OUTCOMES BASED EVALUATION FOR FAMILY STRENGHTENING PROGRAMMES

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INTRODUCTION

▶ **Family Strengthening programmes** and services are provided by a wide variety of **social services practitioners**, faith-based structures, non-governmental organizations and government institutions in South Africa

▶ In order to determine the **outcomes and results of these services in the lives of the families,** it is important the services and **outcomes to families** are monitored and evaluated in a standardised manner

▶ The **White Paper on Families (2013)** provides direction for the **coordination** and **standardization** of **family strengthening programmes** in South Africa.

INTRODUCTION

▶ **Effective family** lives are regarded as the **cornerstone** of **healthy communities** and therefore need to be embraced.

▶ Unfortunately it often happens that **dysfunctional families** in which **abuse, neglect, conflict** and **domestic violence** occur, poses a challenge on the safety and security of vulnerable family members.

▶ The **importance of the evaluation** of the effectiveness of programmes focusing on the **strengthening of family** lives through the development of **indicator framework** is further emphasized in this White Paper on Families.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMMES

- Family strengthening is described by the White Paper on Families (2013) as "The deliberate **process** of giving **families** the necessary **opportunities**, **relationships, networks**, and **support** to become **functional and self-reliant**

  - ("One of the key questions for evaluating the implementation of the White Paper on Families would - be to find out if the Paper achieved its overall objective of mainstreaming family issues into government-wide, policy-making initiatives in order to foster positive family well-being")

FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMMES

- **The Children's Act (38/2005) –** Chapter 8 mandates early interventions services – focus on family preservation and parenting programmes – to avoid removal of children from family

- Family strengthening programmes are designed to provide assistance to those **families at risk of entering the statutory child protection system**

- The **effectiveness** of these programmes has become under scrutiny - as governments across the world search for more cost-effective, alternative support services to **reduce the number of families entering the this child protection system**

SURVEY TO DETERMINE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES RELATED TO THE CHILDRENS ACT

▶ **Survey on the utilisation and effect of recommendations for early intervention services according to sections 46, 144, 148, 155, of the children's act (38 of 2005)** *(In progress)*

- **Out of the number of court enquiries how many court orders were made per category:**

Category	Number
a. Foster Care	
a. Child and Youth Care Centres	
a. Child Headed household	
a. Adoption	
a. Partial Care	
a. Supervision Order	
a. Child Protection order (early intervention/ family preservation)	

UTILISATION OF EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

- ▸

- ▸ If a court order is made for early intervention which programmes are available and utilised?

- ▸ Describe available programmes utilised?

- ▸ What is the effect of these programmes – describe how does it contribute towards strengthening families?

- ▸ Are there any challenges with regards to the implementation and management of these programmes? Please explain.

- ▸ If any challenges, how can it be solved?

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NEED FOR STRENGHENING OF EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

- In your opinion, is there a need for a standardized manual for the implementation and management of family strengthening programmes?

- If yes, what are the subjects/topics that should be included in such a manual

- Any other information you would like to share

- If you know about existing manuals, theories, training materials or other resources that can be utilised for the programmes, please indicate and share.

- Any other information that is relevant?

Indicators for programme outcome evaluation

▶ It is imperative that each organization providing social service to families, needs to have a committed Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Framework that sets out the key components of an M & E System.

▶ During the planning of programmes it is important to identify indicators to measure success in the achievement of objectives

▶ In the developmental field the focus is on improving the quality of life of individuals and communities.

▶ Therefore it is necessary to develop checkpoints that will give an indication of whether the desired improvements in the lives of the individuals and communities have occurred.

Indicators for programme outcome evaluation

▶ Performance indicators - as the checkpoints that give an indication of what has been accomplished.

▶ These indicators enable project and programme managers to track progress and demonstrate results

LOGIC FRAMEWORK

INPUTS	INTERVENTION	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	INPACT
Inputs are the resources needed to operate the programme, e.g. monetary funding; in-kind contributions; physical space; characteristics and qualifications of staff; volunteers	**Intervention** refer to what the programme actually does, how the programme recruit clients, how staff are trained, how target population are reached, how interact with clients, *e.g.* actual family strengthening programme; programme theory *(examples..)*	**Outputs** are the direct products of the programme intervention and activities implemented e.g. Number of parenting sessions; Number of participants served	**Outcomes** refer to the desired results of the inputs, activities and outputs of the programme, e.g. new knowledge; increased skills; changed attitudes; improved relationships	**Impact** analysis involves data collection, observing people over time, and focusing on the changes that occur to the beneficiaries after they have received the service through programme intervention, e.g. well functioning families; decrease in child abuse; decrease in family violence

