



# Social development



**SOUTH  
AFRICA**  
YEARBOOK  
2011/12

The Department of Social Development strives to enable the poor, vulnerable and the excluded within South African society to secure a better life for themselves.

The department has the following core functions:

- managing and overseeing social security, social assistance and social-insurance policies that aim to prevent and alleviate poverty in the event of life-cycle risks such as loss of income due to unemployment, disability, old age or death occurring
- developing social-welfare services to reduce poverty, vulnerability and the impact of HIV and AIDS through sustainable development programmes in partnership with implementing agents such as state-funded institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs) and faith-based organisations (FBOs).

The department's efforts are inspired by its vision of building an inclusive society, based on the full integration of all its members, where children are cared for and protected; the disabled are supported to overcome their activity limitations; and the elderly are still meaningfully engaged in the affairs of their communities.

## Funding

Poverty and inequality remain the biggest challenge. The Social Assistance Programme has proved to be the most effective social policy response.

The provision of social grants makes up the largest portion of the department's budget.

In 2010/11, social grants represented one of the department's biggest poverty-alleviation programmes and reached 15,3 million people – of whom 10,3 million were children – at a cost of R97 billion.

Over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), expenditure is expected to increase to R122 billion, at an average annual rate of 8%. The increase is mainly due to the extension of the Child-Support Grant (CSG) to eligible children under the age of 18. The department expected to transfer R6,1 billion to the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) to administer the grant system.

The department wants to ensure that children accessing social grants are enrolled for early

childhood development (ECD) services at an early age. Over the MTEF, government aims to increase the average cost of R12 per child per day in ECD facilities to R13 across all provinces.

Government believes that children must be given equal opportunities, irrespective of where they live in the country.

The department has allocated R161 360 million to support the National Development Agency's (NDA) role in capacity-building and grants to civil-society organisations (CSOs) for development projects in poor communities.

## Legislation and initiatives

The department derives its mandate from Acts such as the:

- National Welfare Act, 1978 (Act 100 of 1978)
- Fund-Raising Act, 1978 (Act 107 of 1978)
- Social Service Professions Act, 1978 (Act 110 of 1978)
- Probation Services Act, 1991 (Act 116 of 1991)
- Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependency Act, 1992 (Act 20 of 1992)
- Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997)
- NDA Act, 1998 (Act 108 of 1998)
- Advisory Board on Social Development Act, 2001 (Act 3 of 2001)
- Sassa Act, 2004 (Act 9 of 2004)
- Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act 13 of 2004)
- Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005)
- Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006)
- Children's Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 41 of 2007)
- Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, 2008 (Act 70 of 2008).

## Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2008 (Act 6 of 2008)

The amendment of the Social Assistance Act, 2004 saw men aged 63 to 64 qualifying for and receiving social-assistance grants for the first time. The Social Assistance Act, 2004 continues to provide the legislative framework for the provision of social-assistance grants. The Act provides the legal instruments for shifting the social-assistance function to the national sphere of government, and provides for Sassa to render the management and administration of social grants. The Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2008 seeks to:

Child Protection Week took place from 30 May to 4 June 2011. Held annually, the campaign is an opportunity to raise the profile of children, and to mobilise community action and responses to breaches of child protection.

The 2011 campaign, which marked 14 years since the launch of Child Protection Week, was themed *Working Together to Protect Children*.

- introduce a new definition of disability
- provide a mechanism for Sassa to review its decisions when a beneficiary is not satisfied with the outcome
- enhance the appeals process.

The passing of the amendment enables the department to distinguish between permanent and temporary disability, and people with chronic illnesses. The Social Assistance Amendment Act, 2008 facilitates a process which allows social-grant applicants and beneficiaries to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect.

The Act provides for applicants and beneficiaries to request Sassa to review its decisions to expedite dispute resolution and avert unnecessary and costly litigation. The Act also provides for applicants and beneficiaries to appeal against a decision of the agency and the appointment of independent tribunals in a manner to be prescribed by regulations.

The tribunals are a key part of the administrative justice process and make it possible for applicants and beneficiaries to present their grievances. If their claims have merit, the process allows them to obtain simple and speedy resolution of their cases.

### Older Persons Act, 2006

The Aged Persons Act, 1967 (Act 81 of 1967), was repealed by the Older Persons Act, 2006. The latter deals with the plight of older persons by establishing a framework for the empowerment and protection of older persons and the promotion and maintenance of their status, rights, well-being, safety and security. It provides for older persons to enjoy quality services while staying with their families for as long as possible.

Chapter Three of the Act deals specifically with the development of community-based care and support programmes falling into two broad categories: prevention and promotion, which ensures the independent living of older persons in the community; and home-based care, which ensures that frail older persons receive maximum

care within the community through a comprehensive set of integrated services.

The Act further recognises the wisdom and experience of older people, and the need to protect their knowledge and skills, and promotes their active role and participation in community affairs. The Act was promulgated in July 2010.

### Childcare legislation

The Children's Act, 2005, sets out principles relating to the care and protection of children; defines parental responsibilities and rights; and provides for matters such as children's courts, adoption, child abduction and surrogate motherhood.

The Act also:

- gives effect to certain rights of children as contained in the Constitution
- provides for the issuing of contribution orders
- provides for intercountry adoption
- gives effect to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption
- prohibits child abduction and gives effect to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction
- recognises certain new offences relating to children
- provides for matters relating to the trafficking of children and the implementation of the relevant protocol.

The Children's Act, 2005 provides for the establishment of the *National Child Protection Register* that records all persons found unsuitable to work with children.

It also lists all persons found by the Children's Court and criminal courts to be 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 register, however, is not open to the public, and all requests for information must be directed to the Department of Social Development.

The Children's Amendment Act, 2007 provides for:

- the partial care of children
- ECD
- further protection of children
- prevention and early-intervention services
- children in alternative care
- foster care



- child- and youth-care 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 the parents or guardian
- the discipline of children.

### **War on Poverty Campaign**

*The Diagnostic Overview II* (December 2010) issued by the National Planning Commission stated that deep poverty was widespread and constrained human development and economic progress. Per capita income and employment fell by about 4% and one million formal and informal jobs were lost between the last quarter of 2008 and 2009.

