



FAMILY POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

UN EGM

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Historically, the family has always been perceived as the social institution that is to provide love, security and protection to all who live in it. Paradoxically, for some it has also entailed experiencing many social ills.

Apartheid and capitalist labour-based economy are have shaped South African society:



Extremely unequal society.

High inequality & unemployment.

Mass poverty.

Violence against women.

HIV/AIDS epidemic

Non-resident and absent fathers.

Multi- & Skip- generation households.

Contemporary challenges



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Continuing unemployment

Service delivery challenges

SETTING THE CONTEXT



- Holborn and Eddy (2011), Kruger (2013) and Nkosi and Daniels (2007) have argued that diminished advocacy role of civil society typified by unequal access to resources and opportunities have resulted in the erosion of the strengths, resilience and assets of family life.
- Such factors have exposed families to physical, political, health, social and economic exploitation.

CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURES



- Families are dynamic, fluid and continuous rather than static systems, which produces much diversity within family relationships.
- The White Paper on families (Department of Youth Development, RSA, 2013) strives towards promoting healthy families, strengthening families and family preservation. Significantly, families should be respected as equal partners, but are often disempowered by being blamed for their unhealthy, unsafe circumstances.

PURPOSE OF FAMILY POLICY



Sewpaul (2016) asserts that family policies must acknowledge the powerful sources of privileges, forces of exclusion, poverty and oppression that impact on families' daily lives.

Raniga et al. (2019) emphasize that policies must pay attention to the changing trends in the structure and dynamics in families, especially with the impact of poverty and inequality.

Family policies can include:

- Government taxation, fiscal spending on cash benefits e.g. child support grants; pensions and disability grants;
- Income protection through social insurance schemes e.g. employment benefits, maternity, paternity, and parental leave; childcare support to facilitate women's labour market participation; gainful employment and investments in care and basic services for vulnerable members of families.

Good family policies:

01

Recognise the context that frames family life and seeks to address structural challenges (e.g. poverty and unemployment)

02

Combine a range of interventions to address poverty and inequality

- This lowers the burden of care and recognises the contribution families make to society.

03

Involve integration of services between state and civil society

04

Use a family & community-centred approach to service delivery.

05

Monitor outcomes

Policy development: Background



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REVISED WHITE PAPER ON FAMILIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

2021 (31 MARCH)

Overview of the Revised Paper on Families 2021

REVIEW PROCESS



Academic journal articles

Reviews of the WPF and its implementation (DPME, DSD)

2018 Roundtable session notes and review report

8 provincial workshops – 251 stakeholders

National Workshop (2021)

Critiques

1. Limited/narrow focus on what a family (should) look like rather than the quality of family relationships
2. Problematizing different forms of families in relation to middle class, nuclear vision of family
3. Emphasis on role of family in wider society, rather than societal/state responsibilities towards families
4. Reference to moral capacity/ degeneration – judgmental/conservative
5. Context of poverty, unemployment
6. Realities of women as main care providers is hidden
7. Role of men is not considered/ highlighted in a meaningful way
8. Bias towards nuclear family, no acknowledgement of non–biological fathers and their role, some groups left out (LGBTQI parents), focus on stable unions, etc
9. Little information on **how** resilience will be enhanced
10. Not enough emphasis on research for context–specific interventions
11. Overemphasis on keeping families together

