



Social development

The Department of Social Development works with religious groups, non-governmental organisations, business, labour and communities to uplift society and eradicate poverty.

Between 1999/2000 and 2002/03, the Social Development Budget grew from R19,4 billion to R31,2 billion.

Social grants		
	1994	2003
Expenditure	R10 billion	R34,8 billion
Beneficiaries	2,6 million	6,8 million

Source: *Towards a Ten-Year Review*

While large amounts of money are being allocated to social development, the responsible Ministry is working to create a social ethic of care and human development, rebuilding family and community relations.

Since 1998, policy has progressively shifted towards a social-development model which addresses the root causes of poverty.

Social grants, however, remain a key element of programmes to eradicate poverty.

Legislation

Recent Bills include:

The Older Persons Bill

- aims to maintain and protect the rights of the elderly



A pensions medical officer is no longer required to attest to an applicant's eligibility for disability and care dependency grants. Panels have now been introduced to assess such applicants.

- regulates the registration of facilities for older persons
- maintains and promotes the status and safety and security of the elderly.

New child-care legislation

- will allow more than one or two persons to acquire parental rights
- will establish a Child and Family Court at regional court level
- will recognise child-headed households
- will establish a register of persons unsuitable to work with children.

Payment of social grants

The number of people benefiting from social grants increased from 2,6 million in 1994 to over 7,7 million by February 2004, at total cost of over R34,8 billion per annum.

The Government aims to register all children eligible for the Child Support Grant (CSG) of R170 a month by 2005. Over half of unregistered children and eligible people are in the poorest provinces: Free State, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

By February 2004, over four million children had been registered for the CSG.

In 2003, it was announced that the age of eligibility would be progressively increased up to 14. This will result in a further 3,2 million children receiving the CSG. Govern-

Uptake of Child Support Grants

	1998	2004
Number of children	58 000	4 million

ment has budgeted R11 billion for the age extensions.

Currently, there are over 1,3 million beneficiaries of the Disability Grant.

Poverty-Relief Programme

This Programme helps communities to undertake development for themselves, and targets women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Since 1997, the Department has administered more than R563 million, providing support to over 3 600 community-based projects. In a three-year period, 60 000 people would have earned wages generated by poverty-relief projects.



FACT

The Inyosi Bee-Keeping Poverty-Relief Project in the Eastern Cape focuses on producing wax products. It has created jobs for 500 people. The project has received R2,4 million from the Department of Social Development.

Food security

In October 2002, the Cabinet allocated R400 million to counteract soaring food prices, famine and food insecurity in South Africa and the Southern African Development Community region.

Some R230 million of the allocation was used to buy food parcels for the poorest families.

In 2003, government committed R1,2 billion to finance food security over the next three years.

HIV/AIDS

In 2003, the Department was allocated R65,9 million for HIV/AIDS programmes. A particular focus is on households headed by children.

The Home- and Community-Based Care Programme is being implemented in conjunction with other departments.



Photo: Guy Stubbs

FACT

Victims of crime and abuse, particularly women and children, are supported by 120 specialised projects around the country.

The Programme provides life skills classes for children and youths, voluntary testing and counselling services, and a range of care and support services focusing on families and children orphaned through the AIDS-related deaths of their parents.

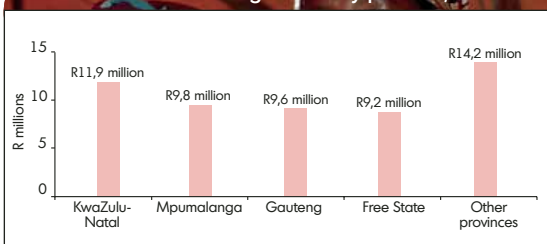
By June 2004, the Department was supporting over 314 home- and community-based care centres.

By August 2003, about 10 000 caregivers had been trained in home- and community-based care. The number of home- and community-based care programmes doubled from 466 in 2001 to 892 in August 2003.

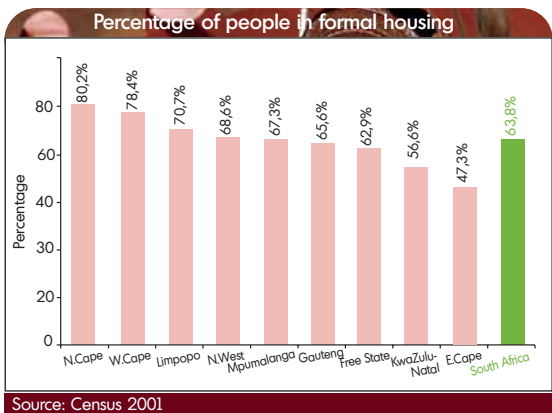
The Department disbursed more than R65 million in 2003 to support Home- and Community-Based Care Programmes.

The tragedy of children orphaned by AIDS is being aggressively addressed by the Department, which aims to ensure they receive counselling, day-to-day support, food parcels and clothing. For example, R16,4 million was spent in 2003/04 on HIV/AIDS drop-in centres. Each food parcel provided at these centres costs R300.

Government support of Community- and Home-Based Care Programmes by province, 2003



Source: South Africa Yearbook 2003/04



The Department also supports the following national councils:

- 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.

Statutory bodies include the National Development Agency, Relief boards and the Central Drug Authority.