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*An African evidence-based innovation:  
An overview of a decade of research on  
the Isibindi Model*

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## Evidence from Research

*“There have been more than 30 pieces of research undertaken on the Isibindi Model since 2006”*

*“All the research recommendations have been reviewed and integrated into the revisions in the model design and in improved service delivery”*

*“The Isibindi model is presented as an evidence based best practice model”*



## Evidence from sustainability study

*"... the Department of Social Development's decision to use the Isibindi model to scale up the provision of community-based child and youth care services has been a good strategy. Community-based models help reduce inequality in access to services and also meet the [Department's] obligations under the Children's Act to provide prevention and early intervention and child protection services. None of those interviewed, whether government or the non-profit sector, questioned the importance of the programme or the benefits of the model".*

Calculated cost of steady-state implementation  
with salaries rather than stipends:

**R234 per child per month**



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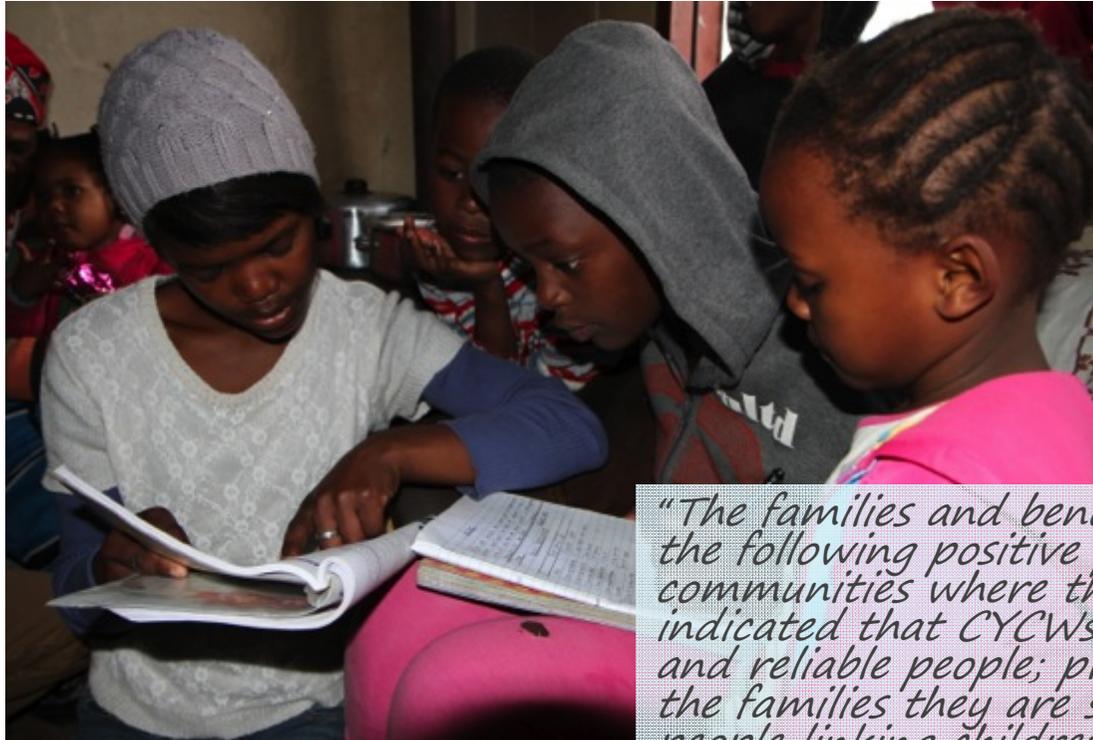
## Evidence from mid-term review of roll-out

*"The project has been able to identify the most vulnerable children and youth in some of South Africa's poorest wards and target services where they are most needed. In this way the Isibindi programme is making a significant contribution to key national development outcomes through a community-based intervention that aims to prevent and mitigate socio-economic factors that impact negatively on the lives of children and young people".*



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## Evidence from family strengthening study



*"The families and beneficiaries interviewed reported the following positive perceptions about CYCWs in communities where they are providing services. They indicated that CYCWs are: regarded as trustworthy and reliable people; playing critical function within the families they are supporting; viewed as good people linking children to opportunities; community resource providing trouble shooting and back stop to community problems; caring people; honourable professional people; filling a critical community gap; capacity builders in the community; general community builders; and heroes of children's causes"*