CO-ORDINATION

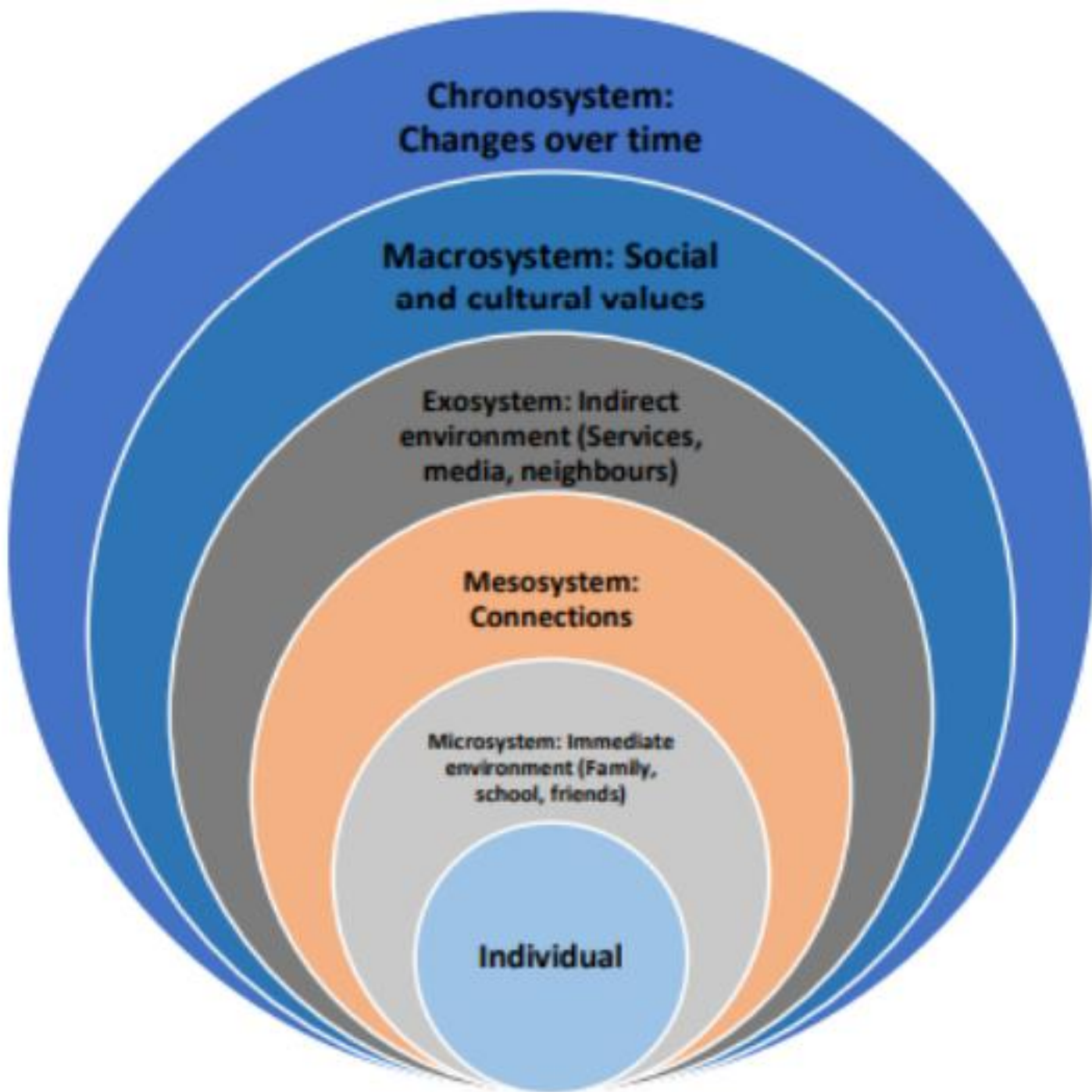
- Poor co-ordination and planning between different levels and different forums.
- Challenges related to the family forums:
 - Lack of consistent attendance by departments.
 - Capacity building appears to be happening but no data

IMPLEMENTATION

- Buy in: Lack of coordinated collaboration + coordinated response by relevant departments and other stakeholders
- Lack of alignment with strategic priorities
- Budgetary constraints
- Lack of knowledge of the WPF/Training