The *War on Poverty* Campaign, which was piloted in 2008/09, targets service delivery to poor households and monitors household progression out of extreme poverty. Government identified 1 128 of the most deprived municipal wards, where an estimated three million households comprising an estimated 15 million people live in extreme poverty. The campaign is being rolled out and it is planned that by 2014, all the identified wards will be covered.

The Department of Social Development continued to support the campaign, championed by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe. It organised a two-day sector planning session, during which participants reviewed the department's contribution to the campaign, and developed mechanisms for strengthening support. A report was compiled and distributed to all the provinces.

Deputy President Motlanthe has been interacting with poor communities to review the impact of the *War on Poverty* Campaign, visiting service-delivery points and frontline offices. He held meetings with the provincial and local spheres of government with the aim of unlocking bottlenecks to service delivery and the implementation of anti-poverty programmes.

In the course of 2011, he visited Bitou municipality in the Western Cape, Nkomazi in Mpumalanga and Taung in North West. He also visited the Eastern Cape, where he attended a meeting of the Eastern Cape Intergovernmental Relations Committee to discuss the implementation of the

By 2014, the Department of Social Development aims to have recruited and trained 10 000 child- and youth-care workers to support child-headed families.

By July 2011, over 5 500 students had received scholarships to study social work at various higher learning institutions, with R244 million set aside to support 4 400 students and provide 1 000 new scholarships.

The scholarship programme produced over 2 000 graduates, who were absorbed in all nine provinces to bolster the provision of welfare services.

Some estimates project that the country needs 55 000 educated social workers.

By September 2011, there were 16 391 social workers employed by government and non-governmental organisations across the country to address welfare needs, ranging from prevention and treatment of substance abuse to crime prevention and HIV and AIDS support. Due to the shortage of social workers, the majority are expected to provide generic social work to any clients who require services.

Anti-Poverty Strategy (APS). The Deputy President also visited uMzinga Municipality in the uMzinyathi district in KwaZulu-Natal in April 2011, the Emthanjeni and Renosterberg municipalities in the Pixley Ka Seme district in the Northern Cape in June 2011, and wards in the Western Cape. He also participated in the Rural Economic Development Summit, attended the Masibambisane Rural Development Initiative on Ilima in KwaZulu-Natal and launched the Emerald Sky Human Settlements Project in East London.

In July 2011, government unveiled a series of measures expected to help the country alleviate poverty and speed up job creation.

The APS is expected to see government using short-term employment schemes, enterprise development and a series of public-investment schemes to address the challenge of unemployment, which was exacerbated by the global economic crisis. Cabinet also resolved to establish infrastructure and job-creation commissions.

In August 2011, government reiterated its commitment to improve the quality of life of rural people across the country. As part of its Zero-Hunger Programme, more than one million beneficiaries are accessing food through food-distribution initiatives.

By August 2011, the Recapitalisation and Development Programme to make land-reform projects more productive were implemented on 171 farms across the country, creating at least 1 316 permanent jobs and 2 724 short-term employment opportunities.

## Comprehensive anti-poverty interventions

Government's APS seeks to capacitate and empower households and communities to take themselves out of poverty with the help of government and its social partners, through the creation of economic opportunities, investment in human resources and the provision of income security and the social wage. The APS dovetails with existing macro-economic instruments such as the New Growth Path, the Industrial Policy Action Plan 2, as well as efforts such as those arising from the Job Creation Business Summit hosted by President Jacob Zuma in March 2010 and government's Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPPD).

The PSPPD was a research and capacity-building programme located within the National Planning Commission of The Presidency. It was a partnership between The Presidency and the European Union.

The PSPPD was a five-year programme, which started in October 2006 and ended on 31 December 2011. It then entered into a six-month closure period to conduct final evaluation and audit processes, effectively closing at the end of June 2012.

The programme was developed to improve the effectiveness of public policy interventions. To achieve this, the programme focused on strengthening policy-making around poverty and inequality through the use of research within the social and economic clusters.

Only when the poor have decent employment, or are gainfully self-employed, will the demand for social grants decline. Investment in human and

physical assets will need to be complemented by an economy that absorbs people and lays the foundation for decent jobs.

The Department of Social Development has some very specific contributions to make. 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 is the lead government department for services to children under the age of four. In terms of the Children's Act, 2005, the department's responsibility is to manage the registration of ECD sites, monitor their functionality and impact, as well as provide a subsidy for children who might need it.

As part of Child Protection Week (30 May to 4 June 2011) activities, the Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, officially launched the national *ECD Awareness Campaign*.

This annual campaign seeks to educate and inform parents, primary caregivers and communities about the importance of quality early learning for children. It also aims to increase the number of registered ECD centres and the number of children benefiting from their services. By the end of December 2011, there were more than 19 500 ECD centres across South Africa. By March 2012, more than 800 000 children had benefited from ECD services.

ECD registration enables government to provide subsidies for children from poor families, provide project funding and ensure the standardisation of norms and standards.

Government is committed to working with civil society and other stakeholders to develop lasting solutions, including a review of the subsidy formula for poor children, to ensure uniformity and equity.

## Comprehensive social security and assistance

In 2011/12, South Africa spent over R104 billion on social grants to assist the most vulnerable in the country. Children constituted the majority of these beneficiaries at about 10,3 million, followed by pensioners at 2,7 million and disability grants, which were allocated to 1,2 million people.

Grants per month, 2012/13

Grant type	Amount
State Old-Age Grant	R1 200
State Old-Age Grant (over 75)	R1 220
Disability Grant	R1 200
War Veterans Grant	R1 220
Foster Care Grant	R770
Care Dependency Grant	R1 200
Child-Support Grant	R280

Source: *People's Guide to the Budget*

Sassa's mandate is to ensure effective and efficient administration, management and payment of social assistance.

Sassa disburses the following grants:

- older persons
- war veterans
- disability
- grant-in-aid
- care dependency
- foster childcare
- child support
- social relief of distress.

It has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of services to beneficiaries. This has been achieved by, among other things, shortening the turnaround time from application to approval of grants, improving access for eligible beneficiaries and conditions of payments, and improving beneficiary liaison.

