

Southern Hemisphere Annual Review: 2015 – 2016

In this newsletter we share some experiences from last year and reflect on what we gained and our lessons from the task. We have been incredibly fortunate to work with organisations that are doing exceptional and exciting work, and our team is just growing from strength to strength.

We have also launched our new website www.southernhemisphere.co.za

Evaluation of the Young Reporters Network Programme of the Children’s Radio Foundation and UNICEF:

The programme was established with the aim of offering youth a sustainable platform, through community radio station partnerships, to formulate and communicate messages on a wide range of issues considered of relevance to youth as well as their local communities. It also aims to contribute to a pro-active youth citizenry. This project offered SH the opportunity to learn more about community radio and also youth radio programmes. I personally learnt a lot about facilitating participatory processes and managing client expectations within such a process. CRF was a great client to work with. **Tracey Philips, Project Manager, SH**

Quality assessments of evaluations in the National Evaluation Framework: We were sub-contracted as part of a team lead by PDG to conduct quality assessments of government evaluations for DPME (The Presidency). The task involved making use of DPME’s quality assessment system to assess evaluations undertaken by government on their programmes and services. This task has given us good insight and understanding of the standards required for conducting government evaluations. **Cathy Chames, Project Manager, SH**

Coordination of Social Protection Policies for the ILO: Following on from their study conducted in 2013/2014 on Coordination of Social Protection Policies in Zambia for ILO, SH was asked to develop a background and learning resource for a course on Social Protection Floor Coordination which is one module or component of an overall training curriculum on “Principles and Mechanisms for Implementing and Monitoring Social Protection Floors”. The target group for the training includes a range of government and civil society stakeholders working in the social protection sector in Southern Africa. This task gave us an opportunity to use our knowledge on Social protection Coordination to produce a practical toolkit. SH was also invited to pilot aspects of this module with government stakeholders from a range of African countries in Kenya in 2015. **Cathy Chames, Project Manager, SH**

Evaluation of the Implementation of the Safer South Africa Programme on Violence Against Women and Children for UNICEF SA – The “Safer South Africa for Women and Children: Improved Security and Justice for Women, Girls and Boys” programme (“the programme”) funded by DFID, is a joint initiative between UNICEF and UNFPA in partnership with Save the Children and the government of South Africa. The key overall purpose of this evaluation is to learn lessons and make recommendations for future programmes in the country and region. The SH team gained good experience and understanding of implementation of GBV prevention programmes in the SA context. SH received a good rating from the quality assessments of the evaluation by both DFID and UNICEF Regional office. SH also had the opportunity to join the panel of experts and present the lessons learnt and recommendations from the evaluation at the *Mail & Guardian* critical thinking forum hosted by M&G in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in September 2015. **Cathy Chames, Project Manager, SH**

Southern Hemisphere has been making an invaluable contribution to the Sector by evaluating a multi-sectorial programme to prevent violence against women and children funded by the UK Department for International Aid and identifying best practices which will be shared both within and outside South Africa. We are extremely grateful to the team for the good work they carried out in 2015 and for their extraordinary commitment to accelerate the realization of children's rights in South Africa. **Patrizia Benvenuti, Chief of Child Protection, United Nations Children's Fund, South Africa**

Evaluation of USAID Botswana Health Systems Strengthening Projects – USAID supported two key activities in Botswana between 2011 to 2015 for Health Systems Strengthening: The Maatla Civil Society Strengthening Project (implemented by FHI360), and the Tsela Kgopo Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) & Gender Project (Implemented by PCI). Southern Hemisphere was commissioned to conduct a performance and lessons learnt evaluation of both. This provided an opportunity to further expand our work in Botswana, and to gain deeper insight into working in hard to reach areas around district level strengthening. **Wilma Wessels-Ziervogel and Dena Lomofsky, co-Project Managers, SH**

Ikamva MEL systems development – Southern Hemisphere has been providing support for the development of MEL systems across two departments within Ikamva Labantu: Early Childhood Development and Seniors Departments. The deliverables of this intensive capacity development process were an M&E plan, data collection tools, reporting formats, an M&E guideline document, and a strategy for further strengthening MEL within Ikamva Labantu; all of which the participants developed with the support of the consultant. We will continue to support Ikamva Labantu in implementing their M&E strategy in 2016. This process has provided the opportunity for us to pilot a longer term capacity development model over more than one year. **Wilma Wessels-Ziervogel, Project Manager, SH**

