

South African Child Gauge



The *South African Child Gauge* is an annual publication that monitors the situation of children in the country, in particularly the realisation of their rights

The fifth issue focused on the theme of 'Healthy children: From survival to optimum development'. Edited by Emeritus Professor of Child Health, Maurice Kibel, it included contributions from leading academics and policy-makers. Twelve essays reflected on main challenges for child health, and potential solutions.

A key finding was that more young children were dying today than back in 1990, and many of these deaths were rooted in poverty and inequality. The 2009/2010 *Child Gauge* calls for collaboration across government departments and civil society to address these social determinants of health. This was echoed in the essay by the Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, who called on "all – communities and health workers, researchers and policy-makers – to place children first in all they say and do".

Essay contributors included leaders in child health from the universities of Cape Town, the Western Cape and the Witwatersrand, the Medical Research Council, UNICEF and the national Department of Health.

The publication was released at a joint launch with UNICEF South Africa. The event brought together 200 guests from different sectors to engage with the key issues related to child health. The release received extensive media coverage, amounting to a value of over five million Rands.

Since then, the 2009/2010 *Child Gauge* had informed a presentation by UNICEF South Africa to the TEDxChange dialogues, and was promoted at several large conferences: the *Corporate Social Investment Conference 2010*, the joint conference of the Nurse Education Association and the Forum of University Nursing Deans in South Africa, and at the *31st Congress of the Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives*. It also received write-ups in the *South African Medical Journal*, the *South African Journal on Child Health*, and the *Journal on Community and Health Sciences*.

The next *South African Child Gauge* will focus on the theme 'Children as citizens: Participating in social dialogue'. The continued publication of the *Child Gauge* was made possible by the ELMA Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies, with additional support from UNICEF South Africa for the 2009/2010 issue and launch, and from the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development, a partnership programme of the Presidency, Republic of South Africa, and the Delegation of the European Union, for updates to the 'Children Count' section.