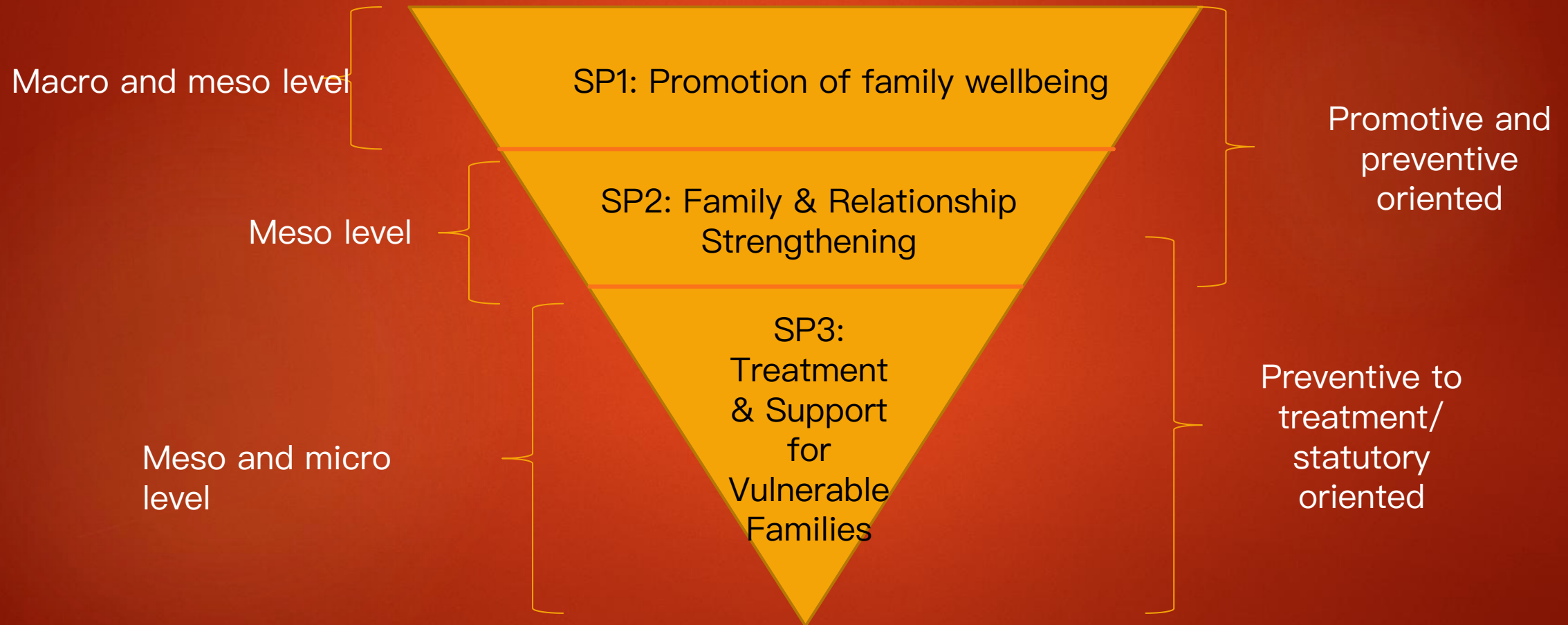
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- ▶ No outcome indicators are provided to assess what difference the interventions are expected to make (what exactly needs to change?)
 - ▶ Indicators poorly defined
 - ▶ Targets unclear
- ▶ Lack of standardised monitoring and reporting protocols.
- ▶ Lack of monitoring and reporting of the intersectoral collaboration across government departments.
- ▶ Lack of monitoring of provincial expenditure in line with the policy.
- ▶ Little is known about the quality of programmes, contents, modes of delivery and effectiveness
- ▶ Lack of accountability – as clusters oversee the WPF but cannot interfere with the prerogatives of other departments.



Sections 1 and 2: Overview of revisions

Section 3: Overview of revisions to Strategic Priorities



Coordination, Implementation, and Monitoring

- Develop a standard set of indicators to track family wellbeing annually using available and regularly released data
- Identify gaps and develop annual strategic plans to address gaps
- Monitor actions identified in strategic plans
- Annually assess whether progress is being made towards improved family wellbeing and adjust strategic plans as necessary.
- Gather data on the approximate number and spread of family programmes offered by government, civil society and the private sector including:
 - Identify gaps in service delivery and promote the development of such services in under-served areas.
 - Identify good practice and evidence-based programmes that can be scaled up through government and civil society.
 - Allocate resources to capacity building of government and civil society service providers to deliver good practice and evidence-based programmes.
 - Facilitate accredited training of professionals and volunteers

Section 4 continued

- Curate evidence-based information on domestic violence, abuse, substance abuse and other factors affecting vulnerable families as well as effective help-seeking strategies and support services
- Disseminate such information to Provincial and Local FSFs and other networks to inform awareness and information campaigns.
- Gather data on the approximate number and spread of treatment and support programmes offered by government, civil society and the private sector.
- Identify gaps in service delivery and promote the development of such services in under-served areas.
- Identify good practice and evidence-based programmes that can be scaled up through government and civil society.
- Allocate resources to capacity building of government and civil society service providers to deliver good practice and evidence-based programmes.

- ▶ The work of the FSFs, as the core coordinating mechanism driving the implementation of the Revised WPF, needs to be appropriately resourced and budgeted for at each level.
 - ▶ At least one individual per FSF is required to coordinate the engagements, prepare documentation for the engagements, document the annual strategic plans, engage with FSFs at other levels, and monitor implementation of the annual strategic plans. Resourcing for this capacity needs to be factored into annual budgets at all levels.
- ▶ Resources for the annual analysis of data to form the annual strategic plans should be set aside.
- ▶ In addition, the annual strategic plans that are developed by the FSFs should be done so in time to inform budgeting processes at departmental level so that the departments of social development at all levels can include budgets for strategic plans into annual budgets for the departments.
- ▶ Budgets for capacity building of government and civil society organisations should be set aside to ensure that evidence-based and good practice programmes can be effectively scaled up.

Budget