



nyda

NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE.

**INTEGRATED YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL
REPORT**

INTEGRATED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRESS REPORT



NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE.

MAY 2022

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADP	Artisan Development Programmes
APR	Annual Performance Report
ASIDI	Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative
BEEI	Basic Education Employment Initiative
CET	Community Education Training
CATHSSETA	Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority
Covid-19	Coronavirus
DBE	Department of Basic Education
DCDT	Department of Communications and Digital Technologies
DFF	Department of Forestry and Fisheries
DHL	Department of Higher Learning
DHESI	Department of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DOT	Department of Tourism
DSBD	Department of Small Business Development
DSI	Department of Science and Innovation
DSU	Disability Support Unit
ETDPSETA	Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority
FET	Further Education Training
HET	Higher Education Training
HIV/AIDS	Human deficiency Immune Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IEB	Independent Examination Board
INSETA	Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority
IYDS	Integrated Development Youth Strategy
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MERSETA	Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Service Sector Education and Training Authority

MICT SETA	The Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MTSF	Medium-Term Strategic Framework
NDP	National Development Plan
NECT	National Education Collaboration Trust
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
nGAP	New Generation Academics Programme
NPMN	National Pathway Management
NSC	National Senior Certificate
NSF	National Skills Fund
NSFAS	National Student Financial Aid Scheme
NYDA	National Youth Development Agency
NYP	National Youth Policy
PED	Provincial Education Department
PMO	Project Management Office
PLC	Professional Learning Communities
PLWHIV	People Living With HIV
PSET	Post-School Education and Training
QLFS	Quarterly Labour Force Survey
REAP	Rural Education Assistants Project
SAFE	Sanitation Appropriate For Education
SEDA	Small Enterprise Development Agency
SETA	Sector Education and Training Authority
SOES	State owned enterprises
SONA	State of the Nation Address
STATSA	Statistics South Africa
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UIF	Unemployment Insurance Fund
YES	Youth Employment Services
YMERF	Youth Micro-Enterprise Relief Fund
WBL	Work Based Learning
T1	Tshepo1 Million
W&RSETA	Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority

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1. Executive Summary

The NYDA has been mandated, amongst other things, to lobby and advocate for the integration and mainstreaming of youth development in all spheres of Government, Private Sector and Civil Society. One of NYDA's legislative frameworks, the National Youth Policy, advocates for integrated youth development; hence, a strategy was developed to implement the Policy. The strategy referred to here is the Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS), which is a plan made to achieve the goals and objectives of the National Youth Policy. The IYDS, however, requires a framework that will serve as a guideline for its implementation, hence the development of the IYDS progress report.

The IYDS has been developed to be a holistic and integrated strategy that responds to all socio-economic needs of young people in South Africa. The strategy is crafted to guide the Private, Civil Society and NGO sectors to initiate programmes aligned to national priorities and respond to the national needs pertaining to youth development. This will allow for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the interventions implemented by all stakeholders and reported systematically.

The IYDS Progress Report is developed to manage the delivery of reliable, credible, effective, and efficient programs that can demonstrate impact in the lives of young people. The IYDS M&E Framework provides an over-arching guide on all monitoring and evaluation processes within the IYDS. It aims to knit together key areas in creating an enabling environment for effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy and its partners' efforts.

Information collected through the measures put in place by the report will be used to provide evidence for decision-making and provide documented experiences and lessons learned. NYDA will analyse Government publications and reports as monitoring mechanisms and is interested in the Impact report of programmes. This will be done through desktop research and stakeholder management. NYDA will continue to be the catalyst in IYDS, and reports produced will be guided by the principles in the progress report.

The IYDS M&E Framework will provide a consistent approach to monitoring and evaluating youth development programmes. The framework sets out the proposed minimum monitoring and evaluation requirements to enable the review of youth development programmes across all youth development sectors.

Why does South Africa need Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS)?

Youth development in South Africa is backed by a comprehensive legislative framework from the Republic of South Africa Constitution, in line with the country's youth development approach, the MTSF and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Act. The NYDA is expected to develop the Integrated Youth Development Strategy (2020/25) aligned with Cabinet's National Youth Policy 2030. The IYDS attempts to put the youth at the centre of the country's development agenda.

The strategy seeks to enhance the participation of young people through targeted programmes initiated by the government, business and civil society. The Strategy will create a framework within which all youth-related work in South Africa can be coordinated and linked to build relationships, foster information-sharing, avoid duplication and ultimately maximise impact.

The Integrated Youth Development Strategy will allow for coordination of efforts through specified interventions by the national youth sector (youth formations), civil society, NPO's/NGO's, government departments, national, provincial, local government and the private sector, which should aim to:

- Address problem areas,
- Respond to emerging youth sector needs,
- Enable effectiveness and efficiencies through existing programmes,
- Optimise integration and maximise the impact of youth development programmes,
- Innovate and create ground-breaking interventions,
- Sustain youth development interventions and programmes.

Coordination of youth development has always been a matter of debate, particularly at the government level. The debate around the NYDA has raged over whether it is the National Coordinator of youth development and, if it is, whether it has lived up to this role. The NYDA will consider the coordination of youth development and how it can be strengthened in South Africa.

The youth constitute about 34.7% or 20,66 million of the 59,62 million South African population. The youth population is projected to reach nearly 62 million by 2023 and grow to 63 to 66 million by 2025. The IYDS sets out the actual programmes, targets and resources required for driving identified interventions.

Despite noticeable progress made by our democratic government in dealing with youth issues, there are still problematic areas that need attention. Education is one area where more still needs to be done. Whilst education is seen as an essential weapon against poverty, the education system still characterises poor outcomes, compounded by high grade repetitions and high drop-outs rates. Furthermore, more learners enrol in universities and colleges, but few are graduating. Funding for higher education has improved with the assistance of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), departmental bursaries and international scholarships. However, there are inequalities in education regarding access and outcome in the education system.

Inequality has proven to harm social cohesion and intergroup interaction. To date, opportunities and privilege continue to be defined by race, gender, ability, geographical location, class and linguistic background. With that being the case, unemployment is massively high among black African youth, young black women and persons with disabilities, who are highly excluded, marginalised and discriminated against. Social cohesion encourages the growth of the economy and brings solidarity amongst people.

With noticeable progress in bringing unity, mainly focusing on youth, there is still a loophole in employment, equal opportunity and gender inequality. Therefore, to build a better country through social cohesion, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) and other stakeholders implement programmes that reduce unemployment and inequality, bring unity and encourage youth to engage in elections to bring change in South Africa. There is still a lack of young people in elections. In addition, several young people are engaging in volunteering campaigns to help those who are less fortunate. Moreover, youth are participating in Gender-based violence campaigns.

Coordination needs to exist beyond monthly/quarterly reporting. While it is useful to understand the different government interventions, simply consolidating reporting of often small programmes does not sufficiently shift the needle in youth development. It needs to drive meaningful, systematic change and prevent duplication of efforts. Coordination should preferably support small-scale programmes. Each year a forum of the youth sector from the public sector, private sector, civil society, and student groups will be convened to reflect on the annual progress report.

Background

The Integrated Youth Development (IYDS) report was developed to assess and evaluate the progress of the goals and targets expressed by the National Departments in response to the Medium-Term

Strategic Framework (MTSF) focusing on youth developments. The report builds a case for interventions by providing a brief overview of the youth's current challenges.

Each year a forum of the youth sector from the public sector, private sector, civil society and student groups will be convened to reflect on the annual progress report. In response to the mandate carried by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), amongst other requirements, is to lobby and advocate for the integration and mainstreaming of youth development in all three spheres of Government, the Private sector and Civil Society. Further responding to the National Youth Policy 2030 (NYP 2030), one of the NYDA's legislative frameworks, advocates for integrated youth development. Therefore, against this backdrop, the Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS) has been developed to serve as a guideline for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework.

The core of the report is to assess the progress made in the five pillars, as listed below:

- Quality education, skills and second chances,
- Economic transformation, entrepreneurship and job creation,
- Physical and mental health promotion, including mitigating pandemics,
- Nation-building and social cohesion,
- Effective and responsive youth development institutions.

The IYDS and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process aims to manage the delivery of reliable, conclusive, effective and efficient programmes that positively impact young people's lives. This report desires to communicate the progress made concerning youth development, seeking to present an organised, coordinated, systematic research analysis encompassing a holistic view of the socio-economic needs of young people in our country. It is the hope that this report will give guided solutions that will open all stakeholders to the opportunity to fulfil the outcomes expressed in the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and other guiding documents aligned to government agenda for transformation.

The data and information presented will contentiously be used to improve the way youth development is being implemented and coordinated as a baseline, highlight the opportunities to do more, add value to decision-making, and clarify how best to improve the implementation of the five pillars in the IYDS. The report is not only to report but to also enhance understanding of all youth development programmes, activities and the M&E of relevant results.

A desktop study and an analysis of government publications, reports and other source documents were used as gauging tools to report progress on the commitments made by various departments. In creating the context for accountability and accurate reporting, the NYDA, through this report, seeks to provide understanding and interpretation of the data presented while measuring against the targeted impact.

IYDS Progress Report

Taking away from the MTSF for South Africa (2019 - 2024) and the NYP 2030, the NYDA research and policy unit has developed the (IYDS 2024), which is a strategy to enhance economic participation and job creation for young people through targeted programmes initiated by the government, business and civil society. The IYDS is key to the successful implementation of the (NYP) 2030. The IYDS stipulates the organs and processes by which the NYP 2030 will be implemented with the relevant planning, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The NYDA aims to access, monitor, and analyse the progress of these five pillars, focusing mainly on the youth, young women and youth with disabilities. Furthermore, this document contributes to the government ensuring that the strategies and policies for youth development, women, and youth with disabilities are prioritised and fulfilled.

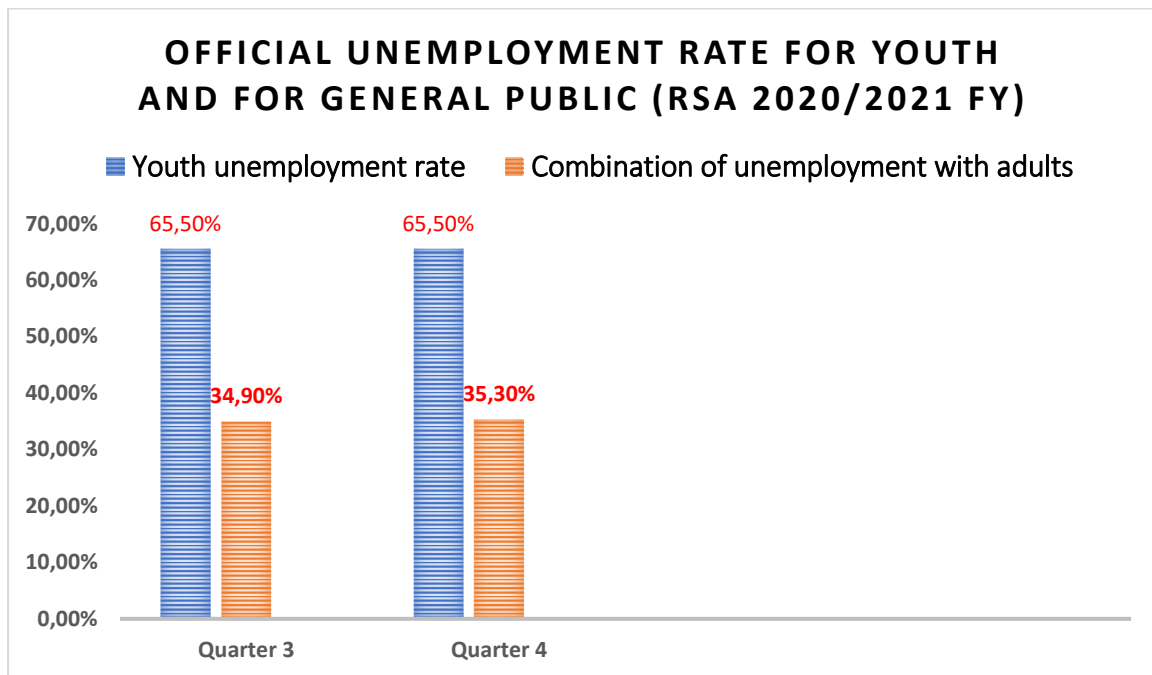
The MTSF has a total of seven pillars, but the IYDS, guided by the NYP 2030, has adopted five of these pillars, namely:

- Pillar 1: Quality education, skills and second chances
- Pillar 2: Economic transformation, entrepreneurship and job creation
- Pillar 3: Physical and mental health promotion, including mitigating against pandemics
- Pillar 4: Nation-building and social cohesion
- Pillar 5: Effective and responsive youth development machinery

Pillar 1: Quality education, skills and second chances

Education in South Africa is governed by two national departments, namely the Department of Basic Education (DBE), responsible for primary and secondary schools, and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), responsible for tertiary education and vocational training. Education **provides stability in life**, and it is something that no one can ever take away from you. By being well-educated and holding a college degree, you increase your chances for better career opportunities and open up new doors for yourself.

The importance of education is further highlighted by the country's high youth unemployment rate, which currently stands at **66.5%**. Statistics SA's data shows that approximately 3.4 million (33.5%) out of 10.2 million young people aged 15 to 24 years were not in employment, education, or training (NEET). Access to quality education can never be underestimated; hence youth with the necessary skills are always motivated to create and innovate new things that would help them improve their life development. University dropout rates in South Africa are incredibly high, with between **50 to 60%** of first-year students dropping out. We need to pay attention to this and look into the root causes of why students are dropping out.



While there are numerous reasons why students drop out of university in South Africa, there are three common reasons; **poor career choice, lack of institutional support and funding**. A student dropping out of university is a common narrative that various tertiary institutions have documented.

The above pillar demonstrates that when youth have good quality education, they get better prospects of success and contribute to a prosperous society and economic growth. This also incorporates youth with disabilities who are often left out with no opportunities for a better life and prosperous future. Youth with requisite skills have a chance of succeeding in their future endeavours.

Pillar 2: Economic transformation, entrepreneurship and job creation

The NDP identifies raising employment through faster economic growth and improving the quality of education, skills development and innovation as two of the priority areas that require maximum

attention if its objectives are realised. Young people are at the centre of radical economic transformation and should enjoy full participation, transformation and job creation.

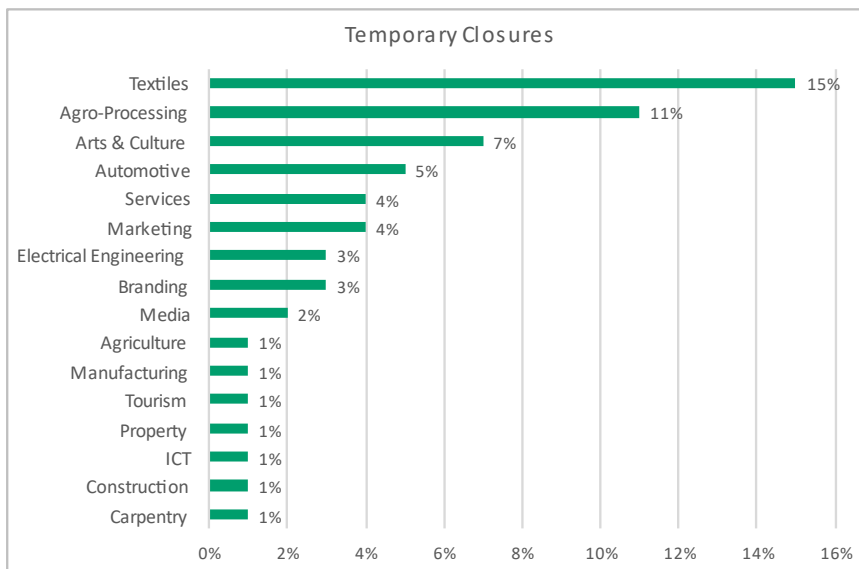
To this extent, the situation has been worsening by the Covid-19 pandemic, and therefore it calls for untrammelled attention from the government agencies tasked with economic recovery strategies and tactics. The existing economic divide based on race, age, gender, or any form of discrimination must be addressed. Upon this background, the labour market should therefore give a fair chance of employment and equitable salaries to youth, young women, and persons with disabilities regardless of age, gender and race.

