

APPENDIX 1: KEY INTERVENTIONS TO ACCELERATE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT WELLBEING

Table 1: Responsibility for the fulfilment of children's rights

RIGHT	SERVICE	GOVERNMENT	CIVIL SOCIETY	PRIVATE SECTOR	HOME
Name, identity and nationality	Birth certificate and identity documents	DHA, DoH, DSD			
Family care, or parental care or alternative care	Family care, programmes to strengthen family care, alternative care including foster care and child and youth centres	DSD, DoJ			
Basic nutrition and sufficient food	Agriculture, food supply, social assistance, identification and remediation	DoA, DSD, DBE, DoH			
Social Security	Social insurance, social assistance, disaster relief	DEL, DSD, SASSA			
Shelter and adequate housing	Provision of housing	DHS			
Sufficient clean water and adequate sanitation	Provision of drinking water, water and sanitation infrastructure	DWS, CoGTA and local government			
Basic health services including reproductive health services	Provision of maternal, neonatal, child health and reproductive health services for adolescents	DoH			
Social services and protection from abuse neglect and degradation	Prevention and early intervention programmes, child protection services, police and prosecutorial services	DSD, DBE, SAPS, DoH, DEL, DoJ, DFFE, DCAS, DCDT, DoT			
Prevent exploitative labour	Monitoring and evaluation and child protection	DEL, DPME			
Fair trials and limits on detention	Diversion, legal aid Appropriate detention when needed	DoJ, DoCS, DSD			
Not to be used in war	National legislation and child protection	DoD, DSD			
Equal opportunity for people with disability	Primary/secondary prevention, access to services	All, DWYPD			
Development and basic education	Early childhood development programmes and basic education	DBE, DoH			
Not to be discriminated against	Promoting, training monitoring and restitution	All, DPME			
To participate and have their views considered	Child participation	All, DPME			

* Civil society, the private sector and the home are key stakeholders and partners in ALL the interventions to accelerate action for children.

Table 2 Key strategies to accelerate child and adolescent well-being

Strategies for early childhood development
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
Strengthen families and enable parents and caregivers to care for their children and adolescents	<p>Build on the Side-by-Side campaign and implementation of the RtHB of the DoH, adding components about responsive caregiving that provide information and resources to parents and caregivers and service providers for young children.</p> <p>Expand access to respite care services for caregivers of children with disability and long-term conditions.</p> <p>Invest in training, supervision and support programmes for healthcare workers at primary healthcare levels to screen for and treat common mental health disorders and refer those who require more specialised care.</p> <p>Scale up specialised training of child psychiatrists, child psychiatric nurses, psychologists and social workers, and community-based workers.</p>	<p>Implement a comprehensive, community- based home visiting and family strengthening programme that provides support and information to primary caregivers.</p> <p>Scale up evidence-based parent support and family strengthening programmes, including programmes that address disability and both violence against women and children.</p> <p>Improve child/caregiver focused employment practices.</p>	<p>Department of Health</p> <p>Department of Social Development</p> <p>Department of Employment and Labour</p>

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: GOOD HEALTH

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
Eliminate HIV transmission to babies	<p>Early antenatal booking for screening</p> <p>Initiate all pregnant women living with HIV on ART.</p> <p>Ensure adherence to ART and viral suppression.</p> <p>Identify and initiate treatment in women who acquire HIV in the postnatal/ breastfeeding period.</p>		Department of Health
Reduce infant and child deaths	<p>Skilled birth attendance.</p> <p>Achieve 95% immunisation coverage.</p> <p>Effective management of childhood illness.</p> <p>Track and respond to causes of mortality.</p>	Make maternal and child health (MCH) the core of community health workers' scope of work and strengthen multi-disciplinary collaboration.	Department of Health
Reduce births to adolescents	Easy access to dual contraception, especially in high schools		Department of Health
Prevent disability in children and give those with disabilities the same opportunities as others	<p>Establish screening, support and referral guidelines for children with disability.</p> <p>Implement the extra care pillar of the Side- by-Side Campaign and Road to Health Booklet.</p> <p>Increase access to, and reach of community health care facilities and other facilities.</p>	<p>Train health workers to screen for developmental delays, disabilities and long- term conditions across all settings including clinics, early learning programmes and schools.</p> <p>Strengthen early identification, referral pathways and interventions (including rehabilitation) for young children with disabilities, mental health challenges and other long-term conditions.</p> <p>Establish a national screening programme for newborn hearing loss (<3 months old), following DoH policy and guideline development processes.</p> <p>Establish a national vision impairment screening guide, capacity building and intervention plan in ECD centres and schools for Grade R learners</p>	<p>Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>Department of Health</p>

