





Social development

The Department of Social Development seeks to build a caring and integrated system of social development services that facilitates human development and improves the quality of life of all South Africans.

It works in partnership with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs), the business sector, organised labour and other role-players in the spirit of Batho Pele (People First).

The department provides implementation support to the provincial departments of social development, and monitors and evaluates the range of social development programmes. Provincial departments are responsible for most of the service delivery.

Some of the direct services provided by the Department of Social Development include:

- relief payment to victims of declared disasters
- registration of non-profit organisations (NPOs)
- payment of subsidies to national councils
- poverty-relief projects
- home- and community-based HIV and AIDS projects
- a national call centre for social-grant enquiries.

The department's strategic plan is informed by the Ten Point Plan, which sets out the priorities to be addressed by the social development sector:

- rebuilding family, community and social relations
- an integrated poverty-eradication strategy
- a comprehensive social security system
- preventing violence against women and children, older persons and other vulnerable groups
 - HIV and AIDS
 - youth development
 - accessibility of social welfare services
 - services to people with disabilities
 - commitment to co-operative governance
 - training, educating, redeploing and employing a new category of workers in social development.

The department is responsible for policy and oversight in the critical areas of social assistance (means-tested cash benefits to vulnerable categories of South Africans) and social welfare services (including probation and adoption services, child and family counselling and support services, and secure centres).

Over the last three years, the department has overseen a large expansion of the social assistance system, with beneficiary numbers increasing from 3,8 million in April 2001 to more than 10 million in September 2005.

The departmental mandate has also widened in recent years, with growing responsibility for a broad set of initiatives to improve the livelihoods of South Africans through the co-ordination of home-based care for people with HIV and AIDS, food-relief programmes, a focus on programmes for particularly vulnerable groups, and overseeing the National Development Agency (NDA).

Legislation

Older Persons Bill

The Older Persons Bill was expected to be finalised in 2005. By April 2005, the department had drafted the accompanying guidelines on frail-care services and service standards for community-based care for older persons.

The Bill proposes a law that will deal effectively with the plight of older persons, promoting their empowerment and protection, as well as maintaining their status, rights, well-being, safety and security.

Child-care legislation

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) finalised its research on the review of the Child Care

Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983). The SALRC proposed the Draft Children's Bill in January 2003. Close liaison with the various role-players followed.

On 23 July 2003, Cabinet approved that the Children's Bill be submitted to Parliament for consideration.

The Children's Bill defines both the rights and responsibilities of children, as well as parental responsibilities and rights. It also specifies principles and guidelines for the protection of children and the promotion of their well-being. In addition to consolidating the laws relating to the welfare and protection of children, the Bill provides for assistance to orphaned children and child-led households.

By April 2005, the Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Child Abuse was in the process of being approved and was expected to be implemented in 2005/06. This will ensure the swift implementation of the Child Protection Register, which will link provincial and national databases of children under 18 years who have allegedly been abused.

Early childhood guidelines were expected to be implemented in 2005/06. The department participated in the development of the draft Integrated Early Childhood Development Strategy, in collaboration with the departments of education and of health.

To prevent child trafficking and to manage inter-country adoptions more effectively, a permanent central authority for intercountry adoptions will soon be in place.

Social assistance

Social assistance and security

In 2004, the Social Security Agency Act, 2004 (Act 9 of 2004), and the Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act 13 of 2004), were signed into law.

These Acts provide for the establishment of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). SASSA, which started operating in April 2005, is expected to be fully functional by 2007. Some R60 million was set aside in 2005/06 and over R133 million over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period to ensure that this goal is met.



On 7 April 2005, the South African Council for Social Service Professions, together with the Department of Social Development, inaugurated the boards that will oversee the improvement of social work and child- and youth-care services.

The boards aim to further enhance the transformation of social service professions by making them more inclusive and ensuring uniform standard services for everyone.

The boards are responsible for the education, training and development of social service professionals, as well as the development of regulations pertaining to their registration.

By September 2005, staff were being employed in the national office with over 5 000 existing social security staff in provinces awaiting transfer to the agency.

The agency is tasked with the management, administration and payment of social grants.

The Social Security Agency Act, 2004 creates a unitary but flexible service-delivery mechanism to ensure that government pays the right grant amount to the right person, at the right time and in a dignified manner.

