



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH AFRICA
YEARBOOK

2010/11

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According to South Africa's Constitution, everyone has the right to access social security, including, those who are unable to support themselves and their dependants. The State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights. The aim of the Department of Social Development is to ensure a caring and integrated system of social services that facilitates human development and improves the quality of life. The mission of the department is to:

- provide comprehensive social services, which protect the poor and vulnerable within the framework of the South African Constitution and subsequent legislation
- create an enabling environment for sustainable development
- deliver integrated, sustainable, and quality services in partnership with all those committed to building a caring society.

The department has formulated and committed itself to the following priorities:

- alleviating poverty among children, adults and older persons
- youth development
- promoting social cohesion
- civil-society support and strengthening of communities
- governance and institutional development
- regional and international solidarity and development.

The Department of Social Development has implemented its mandate through three key areas, namely social security, welfare services and integrated development.

In executing the social security task, the department increased access to social assistance, further developed policy proposals for a social insurance system and supported efforts to draft improved regulatory proposals of oversight of private pension funds.

The scope of the welfare services grew at an unprecedented rate due to support given to children at risk, supporting many women in achieving their emancipation from oppressive conditions, bringing hope

and meaning to youth in despair, empowering many people living with disabilities and sustaining vulnerable older persons, among other things. The Department of Social Development collaborates with other government departments within the framework of intergovernmental-relations legislation and cooperative governance. It also collaborates with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs), the business sector, organised labour and other role players to ensure its strategic objectives are implemented.

The department also undertakes participatory research to provide evidence for developing relevant and appropriate programmes and strategies for sustainable livelihoods and community development. This includes creating a conducive environment for facilitating community development practice and overseeing the National Development Agency (NDA).

Funding

The Department of Social Development's expenditure grew from R61,7 billion in 2006/07 to R86,5 billion in 2009/10; at an average annual rate of 11,9%, resulting in a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget of R210 billion.

The allocation for 2010/11 is more than R94 billion and increases to R114 billion by 2012/13. An MTEF budget of more than R300 billion is projected. A total of R95,4 billion (99,4%) of the budget allocation are transfers.

Provision of social grants makes up the largest portion of the budget, about 93% or R89,4 billion in the 2010/11 financial year.

The other major transfers include R5,6 billion to the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) to administer the grant system and R87,2 million to the NDA to strengthen civil-society organisations and support development initiatives in rural areas. A further R226 million goes towards social-work scholarships and R43,4 million to loveLife to implement HIV and AIDS-prevention programmes.

Legislation

The department derives its mandate from numerous policy statements and laws, including the *White Paper for Social Welfare (1997)* and the *White Paper on Population Policy (1998)*. Other important pieces of legislation are discussed below.

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Social Development Month takes place annually in October. Social Development Month focuses on highlighting the importance of working together to fight poverty and build a caring society.

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President Jacob Zuma launched Child Protection Week (CPW) on 21 May 2010 in Atteridgeville, Pretoria.

Government introduced the CPW in 1997 to raise awareness, as well as to mobilise all sectors and communities towards the perspective of holistic development and the care and protection of children. The CPW has become an annual campaign to educate and mobilise communities to put children first.

The event also marked the launch of the Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008), which came into effect on 1 April 2010.

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

The amendment of the Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act 13 of 2004), saw men aged 63 to 64 qualifying and receiving social-assistance grants for the first time. The full implementation of the Act ensures that from 2010, men receive social-assistance grants when they turn 60 years of age. 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 Bill seeks to:

- 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 as well as people with chronic illnesses. The Social Assistance Amendment Bill facilitates a process which allows social-grant applicants and beneficiaries to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect.

The Bill provides for applicants and beneficiaries to request the Sassa to review its decisions to expedite resolution of disputes and avert unnecessary and costly litigation. The Bill also makes provision for applicants and beneficiaries to appeal against a decision of the agency and the appointment of the independent tribunal 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 there is merit to their claims, the process allows them to obtain simple and speedy resolution of their cases.

Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006)

The Aged Persons Act, 1967 (Act 81 of 1967), was repealed by the Older Persons Act, 2004, which was passed into law in 2006. This Act deals effectively 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 in to 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 (Act 38 of 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 of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- sets out principles relating to the care and protection of children
- defines parental rights and responsibilities
- makes further provision regarding children's courts
- provides for the issuing of contribution orders
- makes new provision for the adoption of children
- provides for intercountry adoption
- gives effect to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption
- prohibits child abduction and trafficking, and gives effect to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction
- provides for surrogate motherhood

- 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 Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 41 of 2007), provides for:

- the partial care of children
- early childhood development (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.

