



REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES



2005

SEYCHELLES NATIONAL PLAN  
Of ACTION FOR CHILDREN

2009

"OUR CHILDREN,



## **INTRODUCTION**

This National Plan of Action for Children (2005-2009) represents the commitment of the Government of Seychelles to ensure the continuous development and well-being of all Seychellois children. It is recognised that Seychelles has achieved a lot over the years, especially with regards to the provision of free health care and educational services. Through the signing and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Seychelles has also proved its commitment in accepting and respecting the universal value that a child is a human being and as such should be guaranteed their basic human rights.

The Plan of Action certainly comes at an opportune time for Seychelles. In a fast changing world, certain realities have to be accepted. For one, it is more difficult today to separate the line that divides childhood and adulthood. Children's behaviour, expectations and needs have changed. It is the duty of us all to understand what is happening around us today and not condemn out of ignorance. Simply because our children do not behave as we did, does not mean that they are rebelling against us. It is the duty of each generation to understand and educate the next one. In practical terms, this Plan intends to do exactly that and much more.

President James Michel has dedicated 2005 as the year for all Seychellois children. Under the theme, "Our Children, Our Treasure, Our Future," he has urged us all to give fresh impetus to how we, as a nation, educate our children and young people and ensure their well-being and development. This plan represents the efforts of those Ministries and organisations that have the responsibility of nurturing, educating and protecting our children. The Plan was developed over a 3 month period during 2004. During this time, an inventory of research studies that have been undertaken on children and youth in Seychelles over the years was compiled as well as an assessment of all services and programmes by all key Ministries and organisations catering for children. This has helped identify areas of weaknesses and gaps in the delivery of services and formulation of policies and programmes relating to children and youth.

Following this exercise, a two-day workshop was organized in late 2004, to finalise a draft Plan of Action that would be presented to the Steering Committee set up and chaired by President Michel to oversee the organisation of key activities to ensure the implementation of the theme in 2005. The workshop brought together all Government Ministries, NGOs and Civil Society organisations involved with children in Seychelles. To ensure that children themselves participate in the drawing up of the plan, a group of secondary school students from English River School was also invited. It has to be noted that the

children brought much enthusiasm and new ideas to the proposed document.

Following the workshop, the draft document was sent to all Ministries and organisations that participated in the workshop as well as other Ministries and organisations in Seychelles. Once everyone had validated the document, it was presented to the Steering Committee at State House where it was unanimously approved. The Plan contains 20 Goals and specific actions and targets that have to be undertaken over the next 5 years to ensure the sustained development and well-being of all Seychellois children. In many ways, the Plan is proactive because it is not simply addressing problematic issues that are affecting children today. While it caters for the continued enforcement of all laws relating to child protection in Seychelles, the Plan also proposes actions and activities that will take Seychellois' children to new heights of well-being and development.

The Plan will be monitored and evaluated by the Seychelles National Commission for Children.

It is hoped that all Ministries and organisations that have a stake in this Plan participate actively to translate the actions and targets into reality. The Goals are not overly ambitious. They are realistic and achievable and signify what we owe to our children.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions/ Activities</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>1.0 To establish the true situation regarding child deprivation in Seychelles</b>	<b>1.1 Establish baselines for child deprivation</b>	<b>1.1.1 Conduct research survey on childhood deprivation as it occurs in Seychelles</b>	Findings of study	MSAE, MOEY, NCC, MoH, MEP, MF
	<b>2.0 Ensure better careers guidance and appreciation of all careers at all levels to meet employment demands more effectively</b>	<b>2.1 Harmonisation of career programmes</b> <b>2.2 Better manpower planning based on relevant data</b> <b>2.3 Sensitise parents and society on the importance and benefits of all careers</b>	Number of training conducted Workshops Seminars	MAMD, MOEY, MSAE MAMD, MOEY, MSAE
	<b>3.0 Review employment policies to address existing and emerging trends in development</b>	<b>3.1 Ensure trends in development are considered when addressing employment issues</b>	Perceived change in attitude	MSAE, SBC
		<b>3.1.1 Review employment legislation to address the enforcement of the employment policy</b>	Labour Market signals Report of Review	MSAE

