



# Social Development

Access to social security is a human right. Towards the fulfilment of this right, the Department of Social Development continues to develop and implement an array of programmes that not only protect South Africans against poverty, but also build and strengthen community capacity for self-reliance.

The department's efforts are inspired by its vision of building an inclusive society, based on the full integration of all its members, where children are cared for and protected; the disabled are supported to overcome their activity limitations; and the elderly are still meaningfully engaged in the affairs of their communities.

Therefore, besides social assistance, the department also focuses on providing poor and vulnerable people, particularly young people and women, with the support they need to unleash their potential to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

Together with other government departments, the department is working on job creation strategies targeted at the poor, with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) being a vital component of its combined efforts to create decent employment opportunities. During the past financial year, the department coordinated and directly contributed to the creation of more than 152 109 job opportunities in the social sector, thereby exceeding the annual target of 132 000.

Promoting and protecting the rights of older people and children form the basis for the future development of the country. This is facilitated through intergenerational solidarity and activities that will enable society to rely increasingly on shared skills, experience and wisdom.

Social Development Month, celebrated in October each year, seeks to create greater public awareness of the Department of Social Development's programmes and services to tackle socio-economic challenges. These include poverty, HIV and AIDS, social exclusion, child protection and substance abuse. The theme for 2012 was *Working together to enhance community capacity to fight poverty, unemployment and inequality*.

The Department of Social Development initiated a campaign called *Taking the Department of Social Development to Communities* to foster partnerships between government and community organisations.

Through this campaign, the department will train 580 community development practitioners and 300 community-based organisations on community development and stimulate developmental initiatives in 100 communities. It also partnered Soul City, Seriti Institute and the South African Broadcasting Corporation to launch a 10-part series called *Kwanda Talk* in June 2012.

These collective efforts are also helping to create solidarity and promote social change and social justice, which will contribute towards nation-building efforts.

## Budget

Expenditure increased from R76,1 billion in 2008/09 to R104,3 billion in 2011/12, at an average annual rate of 11,1%, mainly as a result of an extension of the child support grant to 18 years and the equalisation of the old age grant at 60 years. These grants, which use more than 9% of the budget in each financial year, are where the department focuses its spending over the medium term, to boost the income of poor households that suffer the brunt of unemployment, poverty and deep inequalities that persist in South African society.

The number of social grant beneficiaries increased from 13,1 million in 2008/09 to 15,6 million in 2011/12. Over the medium term, expenditure for the payment of social assistance grants is expected to increase to R122 billion, at an average annual rate of 7,9%, to provide for inflation-related increases to the grant values of the individual social assistance grant types. Government plans to pay social grants to 16,8 million beneficiaries by the end of March 2015.

In 2012/13, the department expects to transfer R6,2 billion to the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) to manage and administer the payments of social assistance grants to beneficiaries; R166,3 million to the National Development Agency (NDA); R256 million for

social work bursaries; and R45,6 million for the loveLife programme.

Transfers to departmental agencies are expected to increase from R6,5 billion in 2011/12 to R7,3 billion in 2014/15, at an average annual rate of 3,9%. Transfers, however, increased at a rate lower than inflation over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, due to efficiency savings.

## Legislation and frameworks

The department derives its mandate from the following legislation, among others:

- Advisory Board on Social Development Act, 2001 (Act 3 of 2001)
- Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005)
- Children's Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 41 of 2007)
- Fund-Raising Act, 1978 (Act 107 of 1978)
- Mental Healthcare Act, 2002 (Act 17 of 2002)
- National Welfare Act, 1978 (Act 100 of 1978)
- NDA Act, 1998 (Act 108 of 1998)
- Non-Profit Organisations (NPO) Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997)
- Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006)
- Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence Act, 1992 (Act 20 of 1992)
- Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, 2008 (Act 70 of 2008)
- Probation Services Act, 1991 (Act 116 of 1991)
- Sassa Act, 2004 (Act 9 of 2004)
- Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2008 (Act 6 of 2008)
- Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act 110 of 1978).

The Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act 13 of 2004) has been amended to streamline the resolution of disputes and disagreements about social grants and grant applications between beneficiaries and Sassa. Previously, all disputes had to be referred to the Independent Tribunal.

In terms of the Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2010 (Act 5 of 2010), beneficiaries and other applicants may now ask Sassa to reconsider the relevant decision before appealing to the tribunal. All applications for appeal

must now show that they have gone through the reconsideration process at Sassa. The Act also provides for the appointment of the Independent Tribunal in a way to be prescribed by regulation, and contains a number of technical amendments and corrections.

### Role players

#### Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities

The Ministry for Women, Children and People with Disabilities came into being in May 2009. Its mandate is to advance, develop, promote and protect the rights of women, children and people with disabilities through mainstreaming, lobbying, advocacy, awareness raising, empowerment and monitoring compliance in government and all relevant sectors.

The department is therefore responsible for the effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes that are aimed at empowering and upholding the rights of women, children and people with disabilities.

In fulfilling its mandate, the department works with other government departments, provinces, municipalities, civil society and the private sector.

The platform created by the department has enabled the women, children and people with disabilities sectors to articulate their concerns, needs and challenges, while several key commitments have been made by government to redress these challenges. In addition, it allows participants to reflect on innovative solutions to the economic and social challenges faced by these vulnerable sectors of South African society.

#### National Development Agency (NDA)

The NDA is tasked with supporting the work of civil society in key areas of concern according to the mandate of the Department of Social Development. It is an important partner in the department's efforts to promote early childhood development (ECD) by using its grants to strengthen the capacities of ECD community service organisations.

The organisations will similarly support the department's efforts to reduce violence against women and children by providing key support to the gender-based violence sector.

Its key strategic objectives are:

- granting funds to civil society organisations (CSOs) for meeting the developmental needs of poor communities
- strengthening the institutional capacity of organisations for long-term sustainability
- proactively sourcing funds for achieving its development objectives
- promoting consultation, dialogue and the sharing of developmental experiences to enrich the debate about and influence of developmental policies
- developing strategies for collaboration with local community-development trusts, foundations, government clusters and CSOs.

NDA programmes include funding, capacity-building and research, policy dialogue and impact assessment.

In 2011/12, the NDA disbursed R83 million to projects and approved 53 projects to the value of R78 million. The agency also invested R10,2 million in building capacity of CSO working in the sector of the ECD, vulnerable groups and rural development.

These capacity-building interventions are geared towards ensuring that recipients of grant funding are not only given money to start and run their projects, but that they are empowered with the necessary skills to ensure sustainability beyond NDA funding.

Its mandate includes:

- advancing youth development through guid-

The Child Support Grant reaches 10,6 million children up to the age of 18. In May 2012, the Department of Social Development launched a study examining both the quantitative and qualitative impact of the grant. By law, the grant is linked to regular school and clinic attendance, but these provisions are not always met.