Mapping study on Community Based Early Childhood Development: Following the completion of the UNICEF NYHQ research on community based Early Childhood development services in developing countries, SH was contracted by UNICEF Rwanda to conduct an ECD mapping study. The study aimed to provide clear policy recommendations for the way forward and for scale-up of ECD services to facilitate universal provision of quality ECD services to the most deprived children. This task gave us the opportunity to further our knowledge and experience in the field of Early Childhood Development in community settings in a developing country, and to further develop our case study approach for documenting implementation models and identifying what works in different contexts. SH applied the “Community Based Child Care toolkit” that we developed for UNICEF NY as part of the previous study. This is based on the Monitoring for Equity and Results framework (MORES). As part of the assignment SH established a good network of consultants from Rwanda. **Nana Davies, Project Manager, SH**

As a freelance contractor to SH for research fieldwork, I have participated in qualitative data gathering in various NGOs and government research studies and programme evaluations since 2012. It has been a rewarding experience to work with the team from Southern Hemisphere. Many times I found myself in the remotest locations of our country yet still connected to the team of people who had a genuine interest for my wellbeing, operating with extreme efficiency and support during projects. I firmly believe that every study has contributed positively to my own development. **Bongani Manzini, Associate and senior consultant**

Evaluation of the International Growth Centre (IGC) for DFID. Southern Hemisphere was contracted by GSDI to be part of an evaluation team assessing the success of the IGC's policy influence strategies. The project gave us an opportunity to try out Outcome Harvesting as a methodology for evaluation and to explore many other new and potentially interesting methodologies for evaluating impact. It also gave us an opportunity to work on a multi-country study crossing three continents, and to meet exciting and

dynamic people. **Evaluator, Dena Lomofsky**

Public training in 2015: 72 people were trained in a variety of M&E skills during our short public courses in 2015. A highlight was conducting training in Swakopmund, Namibia for 10 participants on Southern Hemisphere's *Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for Development Projects* course. SH completed a total of 11 in-house trainings in 2015. A highlight for 2015 was M&E design training and mentoring for 4 sectors (ECD, Arts & Culture, Food Security and Education) for Tshikululu Social Investments. A total of 87 participants (59 organisations) were trained and mentored to enable each organisation to develop a baseline plan and M&E framework. We also conducted our second on-line course in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for Policy Influence together with Politics and Ideas who are an inspiration to work with. Another highlight has been to design and implement training courses for CLEAR and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. **The Training Team**

"Working with Dena always entails opening a window to very fresh and practical ideas on monitoring, evaluation and learning. She communicates with others in a very candid and warm way helping them discover where concrete opportunities are to make one step forward, based on her wide experience which she shares generously. I hope our joint work continues in 2016!" **Vanesa Weyrauch, Politics and Ideas**

From nothing to a huge success! That is what happens when you work with Southern Hemisphere staff. I met with them briefly in May 2015 to discuss the possibility of a joint SAMEA event for the Western Cape. Before long we had high profile speakers and excellent marketing strategies that resulted in a very successful breakfast event in September 2015. A great team effort. These are great people to work with. **Dr Mark Abrahams, SAMEA Western Cape**

We have worked with Southern Hemisphere in a number of capacities including running training in theory of change, running a course at UCT, undertaking national evaluations. You have a very practical and facilitatory style which is good to work with, and helps build engagement of participants. Carry on the good work, and make sure you train lots of people in these skills. **Ian Goldman, Head, Evaluation & Research, DPME**

What our children think we do at Southern Hemisphere:

Emma 15 years old: "You are a human rights and social development consultant. So that means that when rich people put money in to a project you will research to find out whether it was a good project. You travel a lot to countries and areas where people are poor".

Amelie 5 years old - "You help people think"

Sophie 9 years – "you help children who don't have a lot"

Leo 11 years old – "you are a consultant and you help in child development"

Suri 2 years old ...she just says I work with Casey (Tracey)!!

Leah 9 years old – "You help people with training"

We are looking forward to another great year ahead helping people in the pursuit of social justice.