## HEALTH

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions/Activities</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>4.0 Accessibility and quality of child care services improved by 2009</b>	<p><b>4.1 To put in place child friendly health policy/policies</b></p> <p><b>4.2 To cater for the needs of all groups of children</b></p> <p><b>4.3 To enhance a Supportive Environment</b></p>	<p><b>4.1.1 Review all existing health policies regarding children</b></p> <p><b>4.2.1 Put in place special services and infrastructure for specific needs and age groups</b></p> <p><b>4.3.1 Upgrade all existing infrastructures</b></p>	<p>Policy/policies established</p> <p>Number of specialised services being offered &amp; MoH Reports</p> <p>Number of infrastructures at the Health Centres, Hospitals upgraded</p>	<p>MOH, MLGSC, MLUH, NGOs, MOEY, MSAF, MF</p> <p>MoH, MSAE, MOEY, NGOs</p> <p>MoH</p>

	<b>4.3.4</b> Provide capacity building for persons working with children	Number of training	MoH, MOEY, MSAE, NGOs
	<b>4.4.1</b> Undertake parenting education programmes offered	Parenting Programmes offered	MoH, MOEY, MSAE, MLGSC, NGOs
	<b>4.4</b> Encourage greater parental responsibility in children's health care		
	<b>5.1</b> Ensure monitoring of child development	<b>5.1.1</b> Assess proposal for setting up of a National Child Development Centre	Setting up of NCDC Number of children/families reached
	<b>5.0</b> To provide intervention at early age to children with disabilities and provide support to their families		

## EDUCATION

GOALS	TARGETS	ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>6.0 Quality education for all</b>	<p><b>6.1</b> Accommodate/mainstream children with physical disabilities and learning needs</p> <p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Home schooling</li> <li>ii. Electronic schooling</li> </ul>	<p><b>6.1.1</b> Adjust school environment to cater for children with special needs.</p> <p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Installation of lifts</li> <li>Ramps</li> </ul> <p><b>6.1.2</b> Review curriculum/programmes for Rehab/School for the Exceptional child</p> <p><b>6.1.3</b> Build capacity and provide resources for special educational needs</p> <p><b>6.2</b> Ensure quality control for all Day-Care Centres</p> <p><b>6.3</b> Ensure that all teachers in Crèche and Primary schools have B.Ed as the ministry's</p>	<p>Installation of equipment in homes</p> <p>ALDEC, MOEY, MSAE</p> <p>Number of training conducted</p> <p>Number of Day Care Centres abiding by set regulations</p> <p>Number of Teachers with B.Ed Enrolment figures.</p>	<p>MOEY</p> <p>MOEY, MSAE, Licensing Authorities</p> <p>MOEY</p> <p>MOEY, MoH, MSAE, Licensing Authorities</p> <p>MOEY, MAMD</p>

requirement	<p>learning modes.</p> <p><b>6.3.2</b> Relook at incentives for returning graduates</p> <p><b>6.4</b> Ensure promotion and greater recognition of Technical and Vocational Education</p>	<p>Schemes of service</p> <p><b>6.4.1</b> Develop National Qualification Framework (NQF)</p> <p><b>6.5</b> Review and strengthen schools' Pastoral Care System</p>	<p>Figures – successful completion of degree</p> <p>Evaluation reports Exam results</p> <p><b>6.5.1</b> Provide appropriate training for teachers to assist them in providing better pastoral care</p>	<p>MOEY, MAMD, MSAE</p> <p>MOEY (Assessment, Accreditation &amp; Testing Board)</p> <p>MOEY</p> <p>Number of teachers participating Perceived change in teacher-pupil relationship</p> <p><b>6.6.1</b> Assess and strengthen monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the SDP</p>	<p>MOEY, MSAE, MLGSC</p> <p>Evaluation Reports Schools Annual Reports</p>

## SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

GOALS	Targets	Activities/Actions	Means of Verification	Responsibility
7.0 To create a National Data Base on children by 2009	<p><b>7.1</b> Ensure that all organisations/Ministries have relevant information on children in their data bases by 2007</p> <p><b>7.1.1</b> Develop Project Proposal</p> <p><b>7.1.2</b> Development of data bases and indicators</p> <p><b>7.1.3</b> Training for personnel to manage data bases</p>	<p>Approval And implementation of Proposal</p> <p>Number of Ministries developing databases</p>	<p>All Ministries</p> <p>MISD, MSAE</p>	<p>MSAE, MISD, NCC, MOEY, MoH, M.I.A, MTT, MLGSC</p>
8.0 Create a child friendly conducive environment.	<p><b>8.1</b> Incorporate elements of child friendly environment in planning processes at all levels and in all sectors</p> <p><b>8.2</b> To ensure that child well-being components are incorporated at all stages of housing development processes-</p>	<p>Quarterly reports workshop reports, draft of policies, site visits.</p> <p><b>8.1.2</b> Organise workshops to establish guidelines to define meaning of child friendly environment.</p> <p><b>8.2.1</b> Introduction of Social Impact Assessment in Planning Processes</p>	<p>SIA Guidelines</p>	<p>MSAE, MLUH, MLGSC, MOH, MOEY.</p> <p>MLUH, MSAE, MENR</p>