The establishment of SASSA is part of government's efforts to provide services to the poorest of the poor and to restore the dignity of the most vulnerable, especially older people, people with disabilities, women and children.

The Social Assistance Act, 2004 creates uniform norms and standards that apply countrywide. It provides for the publishing of regulations on performance management and on adherence to the Batho Pele principles of customer service.

The Act provides for the rendering of social assistance to persons, mechanisms for the rendering of such assistance, the establishment of an inspectorate for social assistance, and related matters.

With a view to operationalising SASSA, government has committed itself to ensuring that ordinary citizens of South Africa see visible changes to the social security administration system, particularly as improved service delivery will affect them directly.

Operation Isidima is an endeavour by the Department of Social Development to ensure that Section 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), is given effect, with its primary objective to restore dignity to citizens who are recipients of social grants.

The main focus areas of Operation Isidima include:

- reducing the application and processing time for grants to 21 days
- enhancing human resource capacity to a ratio of 1:1000
- upgrading pay and service points in nodal areas
- paying contractors to deliver an improvement package

- enhancing communication by uniform messaging
- standardising the disability application process
- deploying dedicated fraud prevention/detection teams.

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

- 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*) and a free-call fax service number (0800 61 10 11).

As part of the Anti-Corruption and Fraud Prevention Strategy, launched in 2001, internal control systems have been improved, and forensic and investigating teams deployed in all provinces.

In December 2004, the department launched a nationwide anti-fraud and anti-corruption campaign.

It granted indemnity to all people illegally accessing social grants and requested them to come forward before 31 March 2005.

Over 30 000 people responded and their fraudulent payments were stopped. This translated into an estimated saving of R12 million per month and over R446 million over the MTEF period. These savings are expected to result in an additional 66 000 children receiving the Child Support Grant (CSG).

To root out fraud and corruption, the department has set aside R57,9 million and entered into a co-operation agreement with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU).

Some 200 staff members were trained and used in the fight against fraud and corruption, and probed the details of all grant beneficiaries.

Amounts of grants per month as at 1 April 2005

Grant type	Amount
Old-Age Grant	R780
Disability Grant	R780
War Veterans' Grant	R758
Foster Care Grant	R560
Care Dependency Grant	R780
Child Support Grant	R180
Grant-in-Aid	R170

The department, in collaboration with all national and provincial law-enforcement agencies, including the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the SIU, was expected to establish the Inspectorate for Social Security by March 2006.

In June 2005, the Minister of Social Development, Dr Zola Skweyiya, met with members of the Banking Association of South Africa to agree on areas of co-operation in fighting poverty, developing rural communities and improving access to banking for the poor and vulnerable.

Representatives of Nedbank, Absa, First National Bank, Nedcor, Standard Bank and the co-operatives sector agreed to collaborate with the department, to, among other things:

- create access and affordable banking for social-grant recipients
- have a common approach to assist the delivery of quality services to social-grant recipients
- provide financial and technical know-how in establishing SASSA.

Payment of social grants

By September 2005, more than 10 million South Africans were accessing social grants, with 6,2 million children making up the majority of recipients. These figures were reached despite significant decreases in some grants after a number of people exited the system during the Department of Social Development's anti-fraud and corruption campaign.

Total government expenditure on social grants increased from R10 billion in 1994 to R48 billion in 2005. An additional R105 billion has been budgeted for the 2006/08 period. Social grants have been equalised between racial groups and extended to all in need who qualify.

Some R6,9 billion was set aside for 2005/06 and an additional R19 billion has been set aside over the MTEF period for the further extension of the CSG to children under the age of 14 years.

Growth in the total number of beneficiaries doubled between 1999 and September 2005, reaching staggering heights as the CSG was extended to children between the ages of seven and 14 years.

The department has reached almost all the elderly people with old-age and disability grants. The real growth for disability has only been around 1% since April 2004. By September 2005, the coverage for the Old-Age Grant was about 2,1 million and for disability grants about 1,3 million.

The Old-Age Pension Grant is the second-largest social grant. 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.

By April 2005, the department had reviewed 260 000 recipients of temporary disability grants. As a result of the reviews, by September 2005, 100 000 cases of temporary disabilities had been terminated, saving the State more than R200 million.

