

Company

Profile



NPO - 041-733 NPO

PBO - 930 012 177

Company Registration No.: 2000/025755/08

INTRODUCTION

COPESSA is a multiple award-winning social profit organisation (also commonly referred to as not-for-profit organisation). Our reason for being is to prevent child abuse before it happens, (Primary Prevention), to promptly ameliorate its effects once it has happened (Secondary Prevention), and to soften its impact on the survivors and their families, (Tertiary Prevention). We achieve primary prevention by addressing the social determinants of abuse, which include social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions that predispose children to abuse, as will be discussed later in this profile. Secondary and Tertiary prevention is through medical assessments and on-going counselling of abuse victims and their families.

The organisation was registered in 2000 as Zamokuhle Child Abuse Centre, which was later renamed COPESSA in 2004. The service centre in Soweto came into being as a result of many consultative ‘indabas’, led by a group of women called iSililo – “A Women’s Cry” Campaign which was formed in response to the brutal rape of 5-month-old ‘baby Tshepang, (not her real name).’ Baby Tshepang had to undergo several corrective surgical interventions following her brutal rape, which had left her intestines hanging out.

COPESSA comprises highly motivated, passionate and results-driven professionals, volunteers and community members. We are based in Protea Glen, Soweto, in Johannesburg. The community we serve is largely indigent, hence our services are at no costs to the recipients although we encourage those who can to make a donation. We enjoy the support of the Gauteng Department of Social Development, a number of private companies, as well as eminent and celebrated community leaders such as ‘the empress of song’, Dr Sibongile Khumalo.

VISION

To create safe, caring, and secure communities for children.

MISSION

We prevent child abuse and neglect from happening and mitigate its effects once it has occurred.

VALUES

The values that govern the COPESSA Board, management, staff and volunteers are:

- ✓ Ubuntu
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Honesty
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Hard work
- ✓ Passion
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Confidentiality

GOVERNANCE

COPESSA has an independent Board of Directors who volunteer their services for the betterment of our community. The designated company secretary is Waterford Financial Management (Pty) Ltd and the auditors are Laburn Financial Incorporated. The Board members meet at least quarterly.

We are registered as a:

- ✓ Section 21 Company (registration no.: 2000/025755/08)
- ✓ Non-profit organisation, (registration no.: 041-733-NPO), and
- ✓ Section 18A Public Benefit Organisation, (registration no.: PBO 930 012 177).

POINT OF DEPARTURE

Child abuse is when an adult subjects a child to:

- ✓ Physical violence
- ✓ Psychological Violence
- ✓ Sexual Assault
- ✓ Humiliating treatment, or
- ✓ Fails to meet the child's basic needs.

South Africa is a signatory to many progressive protective instruments for children, and has also promulgated many laws to support these instruments, viz.:

- ✓ The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa;
- ✓ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- ✓ The African Charter on the Rights & Welfare of the Child;
- ✓ Child Care Act; and
- ✓ Sexual Offences Amendment Act no. 32.

Although the drivers of Gender-based Violence are manifold, at the core are the gendered power dynamics, which are fuelled by social and cultural norms that make violence against those deemed to be weak, (children and women), acceptable. These power dynamics often play out as hegemonic masculinity that is associated with a heightened sense of entitlement, especially among men who are often the perpetrators of sexual and physical abuse.

STATUS QUO

Despite protective instruments mentioned above, many of South Africa's children suffer untold and sometimes irreversible harm at the hands of abuse perpetrators. Print and electronic news media abound with stories of children who are brutally raped and maimed. Also alarming is the emerging trend of younger perpetrators.

Although we do not have published reported statistics for child abuse, the gloomy status quo can be gleaned from the following research findings:

- ✓ 26-30% of adolescents reported that their first sexual encounter was forced;
- ✓ Between 50-75% of men who ever rape do so as teenagers. <Jewkes R, Flood M, and Lang J. 2014. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61683-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61683-4)>
- ✓ In a survey conducted among 1 500 schoolchildren in Soweto, a quarter of all boys interviewed said that 'jack-rolling', a term used in the townships to describe gang rape, was fun. <Rape Statistics - SA and Worldwide, 2011>

OUR RESPONSE

When confronted with abuse Society's response is somewhat knee jerk, mostly reactive and often punitive. We often (and sometimes justifiably so) call for interventions such as harsher sentences, building of more prisons, promulgating of more laws, and even the castration of abusers. These measures, "logical" as they may seem to be, can be likened to putting paint over cracks or putting a Band-Aid on festering sores.