Sassa's average turnaround time for processing new social-grant applications has dropped from 21 to nine days.

In improving the grant-payment system, Sassa has embarked on a focused drive to reduce costs. By March 2011, 4 298 979 beneficiaries were receiving their benefits through the automated clearing bureaus or banks. This reflected a 22,33% increase over the projected annual target of 25%. The cost of administering social-assistance grants through cash-payment contractors has also been reduced from R33,52 to R30,53.

Sassa will introduce an automated biometric-based payment system for social grants.

## Dealing with corruption

Sassa's continued commitment to relentlessly uprooting fraud and corruption in the administra-

In August 2011, two studies, entitled *The Impact of the International Financial Crisis on Child Poverty in South Africa and Vulnerability of Children and Poor Families to the Economic Recession of 2008 to 2009*, revealed that child-support grants reduced the depth and severity of poverty during the economic recession in South Africa.

The studies were conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund, the Financial and Fiscal Commission of South Africa and the Department of Social Development.

The studies found that child grants served as a form of diversified income, making poor households less susceptible to the effects of the global economic crisis.

tion and payment of grants has yielded positive outcomes. Since its inception, Sassa's collaboration with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) has reduced fraud and corruption. From 2006, the SIU prosecuted 17 477 people for fraud and corruption relating to grants, including 2 828 people in 2010/11. At 5 134, KwaZulu-Natal had the most prosecutions. Over the five-year period, the SIU recovered R84 904 156, with R25 675 420 recovered during 2010/11. During this process, 6 368 people signed acknowledgments of debt.

The department's national facilities to combat fraud and corruption in the social-security system comprise:

- 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](mailto:fraud@socdev.gov.za)) and a free-call fax-service number (0800 61 10 11).

## Social-security reform

Government continues making progress on many fronts, particularly in its endeavour to build an inclusive society.

Number of grant benefits by grant type and region as on 29 February 2012

Grant type	EC	FS	GAU	KZN	LIM	MPU	NW	NC	WC	TOTAL
Old Age	486 575	164 254	364 980	568 390	376 644	217 620	232 800	71 039	243 174	2 725 476
War Veteran	104	15	172	110	60	34	28	27	215	765
Disability	191 027	89 815	120 397	323 018	87 141	81 462	88 798	48 759	156 876	1 187 293
Grant-in-Aid	8 413	1 018	1 284	27 797	8 763	2 091	3 297	4 062	8 955	65 680
Care Dependency	18 181	5 299	14 083	34 700	11 165	7 834	8 682	4 210	9 853	114 007
Child Support	1 816 683	612 791	1 372 388	2 696 856	1 475 392	989 790	784 002	258 720	782 973	10 789 595
Foster Child	113 897	41 783	55 644	139 850	53 991	32 250	44 413	14 099	28 451	524 378
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 634 880</b>	<b>914 975</b>	<b>1 928 948</b>	<b>3 790 721</b>	<b>2 013 156</b>	<b>1 331 081</b>	<b>1 162 020</b>	<b>400 916</b>	<b>1 230 497</b>	<b>15 407 194</b>

Source: South African Social Security Agency

Regarding social-security reform, the policy on mandatory retirement provisions was approved by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Social-Security Reform and is pending Cabinet approval. Other initiatives include the assessment tool for children with disabilities, and work on the Social Relief Policy and Social Relief Bill.

The Social Relief Policy and Social Relief Bill seek to create a new institutional and legal framework and delegation of responsibilities to provinces to ensure timely humanitarian relief in the event of sudden contingencies

Various evaluative research findings confirmed that the provision of social grants to vulnerable individuals and households not only reduces the occurrence of hunger and extreme poverty, but also facilitates household access to basic services and economic opportunities.

Voluntary savings represent the continuation of additional voluntary, private retirement savings and insurance arrangements for those who can afford it. One of the main challenges towards the future is to extend coverage of voluntary savings to the informal sector.

As part of the comprehensive social-security reform proposals, the Social Protection and Community Development (SPCD) Cluster also completed a draft no-fault policy for the Road Accident Fund. In a related development, and as part of government's continued effort to protect people against vulnerability and other contingencies of life, the cluster, led by the Department of Social Development, will fast-track the development of a coherent policy on social relief of distress.

The second pillar of the social-security system is social insurance, which aims to prevent poverty. The goal is to introduce a statutory contributory social-security framework, which will include a basic retirement benefit element to ensure that, after a lifetime of working, people can retire and live their last years in dignity.

The ultimate goal of social development is to engender self-reliance and social cohesion. While appropriate social-security provisioning plays a critical role in addressing the basic needs of the poorest of the poor, it is only meant to be a temporary measure.

Government recognises that empowering people, particularly women, to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development and its principal resource. With this goal in mind, the department has begun piloting various

initiatives, which will enable poor communities to become architects of their own development.

## Community development Sustainable livelihoods

The Sustainable Livelihoods Programme develops and provides support for the implementation of programmes, strategies and tools for sustainable livelihoods, and manages service-delivery partners. It aims to create an enabling environment for empowering the poor and vulnerable through the promotion of and support for community development work, strengthening institutional arrangements and dialogue with civil society.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is a nationwide programme under the auspices of government and state-owned enterprises. It aims to draw significant numbers of unemployed people into productive work, accompanied by training, to increase their capacity to earn an income.

The EPWP is divided into four sectors, namely infrastructure, environment, social and non-state. In the SPCD Cluster, the EPWP focuses mainly on ongoing programmes such as home-/community-based care (HCBC), ECD, as well as community and tourism safety projects.

In 2010/11, the department trained 354 community-development practitioners (CDPs) and supervisors in the use of the sustainable livelihoods concept and the toolkit for facilitating community development, exceeding its target of 350 CDPs. It also exceeded the target for completing guidelines for establishing social cooperatives. In addition, workshops were held to increase CDPs, CDP managers and Masupa-Tsela youth pioneers' understanding of the concept of social cooperatives and the implementation guidelines.

The Masupa-Tsela Youth Pioneer Programme was launched in 2008 as part of the National Youth Service (NYS) Programme.

The department helped four provinces and the City of Tshwane to establish foodbanks.

