# CoMMiC Webinar







**The importance of the Committee on Morbidity and Mortality in Children (CoMMiC)**

## The Fifth Triennial Report of the Committee on Morbidity and Mortality in Children (COMMIC)

**Date: 20 October 2026**
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health
Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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# What is CoMMiC?



**Committee on Morbidity and Mortality in Children under 5 Years**

- Ministerial advisory committee established in **2008**
- Appointed by the Minister of Health for a three-year term
- Prepare and submit a report at the end of each term, including actionable recommendations to strengthen programme implementation and performance.
- Coordinated through the National Department of Health Child Health and Child Nutrition Programme
- Composed of paediatricians, nurses, researchers, public health experts and provincial representatives
- Provides advice ensuring independent technical oversight

# Why CoMMiC matters?



**Child mortality remains a national priority**

South Africa has made progress:

- Under-5 mortality rate declined from **31.4 per 1,000 live births in 2020** to **28.6 in 2024**
- Infant mortality declined from **24.5 to 22.9 per 1,000 live births**

However:

- Nearly 78% of under-5 deaths occur within the first year of life
- Many child deaths remain preventable

# CoMMiC Primary Purpose



**To Reduce Childhood Morbidity and Mortality**

CoMMiC achieves this by:

- ✅ Reviewing mortality and morbidity data
- ✅ Identifying causes of illness and death
- ✅ Analysing contributory and modifiable factors
- ✅ Developing recommendations to prevent future deaths
- ✅ Monitoring implementation of recommendations

# Sources of Evidence Used by CoMMiC



**Evidence-Based Decision Making**

CoMMiC analyses information from:

- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)
- District Health Information System (DHIS)
- Child Healthcare Problem Identification Programme (Child PIP)
- Provincial and district reports
- International child mortality estimates (UNIGME)

**With this data**

- CoMMiC Identifies Major Causes of Child Death
- Identifying Modifiable Factors

# CoMMiC Strengthens the Health Systems



**Driving Better Quality of Care**

Recommendations have promoted:

- ETAT (Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment)
- IMCI implementation
- Improved nutrition management
- Child death reviews
- Better referral systems
- Enhanced newborn and paediatric care
- Improved monitoring and accountability

# Impact of CoMMiC Work



**Achievements and Contributions**

- Produced regular triennial reports
- Improved understanding of child mortality patterns
- Guided national child strategies
- Promoted better use of child mortality data
- Strengthened implementation of child nutrition and clinical programmes
- Supported evidence-based planning and budgeting

# Why CoMMiC Must Continue



**The Value of an Independent Technical Advisory Committee**

Without CoMMiC:

- Important trends may be missed
- Lessons from child deaths may not be translated into action
- Accountability may weaken
- Opportunities to prevent deaths could be lost

With CoMMiC:

✓ Data informs action

✓ Evidence drives policy and strategies

✓ Child deaths lead to improvements

✓ More children survive and thrive

# Conclusion



**"Counting Every Child, Learning from Every Death, Saving Every Possible Life"**

**CoMMiC remains a vital national mechanism for improving child survival, strengthening health systems and ensuring that South Africa continues to reduce preventable childhood morbidity and mortality.**

# THANK YOU





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