By empowering our young people, we would have done a great service for the future of this South Africa and the Government should take centre stage and build capacity by empowering young people. This will stand them in good stead when they have to participate maximally and contribute meaningfully to the economic transformation of this country.

Impact of COVID-19



As a result of COVID-19, 54% of beneficiaries closed their businesses temporarily and 7% closed permanently. Of the temporary business closures that occurred as a result of COVID -19, the Textile sector had the most with 15%, followed by Agro-Processing with 11%, and Art & Culture with 7%.



Government should create an environment for the private sector to make a meaningful contribution by creating jobs and opportunities for young people. Our economy should be transformed from being consumption-driven to being production-based and our youth need to play a critical role in this transformation

Pillar 3: Physical and mental health promotion, including mitigating against pandemics

Mental and physical health are equally important components of overall health. For example, depression increases the risk of many physical health problems, particularly long-lasting conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. These are some of the challenges that youth face within their society. The average youth population is unemployed, making it difficult to access quality health care. This is a real challenge to youth as they have to go to public hospitals with limited resources, thus not offering the care needed. Another area for concern is the increasing mental health challenges amongst the youth. The socio-economic pressure amongst the youth exacerbates the already dire youth mental health situation. HIV infections and tuberculosis are also concerning health issues among youth, not leaving behind obesity and substance and drug abuse.

Pillar 4: Nation-building and Social Cohesion

Nation-building and social cohesion bring about advancing constitutional democracy, human rights and equality, promoting non-racialism, non-sexism, equality and human solidarity, building unity amongst South Africans and within the region, continent and the international community encouraging healing of individuals and communities. It also seeks to promote patriotism amongst the youth and to be proud of who they are, what they stand for and where they come from. It enables a nation that is foregrounded with its origins. It also tries to minimise tribalism and xenophobia and bring harmony amongst youth with different backgrounds and cultures. This also promotes involvement for youth in sporting activities that involve everyone regardless of gender, race, sex, religion, or disability. Building social cohesion requires **strong partnerships with businesses, community groups, the police, other local agencies and local governments**. Strong partnerships also need organisational commitment to ensure longevity.

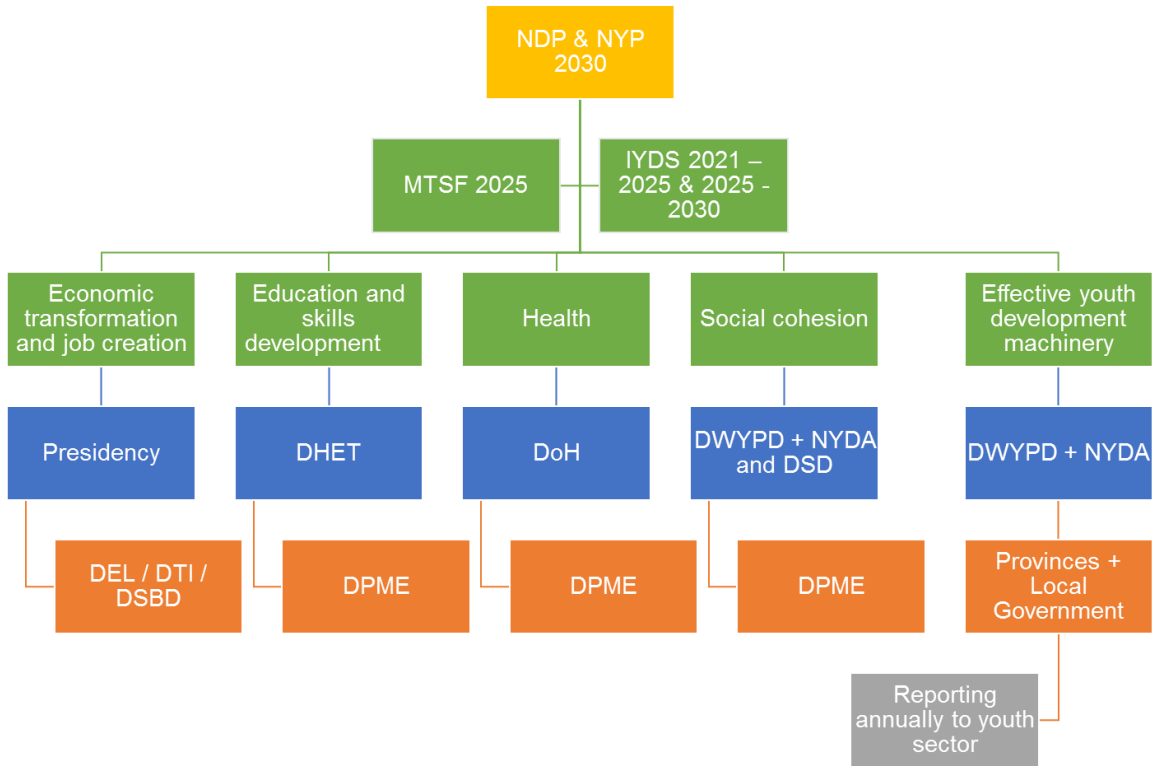


Pillar 5: Effective and responsive youth development machinery

Strengthening key institutions dedicated to delivering services to youth and ensuring that youth development practitioners as primary providers of services are adequately skilled and competent. There are challenges in achieving effective mainstreaming of youth development interventions across all spheres of government.

As described in the NDP, there is unevenness in the capacity that leads to uneven performance in the public service. This is also the case with the youth sector. There are challenges in achieving effective mainstreaming of youth development interventions across all spheres of government. Therefore, steps are needed to strengthen the entire youth development machinery, enhance youth workers' morale and clarify lines of accountability. These steps should be guided by the need for long-term policy stability and maximised impact within the youth sector.

The actions contained here are not merely about technical solutions but also about creating the conditions for a professional ethos within the youth sector, founded on a strong developmental commitment. The core objective is to put in place the youth development mechanisms and structures that can support departments in developing their capacity and professional ethos. This requires a more proactive role in supporting departments to build their own capacity, fulfil regulatory requirements and improve service delivery. Therefore, the IYDS strategy focuses on providing more effective support to the youth sector to ensure an optimised youth development machinery.





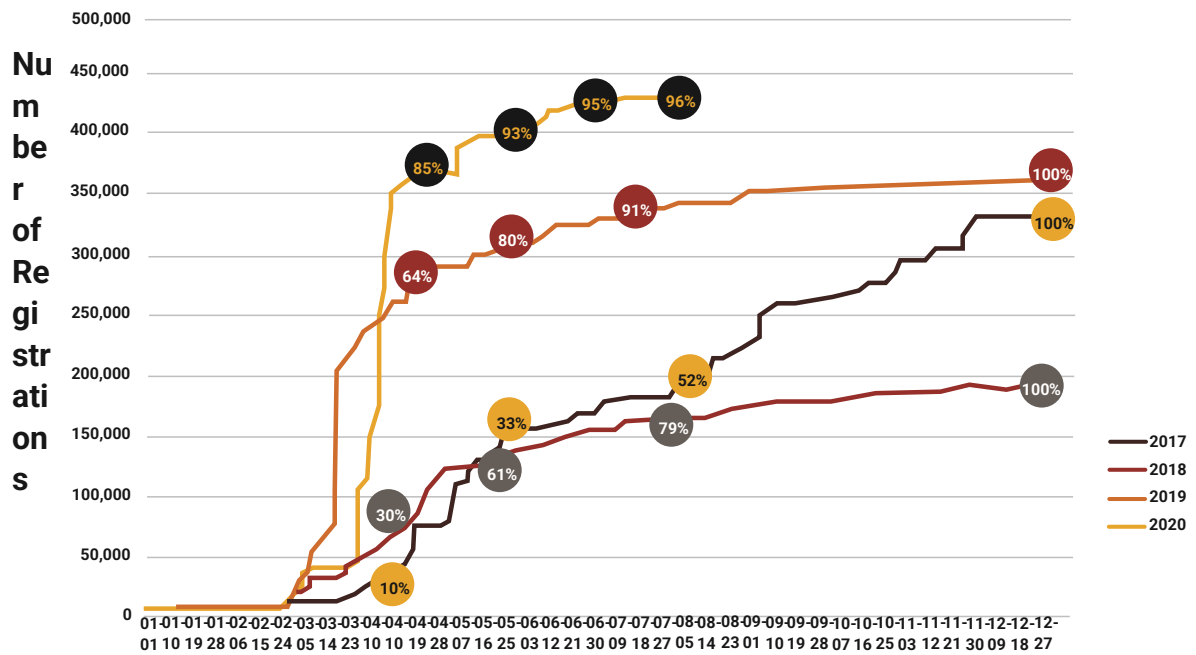
**EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND SECOND
CHANCES**

2. Quality Education, Skills and Second Chances

2.1. Background

Formal education is critically important for economic growth and youth development. In the past 27 years of democracy, a lot has been done to improve the level of education in South African youth. This includes free basic education and student financial aid schemes, such as National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for those who had progressed to tertiary education. A lot more still needs to be done as the number of uneducated youths is still high, some drop out with no skills to work. Despite that, access to education has been slightly addressed; however, the quality of education is still inadequate, especially for those learners in lower quintile schools.

Annual Registrations 2017-2019 (NSFAS)



There is a difference between those in urban and rural areas, with those in urban areas performing better than those in rural areas, especially in crucial subjects like mathematics and sciences. This is brought about by schools in urban areas having good infrastructure and better financial and social benefits to attract good teachers. Teachers for grades 8 to 12 go through continuous training to improve their skills in subject knowledge, this assists in improving students' results and improving the teacher's and students' subject matter.

Some of these subjects are compulsory when enrolling in universities. While not everyone will be accepted at universities, there are other options for these youth, such as second chances programmes by the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, Community Education Training (CET) colleges and Work Based Learning (WBL) programmes which students can enrol in. Furthermore, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and DBE have allocated a budget to help tertiary institutions build and update facilities for persons with disabilities and improve their facilities.

2.2. Youth Better Prepared for Further Studies and the World of Work Beyond Grade 9

The establishment of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) aims to provide ideas to circuit managers to work with teachers in ensuring that PLCs are utilised much more effectively during and after Covid-19. Assistant teachers were employed in Phase 1 to assist teachers with the workload they faced after the Covid-19 outbreak as schools were not 100% functional and some teachers had to attend refresher virtual and face-to-face training support. The minister of the DBE had targeted to employ 300,000 unemployed youth, and the target was exceeded with 320,000 youth employed as education and general education assistants. This was done under the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI).

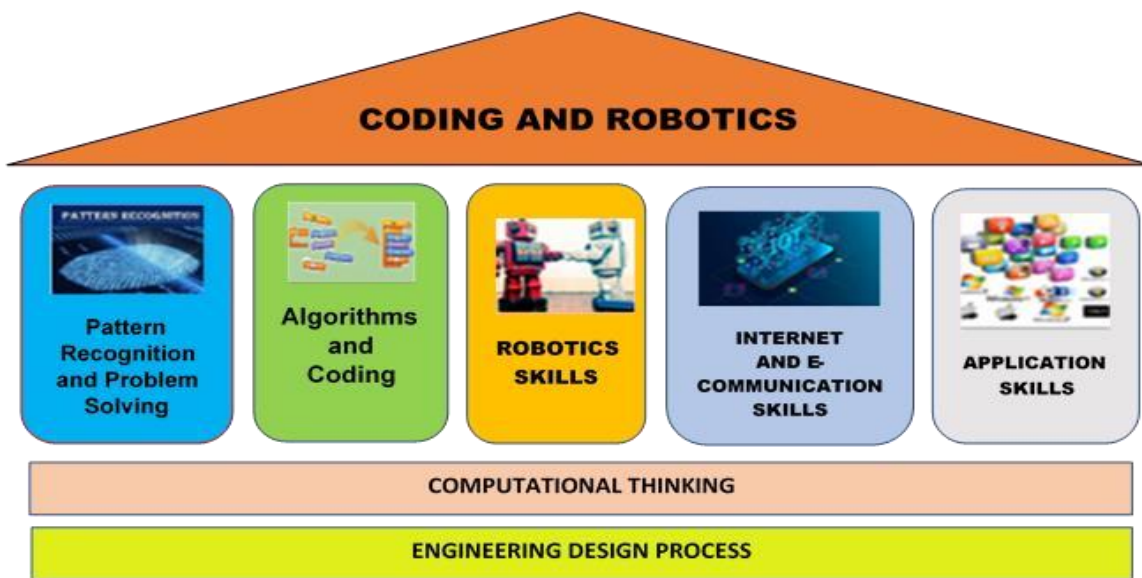
These education assistants were hired to help teachers during the Covid-19 pandemic as they had a lot to cover in their syllabus and were lacking behind because of the lockdown. Teachers who were already 50 years and above and had chronic conditions were asked to work from home as they were vulnerable. These hired teachers were then to fill the gaps and help teachers with the load at schools as the workload increased and children had to have a one-on-one to help them catch up. Phase 2 of the BEEI is already underway and thus far, a total of 280,000 young people have been employed.

There has also been an increased supply of textbooks at high school. Learners used to go almost a year without textbooks in some high schools, but the department has pointed out that nearly all learners will get their textbooks on time by 2024, and they are now at 90% of delivery. This will help the pass rate of learners as they will have study material on time. The positive result of this is also reflected in the pass rate of matriculants as their performance keeps improving and the level at which they pass is continuously improving.

As shown in the DBE annual report 2020/2021, 9,338 young and qualified educators were appointed in the PEDs, of which 1,929 were permanent and 5,675 were temporary, and 1,734 were substitute/relief

appointments. Of the above, 722 were appointed in the fourth quarter comprising 24 permanent, 672 temporary and 26 were substitute/relief appointments. This means that energetic young teachers were employed, and substitute/relief teachers were appointed to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The coding and robotics curriculum is being introduced in some schools targeted to be fully implemented in all schools by 2023. This will help the youth deal with challenges brought forth by the Fourth Industrial Revolution [hereafter referred to as 4IR]. Working in computers and engineering fields will help broaden their career horizons and help them with ammunition in dealing with life challenges.



DBE report on the introduction of CODING

The provision of training in specific sectors, like that offered by the Department of Tourism (DoT) in conjunction with the DBE, has helped uplift and give skills to unemployed and retrenched youth. These youth were trained in Food Safety Programme (500), Hospitality Service Training Programme (2000) and Sommelier Training course (252). These training programmes/courses have helped the youth gain skills in fields that will help them start – up their own companies or be eligible for employment as they have had some experience and training. Committee

A Funza Lushaka bursary programme for 2020/21 targeted to fund 12,500 students who were to study for a teaching profession. The programme exceeded its target and gave out 13,085 bursaries. Further analysis showed that approximately 82% of the bursary holders were 25 years or younger. The DBE collaborates with Funza Lushaka to ensure that it gets qualified teachers who can teach the youth and relate to some of the challenges they face and help them work through them. The programme also

helps in training in information technology career training where the department wants to prove the knowledge and skills of learners so that they are relevant when they come out of school and can look for jobs.

Provisions are made in different provinces to offer high-tech, marine-time, aviation, arts and science teaching. This gives young people a broad spectrum of courses and knowledge in various fields. Marine Sciences Curriculum was introduced in South Peninsula High School and the first pilot group to write NSC in 2021.

The General Education Certificate has also been introduced. This helps the movement of learners between high school and TVET colleges. Vocational training aims to increase those artisan skills as some learners lack cognitive abilities, but they can use their hands. A second chance then ensures that no one is left behind. CETs are there to help learners that do not qualify for University and TVET college entry. Some private companies also engage in work-based learning, where they offer training mainly on skills they need in their organisations and after the education, they absorb the trainees into their organisations. These second-chance training try to decrease the level of dropouts with no future of what to do next. The learners (youth) now have a chance to further their studies and improve their lives. Further education and training beyond grade 9 are now accessible to all youth.

