

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). 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 left her intestines hanging out (disembowelled).

COPESSA comprises of highly motivated and results-driven professionals, volunteers and community members. We are based in Soweto, Johannesburg and most of the recipients of our services are indigent, hence our services are free. 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

Our mission is to protect children through the following interventions:

- ✓ Creation of sustainable community development programmes and projects - [primary prevention](#)
- ✓ Counselling and medical assessment of abuse survivors - [tertiary prevention](#)
- ✓ Training or capacity building and research – [primary prevention](#)

VALUES

The values which 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 and is audited by independent and registered auditors, Watermark Auditors 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.

STATUS QUO

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

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

- ✓ 26-30% of adolescents reported that their first sexual encounter was forced; and
- ✓ In a survey conducted among 1 500 school children 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

Our response as society is mostly reactive, punitive, and somewhat knee jerk. We often, sometimes justifiably so, call for harsher sentences, more prisons, more laws, and even the castration of abusers, to mention a few. These measures, logical as they seem to be, can be likened to putting paint over cracks.

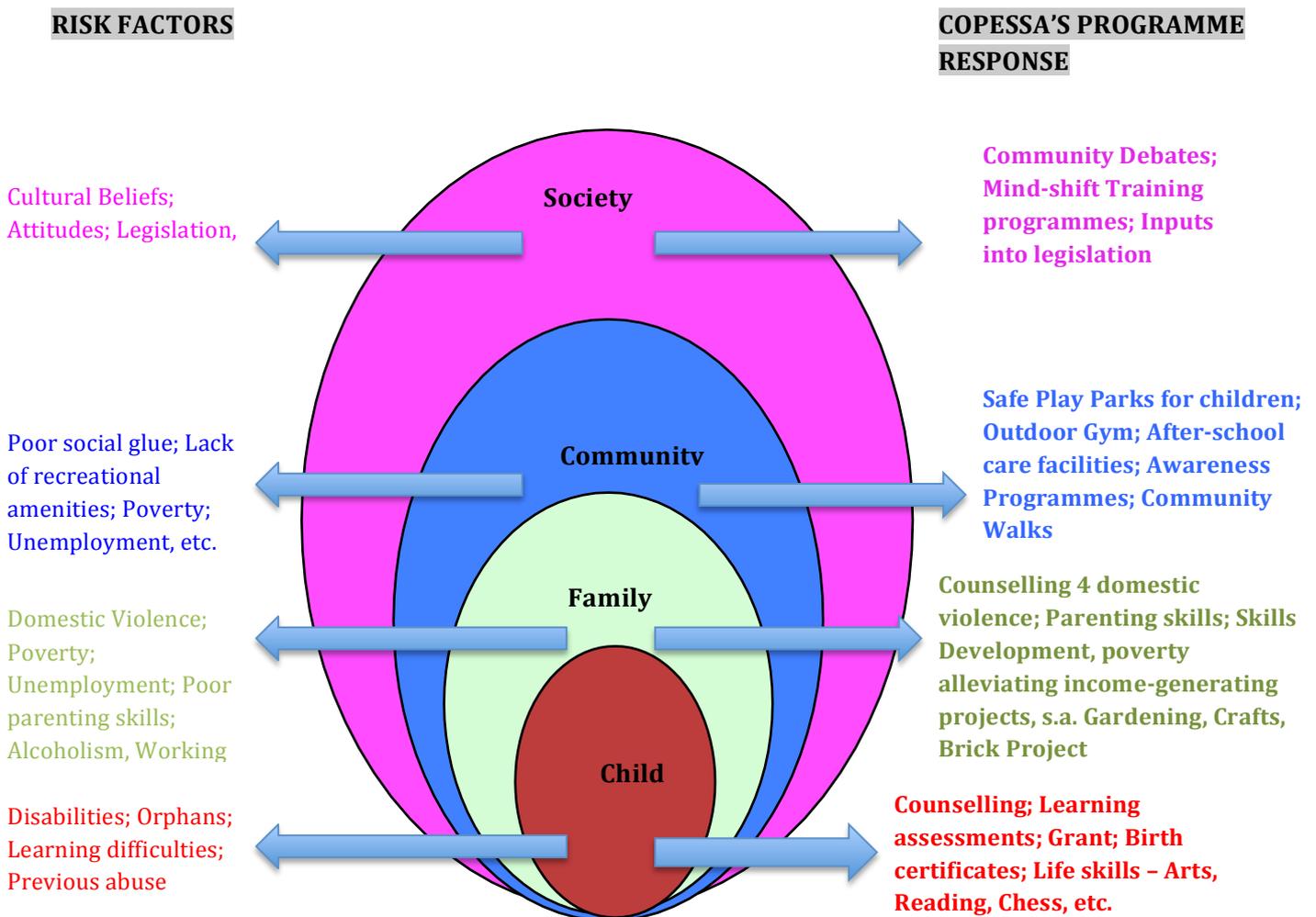
In contrast, at COPESSA, we do not only seek to respond to the abuse that has occurred, but have over the years developed tailor-made strategies to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place. We recognise counselling and medical support as necessary

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.