Based on a food-security model promoted by the Global FoodBanking Network, FoodBank South Africa acts as the national governing body for a network of community-based foodbanks.

FoodBank South Africa works nationally to source donated food and other grocery products. It then arranges for these products to reach those who need it most, via the national system of community food banks.

Foodbanks receive food from government agencies, farms, food manufacturers, food wholesalers, supermarkets and consumers. After sorting the food, they store it, and then issue it to local food-aid agencies, including orphanages, crèches, old-age homes, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and HIV and AIDS clinics.

FoodBank South Africa's warehouses are equipped to sort and store food and non-food items safely.

The focus of the Community Development Programme is on creating an enabling environment for the empowerment of the poor, vulnerable and previously marginalised groups, including youth, women and people with disabilities, to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

### Responding to the impact of HIV and AIDS

The department is playing a pivotal role in helping to realise government's vision of *A long and healthy life for all South Africans*. This will be achieved through social behaviour-change programmes and mitigating the social and economic impact of HIV and AIDS and other chronic illnesses.

The programmes aim to ensure that the department creates AIDS-competent communities and provide psychosocial support through the HCBC Programme to those affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS.

In 2011, the department strengthened its monitoring and evaluation capacity. The results assisted in enhancing the capacity of communities to deal with HIV and AIDS by generating strategies that are community-driven, thereby placing communities at the centre of HIV and AIDS responses.

The department participates in the ongoing HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) Campaign, ensuring that all people undergoing testing receive appropriate counselling and support.

A suitable psychosocial response remains critical to restoring support in communities for children, adolescents, women and men affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS.

The department has also developed a skills plan for CDPs that enables them to address the sector skills gaps in accordance with the recommendations of the national skills audit report. The skills plan was approved and implemented

In August 2011, the Department of Social Development launched the *Listening to the Heartbeat of Communities* Campaign.

The campaign aims to create awareness of the department's services to address socio-economic challenges, including poverty, HIV and AIDS, social exclusion, child protection and substance abuse.

It also seeks to strengthen and mobilise communities and enhance service-delivery partnerships through the promotion of constructive engagement between the department, its agencies and communities.

by all the provinces. CDPs and Masupa-Tsela youth pioneers were trained to provide social co-operatives with technical support and mentorship.

The department also finalised a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority concerning training CDPs to draw up integrated development plans, do community-based planning, follow the sustainable livelihoods approach and use a sustainable-livelihood toolkit.

A process was finalised for developing and registering community-development qualifications at National Qualifications Framework levels five and eight, which had been delayed because of changes to the South African qualifications framework. This was a significant step towards professionalising community-development practice. A successful community-development indaba was held and provided a platform for practitioners and CSOs to discuss issues surrounding community-development practice, with attention paid specifically to the scope of practice, norms and standards, an implementation model and a funding protocol for establishing community-development forums. Guidelines developed for CBOs are meant to guide them in involving communities in their development processes. The guidelines were discussed with various stakeholders.

The Department of Social Development has also developed a framework for an integrated and coordinated response to HIV and AIDS.

The framework includes sourcing reliable research and information; providing social protection to those infected and affected, especially children; protecting children's rights; providing services; special programmes such as the HCBC Programme; empowering women; and capacitating officials to deal with HIV and AIDS.



Partnerships with other government departments, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, the business sector, volunteers and international agencies underpin the department's response to HIV and AIDS.

### **HIV and AIDS Youth Programme**

The expansion of the NPO loveLife's Ground-breaker Partnership Programme aims to strengthen the loveLife Mphintshi Initiative by linking it to the EPWP and the prevention programme in relation to HCBC and support.

The HIV and AIDS Youth Programme's services now reach marginalised and vulnerable youth in rural areas. It focuses on preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS among young people. Behaviour-changing programmes have been implemented to help reduce vulnerability.

In the fight against HIV and AIDS, the department allocated R43,3 million to loveLife for prevention programmes targeting youth in rural areas and farming communities.

### **HIV and AIDS advocacy, awareness and outreach**

Achieving a meaningful and clear understanding of the scientific facts about HIV and AIDS will lead to individual self-management regarding the risk of HIV infection. The awareness programme has the following main pillars:

- disclosure
- communication
- rights
- facilitation.

The programme also deals with the physical and emotional consequences of HIV and AIDS. It addresses the following challenges:

- the lack of accurate and current information on HIV and AIDS
- the lack of access to care, support, treatment and new healthcare developments
- discrimination against the infected and affected.

The programme aims to involve people living with HIV and AIDS in initiatives that directly help affected and infected people to alleviate stigmatisation.

### **Care and support**

Several care and support strategies and programmes for vulnerable groups affected by HIV and AIDS and other diseases were developed and implemented. These programmes fall under HCBC, which involves the provision of compre-

hensive social services in the context of communities, families and individuals.

HCBC is one of the programmes selected to contribute to the social sector plan for the EPWP. Community caregivers in HCBC organisations provide services to individuals, families and communities. A total of 19 895 community caregivers were trained in aspects such as succession planning; childcare forums; the Children's Act, 2005; psychosocial support; and monitoring and evaluation. More than 1 000 community caregivers were trained in psychosocial well-being.

A monitoring and evaluation system for HCBC was developed and implemented in 341 districts.

A computerised HCBC data-capturing system was developed and rolled out in North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and the Northern Cape. This project was implemented in collaboration with the Department of Health, which acted as the lead department.

Guidelines for support groups and psychosocial support for children and adults with HIV and AIDS and other chronic conditions were developed.

An audit of HCBC organisations was completed, and the existence of 2 000 organisations was verified. The audit report provided information on the number of HCBC organisations, their location, whether they were active in nodal areas under the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme and Urban Renewal Programme, their registration status, staffing and management, the nature of services provided, categories of beneficiaries, data-capturing processes, funding sources, sustainability, infrastructure, resources, and needs. An online database was developed, and the provinces were trained to use and update it.

The department was actively involved in the HCT Campaign announced by President Zuma on World AIDS Day in 2009. Given the shortage of social workers needed to implement the campaign, a database of retired social workers whose assistance the department could use was established. Departmental social workers were trained in HIV and AIDS counselling.