The department has signed a protocol with the Department of Basic Education to confirm school enrolment and attendance of children who receive child support and foster care grants.



- ance and support for initiatives across sectors of society and spheres of government
- embarking on initiatives to advance the economic development of young people
  - developing and coordinating the implementation of the Integrated Youth Development Plan and Strategy
  - guiding efforts and facilitating youth economic participation, empowerment, education and training
  - initiating programmes aimed at combatting crime, substance abuse and social decay among the youth
  - promoting youth interests generally and particularly those of young people with disabilities.

February 2012 saw the launch of the Ithubalentsha Micro Enterprise Programme, which provides young aspirant and established entrepreneurs with training, mentorship, micro-enterprise finance, market linkages and access to business opportunities.

The programme seeks to address the barriers faced by young entrepreneurs through five key areas: identification and technical training, entrepreneurship training, micro-enterprise finance, business mentorship and business opportunities and market linkages.

In July 2012, 10 youths each from South Africa and France participated by working as volunteers in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations

(CBOs) in the two countries through a partnership between the National Youth Development Agency (Nyda), Service Civique (a French institution responsible for voluntary civic service) and loveLife.

Nyda's achievements in 2012 included the following:

- 106 147 youths received non-financial interventions
- R97,2 million in loans were disbursed through micro finance, group, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) lending
- 33 975 loans were issued to micro-enterprises, groups and SMEs
- 73 920 jobs were created
- 7 516 business support consultancy vouchers were issued to youths
- business opportunities worth R193,7 million were sourced and accessed by youths
- 138 990 youths served their communities through participation in the National Youth Service Programme
- 205 Nyda information dissemination and access points were in use.

Through the National Rural Youth Services Corps, 2 500 youths were granted workplace training and 70 were enrolled at the agricultural college to study animal production.

About 1 000 learners were placed on discipline training with the Department of Defence, while others were completing theoretical training at Further Education and Training colleges.

Grants per month, 2012

Grant type	Amount
Old Persons	R1 200
Old Persons (Over 75)	R1 160
Disability	R1 140
War Veterans	R1 160
Foster Child Care	R 770
Care Dependency	R1 140
Child Support	R 280
Grant-in-Aid	R 260

Source: South African Social Security Agency [according to new rates]

### South African Social Security Agency (Sassa)

Sassa's core business is to administer, finance and pay social security transfers. The agency is required to:

- develop and implement policies, programmes, standard operating procedures and systems for an efficient and effective social assistance benefits administration system
- deliver innovative and cost-effective services to beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries through multiple access channels
- pay the right grant to the right person at the right time and place.

Sassa ensures the provision of comprehensive social security services against vulnerability and poverty within the constitutional and legislative framework.

The agency's key functions include the effective management, administration and payment of social assistance, as well as:

- the processing of applications for social assistance, such as social grants, grant-in-aid and social relief of distress
- the verification and timely approval of grant applications
- the management and reconciliation of grant payments to eligible beneficiaries by contractors
- the marketing of social assistance
- quality service assurance by ensuring compliance with norms and standards, and fraud prevention and detection.

### Central Drug Authority

The Central Drug Authority's key functions are:

- giving effect to the National Drug Master Plan
- advising the Minister of Social Development on any matters affecting the substance and drug abuse environment
- promoting measures relating to the prevention and combatting of the abuse of drugs.

### Advisory Board on Social Development

The Advisory Board on Social Development's key functions include:

- advising the Minister on all matters related to social development
- identifying, promoting, monitoring and evaluating policy, legislation and programmes regarding social development
- facilitating dialogue with and the participation of civil society.

### South African Council of Social Service Professionals

The South African Council of Social Service Professionals is a statutory body that promotes and ensures ethical behaviour and attitudes on the part of all social service professionals.

These include social workers, social workers in private practice, social auxiliary workers, community development workers and practitioners, probation officers, assistant probation officers, child and youth care workers, youth workers, ECD practitioners and care workers, including community-based personal care workers.

The council's business is conducted within the framework of the following principles:

- promoting and maintaining a high standard of professional ethics
- promoting efficient, economic and effective use of resources
- being development-oriented
- providing services impartially, fairly, equitable and without bias
- responding to people's needs and encouraging participation in its policy-making
- being accountable
- fostering transparency by providing the public with timely, accessible and accurate information
- good human resource management
- being broadly representative of the South African people, with employment and personnel
- employing management practices based on ability, objectivity, fairness and the need to redress the imbalances of the past to achieve representation.

### National Action Committee for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS

The National Committee for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS is a multisectoral structure made up of government departments, CSOs, development agencies and donor organisations. It is a formal structure used for collaborative planning and decision-making concerning issues pertaining to orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS.

It has a steering committee initiated through consultations between government departments, civil society and NGOs, and is currently composed of representatives of government and civil society. The committee is chaired by the Department of Social Development, and co-chaired by a nominated member from civil society.

### Relief boards

Four relief fund boards were established in terms of Section 16 of the Fund-Raising Act, 1978.

- Board of the Disaster Relief Fund: The key functions of the board are to assist people, organisations and bodies that suffer damage or loss as a result of a disaster.
- Board of the Refugee Relief Fund: The key functions are to assist refugees as the board may deem fair and reasonable.
- Board of the State President's Fund: This board's functions are to assist victims of any act of terrorism in respect of their medical treatment and rehabilitation, and assist such victims and their dependants during any financial hardship or financial distress caused directly or indirectly by any act of terrorism.
- Board of the Social Relief Fund: The key functions of the board are to make funds available to organisations capable of assisting people with psychosocial challenges, and rendering such social distress relief to victims of violence.

### Non-profit organisations (NPOs)

The NPO Directorate of the Department of Social Development was established in terms of the NPO Act, 1997 to administer the Register of NPOs in South Africa.

The Register of NPOs is a voluntary registration facility that enhances the credibility of the registered NPO as it reports to a public office. Registration promotes effective, efficient and accountable management within the sector. To strengthen the capacity of NPOs, the department will continue to build their capacity and monitor their compliance to legislation.

During 2011/12, the department received 18 488 new applications for registration from CBOs for NPO registration status. The NPO database increased from 44 222 NPOs in March 2007 to 84 996 at the end of March 2012.

In 2011, Minister and members of executive council (MinMec) approved a policy on the financing of NPOs. This new policy will be

implemented on an incremental basis, which started in 2012/13 to ensure that NPOs deliver on both statutory welfare services and developmental priorities of government.

To improve communication between government and civil society on matters of mutual concern, the department hosted a civil society summit in August 2012.

The department's support to CBOs includes:

- the development of guidelines for CBOs
- 220 CBOs and 152 community development practitioners have been trained on these guidelines
- hosting the Inaugural Summit for the Professionalisation of Community Development in October 2011.

