



CHILD PROTECTION EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Ezrah Community Training and Development NPC launched our Child Protection Programme in 2017 after we identified the gap to bring child protection stakeholders and child-focused NPOs together in projects that not only has a strong capacity building focus, but also facilitates collaboration in the best interest of children. We are therefore grateful for collaborations with NPO networks such as Valcare and the National Freedom Network.

This long-term flagship programme initially had a strong focus on the Cape Winelands, which is still the focus of our in-person events. However, through our online resources, we are now able to empower child-focused stakeholders across South Africa. Here is a short summary of the various projects that all contribute to the main programme goal.

Project 1: Child-focused workshops and courses

**“It surely sparked a new way of thinking and gave new ideas to develop”
– Clyne Martin (Mosaic Community Development).**

Parent mentoring workshop: To train participants in a structured skills-based approach related to the four building blocks of parenting.

**“Thank you very much for this workshop. I enjoyed it so much and it gave me so many new ideas. It was great to focus with hope on a positive care-giving environment and positive outcomes for the child”
– Anneli Theron, Social Worker (Khula Development Group).**

LEAD Child participation workshops: To equip social workers, social auxiliary workers, counsellors and community workers with tools and skillsets to train and mentor children.

**“Such a comprehensive and valuable tool. I feel equipped to implement it.”
– Alison Wilson from the HearX Foundation.**

Child protection policy and empowerments workshops: To facilitate engagement with the process of developing, implementing and reviewing a child protection policy.

**“I learned to collaborate with my community (parents, staff and learners). I could draw up my school’s child protection policy”
– Beulah Minnaar (Little Rascals Day Care)**

Project 2: Child protection steering group events

“Such an honour to be part of Ezra’s child protection steering group. Thank you for such an interactive and informative year.”

- Tatenda Pakai (Social worker at Pebbles Project)

Objectives: To equip child protection stakeholders with resilience-focused child protection resources and skills and to promote quality service delivery as well as committed value-based collaboration in the best interest of children.

Content: Our child protection steering group events include the sharing of resources and training opportunities as well as short workshops to build resilience and advance child protection skills. During these events, we invite other role-players as well as steering group members to facilitate sessions on community mapping, resilience-building, online safety, safety measures against pornography etc. to increase the scope of skills and to link our participants with more community resources and services.

Project 3: Working group meetings

“It increased understanding through communication, hearing different voices from different service providers”

– Carien de Klerk (Psychologist at Good Hope Psychological Service).

Objectives: Steering group meetings are followed up by referral working group meetings to enhance collaboration between child protection stakeholders. The objectives of the working group are as follows:

- a) To establish clear mandates as well as roles and responsibilities for the stakeholders on the flowchart.
- b) To establish clear standard operating procedures (SOPs) with time frames for each stakeholder.
- c) To strengthen communication and collaboration between service providers so that children can receive quality support services from the child protection sector through a victim-centred trauma-informed approach to child protection customer care.
- d) To implement a community-based resilience approach (building circles of support around children and community members) so that social change can happen from the bottom up while acknowledging people's lived experiences.
- e) Liaising with SAPS/FCS as well as other child protection stakeholders to provide long-term practical and debriefing support to them.
- f) Increasing community awareness around issues such as children's rights, child trafficking etc.
- g) Strengthening of the Thuthuzela Care Centre in Paarl.

Project 4: Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking Forum

"I want to say a huge thank you for the impactful work that you do. It is tremendously encouraging reading these updates. Well done for forging forward to bring about change. We are excited to see certain members of the NFN coming on board and working together with you!"
- Marina Reyneke, COO (National Freedom Network).

Objectives: To establish watch briefs on particular child trafficking cases within the Western Cape and to identify and share training opportunities related to the trafficking of children with delegates on the forum in order to create a victim-centred, trauma-informed approach

Content: After identifying several child trafficking cases in the Cape Winelands area, we realised the need for greater collaboration and capacity building in order to respond effectively to child trafficking cases.

Therefore, Ezraha co-founded the Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking Forum together with the Western Cape Dept. of Community Safety, the Department of Social Development and A21 in order to advance the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedure of Integrated Assistance to Victims of Trafficking, 2020. The WC Dept. of Community Safety currently chairs the forum with Ezraha CTD in the secretariat position.

Project 5: Ongoing mentoring and strategic input

"Thanks so much for your email and continued advice. This was very helpful. We took ALL staff through the CPP last week and have done police clearance on ALL staff too (Education team and campus staff)."
- Catherine Janse van Rensburg (Bridges Retreat Centre)

As an additional support service, non-profit organisations that form part of the programme, have access to contextualised mentoring on any aspect related to child protection. Programme participants are invited to send their child protection policies to the programme coordinator for review and to contact the programme coordinator when they come across child abuse, neglect and exploitation cases.

We then work together to ensure that the best reporting protocols are followed. We also assist child-focused organisations with strategic input to ensure that they develop their organisational structures on ethical foundations in order to ensure sustainable service delivery to children.

Project 6: Online child-focused courses and resources

"Thank you for sharing your resources"
- Linda Zietsman, Programme Coordinator at Khula Development Group).

"Impressive, thank you so much."
- Robert Bellon

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As we realise there is a big need for organisations to access our resources and training online, we share free downloadable resources on child protection including child-focused protocols on our website at www.ezrah.co.za/child-protection-resources.

We have already launched our first online Ebook, *Think Ethics for Non-profit Organisations*, which will enable child-focused organisations to apply ethics in service delivery as well as in their resource management, leadership and administration. We will use lessons learned to develop similar online resources that will focus specifically on child protection.

“I am so grateful to you and your team and the wonderful work you continue to do.”

- Harry Loubser (CEO, Unashamedly Ethical)

We believe that our online strategy will ensure scalability and reach a bigger audience across South Africa.

Project 7: Collaborative child-focused projects

Apart from advancing advocacy for child protection through collaborative projects such as celebrating child protection month in May each year, we also collaborate on specific child-focused projects. One of these projects in July 2022 was a collaborative project with Sikunye where 58 faith-based leaders were equipped to implement child protection policies in their churches through an online webinar.

“Thank you so much for attending yesterday - it was such a great interview and I really do think many churches left knowing the law and that they need a child protection policy. We will definitely have to look at including this topic again in our webinars later in the year or early next year.”

- Bryony Dobson (LEAD: FTD Content Development at Sikunye).

We are also in the process of collaborating with Bridges Retreat Centre to roll out value-based prefect and educator camps in 2023 based on Ezrah's LEAD child participation model to equip the next generation as leaders of change

Together we make a difference for children in South Africa in line with our vision of promoting ethical service delivery and quality education where children matter.