



Social development

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

Legislation

By February 2005, three sets of legislation to strengthen the framework for the protection and support of children, people with disabilities, older persons and women were before Parliament.

The Children's Bill and the Older Persons' Bill provide for programmes and services that give effect to the rights of children and older persons respectively, while the Child Justice Bill addresses the protection of children who are in conflict with the law.

The Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Child Abuse 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.

Payment of social grants

Beneficiaries of social grants increased from 3,8 million people in April 2001 to more than 10 million in September 2005.

By September 2005, 6,2 million people were receiving the Child Support Grant (CSG), 286 131 the Foster Care Grant, and 87 093 the Care Dependency Grant.

By September 2005, there were about 1,3 million

Uptake of child support grants		
	1998	2005
Number of children	58 000	6,2 million

beneficiaries of the Disability Grant while 2,1 million people were receiving the Old-Age Grant.

Social assistance grant transfers increased from around 2% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2000/01 to more than 3% of GDP in 2004/05. They were expected to reach 3,4% of GDP in 2005/06.

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 scheme distributed over 490 000 food parcels for each of the three months of distribution in 2004/05.

Over 400 000 food hampers that will benefit over two million of the poorest people, especially vulnerable children, including child-headed households, were expected to be distributed in 2005.

In 2005, social-security programmes accounted for 14% of consolidated non-interest expenditure, up from 9,5% in 2000.



In March 2005, the Department of Social Development and the Umsobomvu Youth Fund signed a partnership agreement. The department has established a youth development directorate to develop policies and programmes to help young people become self-reliant. About R15 million will be invested in about 940 unemployed youth over the next three years, starting in June 2005.

HIV and AIDS

In 2005/06, the department was allocated R74 million for its HIV and AIDS Programme. In 2004/05, the programme reached 109 267 families with 73 048 food parcels, distributed 1 005 school uniforms, and provided material support (clothing, blankets, food supplements, bereavement support and burial assistance) to 4 615 families.

About 570 caregivers were trained in HIV counselling, lay counselling, project management and in-service training. The special-allocations increase from R70,2 million in 2003/04 to R142,8 million in 2007/08 will enable the department to expand the Home- and Community-Based Care Programme in the provinces, mostly through non-profit organisations and community organisations.

By February 2005, some 117 000 orphans and about 5 000 children of child-headed households had been identified and were receiving care and support.

National councils

The department strives to strengthen the capacity of civil society to actively engage in social and economic development, by supporting 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 (NDA), relief boards and the Central Drug Authority.

National Development Agency

The NDA is a statutory funding agency that aims to contribute to the alleviation of poverty, address its causes, and strengthen the capacity of civil-society organisations to combat poverty.

The key strategic objectives of the NDA are to, among other things, grant funds to civil-society organisations to

meet the development needs of poor communities; proactively strengthen organisations' institutional capacity for long-term sustainability; source funds for the NDA; and promote consultation, dialogue and the sharing of development experiences.

Anti-fraud campaign

On 12 December 2004, the Department of Social Development 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, translating into an estimated saving of R12 million per month or R446 million between 2005/06 and 2007/08.

These savings are expected to result in an additional 66 000 children receiving the 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 were trained and utilised in the fight against fraud and corruption. They probed the details of all beneficiaries of social grants.

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



The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) is expected to be fully functional by April 2006. The SASSA is tasked with the management, administration and payment of social grants.