CBOs and NPOs are integral to the success of community development.

One of the functions of the department is to monitor all registered NPOs in terms of their compliance to the NPO Act. The compliance rate has improved by 26%. Training was provided to 1 200 NPOs and CBOs. Further plans to strengthen the sector include:

- increasing the number of staff in the department who deal with registrations
- increasing the number of road shows to provide information and listen to challenges faced by the sector.

### Programmes and projects

#### Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

The EPWP is a nationwide programme under the auspices of government and state-owned enterprises. It is aimed at drawing significant numbers of unemployed people into productive work, accompanied by training, to increase their capacity to earn an income.

The EPWP is divided into four sectors, namely infrastructure, environment, social and non-state. In the Social Protection and Community Development (SPCD) Cluster, the EPWP focuses mainly on ongoing programmes such as home-/community-based care, ECD as well as community and tourism safety projects.

### Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme

The Department of Social Development is the lead government department for services to children under the age of four. In terms of the Children's Act, 2005, the department's responsibility is to manage the registration of ECD sites, monitor their functionality and impact, and provide a subsidy for children in need.

The department held a successful ECD conference in the Eastern Cape in March 2012. The aim was to consolidate a shared understanding of the importance of ECD among various role players within government, as well as its partners in civil society, academia, UN agencies and the ECD caregivers and practitioners.

By June 2012, 870 834 children had access to ECD programmes, which is an increase of 22 834 children from birth to five years old having access to ECD programmes since February 2012. The department also ensured that 412 ECD programmes comply with the norms and standards. A further 407 partial care facilities are also registered.

ECD registration enables government to provide subsidies for children from needy families, provide project funding and ensure the standardisation of norms and standards.

The provision of comprehensive ECD services improves the country's human capital and reduces intergenerational poverty.

An awareness campaign was launched to promote the importance of ECD as part of nation-building. A national conference with all ECD stakeholders was held to take stock of progress made on ECD delivery and promote the provision of quality ECD services.

A declaration on ECD was adopted by all stakeholders and translated into a Plan of Action approved by Cabinet to:

- develop a country strategy
- harmonise ECD policies across sector departments
- deal effectively with infrastructure provision
- strengthen coordination and integration
- build the necessary capacity
- ensure the inclusion of excluded and marginalised groups.

In April 2012, the Department of Social Development launched the Food for All Campaign as a measure to address incidents of extreme hunger and malnutrition. This is also a vehicle to restore the dignity of many South Africans, including children, who experience hunger and malnutrition.

There has been notable progress in the number of registered ECD centres and children benefitting from services. By January 2013, there were 19 261 registered ECD centres, 846 970 children were receiving ECD and partial care services, and 979 ECD programmes were complying with the norms and standards.

### War on Poverty Campaign

The *Diagnostic Overview 2* (December 2010) issued by the National Planning Commission stated that widespread deep poverty constrained human development and economic progress.

Per capita income and employment fell by about 4% and one million formal and informal jobs were lost between the last quarters of 2008 and 2009.

The War on Poverty Campaign, which was first piloted in 2008/09, targets service delivery to poor households and monitors household progression out of extreme poverty.

Government identified 1 128 of the most deprived municipal wards, where an estimated three million households comprising an estimated 15 million people live in extreme poverty. The campaign is being rolled out to cover all the identified wards by 2014.

As part of the campaign, government will increase the resources required to address the plight of farm workers who are without homes or fixed addresses, and those who are unable to access government services.

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe visited Douglas in the Siyancuma Municipality, Northern Cape, to monitor progress made in the War on Poverty Campaign and listened to community members' concerns, which included challenges to accessing government services.



Young people were mostly concerned about the levels of unemployment and lack of service delivery and infrastructure in their communities, such as water, roads, schools and clinics.

### **Anti-Poverty Strategy (APS)**

Government finalised the APS after consulting the National Anti-Poverty Civil-Society Colloquium in December 2009 and the National Economic Development and Labour Council (better known as Nedlac) during 2010.

This strategy seeks to capacitate and empower households and communities to take themselves out of poverty with the help of government and its social partners, through the creation of economic opportunities, investment in human resources and the provision of income security and the social wage. The APS, which has been presented to Cabinet's SPCD Cluster, will dovetail with existing macro-economic instruments such as the New Growth Path, the Industrial Policy Action Plan 2, as well as efforts such as those arising from the Job Creation Business Summit hosted by President Jacob Zuma in March 2010 and government's Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development.

The APS is expected to see government using short-term employment schemes, enterprise development and a series of public-investment schemes to address the challenge of unemployment, which was exacerbated by the global economic crisis. Cabinet also resolved to establish an infrastructure commission and job creation commission.

### **Sustainable Livelihoods Programme**

This programme develops and provides support for the implementation of programmes, strategies and tools for sustainable livelihoods, and manages service-delivery partners. It aims to create an enabling environment for empowering the poor and vulnerable through the promotion of and support for community development work, strengthening institutional arrangements, and dialogue with civil society.

In August 2012, the Department of Justice urged beneficiaries of maintenance grants to obtain bank accounts so that they can receive the money due to them faster. To enhance service delivery, the department initiated an electronic payment system where maintenance grants are paid directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. The system has been deployed in 135 courts and 102 000 beneficiaries are now receiving their grants within 24 to 48 hours after identification of deposits within the third-party funds.

### **Social security and assistance**

South Africa's social assistance programme has expanded from covering just 2,7 million people in 1994 to over 16 million in 2012. About 2,9 million are older people, while 11,5 million are beneficiaries of the child support grant.

Social grants are government's most effective poverty alleviation programme. The Department of Social Development conducted a comprehensive impact evaluation study of the child support grant, which affirmed its importance as an instrument for social protection.

The child support grant is effective in increasing educational outcomes, reducing the likelihood of illness, adolescent absences from school and sexual activity, particularly when the grant is received in early childhood. By March 2012, South Africa had about 15,6 million social grant beneficiaries and the number is expected to grow to 16,8 million in three years. More than 10 million of these are children.

In 2012, the department completed a study into the option of changing social grants into family benefits instead of individual benefits.

In March 2012, the first stage of re-registering all social grant beneficiaries was started. More than 15 million social grant beneficiaries in the country were re-registered for their grants. The first phase targeted the re-registration of Sekulula clients and new approved applicants.

Sekulula refers to a debit-card based transactional account that allows government grant recipients access to grants electronically at ATMs or point-of-sale devices. During the process, the beneficiaries were issued with a temporary Sassa-branded biometric magstripe card.

The second stage started in June 2012, where a permanent Sassa-branded biometric magstripe card was issued. During the second phase, existing eligible beneficiaries, including bank beneficiaries and children, were enrolled on the new biometric-based payment system at Sassa pay points, local offices and designated sites.

