

**“Giving Children the  
Voice”  
Children - an Election  
issue**

**“Piercing the Promises  
Election Accountability Series  
LINC MMA Event**

**Presented by  
Anthony Ambrose  
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We must put the best interests of Children at the heart of all political and business decision-making, and at the centre of our day-to-day behaviour and activities....*we can build a South Africa fit for children, if each of us does our part and takes the well-being of children as our own responsibility.*

*Adapted from Kofi Annan  
Former Secretary-General of the United Nations*

# Children – More than an Election Issue?

- How do we Improve Services and Influence Policy for Our Children?
- For the Best Interest of the Child
- For the Best Interests of Children

# Demographics

- **Children count in South Africa**

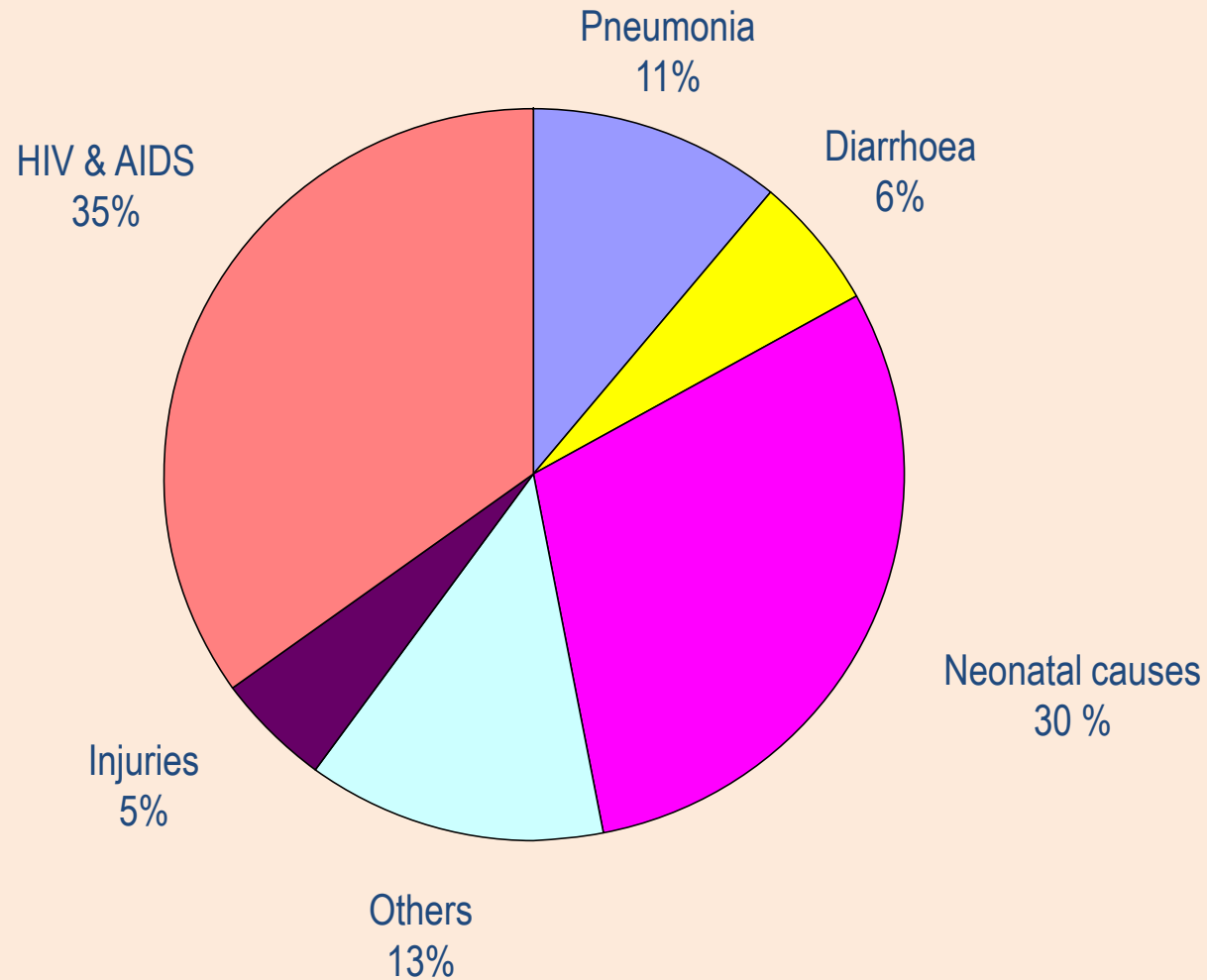
**18.9 million of 49 m total (40% of people in South Africa)**

- In 2008, 64% of children lived in the poorest 40% of households with an income of less than R570 per person per month.
- **Lack of access to safe water and sanitation leads to the spread of diarrhoea, bilharzia, intestinal worms and other water-borne diseases.**
- In 2008, more than a third of children did not have access to adequate sanitation (39%) or piped drinking water on site (36%).
- **Over 5 million children (30%) live in over-crowded conditions, which increase exposure to infectious diseases such as tuberculosis.**
- One in 10 children (12%) lives in informal housing which leaves young children particularly vulnerable to burns and paraffin poisoning.