	<b>10.0</b> To develop a culture of responsible parenting	<b>10.1</b> Educate children on budgeting and parenting skills	<b>10.1.1</b> Introduce attractive and incentive-based savings schemes	Number of savings Schemes	Bankers Association MOEY
		<b>10.1.2</b> Reinforce PSE Curriculum to incorporate education on children's rights/responsibilities and values/morality	New Curriculum	MOEY, MSAE, MOH, NGOs	
	<b>10.2</b> Sensitise and educate parents through media on parenting and budgeting skills	<b>10.2.1</b> Production of socially-based programmes/ documentaries	Number of programmes produced	MSAE, SBC, MoH, MOEY, NGOs, NCC	

## SECURITY

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions/Activities</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>11.0 Security and safety at National Level is maintained and enhanced</b>	<p><b>11.1 To incorporate child safety in national policies/programmes of all Ministries/ Organisations by 2009</b></p> <p><b>11.2 To keep the community informed on international developments on child safety/terrorism/child trafficking etc</b></p>	<p><b>11.1.1 Training of focal points in each Ministry on child safety issues/standards</b></p> <p><b>11.2.1 Conduct sensitisation campaigns</b></p> <p><b>11.2.2.Organise workshops</b></p>	<p>Number of training conducted</p> <p>Guidelines/ Standards established</p> <p>Number of Sensitisation programmes conducted</p> <p>Number of workshops held</p>	All Ministries Lead MSAE  MFA, MSAE, MIA  MSAE, MIA, MOEY, MoH, MLGSC, NCC, NGOs  MSAE, MIA, MOEY, MoH, MLGSC, NCC< NGOs
<b>12.0 Ensure law enforcement agencies operate in a more child-friendly environment</b>	<p><b>12.1 Provide relevant agencies with up to date information</b></p> <p><b>12.2 Sensitise relevant personnel on elements of a child-friendly environment</b></p>	<p><b>12.1.1. Workshops</b></p> <p><b>12.2.1 Sensitisation Programmes</b></p>	Number of workshops <p>Number of law enforcement officers sensitised</p>	

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actions/Activities</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>13.0 Effectiveness of Institutions dealing with child security improved by 2009</b>	<p><b>13.1 To establish better networking between all institutions</b></p> <p><b>14.0 Community and Home security is ensured through involvement of the community by 2009</b></p>	<p><b>13.1.1. Inventory of services already available</b></p> <p><b>14.1 To develop community spirit to improve home and community security</b></p> <p><b>14.1.1 Address child safety issues and those within the community by Strengthening of Family Support Groups</b></p> <p><b>14.1.2 Develop sensitisation and educational programmes on personal safety</b></p> <p><b>14.1.3 Creation of neighbourhood watch</b></p>	<p>Report</p> <p>Number of programmes developed to address child safety by FSG</p> <p>Number of children, parents sensitised &amp; number of programmes made available to the community</p> <p>Number of community having neighbourhood watch groups</p>	<p>MSAE, NGOs, MOH, MLGSC, MOEY, Department of Internal Affairs, Media</p> <p>MSAE, MLGSC, MOEY,MLUH, MTT MoH, MIA, NGOs</p> <p>MSAE, MLGSC, MOEY, MoH, MIA, NGOs</p> <p>MLGSC, MSAE</p>

		<b>14.1.4</b> Creation of sustainable community policing programmes	Number of districts having community policing	MLGSC, MSAE, MIA
<b>15.0</b> To ensure that the 'best interest of the child' principle is applied in all matters concerning the safety and security of children	<b>15.1</b> Conduct study on child abuse in all its forms in Seychelles to determine the extent and causes	<b>15.1.1</b> Establish Research Team and write proposal for study	Study Findings Report Recommendations	MSAE, MOEY, MoH, MISD, NCC, DAC, MIA, AG's Office, Judiciary, Bar Association
	<b>15.2</b> Assess the effectiveness of existing service providers and law agencies	<b>15.2.1</b> Review and assess all service providers and law agencies	Report	MSAE, MOEY, MoH, MISD, NCC, DAC, MIA, AG's Office, Judiciary, Bar Association