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: ADEQUATE NUTRITION

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
No child lives below the food poverty line	Improve early uptake of the child support grant (CSG) for infants	Restore the CSG to the value of the food poverty line, starting with young children Introduce a maternity support grant of equal value to the CSG	Department of Social Development
Reduce incidence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	Early initiation of breastfeeding: First breastfeed within 1 hour of birth. Scaling up the family MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) approach – screening for acute malnutrition at household level.	Ensure early identification of moderate to severe acute malnutrition in children < 2 years and strengthen the implementation and resourcing of the Nutrition Therapeutic Programme (NTP).	Department of Health
Halve stunting rate in children under 5	Accurate growth monitoring and referral Stimulate local food production through greater partnership between agricultural extension and NGOs. Scale last mile delivery for food redistribution of surplus food. Promote education and awareness among parents, caregivers, health	Strengthen multiple micronutrient supplementation for pregnant women to reduce low-birth weight as per DoH guidelines Subsidise 10 best buy high-protein foods in partnership with food industry.	Department of Health Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
Reduce childhood obesity		Strengthen the regulation of the food industry to prohibit the promotion of formula milk and ultra processed foods	Department of Health

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: SAFETY AND SECURITY

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
All children's births to be registered.	Ensure all priority 1 – 3 health care facilities have birth registration desks that are fully staffed and digitally connected.	Identify barriers to late registration of birth and adopt a plan for reforms of the law and system to support universal birth registration.	Department of Home Affairs Department of Health
Protect all children from all forms of abuse, violence, harm and harmful substances.	Mobilise caregivers and civil society to implement alcohol harm reduction strategies and reporting mechanisms. Improve access to services to reduce alcohol dependency and binge drinking for caregivers. Report and record all incidents of child abuse, neglect, violence and harm. Increase access to recreational facilities and safe spaces to children to play. Increase support for parents and caregivers of adolescents, including through schools. Strengthen and continue with social behaviour change strategies that prevent, raise awareness about and decrease the occurrence of harmful substance abuse.	Strengthen the child care and protection system by resourcing the implementation of the continuum of care strategies identified in the National Child Care and Protection Policy. Strengthen the prevention of and response to violence against children through the implementation and resourcing of strategies identified in the NSP GBVF and the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, and adopt integrated approaches to prevent violence against children. Strengthen regulatory frameworks that reduce access to alcohol through reduced trading hours, minimum unit pricing (MUP), and reduced alcohol availability and advertising. Increase support for parents and caregivers of adolescents, including through schools. Finalise the funding policy for the NGO sector and prioritise the funding of NPOs providing child care and protection services by moving them to category 2 (funding by the state at the level of 'reasonable core costs').	Department of Social Development Department of Justice South African Police Services Department of Health Department of Basic Education
Reduce injuries among children.	Effective management of injury prevention. Track and respond to causes of morbidity due to injuries.	Implement traffic calming measures and reduce speed in and around school zones.	Department of Health Department of Transport
Protect children online.	Update and resource the implementation of national laws that protect children from online predatory commercial practices and online abuse.	Increase school curriculum components designed to educate and build skills for personal online safety.	Department of Justice Department of Basic Education. South African Police Services

