

Mapping of organisations working with children & youth in SADC

Implementation of the SADC Minimum Package of Services
for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children and Youth

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SADC, RIATT-ESA and REPSSI



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Abbreviations

CR	child rights
CSO	civil society organisation
INGO	international non government organisation
MPS	SADC Minimum Package of Services for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and Youth
MVC	most vulnerable children
NPA	national plan of action
OVC	orphans and other vulnerable children
OVC&Y	orphans and other vulnerable children and youth
REPSSI	Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative
RIATT-ESA	Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS – Eastern and Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Studies carried out by the SADC Secretariat confirmed that delivering services for orphans and other vulnerable children and youth in a holistic manner is not the norm in SADC Member States. Service delivery is typically vertical sector oriented and as a result, often not efficient or effective.

The *SADC Strategic Framework and Programme of Action 2008-2015: Comprehensive Care and Support for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children and Youth (OVC&Y)*¹ promotes a holistic approach for the delivery of comprehensive services for OVC&Y drawing on the theory of “Systems Thinking”. This approach requires all sectors to collaborate and coordinate their efforts in the development of policies, programmes and delivery of services for OVC&Y in a complimentary manner.

To operationalise the “Comprehensive Care and Support” ideals of the *SADC Strategic Framework and Programme of Action 2008-2015*, a Minimum Package of Services (MPS)² was developed. This was done through an extensive regional consultative process. The MPS was approved by SADC policy structures at Ministerial level in 2011 and by Heads of State and Government during the Summit in 2012.

The MPS is a guide to encourage the standardisation and harmonisation of service delivery for OVC&Y using a systems approach across the region and across sectors and Government Ministries. Member States are required to adopt, adapt and integrate these standards and guidelines at national level.

1.2 The mapping of groups working for children and youth in SADC

Between December 2012 and February 2013, SADC Secretariat, with technical and financial support from Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI) and the Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS – Eastern and Southern Africa (RIATT-ESA), undertook a mapping exercise to identify organisations, groups, agencies and other bodies from a broad range of sectors, including Government, private sectors, civil society, academia, media, donors and the UN addressing children and youth issues in the SADC region. The exercise is designed to inform a broader process of coordinated national integration and support of the implementation of the *SADC Minimum Package of Services for OVC&Y*.

1.2.1 Objectives

- To identify and profile a broad range of stakeholders, that work for children and youth at national and regional levels which can engage with SADC and RIATT-ESA to support Member States in rolling out the MPS;
- To provide recommendations on how the identified organisations, bodies, etc can contribute to the operationalisation of the MPS at national level.

2. Results of mapping exercise

2.1 Methodology

The mapping exercise began with a briefing session with RIATT and SADC Secretariat staff to finalise the methodology and prioritise key organisations to contact for individual telephonic interviews. An initial list of organisations was brainstormed, including RIATT members, international CSOs, regional networks, donors, UN agencies, youth networks, media, academia, parliamentary bodies and SADC Government Focal Persons.

Using this list, telephonic interviews were arranged and conducted with respondents. These interviews helped to identify further suitable contacts at national level. The aim was to identify a broad range of organisations and institutions operating at regional level, as well as at least one Government Focal Person, UN agency, local CSO and national umbrella organisation working with children and youth within each Member State. (See Appendix 1: List of organisations and institutions interviewed).

2.2 Results of the mapping process

Respondents from a total of 73 organisations or institutions were interviewed telephonically between mid January and 22 February 2013 regarding their involvement with and perceptions of the MPS. At least three organisations or institutions were interviewed in each of the SADC Member Statesⁱ. The largest proportion of respondents (34%) included local CSOs and national umbrella organisations. The following tables and figures outline the composition of respondents:

Type of organisation	# of organisations	%
National CSOs and networks	25	34%
Regional CSOs and networks (active in ≥3 countries)	16	22%
UN agencies	12	16%
Government Depts & Focal Persons	13	18%
Donors	5	7%
SADC bodies	2	3%
TOTAL	73	100%

Table 1: Organisations/ institutions interviewed by category

During the mapping process, it emerged that many of the organisations interviewed were operational in more than one country. While the sample of respondents was neither comprehensive nor representative of all organisations or institutions working with children and youth within the SADC region, the following graph shows the range of countries in which interviewee organisations were operational. Malawi, Zambia and South Africa are the three countries in which most of the interviewed networks, regional and or international organisations are active. In contrast interviewed organisations were least active in DRC, Mauritius and Seychelles.

ⁱ Note: Madagascar was not included in the mapping exercise as it is currently suspended from SADC.

