation for the online version. The workshops produced [key messages for young people](#) and also assisted participants to highlight issues concerning the inclusion of

Looking toward the future

Our reflection on our work on reducing violence concluded that we need a different strategic approach going forward. Traditionally, CI has campaigned for improvements in child protection services – a siloed approach centering on reform of law and policy. Over the past three years much has been achieved in terms of strengthening the legal framework and our attention needs to focus on implementation. Implementation plans must be based on evidence practice and focus on prevention, and indicators must be re-

refugee children and the provision of mandatory support to youth who leave the care system in South Africa, in the Children’s Act.

alistic. And with gender-based violence in the spotlight, we need to reorientate our message to shift the ways that people think to establish the links between violence against women and violence against children and to address the structural drivers of both. The audience for our advocacy has also changed and going forward we will build links with community partners to generate public dialogue on violence in the home and in schools.



Promoting Child Participation



Facilitating child participation in the Children’s Amendment Bill review

The Children’s Amendment Bill (CABill) proposes a comprehensive review and amendment of the Children’s Act. Since 2014, when the Department started drafting the bill, CI has been engaging with the clauses affecting kinship care and foster care, early childhood development and corporal punishment, as well as keeping a broader network of children’s sector organisations informed about the bill’s progress and opportunities for participation. The draft bill was finally re-approved by Cabinet in late June for tabling in Parliament.

In addition to working with civil society organisations, we prepared materials to help children and young people understand the parliamentary process and the content of the bill: <http://www.ci.uct.ac.za/LawReform/Childrens-Act/resources-for-children> These materials were used to stimulate in-depth conversations with youth and brought together different strands of CI’s advocacy. For example, Neziswa Titi has been assisting alumni from the SAYes programme to develop key messages from the eval-



uation around the value of mentoring for young people leaving care. The capacity building workshops helped these young people to link the work they had done with the law reform process, resulting in a submission and a brochure aimed at their peers. We have previously worked with children and young people to support their participation in similar processes, however, this year we brought the different groups together resulting in a collaboration that was sustained outside of the initial sessions.



In addition to working with civil society organisations, we prepared materials to help children and young people understand the parliamentary process and the content of the Children’s Amendment Bill.



Partnerships

We rely on partnerships and collaborations to strengthen our work and extend our reach allowing us to influence policy and practice and help us grow our academic footprint. This is in line with UCT's objective to promote international partnerships, including South-South collabora-

National partnerships

CI's social assistance programme has for many years had a close relationship with the Social Security Directorate in the Department of Social Development. During 2020 we worked closely with the directorate on law reform and costings to protect and expand the Child Support Grant budget. The directorate also facilitated consultative meetings for us with SASSA to resolve systemic barriers at the service delivery level. We also continued to work closely with the Centre for Child Law and the Legal Resources Centre on our legal projects in the areas of the foster care crisis and late birth registration.

The 2020 *Child Gauge* was developed in partnership with the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence (COE) on Food Security at the University of the Western Cape, DSI-NRF COE in Human Development at Wits University, UNICEF South Africa, Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation and the DG Murray Trust. The partnership with the DSI-NRF COE on Food Security provided an opportunity to build relationships with key

tions with a particular focus on African partnerships. Through these partnerships and collaborations, we contribute to knowledge generation about problems that face South Africa's children and the region at large.

thought leaders in child nutrition and food security.

Through the Nyamekela4Care pilot project we continue to work with the Perinatal Mental Health Project on the implementation of the project and are now also working closely with NACCW and other stakeholders on the implementation. Locally, we are also growing our partnerships in the area of early childhood, having fostered a collaboration with the Western Cape Department of Health's First Thousand Days transversal project and Wits University's Community Paediatrics Department in support of our Group Care for the First Thousand Days project. We are also developing strong working relationships with key NGOs serving Vrygrond, a case study community for our Early Learning project, many of whom will participate on the project's advisory group.

Regional and international partnerships

Through the Intersections of Violence Against Children and Violence Against Women seminar series, we forged a partnership with Sonke Gender Justice, the South African Medical Research Council and the African Partnership to End Violence Against Children as our main partners for the seminar series. Further partnerships were developed with the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (Global), UNICEF Research Office (Florence, Italy), Raising Voices (Uganda) and the Violence Prevention Forum (South Africa). This has allowed us to connect with participants across the globe, but particularly in the Global South.

Professor Mathews was invited to be part of a Global Coalition of Global South violence prevention experts led by Raising Voices as the secretariat. The aim of the coalition is to influence the global agenda on the prevention of VAC in, and through, schools by amplifying Global South experiences, learning and priorities. CI, in partnership with Raising Voices, Uganda and

the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), India is leading a scoping review of school-based violence prevention programmes implemented and evaluated in the Global South. The goal is to identify the lessons learnt and gaps in current practise to scale interventions that work in the Global South and to influence the global agenda through engaging with global structures and donors.

CI has continued its collaboration with the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) and the partnership expanded to include over 50 leading academics and NGOs working with children during 2020. The partnership submitted a seven year funding proposal to the Social Sciences Research Council of Canada for \$5 million CAD, it was reviewed favorably and ranked #3 out of 75 applications that were invited to submit to Stage 2. We are expecting a decision at the end of the first quarter of 2021.