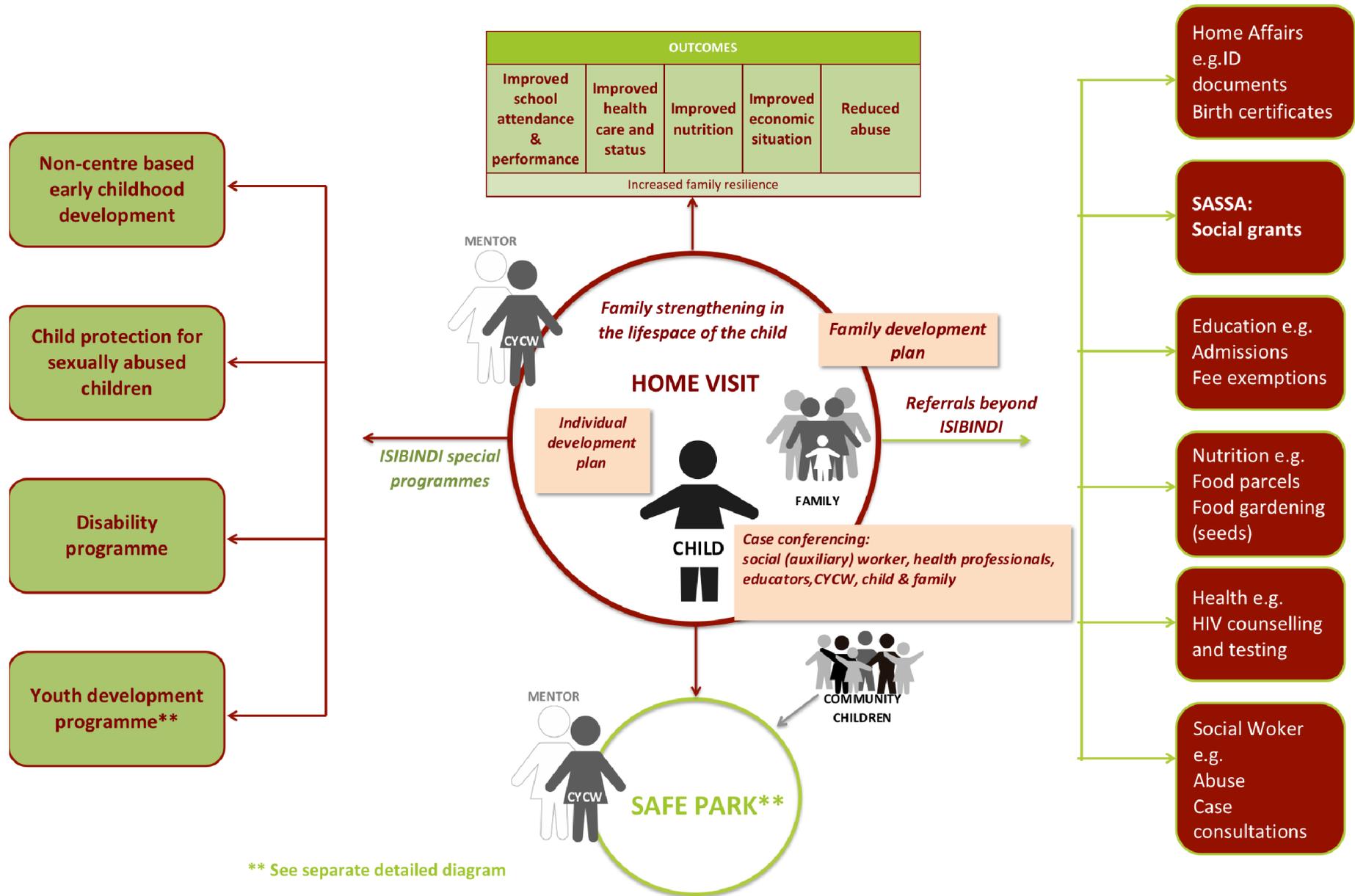


## What is Isibindi?

- The National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) developed the Isibindi programme in response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic in South Africa. The programme provides prevention and early intervention care for children in poor communities where few services previously were available.
- The care services are provided by trained child and youth care workers (CYCWs) who are recruited from the communities in which they work.
- CYCWs work with community members to identify vulnerable children and youth. They build relationships with these young people and their caregivers through the use of daily life events.
- CYCWs themselves provide many services, but also assist with access to other services, including civil registration, social grants, education, health, nutrition and referrals to social workers where necessary.
- Most Isibindi sites have a safe park in which children can spend supervised time when not in school or at home and receive group-based services.