The Presidential reading clubs have been put in place across all nine provinces. These were supported by the BEEI project, which put in place 23,286 reading champions across the country and the Rural Education Assistance Project (REAP), which monitored the placement of new education assistants. The BEEI project aims to bring the love of reading back into the black communities. Reading will broaden the minds of young people as they will be able to think beyond their social environment and see that the world has a lot to offer. REAP looks at the teacher assistants, mainly in rural areas, and the help they bring to the students. During the Covid-19 pandemic, these teacher assistants became more valuable as they were now needed across the country.

Working in collaboration with the PEDs, second chance matric programmes took place. Classes were offered to second-chance learners at selected centres after school and on weekends. A total of 291,167 were prepared to write examinations. This programme gives a chance to youth who want to achieve their matric qualification and have been struggling. Learning takes place through different types of mediums and face-to-face.

To improve learner performance, teachers were further trained on vital subjects that many learners seem to be struggling with. Advisors from all nine provinces participated in mathematics (212), natural

science (164) and technology (131). Support was also offered to accounting and economics teachers. Training has been provided to all these teachers as these subjects are the ones learners deem difficult but are essential for learners as they proceed to tertiary institutions.

Inclusive education has trained teachers in braille and how to deal with learners with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). A national total of 2 349 teachers have been trained in braille, 2,761 teachers have been trained on SASL, 4,724 teachers trained on autism, and 36,108 teachers have been trained in inclusive programmes. Inclusive programmes include ADHD, specific learning disabilities, sensory integration disorder and augmentative and alternative communication. Guidelines for schools with learners with selected categories of disabilities were developed to guide the containment of the spread of Covid-19. This shows that more young people will get the appropriate attention to study successfully. Teachers are also equipped with how to deal with learners with different disabilities.

Building schools through Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI), working with DDE, PEDs and NECT as implementing agents, has also started and is performing exceptionally well. A target of 24 built schools annually was set, and the project for the year 2020/21 has built 32 schools, which is higher than the set target of eight schools. This project helps in the alleviation of cramped learners in one classroom. It also takes education to the rural areas, where there is a lack of infrastructure. A Sanitation Appropriate For Education (SAFE) project was also implemented to bring appropriate sanitisation facilities to schools. However, this project is behind in meeting its targets, mainly because of the challenges it encountered because of Covid-19. They had set a target to provide 3,898 sanitisation facilities by 2022, and by 2020/21, 298 sanitisation facilities have been provided by the project.

The DBE and the Provincial Education Department (PED) have taken it upon themselves to provide ICT facilities to schools. They support technology-based teaching and learning in schools. The connectivity to schools is going at a favourable rate and the department also is working towards connecting all schools to the Department of Communication, Digital and Technology (DCDT).

2.3. Youth Readiness to Progress from the Basic Schooling System

Matric is the final grade of learners' study to proceed to tertiary institutions. In 2020, a total of 1,058,699 candidates wrote matric examinations. A total of 607,227 full-time wrote matric and 117,800 candidates wrote the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. A total of 440,702 candidates passed matric, of which 76.7% were boys and 75.8% were girls. The number of candidates who passed

matric in 2020 was slightly lower than in 2019. This is partly because of the challenges brought by Covid-19. Education/learning was disrupted, and school days were reduced.

Although the department did try to come up with measures to counter the lost days, it was still not easy for students to learn under those circumstances. 36.4% passed with a bachelor's, 26% (150,600) passed with a diploma, 13.7% (79,117) passed with a higher certificate and 0.01% (61) candidates got a national senior certificate to pass; a total of 1,655 got distinctions.

The Independent Examination Board (IEB) had a 98.07% pass rate. 88.42% passed with a bachelor's, 8.14% passed with a diploma and 1.51% passed with a higher certificate. Of those who passed (88.42%) qualified to start a university degree, who passed with bachelors.

A total of 2,161 candidates with special needs sat for the examination and 2,058 passed. This included 943 who had bachelors passes. The special needs pupils produced 563 distinctions.

The performance of schools is also divided according to quintiles, from quintile 1 to quintile 5. Quintile 1 is the poorest, and quintile 5 is the wealthiest. 642 quintile 1 schools achieved a pass rate between 80% and 100%. While 600 quintile schools, 494 were quintile 3 schools; 324 were quintile schools and 601 were quintile 5 schools.

2.4. Expanded Access, Improved Success and Efficiency, and Improved Quality of/to Post-School Education Training

2.4.1. National Student Financial Aid

The NSFAS funding was converted to a bursary scheme after the presidential pronouncement of December 2017 about free education for the poor and marginalised youth. The national bursary scheme was introduced in 2018 to support students from families earning a gross annual income of up to R350,000; the scheme covers tuition, learning materials and assistance with accommodation. Furthermore, students with disabilities qualify if the household income does not exceed R600,000.

Through these schemes 426,268 university students have been funded, which exceeds their 2020/2021 target of 427851; however, the TVET has not reached its target and has supported 270,476 students. The target could not be achieved due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, as there were no intakes. NSFAS has significantly impacted the education sector, as more youth enrol in colleges and universities. The collaboration between universities and the TVET has made the application process easier for students.

At university, NSFAS has funded 46.5% of students of the student population and approximately 40% of students of TVET colleges. In the 2020/2021 financial year, NSFAS has disbursed R37.1bn to assist 75,7740 students compared to the 2019/2020 financial year, where R27.9bn was disbursed to assist 74,0037 students; this includes TVET colleges and universities. This indicates an increase of almost 10 billion.

The disbursement of NSFAS funding has positively impacted students' access, progression and success in post-school education and training. It has facilitated diverse groups of beneficiaries, emphasising African and female beneficiaries.

2.4.2. Community Education and Training

The transition from basic education to higher education has been made easier since the introduction of CET and TVET colleges. The introduction of TVET and CET colleges has given opportunities to students who do not qualify to go to universities. The CET was established in 2013 to target post-school youth and adults who wish to raise the base for further learning, improve their skills for employability and/or progress to opportunities in the TVET colleges and university education. These colleges are new institutions catering to those who do not qualify for admission to TVET colleges or universities. The government has increased youth and adult involvement in community education and training to one million by 2030. The department further committed to developing terms of reference to finalise the college funding model for CET; this model was subject to the availability of funds, which was not made available in 2020/2021; as a result, the model could not be developed.

Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic had a considerable impact on improving teaching and learning and on plans related to curriculum and assessment services delivered by the CET mandate. The planned activities affected are the accreditation of the colleges, the introduction of entrepreneurship programmes, the introduction of digital skills, training of CET lectures, class attendance, examinations, and enrolment. The enrolment in 2020 was 171,409, which is 55% lower than the actual 2020/2021 target of 375,035. Over 50% of the enrolled CET students are youth aged 20 to 29 years old; most are enrolled for GETC: ABET Level 4. This is positive feedback from the youth as they see the importance of education and furthering their studies.

However, the CET colleges have improved teaching and learning, and the number of programmes and qualifications offered has increased by over 100% from the 2020/2021 target. Moreover, the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA) has allocated R49 million for funding

the development of ICT infrastructure at 54 pilot centres; the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), in collaboration with the CET branch, is in the process of piloting of Living Labs project in the Eastern Cape (these hubs will be used for ICT practical). The department is currently in the process of finalising the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) for a skills transfer programme for CET lecturers to train students in entrepreneurship skills; this will see more students starting their own business after college, reducing the unemployment rate.

2.4.3. Technical Vocation and Education Training (TVET)

The Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation continuously enhances and improves education for everyone; this includes access and support to persons with disabilities. To support Students with Disabilities (SwD), TVET Colleges receive funding from the Department based on the numbers of SwDs reported by the college based on the average programme. This funding is earmarked to provide the necessary support to enhance the teaching and learning of SwDs for their academic progress, such as the procurement of assistive devices and human support services.

To improve accessibility and support persons with disabilities, the department plans to establish four Disability Support Unit (DSU) centres by 2025; the progress has been good as one centre is already established. Furthermore, 32% of the TVET colleges have disability support units/desks, while 34% do not have and 34% did not respond. The disability support units/desks are official/s who offer or are assigned the responsibility to provide support to students with disabilities in the absence of a DSU within the college. The support will be beneficial for students with disabilities and make education for them more accessible.

The college academic year for 2020 had to be revised to the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, several registration cycles were extended to enable students to complete the curriculum and examinations. Due to the revision, the enrolment target was not achieved; however, the overall progress has been positive, with 99% of students enrolled from the initial target. Furthermore, there have been over 100% enrolment for pre-vocational learning programmes; this programme serves a critical purpose of better preparing new entrants for the TVET college studies. They are 200 young artisans who have been trained through the centre's specialisation; this exceeds the planned 2020/2021 target by 24%.

To further improve the quality of Post-School Education and Training (PSET), TVET colleges had planned to support 200 lecturers to acquire professional qualifications; however, due to budget prioritisation,

the target was reduced to 100. There are 59% of TVET college lecturers who have professional qualifications; this is 16% lower than the 2020/2021 target. Moreover, the strategy for placement of lecturers and students in the workplace for experiential learning has been approved for lecturers. Due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic for students, it has not been approved. There has also been planning to establish entrepreneurship hubs at the TVET colleges; the Director-General approved the plan on 24 March 2021.

Despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, overall performance has been positive, and the college has made efforts to assist students for market readiness.

2.4.4. University Education

The higher education system comprises 26 public universities, and they are all governed in terms of the higher education Act (Act 101 of 1997). The 2020/2021 academic year was unusual due to the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the learning, research, teaching and administration of universities. Universities, with the support and advice of the department, moved to multi-modal forms of teaching and learning; NSFAS provided funding for financially needy, academically qualifying students in accessing university education, students were provided with data and some students received laptops to access teaching and learning. These assisted lots of students who were struggling with virtual learning.

The department continued to support the university system through the macro-infrastructure framework support team. These consisted of an updated and improved macro-infrastructure framework, spatial planning support provided to universities, monitoring of construction of Sol Plaatje University based in Northern Cape Province and the University of Mpumalanga, and a review of student housing norms and standards was finalised. The minister approved the draft and published it for public comments and review of existing university spatial norms developed and under review.

The university education has enrolled 99.5% of students towards their targets, of which 17% are first-time students entering university. Students are qualifying and pursuing their studies; this is good progress. The number of graduates in 2019 has declined by 2.3% compared to the previous year.

The department has improved staff development activities, implementing the New Generation Academics Programme (nGAP) to reach the 2024 target of 100 posts. The number of lecturers who hold a doctoral degree is 1% less than the planned 2020/2021 target. Furthermore, three projects support

staff development, including the nurturing emerging scholar programme initiated in 2019/2020. It involves recruiting 105 into intern positions at universities; it is still in phase one, with only five scholars enrolled. The University Staff Doctoral Programme (USDP) continues to support academics to achieve their Doctoral degree with 26 three-year funded USDP plans approved. The Future Professors Programme aims to recruit high-achieving academics in universities which can be supported to form part of the next generation professoriate.

Furthermore, to support student development, the student-focused entrepreneurship programme has been implemented by only eight universities which are 80% toward the planned target for 2020/2021. Moreover, to further support student development, there have been two intergovernmental scholarship forums converted annually for the international scholarship programme; this programme has, during 2020, provided support for 365 students in partnership with the Chinese, Hungarian and Russian governments. Of these, 67 have completed their studies and returned to South Africa, while 84 were awarded new scholarships.

2.4.5. Skills Development: Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA)

Challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic have negatively impacted the skills development service delivery. This is due to the nature of contact-based learning programmes, thus leading to delayed contracting and postponed implementation of these programmes. The SETAs support both employed and unemployed learners; this document focuses on unemployed learners.

2.4.6 Agriculture Sector Education Training Authority (Agri-SETA)

The overall performance of Agri-SETA was average, bearing in mind that some of the programmes were delayed, cancelled, or postponed. The number of learners entering internship programmes is 321, which is 41% less than the planned 2020/2021 target; however, the number of internships and programmes completed exceeds the targeted number by 19; this improved due to the follow-up procedure. The number of TVET and university students requiring Work Integrated Learning to meet their workplace qualifications has exceeded the 2020/2021 target, university by three and TVET by 27. More learners are being prepared for the workplace, assisting them with the experience needed for the labour market.

Additionally, the number of TVET and university students who completed their work-integrated learning placements exceeded the target by over 100%. To further assist with youth development, Agri-SETA has 150 learners completing Artisan Development Programmes (ADP), which exceeds the target

by 75, and 299 learners are entering ADP, which exceeds their target by 106%. Despite the negative impact Covid-19 had on the programmes, their progress is good overall. It shows that Agri-SETA contributes to youth development and towards eradicating unemployment.

2.4.7 Education, Training Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDPSETA)

The pandemic ushered in a new mode of delivery across the ETD sector. A hybrid learning mode was ushered in among service providers accredited to work online. Reliance on ICT increased, which also accelerated the need for the extra budget for data and distribution of assistive devices such as laptops and dongles to members working from home (Annual Report, 2020/2021). Even under these difficult times, the organisation successfully continued to service its stakeholders through virtual engagements.

The department met and exceeded its 2025 target with a 10% increase in workplace-based learning opportunities for unemployed beneficiaries. To assist the youth to be employable, 4% have been achieved thus far against the five-year target of 32 343 for skills development opportunities. The ETDPSETA is working hard to curb the increased youth unemployment; by 2025, they will have assisted more learners and exceeded their targets.

2.4.8 Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (INSETA)

The Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (INSETA) has worked with other stakeholders to improve youth development. INSETA partnered with other insurance companies to implement rural programmes in communities to address poverty, inequality and unemployment. In 2020/2021, INSETA implemented two rural learnership programmes in Limpopo with 56 beneficiaries and one in Mpumalanga with 35 beneficiaries. Additionally, 930 new youth enrolment learners on bursaries exceeded the target by 28%; 130 youth enrolled for bursaries and 660 youth bursaries completed, which exceeded the target by 22%.

Furthermore, learners who went through internship and learnership have been absorbed by employers, with 475 learners absorbed, exceeding the target by 25 learners. This is an excellent stepping stone in reducing unemployment and motivating learners to work hard while doing their internships or learnerships.

2.4.9 Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Service Sector Education and Training Authority (MERSETA)

The effect on education and training saw the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Service Sector Education and Training Authority (MERSETA)-funded interventions fall due to the Covid-19 shutdowns and lockdowns. As a result, SETA had to alter its targets, delaying learning implementation and lowering the levy income (APP, 2020/2021). For the financial year 2020/21, the MERSETA targeted more than 41,000 learners and processed just over 24,000, of which 6,066 learners were from the previous year after evidence was received in the time under review.

2.4.10 The Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (MICT SETA)

The Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (MICT SETA) rolled out various learning interventions nationally, increasing focused skills development interventions for rural and marginalised communities to ensure inclusivity. The number of rural development initiations is 34, two extra from the planned 2020/2021 target. There has been an increase in WBL for unemployed, TVET colleges, and university learners, exceeding the targeted number by over 100% for 2020/2021 enrolled.

The university learner's performance for WIL completed programme was extremely low, with only 7% completing the WIL; however, the performance for TVET and unemployed learners exceeded the target. This progress shows that the industry is interested in implementing internships for learners, helping curb the surge of unemployment. Furthermore, the partnership between MICT SETA and TVET colleges has increased by over 58% of the targeted number, between MICT SETA and HET has increased by over 18% of the targeted number and between MICT SETA and CET colleges it reached the planned target. The MICT SETA has made remarkable progress in 2020/2021.

