



Social Development

Social assistance continues to form an important part of government's strategy to fight the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment. More than half of all households in South Africa benefit from government's social assistance programme.

According to National Treasury, for 22% of households, social grants are the main source of income. More than 11 million children receive the child support grant.

Comprehensive social security alleviates and reduces poverty, vulnerability, social exclusion and inequality through a comprehensive social protection system.

Integrated and social development reduces poverty. Empowering young and old people, those with disabilities as well as women in particular helps rebuild families and communities.

Welfare services create and provide social protection to the most vulnerable of society through the delivery of social welfare services via provincial government and non-profit organisation structures.

Role players

Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities (DWCPD)

In March 2013, the United Nations (UN) Commission Focusing on Women (UNCSW) kicked off its annual session with a call to eliminate violence against women and girls, a global scourge that affects millions around the world.

In countries such as Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States of America, intimate partner violence accounts for 40 to 70% of female murder victims.

A South African Government delegation, led by the Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, attended the 57th UNCSW.

South Africa participated in various activities of the session and hosted and coordinated side events on gender-based violence, the economic empowerment of women as well as an event which emphasised strengthening the hand-in-hand approach in the fight against gender-based violence, strategies and approaches for ending violence against women.

The theme for the session was "Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV and AIDS."

In November 2013, the first ever National Conference on Albinism was held in Boksburg, Gauteng. Hosted by the DWCPD in partnership with the Albinism Society of South

Africa the conference was attended by 300 delegates, including 90 children with albinism.

High on the conference agenda was the development of positive language associated with albinism in all official languages.

National Development Agency (NDA)

The NDA is a public entity, listed under Schedule 3A of the Public Finance Management Act. Its primary mandate is to contribute towards the eradication of poverty and its causes by granting funds to civil society organisations. 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, which support the department's efforts to reduce violence against women and children by providing key support to the gender-based violence sector.

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

In 2012/13:

- The NDA trained 667 ECD practitioners.
- ECD projects and sites, which targeted 4 122 primary beneficiaries and 400 job opportunities, were approved against the respective annual targets of 3 850 primary beneficiaries and 114 job opportunities.
- The NDA generated 3 480 primary beneficiaries of food security projects, with the creation of 477 job opportunities.
- Income generation projects were approved and that created 906 job opportunities against an annual target of 1 686, representing a 63% negative variance against the annual target. This is an area that will receive focused attention in the 2013/14 financial year.
- In addition to its formal income stream from the National Treasury, the NDA established a PMU1 in 2012, with the objective of mobilising alternative funding for poverty alleviation programmes. Partnerships were developed with provincial departments of social development and private institutions. To this end, R80,6 million was mobilised for poverty eradication programmes.

National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)

The focus on youth development is still very much on the Government and NYDA's agenda. The Youth Employment Accord was signed in 2013. It is a viable and meaningful approach to addressing the challenge of youth unemployment.

Great progress was made across the country during 2013:

- 606 unemployed graduates were appointed by provincial government departments across North West in internship programmes for them to gain much-needed workplace experiential learning
- 170 bursaries were awarded to needy and deserving students
- R11,9 million was budgeted for provincial bursary schemes for the 2013/14 financial year.

As part of the Youth Employment Accord, the Department of Economic Development committed R3 billion in support of the growth of young entrepreneurs over the next five years, through the Industrial Development Corporation and Small Enterprise Finance Agency, which will go a long way towards facilitating the growth and development of young entrepreneurs in South Africa.

The Commonwealth Conference on Education and Training of Youth Workers was hosted by the South African Government in partnership with the Commonwealth Africa Regional Centre, University of South Africa and the NYDA during March 2013. It was geared towards sharing experiences and lessons learnt to advance the agenda of professionalising the field of youth work.

South African Social Security Agency (Sassa)

Sassa's mandate is to ensure the provision of comprehensive social security services against vulnerability and poverty within the constitutional and legislative framework.

By October 2013, social grant beneficiaries increased to 16 106 110, thus protecting thousands more households and millions of children from abject poverty. Although the number of beneficiaries increased, government achieved savings on social grant payments when Sassa cleaned up the beneficiary re-registration process to reduce fraud.