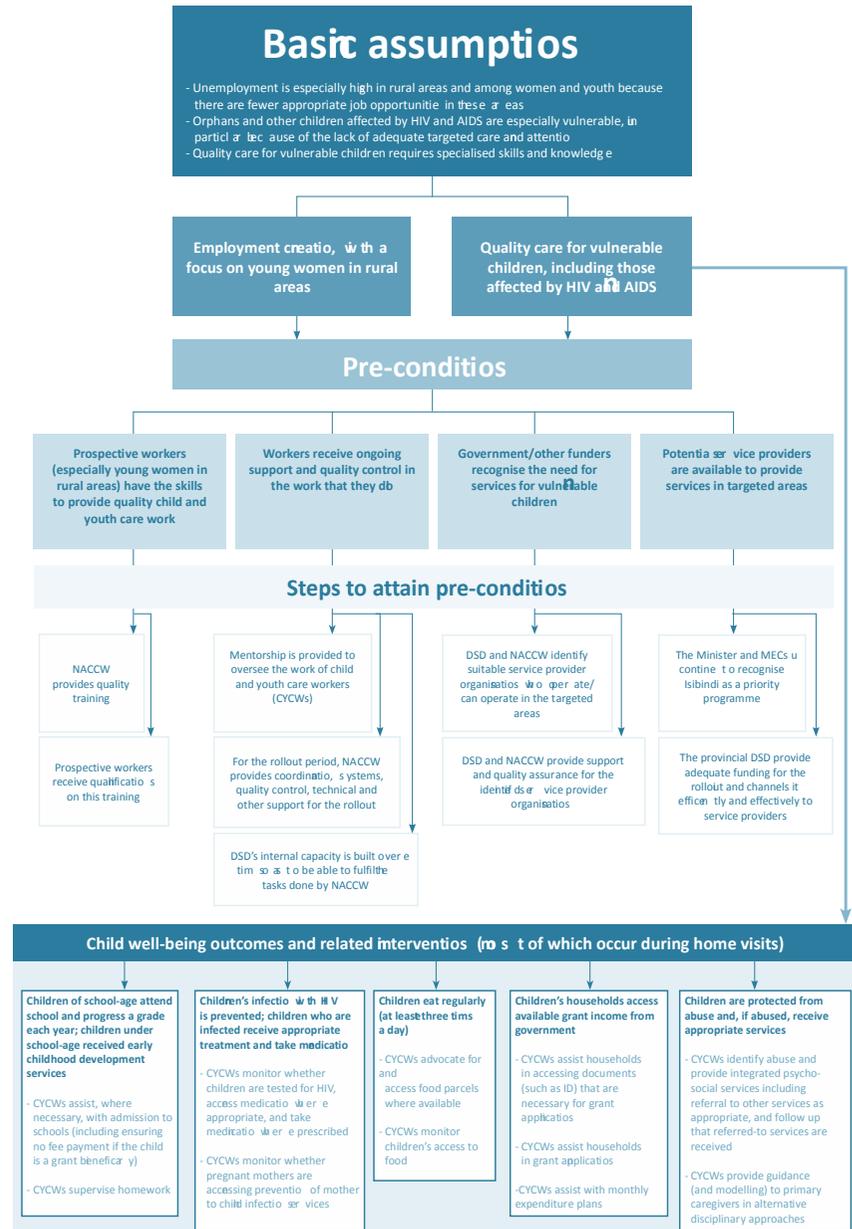


# The Isibindi Model

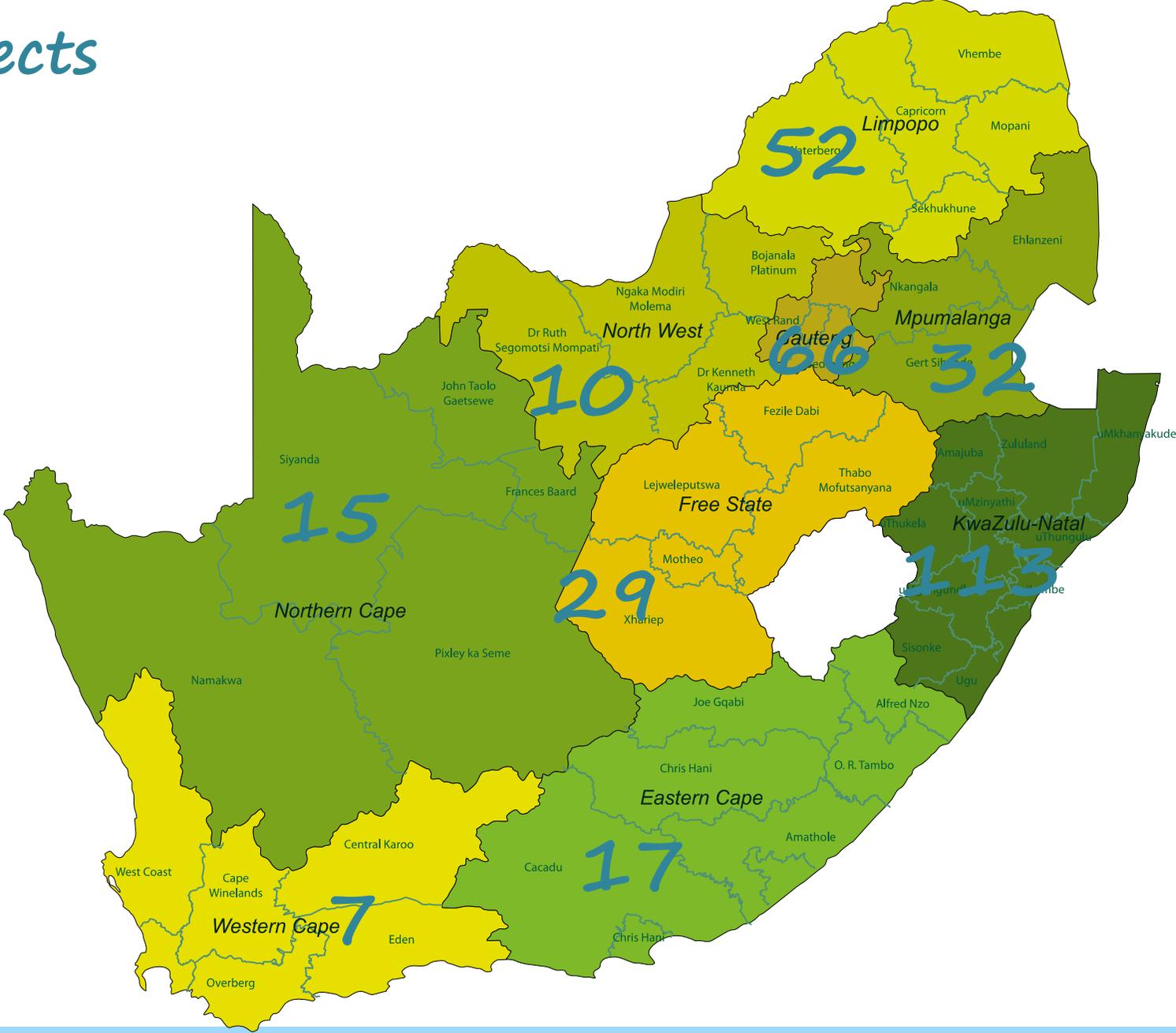


The Theory of Change for the national roll-out of Isibindi highlights that it addresses three national challenges:

- **High unemployment:** Employment creation (especially young women in rural areas)
- **Child vulnerability** resulting from HIV&AIDS: Provision of services in under-served areas
- **Need for quality services:** Accredited training & supervision for workforce



# Projects



# Unemployment

In 2015 the overall unemployment rate was **23%**.

The unemployment rate for women was **28%**.

The unemployment rate for (Black) African women was **31%**.