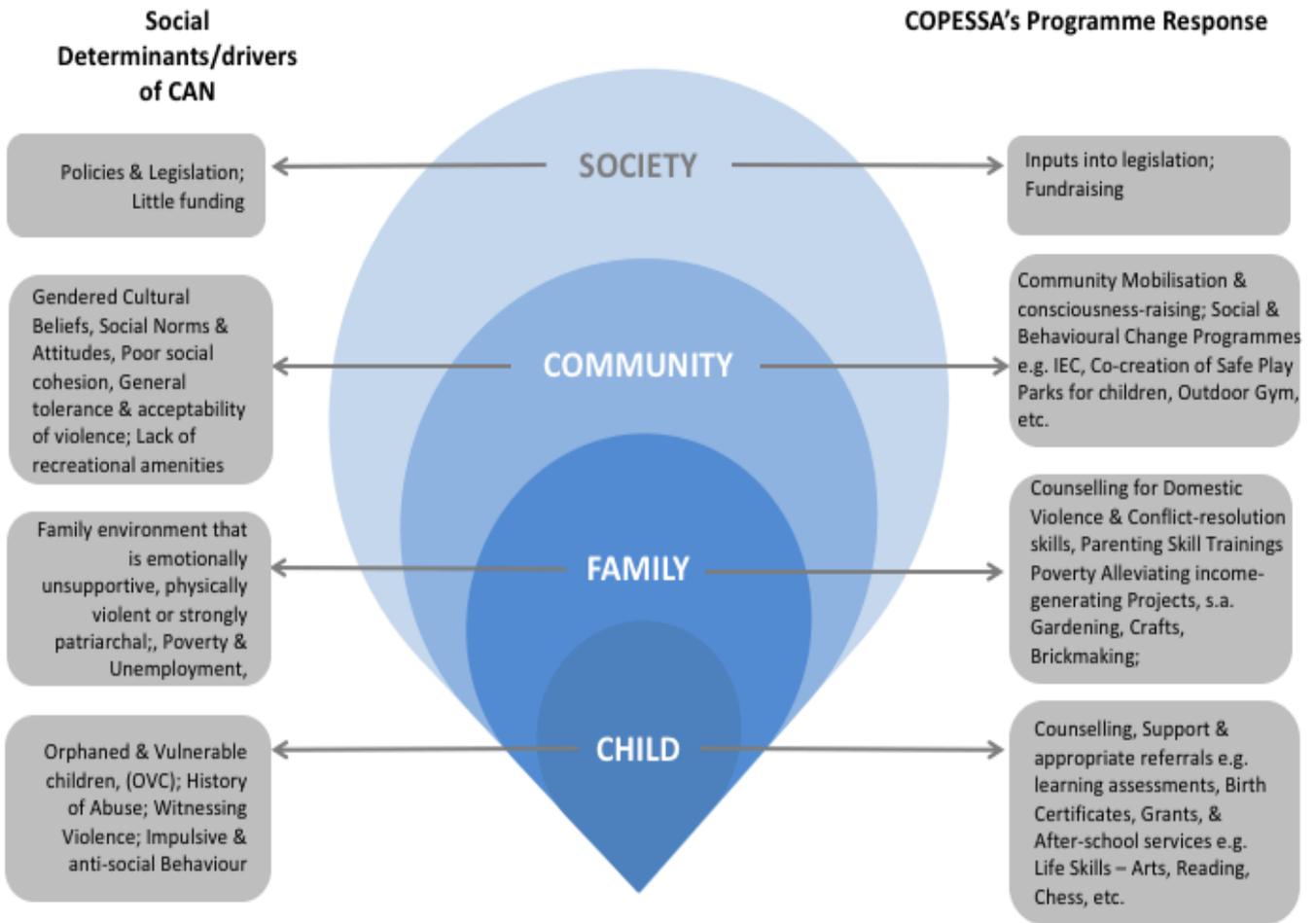
In contrast, at COPESSA, we do not only seek to respond to the abuse that has occurred, but continually tailor-make strategies to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place. We recognise counselling and medical support as necessary ameliorative measures, but fully appreciate their limitation in creating future generations that will not normalise abuse and violence. This is particularly relevant if we say that the children are our future. Simply put, prevention is still better than cure.

As there are multiple root causes of child abuse and GBV in general, effective solutions have to be multi-pronged and comprehensive. Consequently, COPESSA has adopted the '**Ecological Model**' as a framework for its analysis and response to this social scourge. This multi-level approach allows us to look at the entire environment of the child, which includes the family, community and society as depicted in the diagram below. More importantly, interventions that have been shown to be successful in reducing the incidence of GBV are centred on human rights and are gender-transformative; challenge the prevailing social norms and cultural practices that are tolerant to violence; and work with all sectors of

society including men and boys in changing the status quo.

THE ECOLOGICAL MODEL

Social Drivers of Child Abuse & Neglect (CAN) relevant to our Community and COPESSA's Programme Response



OUR STRATEGIES

The following mix of strategies and services, which uses the Ecological Model as a framework facilitates the implementation of our programs:

1. Challenging and transforming social and cultural norms that condone and normalise violence.
2. Creating enabling and supportive environments for children within their homes and communities.
3. Providing responsive and supportive services that promote healing from abuse.