In partnership with the Department of Health, the Department of Social Development has embarked on a project to retrain health practitioners in disability assessment and the rehabilitation of people with disabilities. Such rehabilitation is expected to enable people with disabilities to access training and job opportunities.

Foster care grants are paid to caregivers of children who have been placed with them by the courts. Caregivers of children with disabilities up to the age of 18 years are eligible for the Care Dependency Grant. Once these children turn 18 years, they are eligible for the Disability Grant. By September 2005, foster care grants were being paid to 286 131 people, while 87 093 received care dependency grants.

Other grants provided by the Department of Social Development include the War Veterans' Grant and the Grant-in-Aid. By September 2005, 3 076 people were receiving the War Veterans' Grant and 24 460 Grant-in-Aid.

Poverty-relief programme

The eradication of poverty is the highest priority in government's efforts to build a better life for all.

In addition to the provision of social assistance, the Department of Social Development also man-

ages the Poverty-Relief Programme. This programme aims to assist communities in a range of developmental projects.

The programme entrusts state resources to communities to undertake and dictate development for themselves by themselves.

The programme emphasises access to economic opportunities for specific targeted groups and the establishment of local structures that are able to identify, own and manage the ongoing implementation of development initiatives in the community.

The programme has established 408 projects throughout the country, 80% of which are in the hands of women. A study done by the Independent Development Trust (IDT) has indicated that these projects are at different stages of development. According to the study, 20% are ready for graduation into small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs). The IDT and the department are negotiating with relevant stakeholders, such as the Department of Trade and Industry, the Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the National Empowerment Fund, to provide the necessary support to this process.

The department embarked on a series of provincial visits to undertake an audit of a sample of projects and establish relationships with provinces and municipalities. These relationships will facilitate a smooth handover of projects and promote ownership of all national projects by provinces and municipalities.

An assessment of the status and needs of poverty-relief projects in the 21 Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme and Urban Renewal Programme nodes is expected to be done in 2006/07.

Food security

The department's National Food Emergency Scheme, introduced by Cabinet in 2002, is aimed at distributing food parcels to the most vulnerable sections of the population. These include children and child-headed households, people with disabilities, female-headed households with insufficient or no income, and households affected by HIV, AIDS and tuberculosis.

In 2005/06, the department set aside R388 million to ensure improved access to food in vulnerable and impoverished families.

The distribution of food parcels is a temporary measure to assist poor people spending less than R300 per month on food. Most of the people who receive food parcels are identified by NGOs and FBOs. In 2004/05, the scheme distributed over 490 000 food parcels for each of the three months of distribution. By mid-2004, the scheme had benefited over 1,5 million people at a cost of R360 million. Each beneficiary household received food parcels worth R300.

The scheme forms part of government's Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme (IFSNP).

The five elements of the IFSNP are:

- Developing comprehensive food-production and trade schemes to enhance the capacity of communities to produce food for themselves through the setting up of household and communal food gardens.
- Initiating a community-development scheme aimed at providing employment to local communities through community-based and community-owned public works programmes. This involves setting up community-based income-generating projects and activities to ensure sustainable food security.
- Developing a nutrition and food programme that focuses primarily on the improvement of nutrition levels in communities, to ensure that every child has at least one nutritious meal a day.
- Developing a fully funded communication strategy to ensure the maintenance of government's communication lines with all its people.
- Building a safety net and establishing a food emergency scheme to ensure that the poorest families, especially children and child-headed households, have food on the table.

By September 2005, more than 22 000 people nationwide, ranging from young people to unemployed women, had been provided with work opportunities to prepare and serve school meals, thus enabling them to gain income through stipends. The scheme also supported the emergence of a number of SMMEs and co-operatives,

which render various services in support thereof. In addition, a number of schools in the National School Nutrition Programme had established vegetable gardens to enrich the nutritional value of the meals served in schools.

Responding to the impact of HIV and AIDS

The Department of Social Development has developed a social-development framework for an integrated and co-ordinated 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-Based/Community-Based Care Programme; empowering women; and capacitating officials to deal with HIV and AIDS.

The department's response to HIV and AIDS is underpinned by working in partnership with other government departments, NGOs, community-based organisations (CBOs), FBOs, the business sector, volunteers and international agencies.

