



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Constitution enshrines the rights of all people in the country to dignity, equality before the law, freedom and security. The Constitution commits government to take reasonable measures, within its available resources, to ensure that all South Africans enjoy an acceptable standard of living.

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The Department of Social Development aims to ensure the provision of comprehensive, integrated, sustainable and quality social-development services that address vulnerability and poverty, and to create an enabling environment for sustainable development in partnership with those committed to building a caring society.

Legislation

The Children's Act, 2005 provides for the establishment of the *National Child Protection Register* that lists all persons found 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 amendment of the Social Assistance Act, 2004 saw men aged 63 to 64 years for the first time qualifying and receiving social-assistance grants. The full implementation of the Act will ensure that from 2010 men too will receive social-assistance grants when they turn 60 years of age.

By the end of September 2009, there were 17 800 men aged 61 to 64 years-of-age receiving old-age pension.

The Children's Amendment Act, 2007 provides for, among other things:

- early childhood development (ECD)
- further protection of children
- prevention and early-intervention services
- children in alternative and foster care
- child- and youthcare 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 parents or guardians.

Payment of social grants

The country's social-grants programme is one of the most comprehensive and sophisticated in the developing world.

Social-assistance cash grants provide targeted income support to those whose livelihoods are most at risk. The available grants are the old-age, disability, child-support, foster-care, care-dependency and war-veterans' grants, and temporary grant-in-aid relief.

By August 2009, more than 13 million citizens were receiving social-assistance benefits. Of these beneficiaries, over nine million were children.

Cabinet announced in October 2009 the extension of the Child-Support Grant (CSG) to eligible children between the ages of 15 and 17 years. This decision only applies to children from poor households. Caregivers of the beneficiaries have the responsibility to ensure that the beneficiaries remain in school.

In 2010/11, R89 billion will be spent on social grants. Provision has been made for the phased extension of the CSG up to a child's 18th birthday. The Old-Age Pension and the Disability Grant rise by R70 to R1 080 a month. The CSG increases by R10 to R250 a month.

Government allocated R500 million towards the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant in November 2008. The money allocated

Social-assistance grant recipients

Grant type	1998/99	2008/09
Old-Age Grant	1 812 695	2 390 543
War-Veterans' Grant	9 197	1 500
Disability Grant	633 778	1 286 883
Foster Child Grant	46 696	474 759
Child Dependency Grant	16 835	107 065
Child-Support Grant	21 997	8 765 354
Total	2 540 998	13 026 104
Growth rate	5%	5,2%
Grant-in-Aid	8 496	46 069

Source: *Development Indicators, 2009*

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The Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme, aimed at promoting accessibility to grants by eligible beneficiaries in remote areas, is on course. By September 2009, about 112 000 beneficiaries, mainly from rural communities, were able to access services through its mobile units.



to the SRD increased from R13,6 million in November 2008 to R57,2 million in January 2009.

Social assistance and security fraud

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*).

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

By the end of 2009, the department had brought 2 000 civil servants to book who were found to have defrauded the grant system. The South African Social Security Agency has turned its attention to people in the private sector who are defrauding the social-grants system.

War on poverty

Comprehensive anti-poverty interventions

Poverty remains one of the key challenges facing South Africa. Government, therefore, has in place a number of interventions geared at minimising its impact on the people.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy is premised on an approach that integrates social security, investment in people through education and skills development and a set of economic and industrial policies.

The Social Protection and Community Development Cluster leads the Anti-Poverty Strategy and facilitates synergies between government and other sections of society.

The Department of Social Development has some very specific contributions to make. In the first instance, investment in the

development of children is one of the primary means to improve society's human capital and over time contribute to a reduction in intergenerational poverty.

The ECD Programme lies at the heart of the department's goal. The Department of Social Development intends to accelerate the registration of ECD sites from 13 734 to 14 401 and increase the number of children in registered ECD centres to 758 000.

Another contribution is in respect of the Expanded Public Works Programme. The department aims to provide training to an additional 1 500 community caregivers and over 2 500 ECD practitioners.

Responding to the impact of HIV and AIDS

The National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections 2007 to 2011 serves as South Africa's primary HIV and AIDS policy document. Recognising the growing need to combat the further spread of the epidemic, the plan hinges on four key priorities, namely:

- prevention
- treatment, care and support
- monitoring, research and surveillance
- human rights and access to justice.

FoodBank SA will act as the national governing body for a network of community-based foodbanks, the first of which was established in March 2009 in Cape Town.

Community foodbanks as well as the national body actively procure food on behalf of agencies (social-services organisations and non-governmental organisations) operating in the area of food security.

Over the next three years, FoodBank SA plans to open 20 foodbanks around the country and increase its food supply by five-fold. In addressing their own mandate to eradicate hunger, the South African Government signed a memorandum of understanding with FoodBank SA, showing their support for the programme. By November 2009, four foodbanks had been established in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Eastern Cape.



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Home- and community-based care (HCBC)

HCBC is based on the premise that vulnerable children and their families are better protected and supported within the context of their communities. Norms and standards for the implementation of HCBC and support have been developed to ensure good quality of services and to provide a minimum package of services to be rendered.

By September 2009, a total of 42 827 community care-givers received stipends. Of this number, 30 932 received a stipend of R1 000 while 11 895 received a stipend below that.

The 2008/09 financial year saw the development of a policy framework for HCBC.

Services to orphans made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS

The Department of Social Development provides care and support to orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS and other circumstances. Childcare forums work hand-in-hand with social workers, welfare organisations and other structures in the community to ensure that the identified children get access to appropriate services.

The Department of Social Development is developing a national database of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), which will include child-headed households. The programmes to assist OVC include access to treatment, food, skills training and psychosocial support.

Children are assisted to apply for social grants they are entitled to, for example the CSG and Foster Care Grant.

Community-based care services are rendered in drop-in centres or HCBC centres. The services include, among other things:

- provision of cooked meals and food parcels
- assistance with homework for children who are attending school
- psychosocial care and support
- income-generating programmes
- provision of ECD services.

The Social Protection and Community Development Cluster had registered 688 ECD sites by the end of September 2009 and

about 8 014 new children were subsidised, bringing the total number of children receiving subsidy to 419 217. This number is expected to increase as new facilities are registered.

National councils

The Department of Social Development 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 Youth Development Agency (NYDA)

The NYDA was formally launched on 16 June 2009, as pronounced by President Jacob Zuma in his 2009 State of the Nation Address. The launch formed part of the National Youth Month events championed by The Presidency.

The NYDA aims to create and promote coordination in youth-development matters. The NYDA results from the merger of the National Youth Commission and Umsobomvu Youth Fund.

The functions of the NYDA include:

- national youth service and social cohesion
- economic participation
- policy, research and development
- governance, training and development
- youth advisory and information services
- national youth fund.

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.

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The key strategic objectives of the NDA are, among other things, to 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.

Non-profit organisations (NPOs)

The NPO Act, 1997 mandates the Department of Social Development to contribute towards creating an enabling environment within which NPOs can flourish.

In its quest to provide support to civil society and empower communities, the department heightened the registration and maintenance of NPOs. During 2008/09, 14 207 applications were received and processed, and 6 819 of these met the requirements and were registered within two months. This increased the number of registered NPOs to 56 237, which represents an increase of over 12% from the 2007/08 financial year.

As more NPOs comply with the requirements of the law, the department's efforts to create a robust and accountable civil society will gain still further force.

In 2009, following the appointment of the new administration, the Ministry of Women, Children and People with Disabilities was created. There are about four million people with disabilities in South Africa, with the majority being women.

