

## **PROJECT TITLE: STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RISK INDICATOR FRAMEWORK (RIF)**

### **Goal:**

Improve early detection and promote early intervention of at risk children (0-8)

### **Objective:**

To develop evidence-based plan for the successful implementation of the RIF by all stakeholders (0-8)

### **Background and rationale:**

The need for a national assessment framework to identify and protect children at risk was first identified and developed in the 2005 National Action Plan for Children under the theme 'Our children, our treasure, our future'. The framework was developed and piloted in the Pointe Larue district. This pilot produced some important findings which accentuated the need for such a system.

The move to revitalize this Framework was put in motion in the last cycle of the National ECCE Plan of Action. The revised framework was launched in March 2013. It is a multi- disciplinary framework aimed at identifying children who are at risk and in need, at a very early stage so that they receive timely assistance and services.

It was evident before the framework was in place that some at risk children were falling through the cracks because of a reliance on a single agency intervention approach when other agencies which were also having direct contact with children in their daily work were not taking action. Therefore, the RIF has been established as a multi-sectoral collaboration, geared towards improving outcomes for children. In the last cycle, additional agencies such as the Housing

Department have been brought on board and trained to use the RIF form and referral mechanism. Research has shown that early detection mechanism is the modern way of working towards prevention of child abuse, ill treatment and other factors impinging on the development and wellbeing of children. Despite the vast potential of the RIF some obstacles mostly related to the commitment of partners hinder its possible success. The activities within this project are aimed at revitalizing commitment to this framework and increasing its use.

**Description:**

The Social Affairs Department will lead the implementation of the activities under this project. Its successful implementation will depend on the collaboration between the key partners (Health, Education, Housing and Social Affairs).

The main activities to be implemented are as follows:

- Carry out an audit on the implementation of the framework since its launch
- Disseminate findings and recommendations of the audit to stakeholders
- Develop and implement work plan based on recommendations
- Evaluate new measures

**Budget narrative:**

The estimated cost for the project is SCR 95,000 which includes SCR 55,000 for the audit and SCR 40,000 for implementation of the action plan. Funds will be sought from donors to carry out the audit whilst the implementation of the action plan will be taken from the recurrent budget of the department. The possibility of cost sharing for some activities will be explored.

**Expected outcome:**

Increased use of RIF as a tool for child protection through early referrals

**Performance indicators:**

By the end of 2016 referrals through the RIF would have increased by at least 50.

**Baseline:**

5 referrals were recorded for 2014