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY LEARNING

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
Universal participation in ECD programmes.	<p>Expand access to early learning programmes.</p> <p>Extend ECD subsidy to community-based modalities (outside of formal centres) that meet health and safety standards.</p> <p>Unlock financing and public employment opportunities.</p> <p>Mass registration drive for ECD programmes.</p>	Restore the value of the ECD subsidy to account for inflation erosion and expand it to reach all eligible children.	Department of Basic Education
Children aged 4 years are on track for literacy and numeracy.	Support resource & training organisations and scaling platforms to rapidly expand access and quality.	<p>Support early language and cognitive stimulation in the home for children <3 yrs.</p> <p>Launch a public campaign to generate demand for ECD programmes and learning and language stimulation materials.</p> <p>National book drive to ensure that every ECD programme has >20 age-appropriate books.</p>	<p>Department of Basic Education</p> <p>Department of Sports, Arts & Culture</p>
Ensure inclusion of children with disabilities.		Develop guidelines and incentives for inclusion of children with disability in ECD programmes, supported by teacher/practitioner training and learning materials to accommodate various disabilities.	<p>Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>Department of Basic Education</p>

Strategies for adolescent wellbeing

ADOLESCENT WELLBEING: GOOD HEALTH AND OPTIMAL NUTRITION

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
Institutionalise routine preventative monitoring of adolescent health.	Disaggregate national StatsSA, policing, justice, health, education and social development data by age, sex and disability	Adopt a national adolescent wellbeing framework with high level indicators to guide programming and service delivery. Implement a national system of routine preventative screening and monitoring of adolescent wellbeing. Strengthen early identification, referral pathways and interventions (including rehabilitation) for adolescents with disabilities, mental health challenges and other long-term conditions. Ensure the interoperability of datasets on adolescents between departments of health, education, and social development	Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Department of Health Department of Social Development.
Reduce adolescent mortality.	Significantly increase the capacity of help lines in the country and support adolescent-centric support services.	Intersectoral strategies to reduce road traffic crashes focusing on adolescents should be incorporated into all national road safety strategies and interventions	Department of Transport Department of Social Development Department of Health.
Reduce alcohol, tobacco and other substance harms among adolescents.	Improve access to youth-specific rehabilitation services.	Strengthen and scale up evidence-based programmes providing parent and caregiver support to improve caregiver and adolescent relationships as a protective factor against risky behaviour, including alcohol and substance use. Develop strategies to reduce adolescent access to alcohol, tobacco, and vaping products. Alcohol harm reduction measures described above.	Department of Social Development Department of Health Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. Department of Justice.
Give adolescents universal access to sexual and reproductive health.	Expand community-based education and distribution and supply of contraceptives, including mobile outreach services, pharmacies, and school-or workplace-based services.		Department of Health Department of Employment and Labour.

ADOLESCENT WELLBEING: LEARNING, COMPETENCE, SKILLS & EMPLOYABILITY

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
Increase the participation of adolescents in formal and non-formal education and training.	Reduce school dropouts by changing provincial incentives and improving monitoring and response systems. Scale up national after-school programmes.	Implement the three-stream secondary education strategy to allow for multiple learning pathways (academic, vocational and occupational) that enable learners to make choices in their schooling	Department of Basic Education
Build an ecosystem linking formal education to work exposure.	Expand partnerships with business and civil society that facilitate structured work exposure.		Department of Basic Education Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. Department of Employment and Labour
Increase expected years of schooling for children entering the system.	Suite of education-support strategies implemented by government		Department of Basic Education
Increase the average of national Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling (LAYS) from 5.6 to 7.5 years.	Suite of education-support strategies implemented by government		Department of Basic Education