Finances

The Children's Institute is a soft-funded accredited research unit and covers the costs of staff, operations, equipment and project expenditure from grants and donations. UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences contributes a third of the Director's salary from its general operating budget, and a small amount of income is generated from teaching and publications. The university also supports the CI by providing full access to its academic and administrative infrastructure, including the SAP finance management system. Grant income is levied by the Faculty of Health Sciences and we also pay for the support of finance officers and purchasing services.

The finance team checks all income and expenditure transactions every month to ensure accuracy and meets at least quarterly to review the global income-expenditure and sustainability assessments. The Governing Board reviews the finances twice a year and approves the organisational budget.

Income

Total income for the year 1 January – 31 December 2020 was R12.8 million. Of this, R11.9 million (93%) came from grants, donations and commissioned research. University transfers amounted to just under R700 000 (5% of income). This included the Director's salary contribution, small returns on publications, and nearly R200 000 through the consolidation of unrestricted fund residues. A further 2% (R209 463) was generated from interest on investments.

As a soft-funded unit that must continuously strive to ensure its financial sustainability, we have been fortunate to benefit from core grants since our inception; first from Atlantic Philanthropies (2001 – 2005) and then from the ELMA Foundation, which has provided core support to the CI since 2006. The Constitutionalism Fund joined as a core funder in 2019 with the specific aim of supporting our organisational development, succession and transformation agenda.

The Raith Foundation continued to support our evidence-based advocacy work to advance social assistance reform and strengthen the child protection system, and the Ford Foundation continued funding our work on the intersections of violence against women and children. We were awarded a substantial EU grant as part of a multi-country consortium to test the feasibility of a group care model for pregnant parents. The Millennium Trust joined as a new funding partner to support our 'invisible children' project to address systemic barriers to late birth registration, grants, education and health services. Our long-term partners in the *South African Child Gauge* continued to support this flagship publication. They are UNICEF South Africa, the Dept of Science and Innovation Centre of Excellence in Human Development at Wits University, and the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation. The DG Murray Trust joined the *Child Gauge* 2020 partnership as a co-funder.

Expenditure

Expenditure was R10.16 million, of which 74% was spent on staff salaries, 16% on project costs and 7% on university levies. Our operating costs were lower than usual because our offices were closed for most of the year. Project expenditure (including direct costs and salary recovery) was slower than planned because of fieldwork delays in lockdown. At the end of the year, we carried forward R4.3 million in project funds to be spent in 2021. Our cost recovery against salaries and operations dropped to 87% (down from 96% the previous year).

Balances and reserves

The opening balances in January 2020 stood at R5.3 million, of which just under R3.8 million was held in CI reserves and unrestricted funds, while R1.6 million was in project balances for funded projects continuing into 2020.

Reserves are important because the funds are unrestricted and can be used to protect the Institute's sustainability in times of financial pressure. Our reserves were reduced by less than R200 000 from R3.78 million to R3.62 million despite the relatively low rate of cost recovery in this difficult year and the unusually large balances carried forward for funded projects that would be continued in 2021.

We are deeply grateful to our funders for the financial support that makes our work possible, and for their understanding when we needed to adapt or postpone planned activities during COVID-19.

INCOME BY FUNDING SOURCE		12 789 371
Grants and donations		11 881 326
European Commission (Horizon 2020)		2 279 615
Constitutionalism Fund		1 666 666
Ford Foundation		1 453 013
Raith Foundation		1 435 337
The Elma Foundation		1 000 000
Millennium Trust		800 000
DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development		600 000
UNICEF South Africa		599 952
DG Murray Trust		500 000
Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation		500 000
World Childhoods Foundation		378 104
The Children's Hospital Trust		300 000
Queens University Belfast		189 855
Raising Voices		106 065
Global Challenges Research Fund - UKRI		41 594
DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security		30 000
Private donation		1 125
Other sources of income		908 046
University support, teaching and publications		698 582
Interest on investment		209 463
EXPENDITURE		10 156 604
Personnel		7 486 716
Regular operating expenses		106 350
IT Equipment & maintenance		5 799
Organisational development		125 193
Communication products		18 034
Travel, fundraising and networking		13 097
Contingency (temps, buildings, discretionary)		8 269
Project activity costs (direct project expenditure)		1 647 854
UCT overheads (levies on contracts)		745 291



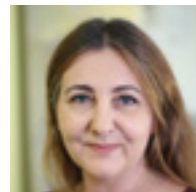
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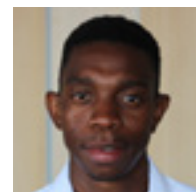
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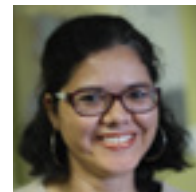
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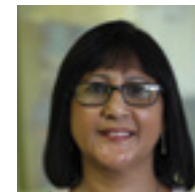
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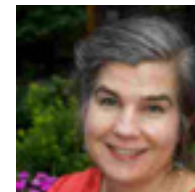
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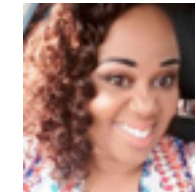
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Associate Dean Research, School of Social Sciences, University of Dundee
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Publications and Presentations

Journal articles

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1 The submission was also presented by M Nyathi to the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Western Cape provincial legislatures.

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