How we achieve the above strategies:

1. Challenging and transforming social and cultural norms that condone and normalise violence through:

- a. Community mobilisation, awareness campaigns, focus group discussions, and dialogues.
- b. Gender-transformative social and behaviour change programmes and life skills development for children and youth, e.g. conflict resolution, communication skills.

2. Creating enabling and supportive environments for children within their homes and communities through:

- a. Domestic violence counselling.
- b. Creating safe play parks.
- c. After-school-care programmes, which offer homework support, chess playing, drumming, Art and Music.
- d. Income-generating programmes, e.g. community gardens, brick-making project, crafts, beading, embroidery project.
- e. Parenting skills programme.

3. *Providing responsive and supportive services that promote healing from abuse through:*

- a. Medical assessments.
- b. Counselling.
- c. Appropriate referrals of survivors.

WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT US

- ✓ We are results-driven and have a track record, as demonstrated by the multiple awards we have won.
- ✓ Our model is holistic, innovative, grounded on theory and human rights, and is scientific.
- ✓ We do not work in silos and have partnered with reputable institutions, such as Wits Public School of Health, Foundation for Professional Development, Soul City Institute, and the University of Virginia, USA.
- ✓ We are dependable and accountable. We have an impeccable record and Registered Auditors audit our finances.
- ✓ We are registered with SARS and all donations to our organisation are tax exempt.
- ✓ We are largely dependent on donations

AWARDS RECEIVED SO FAR

- ✓ 2009 – JHB City Parks Chairperson’s Recognition Award – awarded to COPESSA for “contributing towards the Youth Greening Jhb” campaign
- ✓ 2011 – Shoprite Checkers Women of the year – in the Good Neighbours against Crime category – awarded to Dr Nobs Mwanda
- ✓ 2012 – Gauteng Province Agri-Business Woman of the Year award – Siyoyisil’ indlala Garden Project, an initiative of COPESSA was awarded a runner-up prize for the “Best Community Project.”
- ✓ 2013 – Gauteng Province MTK Awards – awarded to Siyoyisil’ indlala

Garden Project in recognition of the “valuable contribution to Natural Resources management.”

- ✓ 2014 – The PPS Professional Woman of the Year Award – a runner-up award to Dr Nobs Mwanda
- ✓ 2014 – Ashoka – Dr Nobs Mwanda inducted as a fellow
- ✓ 2016 – Nestlé Nutrition Award – awarded to Siyoyisi’ indlala Garden Project

THE FUTURE

Our immediate future is to improve community participation and to form partnerships with organisations and institutions who have a similar or overlapping mandate. We have already initiated community dialogues, which we hope will inform further innovations, improve sustainability of our programmes, community agency, and improve a sense of ownership. We are also working with institutions such as Wits School of Public Health personnel to consolidate our evidence-based preventive strategies and theory of change. It is our goal to share our approach both nationally and internationally for the benefit of all vulnerable groups, especially children.

With your help we can make this future possible and thus change the odds stacked high against so many of this world’s children.

PEOPLE BEHIND COPESSA

Permanent staff:

- ✓ Dr Nobs Mwanda Motjuwadi - CEO, medical doctor and founder of COPESSA
- ✓ Ms Gopie Maremela – Operations Manager and Senior Social Worker
- ✓ Ms Kelebogile Sechela – Social Worker for adults
- ✓ Ms Noko Maega – Social Worker for children
- ✓ Ms Busi Radebe – Auxiliary Social Worker
- ✓ Ms Nthabiseng Mashinini - Administrator

Volunteers:

- ✓ Ms Fikile Mabasa – Community Developer
- ✓ Ms Sylvia Manyama – Embroiderer & General Maintenance
- ✓ Mr Nick - General Maintenance

Youth Volunteers:

- ✓ Mr Kamogelo Mgibe
- ✓ Ms Faith Ramabopo
- ✓ Mr Katlego Selawe
- ✓ Mr Bastian Sistamich (German Volunteer)
- ✓ Ms Hannah Gaerlach (German Volunteer)

Board of Directors:

- ✓ Mr Elias Borole (Chairperson)
- ✓ Ms Boitumelo Sibanda (Vice Chairperson)
- ✓ Mr Molefe Molefe (Secretary)
- ✓ Mr Bafana Nkosi (Treasurer)
- ✓ Dr Nobs Mwanda (CEO)
- ✓ Mr Joshua Motjuwadi
- ✓ Ms Zenzile Matlhaku
- ✓ Ms Sarah Ndzimande

CONTACT DETAILS:

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1818

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PO Box 1049
Mondeor
2110

Bank Details:

Account Name: COPESSA Bank: Nedbank

Branch: Business Central, Gauteng

Account no.: 1284039501

Branch Code: 128405 (International Branch Code: 198765)

Swift Code: nedszajj

Organisational Structure