2.4.11 Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA)

The Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA) was most affected by Covid-19 in terms of job losses; the losses of revenues and losses of business because of the shutdown; however, did not affect the support the W&RSETA is giving to the learners. Learners have shown interest in wholesale and Retail HTFVs, with 1,973 learners completing the National Qualification Forum

(NQF) 2-5 exceeding the 2020/2021 target by 31% over the planned target and 1,069 learners have registered for the NQF 2-5 qualification which exceeded the intended target by 269.

W&RSETA has planned to have ten partnerships with TVET and HET for workplace opportunities; however, the target increased by one partnership because the TVET colleges have shown interest in forming the collaboration. This collaboration has shown that learners have also shown interest, with 1,388 learners placed in workplace opportunities exceeding the planned number of 1200. In addition, graduates enrolled in the internship programme have improved, with 128 higher than the planned 600 target. The number of completed internships was 230. The department has overachieved by over 15% of the intended target. The W&RSETA contributed significantly to supporting learners and readying them for the labour force.

2.5 The Impact of Covid-19 on Education

Covid-19 first came onto our shores in South Africa in March 2020. The infection of Covid-19 then rose steadily and forced President Ramaphosa to instigate a national lock-down to curb the infection curve. The total lock-down meant that schools were closed, and learners were unable to go to school. The country's economy was closed; no one could travel to work except essential workers. Because of this, learners were left hopeless as no education could take place. As the lock-down conditions eased, the economy opened and schools also re-opened.

These new conditions were challenging to implement as some schools did not have enough space to practice social distancing. Learners then had to alternate school attending days to practice social distancing. Some teachers were older, had chronic diseases, and were vulnerable to getting infected with the virus. They were then told to be at home and that is when teacher assistants were brought into the picture to help teachers with the load they had and help learners understand their work.

A new paradigm of blended learning came into place. Blended learning uses both face-to-face learning and technology-based learning. Teachers are now moving from using printed instructional material to technology-based. This has proven a challenge as many teachers are not adequately trained to conduct online lessons with their learners. Access to the internet is also a challenge as some institutions are still not connected. The Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation did give learners laptops to study online. This has helped cover the work needed, but this posed a challenge for some learners as they are from rural areas with a shortage of network coverage; therefore, they cannot engage in any

learning. Some could not even afford to buy data as free Wi-Fi is inaccessible or has not been implemented due to infrastructural backlogs.

Basic education was the most hit as most public schools did not have the facilities to bring on online teaching. Teachers were also not trained to train in this manner. Learners could not afford to buy laptops or smartphones to join in these lessons. Some parents lost their jobs and could not purchase laptops or smartphones or even buy data to access the internet. Some of the learners are based in rural areas, there are no infrastructure facilities at all, and online learning and teaching could not occur.

2.6 Key Achievements for the Department of Education

- Assistant teachers and substitute/relief teachers were employed.
- Textbooks were delivered on time to most schools, increasing the number and level of good education.
- Infrastructure development has started in the rural areas and improved in urban areas through ASIDI and SAFE programmes.
- Introduction of the new curriculum in robotics, marine-time, and other subjects to prepare youth for 4IR.
- The needs of youth with disabilities were taken care of as more teachers were trained on how to handle them and universities are making education more accessible to them.
- Training of teachers in crucial subjects.
- Increased funding from NSFAS for students pursuing higher education.
- Improved partnership between SETAs and higher education.
- Improved staff development activities and projects to improve lecturers' and teachers' skills (Fundza Lushake, USDP, nGAP).
- Increased in Work-Based Learning at TVET colleges and Universities
- 365 International (intergovernmental) scholarship programme given to learners as part of the student support developments

2.7 Recommendation

School, college and university closures due to Covid-19 have significantly disrupted education worldwide (Donnelly, Patrinos & Greshan, 2021). This forced most schools and higher education to facilitate learning through online platforms. However, in places where no internet access was available, this was impossible. To assist with these challenges, the government can plan to facilitate lessons using televisions and radios, use social media to share learning material and build internet hubs where

learners can get their study material or access the internet. Private companies can assist learners and teachers with no computer skills by training teachers, learners and parents on basic computer skills and donate computers and laptops to the different hubs built. This could also be done in libraries and make learning materials available in the libraries if libraries not available have mobile libraries.

A further recommendation will be to have an awareness of different educational institutions, such as CET college, TVET college and universities; having career guidance at lower grades will also be beneficial as most students don't know what career to take when they finish matric, and some students do not know where to go if they are not accepted to universities. Moreover, awareness of different funding and various programmes available after graduation (programmes such as SETAs and the approval and implementation of the central application system) makes university and college applications easier.

2.8 Conclusion

Covid-19 has negatively impacted all aspects of life, threatening lives and livelihoods. Given the abruptness of the situation, the department of education was unprepared for this transition and was forced to find funds and have some budget cuts. As a result, projects were paused, and others were not pursued. However, there has been some progress in recovery through the assistance of other stakeholders and relief funds from the government.

Working in collaboration has assisted in eliminating the inefficiencies and in reaching beyond and forming solid partnerships. This has seen the Department help eradicate the youth unemployment rate by employing youth teacher assistants to assist teachers in schools and reduce the workload. Furthermore, SETAs, in collaboration with HET, CET colleges and TVET colleges, have assisted in youth development, job creation and job preparedness.



**ECONOMIC
TRANSFORMATION,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
AND JOB CREATION**

3. Economic Transformation, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation

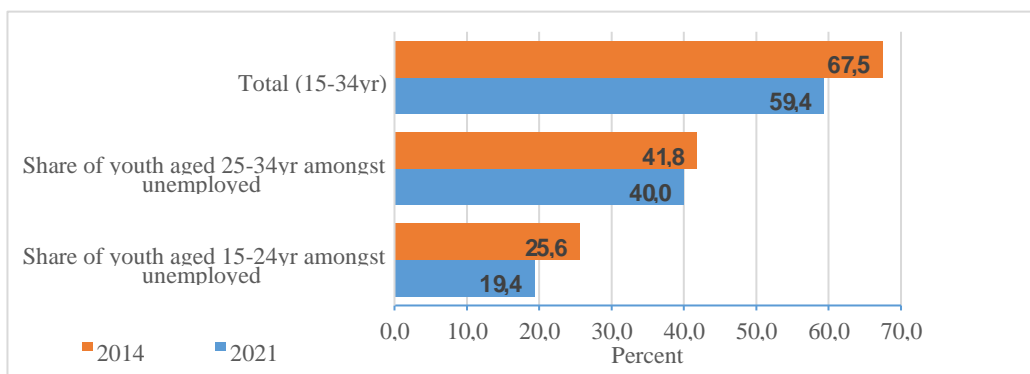
3.1 Background

The governments’ blueprint to unite all South Africans in addressing the triple challenge of unemployment, economic inequality and poverty is outlined in the NDP vision 2030. Knowing that the vision communicates long term goals, there are several medium-term initiatives that

The most urgent need is to improve South Africa’s productive capacity, human capital and state capability. Through broad-based investment, as outlined by the MTSF, unemployment and livelihood insecurities faced by South Africans can be addressed. To improve the quality of life and general living standards successfully, faster and more inclusive growth should reduce the obvious inequalities. Specific preconditions have been laid out to facilitate and accelerate delivery through transformative innovation, 4IR, overcoming challenges with state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and ensuring a supportive macroeconomic environment (Chauke, 2021). Through specific redress interventions, the government has broadened the opportunity for employment concerning women, the youth and persons with disabilities through a commitment to economic inclusion, education, and skills development initiatives.

It is the desire of the government, private sector, and society to make a continuous impact when improving the lives of young South Africans. South Africa has made significant leaps since 1994 concerning the multiple socioeconomic dimensions. Approximately 20.4 million, or 63% of the population, are individuals in the 15 to 34 age category (Stats SA, 2020). The slant of South Africa’s population distribution leaning towards this age category means that, as the country’s economic challenges deepen, the youth endures the brunt. Results captured in the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for the first quarter of 2020, calculated using pre-coronavirus lockdown data, confirmed the above stated and further painted a bleak picture of the state of our youth.

Share of youth amongst the unemployed, 2014 and 2021(STATS SA)



The latest unemployment figures released from Stats SA, based on Quarter 1 2021, reveal that the country's unemployment rate has increased by 32.6%, while the number of young people classified as 'not in employment, education or training' (NEET) increased by 1.9%, representing 43.6% of 24.4 million youth (StatsSA, 2021). The report above is narrowed information that focuses solely on economic transformation, job creation and entrepreneurship initiatives by governments and civil society concerning the youth.

3.2 Department of Labour and Employment

The year 2020 has been a challenging year and alongside the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the lockdown measures that were put in place to lessen the spread of infections led to a large-scale reduction in economic activity and employment. The Department of Labour annual report states that during 2020 the economy shrunk by 7.7%, with the estimated loss of 1.7 million jobs. Although there were projections of the economy rebounding by 3.3% in 2021, the recorded unemployment stats are 32%, as captured at the beginning of the year.

The DoEL was directly affected by the pandemic and lockdown measures in two distinct ways: The immediate need to provide wage support; some R57 billion to over 4.5 million laid-off workers and their families via the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) Covid-19 TERS benefits payments as well as the increased role of the Inspection and Enforcement Services Branch in developing and enforcing lockdown and Covid-19 health and safety regulation (Blake, 2021). In response to the demands created by the pandemic, the department appointed an additional 500 labour inspectors; it is not clearly stated how many of the 500 were youth. Though the department was affected, the strategic direction and priorities of the department remain the same.

The number of jobs intended to be created by the department is 264,004; this was the baseline set in 2018/2019; the target, however, was 220,000 and the actual output by the department was 230,000 in 2020/2021, which is 87% of the target achieved. An indicator used by the department was to record the number of registered work seekers provided with employment counselling each year; however, the specific number is not indicated in the report but can be assumed to be 264,004, which was the baseline for 2018/2019.

3.2.1. More decent jobs are created and sustained with youth, women and young persons with disabilities prioritised.

In tracking and ensuring that the goals set above are reached, the department had committed to analysing and reporting on the labour market annually, the baseline and the value of the performance indicator before the targets were set. According to the annual report, the value of the performance

indicator taken from the previous year was 922,770 jobseekers, the targeted output by the department was 750,000 created, the actual output by the department was 800,000, which is 86% of the targeted output, meaning that government has gone beyond its target.

There were 153,973 employment opportunities registered on the employment services; 50,000 of these jobs were linked to the Covid-19 pandemic; the actual jobs; however, created were 100,000, which was 65% of the baseline reported value measured against the time frame that the department had set, looking at the figures recorded the department has exceeded the target. Given the challenges inherited by the pandemic and the usual economic challenges, it is highly commendable but points to the opportunity to raise the target and do more as there seems to be capacity.

At the end of 2019/20, the department had 62,213 registered employment opportunities; job seekers registered these opportunities. The target set by the department was 15,000 and exceeded the target by 80%, meaning the target reached was 50,000; the outcome stated again attests to the opportunity to aim higher in setting targets.

3.3 The Presidency

It is the responsibility of the Presidency to guide the following commitments in the MTSF 2019-2024:

- Economic transformation and job creation,
- Social Cohesion and Safer communities,
- Capable, ethical and development state.

3.3.1 Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES) and Job Creation

The SA government took a decisive decision to support South Africans facing hardship because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES) was introduced as part of the government's broader economic recovery agenda; the PES seems to directly address the challenges of high unemployment as exacerbated by the pandemic. The stimulus aims to protect the livelihood of the marginalised, especially in vulnerable sectors, to invest in public goods and services and create social employment opportunities using direct public investment.

In response to the jobs lost in 2020, the President committed R100 billion for job protection and creation. R19.6 billion was allocated for 2020/1 in the Special Adjustment Budget announced in June 2020. The Project Management Office (PMO) in the Presidency has been committed to an intensive planning and implementation process, working together with national departments, provinces and

metros for the accelerated design of employment support programmes that can be rolled out from the following date, which was announced.

The Presidency also initiated social employment to gather capacities in the broader society to create work that serves the common good. This approach recognised the opportunity to improve on the actual work needed to address the current social challenges to improve the quality of life in our communities. The President launched the National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) on Youth Day, June 16, 2021; the network intends to provide young people with networks of support in finding a pathway in the economy. This has included BBBEE to support the employment of young people throughout the country.

A range of partnerships has been brought together to support young people entering the labour market. These departments include The Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) and the DHET. The Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator and other role players in civil society. In identifying aggregates and creating opportunities (these include jobs, work experiences, entrepreneurships and youth service), this links to the NEET category of young people through support channels, all at no cost to the individual.

3.3.2 The Economic Recovery Plan

The Covid-19 pandemic has had severe global health, social and economic impacts on people and economies. The science and statistics indicate that while the youth and children are not bearing the brunt of Covid-19, measures to curb the virus's spread will severely impact the youth. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 99% of the children and youth under 18 years worldwide (2.34 billion) live in one of the 186 countries with some form of movement restrictions due to Covid-19. Sixty percent (60%) of all children live in one of the 82 countries with full (7%) or partial (53%) lockdown – accounting for 1.4 billion young lives.

The PES seeks to confront this impact directly as part of the government's broader economic recovery agenda. It aims to use direct public investment to support employment opportunities.

South Africa's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan sets out a bold vision and immediate actions to enable an economic rebound and build the future economy. It brings together the work of government departments; the Economic Recovery Action Plan agreed upon by social partners at the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) and contributions from the Presidential Economic Advisory Council. The priority of the economic recovery strategy is to get the economy

moving forward again to enable new levels of dynamism, create decent work and allow people and communities to thrive. While the economic recovery takes root, we need to expand public employment and other measures that retain existing jobs, support livelihoods, and provide economic opportunities in a context in which markets will take time to replace the lost jobs.

If left unaddressed, the impact of Covid-19 on the youth will perpetuate socio-economic problems of the youth and ultimately undermine development prospects for SA. The youth should be at the centre of the post-Covid-19 recovery plans. Sectors like Tourism, Agribusiness, Information and Communication Technology and other services show potential for large-scale productivity growth and job creation.

Young people are already stepping up as entrepreneurs in these sectors. They need access to capital to start and grow businesses. Innovative financial and loan instruments which move beyond the current predominant asset-based collateral requirements for access to finance are required. Young people should also be given other business-related support from the public and private sectors. Education or vocational training can equip young people with the skills necessary for future jobs and economies. Enhancing education in areas related to the digital economy demands improves the quality of the workforce and enterprise.

These interventions are part of the South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan geared towards promoting greater participation by black people, women, youth, and persons with disabilities at all economic levels. This will transform patterns of asset ownership and income distribution in our society. The government will ensure effective gender mainstreaming in all aspects of the Plan through the participation and mobilisation of young people, especially young women. This includes such mechanisms as the 40% set aside for women in public procurement, legal remedies to close the gender pay gap, women's participation in key economic sectors, access to assets such as land, and women's financial inclusion and empowerment.

In the infrastructure built programme, South African companies and building materials will be used and labour-intensive construction methods, emphasising skills transfer, the empowerment and inclusion of young people, women, and persons with disability. Small, Medium and Micro-enterprises (SMMEs), especially those run by young people, women and persons with disability, will play a significant role in delivering the infrastructure necessary to catalyse economic recovery and reconstruction. Young people, women and persons with disability will be encouraged and supported to form cooperatives in key economic sectors such as retail, agriculture and Agro-processing, financial services (cooperative financial institutions), manufacturing and infrastructure development. In addition, young people,

women and persons with disability will be prioritised in accessing funding for initiatives that will drive the recovery and reconstruction effort.

- The Social Relief of Distress Grant (Department of Social Development)

The South African government has since introduced a Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRDG); the Social Relief of Distress Grant may be a food parcel or a voucher to buy food. Some provinces give this assistance in the form of cash. Social Relief of Distress Grant is provided for a short time only, usually for up to three months, as a temporary provision of assistance intended for persons in dire material need who cannot meet their families' most basic needs. Upon further review, the government decided to extend the Distress Grant period to March 2022.