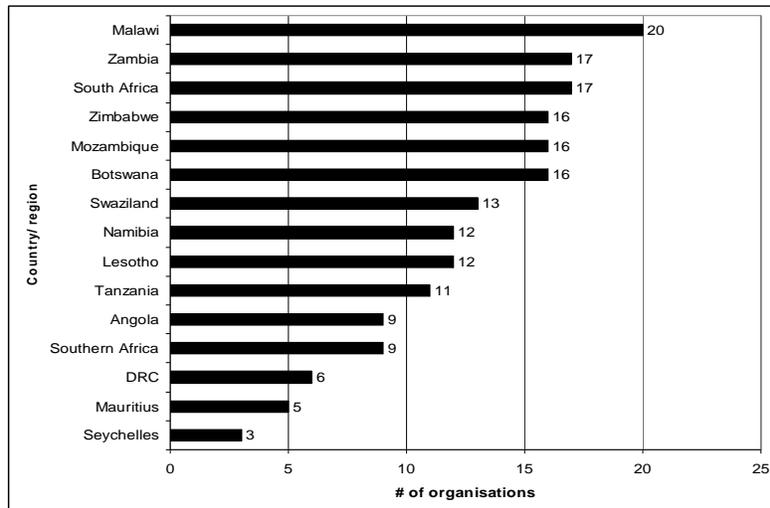


Figure 1: The range of countries across which interviewed organisations and respondents are active

2.2.1 Awareness and operationalisation of the MPS

As mentioned above, the sample of respondents is neither comprehensive nor representative of all organisations or institutions working with children or youth within the SADC region. However, while most respondents mentioned that they had participated at some stage in the development of the MPS, levels of awareness of the MPS varied. 21% of respondents reported no involvement with or awareness of the MPS; while the remaining 79% were either aware of the MPS or had been actively involved in its development. (See figure 2 below). Those respondents who were unaware of the MPS tended to be local CSOs or national umbrella organisations. Those who reported a high level of awareness of the MPS tended to be RIATT-ESA members, regional CSOs and government Focal Persons who were likely to have participated at some stage in the development of MPS.

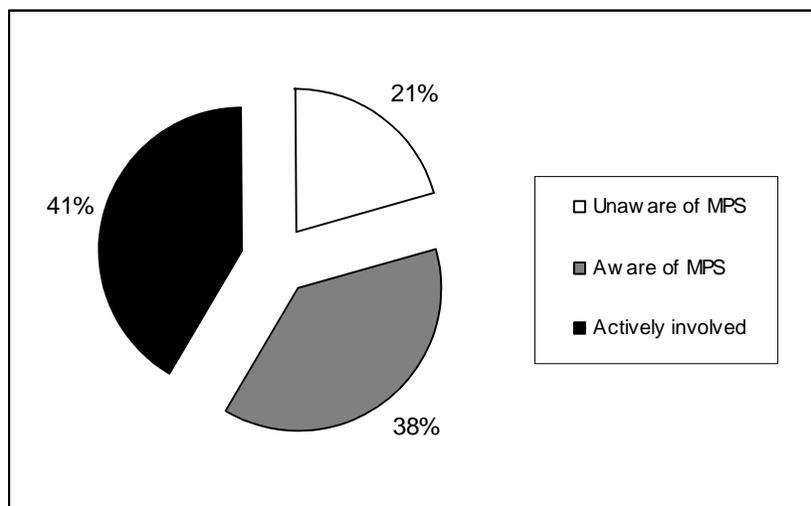


Figure 2: Level of awareness of the MPS among respondents

Levels of involvement reported by respondents ranged from marginal involvement, such as having heard about the MPS or having attended a dissemination meeting; to

more active participation. Examples of active participation in the process or active integration of the MPS include:

- Being actively involved in the development of the MPS;
- Providing comments on conceptualisation and drafting of the MPS contents;
- Acting as a technical expert/ member of the MPS Technical Working Group;
- Providing funding or seconding staff to the process;
- Integrating the MPS within existing national quality standards or guidelines for the care and support of OVC&Y.

The following table identifies the extent to which Member States have started a process of integrating the MPS within existing policies, national plans of action or quality standards of care and support for OVC&Y:

Countries which have started to integrate the MPS within current National Plans of Action or Quality Standards for the Care and Support of OVC&Y	Countries which have held dissemination workshops re MPS with key national stakeholders and ministries	Countries for which information is incomplete or not provided ⁱⁱ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho • Malawi • Mozambique • Namibia • Swaziland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botswana • Seychelles • South Africa • Tanzania • Zambia • Zimbabwe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angola • DRC • Mauritius

2.2.2 Existing coordination mechanisms

Respondents revealed that all countries have some form of coordinating structure in place to coordinate the implementation of legislation, plans and policies relating to children and youth. The following were the main national level coordination structures and legal frameworks identified by respondents regarding children and youth issues:

Country	Multi-Sectoral Coordination Mechanisms		Existing legislation, policies and plans re children & youth
	Structure & Membership	Chair	
Angola	National Council for Children -17 Ministries, 18 national CSOs & UNICEF	-National Institute for Children (Min of Social Welfare)	-Children's Act (2012) -National Child Protection Policy -11 Commitments of Angola (key govt priorities for promoting & protecting CR) -Biennial Plans of Action for Children
Botswana	National Children's Council -Permanent Secretaries & civil society -High level coordination committee Interagency Committee -Govt sub-committee of NCC -Govt Ministries involved with children's issues National Technical Working Group for OVC -Min of Local Govt & umbrella CSOs	-Chaired by a non government member -Min of Local Government is secretariat	-Children's Act (2009) -National HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework (2010 – 2016) -National Programme of Action for OVC (2010 -2016) -National Guidelines on Care of OVC (2008) -National M&E Framework for OVC (2008)

ⁱⁱ Follow up on information is required in these countries regarding the extent to which the MPS has been integrated, as key information interviews either could not be completed or were postponed during the mapping exercise.

Country	Multi-Sectoral Coordination Mechanisms		Existing legislation, policies and plans re children & youth
	Structure & Membership	Chair	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Not functional at present National Consultation Forum -Child Protection Committees & Min of Local Govt Other fora: Annual National Children's Forum Annual National Child Protection Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chaired by Min of Local Govt -Chaired by Min of Local Govt 	
DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Child Protection Commission -6 provincial CPWGs in DRC -Govt, CSOs & UNICEF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (At prov level - The North Kivu CPC chaired by Children's Voice (CSO)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Revised National Constitution (2006) -Child Protection Act (2009)
Lesotho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National OVC Coordinating Committee -Various line Min involved with children, INGOs, local umbrella CSOs, UNICEF & donors District Child Protection Teams - Various line Ministries in the Districts, NGOs and CBOs dealing with children's issues in the districts, community leaders, Ministry of Local Government Social Services Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Secretariat – Min of Social Development -Ministry of Local Government – District Council Secretary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Children's Protection and Welfare Act (2011) -National Social Development Policy (draft March 2013) -National Strategic Plan on Vulnerable Children (2012 – 2017) -National Operational Plan on Vulnerable Children (2012 – 2017) -National M&E Plan on Vulnerable Children (2012 – 2017) -National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS (2011 – 2015) -Guidelines and Standards for Residential Care for Vulnerable Children and Youth (March 2006) -National OVC Policy (2006) -Foster Care and Adoption Policy draft (2013) awaiting Cabinet approval -Foster Care and Adoption Procedures and Practice Guidelines draft (2013) also awaiting approval of the Policy by Cabinet
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OVC Steering Committee (of NAC) -Various line Min involved with children, INGOs, local CSOs & UNICEF OVC and Child Protection Working Group (of NAC) -Various line Min involved with children, INGOs, local CSOs & UNICEF Youth Technical Working Group on HIV and AIDS (of NAC) -Various line Min involved with children, INGOs, local CSOs & UNICEF Early Childhood Development Technical Working Group (of NAC) -Various line Min involved with children, INGOs, local CSOs & UNICEF Impact Mitigation HIV Technical Working Group -Various line Min involved with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chaired by Min of Gender, Children and Social Welfare -Chaired by Min of Gender, Children and Social Welfare -Chaired by Min of Gender, Children and Social Welfare -Chaired by Min of Gender, Children and Social Welfare -Chaired by Min of Economic Planning and Min 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Child Care, Protection and Juvenile Justice Act (2010) -Social Protection Policy (2012) -National Plan of Action for OVC II (2013 – 2018) -National Operational Plan for Child Care and Protection (date?)

