

**T**his past month I have run a seminar-type Masters course on financial management to University of Cape Town students, some of whom work in the NPO sector. This has been an eye-opener for me. In doing this I was naturally required to do prior, additional reading on the topic. One lesson I learned from author Iliana Lang is that a financial statement can be a powerful tool to show impact and increase donor confidence - if it is done properly.

She writes: "Many non-profits (if not all!) are in search of opportunities to increase funding, but too often, overlook the importance of financial records to grant-makers, individual donors, and other funders. Building a strong financial record is essential to telling your non-profit's story. Your financial records are one way to demonstrate that you can effectively manage money. Without this evidence, funders or partners may be reluctant to invest in your work. They want to know that their funds will be used wisely and have a positive, long-term impact.

One of the best ways to show that your non-profit will use funds effectively is to provide evidence that you have done so in the past. Think of the financial record as the story of your non-profit - but in numbers."

She then says that the financial record "...consists of yearly statements that indicate income and expenses associated with your non-profit's work" and details specific things to include in your financial reporting:

1. Explain the types of resources you have used.
2. Explain how your organisation sustains its activities.
3. Demonstrate long-term financial health.
4. Describe the resources your non-profit has invested in, and how they pay off.
5. Show that you have diverse sources of income.
6. Detail your expenses.
7. Consider allocating to project monitoring and evaluation.

It is our experience that financial statements, especially if they are healthy and show a surplus, are a very good way to increase donor funding. This may sound counter-intuitive but our experience is that this is correct. However, our experience also shows that many NPOs are afraid of showing good financial results in the form of a surplus for fear of not getting donor support. Donors who operate on this basis should be avoided; this is old-school, welfare thinking which belongs in the past. Today quality NPOs produce good financial results.

Lang suggests that if your NPO has completed financial statements, ask someone outside of your organisation to look at them and summarize your non-profit's story, or review them yourself with this list at hand. "Do your financial statements address each point? If so, you are on the right track," says Lang.

As you read and think about this advice, enjoy this edition of EARLY YEARS.

ERIC ATMORE  
Director

## SOUTH AFRICA'S 'MISSING' FATHERS, AND WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE MOTHERS

~ Nico Gous

Fathers were missing for more than six out of every 10 babies born in South Africa last year (61.7%).

This is according to the 2017 Recorded Live Births report Stats SA released on Monday, 27 August.

This is a slight decrease from 2016, when 62% of births were recorded without the father's details.



According to the 2017 report, while the Department of Home Affairs' notice of birth form (called the DHA-24 form) does include a space for the child's father's details, the high number of missing fathers means that the information was equally missing. Instead, Stats SA said it rather drew on data from what the form revealed about mothers – and on that front, there was a lot that was known.

The data reveals that 340 births were registered in 2017 to mothers older than 50, while 3,261 children were registered to mothers aged between 10 and 14. On top of this, 119,645 teens – aged between 15 and 19 – were registered last year.

But it was the 25 – 29 age group that accounted for the highest number of total birth registrations, with 247,507. This was followed by the 20 – 24 age range (244,190) and the 30 – 34 range (200,490).

Overall, there was a 2.1% increase from 969,415 registered births in 2016, with 989,318 births registered last year. Of the births registered in 2017, 897,750 occurred in 2017 and 91,568 were late registrations.

Boys outnumbered the girls, with 460,774 registered births compared to 452,725.

The most populous provinces were Gauteng (239,457) and KwaZulu-Natal (197,913). The least births were registered in the Northern Cape (24,395) and Free State (50,130), "which is also in line with the population sizes of the provinces", Stats SA said.

The most popular name for newborns in 2017 wasENZOKUHLE, which means "to do good". The most popular first names for boys were ENZOKUHLE, LETHABO and MELOKUHLE and for girls, it was ENZOKUHLE, MELOKUHLE and AMAHLE. The most common surnames for both sexes were DLAMINI, NKOSI and NDLOVU.

The Births and Deaths Registration Act enshrines the right to a first name and surname. Both are requirements for obtaining a birth certificate.

According to the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, a birth must be registered within 30 days.

*Article available at*

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2018-08-28-south-africas-missing-fathers-and-what-we-know-about-the-mothers/>

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT OFFERS A BRIGHTER FUTURE TO ENTIRE NATIONS

~ Steve Davis and Peter Laugharn

**Millions of children lack the nutritional, educational and emotional support they need to develop into healthy, productive members of society. We can help to change that.**

The World Health Organization just unveiled an initiative that could improve millions of children's lives and boost the global economy by trillions of dollars.

The initiative, known as the Nurturing Care Framework for Early Childhood Development, seeks to change how we raise infants and toddlers. Children's experiences during their first three years of life heavily influence their well-being as adults, according to a growing body of research.