Sassa conducted home visits during this period to accommodate beneficiaries over 75 years old and bedridden beneficiaries at institutions such as hospitals.

The move to re-register the beneficiaries forms part of Sassa's bid to rid the system of corruption and to ensure that social grants are paid to the right people.

With the new system, beneficiaries will be able to use their smart card anywhere in the country.

Beneficiaries of the child support grant were required to bring their babies, along with their birth certificates, for re-registration. The child's fingerprints were taken to verify his or her identity.

As from April 2012, pensioners received R1 200, while foster care grants increased by R30 to R770 and the child support grant to R280.

### **Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2008 (Act 6 of 2008)**

The amendment of the Social Assistance Act, 2004, saw men aged 63 to 64 qualifying for and receiving social-assistance grants for the first time.

The Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2008 seeks to:

- introduce a new definition of disability
- provide a mechanism for Sassa to review its decisions when a beneficiary is not satisfied with the outcome
- enhance the appeals process.

The passing of the amendment enables the department to distinguish between permanent and temporary disability, and people with chronic illnesses. The Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2008 facilitates a process that allows social-grant applicants and bene-

ficiaries to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect.

The Act provides for applicants and beneficiaries to request Sassa to review its decisions to expedite resolution of disputes and avert unnecessary and costly litigation.

The Act also provides for applicants and beneficiaries to appeal against a decision of the agency and the appointment of the Independent Tribunal.

The tribunals are a key part of the administrative justice process and make it possible for applicants and beneficiaries to present their grievances. If their claims have merit, the process allows them to obtain simple and speedy resolution of their cases.

### **Social security reform**

The ultimate goal of social development is to engender self-reliance and social cohesion. While appropriate social-security provisioning plays a critical role in addressing the basic needs of the poorest of the poor, it is only meant to be a temporary measure.

Government recognises that empowering people, particularly women, to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development and its principal resource. With this goal in mind, the department has begun piloting various initiatives that will enable poor communities to become architects of their own development.

Regarding social-security reform, the policy on mandatory retirement provisions was approved by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Social Security Reform and is pending Cabinet approval.

Other initiatives include the assessment tool for children with disabilities, and work on the Social Relief Policy and Social Relief Bill.

The Social Relief Policy and Social Relief Bill seek to create a new institutional and legal framework and delegation of responsibilities to provinces to ensure timely humanitarian relief in the event of sudden contingencies

Various evaluative research findings confirmed that the provision of social grants to vulnerable individuals and households not only

In 2012/13, the Department of Social Development allocated R256 million for the Social Work Scholarship Programme. Since 2007, more than 5 000 social workers have been trained through this programme. The department started engaging veteran social workers to mentor the newly qualified social workers to ensure dignified service delivery.

reduces the occurrence of hunger and extreme poverty, but also facilitates household access to basic services and economic opportunities.

Voluntary savings represent the continuation of additional voluntary, private retirement savings and insurance arrangements for those who can afford it. One of the main challenges towards the future is to extend coverage of voluntary savings to the informal sector.

As part of the comprehensive social security reform proposals, the SPCD Cluster also completed a draft no-fault policy for the Road Accident Fund. In a related development, and as part of government's continued effort to protect people against vulnerability and other contingencies of life, the cluster, led by the Department of Social Development, will fast-track the development of a coherent policy on social relief of distress.

The second pillar of the social security system is social insurance, aimed at preventing poverty. The goal is to introduce a statutory contributory social security framework, which will include a basic retirement benefit element to ensure that, after a lifetime of working, people can retire and live out their last years in dignity.

The Department of Social Development made the following progress during 2012:

- In Mookgophong in Limpopo, 118 backyard gardens were established to assist with malnutrition.
- In Phomolong in Limpopo, 67 household food gardens were established during Mandela Day celebrations in July 2012. Other interventions included the allocation of dry seeds for planting for identified malnutrition cases and the handing out of food parcels.
- Almost 100 older people benefitted from the

establishment of the Mookgophong Service Centre, where people undertake laundry, knitting and gardening services to generate income.

- There are 300 vulnerable households that benefitted from poverty reduction programmes such as bush clearing and receiving a monthly stipend, initiated by the EPWP in Mookgophong.
- A social crime prevention campaign reached about 650 community members of the Tjakastad area in Mpumalanga.
- In Devon in Gauteng, a bakery project is operating under the management of eight women. The NDA allocated R1 million to fund Hlwayela Project and Poultry Farming.
- In the Eastern Cape, the Esigwalini Food Production Project serves as one of the means to alleviate the effects of poverty and unemployment in the Eastern Cape. Three villages benefitted from this project and it makes vegetable and maize crops accessible. Located next to the Umtata River, which serves as a source for water, Esigwalini has rich soil suitable for farming.

### Dealing with corruption

Sassa's continued commitment to relentlessly uproot fraud and corruption in the administration and payment of grants has yielded positive outcomes. Since its inception, Sassa's collaboration with the Special Investigating Unit has seen a reduction in fraud and corruption.

The department's national facilities to combat fraud and corruption in the social security system comprise:

- a toll-free national security fraud hotline (0800 60 10 11) that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- an e-mail address ([fraud@socdev.gov.za](mailto:fraud@socdev.gov.za)) as well as a free-call fax-service number (0800 61 10 11).

### Job creation and alleviating poverty

In responding to the recent economic downturn, government resolved to undertake and implement several measures to curb and

minimise its impact. The Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) provides a safety net to those affected by the economic downturn. The fund has provided relief to 705 856 unemployed people between April 2011 and March 2012. R5,6 billion was spent for this purpose.

Several initiatives, including the training of workers, which equip them to enter the labour market, were also initiated. Some of the job creation initiatives included the Productivity South Africa Social Plan aimed at saving jobs. Funding was also made available for the training of artisans.

Training takes place in cooperation with the Sector Education and Training Authorities (Setas). In implementing the scheme, the Minister of Labour approved two training initiatives in 2011/12 for the 2012/13 period.

Collaboration between the UIF and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), saw more than 16 000 jobs created and more than 18 000 work opportunities saved. The Compensation Fund also increased pension benefits from R277 860 to R292 032. The 5,1% increase translates into R900 per month. Maximum compensation funeral benefits increased from R13 050 to R13 716.

The Road Accident Fund (Transitional Provisions) Bill was tabled in Parliament and was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Transport and the Select Committee on Public Services in June 2012.

The Bill seeks to provide for transitional measures regarding certain categories of third parties whose claims were limited to R25 000 under the Road Accident Fund Act prior to 1 August 2008.

Government is committed to improving its efforts at ensuring food security for all in the country, starting with vulnerable households and communities. To this end, households have been assisted in establishing 4 776 food gardens to produce their own food, thus participating in their own development.