Country	Multi-Sectoral Coordination Mechanisms		Existing legislation, policies and plans re children & youth
	Structure & Membership	Chair	
	children, INGOs, local CSOs & UNICEF	of Health	
Mauritius	High Powered Committee -Permanent Asst Secretaries of all Min involved with children	-Chaired by Min of Gender Equality, Child Development & Family Welfare	-Child Protection Act (1994)
Mozambique	National Council for Children's Rights -Various line Ministries, CSOs and UNICEF Multi-Sectoral Nucleus on OVC -National & prov govt, CSOs, UNICEF Technical Working Group on OVC -Various line Ministries involved with children, INGOs, local CSOs & UNICEF	-All chaired by Min of Gender and Social Action	-Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child Act (2008) -National Programme of Action for Children (2013 – 2019) -National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS (2010 – 2014) -Draft Quality Standards for the Care and Support of Children (piloted since 2011)
Namibia	National Planning Commission -All Ministries represented OVC Permanent Task Force -Cabinet mandated task force -Various line Min involved with children, INGOs, local CSOs, umbrella CSOs, UN agencies, Ombudsman and donors	-Chaired by Min of Gender Equality and Child Welfare	-Children's Status Act (2006) -National Strategic Plan (2010 - ?) -National Development Plan (2013 – 2014) -National Agenda for Children (2012 – 2016)
Seychelles	National Commission for Child Protection -Min of Education, Health and Social Affairs & National Council for Children (NCC) and National Youth Council Interagency Child Protection Committee -Various line Mins involved with children, police and National Council for Children (NGO) Social Services Unit -Various line Mins & NCC Early Childhood Institute -Inter-ministerial group -Very new	-Chaired by Min of Social Affairs -Chaired by Director of Social Services -Chaired by Min Social Services -Chaired by Office of the Vice President	-Children's Act (1990) -National Youth Policy -National Early Childhood Care Framework -National Plan of Action (expired) -Each Ministry has a Plan of Action for services for children – coord by National Commission for Child Protection to ensure delivery
South Africa	SA National AIDS Council (SANAC) -Government, business and civil society National Action Committee for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS (NACCA) -Department of Social Development, local CSOs, INGOs & UNICEF National Child Protection Forum -Government and civil society	-Chaired by Deputy President -Chaired by Dept of Social Development (DSD)(Directorate of HIV and AIDS) -Chaired by DSD (Directorate of Children)	-Children's Act (2005) -National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB (2012 – 2016) -National Action Plan for OVC (2012 – 2017)
Swaziland	National Children's Coordination Unit -Works with Govt & civil society Child Protection Network -Govt, CSOs, FBOs and CBOs	-Chaired by Office of the Deputy Prime Minister -Chaired by Min of Sports, Culture &	-Children's Protection and Welfare Act (Nov 2012) -Children's Policy (2009) -Education Act -Health Act

Country	Multi-Sectoral Coordination Mechanisms		Existing legislation, policies and plans re children & youth
	Structure & Membership	Chair	
		Youth Affairs	-National Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS (2012 – 2018) -National Plan of Action for Children (2011 – 2015) -Quality Service Standards for Children (2011)
Tanzania	National Steering Committee on Most Vulnerable Children -Perm Secretaries, UNICEF, USAID & INGOs National Technical Committee for OVC -Various line Min involved with children, INGOs, UNICEF & USAID Implementing Partner Group for Most Vulnerable Children -Min of Health and Social Welfare, UNICEF (Sect), INGOs and local CSOs & MVC committees at all levels Child Protection Advisory Committee -Newly formed – not met yet -Govt and civil society	-Chaired by Office of the Prime Minister -Chaired by Min of Health and Social Welfare -Chaired by Min of Health and Social Welfare. UNICEF is secretariat	-Law of the Child Act (2009) -National Multi-sectoral Plan of Action to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children (2011 – 2015) -National Costed Plan of Action II for Most Vulnerable Children (2013 – 2017)
Zambia	National Steering Committee on OVC -Govt and civil society National Gender Based Violence Steering Committee -Govt & civil society National AIDS Council -Govt Heads of Dept, INGOs and local NGOs and umbrella organisations OVC Sector Advisory Group -Various line Mins, Victim Support Units, Child Protection Units, INGOs, umbrella CSOs, UNICEF and donors Numerous other national technical working groups & partnership forums	-Chaired by Min of Gender and Child Development -Chaired by Director General -Chaired by Min of Community Development, Mother and Child Health	-National Development Plan (2011 – 2015) -National Child Policy -National Plan of Action for OVC (ended 2010) -Minimum Standards of Care for OVC -Various guidelines (HIV, OVC, PMTCT, counselling & testing)
Zimbabwe	National OVC Committee -Various line Mins, INGOs, umbrella CSOs, private sectors, UNICEF National OVC Core Team -Dept Social Services, National AIDS Council, UNICEF	-Chaired by Min of Labour and Social Services -Secretariat – Dept of Social Services (MoLSS)	-Children's Act (2005) -National OVC Strategy (2011 – 2015) ⁱⁱⁱ -National Framework on HIV (2010 – 2015) -National Action Plan for OVC (2012 – 2015)

2.2.3 Planned reviews regarding children and youth related legislation and policies

One of the most common ways in which Member States have integrated the MPS is within national quality standards of care and support for OVC&Y or within new

ⁱⁱⁱ Have aligned all NPAs with the Millennium Development Goal timeframes

national plans of action for OVC&Y. Thus, future policy reviews, evaluation of national plans of action and legislative reviews and anticipated planning processes all represent good opportunities and potential entry points for stakeholders in Member States to use to promote the adaption and integration of the MPS within the local context.

The following table lists potential, future legislative or policy reviews or planning processes regarding children and youth issues that were identified by respondents during interviews.