## EARLY YEARS

Today, millions of children lack the nutritional, educational and emotional support they need to develop into healthy, productive members of society. The Framework could help governments, nonprofits and families change this unfortunate status quo.



Children's brains may not develop fully when they don't receive "nurturing care," which includes good health, adequate nutrition, safety and security, responsive caregiving, and opportunities for stimulation and learning. The period from birth to age three is a critical window of opportunity, since 80 percent of the brain forms during these years.

About 250 million young children in low- and middle-income countries lack nurturing care. Tens of millions of children in the United States and Europe face similar challenges. These children face difficulties in school. Poor educational outcomes reduce their future earnings and impact the health and well-being of entire families and societies.

Early childhood intervention programmes could transform these children's lives and help them achieve their full potential.

Consider one study of stunted children in disadvantaged areas of Jamaica. Every week for two years, trained health workers visited the children and their mothers. The workers provided parenting tips and tried to develop the children's cognitive and social skills.

Twenty years later, researchers interviewed the children. Those who had received the intervention had higher cognitive scores and earned 25 percent more annually than people who didn't receive the intervention. In fact, they earned as much as non-stunted children from the same area.

Or consider an experiment in rural Uganda. Mothers and their children attended peer-led group meetings focused on child-raising best practices and ways to improve maternal health. Children who participated had far higher cognitive and language scores than those who did not attend.

These interventions are cost-effective, relatively easy to provide,

and can even be added to existing programmes. And they deliver an incredible financial return to communities. One study of disadvantaged children in Michigan revealed that every dollar invested in a high-quality childhood education programme returned more than \$17 to society, in part by reducing future crime.

Nobel laureate economist James Heckman, who has conducted extensive research on the topic, has found that investments in children aged 0-3 produce the highest financial returns. The returns diminish when governments and nonprofits wait until children are older.

Early childhood development initiatives require buy-in from all sectors — particularly the health sector. In many low-resource communities, health care providers are the only people who interact consistently with the youngest children and their caregivers.

Fortunately, governments around the world are recognising this and integrating early childhood development programmes into their health systems.

Consider Kenya's Siaya County. In 2011, only 22 percent of young children in Siaya were on track developmentally.

The county government took action. It started monitoring whether children were hitting certain developmental milestones, such as walking or talking. And officials offered parents of children who were falling behind extra caregiving support in the clinic and at home.



Our organizations, PATH and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, partnered with the county government to train local health professionals and community health volunteers to provide nurturing care. Now, 25 percent of community health volunteers and 40 percent of health care workers are trained.

Under the leadership of Siaya County Governor Cornel Rasanga, plans are in place to upgrade the entire health workforce by 2020, introduce a major nurturing care awareness campaign,

and deploy a multi-ministerial committee to oversee this broad effort. This is a powerful example of the nurturing care framework in action and the impact of strong government leadership.



It's time for governments, donors, and nonprofits to support early childhood development services. If we dramatically scale up these proven interventions, we could offer a brighter future to children, communities, and entire nations.

*Article available at*

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/early-childhood-development-offers-a-brighter-future-to-entire-nations/>

## NEW COURSE STARTING - 'THE BEST START IN LIFE: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'

~ SDG Academy

*A new, online, free course on early childhood development for sustainable development, by the Sustainable Development Goals Academy, is starting on 24 September 2018. This is a part time course (2 to 4 hours per week) offered over eight weeks. It is easy to navigate online and is presented by leaders in the field including Jack Shonkoff and Hirokazu Yoshikawa. We have taken part in this course and could not recommend it more. CECD is not affiliated with the programme, but is passing on the following information here for your interest.*

### About this course

What does a successful early childhood care program look like?

How has a child's brain developed at the age of 3? How does nutrition impact the future well-being of a child into adulthood?

Learn the answers to these questions and more in "The Best Start in Life: Early Childhood Development for Sustainable Development". With leading experts in the field – hailing from Harvard University, New York University and UNICEF, among other institutions – we'll explore how neuroscience, sociology, anthropology and other studies have influenced our understanding of early childhood development.



### This course is for:

- Graduate students and advanced undergraduate students in international development, teaching, nursing and medicine, and other fields who are interested in the key concepts and practices in early childhood development
- Teachers, healthcare professionals and other practitioners interested in the societal and biological factors impacting the children they support
- Sustainable development practitioners who want to understand the lifecycle of needs and support necessary to help children globally, including those who work for international aid organizations and nonprofits in the realms of poverty, nutrition and education

### What you'll learn

- All about the brain: how neurological makeup affects children's development
- The intersection of childcare, education and other programming with policies at the national level and beyond
- Case studies: how factors such as forced migration impact a child's future

You can view the full syllabus and more information here:

<https://www.edx.org/course/the-best-start-in-life-early-childhood-development-for-sustainable-development>



021 683 2420



cecd@iafrica.com



www.cecd.org.za



Centre for Early  
Childhood Development



@CECD\_online