



CHILD PROTECTION EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME MARCH TO MAY 2023

**Ezrah Community Training
and Development NPC**

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Programme goal:

Child Protection Programme

To strengthen the larger child protection (CP) system in South Africa through collaboration and through empowering child-focused organisations as child protection champions.

Direct beneficiary reach:

Ezrah's clients are a combination of child protection role-players including child-focused NPOs, government departments, ECDs, NPO networks, SAPS and FCS. The breakdown in terms of child protection stakeholders that engaged with one or more of our projects for the time period **March to May 2023** is as follows:

Total number of individual persons (child protection role-players): 114

Total number of organisations: 69

Total number of individual persons from Valcare member organisations: 60

Total number of Valcare member organisations: 44

Total number of government departments: 5 (WC Dept. of Community Safety; Thuthuzela Care Centre, Paarl ; Dept. of Social Development, FCS and the Dept. of Health)

Total number of NPOs: 35

Total number of ECDs: 21

Total number of schools: 7

Private practice or business: 1

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools:

- Attendance registers
- Feedback forms
- Meeting summaries
- Email communication (where organisations share their progress)
- Stories of change
- Time-logs and service delivery register
- Project reports and photos
- Service delivery registers

THEORY OF CHANGE:

CHILD PROTECTION EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Goal: To strengthen the larger child protection (CP) system in South Africa through collaboration and through empowering child-focused organisations as child protection champions.

What we invest:

Facilitators, material, online platforms, venue and catering

Activities:

Coordinate a steering group and working groups; Provide training and mentoring in-person and online

Target group:

Child-focused organisations and child protection stakeholders

OUTCOMES

Short-term:
0-2 years

Medium-term:
3-7 yrs

Long-term:
8-10 yrs

Focus areas

Mobilise community resources through steering group meetings

Greater awareness of protocol gaps
Improved communication between CP stakeholders

Increased commitment to implement shared protocols, leading to better referrals and services

Effective implementation of shared protocols
Quality support services to children

Facilitate caring relational spaces for children through training and mentoring

More knowledge and skill related to child protection, parenting and positive discipline

Effective implementation of skills and transfer of skills to parents

Parents have better parenting skills and better relationships with children

Empower children to become agents of change through training

Non-profits have better skills to implement child participation

Children are equipped to participate actively in decisions affecting them

Children grow as leaders of change

Collaborate on cases and systemic challenges through working groups

Child protection stakeholders are more committed to collaborate on CP cases and challenges

Working groups and platforms for collaboration are established

CP cases are effectively managed and systemic challenges are addressed

Impact: A strong child protection system and safer communities where children matter

Assumptions: Commitment from child protection stakeholders to implement training and to collaborate on child protection cases and protocols as well as to participate in child protection campaigns, working groups and case management discussions



INTRODUCTION

Celebrating Child Protection

In the midst of alarming child abuse and neglect statistics, we find great hope when organisations unite to collaborate on child protection. Therefore, we are so proud of the members of our Child Protection Empowerment Steering Group, who held the green flag high during Child Protection Month in May and National Child Protection Week, that was celebrated from 29 May to 6 June this year.

The National Child Protection Week is commemorated in South Africa annually to raise awareness of the rights of children as articulated in the Constitution and Children's Act (Act. No. 38 of 2005). The green ribbon is worn as a symbol of commitment to advance children's rights and to be ambassadors for child protection. Ezrah Community Training and Development NPC celebrated Child Protection Month by implementing several child protection projects during May:

In collaboration with Bridges Retreat Centre – Outdoor Education Programme, we equipped 24 educators to implement our LEAD child participation model during an educator's camp. During Child Protection Week, Ezrah also trained Legacy Community Development and Love to Give in Stellenbosch on implementing our BuildSmart Parenting Mentoring Toolkit.