However, it must be noted that the policy and legislative reviews listed below are not exhaustive and do not cover all six basic service areas outlined in the MPS. Further elaboration is required at national level and should include policies and legislation that are coordinated by other sectors such as, Education and Skills Development, Health, Agriculture, Finance and Planning (e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategies), Home Affairs (such as on human Trafficking, Birth registration etc), among others:

Country	Key legislation, policies & frameworks re children & youth to be reviewed in future
Angola	With the recent enactment of the Children's Act (2012) other legislation is to be developed: -National Policy on Social Welfare -National Strategy on Violence Against Children (needs updating) -Creation of a national Childline -Biennial National Forum of the National Council of Children to be held (June 2013)
Botswana	-Draft National Policy on OVC (2008) – to be finalised -National Health Policy (1998) – to be updated
DRC	-No plans reported
Lesotho	-Children's Protection and Welfare Act (2011) currently being amended, translated into local language (Sesotho) and being simplified – documents to be ready after revision -Referral mechanisms for Vulnerable Children – to be drafted by MOSD -Quality Standards of Care – to be drafted (consultant being recruited)
Malawi	-National OVC Policy – due for review -National OVC Plan of Action – to be developed -Child Adoption Act (1949) – under review & Bill to be put before Parliament -Child Care & Justice Act – currently developing regulations -Quality Standards for OVC Services – being piloted & to be finalised -Gender Equity Bill – currently in parliament -Marriage Age Bill – currently in parliament -Youth Policy – to be finalised
Mauritius	-Children's Bill – working on developing a Bill
Mozambique	-National Youth Policy – under development -Penal Code – under revision -Regulations for Children in Alternative Care – to be drafted -Legal framework for Universal Birth Registration – to be reviewed -Draft Quality Standards for Care and Support of Children – being piloted at present – to be finalised in 2013
Namibia	-Child Care Protection Bill – about to be passed by Parliament -Birth, marriage and death Act – to be reviewed June 2013 -Child Justice Bill – needs to be passed -UNCRC Concluding Observations issued in Nov 2012 – opportunity for follow up
Seychelles	-Children's Act (1982) – to be reviewed (UNDP currently sourcing a consultant) -Penal Code – to be reviewed -Education Act – to be reviewed -Public Health Act – to be reviewed -Employment Act – to be reviewed -UNCRC Concluding Observations for Seychelles issued October 2011
South Africa	-Children's Act (2005) – review planned (amendment to foster care regulations) -National Action Plan for OVC (2012-2017) – mid term review planned for 2013 (TOR just been

Country	Key legislation, policies & frameworks re children & youth to be reviewed in future
	finalised) -National Disclosure Guidelines for Children with HIV – to be developed
Swaziland	-Domestic Violence & Sexual Offences Bill – in Parliament -Roll out of the Quality Service Standards for Children -UNCRC Shadow Report due to be produced by civil society in 2013
Tanzania	-Development of regulations to support the Law of the Child Act (2009) -Development of implementation strategy and multi-sectoral Plan of Action for NCPA II -Development of NCPA II communication strategy -Social Welfare Policy – under review -Establishing a National Child Protection System and District/ Council Child Protection Teams -National Child Protection Policy – to be undertaken -Guidelines for Child Protection in Schools – to be developed
Zambia	-Child Law review – review of 5 pieces of legislation re children. Bills to be developed and presented in parliament -USAID has issued a tender for the design of a coordination mechanism for children
Zimbabwe	-National Constitution – final draft. Referendum to be held in 2013 -Social Workers Act (date?) – under review -Marriage and Family Laws – being reviewed -National Care Management Policy – being developed

3. Critical preconditions

Seven critical preconditions have been identified for the successful implementation of the MPS in the *Guidelines for the Operationalisation of the SADC Minimum Package of Services for OVC&Y*.

3.1 Seven critical preconditions³

- i. **Political will** – the buy-in and commitment of high level actors to undertake actions to achieve a set of objectives is a precursor to the creation of a conducive environment for the implementation of the MPS.
- ii. Availability of **adequate financial and human resources**.
- iii. A broad understanding of the importance of **comprehensive service delivery** which includes a total package of services for OVC&Y.
- iv. **Participation of children**, youth, caregivers and communities in the implementation of the MPS for ownership and sustainability
- v. Identification and orientation of selected **Country Champions** from Member States to improve their understanding of the MPS
- vi. Collaboration, service referral systems and **joint or complementary implementation** by all relevant partners
- vii. The existence of a functional **monitoring and evaluation mechanism**.

3.2 Priority preconditions

Respondents mentioned the necessity of having all seven preconditions present in order to successfully integrate the MPS within existing plans, policies or guidelines. However, the following five issues were identified as the most important to address across the region to ensure effective implementation:

3.2.1 Most frequently mentioned preconditions identified by regional, national CSOs and umbrella organisations:

- a. Have strong, functional multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination involving a broad range of partners;
- b. Mobilisation of adequate financial and human resources;

- c. Buy in and commitment by high level government actors to implementation of the MPS;
- d. Implementation of legislation, policies and plans regarding children and youth issues;
- e. Identification and orientation of national champions to promote and lead the implementation of the MPS.

