Social Development

The Department of Social Development is responsible for the development of national policies and legislation, the development of national norms and standards, providing implementation support to the provincial departments of social development and monitoring and evaluating the range of social development programmes. Social development is a concurrent function, with the responsibility for most of the service delivery vesting with provincial departments.

In January 2000, the Minister of Social Development, Dr Zola Skweyiya, identified 10 priorities to be addressed over a five-year period:

- restoring the ethics of care and human development in all welfare programmes. This includes the rebuilding of family, community and social relations to promote social integration.
- developing and implementing an integrated poverty-eradication strategy that provides direct benefits for those who are in need, within a sustainable development approach.
- developing a comprehensive social security system that links contributory and non-contributory schemes, prioritising the most vulnerable households.

◀ The delivery of social grants and assistance to needy families were accelerated during 2002, with October being dedicated to the needs of children. By September 2002, over 2,21 million children were receiving grants.
The acceleration of the registration process will continue in 2003.

- responding to the brutal effects of all forms of violence against women and children, including strategies to deal with perpetrators.
- providing a range of services to support community-based care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS as well as those affected, such as AIDS orphans.
- developing a national strategy to reduce youth criminality and unemployment within the framework of the National Crime Prevention Strategy.
- making social welfare services accessible and available to people in rural, peri-urban and informal settlements, as well as ensuring equity in service provision.
- redesigning services to people with disabilities to promote their human rights and economic development.
- basing welfare work on a commitment to co-operative governance that includes working with different spheres of government and civil society.
- training, educating, redeploying and employing a new category of workers relevant to addressing the development challenges of South Africa.

Recent years have seen significant progress in developing and strengthening the system of social grants (government's key instrument for direct poverty relief), expanding the social safety net, as well as improving administration. In addition, since 1998/99 there has been a progressive shift from the traditional

Social Development Indicators: March 2002

Social Assistance

Number of beneficiaries receiving grants

Province	Aged Persons Grant	Child Support Grant (CSG)	Foster Care Grant	Disability Grant	Care Dependency Grant	War Veterans Grant	Combina-tion of grants	Total
Eastern Cape	400 533	182 740	11 601	160 991	8 623	709	336	765 533
Free State	115 762	82 225	5 994	44 879	1 452	156	64	250 532
Gauteng	228 866	154 122	9 180	69 480	4 264	1 306	107	467 325
KwaZulu-Natal	398 599	285 641	11 960	139 491	11 117	770	536	848 114
Mpumalanga	136 098	99 675	1 492	38 437	1 989	167	11	277 869
Northern Cape	43 103	25 119	4 279	32 805	960	238	121	106 625
Limpopo	297 823	203 079	3 118	67 259	5 097	460	54	576 890
North West	165 442	117 373	2 703	57 246	3 043	152	36	345 995
Western Cape	150 327	104 519	13 499	103 431	4 381	1 366	402	377 925
Total	1 936 553	1 254 493	63 826	714 019	40 926	5 324	1 667	4 016 808

Note: In some cases a beneficiary receives more than one grant, e.g. a parent might receive the CSG for more than one child aged less than six years.

Source: Department of Social Development

welfare model to a social development model, placing more emphasis on addressing the structural causes of poverty and responding to their social manifestations.

Examples of significant recent progress in strengthening the social grant system are that:

- More than 1,4 million children under the age of six were receiving social grants, mainly the Child Support Grant (CSG), by March 2002. Over 60 000 new beneficiaries were being registered for the CSG each month.
- The administration of social security has been rationalised, with the introduction of assessment panels for disability grants, the simplification of the review of eligibility and the removal of the three-month limitation or arrear payments to beneficiaries.
- The work of the Committee of Inquiry into a Comprehensive Social Security System for South Africa covers the social assistance and social protection programmes of the departments of Health, Labour and Transport. Cabinet was considering the Committee's report and public reaction thereto during 2002.
- Norms and standards for social-grant delivery have been developed and planning is

under way for its phased implementation over a three-year period.

- Government has set aside R2 billion to pay grant beneficiaries who had been disadvantaged by the three-month limitation on the accrual of arrears after registration.