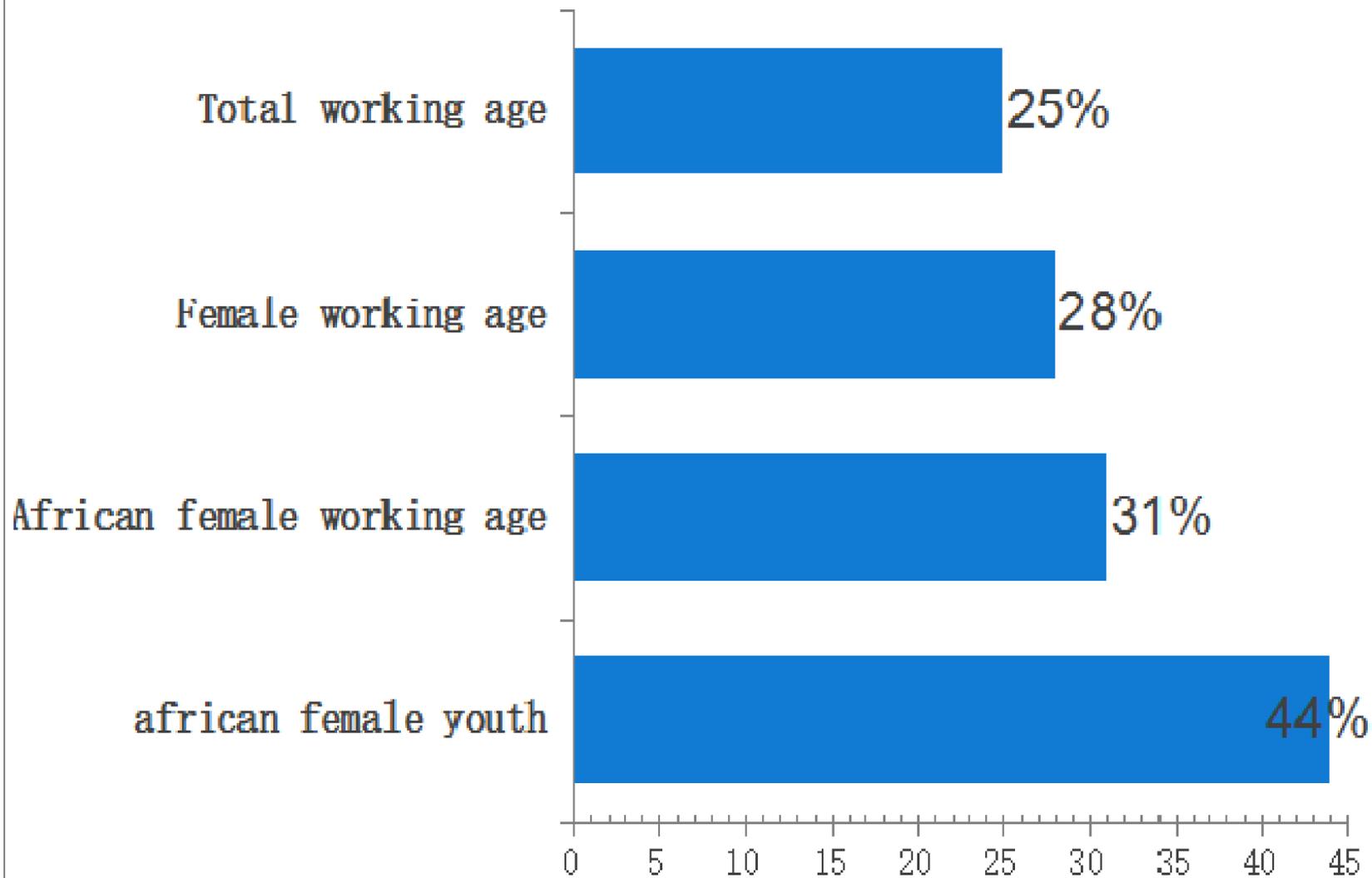
The unemployment rate for (Black) African women aged 15-34 years was **44%**.

In 2015, **1.5 million** young (Black) African women were looking for work.

Close on **780,000** further young (Black) African women wanted work but had lost hope or lacked resources to look for it.



