

Definitions:

OVC:	Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (the housing component of the Vulamasango CYCC)
Child:	Resident under the care of Vulamasango OVC of any age
CYCC:	Child and Youth Care Centre
Pedagogical committee:	Comprises of the CEO, the Project Manager, the Director Childcare, a member from the childcare team, a member from medical care team and the social worker. This committee shall select a task team to review each case. The respective housemother in whose house the child would be placed would be part of the then selected interview panel.
DCC:	Director Child Care: responsible for the pedagogical section of Vulamasango CYCC
Family:	Child's biological family; Guardians with whom the child lived if the child was not living with the biological family; Legal guardians appointed by the Children's Court
ESW:	Social Worker assigned by the Social Services Department
ISW:	Social Worker working for Vulamasango as part of staff
IDP:	Individual Development Plan. The Pedagogical Committee and the ESW structure this when the child is placed in the OVC.

Exit Strategies

This policy tabulates the various methods to be employed by the organisation to ensure a fair and balanced exit from the OVC. The decision as to which methodology will be used will be taken by management after deliberating with the pedagogical committee.

1. Reunification

A reunification process shall be attempted as per the specifications of the children's act. Should the parents of the child not be in a position to take care of the young person, the organisation shall use whatever resources available to ensure the child gets a home outside the OVC.

As reunification is highly dependent on favorable factors at home, it is essential to coordinate services with the social worker rendering reunification services. This will be done through ongoing contact with ESW rendering reunification services, as well as with the parents/family members/significant others as applicable.

Regular communication regarding progress and planning must be maintained and recorded.

Staff must report their observations on the parents and the child to the ESW through the Director Child Care so it may be taken into consideration in the discussions.

The child's input and other stakeholders shall always be taken into consideration.

The best interest of the child or children in case of siblings shall always take precedence.

Procedure for Reunification of a child with family

The external social worker shall make the recommendation to Vulamasango in writing.

Parents who wish to start the reunification process with their child must ask the ESW in writing.

They may send the request to the DCC who will then communicate with the ESW.

The Director Child Care with the aid of the Pedagogical Committee shall take all notes and feelings from the child on the matter into consideration. It is important to manage expectations.

Vulamasango Child and Youth Care Centre Exit Strategies



P.O. Box 177
Observatory 7935 / South Africa
Tel. / Fax: +27 (0)21-371 52 46
Mobile: +27 (0)84-415 35 50
info@vulamasango.org
www.vulamasango.org

Vulamasango shall always request an investigation and a written report on the family from the ESW handling the case.

Vulamasango may request a meeting between the ESW and the DCC/ management committee or the entire Pedagogical Committee should there be conflicting views on the case.

When the recommendation has been received and accepted the child must be prepared for the process. All aspects of the child's development must be taken into consideration including but not limited to feelings of anxiety, school progress, etc. Good planning and timing is of the utmost importance.

The DCC/ISW must then start the process with the child to resolve any feelings of anxiety around the matter. This process must cover the feelings of the child on the entire process, changing homes, making new friends, changing schools, etc.

Once the child has started the process of reunification, the other children may then be informed. The child must be informed when this is to be done and should be included as far possible.

All reports should be filled and all documentation (transfer/ Notice of movement of child) must be completed and a copy must be submitted along with a copy of the court order once received.

The DCC must sit with the housemother to plan for the packing and moving out of the child
The school must be informed and a transfer document must be obtained should the child be changing schools

All personal documents of the child must be handed over when the child leaves, i.e. their birth certificate, school reports and certificates, photographs and other memorabilia from his stay.

The parents must sign, as proof of receipt and copies of the above-mentioned documents must be kept on file.

The DCC must see to it that the child is afforded an opportunity to say goodbye to others
Release forms must be signed and copies filed

Education

Vulamasango will always strive to give all young people in the OVC the best opportunities to acquire the best education to enable them to meet the minimum requirements to get into an institution of higher learning. Through the After School Care program young people will receive assistance with their school materials and be allocated tutors through partner organisations.

On the last year of high school Vulamasango shall always assist young people to apply and get into an institution of higher learning. Each young person will have to apply for accommodation at that institution. The Project Manager shall be responsible to ensure that every young person is part of this program and all the necessary applications are sent on time with the relevant information.

University residence shall be used as the home for all youths who leave project after matric or when they become of age, as per the *Vulamasango CYCC Admission Policy*. This is in the case of young people who cannot be reunified with their biological families and cannot be placed in families outside the project.

Vulamasango Alumni

This is a group of young people who have gone through the training programs in the Vulamasango After School Care. The group is comprised of both residential and non-

residential youths. Its core function is to function as a support group for youths who leave the everyday ASC programs.

An exit program will be done through the life skills program. Young people will be equipped with skills sufficient for them to flourish on their own. They will be further assisted with reaching out to a greater support system.

All work done with the individual shall always be recorded in their respective file. This is to make an allowance for improving the methodology used by the organisation in preparing the young people for leaving the OVC. Keeping record also improves the continued work with the young person after leaving OVC.

Psychological interventions

Each child shall work with the resident social worker and with the assigned social worker as per the regulations of the South African Department Social Development towards the OVC. The organisation through a pedagogical team shall sit and evaluate all cases of children in the OVC and make all recommendations for children who need additional emotional assistance.

Financial support

Young people who leave the OVC are no longer entitled to financial support from the organisation.

Young people will not be allowed to ask Vulamasango sponsors for money using the name of the organisation.

Vulamasango will no longer be responsible for the accommodation of these young people unless under the cases covered in exceptions.

Exceptions

Young people who do not have accommodation in Cape Town may be offered temporary accommodation in the OVC. This offer will be subject to the availability of space and the capability of the young person to be integrated back into a house on a temporary basis.

The offer shall not be for more than a year full time stay and not more than the stipulated holiday period if person is staying at institution.

The offer shall only be extended to young people who need accommodation for a specified period.

Young people who choose not to attend any apprenticeships or university will not be given an offer for accommodation as per the specifications of the South African Children's Act.

Financial Incentives

1. **Final Year Incentive:** All young people in the CYCC shall be offered a financial incentive upon their completion of Matric.

Calculation: The amount will be calculated as follows: The individuals' average percentage multiplied by 50. The total shall then be a rand value that will be given to the young person in January towards them furthering their education. This shall be a gift to the young person and the individual will not have to submit any proof of expenditure to the organisation.

2. **Further Financial Assistance:** This shall be limited to monies needed by the young person to settle into new accommodation at university or to afford the basic needs at any stage within their tertiary education.

Procedure: No young person shall be given money without working for it within the organisation in any way that may fit into the needs of the organisation at the time. They shall then earn the money through the work done.