



CHILD PROTECTION EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME JUNE TO AUGUST 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 **June to August 2023** is as follows:

Total number of individual persons: 223

Total number of individual persons from Valcare member organisations: 55

Total number of organisations: 48

Total number of Valcare member organisations: 26

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

Total number of NPOs: 34

Total number of schools: 5

Total number of NPO and ECD networks: 4 (Valcare, Inceba Trust, Connect Network, NFN)

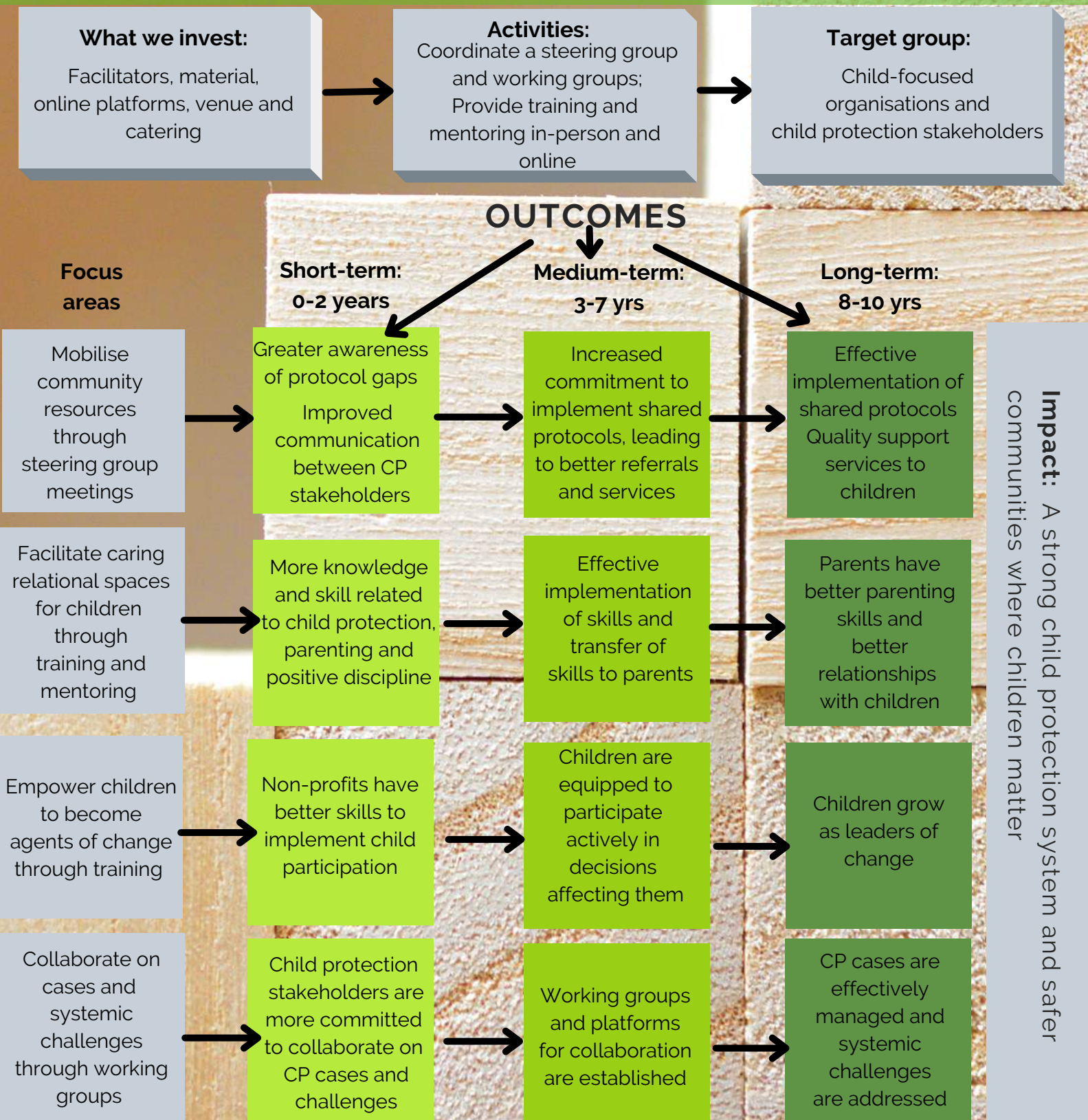
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools:

- 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 through collaboration and through empowering child-focused organisations as child protection champions.



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 Collaboration Towards Growth

"Through collaboration we can help our children."

