



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 national Department 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 Strategic Plan of the Department is informed by the Ten Point Plan, which sets out the priorities to be addressed by the social development sector during the period 2000 to 2005:
- 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, redeploying and employing a new category of workers in social development.

The Department's strategy to transform and enhance social welfare services encompasses the following initiatives:

- the retention strategy for social workers and development of associated social service professions

- the upgrading of salary levels for social work professionals
- the proposed introduction of incentives for professionals working in rural areas
- the development of an appropriate service delivery model
- a policy framework for the granting of financial awards to NGOs that render statutory welfare services.

Legislation

Older Persons Bill

The investigation by the Ministerial Committee on the Abuse, Neglect and Ill-Treatment of Older

Persons revealed an alarming level of these practices. The Cabinet adopted the recommendations of the Committee and the implementation thereof is in progress. The main recommendations of the Committee include:

- significantly improving social-assistance service delivery to older persons
- accelerating the transformation of residential homes for older persons
- increasing the support for community-based care and non-residential services to older persons
- introducing new legislation that complies with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), and with international conventions on the rights of older persons.

The Older Persons Bill was adopted for submission to Parliament in July 2003.

The main objectives of the Bill are to:

- maintain and promote the status, well-being, safety and security of older persons
- maintain and protect the rights of older persons as recipients of services
- regulate the registration of facilities for older persons
- combat the abuse of older persons.

New 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 a Draft Children's Bill in January 2003.

Close liaison with the various role-players followed.

On 23 July 2003, the Cabinet approved that the Children's Bill be submitted to Parliament for consideration. The main objectives of the Children's Bill are to:

- make provision for the structure, the services and the means for promoting and monitoring the sound physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of children
- strengthen and develop community structures which can assist in providing care and protection for children
- protect children from maltreatment, abuse, neg-

lect, degradation, discrimination, exploitation and any other physical and moral harm or hazards

- provide care and protection for children who are in need thereof
- give effect to South Africa's obligations concerning the well-being of children in terms of international instruments binding on the country
- promote the protection, development and well-being of children.

The Bill proposes that the age of majority is lowered and provides for parental responsibilities and rights agreements. A chapter to formally regulate surrogate motherhood is also introduced to give effect to an earlier parliamentary investigation into the issue.

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). The SASSA 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.

In May 2004, the Minister of Social Development, Dr Zola Skweyiya, announced the establishment of the SASSA which will pay out more than R50 billion in social grants on an annual basis.

The establishment of the SASSA is part of government's efforts to provide services to the poorest of the poor and to ensure restoration of 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, the mechanisms for the rendering of such assistance, the establishment of an

inspectorate for social assistance, and matters connected therewith.

In March 2004, Minister Skweyiya launched the Department's new national facilities to combat fraud and corruption in the social security system. The facilities are in line with government's Integrated Corruption Management Information System, which is being developed to improve the efficiency and the follow-up of the reporting of corruption.

The new facilities 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.

Social assistance

The regulations for social assistance were amended to relax conditions that impeded easy access to grants and to promote administrative justice. Some of the amendments involve the following:

- The removal of the pensions medical officer for the approval of Disability and Care Dependency grants, and the introduction of panels to assess applicants for these grants, in terms of both medical and social factors.
- The payment of grants, if approved, accrues from the date of application for all grant types except for the Foster Care Grant, in which case accrual begins from the date of the court order.
- The review of grants has been streamlined. Only applicants who declare their means of income at the time of the application are required to have an annual review of their grant. Those who have no means are only required to submit a life certificate on an annual basis. Those who collect their grants through biometrics and have no means are neither required to submit life certificates nor to have their grants reviewed.
- Previously, the Care Dependency Grant was only available to parents and foster parents of chil-

dren. It is now also available to custodians and guardians. Personal income has replaced household income as the means-test indicator, thus increasing the income-exclusion level for applicants.

Payment of social grants

The number of people benefiting from social grants increased from 2,6 million in 1994 to 7,9 million by April 2004.

By February 2004, over 4,4 million children were receiving social grants, with about 4,2 million receiving the Child Support Grant (CSG), 190 000 the Foster Care Grant, and 75 000 the Care Dependency Grant.

Total government expenditure on social grants increased from R10 billion in 1994 to R37,1 billion in 2004. Social grants have been equalised between racial groups and extended to all in need who qualify.

Government aims to register all children eligible for CSGs by 2005. Government made available R3,6 billion during the 2004/05 financial year, which is expected to increase to R6,9 billion in 2005/06 and R9,2 billion in 2006/07.

The Old-Age Pension Grant is the second-largest social grant. The number of beneficiaries increased from 1,8 million in 2000 to more than two million in 2003. 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.

Amounts of grants per month as at 1 April 2004

Grant type	Amount
Old-Age Grant	R740
Disability Grant	R740
War Veterans' Grant	R758
Foster Care Grant	R530
Care Dependency Grant	R740
Child Support Grant	R170
Grant-in-Aid	R160

Over the years, the number of people receiving the Disability Grant has been increasing. By mid-2004, there were over 1,3 million beneficiaries receiving the Disability Grant.