The criteria for the grant were as follows:

South African citizens, permanent residents or refugees registered with Home Affairs; residents within the borders of the Republic of South Africa; above the age of 18; unemployed; not receiving any income; not receiving any social grant; not receiving any unemployment insurance benefit (UIF) and does not qualify to receive UIF; not receiving a stipend from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS); not receiving any other government COVID-19 response support, and not a resident in a government-funded or subsidised institution.

Today, the responsibility for social assistance lies with the Department of Social Development (DSD). The DSD delineates its work according to two primary functions. First, the Department is responsible for managing and overseeing social security, including social assistance and social insurance policies.

Data indicates that the highest participation is from those who have not been employed before. They account for 69% of the youth population that applied for the SDR grant. The high unemployment rate experienced before the pandemic suggests applications from those never employed to be high as this is the source of their income for their basic needs.

The majority (28.8%) of the youth accessed information about the grant from television programmes. This mode was closely followed by social media (23%). This indicates how most youth, despite not having attained above Grade 12 in school, are well into technology use.

95% of youth indicate how they applied by use of cell phones. Use of laptop with internet was the least used mode of application at 5%. This shows the heavy use of cell phones among youth which is observed from how information about the SRD grant was accessed. The adoption of mobile technology by the youth has been gaining momentum as a growing area of exploration for scholars. Internet and cell

phones can be considered new media compared to traditional media types and have become a fundamental part of the lives of many young people across the globe.

83% indicate how they received the grant in cash, R350. 17% indicated that they received parcels. The need to have the cash to take care of other needs other than food creates more preference in receiving R350 than the food parcel. 61.3% of the participants indicated how the SRD grant had made an impact. The most impact was created around consumer goods and services. Items like food, groceries, rent and bills are mainly highlighted. 36.9% indicated that the SRD grant had not created any impact. However, it should be noted that those who find the SRD to have made an impact were mainly because of the perception that R350 is not enough.

81% of the participants agree with the statement 'information on the outcome of the application is clearly communicated'; an indication that communication channels are effective. 19% of the participants indicated how information on the outcome of the application was not clearly communicated. This was among those who were rejected. SASSA initiated an official appeals system for rejected applicants. There was only a 15-day period for rejected applicants to submit appeals. Given the challenges applicants faced and the hardships during this time, a 15-day appeals window was far too short for many people to use.

3.4 Department of Trade, Industry and Competition

As part of the Department of Industry Trade and Competition's (DITC) contribution to the set MTSF strategic outcome for more decent jobs created and sustained for the youth, regarding women and persons with disabilities, the department had an initiative of a youth empowerment programme, where several youth interns were appointed. They were 69 interns that were selected previously (2018/19), 53 were targeted for the year 2020/21 and the department achieved the target, meaning that they achieved 77% of its target, leaving an opportunity to reach the outstanding 27% and perhaps exceed the target given, the time frame that's left allows for more to be done should there be the capacity to do so within the department.

3.5 National Treasury

The National Treasury has been known to accelerate inclusive growth through the Job Fund initiative, a programme that creates permanent jobs for the unemployed youth. One hundred fifty thousand permanent jobs were targeted, and 177,213 permanent jobs were secured for 2020/2021; the target exceeded the previous year by 18%.

The number of training opportunities for the youth that were intended to be created was 306,991 in 2018/2019, 250,000 jobs were targeted for 2020/2021, and the actual output was 306,747; the National Treasury exceeded the target by 56,747 jobs, which is 23% higher than the expected outcome. Internal audit short learning programmes were also created to upskill qualified students. About 218 delegates were selected; 20 unemployed Bachelor of Commerce graduates in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape were selected; there was no specific target set, but 65 unemployed youth were placed, 31% of the original delegated group. An indicator that the MTSF goal will be reached sooner than the time frame set, and there will be an opportunity to raise the targets and employ more youth through the Jobs Fund Initiative.

Furthermore, the 24 Month National Treasury Internship offered graduates opportunities to enhance their skills and learnings and gain meaningful workplace experience.

3.6 Department of Environment, Fishery and Forestry

The Youth Environmental Services (YES) programme is a Job Summit commitment implemented by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF). The programme focuses on providing training for young people in waste management, deforestation, and biodiversity management and awareness, among others. The Job Summit commitment intends to increase the number of participants placed in training programmes. The private sector and Government continue to interact in specific sectors to ensure that training is provided.

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) introduced a rollout plan for the YES programme targeting 1,170 participants for the 2020/21 financial year across all nine provinces. Various agents will drive the implementation of the planned projects. An additional five projects with a total of 710 participants will also commence.

3.7 Department of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation

- **The Skills Development Funding**

The DHESI initiates the Funding to fund young people through the National Skills Fund (NSF) for education and training. The target for the previous year was set at 49,627, the target set for 2020/2021 was 60,000 and the actual output of the department was 60,500. The target was exceeded by 0,83%; however, the number of NSF-funded beneficiaries who completed the programme was 35,000, the

baseline target set was 19,364, and the target set was 30,000. The department exceeded the target by 14.1%, which points to the capacity that exists within the department to raise the target.

- **The Tshepo 1 million Programme**

This initiative is committed to growing an inclusive economy through job creation and infrastructure. The initiative created an opportunity for 110,000 economically excluded young people to be set on a pathway to becoming positive contributors to the economy and earning a living. This included an opportunity to build a profile and be part of the volunteering programme. Volunteering is a vehicle to tap into untapped potential and refine skills; through other initiatives such as Youth Employment Service (YES) and Harambee Youth Employment Initiative, inexperienced young people could increase their capacity to be employable. The baseline set was 15,108, the target set was 33,000 and 75% of the target was reached; this percentage translates into 20,020 filled employment opportunities.

3.8 National Youth Development Agency

- **1 000 Businesses in 100 Days Campaign**

This campaign was developed to demonstrate visible results for the Presidency, NYDA and Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) within the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention framework. The campaign was one intervention component, fully implementing the programme over time with all the necessary stakeholders coordinating. The intention is for the campaign to start gaining traction on some of the background work that had already been done.

The intervention is not merely a new plan but has practical expression in a way that young people can see and understand. A key component is that the infrastructure to deliver the project already exists – therefore, new activities and administration costs will not be incurred. The NYDA had 1,000 funding-ready businesses that could be supported for a high-impact quick win.

The 1,000 Businesses in 100 Days business campaign was announced in the State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2020. Unfortunately, COVID-19 lockdown came in and President Ramaphosa, in the SONA 2021, announced and commended the NYDA and the DSBD to complete the programme. A total number of 1,000 businesses were given grants in support to grow their businesses.

- **Youth Micro Enterprise Relief Fund**

The NYDA developed the Youth Micro Enterprise Relief Fund (YMEREF) in response to Covid-19 for young entrepreneurs affected by the pandemic. The fund targeted a niche community of youth micro-

enterprises that other relief funds may miss. The NYDA provided R10 million towards the fund and R2 million from the Mpumalanga Provincial Government.

The criteria were as follows: youth-owned, business in existence for the last six months, a three-month bank statement, proof of existence, CIPC certificate should it be a formal enterprise. The maximum amount to be subsidised is R10,000 during the lockdown. Those unable to access the NYDA fund were referred to Skuma Fund, Tourism Fund, Spaza Relief, Agriculture fund, in all allocation for the youth was apportioned.

The number of applications received: 855, approved applications: 1027. Approved funding: R8.4 million. The NYDA published and made all beneficiaries known to the public.

- **Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI)**

The current focus of the youth employment intervention is on the development of the SA Youth. Mobi. A platform developed by Harambee, NYDA, SALDRU, Tshepo 1million and the department of employment to create two million jobs in 10 years.

3.9 Impact of Covid – 19 on SMMEs

- **Survey Report: NYDA Research Unit**

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global crisis affecting human health and economic welfare across the globe. It is first a health crisis with all governments taking the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Even with all the measures, the pandemic has resulted in a global economic slowdown, affecting trade, investment, growth and employment. Although the entire world has been affected by the economic blow released by Covid-19, the impact is not the same for all. Small, Medium and Micro-owned businesses have been distinctly vulnerable to the crisis, with few resources to stay above the storm.

The economic ramifications of the pandemic have both been felt and experienced, with workers and customers staying indoors and major global disruptions in supply chains by the lockdown. The NYDA business survey analysed the pandemic's impact on SMMEs, by assessing the 1000 businesses in 100 days' beneficiaries' companies. The research aimed to provide a plan of action for businesses, government policymakers and business support organisations to weather the crisis and aim for the 'new normal' that needs to be resilient, digital, innovative, inclusive and sustainable (Waseem Carrim, 2020).

There are difficulties in accurately measuring the economic turbulence caused by Covid-19 and the lockdowns. The impact will be felt for months, if not years to come, only then will the damage be better understood, and the severity of the damage caused. While the magnitude is uncertain, there is clear evidence that the country has seen a sharp decline in income, rising unemployment and widespread business closure, affecting youth-owned businesses too.

- **Impact on employees:**

38% of respondents indicated that they had retrenched their staff, while several businesses have managed to keep their employees; however, there is a direct relationship between salary cuts and retrenchment. Over 80% of the respondents have had to institute salary cuts.

The Presidential Employment Stimulus - Implementation Updates

The Presidential Employment Stimulus was launched in October 2020 as part of government's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. Since then, over 850,000 publicly-funded jobs and livelihood opportunities have been supported, in a diverse range of programmes.

It's about more than the numbers, however. Much emphasis has been placed on ensuring the quality of outcomes, with the Presidency collaborating closely with participating departments to do so. The stimulus is a crisis intervention while the wider economy recovers, so while the jobs are not permanent, they are designed to optimize the work experience for participants, to support livelihoods and to contribute to pathways out of poverty.

Every participating department has put up their hand to take on new and additional responsibilities. Without this collective effort, these results could not have been achieved. In the process, many departments have seized the opportunity to do things differently, with the stimulus providing a 'sandbox for innovation' in relation to implementation systems and also in the creation of new forms of public value.



PRESIDENTIAL
EMPLOYMENT
STIMULUS



Highlights of the Presidential Employment Stimulus

Strengthening the Learning Environment in Schools

Once again, the Department of Basic Education has led the way in terms of rapid roll-out at scale. By December 2021, over a quarter of a million young people had been appointed as school assistants in over 22,000 schools, reaching every corner of the country. This second phase of the programme builds on lessons from Phase 1, in which over 300,000 young people were appointed. This makes it the single largest youth employment programme in the country, supporting the aims of the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI).

By December 2021, over a quarter of a million young people had been appointed as school assistants in over 22,000 schools, reaching every corner of the country.

This rapid roll-out was enabled in part by the use of SAYouth.mobi as the platform for recruitment. This platform is part of the Pathway Management Network of the PYEI and gives young people data-free access to a wide range of opportunities, geo-spatially referenced for ease of access. It relied also, of course, on effective processes across the school system.

The DBE is currently rolling out a range of training interventions, to maximise the value for participants and also the schools system. Apart from orientation and Covid compliance protocols, all participants will have access to digital skills training as well as in financial management skills.



Numbers of School Assistants already trained

Strengthening Curriculum Outcomes	52 592
Handy Men and Women	15 007
Reading Champions - supporting reading for meaning	12 722
E-Cadres - supporting IT in the schools	10 733
Sports and Arts Facilitators	9 802

The delivery of diverse and high-quality training is made possible through strong partnerships with non-state organisations in the education sector.

In DBE an agile team provides oversight for the programme - meeting Provinces one-on-one, issuing weekly surveys on the department's WhatsApp channel Teacher Connect, fielding questions and following up on diverse queries and complaints. While payments were slow in some contexts in the early months of Phase 1, systems in schools and Provinces are now more robust, with a minimum of challenges.



Highlights of the Presidential Employment Stimulus

Social employment - work for the common good in communities

As part of the dtic's strategy for the Social and Solidarity Economy, the new R800 million Social Employment Fund (SEF) aims to create 50,000 part-time jobs. In the first call for proposals, the SEF received applications to the value of over R7 billion, from more than 250 applicants - illustrating just how much appetite - and capacity - there is to create 'work for the common good' in the non-state sector.

The first Strategic Implementing Partners (SIPs) have been approved by the Industrial Development Corporation (the IDC) who are the fund managers. The SIPs selected to date displayed an advanced state of readiness to get to work. An adjudication process is still underway to appoint other qualifying SIPs to participate in the SEF.

The initial selection comprises SIPs located in six provinces and working in diverse sectors - education, greening, health and nutrition. Together, they will create an estimated 9 114 jobs and contribute to ending gender-based violence, supporting Early Childhood Development, promoting food security, community safety - and much more. As the adjudication process continues, the sectoral - and spatial - spread of forms of work supported will deepen.

The Industrial Development Corporation, which manages the Fund, is building a partnership approach from the start and is supporting the development of a Learning Forum in aid of social employment activities.



PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Highlights of the Presidential Employment Stimulus

Supporting public employment in the cities

Proposals from eight cities have been approved. This includes digitization of city records, the employment of homeless people as part of precinct management, action against domestic violence, revitalization of industrial parks, circular economy interventions, urban agriculture, strategies to address substance abuse and more.

Innovation in Solid Waste Management Models

Through the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), COGTA is supporting 45 municipalities in 28 districts with pilot implementation of Innovation Solid Waste Management that incorporates local economic stimulation and job creation.

The first cohort has begun with various models being implemented. This includes the Localised Ward-Based Integrated Waste Management Model, and a service delivery Model that integrates state of the art technology and green-innovative vehicles for ease of movement, collection and disposal of waste.

These models enable weekly door-to-door waste collection by local participants and SMEs, introduction of separation of waste at source, waste awareness and education to local communities and sorting of waste including recycling.

Most of the municipal solid waste is disposed in landfills which are on the brink of reaching maximum capacity, with health risks for local communities. This program on Innovative Waste Management therefore seeks to mobilise people in all communities (rural, semi-urban and urban) to understand and promote the diversion of waste from landfill and to minimise environmental degradation.

Community participants have been recruited in local municipalities within the Eastern Cape and Kwazulu Natal provinces, with 7,304 people already on board.

The work has begun!



Getting to work clearing illegal dumping in Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal





Induction of participants in Umsunduzi, Kwazulu-Natal

PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Summary overview of all Programmes

Employment Programmes				
Department	Programme description	Budget	Targets	Implementation Updates See www.stateofthenation.gov.za for performance figures per programme.
DBE	Basic Education Employment Initiative	R 6,000,000	287,000	Education assistants and General assistants were mainly already in post by December 2021, using SAYOuth.mobi for recruitment. In addition to orientation and training on Covid procedures, DBE is rolling out training on digital skills and financial management to all participants. Training is also taking place on supporting core curriculum outcomes, Reading Champions and as E-cadres. General Assistants are receiving training in maintenance and as Sports and Enrichment Assistants, amongst other courses.
NT	Innovation in PEPS for Metros	R 841,000	35,000	All nine metros submitted proposals and the adjudication process is complete. Implementation has been dependent on the Adjustment Budget of the Division of Revenue Act being signed - now that this has happened, implementation is starting and will continue to June/July.
DTIC	Social Employment Fund	R 800,000	50,000	The Industrial Development Corporation has appointed the first five Strategic Implementing Partners, as part of a process that expedited applicants able to submit applications by an earlier deadline. The adjudication of the balance of applications is in process.
DWYPD	PYEI/ National Youth Service	R 400,000	35,000	The Request for Proposals for applications for the National Youth Service closed on 25 November and applications are currently being appraised.
DCOG	MISA: Waste separation & treatment solutions	R 284,000	11,818	The programme is supporting two cohorts of municipalities. Programme implementation for the first cohort has begun. On-boarding of the second cohort of 35 municipalities is in process.
DFFE	Environmental programmes	R 318,000	8,150	Maintenance work in national botanical and zoological gardens is 20% complete, but there have been delays in procurement of equipment and tools. Youth are engaged in facilities maintenance adjacent to protected areas, and planning is in process in Isimangaliso.