(Andrea Castle, DSD Cape Town: Street Children's Programme at the Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking Forum Think Tank, 20 July 2023)

In responding to the overwhelming child protection challenges that South Africa is facing, the pathway to success is built upon effective **Collaboration**.

Therefore, Ezrah is very intentional in implementing this pillar in our service delivery as well as to celebrate joint outcomes achieved.

In our child protection empowerment programme, every project is built on collaboration through investment in relationships, collective learning and the sharing of resources and skills.

We see our Child Protection Empowerment Programme as a community development model, whereby collective learning with our beneficiaries and collaborators is essential in co-creating strength-based strategies.

In reflecting on the last quarter's activities, we celebrate several collaborative projects:

- Informative sessions by the Thuthuzela Care Centre on reporting child abuse and neglect at our child protection steering group events.
- A collaborative child protection camp during the July holiday.
- Working group activities to strengthen collaboration and communication between child protection service providers.
- Annual Think Tank of the Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking Forum and ongoing counter trafficking meetings.

We value every contribution from our collaborators with a special shoutout to Bridges Retreat Centre for making their venue available for the school camp and Think Tank.

Together, we can create safe spaces where children matter.

Mariëtte Jacobs

Managing Director: Ezrah Community Training and Development NPC



OUTPUTS ACHIEVED: JUNE TO AUGUST 2023



**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILD
PROTECTION ROLE-
PLAYERS EQUIPPED IN
EZRAH CHILD
PROTECTION EVENTS
DURING THIS QUARTER**

223



**NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS
EQUIPPED IN OUR CHILD
PROTECTION PROGRAMME
DURING THIS QUARTER**

48



**NUMBER OF
EDUCATORS AND
VOLUNTEERS THAT
PARTICIPATED IN
HOLIDAY CHILD
PROTECTION CAMP**

20



**NUMBER OF VALCARE
MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
EQUIPPED IN OUR
CHILD PROTECTION
PROGRAMME DURING THIS
QUARTER**

26



**NUMBER OF CHILDREN
EMPOWERED DURING THE
HOLIDAY
CHILD PROTECTION CAMP**

125



OUTCOMES ACHIEVED: JUNE TO AUGUST 2023

"Thank you so much for this comprehensive update on the Think Tank and the way forward. The Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking Forum is incredible and is a role model to other forums/coalitions/task teams. Appreciate you and the team."

Marina Reyneke
(National Freedom Network, 21 August 2023)

"We appreciate these meetings They leave us with so many ideas on how we can do or work better."

Zikhona Tukayi
(A21, 20 July 2023)

"Thank you for your incredible work. It will bear much fruit."

Uné Conradie
(Spieel Arts Therapies Collective, 20 July 2023)

"Extremely valuable in building our team's skills and knowledge."

Jana Loots
(Inceba Trust,
16 August 2023)

"These events enhance the best assistance to address challenges that our community encounters."

Devon Nicholas
(21 Jump Street,
16 August 2023)



CHILD PROTECTION STEERING GROUP EVENTS (14 JUNE & 16 AUG 2023)

Themes: Identifying child trafficking and reporting of child abuse

Feedback:

- Well done, Ezraah for an informative and emotionally honest session (Brent du Toit, Bridges Retreat Centre).
- The meeting was emotional, but yet very eye-opening. It was powerful. I am so grateful for these meetings (Siphokazi Silandela, Ikamva Foundation).
- It was very productive and a need for communities, especially child care facilities (Nomzamo Julayi, Inceba Trust).
- The different types of trafficking are shocking. I will definitely look out for red flags and I will not be afraid to react (Purdé Fredericks, Inceba Trust).
- Thank you Ezraah for all the contact numbers that you gave to us (Rossina Small, Marge SoupKitchen).
- This is like a support group providing continuous information in the child protection sector. It helps me to keep abreast of the latest legislation and good practices (Lee-Anne Jones, Kin Culture NPC).
- We value the knowledge and skills and connecting to the correct people and organisations, equipping us with knowledge and skills to do proper reporting (Riaan Sauer, 21 Jump Street).

“Being informed of the process of reporting makes me feel empowered to protect the children in our programme. ”

– **Rebecca Yoko (Bridges Retreat Centre).**



CHILD PROTECTION WORKING GROUP (JUNE TO AUGUST 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:

- It was decided to use the remainder of the 2023 working group meetings to gain a deeper understanding of the respective roles and mandates of the different child protection role-players.
- On 16th August, the Department of Health as well as the Thuthuzela Care Centre (Paarl) shared feedback on their specific child protection role and how they collaborate and liaise with other child protection role-players.
- From these feedback sessions, the working group identifies both strengths and gaps to implement solutions towards better collaboration and communication as well as the sharing of resources and information between child protection role-players.
- The working group is also focusing on strengthening a trauma-informed approach by connecting therapeutic service providers with child protection role-players. Collectively we create awareness on resilience and trauma-informed practices.
- One of the promising outcomes that was achieved is that Sp(i)eel Arts Therapies Collective will implement a resilience session with the forensic social workers of FCS units in the Western Cape on the 1st of September 2023.