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.

Other important Acts are the Advisory Board on Social Development Act, 2001 (Act 3 of 2001), and the Sassa, 2004 (Act 9 of 2004).

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 divided into four sectors, namely infrastructure, environment, social and the non-state sector. In the Social Protection

and Community Development Cluster, the EPWP focuses mainly on ongoing programmes such as the Home/Community-Based Care (HCBC), ECD as well as community and tourism safety projects.

Over the 2009 to 2014 period, the second phase of this programme is expected to create 4,5 million short-term job opportunities. An estimated R52 billion has been allocated for various expanded public works projects from 2010 to 2013. This includes an additional R2,5 billion in the MTEF allocations that will support labour-intensive projects in the social and environmental sectors, largely targeting rural areas.

Government has introduced various measures to enhance households and community food production, primarily for consumption, and to generate income from the sale of surplus food. The households are provided with agricultural starter packs comprising implements, vegetable seedlings and fertilisers.

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, the first of which was established in March 2009 in Cape Town.

Since its inception, FoodBank South Africa has distributed 5,6 million kg of food valued at R76 million to 66 000 beneficiaries per day throughout South Africa. The donated food is distributed to orphanages, shelters for abused women and children, old-age homes and ECD centres, to name a few.

By October 2010, five foodbanks had been established in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Pietermaritzburg; with 14 community depots around the country. Together, this foodbank network has generated employment opportunities for 130 people.

FoodBank South Africa leads a large-scale coordinated effort to establish foodbanks in communities with the highest concentration of food insecure people.

A foodbank is an organisation that acts on behalf of non-profit organisations (NPOs). The foodbank procures food (and essential non-food groceries) usually from donors such as producers, manufacturers, retailers, government agencies, individuals and other organisations. The foodbank defaces the donated product (to protect the brand) and stores it in one of its warehouses.

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

is dispatched from the foodbank every day and delivered to depots in the communities where agencies are located.

War on poverty

As a coordinated programme on poverty, government developed the War on Poverty Campaign and the Comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy. The former was scaled up to cover 1 128 of the most deprived municipal wards in the country by 2014, while the latter underwent consultation in November 2010 in the National Economic Development and Labour Council after receiving support from the National Anti-Poverty Civil Society Colloquium in December 2009.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy focuses on capacitating and empowering households and communities to lift themselves out of poverty with the help of government and its social partners by:

- creating economic opportunities
- investing in human resources
- providing income security to the most vulnerable members of society
- providing social and individual asset accumulation such as housing, land, working capital and infrastructure
- promoting environmental sustainability
- providing social wages such as subsidised electricity, water and sanitation services
- providing preventative and curative healthcare
- promoting social inclusion
- promoting good governance.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy:

- identifies the most deprived wards in the country using the Provincial Indices of Multiple Deprivation, which has mapped all poverty areas in each province
- profiles the communities and households that live in those deprived wards
- collects and stores such community and households profiles into the national database
- develops referrals that it sends to national and provincial departments and social partners to address the needs of those households and communities
- advises national and provincial departments to develop service-delivery plans that should be included in the municipal integrated development plans
- monitors and verifies the impact of service delivery performed by departments on the progress and graduation of households and communities out of poverty.

The War on Poverty Programme was piloted from 2008 to 2009 by covering a ward in each province. In May 2009, Cabinet called

for the scaling-up of the programme to cover 1 128 of the most deprived wards in the country by 2014; reaching an estimated three million households and an estimated 15 million people who live in extreme poverty.

Comprehensive anti-poverty interventions

Eradicating poverty is the highest priority in government's efforts to build a better life for all. Government, therefore, has in place a number of interventions geared at minimising the impact of poverty on the people. A draft poverty matrix has been compiled through the identification of key projects in the social and economic clusters. This matrix will be completed once the development of the national database of households living in poverty has been completed.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy is premised on an approach that integrates social security, investment in people through education and skills development, and a set of economic and industrial policies. Central to this strategy is the determination to root out inter-generational poverty.

The attainment of this goal will require the department to integrate its intersectoral interventions with measurable targets, social indicators and time frames.