HIV and AIDS Youth Programme

The expansion of the loveLife Groundbreaker Partnership Programme has been approved. This aims to strengthen the loveLife Mphintshi Initiative by linking it to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the prevention programme in relation to home- and community-based care and support. The programme will also expand its services to enable it to reach marginalised and vulnerable youth in rural areas.

HIV and AIDS Workplace Policy and Strategy

The existing HIV and AIDS Workplace Policy and Strategy was reviewed in March 2004, when strategic focus areas for the next three years were outlined. The department's initiatives will be managed according to these focus areas. In addition, a set of

indicators has been developed to monitor the implementation of the workplace strategy. Research will be commissioned to assess the impact of the department's initiatives.

Home-Based/Community-Based Care Programme

The social impact of HIV and AIDS is evidenced by an increase in the number of orphans and child-headed households, manifesting itself in the disintegration of families and communities. Close to a million children in South Africa have lost one or both parents to HIV and AIDS. This number is expected to increase in future. The extended family's capacity to cope with the demand to care for children who are affected and/or infected by HIV and AIDS is overstretched.

The social impact of the epidemic on families and communities calls for an integrated approach to mitigate such impact.

The National Action Committee for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS has been established at national and provincial level. In some provinces, the structure has been cascaded to district level. The primary purpose of the co-ordinated action structure is to improve on programmes and service delivery.

By mid-2005, a draft policy framework for orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS had been developed and was communicated to stakeholders for consultation purposes.

The policy framework is a culmination of processes undertaken to ensure that government meets its constitutional obligations in providing appropriate and protective services to orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. It intends to create and promote an enabling environment for more effective co-ordination in service delivery in relation to the existing commitments made towards the promotion and protection of children's rights.

During the first three quarters of 2004/05:

- Some 116 811 orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS were identified and were receiving appropriate care and support. The services included food parcels; the provision of clothing, counselling and support; the provision

of day-care and after-school care at drop-in centres; and referrals for foster care.

- Some 169 663 families received support such as food parcels, cooked meals, counselling and the linking of families with income-generating projects. Some 78 260 food parcels were distributed.
- Some 627 child-care fora were established as a community-based mechanism to address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children.

A bid has been advertised to do an audit on caregivers rendering a service within the Home-Based/Community-Based Care Programme. On its completion, caregivers will be provided with accredited National Qualifications Framework level training, as part of the EPWP.

The EPWP is a nationwide programme to draw significant numbers of unemployed people into productive work, accompanied by appropriate training and skills development. The aim is to build the capacity of unemployed persons to earn an income.

The Home-Based/Community-Based Care and Support Programme was identified as one area for such expansion. The number of sites for community- and home-based care support increased from six projects in 2001 to 400 in 2003.

The integrated programme teaches life skills to children and the youth, and provides voluntary testing and counselling services, and a range of care and support services focusing on families and on children orphaned through the AIDS-related death of their parents. There has been significant progress regarding the initial implementation of home- and community-based care and support.

It is estimated that the home- and community-based care sector has about 2 500 full-time caregivers and 20 000 volunteers. Only a quarter of these volunteers receive stipends of any kind.

In 2005, the department set aside R74 million to accelerate the delivery of care facilities.

Services for children

The HIV and AIDS drop-in centres established by the Department of Social Development received a budget of R16,4 million in 2003/04. Each food parcel these centres provide costs about R300. The

drop-in centres were identified through the HIV and AIDS database of home- and community-based care centres. Each province has identified drop-in centres to be contracted to provide cooked meals to identified beneficiaries. These beneficiaries are classified as people who are not able to cook for themselves, e.g. as in the case of child-headed households.

The department has developed the integrated and consolidated Five-Year National Social Development Strategic Plan, which is being implemented in partnership with other stakeholders such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Partnerships

Since 2000, the department has strengthened its partnership with national and international organisations involved in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The department chairs the National AIDS Children's Task Team (NACTT), a multisectoral task team focusing on the care and support of children infected with and/or affected by HIV and AIDS.

United Nations Children's Fund

UNICEF conducted studies on caring for vulnerable children and children orphaned through AIDS-related illnesses, as well as on the cost-effectiveness of several models of care for vulnerable children.