Phase Two of the Employment Stimulus

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Department	Programme description	Budget	Targets	Implementation Updates See www.stateofthenation.gov.za for performance figures per programme.
DHET	PYEI/National Skills Fund: Pay for Performance model for digital skills	R 100 000	4 500	The Request for Proposals for ecosystem facilitators has been issued by the National Skills Fund and closes on 9 February.
	Universities: Graduate Assistants	R 90 000	3 000	Universities South Africa (USAf) is the implementation partner, with the terms of the programme currently being finalised.
DSD	Social workers and NDA programme	R 150 000	3 880	Social workers have been appointed in all participating provinces. NDA is finalising its Request for Proposals.
Health	Staff and assistant nurses, Port Health screening	R 365 000	2 568	Staff assistant nurses and Port Health Screening nurses are in post.
Tourism	Support to 40 provincial tourism attractions & tourism monitors	R 108 000	2 360	In addition to the employment created, 42 SMMEs have so far been supported by the project. Implementation of the programme has begun and participants are on site.
DSI	Enviro-Champs, water graduates and experiential learning	R 67 000	1 650	Enviro Champs are currently recruiting. In the Water Research Commission programme, in addition to work exposure, this programme now includes an entrepreneurship incubator with 300 graduates; 100 graduates from Phase One who performed well are receiving career planning and coaching to prepare them for placements. In Experiential training, participants from Phase 1 are now taking their practical training.
DSAC	District Six, Hip Hop & Phanzi museums	R 15 000	914	In the Phanzi Museum, digitisation of artifacts has started. In the Hip Hop Museum, research is underway and District Six Museum has started to run planned workshops.
DEL	Employment counseling at Labour Centres	R 20 000	250	The recruitment of interns is underway. They will support counseling services as part of the Pathway Management Network, at Department of Labour Centres, including on-line counseling that will be enabled by the new Employment Services website due to launch in April.
Sub-Total		R 9 558 000	446 090	

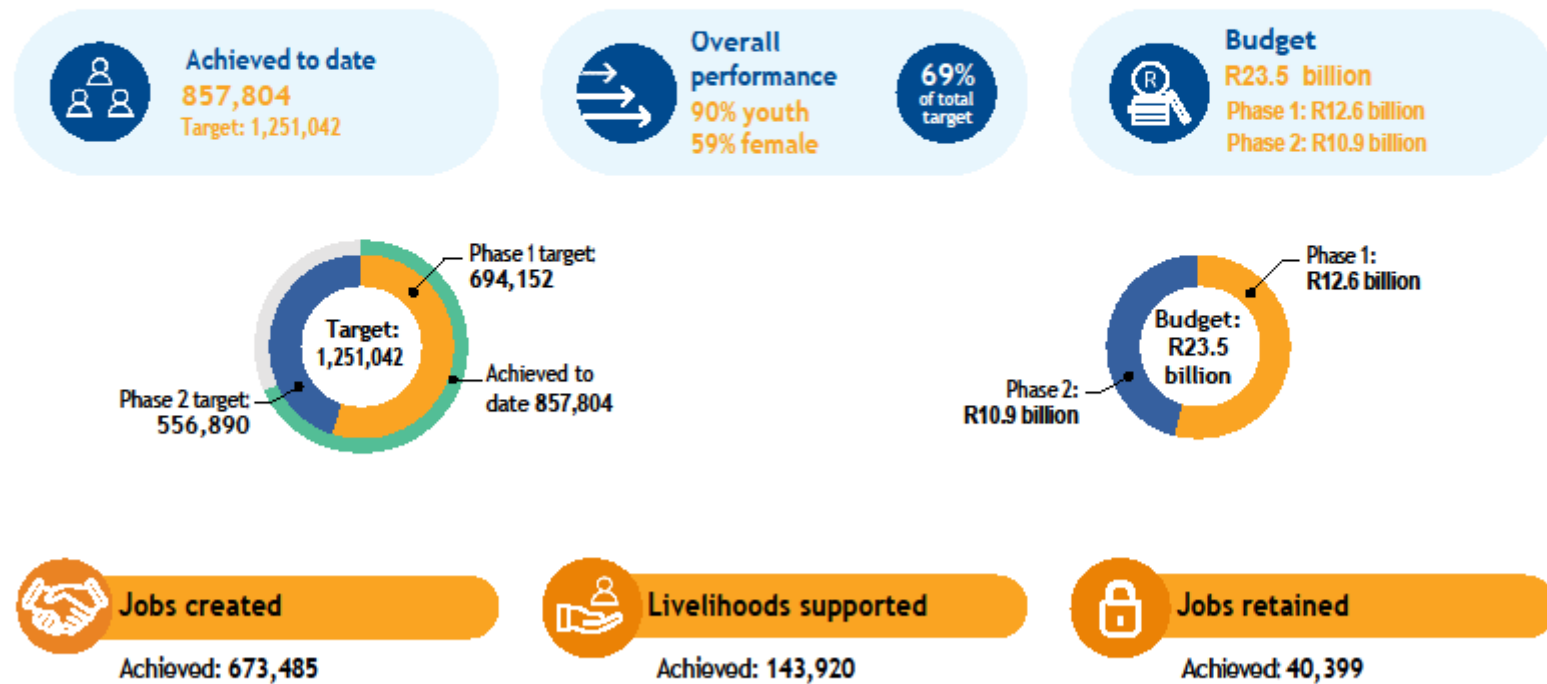
Phase Two of the Employment Stimulus

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Livelihood support programmes				
Department	Programme description	Budget	Targets	Implementation Updates
DALRRD	Support to Subsistence Farmers	R750,000	67,378	Despite rapid initial progress, the department is now facing certain implementation challenges. Firstly, the USSD system for applications for vouchers was completely oversubscribed the day it was launched. This reflects the scale of need. Then, there was abuse of the voucher scheme by private sector suppliers taking a cut of the voucher value. In response to complaints, the department suspended the scheme and is putting systems in place to prevent this problem. To expedite verification of applicants, a partnership is in final approval stages with the Solidarity Fund, to allow sharing of information.
DSD	ECD Employment Stimulus	R178,000	42,718	Rollout of awards to ECD practitioners has continued with Phase One rollovers, after which the Phase Two allocation will be utilised.
DWYPD	PYEI/ Youth Enterprise Support Fund	R30,000	2,000	The programme supports SMMEs owned by young entrepreneurs. 1 300 youth-owned enterprises have been supported thus far, sustaining nearly 4 000 jobs.
	Sub-Total	R 958 000	112 096	
	Total direct beneficiaries	R 10 516 000	556 890	
Catalytic Interventions				
Department	Programme description	Budget	Other indicators	Implementation Updates
DEL	PYEI/Pathway Management Network	R 238 000	300 000 youth supported including 75 000 placed.	The appointment of an eco-system manager for the Pathway Management Network is in process. The Jobs Fund call for proposals for the Innovation Fund of the National Pathway Management Network closed in November and successful applicants will be announced shortly.
DCDT	Broadband Access Fund	R 200 000	50 000 households connected. 3 000 public wifi hotspots.	Detailed technical design work is underway to prepare for pilot implementation of the Broadband Access Fund.
	Sub-Total	R 438 000		
	TOTAL BUDGET	R 10 954 000		

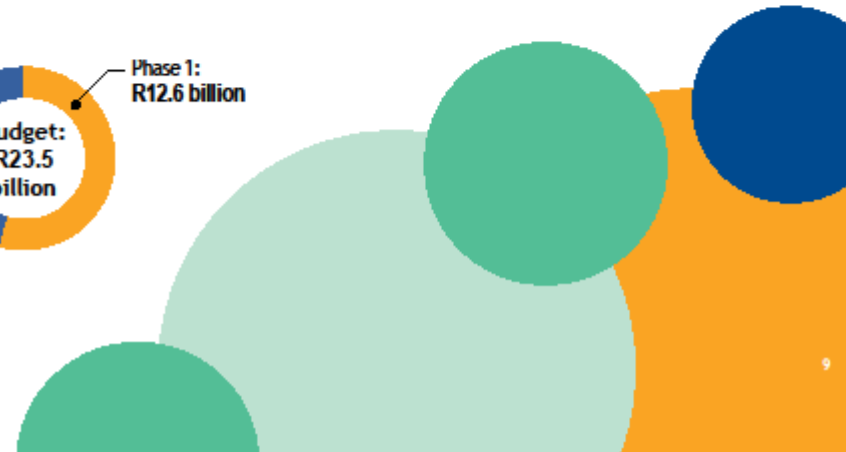
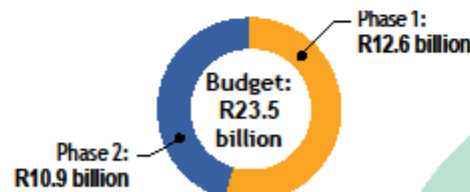
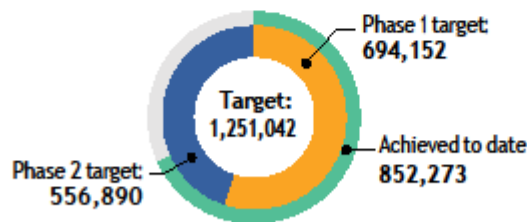
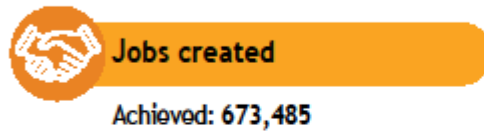
Outcomes from the Presidential Employment Stimulus so far

Phase Two of the Presidential Employment Stimulus was announced in October 2021. Performance reports for January – just three months later – are reflected below. Certain Phase 1 programmes are still being implemented, with roll-overs from the last financial year. Most Phase 2 programmes have now completed their planning stage with employment scheduled to start in February and run into the next financial year.



Outcomes from the Presidential Employment Stimulus so far

Phase Two of the Presidential Employment Stimulus was announced in October 2021. Performance reports for January – just three months later – are reflected below. Certain Phase 1 programmes are still being implemented, with roll-overs from the last financial year. Most Phase 2 programmes have now completed their planning stage with employment scheduled to start in February and run into the next financial year.



3.10 Key Achievements

- The National Pathway Management Network Innovation Fund has been seeded with an amount of R71,871,715 to support initiatives focussed on resolving barriers related to the three key focus areas of the programme:
- Demand: Activation: Identify opportunities for young people by establishing real markets and working towards enabling partnerships in the broader ecosystem.
- Link young people with the appropriate opportunities with opportunity holders; this creates an opportunity for young people to network.
- Enabling Youth: Improve young people's access to view and secure learning and earning opportunities available in the market/network.
- The Tshepo 1 million programme is committed to growing an inclusive economy through job creation and infrastructure. The initiative created an opportunity for 110 000 economically excluded young people to be set on a pathway to becoming positive contributors to the economy and earning a living.
- KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga Youth Development Fund established.
- R44 million was distributed to 50 deserving youth-owned companies from the established youth fund.
- Through the NYDA '1000 business in 100 days' campaign, 1,000 businesses were assisted with covid relief grants in response to the impact of the pandemic on small businesses.

3.11 Recommendations

The impact of Covid-19 has been devastating on the overall economy and deeply affected the vision for economic transformation, job creation and entrepreneurship, as envisioned by the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP). This has resulted in losses of jobs and business entirely and shifting business to e-commerce rapidly, forcing the speed of adaptation for all active economy participants.

The government, private sector and civil society must prepare for an immediate response to the crisis. The following is recommended as stated in the NYDA survey report:

- 1) All operation and business processes must be adapted by applying common-sense precautions outlined by government, World Health Organization and restricting operations.
- 2) Identifying new opportunities presented by the COVID-19 season and optimising them.

- 3) Identifying, optimising cash management and identifying efficiency gains.
- 4) Foster relationships by improving communication with all partners and stakeholders and collectively getting ready for the new normal.
- 5) Reorient activities and resources to ensure business continuity during the lockdown.
- 6) Build business models that foster resilience, inclusiveness, and sustainability and ride the digital wave.

In addition to addressing health crisis, government has attempted to alleviate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy by introducing policies to help the economy and all participants cope with the short-term financial risks and long-term business implications. This is in the hope that it will reduce layoffs, prevent bankruptcy, encourage investment and help economies get back on their feet as soon as possible in the aftermath of the crisis (National Youth Development Agency).

- 1) Resist trade protectionism and facilitate trade to enable the movement of essential products.
- 2) Expand and facilitate access to finance for SMMEs, including those run by women and young entrepreneurs.
- 3) Improve border management of trade to streamline access to essential products
- 4) Accelerate progress towards digitising trade documents and procedures in collaboration with the private sector.

- **Funding**

Most funding platforms require businesses to be registered, tax compliant and UIF compliant, with further requirements being six months of statements and financial protections. Most of the companies that participated in the business survey said that funding for businesses should increase (the relief especially from the NYDA) government to reduce the red tape for funding applications; temporary tax relief and financial programmes would be the most helpful government measures. Most SMMEs and organisations retrenched employees or scaled-down employees' salaries, which may hurt their long-term viability. Other companies followed a resilience strategy, scaling down or adjusting the business temporarily to allow it to resume fully later. The imperative message is that all organisations, including small businesses, must adapt agilely.

- **Corruption Perception**

Auditor-General (AG) published a report on the multi-billion-rand Covid-19 relief package and how various government departments spent it. The Auditor-General (AG) report states that pre-existing deficiencies in the supply chain processes of government, such as corruption, were amplified. Further, the report highlighted insufficient controls to ensure the receipt and payment of Personal Protective

Equipment (PPE) at the quality and price ordered. Corruption impacts all levels of governments, the private sector, and civil society as some of the beneficiaries of the government's tender system to contribute to job creation, livelihoods, and general economic growth of the country were deprived of the opportunity to do so. The few that benefit from 'corruption' hinder service delivery and the overall development of a healthy economy.

- **Innovative and the 'new normal'**

Although there have been job losses in the short term caused by the pandemic, innovative start-ups will rise as they seek to leverage the disruption created by the pandemic; this will likely be in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, and general ITC sector as well as the manufacturing sector. Small businesses will be more responsive to change in the future, having learned from the impact of Covid-19. More businesses will be operating virtually and using co-working structures. Online learning and telecommunications will increase.

3.12 Conclusion

The spotlight has been cast on the poor; this is often the case in crises such as Covid-19. Inclusive globalisation was already a concern before the pandemic, but there is now a unique opportunity to rebuild the international order together to leave no one behind. It will be crucial to ensure that the recovery phase lifts all the boats to maintain popular support for open economies. The government plays a significant role in job creation and growth, protecting and enabling Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to stay afloat during economic turbulence.



**PHYSICAL AND MENTAL
HEALTH PROMOTION
INCLUDING PANDEMICS**

4 Physical and Mental Health Promotion Including Mitigating Pandemics

4.1 Background

South Africa's (SA's) healthcare system is divided into two sectors, private and public health care and is characterised by a healthcare system that is focused on treating diseases rather than preventing them. The private health care sector provides care for 16% of the SA population, often those individuals with medical aid and who can afford to pay for private healthcare. The public healthcare sector caters to 84% of SA's population with resources like those of the private sector. This unequal distribution of care results in the over-burdening of the public health system, affecting the quality of care in the public sector.

Despite the issues mentioned above, health outcomes have improved in SA, with the life expectancy at birth for 2021 estimated at 59.3 years for males and 64.6 years for females, which is a decrease from 2020, which was at 62.4 years for males and 68.4 for females. Still, this decrease is mainly attributed to the Covid-19 global pandemic (Stats SA, 2021). Apart from improved sanitation, health and education, survival rates were increased due to access to antiretroviral treatment among South Africans (Stats SA, 2021).