Programmes and projects **Early Childhood Development Programme**

The government has identified ECD as a key focus area in its effort to improve the quality of basic education and care for children. More than 836 000 children currently benefit from ECD services in South Africa. The department recognises that one of the ways of breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty is investment in children to aid their development, especially from the ages of 0 – 4. More than 836 000 children benefitted from ECD programmes in 2013.

In line with the Department of Social Development's target of 10 000 Child and Youth Care Workers over five years, 3 150 Child and Youth Care Workers from local communities were recruited and have begun with the training programme for the roll out of the Isibindi Model in 260 sites.

Project Mikondzo

In September 2013, the Minister of Social Development launched a new project to expand social services to 1 300 of the country's poorest wards and called on community members to lend their support to the department and its agencies.

Project Mikondzo (which means "footprint" in Xitsonga) will compel office-bound officials from the department, the NDA and the Sassa to join frontline officials to interact with communities in a bid to tackle social problems such as poverty, malnutrition, violence against women and child-headed households.

The 1 300 wards form part of 23 district municipalities from seven provinces which Cabinet has prioritised for additional support.

The project includes an audit of ECD centres and the setting up of a command centre with a toll-free hotline open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It also includes a current substance abuse awareness campaign targeting sports and music events, the targeting of gender-based violence and the strengthening of non-profit organisations.

The roll-out would, for example, help government reach the about two million children who qualify for child-support grants but who have not registered with Sassa to receive grants.

The project will be funded by Sassa and the department, but the department plans to approach the National Treasury for funding in future financial years.

The audit of ECD centres, which will cover 19 971 registered and unregistered centres, aims to establish, among other things, the kind of services that these centres offer and the quality of infrastructure and resources available to them.

About 1 000 unemployed youths have been recruited and trained to carry out the audit.

The department has begun training caregivers to improve assistance to child- and youth-headed households.

The department is also auditing 92 000 child-headed households that are in the Statistics South Africa database to ensure compliance with the Children's Act of 2005 definition of a child-headed household.

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

The EPWP provides an important avenue for labour absorption and income transfers to poor households in the short to medium-term. It is also a deliberate attempt by public sector bodies to use expenditure on goods and services to create work opportunities for the unemployed.

Social security and assistance

More than 16 million South Africans receive social assistance from government, 11 million of these being children. Social grants remain the cornerstone of government's key programmes to fight poverty afflicting children, people with disabilities and older persons.

Independent research results showed in November 2013 that the provision of social protection in the form of social grants had sustained many vulnerable households, particularly against the global financial crisis that threatens to reverse development gains in many developing countries across the globe.

From October 2013, government increased the monetary value of social grants. At the Conference on Orphans, Children and Youth made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS, which took place in May 2013 in Durban, delegates heard that improved financial stability, facilitated by social grants, improved children's school attendance.

Poor children who receive grants tend to stay at school for longer and perform better compared to poor children who get no financial support at all.

Food for All Programme

The department is tasked with facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Food for All Programme. To this end, 555 957 distressed households were provided with food through the department and Food Bank South Africa programme.

While social relief of distress provides short-term relief for poor households, government recognises that longer-term solutions are needed.

During 2012/13, the department created 171 668 job opportunities in the Social Sector and extended the number of Community Work Programme sites by 148.

Spending on community development increased in 2013 due to an additional allocation of R120 million to FoodBank South Africa, aimed at strengthening the Food for All programme.

The programme is meant to feed three million people by 2015/16.

Consistent with the department's commitment to keeping children in their families and communities, 3 150 child and youth care workers from local communities were recruited and started with the training programme for the roll-out of the Isibindi Model at 260 sites throughout the country.

The aim is to recruit 10 000 child and youth careworkers over the next five years.

It is expected that the recruitment and deployment of this cadre of social service professionals will go a long way towards upholding government's constitutional obligation to protect and provide care and support for orphans, vulnerable children and youths affected by HIV and AIDS in South Africa.