The department has implemented the results of UNICEF studies in its design 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.



In May 2005, the Minister of Social Development, Dr Zola Skweyiya, launched the green ribbon as the new national symbol for child protection. It marked the beginning of Child Protection Week from 30 May to 5 June 2005.

Some 197 activities were planned throughout the country to commemorate Child Protection Week.

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 and AIDS. It has compiled a directory of services and children's organisations.

Faith-based organisations and the business sector

The department has 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.

Promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups

Children and the youth

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

Through the National Youth Service Programme, the department was expected to train 940 young people in assistant probation services in 2005.

Social crime prevention

The department is tasked with the implementation of the Probation Services Act, 1991 (Act 116 of 1991), as amended. As such, it has to fulfil various obligations at national and provincial level, such as early intervention services (reception, assessment and referral services, restorative justice programmes and diversion programmes), prevention programmes, services to crime victims and statutory services.

The proposed Child Justice Bill will augment the responsibilities of probation services to ensure that sufficient diversion programmes in all areas (rural and urban) are in place. It will also ensure that every arrested child is assessed within 48 hours; addition-

al home-based supervision programmes are provided; the numbers of probation and assistant probation officers are increased; and that sufficient and secure care facilities to accommodate children awaiting trial are put in place.

The department's contribution towards the implementation of the Child Justice Bill was strengthened through donor-funding from the Royal Netherlands Embassy. Service-providers have been contracted to deliver a range of projects, namely minimum standards for diversion; the establishment of a professional board and standard-generating body for probation services; the roll-out of the home-based supervision programme; the appointment of additional assistant probation officers; the training and retraining of probation practitioners; restorative justice training to probation practitioners in all provinces; and the evaluation of the assistant probation and crime-buster programmes.

Some 1 000 children benefited from the home-based supervision programmes, 750 probation practitioners received training in restorative justice and probation-practice principles; and 72 assistant probation officers received in-service training. New secure care facilities in Gauteng, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal have been completed.

In 2004, about 30 000 children were diverted from the criminal justice system (CJS). The National Youth Service Programme will ensure the appointment of additional assistant probation officers in all provinces.

The department, as one of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster core integrated justice system (IJS) partners, has been included in a capacity-strengthening programme to ensure departmental delivery on the IJS and JCPS strategic focus areas.

A special intersectoral programme, under the leadership of the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Dr Jean Benjamin, to reduce the number of children awaiting trial, was initiated in October 2004. By early 2005, some 300 children had been moved from Department of Correctional Services, SAPS and Department of Social Development facilities into alternative care programmes.

Child abuse and neglect

The department's priority is fighting child abuse and neglect, as illustrated by the following initiatives:

- **Child Protection Register:** This programme, tested and revised in 2004, has been implemented in seven provinces. It aims to develop an electronic database in all provinces linked to a central database at the Department of Social Development on children younger than 18 years who have been abused or neglected.
- **Draft Policy Framework and Strategic Plan on the Prevention and Management of Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation:** The framework has been completed. Effective implementation is expected to reduce the incidence of abuse and neglect, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.
- **Isolabantwana (Eye of the Child):** The South African National Council for Child Welfare received donor funding from the department for the replication of a prevention programme in communities to eliminate child abuse and to promote child protection. The programme aims to provide a safety net for children within a community where services and support could be provided to children at risk on a 24-hour basis, and in areas where resources are limited. Community members contribute to the success of the child-protection services, as they reside in the communities and are familiar with the people, structures and traditions. The programme has been implemented (with a minimum of three sites per province) in all nine provinces according to community needs.

Childline South Africa

Childline offers a toll-free crisis line (0800 55 555) to children and families across South Africa on a 24-hour basis. The line provides immediate assistance to children and families in crisis who need brief counselling and information.

Apart from the 24-hour toll-free helpline, services also include treatment centres for individual, family and play therapy; prevention programmes; community safehouses; and training and awareness programmes.

Integrated justice system

The IJS Project ensures the integration of case management and offenders through four departments, namely the SAPS, and the departments of justice and constitutional development, of correctional services and of social development, supported by enabling technologies. A number of projects have been initiated to this end, including 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 has yielded positive results. An interdepartmental committee of senior officials monitors the cases of children awaiting trial.