The National Association for People Living with HIV and AIDS (Napwa) plays a vital role in achieving government's priority objective of mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS as outlined in the National Strategic Plan.

The department awarded funding to Napwa in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. This enabled

the organisation to provide care and support to people living with HIV and AIDS by advising them on positive living, including treatment and nutrition support; and involving them in economic and business-development initiatives. The department assisted Napwa with project implementation.

The department also facilitated and monitored the implementation of a national action plan for orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. The plan was implemented by four reference teams. MoUs were concluded with 24 key strategic partners to enhance their accountability and promote reporting on the National Action Plan core indicators.

A draft framework on psychosocial support to orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS was developed and was due to be aligned with the Southern African Development Community Framework.

The department signed a separate agreement on the Child and Youth-Headed Households Project, funded by the German Development Bank (KfW), in December 2010. This project is aimed at renovating, extending, equipping and building community care centres where children and youths will receive material and psychosocial support. The project will also be involved in developing and implementing a skills-development programme for youths, especially those who have had to assume the role of head of the household.

Regarding prevention, the department formed a partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for training 50 national, provincial and NGO coordinators on social-behaviour change.

A service-provider was appointed to undertake the training and help develop an HIV-prevention strategy.

## Partnerships

The Department of Social Development continues to strengthen its partnerships with national and international organisations involved in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The department chairs the National Action Committee for Children made Vulnerable by HIV and AIDS, which is a multisectoral team consisting of government, FBOs, CBOs, the business sector, the United Nations (UN) Children's Fund (Unicef) and Save the Children. It focuses on the care and support of orphans and vulnerable children.

## 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 poverty relief, HIV and AIDS and social-grant registration programmes.

## Older persons

The growth of the ageing population in South Africa has followed global trends. According to Statistics South Africa's census data (1996 and 2001 respectively), the proportion of people over 60 years had grown significantly, from 7% in 1996 to just below 8% in 2007.

It is projected that the population of older persons will exceed 8% by 2014. Government is committed to working with all sectors of society to ensure that the rights of older persons are at the heart of the development agenda. Within the framework of the Constitution, the Older Persons Act, 2006, is intended to ensure that the rights, dignity and independence of older persons are upheld.

The Older Persons Act, 2006 came into force in April 2010. The Minister of Social Development and the Older Persons Forum launched the Charter on the Rights of Older Persons at a Human Rights Month event at Freedom Park in Tshwane in March 2011.

The Department of Social Development is working closely with the South African Older Persons Forum and Age in Action to promote active Ageing through the participation of older persons in community and sporting activities.

This is part of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, which calls for governments throughout the world to take measures to address matters relating to the well-being of older persons.

In February 2011, the Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, launched the United Kingdom (UK) – South Africa Social Worker Exchange Programme for the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority.

Through this programme, the department seeks to identify and link professional social workers, representative stakeholder councils and associations into an international action learning forum. Such a forum will compare and develop best-practice models of social-work delivery and practices in the UK and South Africa.

It is expected that the findings emanating from such exposures will inform skills-development strategies in the workplace and educational institutions in both countries.

In August 2011, South Africa ratified the Africa Youth Charter and Cabinet adopted the second-generation National Youth Policy. These have been supported by a range of support programmes and strategies to empower youth in the various line functions such as:

- Expanded Public Works Programme initiatives that saw young people involved in the refurbishment, rehabilitation, and maintenance of community infrastructure across the country
- youth focal points in more than 60% of government departments, where direct engagement with youth takes place
- several departments establishing youth-development machinery at all spheres
- learnerships and internships focused on raising the skills capacity of young people through skills education and training authorities
- the launch of the Integrated Youth Development Strategy by the National Youth Development Agency.

## Children and youth

South Africa has acceded to and signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other related conventions and protocols. The aim is to provide care and protection to all children, guided by the international and national legal framework.

The national guiding tools to protect and care for children include the Constitution, the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983), as amended, the *White Paper for Social Welfare (1997)* and the Children's Act, 2005, as amended. Section 137 of the Children's Act, 2005 proposes new child-protection measures for child-headed households. This section defines those children who can be regarded as coming from child-headed households, provides for appointing an adult for supervising a child-headed household and allows children in child-headed households to access social grants and other material assistance.

Statutory services and community-based care services are rendered to enable orphans to continue living with their siblings in their parental homes.

Statutory services rendered to these households include:

- Therapeutic counselling: The aim of therapeutic counselling is to help family members deal with personal problems, difficulties and traumas.
- Adult supervision: An adult in the surrounding area is identified to provide the child-headed household with regular parental care and guidance. The adult supervisor lives in her or his respective home, but keeps constant super-

vision over the family. This is an out-of-court arrangement, but the social worker is expected to provide overall supervision.

- Poverty relief and other material assistance: Food parcels and other forms of assistance are provided to child-headed households as a temporary intervention while the social worker plans a permanent intervention.

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

Community-based care services are rendered at drop-in centres or HCBC centres. The services include:

- providing cooked meals and food parcels
- assistance with homework for children who are attending school
- recreation
- capacity-building in parenting and life skills
- psychosocial care and support
- income-generating programmes
- ECD services.

One of the department's key interventions in the care and protection of children is alternative care, which is legislated in terms of the Children's Act, 2005. Alternative care refers to the care of children outside their parental homes. With the exception of adoption, foster care and child- and youth-care centres are temporary forms of alternative care.

In 2010/11, the *Register of Adoptable Children and Prospective Adoptive Parents* was operationalised, and 740 parents and 936 children listed. A total of 2 236 national adoptions and 200 inter-country adoptions were registered. The department accredited 23 child-protection organisations for adoption services.

The department continues its affiliation with International Social Services (ISS) and gives effect to the affiliation contract of January 1999. Intercountry social services are offered in collaboration with the nine provincial departments.

The case load increased to 547 in 2010/11. Cases involved a wide variety of social-service matters which had to be referred to the ISS global

In July 2011, the National Association for Child Care Workers held its 18th Biennial Conference. A plan to address the plight of child-headed households was announced. A variety of issues were discussed to create an environment of care, support and protection for orphans and vulnerable children in line with the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005).

network for intercountry social-service intervention.