The Food Banks Programme, which is part of the Zero Hunger Strategy, is an important channel through which vulnerable people access food. Between January and March 2012, the

In November 2012, the Department of Social Development in partnership with the United Nations (UN) Population Fund published the *State of the World Population Report*. The report was released globally on the same day under the theme *By Choice, Not By Chance: Family Planning, Human Rights and Development*.

The report looks at key issues relating to the achievement of the UN's millennium development goals that speak to child health and maternal health, with a specific focus on family planning. The report highlights that every year thousands of women die unnecessarily from unintended and often unwanted pregnancies; and looks at how children's health is compromised when mothers' pregnancies are not adequately spaced.

Food Banks Programme distributed about 3,8 million meals. They reached approximately 320 000 beneficiaries a month working through 1 600 agencies composed of NGOs and CBOs.

The department also developed a training and mentoring programme for home CBOs. In line with the recommendations of a comprehensive evaluation report, the National Institute for Community Development and Management was appointed to review the seven existing modules. The training material was expected to be registered with the Health and Welfare Seta in 2011/12.

### HIV and AIDS support

The National Strategic Plan on HIV, AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Tuberculosis (TB) 2012 – 2016, which addresses the social drivers and social impact of HIV and AIDS, is a key component of the department's fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS.

As part of its contribution to the National Strategic Plan for HIV, AIDS and STIs 2007 – 2011, the Department of Social Development continued funding the National Association for People Living with HIV and AIDS (Napwa). Napwa provides care through counselling and support groups, focusing on the promotion of positive living, treatment and nutrition support.

The Department of Social Development has also developed a framework for an integrated and coordinated response to HIV and AIDS.

The framework includes sourcing reliable research and information; providing social protection to those infected and affected, especially children; protecting children's rights; providing services; special programmes such as the Home-/Community-Based Care Programme; empowering women; and capacitating officials to deal with HIV and AIDS.

Partnerships with other government departments, NGOs, CBOs, faith-based organisations (FBOs), the business sector, volunteers and international agencies underpin the department's response to HIV and AIDS.

Several care and support strategies and programmes for vulnerable groups affected by HIV and AIDS and other diseases were developed and implemented. These programmes fall under the Home- and Community-Based Care Programme, which involves the provision of comprehensive social services in the context of communities, families and individuals.

The department also facilitated and monitored the implementation of a national action plan for orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. The plan was implemented by four reference teams.

A draft framework on psychosocial support to orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS was developed and aligned with the Southern African Development Community Framework.

The department remains a committed member of the South African National AIDS Council, which is an ideal platform to drive the message of social behaviour change with respect to HIV and AIDS and building HIV-competent communities. It participates in the ongoing HIV Counselling and Testing Campaign, ensuring that all people undergoing testing receive appropriate counselling and support.

### **HIV and AIDS Youth Programme**

The expansion of the NPO loveLife's Groundbreaker Partnership Programme aims to strengthen the loveLife Mphintshi Initiative by linking it to the EPWP and the prevention programme in relation to home-/community-based care and support.

In September 2012, Cabinet noted the fourth United Nations Population Fund Country Programme of Support: 2013 – 2017, and supported its implementation. The programme's goals include the reduction of poverty and inequality by supporting interventions to improve the quality and use of sexual reproductive health services, including maternal health, family planning and linkages to HIV prevention. It also supports programmes that are responsive to emerging population dynamics, with emphasis on women in urban informal settlements and rural women, as well as adolescents and unemployed young people.

The HIV and AIDS Youth Programme's services now reach marginalised and vulnerable youth in rural areas. It focuses on preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS among young people.

### **HIV and AIDS advocacy, awareness and outreach**

Achieving a meaningful and clear understanding of the scientific facts about HIV and AIDS will lead to individual self-management regarding the risk of HIV infection. The awareness programme has the following main pillars:

- disclosure
- communication
- rights
- facilitation.

The programme also deals with the physical and emotional consequences of HIV and AIDS.

It addresses the following challenges:

- the lack of accurate and current information on HIV and AIDS
- the lack of access to care, support, treatment and new healthcare developments
- discrimination against the infected and affected.

The programme aims to involve people living with HIV and AIDS in initiatives that directly help affected and infected people to alleviate stigmatisation.

### **Care and support partnerships**

The Department of Social Development continues to strengthen its partnerships with national



and international organisations involved in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The department chairs the National Action Committee for Children made Vulnerable by HIV and AIDS, which is a multisectoral team comprising government, FBOs, CBOs, civil society, the business sector, the United Nations (UN) Children's Fund (Unicef) and Save the Children. Its focus is on the care and support of orphans and vulnerable children.

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

### Social crime prevention

#### Probation services

The Department of Social Development is implementing the Probation Services Act, 1991, as amended. At national and provincial levels it provides early intervention services and prevention programmes to offenders and victims of crime.

The National and Provincial Probation Service Coordinators' Forum meets regularly to deal with service-delivery issues pertaining to children awaiting trial, especially their removal from correctional facilities.

Provinces have increased the number of diversion programmes to ensure that children are diverted from the Criminal Justice System. One such centre is the Mangaung One-Stop Youth Justice Centre in the Motheo District in the Free State.

Home-based supervision is proving to be a successful programme for high-risk children or children in conflict with the law. It is a cost-effective manner of bringing about behavioural changes in these children. The parents are co-responsible for dealing with their children to achieve the desired changes. Different programmes can be used during home-based supervision.

The assistant probation officer is responsible for supervision but the probation officer

remains the case manager. Regular consultations should take place between the probation officer and the assistant probation officer to achieve the best results.

Overcrowding in prisons remains a concern. The national office and provinces have developed an action plan to ensure that children do not await trial in prisons.

The focus of the action plan is to provide secure-care facilities.

#### Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP)

In 2010/11, a final report on developing legislation for victim-support services was completed. A costing model for a VEP was developed, aimed at standardising victim empowerment services and funding. Costing models were also developed for programmes involving older people, children, people with disabilities, social crime and substance abuse. It is aimed at promoting standardisation across the provinces.

Generic indicator sets were piloted at 18 sites in three provinces. The pilot phase was conducted in Gauteng, Limpopo and North West; and the second in the Western Cape, the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal.

A training-needs assessment was conducted to determine the sector's capacity-building needs. Trauma counselling was identified as a priority, and the department responded by facilitating trauma-counselling training in various government departments and CSOs. A total of 1 800 officials were trained, significantly exceeding the target of 1 400. A draft mentoring and coaching model was also developed. Four provinces were nominated to test the model, and 78 government officials and CSOs were trained.

The strategy for engaging men and boys in achieving gender equality, with a special focus on the prevention of gender-based violence, was implemented in all nine provinces. Additional workshops were held for social workers and service providers to implement the strategy.

A shelter strategy was also implemented country wide. Workshops were held to train

social workers to implement the strategy, focusing on how to render services to abused women at shelters, and ensure that their services adhere to the minimum standards set out in the Victim's Charter.