The computerised Child Protection Register has been developed. Technological improvements in the SAPS Crime Administration System have enabled the departments to track children through the system and assist in monitoring their cases.

The Court Process Project provides for the electronic management of court processes from arrest to final court appearances. The project is running in six pilot sites and is increasing efficiency and reducing court delays.

Women

Social-development services for women are another priority. This 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 subject 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 has established the Flagship Programme: Developmental Programmes for Unemployed Women with Children under Five Years. The programme provides economic and development

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 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.

A considerable number of women and 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.

People with disabilities

There are more than three million people with disabilities in South Africa. The majority of these are women.

The Office on the Status of Disabled Persons is part of The Presidency and is duplicated in the offices of the premiers. Together they have co-ordinated work to mainstream disability issues in all government policies and programmes.

The *White Paper on an Integrated National Strategy* provides a policy framework for implementation across the whole of society and through all spheres of government.

By mid-2004, 0,25% of the Public Service was made up of people with disabilities, while the target was to reach 2% by 2005.

The National Skills Development Strategy calls for 4% of all people trained to be people with disabilities.

The national councils supported by the Department of Social Development 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.

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 community-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.

Victim-Empowerment Programme (VEP)

The VEP facilitates the establishment and integration of interdepartmental/intersectoral programmes and policies for the support, protection and empowerment of victims of crime and violence, with a special focus on women and children.

It also ensures that the implementation of such programmes and policies is monitored and evaluated.

Some 120 projects have been established since the inception of the VEP in 1999. 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 with skills and knowledge for the effective delivery of services to such victims.

One such project, which has been provided with technical and financial support through the VEP, is the Stop Abuse Helpline of the Johannesburg Life Line.

Other organisations that are financially supported by the VEP include the National Network on Violence Against Women, the Ilitha Psychological Services NGO in Fort Hare, the Soshanguve Trauma Centre, the University of South Africa's Department of Industrial Psychology, the Themba Lesizwe NGO, and the Walk the Talk Challenge from Durban to Cape Town.

Achievements and progress in the area of victim empowerment include the updating of the 2003 National Resource Directory of Services to promote

the accessibility of services to victims of crime and violence.

One-stop centres for abused women and children

The VEP is a major component of the joint agreement between the Department of Social Development and the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention for the establishment of one-stop centres for women and children who are victims of abuse, especially domestic violence.

Anti-Rape Strategy

The Interdepartmental Management Team (IDMT) comprises representatives from the departments of health, of safety and security, and of social development, as well as the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit of the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions. The IDMT was tasked to develop the Anti-Rape Strategy for the prevention of sexual violence against women and children.

The strategy encompasses an approach that enables both prevention of and response to violence, improves effectiveness of the CJS, increases the reporting rate of sexual assault, and improves the effectiveness of survivor-support programmes.

The SAPS has also established partnerships with several community-based role-players, including businesses. These links have improved the implementation of crime-prevention initiatives.

Non-profit organisations

The Non-Profit Directorate of the Department of Social Development registers organisations under the NPO Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997).

The NPO Directorate is reviewing the NPO Act, 1997.

The primary purpose of the Act is to encourage and support organisations by creating an enabling environment for NPOs to flourish in, and setting and maintaining adequate standards of governance, accountability and transparency.

An NPO is defined as a trust, company or association of persons that has been established for public purpose, and of which the income and property

are not distributable to its members or office bearers except as reasonable compensation for services rendered.

This includes NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, public-benefit organisations, section 21 companies, trusts and other voluntary organisations.

The registration process to attain NPO status takes two months on average and is free of charge. The benefits of registration include improving the credibility of the sector, as NPOs can account to a public office and receive help in accessing benefits such as tax incentives and funding opportunities.

By March 2005, 29 000 organisations had registered for NPO status, while just over 2 000 had deregistered and 22 dissolved.

Statutory bodies

National Development Agency

The NDA is a government agency mandated by the NDA Act, 1998 (Act 108 of 1998), to contribute towards poverty eradication through funding, capacity-building, research and development.

The NDA's primary sources of income are an allocation from the National Revenue Fund and donor funding.

Transfers to the NDA will increase from R103,3 million in 2003/04 to R123 million in 2006/07.