An increase in cases involving unaccompanied minors, especially from African countries, was seen in 2010/11. The easy access to and effective collaboration with social workers involved in the ISS network played a key role in resolving many of these cases. Most of the case flows were between other African countries and Europe, although some cases were shared with the American and Asian pacific regions.

Challenges included securing working agreements with adoption agencies in other countries affiliated to the ISS, and accrediting more child-protection organisations for adoption services.

### Childline South Africa

Childline offers a 24-hour toll-free crisis line (08000 55 555) to children and families across South Africa. The line provides immediate assistance to children and families in crisis who need counselling and information.

Childline is an NPO that works collectively to protect children from all forms of violence and create a culture of respect for children's rights in South Africa.

Programmes delivered through the provincial offices include:

- a crisis line
- child rights and education
- training of volunteers
- training of other professionals who work with child protection and children
- therapy for abused and traumatised children and their families
- court preparation of child witnesses
- networking and coordination
- advocacy.

Programmes delivered through the national office include:

- training and education
- analysis of law and policy
- lobbying and advocacy
- networking and coordination.

### Social-crime prevention Probation services

The Department of Social Development is implementing the Probation Services Act, 1991, as amended, and at national and provincial levels provides early intervention services and prevention programmes to offenders and victims of crime.

The Isibinde Model is being used in government's plan to recruit and train child- and youth-care workers to support children living in child-headed households.

The Isibindi Model provides prevention, protection and early intervention services for children. The services associated with the Isibindi approach will be extended to 1,4 million vulnerable children in different communities over the next five years.

The Department of Social Development aims to focus on rural and informal settlements, especially areas of high HIV and AIDS prevalence and poverty. By August 2011, 536 000 foster-care benefits had been paid to different beneficiaries.

The National and Provincial Probation Service Coordinators' Forum meets regularly to deal with service-delivery issues pertaining to children awaiting trial, especially their removal from correctional facilities.

Provinces have increased the number of diversion programmes to ensure that children are diverted from the Criminal Justice System. One such centre is the Mangaung One-Stop Youth Justice Centre in the Moebe District in the Free State.

Home-based supervision is proving to be a successful programme for any high-risk child or child in conflict with the law. It is a cost-effective manner of bringing about behavioural changes in these children. The parents are co-responsible for dealing with their children to achieve the desired changes. Different programmes can be used during home-based supervision.

The assistant probation officer is responsible for supervision but the probation officer remains the case manager. Regular consultations should take place between the probation officer and the assistant probation officer to achieve the best results.

Overcrowding in prisons remains a concern. The national office and provinces have developed an action plan to ensure that children do not await trial in prisons.

The focus of the action plan is to provide secure-care facilities.

In 2010/11, the department finalised and approved norms and standards for secure care as well as a strategy on social-crime prevention for the social sector.

### Victim-Empowerment Programme (VEP)

In 2010/11, a final report on developing legislation for victim-support services was com-



pleted. A costing model was developed, aimed at standardising victim-empowerment services and funding. Costing models were also developed for programmes involving older persons, children, people living with a disability, social crime, substance abuse and families. It is aimed at promoting standardisation across the provinces.

Generic indicator sets were piloted at 18 sites in three provinces. The pilot phase was conducted in Gauteng, Limpopo and North West and the second in the Western Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. These are aimed at developing a culture of cluster reporting and standardising data-collection tools in the social sector.

A training-needs assessment was conducted to determine the sector's capacity-building needs. Trauma counselling was identified as a priority, and the department responded by facilitating trauma-counselling training in various government departments and CSOs. One thousand eight hundred officials were trained, significantly exceeding the target of 1 400. A draft mentoring and coaching model was also developed. Four provinces were nominated to test the model, and 78 government officials and CSOs were trained.

The strategy for engaging men and boys in achieving gender equality, with a special focus on the prevention of gender-based violence, was implemented in all nine provinces. Three clustering workshops were held, where 270 social workers were trained to implement the strategy. Additional workshops were held for service-providers in KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and North West.

A shelter strategy was implemented country-wide. It focuses on how to render services to abused women at shelters and ensure that their services adhere to the minimum standards set out in the Victim's Charter.

As part of Child Protection Week in May and June 2011, the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms Maria Ntuli, launched the *Children Services Directory*.

It is intended to serve as a resource to individuals, families, caregivers and organisations working with children in South Africa. It contains about 4 000 names and details of registered community-based organisations, faith-based organisations and government institutions that provide a wide range of services to children.

The directory contains information on available services for children from a number of organisations, including child-protection services.

Through its partnerships with the Government of Denmark, Unicef, USAID and RTI International as an implementing partner, government established 53 Thuthuzela care centres (TCCs) throughout the country, 16 of which were established in 2011.

TCCs are one-stop facilities that have been introduced as a vital part of South Africa's Anti-Rape Strategy, aiming to reduce secondary trauma for the victim, improve conviction rates and reduce the cycle time for finalising cases.

This project is led by the National Prosecuting Authority's Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit, in partnership with various donors as a response to the urgent need for an integrated strategy for prevention, response and support for rape victims.

TCCs operate in communities where the incidence of rape is particularly high. They are also linked to sexual offences courts that are staffed by prosecutors, social workers, investigating officers, magistrates, health professionals, NGOs and the South African Police Service.

### **National Directory on Services for Victims of Violence and Crime**

The *National Directory on Services for Victims of Violence and Crime*, which was launched during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign in December 2004, is updated annually in collaboration with the provincial VEP managers or coordinators and their provincial counterparts.

### **Care and support to families**

The Department of Social Development is tasked with implementing the National Family Policy and provides training in family-preservation services, marriage preparation and enrichment, parenting/primary caregiving and families in crisis to service-providers in the area of family services.

In September 2011, the Department of Social Development published the *Green Paper on Families*. The subtitle refers to promoting family life and strengthening families in South Africa. The Green Paper contains proposals on how South African families should be supported to flourish and function optimally.

Government wants families to play a central role in the development of South Africa.

The Green Paper acknowledges that many social ills in South Africa are the result of either weak family systems or non-existent families.