With regard to social welfare services, ongoing initiatives include:

- developing new policy in line with the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee on the Abuse, Neglect and Ill-treatment of Older Persons, adopted by Cabinet in February 2001.
- revising the financing subsidies for welfare organisations.
- establishing the Advisory Board on Social Development to advise the Minister on a range of social development issues and to serve as a consultative mechanism.
- a key area of population and development will be the impact of HIV/AIDS, strengthening this focal point in the Department as a whole. The implementation of the National Integrated Plan for Children Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS, focusing on home and community-based care initiatives, which was begun in 2000 in partnership with the

Department of Health, is gathering momentum. A more co-ordinated intersectoral approach to the disease was expected to emerge following a conference of government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders in June 2002.

Legislation

Regulations to the Aged Persons Amendment Act, 1999 (Act 100 of 1999)

The Regulations to the Aged Persons Amendment Act, 1999, were published in August 2000. The Act provides for harsh sentences for those found guilty of abuse of the elderly and establishes a register of such incidents. The Act also provides for the transformation of governing boards of residential facilities and outlaws discrimination in the admission of older persons to such facilities. The original Aged Persons Act, 1967 (Act 81 of 1967), is not entirely consistent with international conventions on the rights and protection of older persons. The Department is drafting a new policy on the Status of Older Persons, with accompanying legislation. The Plan of Action that emerged from the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid, Spain, in April 2002, is informing the process.

New child-care legislation

The South African Law Commission is drafting new comprehensive child-care legislation to replace the existing Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983), which is inconsistent with the Constitution, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), and with the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of the Child. The work of the Law Commission has been in progess for some time, owing to the complexity of the issues concerned. The Commission's Discussion Paper was published in January 2002 for comment and legislation was expected to be tabled in Parliament in the second half of 2002.

Social assistance (social security)

The Regulations for Social Assistance were amended to relax conditions that impeded easy access to grants and promote administrative justice, effective from 1 December 2001. Some of the amendments involve the following:

• The removal of the pensions medical officer for the approval of Disability and Care Dependency grants and the introduction of assessment panels to assess applicants for these grants, in terms of both medical and social factors.

• The payment of grants, if approved, accrues from the date of application for all grant types except for the Foster Care Grant, in which case accrual begins from the date of the court order.

• The process of reviews of grants has been streamlined. Only applicants who declare their means of income at the time of the application are required to have an annual review of their grant. Those who have no means are only required to submit a life certificate on an annual basis to verify that they are alive. Those who collect their grants through biometrics and have no means are neither required to submit life certificates nor to have their grants reviewed.

• Previously, the Care Dependency Grant was only available to parents and foster parents of children. It is now also available to custodians and guardians. Personal income has replaced household income as the means-test indicator, thus increasing the income exclusion level for applicants.

The Department is in the process of developing policy on social relief of distress, creating uniform service standards across all provinces. The Committee of Inquiry into a Comprehensive Social Security System included recommendations in this regard.

Payment of social grants

More than four million social grants were paid in March 2002 to means-tested recipients in certain categories of older persons, persons with disabilities and families with children. These payments have been relatively effective in reaching the rural poor, a group which is difficult to reach with other government services and programmes.

The CSG, which was introduced in March 1998 to widen the safety net, continues to increase its take-up rate. The Grant is paid to caregivers with children up to and including the age of six years. The caregiver need not be the biological parent of the child. In the first year of the CSG's implementation, there were just over 58 000 children receiving payment. By March 2002, this had increased to 1,4 million children. The aim government is to register all children eligible for CSGs by 2005.

By September 2002, over 2,21 million children were receiving grants, including the CSG, Care Dependency and Foster Care grants. A further large proportion of the beneficiaries of social grants are the elderly (1,9 million). Women qualify at the age of 60 years, and men at the age of 65.

The Disability Grant is paid to people who have been assessed as permanently or temporarily disabled.

Foster Care grants are paid to caregivers of children who have been placed with them by the courts. Caregivers of disabled children up to the age of 18 years are eligible for the Care Dependency Grant, and once the child turns 18 years he or she is eligible for the Disability Grant.

