


Child-centred Analysis of Government's Budgets



Budget Council Room

Annual child-centred analysis of government's budgets to monitor if the state is allocating and spending adequate budgets to realise children's rights

South Africa has adopted a comprehensive range of laws, policies and programmes to realise children's rights. These however need to be resourced adequately to reach all children in need.

This project aims to contribute to ensuring that adequate resources are allocated for the effective delivery of services to children, and that these resources are spent in the best interests of children. The findings of the annual analysis of government's budgets are communicated to those involved in budget decision-making processes at both national and provincial levels to inform future decisions about allocations and expenditure.

The project is in collaboration with the Centre for Actuarial Research (CARE), University of Cape Town, and the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE). Work started in 2007 with a focus on the budgets for implementing the Children's Act (see p. 27).

A partnership with UNICEF South Africa in 2010 expanded the project to do annual analysis of the budgets of four government departments responsible for key child services: Justice, Social Development, Health and Education. The new Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities was also included.

In the last quarter of 2010, the Children's Institute, CASE and UNICEF South Africa held a stakeholder dialogue to discuss the potential impact of the government's budgets on children's rights. The event was hosted by National Treasury and attended by representatives from Treasury and relevant government departments, Parliament's research unit, civil society, and UNICEF. After the dialogue, the Institute and CASE jointly produced a list of recommendations for changes to the budget process and content to promote a child-centred approach to budgeting. The recommendations were circulated to all participants.

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