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

Only when the poor have decent employment or are gainfully self-employed, will the demand for social grants reduce. 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. In the first instance, investment in the development of children is one of the

Amounts of grants per month, 2010

Grant type	Amount
Old-Age Grant	R1 080
Disability Grant	R1 080
War-Veterans' Grant	R1 100
Foster-Care Grant	R710
Care-Dependency Grant	R1 080
Child-Support Grant	R250
Grant-in-Aid	R250

Source: Department of Social Development

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.

In the 2009/10 financial year, 2 514 new ECD centres were registered. Of these, 1 385 centres are based in rural areas.

By the end of March 2010, 16 250 ECD sites in total had been registered. In the same period, 719 194 children had benefited from these sites, including 432 727 children who were subsidised by government.

The Department of Social Development is the lead government department for services to children under the age of four years. 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.

Comprehensive social security

In excess of R140 million was available in 2010 for social relief of distress to provide income support for those who may be left vulnerable as a result of a sudden catastrophe.

One of the Social Protection and Community Development Cluster's key outcomes is the finalisation of the work on the comprehensive social security system. The cluster completed the draft of the Consolidated Government Document on Comprehensive Social Security, containing a package of strategic reform proposals. The envisaged comprehensive social security system has three pillars, namely: social assistance, social insurance and voluntary savings.

Under the first pillar, the Social Assistance Programme covers just over 14 million South Africans, the majority (nine million) of whom are children who receive the Child-Support Grant (CSG). Other provisions include the Old-Age Pension, Disability Grant, Foster-Care Grant, Care-Dependency Grant War-Veterans' Grant and Social Relief of Distress (SRD).

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.

The report, *Review of the Child-Support Grant Uses, Implementation and Obstacles* (2008), found that the CSG played an important role in enabling caregivers to

access food of sufficient nutritional quality and variety to meet a child's needs.

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 the voluntary savings to the informal sector.

As part of the comprehensive social-security reform proposals, the 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 SRD.

The second pillar of the proposed 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 out 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.

The 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.

Social-assistance grant recipients

Grant type	January 2005	January 2010
Old-Age Grant	2 087 641	2 517 517
Disability Grant	1 30 599	1 288 467
War-Veterans' Grant	3 413	1 272
Foster-Care Grant	246 870	510 713
Care-Dependency Grant	86 485	110 381
Child-Support Grant	5 551 030	9 351 988
Grant-in-Aid	22 730	52 118
Total	2 540 998	13 026 104

Source: South African Social Security Agency
Strategic Plan 2010/11 – 2012/13

Social assistance

The CSG was extended to all children born on or after 31 December 1993. The extension of the CSG will be phased-in to cover over 2,1 million eligible children under the age of 18 years by 2011/12.

In 2010/11, government spent R89 billion on social grants in the face of increasing unemployment and the impact of 2009's recession.

Expenditure on grants increased from 3,2% of the gross domestic product (GDP) to 3,5%.

Government's most successful strategy in combating abject poverty and hunger is its Social Assistance Programme. The majority of the beneficiaries are children who receive the CSG. Eligibility for this grant, which stands at R240 per child per month, is restricted to poor children, with most recipients being girls.

Most of these recipients are girls or a child's primary caregiver. Many children are cared for by relatives as a result of the impact of HIV and AIDS.

In 2010, the department extended the CSG to eligible children between the ages of 15 and 16, and will in phases include children who turn 18 years old in 2012. The cash transfers have largely been credited with a reported decrease in people experiencing hunger.

According to the *General Household Survey*, 20% of children and 25% of adults said that they were hungry "sometimes", "often" or "always" in 2002. In 2007, this was reduced to 12,2% of children and 10,6% of adults.

The SRD Grant is a temporary provision of assistance intended for persons who are unable to meet their families' most basic needs. The SRD may be in the form of a food parcel or a voucher to buy food. Some provinces give this assistance in the form of cash. SRD is given for a short time only, usually for three to six months.

Sassa is responsible for SRD for categories relevant to social grants, and provides it in cases where the person:

- is awaiting permanent aid in the form of a social grant
- is found to be medically unfit for a period of less than six months
- has appealed the suspension of a grant
- needs help while waiting for their children's grants to be processed by government
- has experienced a crisis or disaster
- is unable to get maintenance from the other parent of the child or children, or the

breadwinner has died, or has been sent to prison for a short time (less than six months)

- has been affected by a disaster in an area that has not been declared a disaster area.