The total budget allocation for the payment of social assistance by the provincial departments of social development was R21,4 billion for 2001/02 and this is expected to reach R25,2 billion in 2002/03. During 2002, a campaign to increase registrations for social grants was implemented.

Committee of Inquiry into a Comprehensive Social Security System

In May 2000, the Committee of Inquiry was established to investigate and present options to Cabinet for a comprehensive and affordable system of social protection for South Africa. In addition to considering the gaps in coverage of the existing system of social assistance, the Committee was tasked to consider other forms of protection provided by government in the areas of health, labour and transport. During 2000, the Committee conducted extensive research, which included bench-marking against systems in other countries, and public hearings. The first comprehensive report of the Committee was submitted to the Ministerial Subcommittee in March 2002. Cabinet was considering the report and public reaction thereto during 2002.

Improving the existing system of social assistance

Even prior to the finalisation of the report of the Committee of Inquiry into a Comprehensive Social Security System, the Department was aware of the urgent need to bring about major improvements to the current service-delivery processes. This need was reinforced by the Minister's programme of provincial visits, which revealed poor quality of service delivery, especially to people in the rural areas.

In November 2000, the Department embarked on the National Norms and Standards Project, which will form the basis for re-engineering service delivery in the area of social assistance. The Department completed a detailed and comprehensive analysis of all the provinces on administration and management of end-to-end processes, which includes:
• control procedures
• the extent to which customer care is provided in adherence to *Batho Pele* principles
• organisational performance in the area of social security

- human resources and skills
- financial management
- information technology systems and infra-structure
- availability of service points and office space in each provincial, regional, district and satellite office.

As part of the Norms and Standards Project, the Department also undertook an audit of more than 7 000 pension pay-points in the country. The final report proposed norms and standards for implementation over the short, medium and long term. Cabinet has approved the recommended norms and standards. Specifications for the new grant payment system have been developed and the design of the system will commence in 2002/03.

Poverty-relief programme

In addition to the provision of social assistance, the Department also manages the Poverty-relief Programme for the 10 social development departments. This Programme is funded through a special allocation from the Poverty Relief, Infrastructure and Job Creation Fund of the National Treasury, and aims to assist communities in a range of developmental projects.

Steady progress is being made with the Poverty-relief Programme. In 2001/02, some 365 new poverty-relief projects were estab-lished country-wide through a budget of R50 million. These were in addition to projects continuing to receive support from previous years. In the 2002/03 financial year, the poverty-relief allocation will increase to R100 million. Most of the projects are located in the three provinces with the highest poverty rates, namely the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo (formerly the Northern Province).

The Poverty-relief Programme targets vulnerable groups, namely women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities. Over a three-year period, it is estimated that 60 000 people will have earned wages generated through poverty-relief projects. In the coming years, the Department has prioritised the areas of food security, centres for engaging older persons in economic activities, support for community-based initiatives in the area of HIV/AIDS, youth skills development in the context of urban renewal, economic empowerment of women, support for initiatives that integrate the capacities of persons with disabilities into the Poverty-relief Programme, and income-generating projects.

Responding to the impact of HIV/AIDS

The national Department of Social Development has developed a social development framework for an integrated and co-ordinated response to HIV/AIDS. The framework includes sourcing reliable research and information; the provision of social protection to those infected and affected, especially children; protection of children's rights; provision of services; special programmes such as the Home-based/Community-based Care Programme; empowerment of women; and the capacitating of officials to deal with HIV/AIDS. The Department's response to HIV/AIDS is underpinned by working in partnership with other government departments, NGOs, community-based organisations (CBOs), faith-based

Information

In an effort to improve the living conditions of poor households, Cabinet proposed immediate increases in old-age pensions, Child Support, Foster Care and the Care Dependency grants to Parliament in October 2002.

According to the proposal, the monthly payments would increase as follows:
- Old-age pensions with R20 from R620 to R640
- Child Support Grant with R10 from R130 to R140
- Grant aid from R120 to R130
- Foster Care Grant from R450 to R460
- Care Dependency Grant from R620 to R640.