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 the child turns 18 years, he or she is eligible for the Disability Grant.

Other grants provided by the Department of Social Development include the War Veterans' Grant and Grant-in-Aid.

Poverty-Relief Programme

In addition to the provision of social assistance, the Department also manages 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.

Steady progress is being made with the Poverty-Relief Programme. Over the past five to 10 years, the Department of Social Development has supported more than 3 500 poverty-relief income-generation projects at a cost of R560 million which target mostly unemployed rural women. Most of the projects are located in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo.

Over a three-year period, it is estimated that 60 000 people would have earned wages generated through poverty-relief projects. For the coming years, the Department has prioritised the areas of food security, centres for engaging older persons in economic activities, support for community-based initiatives in the area of HIV and AIDS, youth-skills development in the context of urban renewal, the economic empowerment of women, support for initiatives that integrate the capacities of persons with disabilities into the Poverty-Relief Programme, and income-generating projects.

The feeding of children through the Poverty-Relief Programme, particularly orphans and people infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS, is growing.

Food security

The Department's 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.

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. 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.

Government allocated R1,2 billion towards the Food Emergency Scheme from 2003 to 2006.

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

The five elements of the IFSNP are the:

- Development of 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.
- Initiation of a community-development scheme aimed at providing employment to local communities through community-based and community-owned Public Works programmes. This involves the setting up of community-based income-generating projects and activities to ensure sustainable food security.
- Development of 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.
- Development of a fully funded communication strategy to ensure the maintenance of government's communication lines with all of its people.

- Building of a safety net and Food Emergency Scheme to ensure that the poorest families, especially children and child-headed households, have food on the table.

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; the provision of social protection to those infected and affected, especially children; protection of children's rights; provision of services; special programmes such as the Home- and Community-Based Care Programme; the empowerment of women; and the capacitating of 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.

Home-Based/Community-Based Care Programme

The implementation of the Home-Based and Community-Based Care Programme for people with HIV and AIDS has been accelerated in partnership with the provincial departments of Social Development. An increasing number of communities, families and individuals are accessing the services provided through this Programme.

The number of sites for community- and home-based care support increased from six projects in 2001 to 400 in 2003.

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

Home- and community-based care is directed at people infected with HIV and living with AIDS, as well as children affected by and infected with AIDS. It also focuses on older people, especially those who are frail.

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.

The Home- and Community-Based Care Services component of the Expanded Public Works Programme will include work-based experience and structured learning for community members to become qualified as community caregivers and child- and youth-care workers.

In 2004, government allocated R70 million to the Department to support and increase the number of home- and community-based care sites.

Services for children

Services provided to children infected with or affected by HIV and AIDS include the provision of food parcels and clothing, counselling, support, provision of day care and after school/drop-in centres, placement of children in foster and/or residential care, and addressing their education and health needs.

The Department spent R48 million during 2002/03 to ensure that children infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS had access to services that included alternative care, social grants, counselling, food security and protection from abuse and other forms of maltreatment.

By February 2004, some 26 900 additional children who were vulnerable owing to HIV and AIDS had been identified. The number of such children identified since the inception of the programme in 2000 stood at more than 75 000.

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 an 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 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 six 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- and Community-Based Care Programme.

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 the Poverty-Relief, HIV and AIDS, and social-grant registration programmes.

On 30 January 2004, Minister Skweyiya urged the South African Council of Churches and FBOs to

assist in mobilising committees and monitoring the National Food Emergency Programme in order to benefit the most vulnerable.

Promoting and protecting 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 facilitates the provision of services to children and the youth through the provincial departments of Social Development and NGOs.

Child abuse and neglect

Fighting child abuse and neglect is a priority of the Department, as is illustrated by the following initiatives:

- **Child-Protection Register:** Provincial meetings were held to obtain commitment from provincial offices to implement the function to the lowest level. The programme was tested and revised during March 2004. The final programme was expected to be introduced to provinces during September 2004 for roll-out to areas where notifications of child abuse are high.
- **Draft Policy Framework and Strategic Plan on the Prevention and Management of Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation:** Several consultative workshops were held during 2003/04 on an intersectoral basis to ensure the finalisation of the legislation. The Framework provides for a common vision and framework for all role-players, both inside and outside government. It also provides mechanisms to reduce the fragmentation of services, promotes co-ordination, and highlights the strengthening of partnerships between government, civil society and the general public to promote the safety and well-being of children. The Framework was expected to be submitted to the Cabinet in August 2004.
- **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 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.

Services include the 24-hour toll-free helpline, as well as treatment centres for individual, family and play therapy, prevention programmes, community safe-houses, and training and awareness programmes.

Integrated justice system (IJS)

The IJS Project ensures the integration of case management and offenders through four departments, namely the South African Police Service (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 enable the

departments to track children through the System and assist in the monitoring of their cases.