National Treasury allocated R124 million for SRD for the 2008/09 financial year. However, the impact of the global financial crisis also placed a heavy burden on the poor and needy. In response to this, National Treasury allocated an additional R500 million for SRD to shield the poor from the impact of rising food prices.

During 2008/09, over 2,3 million elderly individuals benefited from old-age grants. Of these, over 70 000 were men aged between 63 and 64 who started receiving their grants for the first time after the amendment of the Social Assistance Act, 2004 to achieve parity with regard to the qualifying age between male and female grant applicants.

Government has made progress in the provision of social support to persons with disabilities. The number of persons with disabilities accessing disability grants increased from 694 000 in 2002 to 1,3 million in 2010 at R1 080 per person per month. The same amount of Care-Dependency Grant was provided to caregivers of children with disabilities. People with disabilities constitute the third-largest group of social-grant beneficiaries after those receiving CSG and Old-Age Pension.

The processing of social assistance grants can only be implemented in an environment of institutional effectiveness. For this reason, the Minister appointed 128 individuals to serve on the Independent Tribunal for Social Assistance Appeals. Made up of medical practitioners, legal experts and members of civil society, the tribunal adjudicates social-assistance appeals emanating from the grant-application process administered by Sassa.

By the end of the 2009/10 financial year, 60 970 appeals had been lodged with the Minister, of which 13 269 were considered and finalised by the tribunal.

In July 2010, Sassa developed a turnaround strategy to eliminate wasteful expenditure, including various contracts the provinces concluded with different cash-payment contractors. The long-term plan is to develop a new payment model, which will overhaul the current inefficient and costly one.

The strategy includes the development of a cost-effective national payment system that will see most beneficiaries migrating

from a cash-payment method to an electronic one through commercial banks and the Postbank. It also included renegotiating the payment contracts to reduce handling fees.

Some R319 million was saved in 2009/10 through this process. Other plans included recouping money from unclaimed benefits from different banks. By July 2010, a total of R10,5 million had been recovered.

Social-assistance transfers are funded from general revenue and are appropriated on the Budget Vote of the Department of Social Development.

Dealing with corruption

Government remains vigilant in order to root out corruption and fraud within the social-security system. For this reason, the Department of Social Development continues to work with the Special Investigation Unit to ensure that culprits are brought to book.

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

- a toll-free national security fraud hotline (0800 60 10 11) that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- an e-mail address (fraud@socdev.gov.za) and a free-call fax-service number (0800 61 10 11).

According to the department's Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2015, it will develop an anti-fraud and -corruption implementation plan in 2010/11.

Uniform and improved community development practice

The focus of the Community Development Programme is to create 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.

Through the programme, the department is developing policies, strategies, programmes and tools to unleash their potential for sustainable community development. The programme will focus on the development and implementation of programmes to assist the poor and vulnerable groups to access decent work and improve their incomes, assets, and capabilities to enhance their livelihoods.

Given its contribution to building cohesive communities, the Community Development Programme is leading the process of developing the national community development

policy framework. The process will facilitate the development of norms and standards for community development practice to ensure the delivery of responsible and effective community development services.

To achieve these objectives, the programmes will facilitate the improvement of the capacity of the sector, including the capacity of community development forums to stimulate and support community-driven development initiatives.

Professionalising community development

The department has partnered with the South African Qualifications Authority for the generation and registration of unit standards and qualifications for community development.

Core unit standards for the Community Development Further Education and Training College Certificate at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level Four have been developed.

During 2009/10, the department established a database of community development practitioners (CDPs). A national community development professionalisation task team was established to drive the professionalisation process that will eventually lead to the registration of practitioners with the South African Council for Social Service Professions. The professionalisation process is not limited to the Department of Social Development's CDPs but embraces all other practitioners in different departments. The South African Council for Social Service Professions plays a crucial advisory role in this process.

In February 2010, the former Minister of Social Development, Ms Edna Molewa, launched a tool-kit for CDPs as part of government's support to the local government turnaround strategy. The tool-kit provides guidelines for CDPs to fast-track and facilitate community development work, using the sustainable livelihoods approach. Among other things, the tool-kit is expected to help practitioners and communities identify appropriate interventions to improve their livelihoods.