COUNTER CHILD TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES

Apart from several online meetings, the Western Cape Counter Child Trafficking forum had their annual in-person multi-sectoral Think Tank on 20 July 2023. This event was organised and facilitated by Ezra CTD with the theme: **An integrated, holistic trauma-informed approach in responding to child trafficking in the Western Cape.**

The Think Tank was attended by delegates from various NPOs, therapeutic service providers, the Department of Social Development, the NPA, FCS (SAPS) and other law enforcement representatives. The input provided by the delegates will be used in follow-up meetings to strengthen a trauma-informed approach and the results were also shared with the Western Cape Provincial Task Team on Trafficking.

Here is some feedback received on this very successful event:

- "The event was very insightful. Very informative and I loved engaging with different stakeholders." (Zikhona Tukayi, A21)
- "Great to get multi-sectoral departments together to find common themes together." (Graham Haddad, Free to Fly)
- "Learned more about trafficking in persons, was very informative." (Lt. Col Beziek, FCS Paarl)
- "Received a lot of information that is helpful for related cases." (Charmornay Singh, Badisa Paarl)



COLLABORATIVE CHILD PROTECTION CAMP (11-13 JULY 2023)

During the July holiday, Ezrah was privileged to collaborate with **Bridges Retreat Centre - Outdoor Education Programme, Drakenstein se Jong Doudruppels, Khula Development Group and Free to Fly** on a holiday camp for 125 primary school learners. This camp hosted learners from the following four schools in Paarl-East: Magnolia Primary, Paarlzicht Primary, New Orleans and Orleansvale Primary.

The aim of the camp was to facilitate three days of outdoor and creative activities while equipping learners with important child protection knowledge. The **Thuthuzela Care Centre (Paarl), The Royalty Project** and **Free to Fly** presented short sessions on gender-based violence, bullying, identity and child trafficking. The Bridges Retreat Centre's coaches facilitated the camp programme, while the educators and volunteers from Free to Fly and Khula Development Group were on-site for the duration of the camp to provide additional support.

The great outcomes achieved demonstrated the importance of holiday camps to provide safe spaces for children during the school holidays. Camps as outreach platforms in strengthening child protection awareness and building connection between child protection role-players show great potential. Ezrah celebrates the power of collaboration in serving the most vulnerable and salutes all collaborators for their input and participation to make this camp successful.



INFORMATION SESSION ON BUILDSMART (20 JUNE 2023)

On 20 June 2023, Ezrah had the privilege to facilitate an information session with the organisations of Valcare's Education Coordinated Effort on the importance of parent mentoring in building resilience and building children's brain architecture as well as Ezrah's BuildSmart Parent Mentoring Programme.. We thank the following organisations for their dedicated participation in this session:

- Valcare
- Change within Development
- Pebbles Project
- The Sustainability Institute
- HearX Foundation
- Ikamva Foundation
- The Grape Community
- Khula Development Group
- Paarl Youth Initiative
- Anna Foundation
- Little Rascals Day Care
- Marge Soup Kitchen
- DAPD
- Imfumaneko Foundation
- Strong Schools Community Collaborative



FUTURE PLANNING

NEXT CHILD PROTECTION STEERING GROUP EVENTS FOR 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, online courses 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, Ezraah continues to play a vital role in coordinating joint efforts to respond to child trafficking cases and to build models of collaboration.



EXPANDING CONSULTANCY SUPPORT SERVICES TO NPOS

From October onwards, we are looking forward to expanding our consultancy services to child-focused NPOs and ECDs through a social work lens.

ONGOING COLLABORATIONS

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

We are continuing with our collaboration with RealDeal Trust on their Trauma-Informed Development Strategy.

INVITE TO JOURNEY WITH US



Ezrah is inviting child-focused organisations to connect with us on this collective journey of creating safe spaces where children matter. Child-focused organisations are welcome to join any of our in-person activities or to visit our resource pages on our website to download child protection resources. As we value transparent communication with our stakeholders, interested persons are welcome to visit our website for more information or to follow us on social media to get updates on all developments and activities.

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.



CONTACT US



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