It was expected and intended that these increases would be effective immediately.

It is believed that the increases will complement the intensified campaign to register all citizens eligible for social security grants.

organisations (FBOs), the business sector, volunteers and international agencies.

Home-based/community-based care

The Department is implementing the Programme of Home-based/Community-based Care in conjunction with the departments of Health and of Education. The Programme forms part of an integrated programme of the three departments. The in-tegrated programme provides life skills for children and youth, voluntary testing and counselling services and a range of care and support services focusing on families and children orphaned through the AIDS-related deaths of their parents. There has been significant progress with regard to the initial implementation of home/community-based care and support. The Programme was established in the first six sites and then rolled out to 49 sites country-wide. Vulnerable children and their families have been identified and are receiving assistance that is provided by trained volunteers recruited from the same communities. In addition, communities that are impacted on by HIV/AIDS are assisted to establish programmes to address high poverty levels and food security. Partnerships with international organisations, NGOs, CBOs, and FBOs in the fight against AIDS are being strengthened.

In addition to the projects initiated by the three departments, the Department of Social Development supports a number of community-initiated care and support projects. With the increasing demand for these services by families and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, the Department will be expanding this project over the next three years. Special attention is being given to integrate the Home/Community-based Care and Support Programme in all programmes of the Department, nationally and provincially.

In 2002/03, the Department will significantly expand the Programme for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS. The provincial departments have been allocated a total of R46,5 million for the Programme and the national Department has received R1,5 million. This is a significant increase over the R13,4 million allocated in 2001/02. In 2001, about 50 000 vulnerable children benefited from the Programme.

Developing capacity

The Department, in collaboration with the South African Management Development Institute, has developed a curriculum for planners, analysts and researchers in the public sector (national, provincial and local governments) to develop a common basic understanding of the impact of HIV/AIDS on service delivery. The programme was launched in the second half of 2001 and is expected to reach 3 000 officials over a period of three years. The programme is being presented in all provinces, and is run by universities across the country. Over 1 500 planners from all three spheres of government had attended the course by early 2002.

Research

In September 2000, the Department published its first report on the *State of South Africa's Population*, which provides an informative overview of the major population and development challenges facing the country. The theme for the 2002 report was *The Paradoxes of HIV/AIDS*. There are a variety of HIV/AIDS awareness, care and support programmes initiated by communities and NGOs. To improve its responses to HIV/AIDS, the Department has proceeded to evaluate and document these programmes to facilitate the sharing of good-practice models with other departments, communities and organisations involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Partnerships

Since 2000, the Department has strengthened its partnership with national and international organisations involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Department chairs the National

AIDS Children's Task Team (NACTT), a multi-sectoral task team focusing on the care and support of children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF conducted studies on caring for vulnerable children and children orphaned through AIDS-related illnesses, as well as studies on the cost-effectiveness of six models of care for vulnerable children. The Department has implemented the results of UNICEF's studies in its designs of programmes for children. UNICEF has indicated interest in providing further support to the Department in fast-tracking the Home-based/Community-based Care Programme.

Save the Children Fund

This organisation provides secretariat and other assistance to the NACTT and has undertaken research on abused children and children affected by HIV/AIDS. It compiled a directory of services and children's organisations.

FBOs and the business sector

The Department has strengthened its partnership with churches and other FBOs, the business sector and volunteer organisations and individuals to assist with the poverty relief, HIV/AIDS and social grant registration programmes.

Promoting and protecting rights of vulnerable groups

Children and youth

In addition to social assistance to children through the CSG and the Foster Care Grant, the Department facilitates the provision of services to children and youth through the provincial departments of social development and NGOs.

Child abuse and neglect

Fighting child abuse and neglect is a priority

of the Department, as illustrated by the following initiatives:

- Developing a computerised Child Protection Register. The Department held 17 workshops to train provincial officials, members of the Child Protection Unit of the South African Police Service (SAPS) and members of national NGOs on the implementation of the Register.
- Facilitating the development of protocols on the management of child abuse and neglect cases.
- Facilitating the development of an intersectoral Child Abuse and Neglect Strategy.
- Representing South Africa on International Social Services.
- The Department, as the Registrar for Adoptions, registered 2 605 new adoptions during 2001/02.