Meaningful participation in community development

The department conducted a study to assess challenges and support required by community-based organisations (CBOs) in relation to the coordination and integration of services at a local point.

A major outcome of the study was the development of a draft tool on the support of CBOs. Consultations on the draft tool were carried out during the 2009/10 financial year.

A notable result of a seminar on integrated service delivery in community development with a focus on an integrated service-delivery model and municipal integrated development planning (IDP), was the training of 86 CDPs on the IDP process. About 90% of trained CDPs were taken through competency assessment for certification by an accredited service-provider.

Responding to the impact of HIV and AIDS

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

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

The sustained national response is beginning to pay dividends as data indicates that the infection rate among women younger than 20 decreased significantly while the average national HIV prevalence among young pregnant women showed signs of stabilisation in the three years to 2006.

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.

The main objectives of the Gender, HIV and AIDS Programme are to:

- facilitate the mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS into policies, and of gender into HIV- and AIDS-prevention programmes
- monitor the development and implementation of policies and programmes.

HIV and AIDS Youth Programme

The expansion of the loveLife 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.

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

HCBC is the provision of comprehensive services, including health and social services, by formal and informal caregivers in HCBC and support programmes.

The HCBC Programme has been prioritised as a cost-effective response substituting for a significant proportion of AIDS-related hospital care. The EPWP is a critical component of the effort to deliver holistic HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis-related services. It represents a strategic opportunity to address key pressure points in current interventions.

The departments of social development and of health have taken joint responsibility for implementing the HCBC Programme

nationally. HCBC organisations use the community-driven model in providing care and support to people affected and infected by HIV and AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and child-headed households, including people suffering from other medical conditions. Government is the main source of funding for HCBC organisations. Draft modules on psychosocial care and support were also developed as part of the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on psychosocial support for children and adults living with HIV and affected by AIDS.

The Department of Social Development collaborated with the Department of Health and the Japanese International Co-operation Agency on expanded and integrated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for HCBC. The project was initiated by the two departments to address the challenge of collating, analysing and disseminating HCBC information to policy-makers and implementers. The HCBC M&E System was implemented in four provinces and expected to be expanded to the remaining five in the 2010/11 financial year.

Services to orphans made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS

A policy framework for orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS was developed, which reflects the collective commitment of government, FBOs, CBOs, civil society and the business sector, and serves as a guiding tool to all people involved in HIV and AIDS and in the children's sector. It seeks to reinforce existing commitments and efforts to create a supportive and enabling environment for children.

An NAP was then developed to clearly define the value-adding role of various stakeholders in addressing the social impact of HIV and AIDS.

The Department of Social Development is developing a national database of OVC, which will include child-headed households. The programmes that are in place to assist OVC include access to treatment, food, skills training and psychosocial support.

Each community should have a child-care forum that works with social workers, welfare organisations and other community structures to ensure that identified OVC receive appropriate services.

The department has established a number of community-based drop-in centres where children are given meals and a packed lunch before they go to school. Caregivers

at drop-in centres also assist children from child-headed households with homework and involve them in life-skills programmes.

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, civil society, the business sector, the United Nations (UN) Children's Fund and Save the Children, focusing on the care and support of OVC.

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.

Promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups

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 (*Community Survey Data, 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 (Act 13 of 2006) is intended to ensure that the rights, dignity and independence of older persons are upheld.

The main objectives of the Older Persons Act, 2006 are to:

- maintain and promote the status, well-being, safety and security of older persons
- recognise the skills and wisdom of older persons
- promote participation of older persons in community activities.

The Act provides a framework aimed at the empowerment and protection of older persons, and the promotion and maintenance of their socio-economic status.

By July 2010, the department had increased the number of service centres for older persons from 171 to 204. These community-based centres provide elderly people with skills-development training, healthcare, nutrition, supervised exercise and generic care.

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, including OVC, 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 supervision over the family. This is an out-of-court arrangement, but the social worker is expected to provide overall supervision.
- Poor-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 is planning a permanent intervention.

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

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

- provision of cooked meals and food parcels
- assistance with homework for children who are attending school
- recreation
- capacity-building on parenting and life skills
- psychosocial care and support
- income-generating programmes
- provision of 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 youthcare centres are temporary forms of alternative care.

