

Advocacy Strategy 2024 - 2030:

Universalizing Parenting Support for Nurturing Care Across the Life Course



SAPPIN's Background

The South African Parenting Programme Implementors Network (SAPPIN) was established in 2017 to create a collective platform for like-minded organizations to collaborate to strengthen the voice of civil society and advocate for the rights of parents and caregivers to receive the support and services they need to provide children with the nurturing care and protection they need.

Theory of Change

Strengthening systemic enablers for universal parenting support will result in improved access to services and better child outcomes.

Universal Parenting Support

Universal parenting support refers to comprehensive services and resources available to all parents, irrespective of their socio-economic background, to assist them in providing nurturing care and protection to their children. In the context of SAPPIN, universal parenting support entails establishing a national framework that ensures every parent in South Africa has access to the necessary tools, information, and services to effectively nurture their children throughout their developmental stages. SAPPIN aims to strengthen public policies and systems to provide sustained and universal parenting support services, thereby ensuring that all parents can fulfill their responsibilities in promoting the well-being and development of their children, regardless of their circumstances.

Advocacy Vision & Goals



Vision:

All parents and primary caregivers in South Africa are enabled and empowered to provide nurturing care and protection from conception until children exit childhood, ensuring they survive, are protected, and develop their full potential.



Goal:

Ensure that government fulfills its treaty, development, and national policy commitments to sustainably provide the required services and support all parents need through universal, publicly resourced, and evidenced-based parenting support for nurturing care.

Advocacy Challenge

The overarching strategy seeks to address 3 key issues: 1) Agree upon a common understanding of parenting in South Africa across government departments, academia, civil society, and philanthropic partners, 2) Address systemic gaps and mobilize resources for universal parenting support, ensuring every child in South Africa receives the care and protection necessary for their holistic development, 3) Develop a national intersectoral parenting policy for accountability, transparency, and implementation.

Despite global and government commitments, the country lacks a universally accessible parenting programme, leaving many parents without adequate support. Marginalized children, especially those in rural areas and female-headed households, suffer the most. Early deficits persist, leading to educational and economic disparities, resulting in a significant loss of human capital potential.

SAPPIN's advocacy strategy aims to address these challenges by universalizing parenting support to ensure nurturing care and protection, thus breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty and inequality.

Government's Commitment

SAPPIN as a representative of civil society recognises that the Government has committed to providing universal parenting support based on ratified treaties and development agendas. The next step is to lead, prioritize, and formalize these commitments to ensure that the development outcomes of South African children reach their full potential.

Objectives of the Advocacy Strategy

- 1 Enhance national policies and systems to provide consistent parenting support services in South Africa, ensuring children receive adequate care and protection throughout their lives.
- 2 Strengthen South Africa's public policies and systems to provide ongoing parenting support services, ensuring all parents can offer their children the necessary care and protection throughout their lives.
- 3 Develop a comprehensive national framework for parenting support to improve nurturing care outcomes, integrated into government monitoring systems, with clear goals and measurable indicators.
- 4 Contribute to the enhancement of global and regional frameworks for parenting support to promote nurturing care.
- 5 Continuously develop evidence-based parenting interventions to address gaps in essential support services, advocating for their funding and implementation.
- 6 Engage and empower civil society, including children and caregivers, to collaborate in developing and advocating for a robust national parenting support policy and service programme, ensuring its effective implementation, funding, monitoring, and accountability.

Call to Action

SAPPIN calls on government and key stakeholders, including communities, parents, caregivers, and children to participate in roundtable discussions to lay the ground for a common understanding, operationalization, and policy development regarding universal parenting support.