The Court Process Project provides for the electronic management of court processes from arrest to final court appearances. The Project is increasing efficiency and reducing court delays. The Department of Social Development runs six pilot sites.

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



Child Protection Week, held annually in May, is aimed at ensuring that children are fully able to exercise their constitutional rights and enjoy the dignity of freedom.

The Department of Social Development and its provincial counterparts have implemented measures to prevent and combat abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking of children. Special attention is given to children with special needs. These measures include reducing the number of children awaiting trial in police cells and prisons through expanded diversion programmes, establishing more secure care facilities, appropriate placement of children through assessments conducted by probation officers, appropriate sentencing options and continuous monitoring of children in prisons.

By mid-2004, the following had been achieved:

- from a mere 60 000 children registered for the Child Support Grant in 1999, there were over four million of them in 2004
- awareness about the rights of children had increased significantly
- over one million children, especially those living in child-headed households, had been provided with nutritious food since 2002
- shelters for children had been built and more were scheduled to be built
- home- and community-based care support services were more readily accessible to children
- Children's Courts, which are aimed at dealing more effectively and in a child-friendly manner with the crimes perpetrated against children, had been built and would continue to be built
- victim empowerment programmes were being gradually strengthened
- bail conditions and tougher sentencing had been introduced against those who abuse children
- partnerships with civil-society structures working with children were built and consolidated.

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 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.



The Minister in The Presidency, Dr Essop Pahad, launched the *Disability Awareness Raising Campaign* on 2 April 2004.

The national Campaign, targeted at sensitising the general public and particularly employers and the media on issues of disability, is funded by the Flemish Government and implemented by the Office on the Status of Disabled Persons in The Presidency.

The Campaign seeks to:

- increase public awareness of the socio-economic potential and the human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities
- facilitate persons with disabilities' positive perceptions of themselves
- increase persons with disabilities' awareness of their rights.

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 is 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 empow-

erment 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.

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 UN 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, of Social Development, and the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit of the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions. The IDMT was tasked by the departments' Ministers to develop an 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 criminal justice

system, increases the reporting rate of sexual assault, and improves the effectiveness of survivor-support programmes.

The SAPS has also established partnerships with several other 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, 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.

Statutory bodies

National Development Agency (NDA)

The NDA was transferred from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Social Development in October 2001. It is a statutory funding agency whose primary focus areas are to contribute to the alleviation of poverty and to address its causes. It

also strengthens the capacity of civil-society organisations to combat poverty.

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

Transfers to the NDA will grow 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
- strengthen organisations' institutional capacity for long-term sustainability
- proactively source funds for the NDA
- promote consultation, dialogue and the sharing of development experiences, and to 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 January 2004, President Thabo Mbeki declared six provinces – KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and North West – as disaster areas, in terms of the Fund-Raising Act, 1978.

Limpopo was declared a disaster area in 2003. For 2004/05, about R60 million in State aid is expected to be channelled to affected individuals and households in these seven provinces.

A flat rate of R900 was proposed for beneficiaries who comprise:

- vulnerable individuals and households of poverty-stricken families left destitute by the drought
- those with none or limited employment and income-generating opportunities
- persons in farming communities whose livelihoods have been severely affected
- persons and households participating in job-creation projects
- persons and households who rely directly and indirectly on farming.

Central Drug Authority (CDA)

Strategic and business plans have been developed specifically to facilitate the implementation of the South African National Drug Master Plan (NDMP) that was adopted by the Cabinet in 1999. The business plan takes cognisance of the basic proposals and priorities identified in the NDMP to counter the drug problem effectively, e.g. the need to comprehensively mobilise national and provincial departments towards taking account of drug-abuse issues in their activities and budgets, and to reduce the supply of and demand for drugs.

With regard to drug-demand reduction, various initiatives have been undertaken. The launching of an ongoing national anti-drug awareness programme has been negotiated; information sheets have been developed and distributed; and numerous media interviews have been conducted on burning issues such as the decriminalisation of the use of dagga (cannabis).

Directly and indirectly, CDA members have participated in local efforts against drug syndicates, and in the efforts of the Southern African Development Community, the African Union and international agencies in countering the drug problem on the African continent and abroad.

The groundwork has also been laid for the establishment of a national database on drug issues and a national clearing-house, specifically to ensure evidence-led future initiatives.

By March 2003, the CDA was planning to establish a national network of provincial and local drug fora in all nine provinces.

These will ensure good communication and the involvement of all stakeholders, including community members and grassroots organisations.

The National Drug Awareness Strategy, known as *Ke Moja*, aims to reduce drug and alcohol abuse, and gangsterism among young people.

The provincial fora on drug and substance abuse, the national Department and the CDA were expected to expand the *Ke Moja* Campaign to all provinces by the end of 2004.

Acknowledgements

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Department of Social Development

Estimates of National Expenditure 2004, published by National Treasury

National Development Agency

www.childline.org.za

www.gov.za

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