Annual statistics show that adoption cases remained static over the last five years in comparison to foster care, which has seen an exponential increase. The low take-up rates in adoption can be attributed to lengthy court procedures and the general lack of information on this matter. To address this, the department has developed an adoption strategy which seeks to:

- increase the number of local adoptions
- increase the number of prospective adoptive parents locally and reduce placement of children through intercountry adoption
- make communities aware of adoption services
- contribute towards reducing the number of children placed in foster, child and youthcare centres.

The number of children placed in foster care increased from 445 306 in 2007/08 to 474 759 in 2008/09. This led to backlogs due to the shortage of social workers and social service professionals.

Sassa's May 2008 statistics indicated that more than 452 059 children were in foster care and were receiving the Foster-Care Grant.

In April 2009, the Office on the Rights of the Child in The Presidency conducted the *Situation Analysis Report of Children in South Africa*. The report showed that in 2006, some 3 768 000 children had lost one or both parents. Many children in need of

care and protection are placed in temporary child-care programmes.

International social services (ISS)

ISS are rendered to clients in need of inter-country social services to and from South Africa, focusing on unaccompanied minors.

The South African ISS Unit works with other ISS offices worldwide. There is a good network of ISS branches, affiliated bureaux and correspondents.

There is also close collaboration and overlap on enquiries with regard to adoptions.

The ISS Unit has initiated training at provincial level to streamline referral processes in the sector across partner departments and NGOs.

Childline South Africa

Childline offers a toll-free crisis line (0800 55 555) 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 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 are:

- 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 (Act 116 of 1991), as amended, and at national and provincial levels provides early intervention services and prevention programmes to offenders and victims of crime.

The National and Provincial Probation Service Coordinators' Forum meets on a regular basis 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 Motheo 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.

Victim-Empowerment Programme (VEP)

In September 2010, the Department of Social Development in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the European Commission organised a conference to accelerate action for victim empowerment in the Southern Africa Development Community region. This provided a regional platform to review progress with regard to implementation of the VEP and strengthen regional collaboration on the growing phenomenon of human trafficking.

The VEP aims to lessen the long-term impact of crime by proactively tending to the needs of all 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.

The year 2010 marked the 12th anniversary of the VEP. Through the VEP, the Department of Social Development has scored several achievements. To provide better services to victims of domestic violence, the department reviewed the policy framework and strategy for shelters for victims of domestic violence in South Africa.

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In November 2010, women from civil-society organisations joined Parliament for the launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign.

The 16 Days of Activism Campaign is an annual United Nations Women's Fund-driven global campaign taking place from 25 November (International Day of No Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

The global campaign focuses on violence against women only, but South Africa has added children to its campaign because of the high incidence of child abuse in the country. In addition, the campaign promotes women's and children's rights as integral to human rights, which are enshrined in the Constitution.

The policy framework will provide guidance to service-providers helping abused women in shelters and ensure that their services are aligned to the Victim's Charter. The *Resource Directory for VEP Services* has been reviewed and finalised and the audit of services completed in March 2009.

The department developed the Strategy on the Engagement of Men and Boys in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence. It is an initiative to encourage the involvement and participation of men and boys in gender equality with special focus on the prevention of gender-based violence. The strategy was piloted for six months in North West as a trial run before the roll-out to other provinces.

The National Policy Guidelines for Victim Empowerment were approved by the justice, crime-prevention and security and social clusters. These policy guidelines will provide strategic direction to the sector and ensure availability of resources to implement programmes to support and protect victims of crime and violence.

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 on family preservation services, marriage preparation and enrichment, parenting/primary caregiving and families in crisis to service-providers in family services.

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 the contraction or transmission of 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.

It is estimated that up to 12 million family members of drug-users face emotional and financial strain. At the same time, a conservative estimate of the economic costs to South Africa of alcohol abuse, based on research studies conducted in other countries, is between R8,7 billion and R17,4 billion per year.

The department aims to empower all vulnerable people to know their rights and the places where they can get support or help. The department will continue to provide appropriate rehabilitation services to people dependent on drugs and maintain high standards of care for such people.

Without the help of organisations outside government, the department will not be able to succeed in this task.

In 2004, at least 8,4% of the South African population, about 2,2 million people, used cannabis, against the global norm of 4%. In 2008, about 3,2 million South Africans used the same drug, representing an increase of about 20% from 2004. Similarly, the use of cocaine increased over this period by 20%, with 210 000 people using this substance in 2004 compared with 290 000 million in 2008.