Integrated Justice System (IJS)

The IJS Project ensures the integration of the management of cases and offenders through four departments, namely the SAPS, and the departments of Justice and Constitutional Development, Correctional Services and Social Development, supported by enabling technologies. A number of projects were initiated to this end. These include the Awaiting-trial Prisoner Project.

Children awaiting trial in any residential-care facility are a priority of the Department of Social Development. Active participation from the provincial social service representatives and management teams yield positive results. An interdepartmental committee of senior officials monitors cases of children awaiting trial.

The computerised Child Protection Register has been developed and technological improvements in the SAPS Crime Administration System enable the four departments to track children through the System and assist in the monitoring of their cases. The Court Process Project provides for the electronic management of court processes from arrest to final court appearances. The Project is increasing efficiency and reducing court

delays. The Department of Social Development runs six pilot sites.

Older persons

The Ministerial Committee to investigate the nature and causes of abuse, neglect and ill-treatment of older persons revealed an alarming level of abuse, neglect and ill-treatment of the elderly by families, institutions and government services. Cabinet adopted the recommendations of the Committee and implementation of these recommendations is in progress.

The main recommendations of the Committee include:
- significantly improving social-assistance service delivery to older persons
- accelerating the transformation of residential homes for older persons
- increasing the support for community-based care and non-residential services to older persons
- introducing new legislation that complies with the Constitution and with the international conventions on the rights of older persons.

Women

Social development services to women are a priority. It derives from the premise and concern that the inequality that exists between men and women in South Africa is deeply entrenched and has characterised South African society for many decades. Women are subjected to discrimination, exploitation and violence despite the Constitution, which affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. An unprecedented effort is therefore required to ensure that the status of women is elevated to protect their rights and speed up gender equality.

Economic empowerment

The Department established the Flagship Programme: Developmental Programmes for Unemployed Women with Children under Five Years. This aims to provide economic and developmental opportunities and services to unemployed women with children under the age of five years, living in deep rural areas and previously disadvantaged informal settlements. Sixteen projects have been designed to create income that is distributed among the participating women.

The various projects include activities such as eating houses, overnight facilities, car washes, beauty salons, vegetable gardens, garment-making, poultry and egg production, bread-baking, leather works, offal-cleaning, child-minding, and paper-and-fabric printing. Some 727 women and 646 children are benefiting from the Programme. The Flagship Programme has developed a creative form of early childhood intervention, which provides developmentally appropriate education to children younger than five to increase their chances of healthy growth and development.

A partnership between the Department and Transnet has led to the donation of old containers to communities in rural areas. These are repaired and refurbished for use by the communities as one-stop service centres or multi-purpose centres from which a range of services can be provided.

Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP)

Some 120 projects have been established since the inception of the VEP in 1998. The projects provide trauma support and counselling services to the victims of violence and crime. Some of these projects focus on empowering community workers and professionals in skills and knowledge for effective delivery of services to the victims of violence and crime.

One such meaningful project, which had been provided with technical and financial support through the VEP, is the Stop Abuse Help-line of the Johannesburg Life Line.

One-stop centres for abused women and children

The VEP is a major role-player in the joint agreement between the Department of Social Development and the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention on the establishment of one-stop centres for women and children who are victims of abuse, especially domestic violence. Two such centres are already operating as pilot projects in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga.

Anti-rape Strategy

The Interdepartmental Management Team (IDMT) comprises representatives from the departments of Health, Safety and Security, and Social Development and the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit of the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions. The IDMT was tasked by the departments' Ministers to develop an anti-rape strategy for the prevention of sexual violence against women and children.

People with disabilities

Social assistance in the form of the Disability Grant was received by 714 019 beneficiaries by March 2002. The Department also provides assistance to people with disabilities through the Poverty-relief Programme and subsidies to national councils. The national councils supported by the Department are the:
- National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities
- Deaf Federation of South Africa
- South African National Epilepsy League
- South African Federation for Mental Health
- Cancer Association of South Africa.

