The Isibindi Model:
Introducing Community Child and Youth Care Workers
Who are child and youth care workers?

International definition of Child and Youth Care Work (Educational Consortium.. http://www.cyc-net.org/network.html)

- Frontline/direct workers in the life space of children
- Using daily life events developmentally and therapeutically
- Child focused services which are family centred
- Operationalising child rights in service delivery
- Relational work – engagement and connection
The Isibindi Model

- Model of community-based child & youth care work services (family support/family preservation work)
Working in diverse communities
Isibindi: A comprehensive strategy

- Responsiveness to key human rights issues:
  - Children & youth
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Poverty & unemployment
  - Rural poverty
  - Women
  - Disability
Isibindi: A social franchise model

- Core replication principles:
  - Accredited child and youth care training
  - Child and youth care mentorship and supervision
  - Partnerships – NACCW, local civil society organizations, government and funders
  - Child and youth care methodology
  - Commitment to build a flexible, accountable work ethic

- Turnkey model to promote scale-up
Isibindi: Child and youth care practice

“The quality of care is not so much a singular question of how the workers feel about the children as it is how they translate their care into actions Maier (1987)

- CYCWs connect with children and build relationships with them through the use of daily life events
- They help the family with basic household chores and educate about general hygiene, gardening, health, nutrition, and household care.
- They cook together with children, teach basic life skills and build resilience – using ordinary human interaction as a context and a means for transcending basic care to meet the emotional needs of children – especially in child-headed and parentless families. Larissa Award - 2012
“……when I come to see them, they run and hug me and they are so happy......................”
Critical success factors

- Isibindi meets a legitimate need
- Cost-effective
- National model adapted to local contexts
- Articulates social policy
- Broad-based ownership of projects – creation – co-ownership – co-creation
- Synergy between the model & the spirit of Ubuntu
- Inclusive of many partners
- Responds to core government strategies
- Job creation – salaries for CYCWs
Isibindi scale-up

SA Government initiative to scale up Isibindi

- 400 Isibindi projects
- 10 000 Child and Youth Care workers
- 1.4 million children
- Within 3 – 5 years
Planned Projects for 2014/15
296 projects
5268 CYCWs
April 2013 – March 2014

- 1st year of implementation
- 225 Isibindi projects operational nationally
- 2743 workers in training (93% of 2934 target reached)
- 97 000 children serviced (77% of 124 731 target reached)
“when Auntie Z came, things changed. I started to dream my dreams again”