3.3.2 Most frequently mentioned preconditions identified by Government representatives and national Focal Persons for the MPS:

- a. Capacity of systems, structures and skilled service providers to implement the MPS;
- b. Mobilisation of adequate financial and human resources;
- c. Overcome bureaucratic delays in integration of the MPS;
- d. Buy in and commitment by high level government actors to implementation of the MPS;
- e. Strong, functional multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination involving a broad range of partners.

3.3.3 Most frequently mentioned preconditions identified by donor organisations:

- a. Strong, functional multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination involving a broad range of partners;
- b. Implementation of legislation, policies and plans regarding children and youth issues;
- c. A functional monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and knowledge management systems to promote the free flow of information and quality data;
- d. Minimise staff turn over and ensure the consistent involvement and oversight by the same champions and key government officials to facilitate continuity and follow up of processes;
- e. A broad understanding of the importance of comprehensive service delivery which includes a total package of services for OVC&Y.

4. Essential actions

Nine critical actions have been identified for the successful implementation of the MPS in the *Guidelines for the Operationalisation of the SADC Minimum Package of Services for OVC&Y*.

4.1 Nine essential actions⁴

- i. **Conduct a context or situation analysis** to identify strengths, opportunities, gaps and threats, including areas of synergy, quality of service and partners in the OVC&Y service provision.
- ii. **Sensitisation of policy makers and planners, service providers and development partners**, including donors, members of national and sectoral coordinating committees and child and youth leaders regarding the importance of a holistic and comprehensive approach to service delivery for OVC&Y promoted by the MPS
- iii. **Advocate for policy, decision makers and gatekeepers** to support the MPS and to ensure the benefits of the package are well understood, easily appreciated and accepted by different stakeholders.
- iv. **Strengthening capacity for comprehensive service delivery**. Draw on the capacity gaps identified during the contextual analysis to ensure effective

- delivery of comprehensive services for OVC&Y and the their caregivers through a coordinated, costed capacity strengthening strategy and action plan
- v. **Strengthening coordination and referral systems/ mechanisms.** Ensure that any service provider, regardless of their sector or service specialisation, who comes into contact with a vulnerable child or youth, makes an effort to identify their needs, to provide that at that point in time or to refer them to appropriate service providers. This can be achieved through strengthening joint multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms; establishing effective service delivery referral mechanisms or fostering partnerships between government, civil society and the private sector.
 - vi. **Policy and legislative reviews.** Identify gaps and opportunities, align the MPS and focus attention on OVC&Y by addressing these issues within policies, legislative instruments and strategies so that the MPS is integrated into routine mandates and work.
 - vii. **Facilitate the participation of children, youth, caregivers and communities** by using an agreed upon child participation framework for children and youth to participate in the formulation of policies, strategies, planning and monitoring and evaluation of service delivery at district, provincial and national levels.
 - viii. **Mobilising adequate resources.** The operationalisation of the MPS must be costed, with human and financial resources sought for successful planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
 - ix. **Establishing M&E systems for the MPS.** Quality assurance, accountability and ethical imperatives oblige governments and service providers to adequately supervise and monitor efforts to provide services to OVC&Y and their caregivers, and to report progress and challenges. Monitoring and evaluation systems should be put in place within and across sectors to monitor and evaluate impact on the delivery of the MPS.

4.2 Priority action areas

Respondents mentioned the necessity of undertaking all nine actions in order to integrate the MPS successfully. However, the following actions were identified as the most important issues to address across the region to ensure effective implementation:

4.2.1 Most frequently mentioned actions identified by regional, national CSOs and umbrella organisations:

- a. Mobilise adequate financial resources based on costed national plans of action;
- b. Strengthen existing multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, with an emphasis on including the active involvement of civil society, youth and child representatives;
- c. Sensitise, orientate and get buy-in from a broad range of stakeholders at regional, national, district and community levels, including the preparation and dissemination of user and child friendly information and materials;
- d. Strengthen the capacity for comprehensive service delivery, including the implementation of existing legislation, policies and national plans of action concerning children and youth;
- e. Conduct reviews of existing policies, plans and strategies to comprehensively integrate the provisions of the MPS;
- f. Establish M&E systems to provide current, reliable, quality data for the MPS.

4.2.2 Most frequently mentioned actions identified by Government representatives and Focal Persons:

- a. Strengthen existing multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, with an emphasis on including the active involvement of civil society and youth representatives;
- b. Sensitise, orientate and get buy-in from a broad range of stakeholders at regional, national, district and community levels, including the preparation and dissemination of user and child friendly information and materials;
- c. Conduct reviews of existing policies, plans and strategies to comprehensively integrate the provisions of the MPS;
- d. Advocate for policy, decision makers and gatekeepers to support the MPS;
- e. Establish M&E systems to provide current, reliable, quality data for the MPS.

