



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Provincial Policy on Orphans and Children made Vulnerable by HIV and AIDS



ABRIDGED POPULAR VERSION

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INTRODUCTION

Many children in Limpopo are orphans or are vulnerable (at risk) because of HIV and AIDS. We call these children OVC.

OVC need care, support and protection so that they can grow and develop in all ways (physically, emotionally, academically, socially and spiritually).

The Department of Health and Social Development has produced a **Policy** that will build on existing programmes to expand and improve action for OVC. Everyone in the province must work in line with the **Policy**.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY



The **Policy** seeks to create a situation where every OVC will:

- Have their basic needs met (needs for shelter, food, safe water, etc);
- Develop fully (to their full potential);
- Be protected from abuse, mistreatment and discrimination;
- Participate (be involved) in all matters affecting their lives;
- Be able to get the services and support they need at government and non-government sites near their homes.

THE CHILDREN COVERED BY THE POLICY

The **Policy** is for these groups of OVC:

- Orphans – children who have no living parent to care for them;
- Children infected with HIV;
- Children living with sick carers, guardians or parents;
- Children living in child-headed households;
- Children living with elderly carers;
- Children living in families that foster or support other vulnerable children; and
- Children whose lives and situations put them at risk of HIV infection.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We must always observe these principles:

- Children have rights that we must respect and promote.
- The family and community are the most important carers of children. If possible children should always be cared for in their families.
- All types of services for OVC should be present in communities.
- Programmes must respect culture and beliefs. They must also cater for the different needs of girls and boys.
- Keeping parents and carers alive and able to care for their children is important.

Policies, laws and pledges on OVC have been consulted – from South Africa, Africa and worldwide. The **Policy** is in line with these.



The **Policy** focuses on the rights of OVC in four key areas:

- Child survival;
- Child development;
- Child protection; and
- Child participation.

Important actions that we must think about in our work are listed in the next pages.



CHILD SURVIVAL

Shelter

- OVC must have shelter, clothes, bedding and other survival needs.

Food security and nutrition

- OVC must have food. Also they have the right to a balanced diet.
- They need to learn skills to keep themselves in the future.



Hygiene, safe water and sanitation

- OVC must have safe drinking water and proper sanitation.

Health care

- OVC must get good quality health care from well-trained staff.
- Clinics must provide youth-friendly health services.
- HIV infected children must get treatment.

Social security and grants

- OVC must be able to receive the grants that they qualify for.
- Getting the documents that are required for grants must be made easy.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT



Education

- All OVC must enrol in school and be helped to complete primary school.
- School staff must identify OVC, assess their needs and get support for them.
- Non-formal education and flexible schooling must be an option for OVC who have problems attending school. After-school care and holiday programmes must be set up for OVC.
- School feeding schemes must be in place and early childhood development programmes for young children.

Recreation, sports and cultural activities

- OVC must be able to take part in extra-curricular activities and events.

Psychosocial support

- Teachers and carers must be trained to handle the special needs of OVC.
- Child-headed households must be helped with parenting.
- Counselling and support groups must be promoted and provided.

Social support

- Drop-in Centres and programmes must provide support of many kinds to OVC. Even older OVC must be helped.

CHILD PROTECTION



Birth registration

- The steps to get a birth certificate must be made simple, especially for OVC.

Alternative care

- Processes for adoption, guardianship, foster care and custody must be known and easy to follow. Institutional care must be the very last choice for OVC.
- Access to Children's Courts, to social workers and to legal representation for children must be improved.

Protection from discrimination, abuse, exploitation and violence

- Staff and services must be available for OVC who have been abused. This applies especially to girls who are OVC.

Inheritance and succession planning

- When a parent dies, family plans must be made for the future of the children and for their inheritance. Assistance with this must be part of all services for OVC.

Protection from harmful cultural practices

- OVC must be protected from any social, cultural or religious practice that could harm them.

CHILD PARTICIPATION



OVC as holders (owners) of rights

- OVC have rights that are balanced with responsibilities (duties) that they must carry out.

Listening to the voices of OVC

- The opinions of OVC must be asked for and their participation – at home and in their community, school, Drop-in Centre and church activities – must be encouraged.

Capacity building for OVC

- OVC may have many duties and so they must be trained in whatever skills will assist them to carry out these duties.





STRATEGIES (WAYS) TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY

- A Code of Conduct must be followed when working with OVC.
- All organisations giving services to OVC must be registered with the Department.
- The early identification of children and families in need must be a priority and regular assessments must be made of the situation of OVC in Limpopo.
- Formal and informal forms of care must be strengthened and partnerships must be created to deliver services.
- Advocacy for political support, for funds and to reduce stigma must be done.

COORDINATION AND ACTION



The **Policy** demands that there is good coordination, communication, information sharing and distribution of resources between stakeholders. This must happen between government, non-government, civil society, private sector and labour organisations.

The Provincial Action Committee for children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS (PACCA) is responsible for supervising the adoption and implementation of the **Policy**.

There must be Drop-in Centres and Child Care Forums at local (community) level.

Health Advisory Committees at schools must deal with OVC matters.

Registered child and youth care centres must provide services for OVC.



REPORTING AND MONITORING



Reporting

- PACCA will report on how the **Policy** is being implemented twice a year.
- Government departments will report on their OVC programmes to the province.
- Organisations registered with and funded by the Department will report regularly.

Monitoring

- A comprehensive M&E framework will guide how the **Policy** is monitored.



POLICY REVIEW

The **Policy** will be reviewed, at regular intervals, with consultations at all levels.