To improve the health outcomes of the South African youth, Pillar 3 focuses on addressing the following youth challenges:

- 1) Improving the mental health of the South African youth by providing support, treatment and care.
- 2) Reducing the effect of the HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) and communicable illnesses epidemic.
- 3) Healthy lifestyle promotion

“The future is always uncertain. But the Covid-19 pandemic has given this truism a sharp, sobering clarity. The pandemic also offers humanity vital lessons: transformative change requires a concerted effort, and that young people should be at the centre of what must be done” (Dr. J. Phaala, 2021: Minister of Health).

4.2 Universal Health Coverage for all South Africans to be Achieved by 2030

4.2.1 National Health Insurance

The National Health Insurance (NHI) is an initiative by the South African government to provide high-quality healthcare for all South Africans. It will work by the NHI purchasing healthcare from healthcare providers on behalf of South Africans so that 84% of South Africans who cannot afford high-quality specialist healthcare may be able to afford specialist care. This is not to say that the quality of current public healthcare is poor, but due to how burdened it is and how limited the resources are, the services they offer tend to be limited. The NHI will combine the public and private healthcare funds into one fund, therefore reducing the cost of healthcare.

Healthcare services such as the treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections, specialist care and surgeries are currently challenging to access for individuals without medical aid because of how expensive they are. By removing the barriers to accessing high-quality healthcare, younger South Africans can access healthcare services, which will improve their quality of health.

The Department of Health (DoH) rolled out a 'National quality improvement programme' targeting 350 Public Health Clinics (PHC) and 50 hospitals to meet the required standards for certification and accreditation. The hospitals over-achieved the set target by 60% (80/50), and the PHC facilities failed to meet the set target as only 18% (64/350) met the standards required for certification. By improving the quality of healthcare facilities in SA, it helps ensure that more focus is given to patients while offering them the best quality healthcare by upgrading the hospital facilities, hiring more healthcare workers, and providing training to the healthcare professionals to ensure that they have the right skills and expertise to treat the patients efficiently.

The DoH aimed to improve the quality of primary healthcare by having more healthcare facilities obtain the 'Ideal Clinic' status and integrate 50,000 community healthcare workers into the system, most of whom are part of the youth demographic. For the 2020/21 financial year, they had targeted 2100 PHCs to achieve the 'Ideal Clinic' status, of which 69% (1444 PHC) facilities achieved this status. This percentage shows that progress is being made towards ensuring that a strong primary healthcare system is in place before implementing the NHI. 1,906 PHC facilities achieved the 'Ideal Clinic' status in the previous financial year. The reduction in the number of clinics qualifying as 'Ideal Clinics' indicates a decrease in the quality of healthcare offered by PHCs, affecting the quality of life of South Africans.

The department also integrated 67% (34338/50000) of Community Healthcare Workers (CHWs) into the system. This number decreased from the previous financial year as 40,000 CHW were absorbed in

2019/20. The reduction in the number of community healthcare workers implies a reduction in the number of people who can access healthcare and treatment from their homes. Youth community members also must go to their local clinics to receive healthcare and information they otherwise could have received from their CHWs.

4.2.2 Covid–19 Vaccination Drive

To improve the life expectancy of South Africans, the Department of Health has also championed the Covid-19 vaccination programme. The Department has a target of vaccinating 40 million South Africans by Q4:2022. 66% of this target was achieved with 26 790 367 million South Africans vaccinated against Covid-19 in 2020/21 financial year. It is not clear what percentage of those vaccinated are the youth, but vaccination statistics increased when the youth were able to get vaccinated. Gauteng, Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal have the highest numbers of people vaccinated against Covid-19 and the Northern Cape has the least number of people vaccinated. Having more people vaccinated against Covid-19 will help the country reach herd immunity, which will reduce the rate of infection in the country and globally.

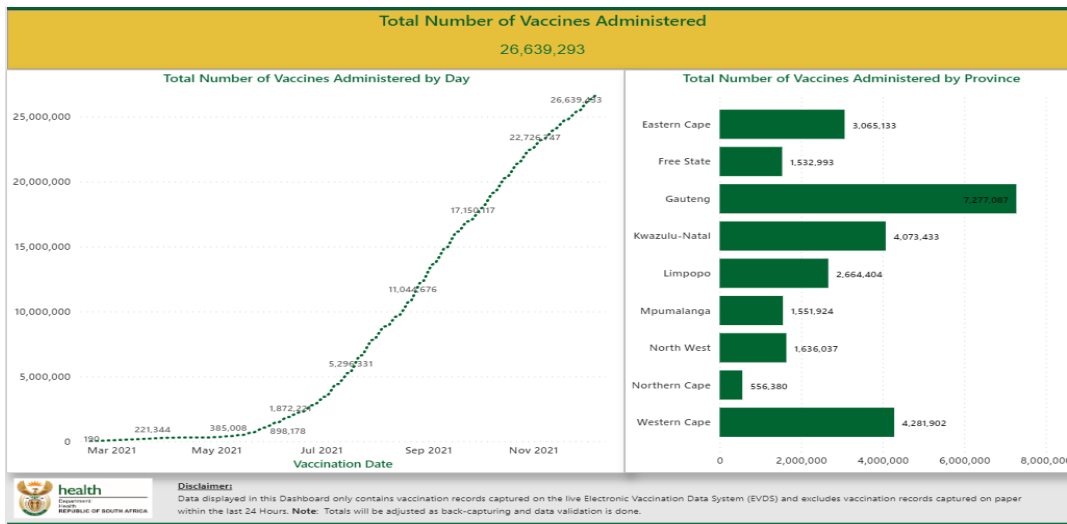


Figure 2: Total Vaccinations Administered in SA

Source: (Department of Health: Covid-19 online resources and news portal,2021).

- **NYDA Youth Vaccine Study**

The NYDA, in consultation with a wide range of key stakeholders, has embarked on a new stage of concerted effort to understand the perception of youth in South Africa towards Covid-19 vaccinations. The study is designed to realise a vision that will assist the NYDA in fully understanding how responsive young people are to government efforts in the fight against Covid-19. These results show how young

people in South Africa perceive the vaccination programme for Covid-19. There was fair gender participation in the survey, suggesting that both genders are aware of the vaccination programme.

There was also ignorance and ambivalence amongst other respondents when it comes to vaccination, as many are not sure if they are going to vaccinate or not. It also emerged that other compounding factors such as time management, lack of knowledge, pregnancy, fear and other underlying health issues may have played a considerable role in youth not participating in the vaccination process. Still, the general view is that young people are willing to be vaccinated and appreciate the government's effort to mitigate the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The study reveals a lot of phenomena on the issue of Covid-19 and the vaccination drive by the government, as most youths interviewed have not been vaccinated yet but are willing to vaccinate. 71% of youth are prepared to vaccinate and 56% are for the mandatory vaccine. By writing this study, about 30% of young people had been vaccinated.

4.3 Progress Improvement in the Total Life Expectancy of all South Africans

4.3.1 HIV/AIDS

South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV globally. According to the 2021 mid-year estimates by Stats SA, approximately 8.3 million South Africans are HIV positive, which is an increase from last year's estimated 7.8 million (Stats SA, 2021).

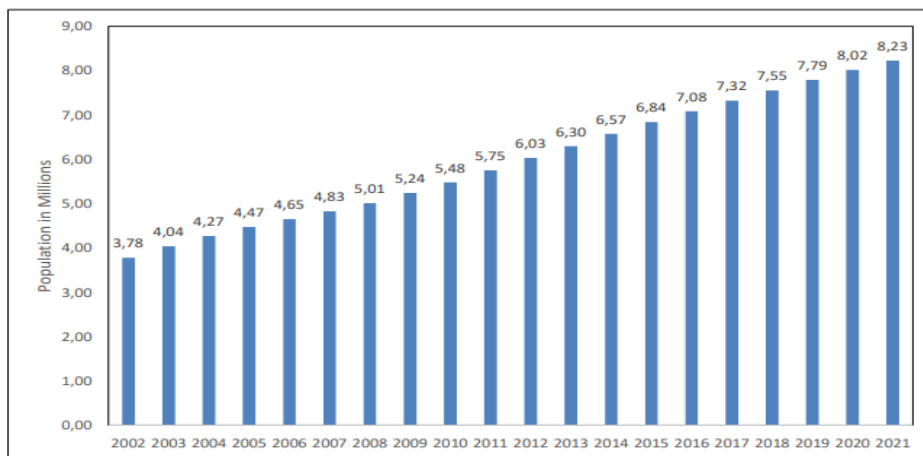


Figure 3: HIV Population Over Time in SA, 2002-2021.

Source: (Statistics South Africa, 2021)

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a two-decade-long public health issue that has dramatically affected the demography of South Africa. For South Africa to reach its health goals, young people need to be

supported with the correct information, skills and services to make informed, sound decisions concerning their sexual health.

The Department of Health continues to build a solid integrated national health system to respond to priority issues such as managing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. UNAIDS came up with a global treatment strategy to fast track the end of the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The 90/90/90 strategy stipulated that by 2020, 90% of the country's population should know their HIV status, 90% of those who test positive for HIV should be on antiretroviral therapy and 90% of those on ART should have a viral load that is not detectable.

To achieve the first 90 of the 90/90/90 strategy, the department aimed to have 90% of South Africans know their HIV status by 2020. The department exceeded its 2020 target as 92% of the South African population know their HIV status. During the 2020/21 financial year, the department targeted testing 14,000,000 people for HIV/AIDS. They over-achieved this target by 9% as 15,284,083 people tested for HIV/AIDS. Having this number of South Africans know their HIV status will help reduce the prevalence of HIV as HIV-positive individuals can get ART treatment to manage HIV and reduce their viral load. If a person's viral load is undetectable, they cannot transmit the virus and their life expectancy is also increased.

The department did not achieve the goal of the second 90 of the strategy, but good progress was made towards achieving the targeted goal as 75% of People Living With HIV (PLWHIV) are on ART treatment. The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the contributing reasons for people not being initiated on ARVs. Some PLWHIV are reluctant to visit their local clinics because healthcare facilities are considered super-spreaders of the virus.

4.3.2 Sexual Reproductive Health

Data by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) revealed that young women between the ages of 15 and 24 have the highest rates of new HIV infections. The rate of infection among this age cohort is estimated between 15 to 25%, which is three times higher than the male counter of the same age cohort (Appollis et al., 2021). Different social issues were presented as a catalyst for this problem. The blesser/blessed trend, economic inequality by gender, low levels of education, patriarchy, and power dynamics in relationships often lead to gender-based violence (STATSSA, 2021). In 2021, the Gauteng MEC Dr. Mokgethi revealed that 23,226 girls between the ages of 10 to 19 had fallen pregnant in the province. Early sexual debut has been said to increase the vulnerability of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) to contract HIV, STIs, unintended pregnancies and being victims of sexual assault.

Research conducted by SAMRC has shown that youth living with disabilities have the same sexual needs and rights as their peers without disabilities; however, they are more vulnerable to contracting HIV, unintended pregnancies, and sexual abuse due to the lack of access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and information about their sexual rights.

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) on the Integrated School Health Programme, provided testing kits, condoms, and care packs to the 59,714 learners. They also educated them on family planning and PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis) and PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), its benefits, eligibility criteria and where to get it. Having this number of learners know their HIV/AIDS status will help reduce the HIV prevalence in the country and help improve their health outcomes because as they get tested for HIV, they are taught about HIV prevention and management, how to make better decisions concerning their sexual health and are offered support to report sexual assault and gender-based violence if they are victims of either.

Higher Education AIDS (HEAIDS) has a 'First things first program' programme. The programme had a target to offer counselling, testing and treatment to 1,051,900 higher education students across 26 Universities and 50 Further Education and Training Colleges during the 2020/21 financial year. They achieved 67% of this target; 670,000 students were tested. Covid-19 impacted the HIV testing campaigns across the different campuses, which affected the number of students tested for HIV. Still, it can be assumed that the youth tested for HIV using other alternative options as the number of people who tested for HIV exceeded the target set by the department of health for the 2020/21 financial year.

The DoH implemented another programme for the 2020/21 financial year called 'Operation Phuthuma', a strategy by the government to lessen the burden of HIV. Operation Phuthuma set a target to create 800 youth-friendly zones in different Public Health Clinics. They achieved 82% of this target which is 652 youth zones created in PHCs. The youth zones will help attract more young people to seek medical care from trained professionals as the medical staff working in youth zones are trained on youth-friendly services.

The department also established a Siyakwazi youth network in 52 South African districts. The Siyakwazi network is a safe space for young South Africans to come together and discuss the challenges they face and be proactive in bringing about the change they would like to see in their communities. During the 2020/21 financial year, the network recruited over 10,000 members to join the network. The network focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights, substance abuse, mental health, economic participation, gender-based violence and femicide, the importance of education and keeping the youth in school, especially teenage mothers. The network also offered youth living with disabilities a platform to discuss the challenges they face, especially when trying to access sexual and reproductive healthcare services.

4.3.3 Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of premature mortality in South Africa, with the youth being one of the most affected. According to the South African National Cause of Death Validation report (2020), TB was the cause of 18.3% of deaths among females and 23.1% of deaths among males. Communicable diseases, including TB, were the cause of 27% of deaths among the youth in South Africa.

The Department of Health aimed to improve the total life expectancy of South Africans by setting a target to test 2 million people for TB by 2020 and for eligible people to be initiated on treatment. During the 2020/21 financial year, they achieved 80% of the set target, as 1,599,985 people tested for TB, of which an estimated 543,994 are the youth. 97% of those eligible for treatment were treated for TB, of which the department had a target of treating 95% of eligible patients.

4.3.4 Crime and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The 2020/21 financial year showed a decrease in the number of crimes due to the level 5 lockdown being implemented. Between April and June 2020, 90,376 contact crimes were reported; in contrast, gender-based violence cases were high. More than 120,000 gender-based violence cases were reported to the gender-based violence command centre.

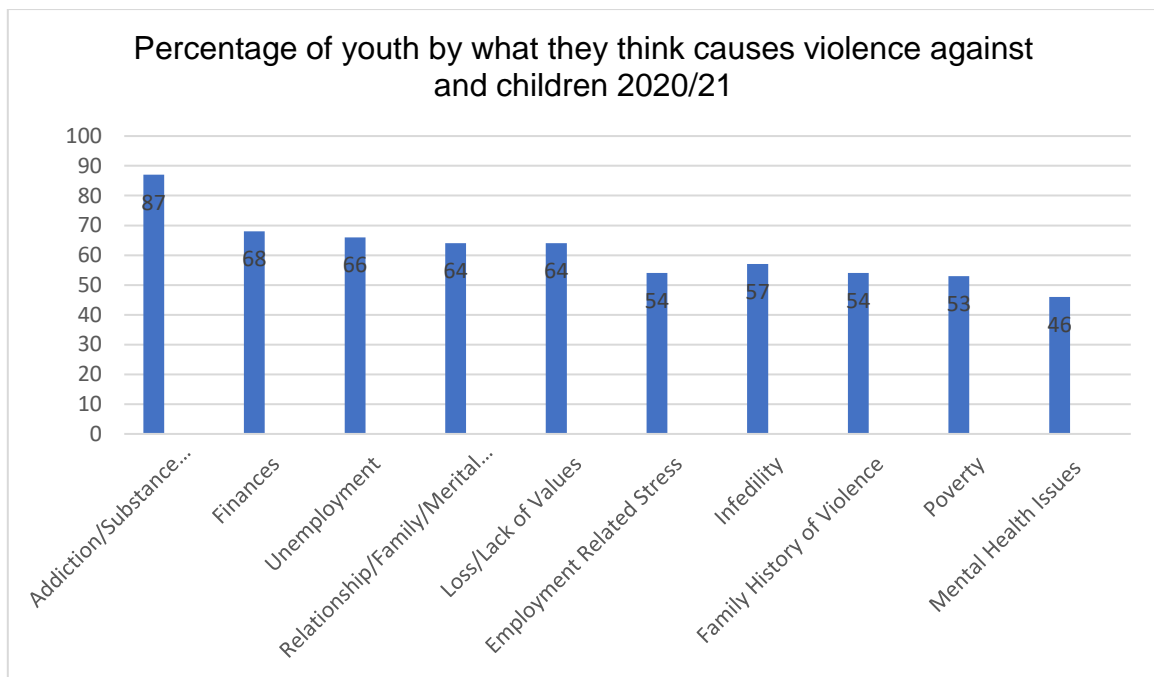
In collaboration with The Vodacom Foundation, the National DSD launched a ground-breaking free app called 'Bright Sky SA'. The app is an initiative by the department and the foundation to aid the fight against gender-based violence in the country. Bright Sky SA allows users to assess whether they or someone they know is in an abusive relationship by completing a risk assessment questionnaire to keep them safe. Bright Sky's features include a short questionnaire to help users identify different forms of abuse and the types of support available. It gives the user information about GBV, the different forms of GBV, and various case studies. Using geolocation, the app provides information on support services available in South Africa, including a directory of police stations, hospitals and NGOs across the country.