4.2.3 Most frequently mentioned actions identified by donor organisations:

- a. Strengthen existing multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, with an emphasis on including the active involvement of civil society and youth representatives;
- b. Translate commitment and buy-in from a range of stakeholders into a costed national plan of action and develop strategies for implementation at all levels.
- c. Establish M&E systems to provide current, reliable, quality data for the MPS.

5. Recommendations

Based on feedback received from respondents during interviews, it was suggested that SADC Secretariat undertake the following actions to support the integration of the MPS within Member States at national level:

- a. Maintain or increase the momentum of integration of the MPS across the SADC region.
- b. Continue to advocate for the implementation of the MPS through:
 - High level meetings with key government ministries in Member States;
 - A focused communication strategy and dissemination of operational guidelines and resource materials to Member State Focal Persons and key stakeholders, especially CSOs and umbrella organisations at national level.
- c. Assist with the sensitisation, orientation and buy-in of Member State Focal Persons by:
 - Facilitating the clarification of Focal Person roles and responsibilities;
 - Promoting consistent attendance at key meetings;
 - Supporting the development of initial plans of action for the integration of the MPS at national and other levels;
 - Emphasising the key preconditions and priority actions needed to start integrating the MPS at national and other levels.
- d. Establish a core regional group of Focal Persons and key stakeholders from Member States and regional organisations to:
 - Assist with the identification of appropriate entry points, such as national planning or policy reviews, and key issues to address within each country regarding the integration of the MPS;
 - Facilitate sharing of information, promising practices and cross learning between stakeholders from different countries;
 - Provide peer support regarding the integration of the MPS;
 - Facilitate regular contact among stakeholders through webinars, email exchanges and other interactions;

- Link same language groups across the region (especially French or Portuguese-speaking stakeholders).
- e. Assist with the mobilisation of adequate resources by linking potential donors and line ministries in Member States.
- f. Promote the strengthening of existing national level multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, with an emphasis on facilitating the active involvement of the following stakeholders:
- All line ministries involving children's issues;
 - All line ministries involving youth issues – especially as youth ministries are not always be included in coordination mechanisms;
 - UN agencies;
 - Regional and national civil society organisations;
 - INGOs;
 - National Umbrella civil society organisations – especially as civil society is not always included in the membership of government coordination mechanisms in some countries;
 - Youth and child representatives.
- g. Look for existing and potential connections between government ministries and civil society organisations representing youth issues, such as youth councils and youth parliaments to ensure issues relating to youth, as well as children, are addressed. Use these connections to promote involvement with the new SADC Youth Strategy that was being developed when the mapping exercise was conducted.
- h. Monitor the progress of integration of the MPS within Member States:
- Advocate for Member States to translate their commitment into clear strategies and plans of action at all levels;
 - Consider extending the timeframe of the current *Strategic Framework and Programme of Action* to 2018 to ensure the framework is more realistic and achievable.
- i. Streamline the MPS M&E system by:
- Designing a simple set of core indicators which is easy to understand and implement at national level;
 - Ensure that the indicators are similar to the ones being reported on by countries, such as UNGASS;
 - Assisting countries to simplify and reduce the duplication of reporting requirements and data collection processes regarding the situation of children and youth at national level.
- j. Continue to follow up with key stakeholders and government Focal Persons who were unable to be contacted, or who postponed interviews during the timeframe of the mapping exercise. This will ensure that a comprehensive range of stakeholders, who can assist with the integration of the MPS, has been contacted within each country. This could include the following organisations or institutions:
- SADC Parliamentary Forum;
 - Government Focal Persons in Angola and DRC;
 - National umbrella civil society organisations in some countries, such as, but not only Angola, DRC, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, Swaziland;
 - National Youth Councils.