Through its partnerships with the Government of Denmark, Unicef, the United States Agency for International Development and RTI International as an implementing partner, government established 35 Thuthuzela care centres (TCCs) throughout the country.

TCCs are one-stop facilities that have been introduced as a vital part of South Africa's Anti-Rape Strategy, aimed at reducing secondary trauma for the victim, improve conviction rates and reduce the cycle time for finalising cases.

This project is led by the National Prosecuting Authority's Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit, in partnership with various donors, as a response to the urgent need for an integrated strategy for prevention, response and support for rape victims.

TCCs operate in public hospitals in communities where the incidence of rape is particularly high. They are also linked to sexual offences courts that are staffed by prosecutors, social workers, investigating officers, magistrates, health professionals, NGOs and the South African Police Service.

National Children's Day is celebrated annually in South Africa on the first Saturday of November. It is a day to reflect on the progress that has been made in realising and promoting the rights of children.

South Africa has more than 18 million children – this represents more than a third of the population.

One of the key rights of all children is the right to education. Census 2011 results, which were released in October 2012, indicate that significant progress has been made in educating our children.

According to the results, the proportion of children with no schooling has halved over the period between 1996 and 2011. There is also a significant increase in the enrolment of children from pre-school to primary and high school, and up to tertiary level. The proportion of children who go on to complete matric has also increased significantly from 16% in 1996 to 29% in 2011.

### **National Directory on Services for Victims of Violence and Crime**

The *National Directory on Services for Victims of Violence and Crime* was launched during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign in December 2004. It is updated annually in collaboration with the provincial VEP managers or coordinators and their provincial counterparts.

### **National Family Policy**

The Department of Social Development is tasked with implementing the National Family Policy and provides training in family-preservation services, marriage preparation and enrichment, parenting/primary care-giving and families in crisis to service providers in the area of family services.

In May 2012, the Department of Social Development released the *Green Paper on Families*, which emphasises the need for all to build strong families that protect the most vulnerable members of society.

The Green Paper, which was approved by Cabinet in 2011 for public engagement, aims to shift the focus of government services from targeting individuals to focusing more on responding to their needs as members of families.

The purpose of the Green Paper is to provide a platform for all South Africans to engage and exchange views on how to build stable families.

It also seeks to address some of the challenges faced by individuals in families, including the abuse of women and children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Through the *Green Paper on Families*, the department also seeks to:

- reaffirm the relevance of a family as a critical unit in society
- maximise the participation and commitment of all sectors in strengthening family life
- ensure balance between work and family life
- ensure that families have access to services
- strengthen families so that they are able to take care of their children.

### Prevention and treatment of substance and drug abuse

In 2011, the Department of Social Development hosted a Biennial Anti-Substance Abuse Summit. Research papers presented at the summit show that drug and alcohol abuse are linked to ill health and social disorders. They also indicate that alcohol intoxication is associated with death as a result of injuries, with increased risky sexual behaviour, and that approximately 65% of murders in South Africa are associated with social behaviour largely fuelled by alcohol abuse.

In 2012, the IMC on Anti-Substance Abuse consolidated its legislative review initiatives, focusing on banning alcohol advertising, raising the age limit for alcohol consumption from 18 to 21 years, closing down all illegal shebeens and those located near schools and places of worship.

The IMC heightened its public awareness efforts, working with loveLife, Soul City and other social partners to highlight the social costs associated with the harmful use of alcohol. The Department of Social Development, as part of this effort, will intensify the fight against substance abuse by strengthening the Ke Moja Campaign to target all vulnerable groups. Ke Moja, meaning “No thanks, I’m fine” (without drugs), is jointly sponsored by the Department of Social Development and the UN Office for Drug Control.

### Children and youth

South Africa has acceded to and signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other related conventions and protocols. The aim is to provide care and protection to all children, guided by international and national legal frameworks.

The national guidelines to protect and care for children include the Constitution, the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983), as amended, the *White Paper for Social Welfare (1997)* and the Children’s Act, 2005, as amended. Section 137 of the Children’s Act, 2005 proposes new protection measures for child-headed households.

International Women’s Day, celebrated on 8 March 2012, was the 101st International Women’s Day. It placed a strong emphasis on empowering rural women, with the aim of bringing an end to hunger and poverty worldwide.

The 56th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which opened in February 2012, focused on the theme of empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication and sustainable development.

South Africa, too, has prioritised the empowerment of rural women through the mainstreaming of gender as part of a Comprehensive Rural Development Programme.

This section defines children from child-headed households, provides for appointing an adult to supervise a child-headed household and allows children in child-headed households to access social grants and other material assistance.

Services and community-based care services are rendered to enable orphans to continue living with their siblings in their parental homes.

Statutory services rendered to these households include:

- Therapeutic counselling to help family members deal with personal problems, difficulties and traumas.
- Adult supervision to provide the child-headed household with regular care and guidance from a responsible adult. The adult supervisor lives in her or his respective home, but provides constant supervision over the family. This is an out-of-court arrangement, but the social worker is expected to provide overall supervision.
- Poverty relief and other material assistance, such as food parcels as a temporary intervention until a permanent intervention can be provided.

In 2011/12, the number of children benefitting from child and youth care services increased significantly, and more than 23 000 children were placed in foster care, bringing the total to more than 536 000. A major outcome of gov-

ernment's adoption awareness campaign was an increase in the number of adoption cases, with about 1 620 registered in the course of the year. Some 194 of these were intercountry adoptions.

### Childcare legislation

The Children's Act, 2005, sets out principles relating to the care and protection of children; defines parental responsibilities and rights; and provides for matters such as children's courts, adoption, child abduction and surrogate motherhood.

The Act also:

- gives effect to certain rights of children as contained in the Constitution
- provides for the issuing of contribution orders
- provides for intercountry adoption
- gives effect to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption
- prohibits child abduction and gives effect to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction
- recognises certain new offences relating to children
- provides for matters relating to the trafficking of children and the implementation of the relevant protocol.

The Children's Act, 2005 provides for the establishment of the National Child Protection Register that records all people found unsuitable to work with children.

It also lists all people found by the Children's Court and criminal courts to be unsuitable to work with children.

In terms of this law, childcare facilities, including welfare organisations offering foster care and adoption, are able to check prospective employees, foster parents and adoptive parents against the register.

The register, however, is not open to the public, and all requests for information must be directed to the Department of Social Development.

The Children's Amendment Act, 2007 provides for:

- the partial care of children
- ECD

- protection of children
- prevention and early-intervention services
- children in alternative care
- foster care
- child and youth care centres, shelters and drop-in centres
- certain new offences relating to children
- the plight of child-headed households
- respect for parental rights by providing that no person may take or send a South African child out of the country without the consent of the parents or guardian
- the discipline of children.