Examples of Outcomes for Family strengthening programmes

Type of Programme	Outcome	Indicator
Active parenting for parents of teenagers	Improved parenting skills	• Number and percentage of participants who report that they experienced difficulty in managing teenagers with behaviour problems - improved the appropriate skills • Number of teenagers improved problem behaviour
Marriage enrichment programme	Improved marriage relationships and understanding	• Number of participants who show improved relationships and understanding patterns

OUTCOMES FOR FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMMES

- Empowered and resilient families that fulfil their requisite roles and responsibilities towards their members.
  - Families are empowered to provide a safe haven to family members especially to ensure child protection (prevent **child abuse**)
  - Families are empowered to provide a safe haven to family members to ensure safety and stability (prevent **family violence**)
  - Family members are empowered to provide a safe haven to family members to ensure children and youth maintain sober habits (prevent **substance abuse**)
- Increased number of family members that are reunited with their families.
- Strengthened socialization programmes that promote positive values in families and communities.
- Improved awareness and recognition of a family as a target group and focal point for service delivery among all stakeholders
- Effective parenting skills

IMPACT

▶ Well-functioning, resourceful and viable families that play a pivotal role for South Africa's human, social and economic development and prosperity.

SYSTEMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Appreciative Inquiry (AI)

▶ The Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach can be easily utilized by evaluation practitioners as a developmental approach to gather information and investigate situations

▶ In the process of data collection, evaluation practitioners are often challenged to ask questions from management and staff about the management structures and operations of the organization

▶ Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is an approach to large-scale change, based on addressing challenges, concerns or changes within organizations in a developmental or strength-based manner

SYSTEM FOR MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMME EVALUATION

- The model of Appreciative Inquiry includes the following phases (Preskill & Catsambas, 2006:15):

  - **Inquire / Discover** Programme staff need to identify the strengths and highlights of the programme and organization

  - **Imagine / Dream** – The question of "What might be?" is directed towards programme staff and management. This includes critical values, dialogue on possibilities, create and validate visions –

SYSTEM FOR MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMME EVALUATION

- **Innovate / Design** – The question of "What should be?" is asked.

  - The answers should set new directions, align standards, systems, and processes with visions.

  - The past successes and vision for the future of the programme become reality.

  - A small team is selected and trained to design ways of implementing the dreams identified in the previous phase.

  - The activities that need to be put in place to make the vision a reality need to be identified. Various themes and topics can be identified in line with the basic vision and structure of the programme or organization.

SYSTEM FOR MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMME EVALUATION

- **Implement / Destiny** –
  - During this phase the planned vision and activities are put into action.
  - It is about navigating the change and implementation of innovations.
  - The structure should make provision to monitor progress and evaluate the results of the programme

The components of an evaluation system

▶ Building Leadership commitment and clarify expectations

▶ Evaluation vision and philosophy

▶ Evaluation strategic plan

▶ Evaluation Design and implementation requirements
   (to follow...)

The components of an evaluation system

Evaluation Design and implementation requirements

▶ **Evaluation plans.** A clear evaluation plan is needed to guide evaluation activities and processes within the organizational system

▶ **Technology Resources and Infrastructures.** Examples of technology resources are concept mapping tools for developing evaluation logic models; online surveys; internet interviews; qualitative and quantitative analysis software packages.

▶ **Communication systems.** The evaluation progress and results should be communicated with all stakeholders within a clear evaluation system. The means of communication may include executive summaries, newsletters, posters, leaflets and verbal presentations.

▶ **Flexible and responsive evaluation practices.** Although evaluation principles and methodology are standardized in nature, each evaluation practice is unique and should be designed according to the needs, capacity and programmes of the organization.

The components of an evaluation system

▶ **Personnel and financial resources**

- Organizations need adequate resources to develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems on a continuous basis.

- Personal, equipment and evaluation tools are required to maintain the implementation of internal evaluations and ongoing monitoring systems

PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

- Facilitate consensus on the outcome indicators to be utilized collectively

- Acquire leadership commitment from senior management

- Introduce process and system for reporting and data collection over period of time (one year, as a pilot period)

  - Develop evaluation vision and philosophy for the programme

  - Develop evaluation strategic plan, including design and implementation requirements for the programme

  - Identify personnel and financial resources

  - Describe and implement data collection methods

  - Incorporate into monthly / quarterly Performance Management system and progress reporting process

- Review and final implementation towards impact assessment

THANK YOU / INKOSI / DANKIE