## Unemployment rate 2015



# Training of CYCWs

*The CYCW training is accredited and results in a diploma qualification.*

*By the end of Year 3 of the rollout in March 2017:*

*NACCW had trained/was training 5,292 CYCWs nationally.*

*3,010 CYCWs had completed their training.*

*2,282 CYCWs were in the middle of their training.*

*520 learners had dropped out before completing, giving a dropout rate of 9%.*

*Non-payment or erratic payment of stipends was a key cause of dropout.*



## Children and youth reached with Isibindi services

Province	Cumulative 2013-February 2017
Eastern Cape	30,472
Free State	21,365
Gauteng	44,511
KwaZulu-Natal	108,881
Limpopo	34,864
Mpumalanga	42,648
North West	3,525
Northern Cape	12,857
Western Cape	15,078
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314,201</b>



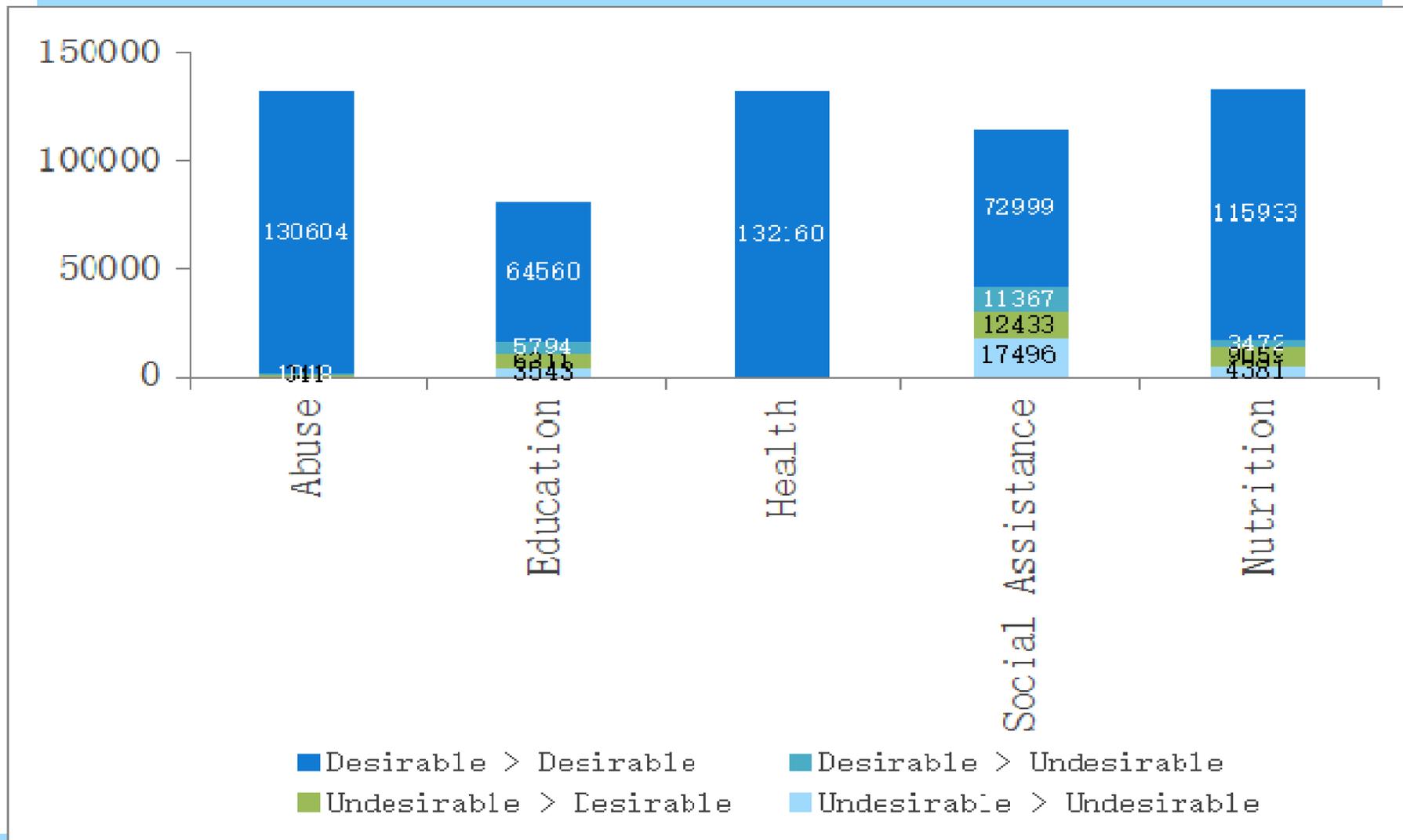
## Defining desirable states for monitoring outcomes