### Child Labour Programme of Action (CLPA) Report

In September 2012, Cabinet approved the CLPA Report.

The CLPA is South Africa's roadmap to the prevention, reduction and eventual elimination of child labour, which affects an estimated one million children in the country. It serves to focus and guide the efforts of an array of government departments and civil society groups, including business organisations, labour federations and organisations serving the interest of children.

The key elements of the CLPA include targeting the implementation of government and other stakeholders' programmes and policies on poverty, employment, labour and social matters more effectively in areas where the work children do has serious negative effects on them.

The CLPA will also promote new legislative measures against the worst forms of child labour and strengthen national capacity to enforce legislative measures. It is aimed at increasing public awareness and social mobilisation against the worst forms of child labour.

### Childline South Africa

Childline offers a 24-hour toll-free crisis line (08000 55 555) to children and families across South Africa. The line provides immediate assistance to children and families in crisis who need counselling and information.

Childline is an NPO that works collectively to protect children from all forms of violence and

A survey done by the Department of Public Service and Administration showed that at the end of 2012, the public service, with 39 government departments, employed 5 127 people with disabilities. This represented 0,38% of a total workforce of 1 340 410 employees.

A total of 2 106 (or 41,07%) out the 5 127 were female, while 82 people with disabilities were employed at senior management services levels, and a further 206 were in middle management.

In 2000, government set a target of 2% representation of people with disabilities employed by the public service.

create a culture of respect for children's rights in South Africa.

Programmes delivered through the provincial offices include:

- a crisis line
- child rights and education
- training of volunteers
- training of other professionals who work with child protection and children
- therapy for abused and traumatised children and their families
- court preparation of child witnesses
- networking and coordination
- advocacy.

Programmes delivered through the national office are:

- training and education
- analysis of law and policy
- lobbying and advocacy
- networking and coordination.

### People with disabilities

South Africa acknowledges the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts towards the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its optional protocol to improve the living conditions of people with disabilities in every state, particularly in developing countries.

South Africa has acceded to, or ratified, most of the African regional and international human-rights instruments in the area of eco-

nomie, social, cultural, civil and political rights. The Constitution requires that particular attention be given to relevant international laws and comparable international standards and experiences.

The Department of Social Development aligned its policy on disability with the UNCRPD in 2007, which enables the department to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are fully protected and promoted.

There is increased self-representation of people with disabilities in Parliament, provincial legislatures and in local government. There is a deputy minister with a disability and 17 members of Parliament with disabilities. In the Constitutional Court, there is a judge with a disability.

People with disabilities are also represented in institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality and Nyda. Government departments and provinces are setting up disability policies and targets for mainstreaming service delivery to people with disabilities.

South Africa has also made strides in improving access to health and social services for people with disabilities. The free healthcare policy for people with disabilities includes the provision of assistive devices.

Welfare services are also being streamlined to reach people with disabilities wherever they are through home-based care, rehabilitation and family-support programmes.

Skills development and employment opportunities for people with disabilities are also priorities.

The target is for at least 4% of skills development expenditure to be used to train people with disabilities, and that 2% of the workforce in the public and private sector should be people with disabilities.

In line with its mandate of mainstreaming and oversight, the Department for Women, Children and People with Disabilities ensures that each government department commits to clear milestones towards the attainment of 2% employment equity for people with disabilities and be held accountable for this target.



Casual Day, South Africa's annual fund raising project for people with disabilities, raised a record amount of R22 million during the 2012 campaign, a 10% improvement on the previous year.

Casual Day is the flagship project of the National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities (NCP-PDSA), an NPO mandated to improve education, inclusivity, accessibility and social integration for persons with disabilities.

Casual Day is the lifeblood of its national beneficiaries that include Epilepsy SA, SA Federation for Mental Health, Deaf Federation SA, SA National Council for the Blind and Disabled People SA, each of which also participate in raising funds from sticker donations, and sales of caps and shirts.

Casual Day 2013 takes place as usual on the first Friday of September, in continued partnership with the six main beneficiaries and 300 participating organisations dedicated to advancing the rights of and rendering services for persons with disabilities.

The IDC, in partnership with the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, through its Transformation and Entrepreneur Scheme, committed over R200 million towards the women empowerment fund and R50 million for people with disabilities.

Government also encourages the private sector to continue employing people with disabilities, using the skills development programmes available in the country to invest in training people with disabilities.

Transport remains a major barrier limiting participation of people with disabilities in social, educational and economic activities.

The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities and the Department of Transport are working together to ensure that the public-transport strategy and initiatives respond to the transport needs of people with disabilities and integrate disability considerations.

The department also focuses on improving access to education for learners with disabilities through the promotion of the inclusive-education policy. Government is promoting integration of children with special needs into mainstream schools while acknowledging that

children with severe disabilities still need special schools.

Government is auditing the status of all special schools to inform appropriate interventions to enhance the learning environment for children in these schools.

### **Blind SA**

Blind SA is an organisation for the blind, and is governed by the blind. Situated in Johannesburg, it is aligned with other member organisations throughout South Africa.

Blind SA's main focus is to improve the quality of life of all South Africa's visually impaired people by empowering them through education. Its objectives are to:

- protect and promote the interest of people with visual impairment
- enable all visually impaired to reach their optimal potential through independence development
- care for and protect the rights of those who due to circumstances beyond their control are unable to do so themselves.

Orientation, mobility and skills development to blind and newly blinded people is an important aspect of the work undertaken by Blind SA. The organisation provides, among others, study bursaries for visually impaired students for further education, Braille publications in all of South Africa's official languages, Braille training – writing and reading, and orientation and mobility training.

### **The South African Braille Authority**

The South African Braille Authority (Saba) was established in May 2012 as an NGO. Its purpose is to set and maintain standards for Braille in all 11 official languages of South Africa. These standards relate to development and maintenance of Braille codes; production of quality Braille; the teaching of, access to and promotion of Braille; Braille examinations; and many other Braille-related matters.

Through Saba, South Africa is a member country of the International Council on English Braille (ICEB). ICEB membership enables South Africa to stay abreast of and participate

in international Braille-related matters. Many individuals belonging to Saba constituencies play important roles in ICEB structures.

### The South African National Council for the Blind

The South African National Council for the Blind is the coordinating body for over 100 member organisations throughout South Africa. These organisations span the full spectrum of services offered for and to blind and partially sighted people.

The South African National Council for the Blind comprises four core business areas, namely Social Development, the Bureau for the Prevention of Blindness, Education and lastly fund raising and public relations. These divisions run efficiently with the help of Finance, Administration and Logistics and Governance and Project Services. To combat as much as 80% of avoidable blindness, the council regularly undertake tours with its mobile eye care clinics to rural areas for eye screening, referrals and to perform cataract removal operations.