The document is the start of a process to put guidelines and strategies in place to promote family life and strengthen the family unit. The department undertook research to ascertain the challenges faced by families in South Africa. Following the research, consultative meetings were held with stakeholders and other interest groups across the country. The process culminated in a national consultative workshop.

The Green Paper emphasises the way in which the historical context such as migrant labour and the global financial crisis impact on family life. It is informed by a number of principles, namely:

- human rights
- family diversity
- family strength
- community participation
- promoting and strengthening marriages and parenting
- partnerships.

In essence, the Green Paper seeks to place the family in national policy discourse. It also aims to establish a link between social ills and the state of the family in South Africa.

It also wants to see interventions from both government and civil society to stop the disintegration of families. The Green Paper focuses on:

- defining the family
- the family and post-apartheid social and economic challenges
- promoting family life
- family strengthening
- national policies and legislation
- the role of key stakeholders, including departments, professionals, civil society and business.

## Prevention and treatment of substance and drug abuse

The department is concerned about the effects of substance abuse on the health and socio-economy of the country, because it often leads to injuries, intentional and unintentional, or death. It is also widely known that risky sexual behaviour is prevalent when people are under the influence of substances, thus exposing themselves and their partners to contracting or transmitting infectious diseases such as HIV and AIDS. Violent crimes, including murder and domestic violence, occur mostly with the perpetrator being under the influence of a substance.

The *Ke Moja – I'm Fine Without Drugs* Campaign encourages young people to resist the temptation to experiment with drugs.

In June 2011, the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms Maria Ntuli, announced on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking that the *UN World Drug Report (2010)* shows that the abuse of hard drugs such as heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine (known as "tik" or "nyaope" by youngsters), has reached alarming levels.

By 2011, South Africa had the highest number of methamphetamine users in the world, especially among people under the age of 20 years, with the highest number recorded in the Western Cape.

Cannabis and alcohol are still the most abused substances in South Africa. Estimates are that more than 2,2 million people use cannabis, followed by cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and other substances. Data from the *South African National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey* shows that the Free State is one of the provinces with high levels of alcohol abuse. A door-to-door campaign conducted in the five districts of this province shows that most families and communities are affected by alcohol and substance abuse. Experience has shown that to successfully combat the drug problem, three complementary elements must be strengthened namely:

- supply-reduction through law enforcement
- demand-reduction through prevention strategies
- harm reduction through treatment, rehabilitation and social-support programmes.

To address all three key elements, Cabinet established an IMC tasked with addressing substance abuse-related issues in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. One of the key activities of the IMC was the hosting of the second Biennial Anti-Substance Abuse Summit in March 2011.

It made a number of resolutions, including reviewing existing legislation to ensure that there is one common approach to combat alcohol and substance abuse. A programme of action was approved by the IMC to ensure the implementation of the resolutions. The programme was presented to Cabinet in 2011/12.

Government also established the Central Drug Authority (CDA), an intersectoral structure comprising 12 drug experts and representatives from various national departments. Its mandate is to

assist government in combating substance abuse in a coordinated manner and within the framework of the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP).

The CDA is a statutory body in terms of the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependency Act, 1992. In line with the resolutions of the second biennial Anti-Substance Abuse Summit, government also reviewed the NDMP in 2011.

The NDMP places particular emphasis on educating young people and their parents about the negative effects of drugs. Its main objective is to combat substance abuse through prevention, early intervention, treatment and reintegration services. The emphasis on prevention is informed by the fact that children are exposed to drugs at a young age. Particular attention is given to interventions that target young people to equip them with life skills.

Parents and community leaders have been encouraged to participate in community structures such as community policing forums and substance abuse forums to help law-enforcement agencies deal with criminals benefiting from illegal drugs in society.

## People with disabilities

South Africa was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007.

South Africa acknowledges the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts towards the implementation of the UNCRPD and its optional protocol to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every state, particularly in developing countries.

South Africa has acceded to, or ratified, most of the African regional and international human-

rights instruments in the area of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. The Constitution requires that particular attention be given to relevant international laws and comparable international standards and experiences. Government policies on disability are progressive and in line with the Constitution, which embodies the principles of social justice, dignity and equal opportunities. This embodiment in the Constitution creates an excellent, sustainable environment for the implementation of the UNCRDP.

As a state party to the convention and its optional protocol and with full commitment to the provisions of the convention, South Africa has, since the convention came into effect, made significant progress.

There is increased self-representation of persons with disabilities in Parliament, provincial legislatures and in local government.

People with disabilities are represented in institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). Government departments and provinces are setting up disability policies and targets for mainstreaming service delivery to persons with disabilities.

As a developmental state, South Africa has made strides in improving access to health and social services for persons with disabilities. The free healthcare policy for people with disabilities includes the provision of assistive devices where needed.

The Mental Healthcare Act, 2002 (Act 17 of 2002), introduced a human rights-centred approach to the provision of care for mental-health patients.

Welfare services are also being streamlined to reach people with disabilities wherever they are through home-based care, rehabilitation and family-support programmes.

South Africa has also made commitments to improve the livelihoods of persons with disabilities through skills development and employment opportunities. The target is for at least 4% of skills-development expenditure to be used to train people with disabilities and 2% of the workforce in the public and private sector to be people with disabilities.

Government is intensifying national efforts to meet these targets, which were at 0,9% in 2011.

In December 2011, the Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, launched government's *Anti-Alcohol and Substance Abuse Campaign* in Cape Town. The campaign's theme is *Towards an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Free South Africa – Take a Stand*.

The launch follows the approval of a five-year programme of action on anti-alcohol and substance abuse by Cabinet in September 2011. Its aims are:

- developing policy and reviewing and aligning liquor registration
- educating and creating awareness about substance abuse
- promoting equal access to resources across South Africa
- responding to policies and legislation regarding drugs and organised crime
- reviewing institutional mechanisms to prevent and manage alcohol and drug use in the country.

In line with its mandate of mainstreaming and oversight, the Department for Women, Children and People with Disabilities ensures that each government department commits to clear milestones towards the attainment of 2% employment equity for people with disabilities and be held accountable for this target.

Government is also encouraging the private sector to continue increasing the number of employees with disabilities, using the skills-development programmes available in the country to invest in training people with disabilities.