Our joy is even greater, when we see our child protection steering group members making a concerted effort to wear their green ribbons and to roll out different projects within their respective contexts. Ezrah kicked off the preparation for child protection month on a high note by sharing child protection resources and by equipping our child protection steering group members with skills on identifying and reporting child abuse. From the initial planning and ideas, our member organisations stepped out to implement different campaigns and projects, which were relevant to their context.

We are so grateful for the great progress and collaboration since launching our Child Protection Empowerment Programme in 2017 as well as all the lessons learned.

“The great takeaway from this year's Child Protection Month is that alone we can do so little, but by taking hands and sharing ideas, strategies and resources we can accomplish so much. We therefore salute every child protection ambassador who takes up this baton.” - Mariëtte Jacobs (MD)

Together, with a firm commitment to act in the best interest of our children, we can empower the next generation as leaders of change.



OUTPUTS ACHIEVED: MARCH TO MAY 2023



NUMBER OF PERSONS FROM
VALCARE MEMBER
ORGANISATIONS THAT
PARTICIPATED IN OUR
CHILD PROTECTION
PROGRAMME DURING THIS
QUARTER

60



NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS
THAT PARTICIPATED IN OUR
CHILD PROTECTION
PROGRAMME DURING THIS
QUARTER

69

Total

44

Valcare members



NUMBER OF
EDUCATORS TRAINED
IN LEAD CHILD
PARTICIPATION
SKILLS

24



TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILD
PROTECTION ROLE-
PLAYERS THAT
PARTICIPATED IN EZRAH
CHILD PROTECTION
EVENTS DURING THIS
QUARTER

114



NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO
ATTENDED OUR CHILD
PROTECTION POLICY
WORKSHOP

32



CHILD PROTECTION STEERING GROUP EVENTS (29 MARCH & 17 MAY 2023)

Feedback:

- Thank you! I literally had to keep back my tears. This humane education project has really meant a lot. I am going to make an effort to roll this out to our farms and ECDs.
- Thank you so much for all of the effort you put into these sessions. I loved the explanations and and sweeties describing child protection month and reminding of God's love for children and animals (Lee-Anne Jones, Kin Culture NPC).
- I have learned practical examples of emotional first-aid and what to do in a trauma situation.
- Emotional first-aid was interesting and I can't wait to get started to train other staff members.
- As we are working with kids from different backgrounds and situations, having these trainings equip us to do better and to be able to create a safe space in our organisation. Thank you! (Siphokazi Silandeli-Maseti, Ikamva Foundation) .
- I have gained knowledge regarding how to react when children present with trauma and how they will respond according to their age group (Lauren Cyster, Khula Development Group).

" This event gave the security that you are not alone - you have a whole network. "
– Margaret Williams (Amazing Brainz).



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY WORKSHOP (13 APRIL 2023)

Feedback:

- This training was very inspiring and encouraging. It motivated the group to learn more more about child protection. The facilitator was very knowledgeable and willing to answer questions as it came up.
- An excellent workshop with a lot of practical examples (Sanmarie Botha, Social worker from ACVV Wellington).
- I learned the importance of having a child protection policy. It is a guideline for all staff members, parents and everyone working with children. The screening is very important.
- Training is always delightful and well presented. I have learned more about the procedures and how to identify and report abuse (Hameeda Marthinus, Holland Early Learning Centre).
- Thank you for your hard work in putting this workshop together. Excellent information and the workshop was executed professionally. I am better informed and able to proceed with implementation. Blessed to have been able to attend (Michelle Rielly, Social Worker from Kin Culture NPC).
- Protect our next presidents and leaders of tomorrow. Great job, well done (Weziwe Magadlela, Greatfulness Soup Kitchen).
- I have learned that it is very important to protect and lookout for children all around. Be observant when it comes to a child's well-being (Keeshaan Swarts, Kathy's Educare).
- I have learnt a lot in this workshop and had a lot of "aha" moments. As an organisation, we have a lot to do. Thank you for equipping us! (Ndileka Mfanekiso, Imfumaneko Foundation).