The South African National Council for the Blind provides entrepreneurial training, adult basic education and training, and facilitates skills training such as computer literacy and call centre programmes through its Optima College.

### Support for the deaf

South Africa's national organisation for the deaf is the Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA), formerly the South African National Council for the Deaf, which was established in 1929. DeafSA has nine provincial chapters throughout South Africa.

Two other national organisations for the deaf are Deafblind South Africa and SHHH South Africa, the South African organisation for the hard of hearing.

An estimated 500 000 to 600 000 South Africans use South African Sign Language. As sign language has grown in South Africa – particularly baby sign language – an NPO, Sign Language Education and Development, has been formed to promote sign language.

Signing with hearing babies and children is being promoted through the Signsational Kids website.

South Africa has a long-established deaf education system. Statistics indicate that there are more than 40 schools for the deaf in South Africa. They include:

- De la Bat School (run by the Institute for the Deaf)
- Fulton School for the Deaf
- Kutlwanong School for the Deaf (Rustenburg)
- Kwa Thintwa School for Hearing Impaired
- St Vincent's School for the Deaf (Johannesburg)
- Vuleka School for the Blind and Deaf

The Institute for the Deaf, Worcester operates Deaf College South Africa, which trains deaf people for jobs. In addition, the Bible College for the Deaf in Gauteng trains people to work in deaf ministry.

The University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg has a Centre for Deaf Studies. The centre offers programmes in deaf education and focuses on teaching, research and community service.

Among other services, the National Institute for the Deaf provides services for multiple disabled deaf, runs two deaf churches and provides audiological and mental health services.

A Deaf Child Centre at the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Cape Town, provides preschool education and community services. This centre also focuses on deafness research.

The Carel du Toit Centre, based in Cape Town, provides early childhood auditory-oral education. In addition to providing auditory education services, the centre also engages in community outreaches, helping families with hearing-related needs and more practical needs such as food.

A similar centre is the Eduplex in Pretoria. The Eduplex provides auditory-oral preschool and primary school educational services, teaching hearing and deaf together. Plus, the Eduplex provides training to prospective teachers, audiologists and therapists.

## Older people

The growth of the ageing population in South Africa has followed global trends. It is projected that the country's population of older people will exceed 8% by 2014. Within the framework of the Constitution, the Older Persons Act, 2006 is intended to ensure that the rights, dignity and independence of older people are upheld.

Replacing the Aged Persons Act, 1967 (Act 81 of 1967), the Older Persons Act, 2006 deals with the plight of older people by establishing a framework for the empowerment and protection of older people and the promotion and maintenance of their status, rights, well-being, safety and security. It provides for older people to enjoy quality services while staying with their families for as long as possible.

Chapter 3 of the Act deals specifically with the development of community-based care and support programmes. These fall into two broad categories, namely prevention and promotion. This ensures the independent living of older people in the community; and home-based care, which ensures that frail older people receive maximum care within the community through a comprehensive set of integrated services.

The Act further recognises the wisdom and experience of older people and the need to protect their knowledge and skills; and promotes their active role and participation in community affairs. To improve services for senior citizens, the department completed an audit of 58 high-risk residential facilities for older people in the Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

In October 2011, the department supported a successful Older Persons Forum conference, which resolved, among other things, to establish provincial and local structures to promote participation by members in all matters that affect them.

## Training and skills development

### Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers

The Department of Social Development set aside R256 million in 2012/13 for a scholarship

To celebrate the annual International Day of Older Persons on 1 October, President Jacob Zuma hosted a number of the country's older citizens, as well as dignitaries such as the Minister for Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini and her deputy, Ms Maria Ntuli, at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guest House in Pretoria.

The President made use of the opportunity to encourage society to reflect on the contribution of older people to society in general and to galvanise communities to provide care and support to elderly people in need of care. International Day of Older Persons was designated on 14 December 1990 by the United Nations General Assembly.

programme to train more social workers. The department committed to train 10 000 child- and youth-care workers in the next three years in collaboration with the National Association of Child Care Workers. The intention behind this initiative is to reach out to as many child-headed households as possible.

The Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers addresses the needs of social workers in the public and private sectors. It includes the following key components:

- increasing human resources by recruiting and retaining social workers
- promoting the education, training and development of social workers
- improving the quality of social-work services
- strengthening governance structures within the social-service professions
- promoting occupational safety standards within the workplace
- improving service conditions for social workers
- marketing and promoting social-work services and programmes.

The implementation of the strategy remains vital to the realisation of the goals of the Department of Social Development.

To this end, the department is implementing the Occupation-Specific Dispensation for Various Categories of Social Worker in the Public Service. This will create better remuneration packages.

### Professionalising community development

The Council for Social Service Professions was established in terms of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978.

The key functions are:

- protecting and promoting the interests of the professions, in respect of which professional boards have been or are to be established and to deal with any matter relating to such interests
- advising the Minister on matters affecting the professions in respect of which professional boards have been established
- controlling and exercising authority regarding all financial matters relating to the council and the professional boards
- assisting in the promotion of social services.

### Social work scholarships

As part of its efforts to develop skills and empower the youth, the Department of Social Development invited Grade 12 learners to apply for social-work scholarships. In 2011, the department had 4 735 students in its programme at various institutions of higher learning.

While recruiting, preference is given to deserving learners in rural areas, including those from child-headed households, those living in places of safety, dependants of war veterans and learners in no-fee schools

### Conclusion

Government and its social partners are committed to identify and respond to community needs, to act together by mobilising all sectors of society to respond to social ills, and to let go of outdated values and paradigms. This will open the way for the Department of Social Development to chart a new development path in partnership with those who strive

to ensure a better life for all.

Looking to the future, the department will continue to focus on expanding its social protection measures to save lives and reduce levels of deprivation through community development, welfare services and social grants.

Social grants play a vital role in improving access to food in households that are most likely to experience hunger. The social assistance system now supports 15,3 million South Africans, and continues to be the largest budget responsibility of the department.

The department will also continue to support social security reform proposals aimed at introducing a mandatory pillar of social insurance to provide for retirement, disability and survivor benefits, especially for children and widows left in destitution.

Additional efforts will focus on youth development through leadership camps, skills development, bursary programmes, and the profiling of child-support grant primary caregivers. This will facilitate the potential entry of economically active youths into the labour market.

To prevent people from falling into deeper poverty and reduce their vulnerability to poverty, the Department of Social Development will also focus on anti-substance abuse campaigns aimed at prevention by educating the public on the dangers of abusing substances.

Introducing policy reforms that will bring coherence to government's approach to alcohol and illicit drugs will constitute part of government's long-term strategy for dealing with the scourge of substance abuse. This will go a long way towards reducing social ills and crime expressed in the form of domestic abuse and violence, especially against children, women, people with disabilities and older people.

## Acknowledgements

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