The provincial departments of social development provide subsidies for workshops where people with disabilities are trained in basic production skills. During 2000/01, the Department reviewed the procedures for assessing applicants for the Disability Grant and proposed amendments to the Regulations of the Social Assistance Act, 1992 (Act 20 of 1992). The amendments provide for the use of com-munity-based assessment panels as an alternative to district surgeons who are not easily accessible to people in rural areas. The Committee of Inquiry into a Comprehensive Social Security System made recommendations to improve social protection for people with disabilities.

Transforming the sector

Non-profit Organisations (NPO) Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997)

Registration and reporting of organisations in terms of the NPO Act, 1997 has increased substantially since its inception. By March 2002, a total of 11 351 organisations had been registered. CBOs comprised 90% of this number, with the remainder being trusts (6%) and Section 21 companies (4%).

During 2001/02, a total of 1 800 final 30-day notices were sent to NPOs that had failed to submit the necessary reports. Response to this notice of deregistration was remarkable in that only 298 (17%) were deregistered for failure to submit reports. A total of 40 of these organisations applied for appeal, 27 of which qualified. The Panel of Arbitrators considered the 27 appeals; nine were upheld and 18 denied.

A Code of Good Practice for the non-profit sector has been developed. The Code relates to good practice for running an organisation, managing finances and codes of good practice for fund-raising. The Code has been translated into several official languages including isiZulu, Sesotho and Afrikaans.

Workshops to assist organisations to register were conducted in areas such as Umtata, Queenstown, Polokwane (formerly Pietersburg), Timvumbeni, Bushbuckridge, Kwa-Mhlanga, Ulundi, Kokstad and Ladysmith. These workshops often serve as a platform not only for registration and reporting but also to provide information on other departmental services and other funding institutions such as the National Lottery and National Development Agency (NDA).

Statutory bodies

National Development Agency

The NDA was transferred from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Social Development in October 2001. It is a statutory funding agency, whose primary focus areas are to contribute towards the eradication of poverty and its causes, and to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to combat poverty. The NDA replaced the Transitional National Development Trust.

A Board representing government and civil society governs the NDA and the Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer. Its primary sources of income are an annual allocation from the Department of Social Development (R92 million in 2001/02) and donor funding.

Relief boards

The Fund-raising Act, 1978 (Act 107 of 1978), provides for relief boards to provide social relief to people in distress, through disasters or displacement from another country.

Approximately R64 million was paid out by the Disaster Relief Board in 2001/02, of which more than half were to beneficiaries in Limpopo.

Central Drug Authority (CDA)

Strategic and business plans have been developed, specifically to facilitate the implementation of the South African National Drug Master Plan (NDMP) that was adopted by Cabinet in 1999. The business plan takes cognisance of the basic proposals and priorities identified in the NDMP to counter the drug problem effectively, e.g. the need to compre-

hensively mobilise national and provincial departments towards taking account of drug-abuse issues in their activities and budgets and to reduce the supply of and demand for drugs.

With regard to drug-demand reduction, various initiatives have been undertaken. For example, the launching of an ongoing national anti-drug awareness programme has been negotiated. Information sheets have been developed and distributed. Numerous media interviews have been awarded on burning issues such as the decriminalisation of the use of dagga (cannabis).

With regard to drug-supply reduction, the CDA has, for example, approached members of the liquor industry in view of increasing self-regulation. Directly and indirectly, CDA members have participated in local efforts against drug syndicates, and in efforts of the Southern African Development Community, the former Organisation of African Unity and international agencies in countering the drug problem on the African continent and abroad.

The groundwork has also been laid for the establishment of a national database on drug issues and a national clearing-house, specifically to ensure evidence-led future initiatives.

The following are some of the additional output, especially on the institutional level, that are expected by the end of March 2003:

• a functioning secretariat
• mini drug master plans from key departments with a responsibility for dealing with drug abuse (Justice, Health, Education, Social Development, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, Finance, Labour, Correctional Services and the SAPS)
• a situation analysis on the nature and extent of provincial and local structures.

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