Area	Desirable state
Education 1: Attendance	Child attended school this month
Education 2: Progression	Current grade higher than last year
Health	Child on anti-retroviral therapy
Nutrition	Child eats regularly
Social assistance	Child social grant received in month
Abuse	No sexual or other abuse reported

Assessed against receipt of 5 services:  
Psycho-social , educational, social assistance, health services,  
referrals



*More improve than regress on all 5 dimensions*



*CYCWs provide many different types of services.*

*For example, there are at least 16 different ways in which CYCWs assist young people in respect of school education.*

*Education – Improved school attendance and performance*

- 1. Advocacy for children who have dropped out of school to be improved school readmitted;*
- 2. Advocating and assisting with access to social grants, which enable children to buy all they need for school;*
- 3. Attending school meetings for children staying with caregivers who have limited capacity e.g. book reviews for caregivers who are illiterate;*
- 4. Dropping off children at school;*
- 5. Preparing children for school;*
- 6. Assisting children to access birth certificates and enrol at school;*
- 7. Babysitting while parents are away and ensuring school issues are attended to;*
- 8. Washing the dishes, cooking, cleaning the house to create time for children's school work;*
- 9. Drafting a roster for house chores to ensure cooperation and task allocation as well as perform school tasks;*
- 10. Homework and study supervision;*
- 11. Individual development plans and goals relating to education;*
- 12. Life space counselling in all educational matters;*
- 13. Assisting children living with disability to access education;*
- 14. Assisting hungry children with food parcels to ensure that they actively participate at school;*
- 15. Disciplining of children on matters relating to school issues; and*
- 16. Filling of official forms at the school or other facilities where needed*