Unlike many medical conditions, which are usually caused by single and identifiable agents, child abuse and gender-based violence generally, are social ills that are multi-causal. Consequently, our approach considers the multiple root-causes in coming up with multi-pronged solutions.

Over the past nine years COPESSA has pioneered the '**Ecological Model**' in both its analysis and understanding of the root causes of this social ill and the solutions to it (see diagram below). This holistic approach is evident in our mission and vision, and in the services we render.

**The Ecological Model; Risk factors relevant in our community;
and COPESSA's Programme Response**



OUR SERVICES

To realise our Vision and Mission, we have tailor-made the following services:

1. CLINICAL SERVICES

- ✓ Counselling of sex and gender based violence survivors (SGBV) and their families - this includes both child and adult survivors
- ✓ Medical assessment of child abuse victims
- ✓ Support groups for SGBV survivors, HIV affected and infected, and substance abuse, especially alcohol

2. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY & INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

These can be classified into non-income generating, community value- add projects and income generating. Examples of these are:

(i) **Non-Income-generating and community value-add projects:**

- ✓ Building of safe play parks for children – this is our flagship programme we will use in future as an entry point into other communities.
- ✓ Craft projects – the aim is to house these within these play parks so that they have a multi role of capacity development for the community, income-generation, therapy, and provision of safety for the children while playing.
- ✓ Food parcels
- ✓ Food gardens for orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs)
- ✓ Reading programmes housed in the mini-library at the Play Park
- ✓ Homework supervision
- ✓ Art and music
- ✓ Parenting skills
- ✓ Skills development, primarily targeting the youth and children

(ii) Income-generating projects:

- ✓ Embroidery project – branded promotional items such as golf shirts, caps, etc.
- ✓ Beading and other crafts
- ✓ Food gardens and veggie tunnels
- ✓ Brick-making

WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT US

- ✓ We are results driven and have a track record, attested to by the multiple awards we have own.
- ✓ We are dependable and accountable. Registered Auditors audit our financials
- ✓ We are registered with SARS and offer all our donors tax exemption.
- ✓ Our model is all encompassing and innovative.

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

THE FUTURE

COPESSA has over the past eleven years established a blueprint for comprehensive and effective management of SGBV. It is our sincere hope that we can spread our

programmes, both nationally and internationally.

Also, we hope to be self -sustaining through the various income projects we have set up for the communities.

PEOPLE BEHIND COPESSA

Permanent staff:

- ✓ Dr Nobs Mwanda Motjuwadi - CEO, medical doctor and founder of COPESSA
- ✓ Ms Gopie Maremela – Senior Social
- ✓ Ms Thabile Maziya – Junior Social Worker
- ✓ Ms Busi Radebe - Auxiliary
- ✓ Social Worker
- ✓ Ms Pinky Maringa - part-time Educational Psychologist
- ✓ Ms Phethile Zitha - part-time Clinical Psychologist
- ✓ Ms Gugu Makome – part-time Clinical Psychologist

Volunteers:

- ✓ Ms Fikile Mabasa – Community Developer
- ✓ Ms Sylvia Manyama - Embroiderer
- ✓ Mr Andreas Moloto – General Maintenance

Youth Volunteers:

- ✓ Mr Kamo Mgibe
- ✓ Ms N. Mntambo
- ✓ Ms Avilia Khumalo
- ✓ Ms K. Lentsoakane
- ✓ Ms P. Ramashoai
- ✓ Mr Ben Roggenbuck (German Volunteer)
- ✓ Mr Bennet Vessely (German Volunteer)

Board of Directors:

- ✓ Dr Nobs Mwanda (CEO)
- ✓ Mr Elias Borole (Chairperson)
- ✓ Mr J. Motjuwadi
- ✓ Mr Molefe Molefe
- ✓ Ms Lindi Mbongwe
- ✓ Mr Arthur Anderson

Contact Details:

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Soweto, Johannesburg

1818

Postal Address:

PO Box 1049

Mondeor

2110

Bank Details:

Account Name: COPESSA Bank: Nedbank

Branch: Business Central, Gauteng

Account no.: 1284 039 501

Branch Code: 128405

Swift Code: nedszajj