Appendix 1: List of organisations and institutions interviewed

Area/ Country	Respondent	Organisation/ Institution
Regional	Tavengwa Nhongo	African Platform for Social Protection
Regional	Emily Delap	Family for Every Child
Regional	Mawethu Zita	Global Youth Coalition on AIDS
Regional	Kay Govender	HEARD
Regional	Nicodimus Chipfupa	Helpage
Regional	Zoe Titus	Media Institute for Southern Africa
Regional	Mhle Mthimkhulu	MiET Africa
Regional	Tapfuma Murove	REPSSI
Regional	Rouzeh Eghtessadi	SAfAIDS
Regional	Theophilous Chiviru	Save the Children - Southern Africa Region
Regional	Ulrika Sonesson	Save the Children Denmark
Regional	Gareth Coats	Southern African AIDS Trust
Regional	Mantswe Nyoni	Southern African Youth Movement
Regional	Nankali Maksud	UNICEF - ESARO
Regional	Bongai Mundata	VSO + RAISA
Regional	Stuart Kean	World Vision
Regional	Sydney Chisi	Youth Initiative for Democracy in Zimbabwe
SADC	Lomthie Mavimbela	Education Programme
SADC	Evans Chapasuka	Regional Vulnerability Assessment & Analysis
Donor	Nomfundo Mbuli	SDC
Donor	Katja Isaksen	SIDA - Regional HIV and AIDS Team
Donor	Sofia Mukasa-Monico	USAID – Southern Africa
Angola	Arnaldo Camalacongo	Cuidados da Infancia
Angola	Edina Kozma	UNICEF - Angola
Botswana	Isabella Kgosiemang	Art n Mark Trust
Botswana	Margaret Mokgachane	Focal person - Min Local Govt
Botswana	Kgomotso Sejoe	Marang Child Care Network Trust
Botswana	Ma Dabuta	Masiela Trust Fund
Botswana	Joshua Emmanuel	UNICEF - Botswana
Botswana	Mosawe Segwabe	USAID - Botswana
DRC	Christine Musaidizi	Children's Voice
Lesotho	Mantsenki Mphalane	Focal Person - Min of Social Development
Lesotho	Mamello Makoae	Lesotho Network of AIDS Service Organisations
Lesotho	Dr Megh Jagriti	Management Sciences for Health Project
Lesotho	Phomelo Mohapeloa	NGO Coalition on the Rights of a Child
Lesotho	Farida Noureddine	UNICEF - Lesotho
Malawi	Harry Satumba	Focal Person – Dept Social Development
Malawi	Caleb Thole	Global Youth Coalition on AIDS
Malawi	Joshua Ainabyona	Network of Organisations for Vulnerable and Orphan Children
Malawi	Asefa Taleno Dano	UNICEF - Malawi
Malawi	Jaqueline Kabambe	UNICEF - Malawi

Area/ Country	Respondent	Organisation/ Institution
Malawi	Kate Vorley	USAID - Malawi
Mauritius	Karoonawtee Chooramun	Focal Person - Min of Gender Equality, Child Dev & Family Welfare
Mauritius	Premedah Nankoo	Mauritius Council of Social Services
Mozambique	Francisca Sales Lucas	Focal Person - Min of Women & Social Action
Mozambique	Narciso Cumbe	Rede de Crianca
Mozambique	Margardia Guitunga	SANTAC
Mozambique	Sumaira Chowdhury	UNICEF - Mozambique
Namibia	Bernadette Haras	Childline
Namibia	Dr Henry Platt	Church Alliance for Orphans
Namibia	Celeste Feris	Focal Person - Min of Gender Equality
Namibia	Matthew Dalling	UNICEF - Namibia
Seychelles	Linda William-Melanie	Focal Person - Dept Social Development
Seychelles	Ruby Pardiwalla	National Council for Children
South Africa	Dr MC Kganakga	Focal Person - Dept Social Development
South Africa	Ameck Ayong	Nelson Mandela Children's Fund & RANCH
South Africa	Heidi Loening	UNICEF - South Africa
South Africa	Kyle Ballard	Yezingane Network
Swaziland	Nombulelo Dlamini	Focal Person - National Children's Coordination Unit under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office
Swaziland	Mabuza Makhosazana	National Children's Coordination Unit under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office
Swaziland	Dumsani Mnisi	Save the Children Swaziland
Swaziland	Khetho Dlamini	UNICEF - Swaziland
Tanzania	Mussa Mgata	Save the Children Tanzania
Tanzania	Jeanne Ndyetabura	Focal Person - Min of Health and Social Welfare
Tanzania	Vicky Chuwa & Mbelwa Gabagambi	UNICEF- Tanzania
Zambia	Theresa Kabeka	Children in Need Network
Zambia	Irene Munga	Focal Person - Min of Community Development, Mother & Child Health
Zambia	Judith Mulenga	Zambia Civic Education Association
Zambia	Jeff Ayami	ZINGO
Zimbabwe	Leon Muwoni	Focal Person - Min of Labour and Social Services
Zimbabwe	Lois Chingandu	SAfAIDS
Zimbabwe	Lauren Rumble	UNICEF - Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe	Musa Chibwana	Zimbabwe National Council for Welfare of Children

References

¹ SADC (2010) Comprehensive Care and Support for Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth (OVC&Y) in the Southern African Development Community – Strategic Framework and programme for Action (2008-2015).

² SADC (2011) Minimum Package of Services for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and Youth (OVC&Y).

³ SADC (2013) Guidelines for the Operationalisation of the SADC Minimum Package of Services for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and Youth. Pg 6 – 7.

⁴ Ibid. Pg 7 – 15.