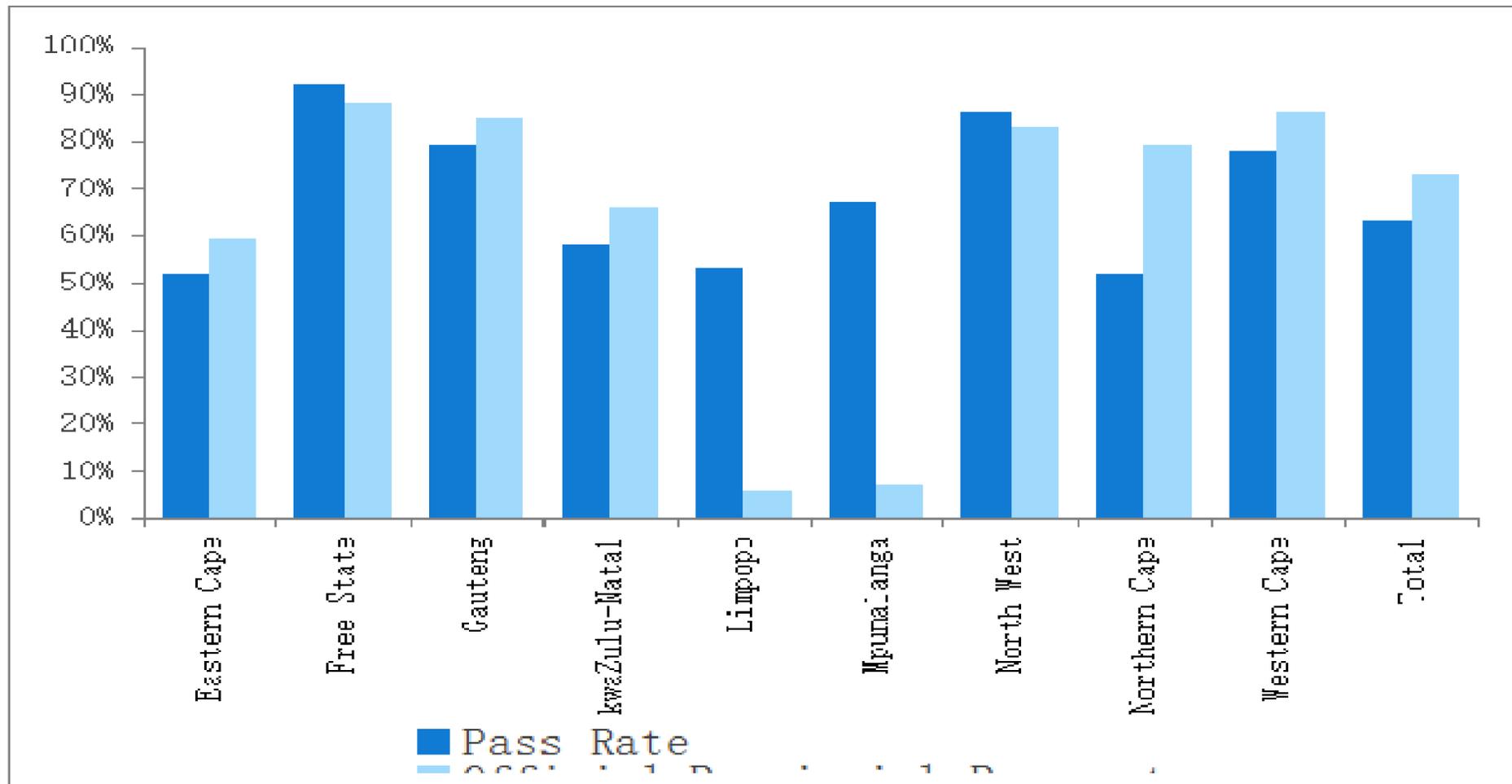
## Creative use of tools

Memory boxes were initially created as a tool that could be used to help children with parents who had died or were seriously ill to grieve, and to have a way of coping with the loss.

Today CYCWs use memory boxes both for dealing with death of loved ones and to preserve memories of important milestones such as birthdays and christenings. Some children use them to store favourite family recipes. Others put items such as birth certificates or clothes that they wore when very young in the box. This helps them to cherish the love and support they received from their family which contributed to their being where they are now.



# Matric results 2016



## CYCW referrals to social workers

*"[Social workers] assist with social grant administration, investigate cases of child abuse and neglect, and also distribute food parcels to families in need."*

*"I refer cases to social workers. A specific case is when the social worker removed children to Gariiep Dam to live with family, but they started misbehaving at school. The social worker provided counselling. There was another family that did not understand my role as CYCW and thought I am spying for social workers; the social worker intervened by explaining that we work with social workers."*

*[Michelle Nyarai Mapurazi, PhD Thesis]*



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## Add-on programmes: Example

*Isibindi's child protection programme is one of a range of add-on programmes that complement the core Isibindi services of home visits and Safe Parks.*

*The child protection programme is a collaboration with Childline, which provides the services of skilled psychologists.*

*I have seen a lot of changes because N is getting better; she's not that child she was before. I took them to their grandmother during the school holidays and the pictures in her head about the incident are starting to diminish and she's not that scared anymore like she was." (Caregiver of participant in Children's Institute research)*



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## Family strengthening as the core approach

*"A CYCW visited my family without being referred by anyone because she lives in my community. The CYCW started visiting my family after I lost my father. The CYCW knew about our father's death and knew that we could benefit from being part of the Isibindi programme. She realised that Isibindi could help us to deal with grieving and further assistance. It is from this background that I became part of Isibindi programme. The CYCW identified the need in my family and then intervened. The CYCW supported my family with the grieving process, and she (CYCW) is currently assisting me with my homework and I am doing better at school than before and I am certain that I am going to pass my matric since I am working hard and being supported by a CYCW." [Youth beneficiary, grade 12]*

*[ACREmet study of family strengthening]*



## Evidence-based



A substantial number of studies have been conducted of various aspects of Isibindi since it was first developed.

The comprehensive monitoring & evaluation (M&E) database that NACCW developed and maintains provides further rich information.

This evidence is used, among other purposes, for addressing challenges as they arise.



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# Challenges

*Challenges that emerge repeatedly from the various sources include:*

- non-payment of stipends because of late or non-payment of government subsidies to implementing partners*
- lack of standardisation across provinces in Isibindi subsidies and government requirements*
- referrals to social workers not being attended to timeously*
- CYCW challenges in dealing with older children and youth and the challenges the young people and their families face as they transition to adulthood.*



# Why we are doing this



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*Cont.*



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*Thank you*



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