Transport remains a major barrier limiting participation of people with disabilities in social, educational and economic activities. The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities and the Department of Transport are working together to ensure that the public-transport strategy and initiatives respond to the transport needs of people with disabilities and integrate disability considerations.

Education is one of the five key priorities of government. The department is focusing on improving access to education for learners with disabilities through the promotion of the inclusive-education policy. Government is promoting integration of children with special needs into mainstream schools, while acknowledging that children with severe disabilities still need special schools.

### **Welfare services Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers**

The Department of Social Development set aside R256 million in 2012/13 for a scholarship programme to train more social workers. The department committed to train 10 000 child- and youthcare workers in the next three years in collaboration with the National Association of Childcare Workers. The intention behind this initiative is to reach out to as many child-headed households as possible.

The Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers addresses the needs of social workers in the public and private sectors. It includes the following key components:

- increasing human resources by recruiting and retaining social workers
- promoting the education, training and development of social workers
- improving the quality of social-work services

In September 2011, President Jacob Zuma announced the development of a Disability Act to deal with enforcement, non-compliance and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The convention covers areas such as accessibility, rehabilitation, participation in political life, equality and non-discrimination of the disabled.

To ensure the proper implementation of the convention, government is developing a national disability policy and its implementation guidelines.

- strengthening governance structures within the social-service professions
- promoting occupational safety standards within the workplace
- improving service conditions for social workers
- marketing and promoting social-work services and programmes.

The implementation of the strategy remains vital to the realisation of the goals of the Department of Social Development. To this end, the department is implementing the Occupation Specific Dispensation for various categories of social workers in the Public Service. This will create better remuneration packages.

### **Professionalising community development**

The Council for Social Service Professions was established in terms of the Social Service Professions Act, 1978.

The key functions are:

- protecting and promoting the interests of the professions, in respect of which professional boards have been or are to be established and to deal with any matter relating to such interests
- advising the Minister on matters affecting the professions in respect of which professional boards have been established
- controlling and exercising authority regarding all financial matters relating to the council and the professional boards
- assisting in the promotion of social services.

### **Social-work scholarship**

As part of its efforts to bridge the skills gap, the Department of Social Development invited Grade 12 learners to apply for social-work scholarships. In 2011, the department had 4 735 students in its programme in various institutions of higher learning. While recruiting, preference is given to deserving learners in rural areas,



In October 2011, Disabled People South Africa, in collaboration with the Department for Women, Children and People with Disabilities, delegates representing disabled people's organisations affiliated to Disabled People International (DPI) and representatives of people with disabilities from across the globe, gathered in Durban for the Eighth World Assembly of DPI, held for the first time on the African continent.

The assembly, which is held every four years, discussed global progress in building an inclusive society through the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the attainment of the millennium development goals, the impact of HIV and AIDS on people with disabilities and the challenge of sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities.

including those from child-headed households, those living in places of safety, dependants of war veterans and learners in no-fee schools.

## Statutory bodies

### National Youth Development Agency

The NYDA is aimed at creating and promoting coordination in youth-development matters.

The NYDA's mandate includes:

- advancing youth development through guidance and support for initiatives across sectors of society and spheres of government
  - embarking on initiatives to advance the economic development of young people
  - developing and coordinating the implementation of the Integrated Youth Development Plan and Strategy
  - guiding efforts and facilitating youth economic participation, empowerment, education and training
  - initiating programmes aimed at combating crime, substance abuse and social decay among the youth
  - promoting youth interests generally and particularly those of young people with disabilities.
- By September 2011, some of the outcomes included:

- sustaining 61 341 employment opportunities
- training 49 341 young people in entrepreneurship
- training 84 205 young people in the NYS Programme, thus promoting entrepreneurship and patriotism among the youth
- issuing 24 062 loans to young people, valued at R60,4 million
- facilitating business opportunities for young people, valued at R142,8 million
- providing information to over 1,5 million young

people through various access points, including the call centre and its 144 local youth offices.

## National Development Agency

The NDA is tasked with supporting the work of civil society in key areas of concern according to the mandate of the Department of Social Development.

The NDA is an important partner in the department's efforts to promote ECD by using its grants to strengthen the capacities of ECD service organisations.

The organisations will similarly support the department's efforts to reduce violence against women and children by providing key support to the gender-based violence sector.

The NDA was established in terms of the NDA Act, 1998 and is accountable to the Minister of Social Development.

Its key strategic objectives are:

- granting funds to CSOs for meeting the developmental needs of poor communities
- strengthening the institutional capacity of organisations for long-term sustainability
- proactively sourcing funds for achieving its development objectives
- promoting consultation, dialogue and the sharing of developmental experiences to enrich the debate about and influence of developmental policies
- developing strategies for collaboration with local community-development trusts, foundations, government clusters and CSOs.

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

## Relief boards

Four relief fund boards were established in terms of Section 16 of the Fund-Raising Act, 1978. They are the:

- Board of the Disaster Relief Fund: key functions of the board are to assist persons, organisations and bodies that suffer damage or loss as a result of a disaster
- Board of the Refugee Relief Fund: the key functions are to assist refugees as the board may deem fair and reasonable
- Board of the State President's Fund: this board's functions are to assist victims of any act of terrorism in respect of their medical treatment and rehabilitation, and assist such victims and their dependants during any financial hardship

or financial distress caused directly or indirectly by any act of terrorism

- Board of the Social Relief Fund: the key functions of the board are to make funds available to organisations capable of assisting persons with psychosocial challenges, and rendering such social distress relief to victims of violence.

### **Non-profit organisations**

The NPO Directorate was established in terms of the NPO Act, 1997 to administer the Register of NPOs in South Africa.

The Register of NPOs is a voluntary registration facility that enhances the credibility of the registered NPO as it reports to a public office.

The registration of NPOs remains a priority. By 2011, a total of 18 393 applications had been received and processed. Of these, 10 309 met the registration requirements.

Registered NPOs increased to 65 635, representing an increase of more than 14% since 2009.

NPOs have a major role to play in identifying, developing and implementing programmes and projects that promote social development.

## Acknowledgements

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