“ I am grateful for the information given and that I can educate the staff, children and parents about child protection as well as update the policy of the school. ”

– Rebecca Jacobs (Little Tigers Nursery School).



CHILD PROTECTION WORKING GROUP (MARCH TO MAY 2023)

MAIN GOAL:

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 care.

Progress report:

- We had some very fruitful meetings with the FCS (SAPS) commanders - from the local Paarl FCS station as well as the Western Cape Forensic Social Services. The goals of these meetings were to build relationship and to get a better understanding of the mandate and role of forensic social workers.
- From these meetings, we were able to celebrate the progress and potentially expand the resilience project, facilitated by one of the working group members, Sp(i)eel Arts Therapies Collective to forensic social workers across the Western Cape.
- We were also able to expand the working group to include more delegates from our local child protection organisations and to work jointly on shared challenges by sharing resources, knowledge and connections towards resilience.



COUNTER CHILD TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES

The Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking forum had three online meetings during this time period. As co-founder of this forum, Ezrah NPC is responsible for the secretariat position and plays an important coordination function between forum delegates.

As a result of forum meetings, the following outcomes were achieved during this time period (March to May 2023):

1. Ezrah in collaboration with Free to Fly and Missing Children South Africa presented an online session to the National Freedom Network's members during April. We shared more about the work and collaborations of the forum with the theme "An integrated response to child trafficking." From this presentation more members joined the forum.
2. The training work group started to collaborate on training standards related to child trafficking training and to share manuals, which can be used as foundation to develop training manuals of high quality.
3. The multi-disciplinary committee started to plan our Annual ThinkTank, which will be hosted on 20 July 2023. The themes, which we will unpack this year are focused on building a trauma-informed resilience strategy for counter trafficking role-players as well as the victims of child trafficking.



EDUCATOR CAMP SESSION (13 MAY 2023)

On 13 May 2023, Ezraah was privileged to facilitate a session on implementing Child Participation through our LEAD model to the 24 educators who attended the Bridges Retreat Camp during 12-14 May 2023. Here is some of the feedback received:

- I have learned a lot of strategies that will produce good results in academics and discipline which is a major problem in my school.
- Through the lesson I was given, I got many ideas how I can do child participation.
- Empowering and motivating to know if we as school can pull up that it can make an impact towards the community.
- It can start with a very simple task. Use what is in your hand.
- Learners learn more in an environment that they like and teaching must be fun and enjoyable in order to curb the dropout of learners.
- LEAD application for me means giving the learner a voice and giving them things to do (practical work), love and enjoy their schooling environment.
- I came to realise or learn that the whole process starts with me. Learners can be what I am or feeling on that particular day. The resource that I am taking back is to bridge the gap between educators and learners.
- Thank you for this beautiful session. Indeed we learned a lot and have strategies now to deal with our learners. Keep it up!