ADOLESCENT WELLBEING: SAFETY AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
All adolescents have a legal identity and nationality.	Scale up outreach to high schools to take up applications for late registration of birth, identity documents and visas.	Implement court orders aimed at preventing adolescents from becoming stateless.	Department of Home Affairs Department of Justice
Protect adolescents from all forms of abuse, violence, harm and harmful substances.	Improve justice and policing systems Increase access to community-based responses	Strengthen the child care and protection system by resourcing the implementation of the continuum of care strategies identified in the National Child Care and Protection Policy. Strengthen the prevention of and response to violence against children through the implementation and resourcing of strategies identified in the NSP GBVF and the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, and adopt integrated approaches to prevent violence against children. Strengthen regulatory frameworks that reduce access to alcohol through reduced trading hours, minimum unit pricing (MUP), and reduced alcohol availability and advertising. Strengthen and continue with social behaviour change strategies that prevent, raise awareness about and decrease the occurrence of harmful substance abuse. Increase support for parents and caregivers of adolescents, including through schools.	Department of Social Development Department of Justice Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
Eliminate child, early, and forced marriages.	Engagement with traditional leadership. Effective childcare and protection practices		Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs Department of Social Development

Protect adolescents online.	Update and resource the implementation of national laws that protect adolescents from online predatory commercial practices and online abuse.	Increase school curriculum components designed to educate and build skills for personal online safety.	Department of Communication and Digital Technology Department of Justice Department of Basic Education Department of Social Development
Reduce harmful environmental effects on adolescents.	Implement strategies developed by the Presidential Climate Commission. Curricula at every level of education to be adjusted to include climate change and environmental education. Include child and adolescent environmental rights in the Child Impact Assessments tool. Implement traffic calming measures and reduced speed limits in and around school zones	Strengthen strategies to reduce injuries to children and adolescents and promote optimal health. Strengthen participation by young people in the monitoring of environmental indicators impacting their health.	Department of Forestry, Fisheries & Environmental Affairs Department of Transport Department of Health

ADOLESCENT WELLBEING: CONNECTEDNESS, POSITIVE VALUES AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
Adolescents are able to connect with one another and the world online	Link schools to local and national support systems for adolescents (wellness, knowledge sharing and civic participation).	Ensure that the policy to zero-rate the digital content of government benefit organisations and government is fully implemented	Department of Communications and Digital technology
Adolescents have a sense of being cared for, supported, and belonging, through protective relationships.	Increase and enhance school curriculum components designed to build interpersonal skills, agency, skills and protective relationships.		Department of Basic Education
Improve meaningful participation to facilitate connectedness and civic contribution to build purpose and promote civic agency	Increase school curriculum components designed to build practical, real-life engagement with democracy and civic life. Grow adolescent engagement in a strengthened Representative Council of Learners' system in South African schools.		Department of Basic Education

ADOLESCENT WELLBEING: AGENCY AND RESILIENCE

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	IMPROVE INCREMENTALLY BY DOING MORE BETTER	ACCELERATE PROGRESS THROUGH CATALYTIC INTERVENTIONS	LEAD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
Improve adolescent resilience to promote wellbeing.	Evidence-based socio-emotional learning in schools and communities. Adapt and support existing after-school programmes for national scale promoting a mentor model framework.	Public communication and a national network of support building a sense of collective agency and identity.	Department of Basic Education Government communications and information services
Increase adolescent awareness on gender equality, human rights and adolescents' rights and capacities.	Increase school curriculum components designed to build human rights, including gender equality.	Community-based prevention and early intervention programmes for adolescents and caregivers, including a basket of integrated programmes that includes a focus on human rights, gender-transformative norms and family strengthening support for adolescents and parents.	Department of Basic Education
Strengthen institutional responsiveness for adolescent agency and resilience.	Review key national and sub-national institutions to better align them with adolescents and their needs.	National and provincial leadership for sustainable Child Rights Governance Systems institutionalised.	Department of Social Development
Strengthen adolescent engagement in accountability mechanisms and in the design & implementation of programmes	Review key processes and accountability mechanisms at all of levels of government for better adolescent involvement.		Department of Social Development