The key strategic objectives of the NDA are to:

- grant funds to civil-society organisations to meet the development needs of poor communities



In August 2005, the South African Human Rights Commission hosted a two-day convention to establish a national forum for older persons.

The convention was a follow-up to the International Conference on Ageing held in Spain in 2002, as well as the Ministerial Committee of Inquiry into the Neglect and Abuse of Older Persons.

The forum will, among other things, assist in monitoring the levels of service provided to older persons, especially at pension pay points.

- strengthen organisations' institutional capacity for long-term sustainability
- proactively source funds for the NDA
- promote consultation, dialogue and the sharing of development experiences, and debate and influence developmental policy
- develop strategies to collaborate with local-community development trusts, foundations, government clusters and civil-society organisations.

Relief boards

The Fund-Raising Act, 1978 (Act 107 of 1978), provides for relief boards to offer social relief to people in distress as a result of disasters or displacement from another country.

In October 2005, the Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, announced in the Medium Term Budget Statement that R32 million would be allocated to the Disaster Relief Fund.



In October 2005, the Minister of Social Development, Dr Zola Skweyiya, was elected president of the United Nations (UN) Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Management of Social Transformation Programme's (MOST) Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) in Paris, France.

The MOST IGC president is elected in his/her personal capacity as a renowned social scientist or social policy-maker whose commitment to the MOST programmes has already been established through prior co-operation.

Dr Skweyiya has demonstrated his commitment to the MOST through a number of actions, including:

- convening the Cape Town Ministerial Forum of Southern African Development Community Ministers of Social Development in November 2004
- chairing, on behalf of MOST, an informal gathering of ministers of social development within the framework of the Copenhagen +10 review process, during the annual session of the UN Commission on Social Development in New York, United States of America, in February 2005
- active participation in meetings of the International Steering Committee of the MOST International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus, to be held in Buenos Aires and Montevideo in February 2006.

Central Drug Authority (CDA)

The CDA has started an extensive process of reviewing the National Drug Master Plan, which involves drug fora established in all provinces. All provinces have, with support from the Department of Social Development, developed mini-drug master plans to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to service delivery.

The review process in terms of the Drug Master Plan was expected to be finalised in 2005/06. The Ke Moja Project, launched in the Western Cape, is a prevention programme which has successfully targeted the youth. The department successfully trained service-providers in two provinces on the management of substance abuse. This project will be extended to other provinces in the ensuing year. The Youth Best Practice Treatment Model was developed.

A significant achievement has been the development of minimum standards for in-patient treatment centres.

The standards are being used to transform service delivery in government facilities as a first priority and to ensure that appropriate services are provided at these centres. These standards will also set the framework for the registration of treatment centres run by civil-society structures in the country.

The proliferation of unregistered treatment centres is being addressed. Notices have been sent out to sensitise the sector about the legal requirement for registration and to ensure that these facilities are registered in terms of the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependency Act, 1992 (Act 20 of 1992).

The Act, which is outdated and does not meet current demands for effective service delivery, is being reviewed.

The department wants to ensure that human rights and minimum standards for treatment are upheld. The Policy on Substance Abuse has been drafted and was expected to be finalised in 2005/06.

The process of reviewing the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependency Abuse Act, 1992 (Act 20 of 1992), an outdated Act which does not meet current demands for effective services delivery, has begun.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Second Country Support Programme for South Africa

The implementation of the Second UNFPA Country Support Programme for South Africa has been initiated in three priority provinces: KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Limpopo. Details of programme implementation have been outlined in collaboration with provincial representatives and key stakeholders in the three provinces.

In 2004, preparations began for a mid-term review (MTR) of the progress made with the implementation of the country programme, in partnership with the UNFPA country office in South Africa.

Preparations included establishing the required structures at provincial level and conducting a series of capacity-building workshops in the three provinces to facilitate the MTR process. In November 2004, the UNFPA country representative and the Chief Directorate: Population and Development in the Department of Social Development reached an agreement on the procedure to be followed.

The MTR process was scheduled to be concluded in 2005. This was expected to be followed by a final evaluation report with recommendations for the next country programme to be submitted to the UNFPA.

Acknowledgements

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Department of Social Development

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