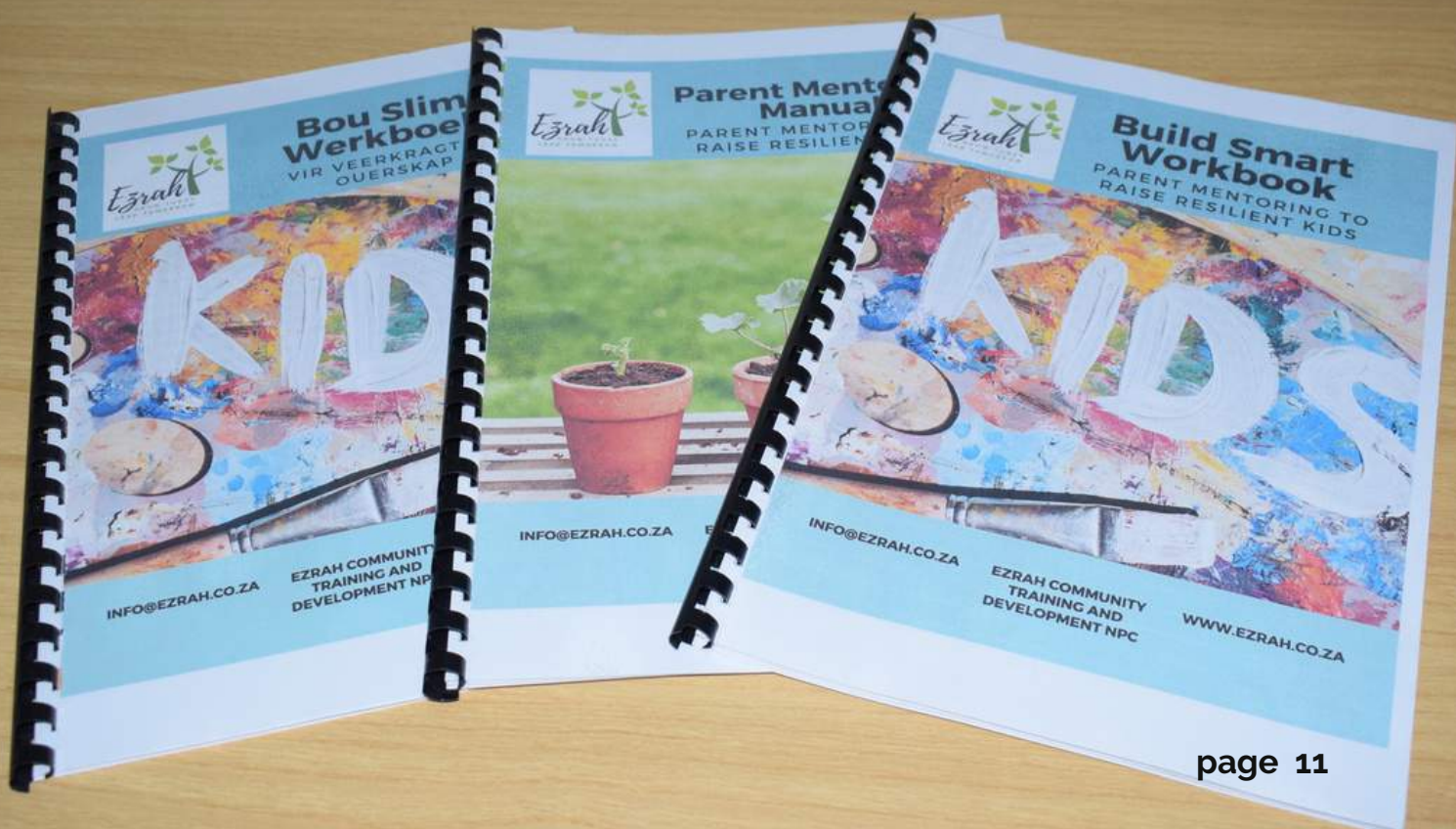
BUILDSMART TESTIMONIAL



"I had an encounter last year where we were trained on the BuildSmart Parenting Tool. I tried it out in one of my parent mentoring sessions and I was shocked when a parent came to me and said, this has strengthened her relationship with her previously abusive husband.

They play together now and through play they were able to speak about things, they were not able to speak about. So, communication in general has improved and this was very heart-warming for me to get such feedback."

(Tatenda Pakai, Social worker from Pebbles Project, 2023)



BUILDSMART WORKSHOP (26 MAY 2023)

"The curriculum is very exciting... and easy to understand. I hope this can get to public schools to be used in school governing body sessions that include the learners' parents."

(Zolisile Dodi, Facilitator from Legacy Community Development, 2023)

"The guide is directly to the point and easy to follow up and understand. Wish it can reach more parents and care-givers. It brings back hope that we lost to restore humanity."

(Nomajama Jikela, Senior community care worker from Love to Give, 2023)

"Thank you. It takes a village to raise a child, it's not easy but we will reap a good harvest if we don't give up."