Statistics show that problem drinkers constitute about 2,2 million people, who make up 19,6% of the current drinking population in the country.

As a result, about 11,8 million people in various families are affected negatively by problem drinking, be it emotionally or financially.

It has become even more important for government and non-governmental organisations such as the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, to heighten partnerships and coordination in the prevention of substance abuse.

Efforts towards a drug-free society are expected to reduce the supply and demand

for drugs and the harm that these substance are causing to its victims and the society at large.

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

This is in line with the objectives of the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP) 2006 to 2011, which calls for youth-targeted intervention programmes such as the use of drama, music and sport to motivate young people against substance abuse.

In implementing the programmes outlined in the NDMP, the Department of Social Development is working with different role players, including the departments of arts and culture, of education, of correctional services, of transport, of health, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the South African Police Service, CBOs, FBOs, accredited addition counsellors and treatment centres.

Since the youth are targeted in schools by drug lords, the NDMP also aims to ensure that schools offer effective drug-education programmes by giving learners the facts regarding the dangers of drug use, thus helping them to develop an anti-drug attitude to mitigate this challenge.

The NMDP commits government and all other sectors of society to work together on key areas such as reducing the demand and supply of illegal drugs; mobilising social conscience against substance abuse and raising general public awareness about the dangers of drugs; creating discussions in the public arena, homes and schools; and stimulating debate and action at all levels of South African society.

In September 2010, the department conducted more research on drug use to update the 2003/04 statistics on the impact prevalent in society.

This resulted in a drastic revision of the NDMP and its business plan by the Central Drug Authority (CDA).

The department submitted the revised version to Parliament for approval in 2010.

The Department of Social Development developed the Mini Drug Master Plan, which seeks to combat substance abuse within the scope of the department's line function.

In terms of the plan, the department endeavours to reduce the demand for drugs by discouraging the abuse of substances. The plan is to reduce the harm through holistic treatment of service users and their families, while mitigating the social, psychological and health impact of substance abuse.

The general intervention plans focuses on:

- prevention services
- early intervention services
- treatment services
- aftercare and reintegration services.

All the prevention strategies are aimed at ensuring that individuals, families and communities live a better life to reduce the likelihood of undesirable conditions that may expose them to substance abuse. It requires partnership with government, NGOs and civil society to intensify the dissemination of information, communication and education in a bid to create awareness about the risks and dangers of substance abuse.

In October 2010, former Minister Molewa and members of the CDA launched a national anti-substance abuse campaign under the theme: *No Place for Drugs in my Community* in Upington, Northern Cape. The delegation conducted a door-to-door campaign to educate communities on the dangers of substance abuse.

People with disabilities

The *White Paper on an Integrated National Disability Strategy (1997)* provides a policy framework for implementation across the whole of society and through all spheres of government. The National Skills Development Strategy calls for 4% of all people who obtain training to be people with disabilities.

The Department of Social Development supports the following national councils:

- National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities
- Deaf Federation of South Africa
- Epilepsy South Africa
- South African Federation for Mental Health
- Cancer Association of South Africa.

National Youth Development Agency

The NYDA, launched on 16 June 2009, resulted from the merger of the National Youth Commission and the Umsobomvu Youth Fund.

As the primary custodian of youth development in the country, the NYDA's mandate is to:

- advance youth development through guidance and support of initiatives across sectors of society and spheres of government
- embark on initiatives that seek to advance the economic development of young people

- develop and coordinate the implementation of the Integrated Youth Development Plan and Strategy for the country.

The scope of the NYDA includes:

- the National Youth Service (NYS) and social cohesion
- economic participation
- policy, research and development
- governance, training and development
- youth advisory and information services
- the National Youth Fund.

In February 2010, the NYDA and the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (Cipro) signed a service level agreement for youth development. This partnership formalises business relations between the two organisations and enhances accessibility of Cipro products, particularly registration of businesses for young entrepreneurs that the NYDA serves. It will also ensure that the NYDA no longer pays service-providers high fees for company registrations on behalf of young entrepreneurs under its Business Consultancy Services Voucher Programme.

All NYDA branches nationwide are able to provide the Cipro services directly, including registering close corporations, cooperatives, and proprietary limited businesses. While clients who require registering their companies will still contribute R200 towards Cipro registration and payment to an accountant, this partnership ensures a quick turnaround time for entrepreneurs.