# The Big 5 Health Challenges

- Pregnancy and childbirth complications
- Newborn illness
- Childhood illness
- HIV & AIDS
- Malnutrition

# Causes of Under 5 Mortality



# Millennium Development Goals

## Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

## Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
- Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

## Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS & Other Diseases

- Reduce other illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, malaria

# Children under 5 in South Africa Today

- It is estimated that Children under five account for over 80% of all child deaths in South Africa.
- **Under five mortality has risen from 56 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 75 in 2010. This is *driven primarily by the HIV pandemic, poor diets and living conditions, and a deteriorating health care system.***
  - At least 1,600 mothers die due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth
  - 20,000 babies are stillborn and another 22,000 die before they reach one month of age
  - In total, at least 75,000 children die before their fifth birthday



# Enabling Policy Environment

- Public Policies are Good for Children (E.g. Children's Act)
- Local Resources (how much of Public Funds really go towards Children's services)
- There are Existing Networks and Coalitions, Child Care Forums, Child Protection Forums, Community Police Forums, etc.

# Creating the Environment for Conducive Engagement

- How do we create the Environment for Conducive Engagement for the Children
- How do we Implement the Children's Act at Local Level?
- How do we Scale Up for Policy Implementation for the Children?
- Scaling up “Every Child deserves Access”.
- ***Quality ACCESS To Services***

# Protecting Our Children

For information or assistance, call

0800 555 999

TOLL FREE



OLIVE LEAF  
FOUNDATION



WORLD HOPE  
SOUTH AFRICA



activists networking against the exploitation of children

Anex is committed to envisage a society free of child labour and culture of respect for the rights of all children.

[www.anexcdw.org.za](http://www.anexcdw.org.za)



CHILD  
TRAFFICKING

HELPLINE: 0800 555 999



# Children as Citizens

- The **Dialogue** (*Child Participation*)
- The **Information** (*The Right to Information – on what affects Children*)
- The **Voice** (*Collective Voice*)
- The **Accountability** (*Hold ourselves accountable*)

# Local Accountability

- **Accountability** = the obligation of power holders to account for, or to take responsibility for, their actions.
- Accountability for the Children
- To Hold Ourselves “Collectively” Accountable for failing our Children
- The focus is on basic public services and the quality, efficiency and accountability by which these are delivered to children.

# Children Entitlements

- **Entitlements** = service standards according to government policy .
- Policy vs. Implementation
- **Rights and Responsibilities** = Children's legal and moral entitlement.
- Justice is being done, in an important sense, when resources and power are distributed equitably (but where is there is Justice in the Distribution of Resources for Children)

# Child Well Being Outcomes

- Are we addressing Services related to Wellbeing of Children
- Children receiving Adequate *Services (quality & quantity of services)*
  - On Education (e.g. ECD)
  - On Child Protection (e.g. Adequate Child Security)
  - Health (ARVs for Children Living with HIV and AIDS)
  - Nutrition (Food Security for families)
  - Social Grant (Foster Care Grants, Child Support Grant)



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# Allowing Children to be Engaged: Enabling Children Participation

- **Article 12: The opinion of the child:** Children have the right to express their opinions freely and to have their opinions taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting them.
- **Article 13: Freedom of expression:** Children have the right to express their views, obtain information and make ideas or information known.
- Start Dialogue Process for Children to be engaged in service delivery issues
- Let children be involved in preparing for the Budget of the Local Municipality
- We need Educate children about the policies and structures affecting the service delivery

# Enabling Children Engagement

- Local Government work with Child Focus organizations.
- Build relationships with all the stakeholders involved.
- If you want to increase child participation select a policy that is important to them.
- Involve children in Integrated Development Planning

# Action Plan for Children at Local Level

- What is YOUR **ACTION PLAN** for the Children at Local Level.
- **Implementation** goes with **Ongoing MONITORING AND SUPPORT** (how do we support and maintain the processes – Beyond the Election Period)
- Love Our Children – Love Our South Africa...It is our Future.

# THANK YOU

World Vision



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