(Ntombizandile Ntoyanto, Care coordinator from Legacy Community Development, 2023)

Our enthusiastic training delegates from Legacy Community Development and Love to Give



CELEBRATING CHILD PROTECTION MONTH



Photo courtesy of
Inceba Trust

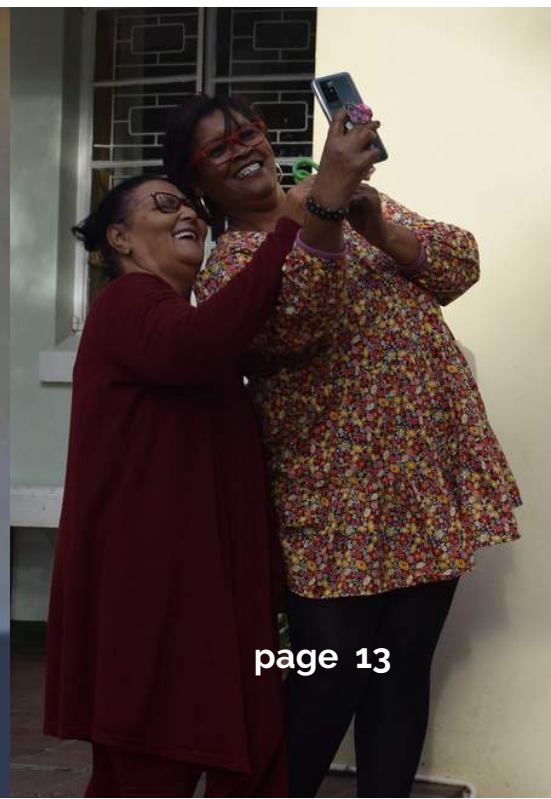


Photo courtesy of
Khula DG

During Child Protection Month in May our child protection steering group members wore their green ribbons with enthusiasm to facilitate awareness for child protection.

We also saw several of our members implement great child protection projects. For example Khula DG implemented a humane education project, while Inceba Trust and others celebrated WorldFoster Day on the 31st of May.

To read more visit <https://www.ezrah.co.za/blogs/>.



FUTURE PLANNING

NEXT CHILD PROTECTION STEERING GROUP EVENTS

- 14 June 2023
- 10 August 2023
- 18 October 2023
- 15 November 2023



#ONLINE CHILD PROTECTION RESOURCES

We are continually uploading valuable child protection resources onto our website for stakeholders to access. We are looking forward to share more Doodly clips and blogs on child protection to equip stakeholders with child protection knowledge.



REFERRAL WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

We will continue within working group meetings to draft a referral and communication flowchart to support child victims of sexual exploitation in the Cape Winelands-area and wider Western Cape.



COUNTERING CHILD TRAFFICKING

Through the Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking Forum, EzraH continues to play a vital role in coordinating joint efforts to respond to child trafficking cases and to build models of collaboration.



FACILITATING THE ANNUAL WESTERN CAPE COUNTER CHILD TRAFFICKING THINKTANK

We are looking forward to facilitate the annual ThinkTank on Countering Child Trafficking on 20 July 2023.

ONGOING COLLABORATIONS

We value our collaborations with both government departments and NPOs to address child protection challenges.

We are looking forward to collaborate with RealDeal Trust on their Trauma-Informed Development Strategy.

INVITE TO JOURNEY WITH US



Ezrah's has expanded the child protection empowerment programme from its initial focus on the Cape Winelands to reaching beneficiaries across South Africa through online working groups and resources. We have also started to implement more collaborative projects with other child-focused stakeholders.

In order to implement these activities with excellence, we welcome the support of new stakeholders and donors, who share this dream of safer spaces for children with us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you **Valcare, the Ackerman Family Foundation Trust, the Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation, the Lombardi Family Charitable Trust and individual donors** for your kind financial support towards our Child Protection Empowerment Programme. We so appreciate it that you share this empowerment journey with us. Together with other child protection stakeholders we can do so much more to strengthen the child protection system in order to enable change for children.



BuildSmart Workshop in Action

CONTACT US



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