By combining the expertise of Cipro with those of the NYDA, this partnership will contribute positively to the development and growth of small, medium and micro-enterprises in the country.

The Masupatsela Youth Pioneer Programme, in collaboration with the department's Cuban counterparts, was implemented as part of the NYS. To complement these interventions, the NYDA set up provincial structures and advisory boards in all nine provinces, with a special focus on rural areas. This included support to 86 youth cooperatives. By April 2010, 2 099 young pioneers and 120 mentors were recruited, making significant progress in youth interventions.

United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) Third Country Support Programme for South Africa

The UNPFA and other UN partners have introduced a third cycle of assistance to South Africa in the form of the Third Country

Support Programme, contextualised within the UN Development Assistance Framework.

The overall goal is to improve the quality of life by contributing to reversing the spread of HIV, reducing gender inequities in the AIDS pandemic, enhancing the centrality of population issues in development policies and programmes, and strengthening the integration of population factors in the national development agenda.

These areas reflect national priorities, articulated in government's Vision 2014. They are contextualised within the millennium development goals and the Government-prepared country analysis, which was adopted as the basis for development co-operation with all partners. Implementation of the projects will involve and benefit all nine provinces.

Welfare services Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers

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
- 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.

Repositioning the developmental social welfare sector

The Integrated Service-Delivery Model for Developmental Social Services aims to implement comprehensive, efficient and quality service delivery that contributes to a self-reliant society.

The model acknowledges the interdependent relationship between the department's main programmes, namely Social Security, Social Welfare and Community Development.

It determines the nature, scope, extent and level of work that constitutes service delivery by developmental social services. It also provides a basis for determining appropriate norms and standards for service delivery, which will, in turn, provide a basis for funding and greater efficiency in service delivery.

Statutory bodies **National Development Agency**

The NDA is a statutory body established in terms of the NDA Act, 1998 (Act 108 of 1998), to contribute towards the eradication of poverty and eliminate its causes. In the 2009/10 financial year, the NDA funded 77 community projects valued at R95 million.

These benefited 7 185 direct beneficiaries, the majority of whom were women, youth and people with disabilities. During 2010, the department allocated R87,2 million to the NDA, primarily to fund poverty-alleviation initiatives of CBO's and cooperatives in poor communities.

The agency's primary mandate is to contribute towards the eradication of poverty and its causes by granting funds to civil-society organisations for the purposes of:

- carrying out projects or programmes aimed at meeting development needs of poor communities
- strengthening the institutional capacity of other civil society organisations involved in direct service provision to poor communities.

Its secondary mandate is to promote:

- consultation, dialogue and sharing of development experience between civil-society organisations and relevant organs of the State
- debate on development policy
- undertake research and publication aimed at providing the basis for development policy.

The NDA took a new strategic direction for 2010/13, which was developed within the context of the five government priorities, namely, creating decent work and sustainable livelihoods; education; health; rural development, food security and land reform; and the fight against crime and corruption.

Additions to its key focus areas will see the NDA increasing its target civil-society organisations from those involved in economic development and agricultural activities to include the enhancement of leadership and management capacity of such organisations involved in ECD and those providing support to vulnerable groups.

The agency has set itself the following five strategic goals to enable it to achieve its 2010/11 targets:

- capacity-building for civil-society organisations to enable them to carry out development work effectively
- grant-funding to contribute towards the eradication of poverty
- facilitating research towards poverty eradication aimed at providing evidence-based knowledge to improve development practice and inform policy
- positioning the NDA as a premier development agency and mobilising resources
- promoting and maintaining of organisational excellence and sustainability through the enhancement and implementation of business systems that will enable the agency to operate efficiently, effectively and economically.

The agency, whose vision is that of a society free from poverty, has representation nationally with offices in all the nine provinces.

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 their displacement from another country.

Non-profit organisations

NPOs have a major role to play in identifying, developing and implementing programmes and projects that promote social development. In this respect, the department made an additional allocation of R17 million from 2010 to 2013, to strengthen the capacity and efficiency of the NPO Registration Unit, including the recruitment of additional personnel.

The NPO Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997), is perceived to be the entry point in the regulatory framework for organisations to derive benefits. It provides a registration facility for all public NPOs that are not organs of the State.

Acknowledgements

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