HIV and AIDS support

In 2013, free antiretroviral (ARV) treatment reached 1,8 million adults so they could live to see their children grow. Government also provided ARV treatment to 150 000 children – up from 4 200 children in 2004.

Most funds continued to be disbursed to loveLife, enabling it to increase and extend its HIV and AIDS awareness programmes, and scholarships for social work students. By 2015/16, the number of students benefiting from these scholarships is expected to be 4 248.

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National Family Policy

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.

Through the *Green Paper on Families*, the department shifts the focus of government services from simply 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 addresses some of the challenges faced by individuals in families, including the abuse of women and children, the elderly as well as people with disabilities.

Prevention and treatment of substance and drug abuse

The Department of Trade and Industry opened the third annual Sobriety Week, a national campaign aimed at creating awareness among the general South African public, particularly the youth, women and pregnant women about the adverse effects of liquor abuse. Sobriety Week incorporates the International Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Day which is observed internationally on 9 September every year to highlight the irreversible damage that is caused to unborn babies when their mothers consume alcohol during pregnancy.

Government recognises challenges faced by communities such as unemployment which result in people using and abusing liquor. She encouraged residents to find information about how they can actively participate in the economy of the country instead of resorting to liquor.

Liquor abuse was causing havoc on families, communities and the South African nation in general.

Children and youth

At the end of May 2013, government reaffirmed its commitment to continue its efforts to address violence against women and children through partnerships and the effective implementation of relevant policies and programmes during Child Protection Week. The Home Community-Based Care programme is the centrepiece of government's interventions to build a protective and caring environment for vulnerable children. Most services to orphans and vulnerable children are rendered through the Home-Community Based Care programme and include early identification of vulnerable children and their families, referrals, training of community caregivers and psychosocial support and material assistance, to name a few.

This approach is geared towards keeping children within their families and communities.

It is aimed at providing comprehensive care and support which is complemented by proactive action at community

level. This includes linking families with poverty alleviation projects and other services in the community, such as food security initiatives and ECD services.

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. The organisation provides, among other things, study bursaries for visually impaired students for further education, Braille publications in all of South Africa's official languages, Braille training that entails writing and reading, and orientation and mobility training.

South African Braille Authority

The South African Braille Authority was established in May 2012 as a non-governmental organisation. Its purpose is to set and maintain standards for Braille in all 11 official languages of South Africa.

South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB)

The SANCB 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 persons.

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. An estimated 500 000 to 600 000 South Africans use South African Sign Language.

Older people

The *Global AgeWatch Index Report*, released in September 2013, ranks South Africa second in Africa in terms of programmes implemented to secure the well-being of older persons. *The Global AgeWatch Index* is a global study conducted by the UN and an elder rights group, the Help Age.

The Golden Games are held during Social Development Month in October every year. The theme of the 2013 Golden Games was: "Building a caring society for all ages." The Games encourage older persons to live healthy lifestyles by

participating in sport and other social activities. The Games are also a way to encourage all South Africans to provide support to older persons by helping them live healthier lives.

The old age grant means test would be phased out by 2016, accompanied by offsetting revisions to the secondary and tertiary rebates. All citizens over a designated age will be eligible for the grant, which will simplify its administration and address the disincentive to save that arises from the present means test.

Training and skills development Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers

In August 2013, the Minister for Social Development invited unemployed social workers to register on a new database aimed at keeping a record of all unemployed qualified social workers in the country.

The database will be used to lobby for funds to create social work posts that are required within the public service. There are 9 456 social workers in the employ of government.

The Unemployed Social Workers Database will also inform the department about the number of unemployed social workers who have studied outside the Social Development scholarship programme. This is in response to the issue raised by communities and the media that there are qualified social workers who are unemployed.

The Draft Scarce Skills and Policy Framework of 2003 recognised social work as a scarce skill. Government mandated the development of strategies to facilitate the recruitment and retention of such scarce skills.

The Department of Social Development has been the main driver in the implementation of this social policy. In addition, the National Development Plan indicates that 60 000 social workers will be needed by 2030 to serve the population.