The SAPS's annual report does not state the targets for the 2020/21 financial year for their programmes and interventions, but they were able to achieve the following:

To address the growing concern of gender-based violence and murder of females in the country, the SAPS allocated R30 million of the 2020/21 budget to fight against gender-based violence against youth, children and vulnerable groups. The department allocated a further 100 million to the nine provinces to implement GBV programmes. This will help ensure that sufficient resources are available to solve the GBV cases and aid victims of GBV within time.

Members of the SAPS were trained on GBV related interactions to be able to professionally assist victims of GBV. A total of 466 members from all nine provinces were trained in the Children and Youth at Risk and Vulnerable Children Learning Programmes.

In support of the establishment and functioning of Youth Crime Prevention Desks, the guideline for the SAPS was approved for implementation in March 2021. The purpose of the guideline is to give guidance in the establishment and management of youth crime prevention in all provinces, districts and police stations; ensure uniform practises in the establishment of youth crime prevention, and promote youth participation in crime prevention initiatives geared primarily toward reducing the involvement of young people in criminal activities. The introduction of the guideline in the SAPS will set a standard for the establishment of youth crime prevention desks. The Integrated Youth Crime Prevention Strategy was approved in December 2020. The strategy aims to empower and support the youth to become self-sufficient and become involved in crime-fighting initiatives.



Source. GPSJS 2020/21

A Crime Dialogue guideline on violence against young women, children, disabled and youth Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI) was approved, aimed to provide a detailed guide on the hosting of GBV dialogues to reach out to communities, both through direct engagement and engagement through virtual platforms.

The National DSD also had a target to approve the National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide in SA for the 2020/21 financial year. They managed to achieve 100% of this target and the NSP on GBVF was approved in 2020.

4.4 Reduce Maternal and Child Mortality

4.4.1 Maternal and Infant Mortality

One of the indicators of good health among a population is decreased infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates. According to the 2021 mid-year estimates, under-five mortality rates have decreased from 74.9 per 1,000 live births to 30.8 per 1,000 live births in 2021. Infant mortality rates have decreased from 55.3 per 1,000 live births to 24.1 per 1,000 live births in 2021 (Stats SA, 2021).

Decreased rates of u5mr, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) have also been made possible by ART, improved sanitation and improved access to quality healthcare. Expectant HIV-positive mothers are given ART to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). In 2020, the infection rate at birth was 1%.

The roll-out of Dolutegravir has also helped suppress the viral load of HIV-positive women, which helps reduce the MMR. Dolutegravir is often offered as the first treatment regimen for women being initiated on ART for the first time and women struggling to suppress their viral loads using the other regimens, especially after giving birth, to avoid mother to child transmission through breastfeeding (Venter, 2020).

The DoH set a 2020/21 financial year target to broadcast 396 radio shows (36 episodes broadcast on 11 radio stations). They overachieved on this target by 2% and broadcasted 404 radio shows. The radio shows encouraged expectant women to access prenatal care before 20 weeks and reminded parents to take their children and infants for vaccinations. Giving accurate public information about reproductive health helps reduce the infant and maternal mortality rates as mothers are screened for hypertension, HIV and STIs, which might pose a danger to their foetuses and increase the mother's risk of developing pre-eclampsia.

4.5 Improved Education and Health Outcomes and Skills Development, Girls, Women, and Persons with Disabilities

4.5.1 Mental Health

For the average South African, mental conditions begin by age 14, but most cases go undiagnosed and untreated until much later. UNICEF revealed that an estimated 65% of youth reported having a mental illness. The burden of suffering from mental illness affects the quality of life of an individual and increases the disability-adjusted life years of a person. The South African Federation for Mental Health (SAFMH, 2021) released statistics that reveal that 1 in 4 people worldwide experiences some form of

mental health issue. The mental health issues that often affect youth are depression, anxiety, substance abuse, bullying, cyberbullying, social media risk, and self-harming.

Covid-19 exacerbated mental health issues among youth, affecting their studies, employment opportunities and businesses. An estimated 63% of job seekers aged 15 to 24 struggled to find employment. This rate reached 41% for 25 to 34-year-olds. Covid-19 also caused increased anxiety and depression as the youth were worried about contracting the virus, dying, and losing loved ones. Others did lose loved ones which caused them to suffer from grief and depression. The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) revealed that 65% of South Africans felt depressed and anxious during the first lockdown. One in five SADAG calls was for the suicide helpline, and they received 85,516 suicide helpline calls between January and September 2021.

The annual reports of the DoH and the DSD did not explicitly specify what youth-specific programme interventions they implemented during the 2020/21 financial year, but several interventions were implemented to combat the impact of Covid-19 on mental health.

The DoH with SAFMH established a mental health help desk to assist South Africans when the first lockdown was initiated in March 2020. The helpdesk offered counselling services, depression and anxiety helpline and a suicide helpline. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) established the #OnMyMind campaign, an initiative to raise awareness of mental health among the youth in South Africa. The UNICEF U-Report also established a mental health bot where South African youth can chat with trained professionals to offer them support and therapy.

4.5.2 Substance abuse and Accidents

Evidence from the assessment of substance abuse in South Africa reveals an excessive abuse of dependency-creating substances such as drugs, tobacco, and alcohol among the youth in South Africa. Substance abuse is said to be the outcome of poor mental health. The drinking culture in South Africa is characterised by 'binge drinking', with 31% of people between 24 to 45 years engaging in 'binge drinking' on weekends. Internationally, alcohol is responsible for 3.8% of global deaths and 4.5% of disability-adjusted life-years due to alcohol, according to the World Drug Report (2019). The Cut-Annoyed-Guilty Eye-Opener (CAGE) test revealed that 22% of males aged 25 to 29 showed a drinking problem.

Risky behaviour is associated with substance abuse, as the youth are more likely to engage in unprotected sex and drive while under the influence, which causes car accidents. Data from the Arrive Alive festive season 2020/21 statistics reveal that 1,448 people died on South African roads in 1,210 fatal crashes over the 2020/2021 festive season, most of which were men aged between 18 to 29.

The DSD aimed to improve the South African population's educational and health outcomes and skills development by launching the reviewed National Drug Master Plan (2019-2024) as part of the commemoration of the UN International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. They trained provincial Substance Abuse Forums to implement the National Drug Master Plan 2019 – 2024 to reduce the country's prevalence and impact of substance use disorders. A total of seven provincial forums attended the meeting.

They also accelerated the implementation of the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) in three public treatment centres in Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal to strengthen the provision of evidence-based treatment modalities and application of treatment tools for substance use disorders (SUD) concerning treatment, care, rehabilitation, reintegration and support.

Raising awareness of substance abuse, especially among the youth, will help reduce the mortality rate in the country that is exacerbated by unnatural causes of death such as accidents among the youth population.

4.6 Impact of Covid-19 on Health

It is too soon to tell the full extent the Covid-19 pandemic had on the health of South African youth, but available data from local, provincial, and national governments indicates this effect on the youth. The mid-year population estimates show a 0.19% increase in the prevalence of HIV among youth aged 15 to 24. According to the unofficial definition of unemployment, unemployment rates among the youth also reached an all-time high of 64.4% in the second quarter of 2021. Covid-19 also brought to light the importance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle as individuals who contracted the virus and had underlying issues such as obesity had lower survival rates.

4.7 Key Considerations

- Mental health problems are increasing among the youth because of increasing socio-economic pressures.
- Slow implementation of the NHI is a cause for concern.
- Poor nutrition and obesity threaten youth well-being.
- HIV and AIDS infections are still highest among the youth- particularly young women.
- Tuberculosis and HIV are the top two leading causes of death among young people.
- Unnatural causes of death are highest among the youth because of violence and risky behaviour.
- Alcohol consumption is high and on the increase among young people.

- Covid-19 has not only taken lives, but it has also shown the many limitations of our health system, including unequal access, limited infrastructure and limited personnel.
- Substance abuse is an area of concern.

4.8 Key achievements

- The DoH managed to test 92% of the South African population for HIV, 75% initiated on ART, and 92% had an undetectable viral load.
- 1,599,985 South Africans got tested for TB.
- 97.6% of eligible patients were initiated on TB treatment.
- The number of fatal motor vehicle accidents decreased during the 2020/21 festive season due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- More than 120,000 gender-based violence cases were reported during the level 5 lockdown, so to address this issue, the SAPS allocated over 100 million in funds to provinces to combat the problem.
- The Vodacom Foundation and the DSD collaborated to launch a Bright Sky app to aid the fight against gender-based violence.

4.9 Recommendations

The current legislation does not grant the NYDA the power to tell state organs which programs to implement; the following pillar proposals may have to be renegotiated. Proposals for the pillar include:

- 1) Sexual and reproductive health education campaigns must be transformed and be more inclusive of youth living with disabilities and youth part of the LGBTQI+ community, ensuring that all clinics and hospitals are accessible and friendly to use by youth living with disabilities.
- 2) The make of condoms and contraceptive pills, including the packaging, is user-friendly for youth living with disabilities, e.g., braille on the packaging.
- 3) Information booklets and flyers are available in braille as well.
- 4) Use of non-binary terms and themes in national documents, the introduction of gender-neutral bathrooms' in PHCs and hospitals and healthcare professionals to be trained on inclusivity.
- 5) Youth living with disabilities to be encouraged to partake in sexual and reproductive health discussions and assist with policy planning and implementation.
- 6) Parents, guardians, and teachers to be educated and trained on the importance of talking to children about sexuality, sexual identity, their bodies, and sexual assault from a young age. Focus is currently given to youth aged 15+, but as the latest teenage pregnancy statistics in Gauteng

show, children younger than 15 are falling pregnant. By 15 years, many children have been exposed to sex either through experience, television or social media and have no one to get correct information from except their peers.

- 7) The comprehensive sexual education curriculum should not just emphasise the dangers of having sex but also educate about sexual pleasure. Currently, emphasis to abstain is placed on girls and boys are taught to protect themselves while engaging in sexual intercourse. The comprehensive sexual education curriculum should include the benefits of abstinence and the joys of sexual pleasure.
- 8) More programmes should promote a healthy lifestyle among the youth and not just the elderly and include mental health promotion. E.g., youth are encouraged to get screened for diabetes and hypertension and be taught about the benefits of being physically active.
- 9) The countries' legislation is to be better clarified in the case of statutory rape so that the parents/guardians of minors who have been victims of statutory rape can know their rights. Furthermore, firmer repercussions for adults who impregnate or are impregnated by underage adolescents should be implemented. Young adolescents must be taught about statutory rape and be informed about their rights
- 10) Campaigns and programmes developed to assist the youth should be better promoted. There are promising interventions to assist the youth, but they are not reaching the target market because they are not appropriately encouraged.
- 11) To achieve herd immunity, government and related agencies to ramp up the vaccination drive (focused on young people).

4.10 Conclusion

In conclusion, prioritising the health of the South African youth will contribute to the country's development. The youth must be provided with access to good quality healthcare, support, and accurate information to improve their health outcomes and reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and related STDs. The healthcare system has been stretched to its limitation and the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the gaps. A shortage in infrastructure, healthcare workers, medical equipment and unequal access to healthcare were some of the issues exposed by the pandemic. An increase in the number of youth reporting to suffer from some form of mental health and increased unemployment rates highlighted the structural imbalances and areas that still require further attention and improvement.



**SOCIAL COHESION
AND NATION
BUILDING**

5. Social Cohesion and Nation Building

This chapter focuses on social cohesion and National building. It aims to bring about unity and relationships, reduce inequality and socioeconomic disparities and fracture society, mainly focusing on young people. The chapter will highlight the overall achievement of the pillar by looking at the following key role players, civil society, the role that sports, arts and culture play in young people to bring about a socially cohesive nation, government as well as a social compact which speaks about what young people are doing in the country to ensure that South Africa become socially cohesive and safe for everyone.

5.1 Background

As defined by government, social cohesion and nation-building are the degree of social inclusion in communities and society at large and the extent to which mutual solidarity finds expression among individuals and communities. Since the independence and the end of apartheid twenty-seven years ago, SA remains a wounded country regardless of the numerous government intervention attempts. It is yet to emerge as a socially cohesive nation. Racism, inequality of opportunities and outcomes, poverty, unemployment, and structural exclusion are the key faults that correlate with colonialism and apartheid. Social cohesion influences the economy and the development of the society; therefore, it is pivotal to a more cohesive society as it is an important policy goal for any country.

With the intensive continuous division after colonialism and apartheid. The Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and other stakeholders developed a social cohesion and nation-building compact. Through it, the Department is targeting youth, young women, and persons with disabilities to participate in bringing the nation together. Studies show that although there seems to be a little light since 1994, race, class, space, and gender privilege have not been fully attended to. Apartheid continues to negatively affect the livelihood of many South Africans to date.

Inequality has proven to have a negative impact on social cohesion and intergroup interaction. To date, opportunities and privilege continue to be defined by race, gender, ability, geographical location, class, and linguistic background. With that being the case, unemployment is massively high among black African youth, young black women, and persons with disabilities who are highly excluded, marginalised, and discriminated against. To date, women still suffer from discriminatory education and labor market systems. This becomes worse with the impact and regulations of Covid-19 have on our young people and the country in general.

Social cohesion aims to:

- Bring about behavioural changes
- Enable the sharing of shared space and service across society
- Reduce inequality of opportunities
- Redress spatial, economic, cultural, building individual and communal agency
- Awaken the population to speak when things go wrong and are active in their own development
- And engender knowledge of the constitution and foster the values contained therein.

Furthermore, without a high degree of social cohesion and unity of purpose, it is strenuous for South Africa to overcome substantial obstacles standing in the way of prosperity and equality. Simultaneously, it will be hard for the transformation of the society and unity of the country to be achieved without substantively redressing, reducing poverty and inequalities, addressing social division and exclusion, and promoting active citizenry and equity.

The best way to resolve the challenges at hand is to shift the attitude and behavioural change of the society and acknowledge that poverty does not only affect black South Africans, but it affects all South Africans.

5.2 Foster Constitutional Value

5.2.1 Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC)

In the year under review, 2020/21, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC) had planned to implement and achieve about 100% of the performance target. However, with the impact that Covid-19 and the regulations of the lockdown had on the DSAC, they only managed to record achievement of 74%. This means that about 26% was not achieved.

In response to the Covid-19 crisis, DSAC redirected some of the funds from other programmes to support the sector's sustainability, contributing to social cohesion, nation-building, and the economy. DSAC had initially set a budget of R5.18 billion, of which they only spent R5.3 billion (97.5%), which means that the Department had an outstanding of 1.2 million (2.5%) of its budget set for the financial year 2020/21. The underspending of the money allocated was due to the cancellation of some of the events in the Department.

The DSAC has four programmes, and amongst them are the following:

- Recreation Development and sports Promotions programme. Under the programme this was the target of 12 programmes under the program; however, they reached 83%, which is Ten out of Twelve. Only 17% of its programmes were not achieved.

- Arts and Culture Promotion and development programme. The Department had set an achievement of 16 programmes in 2020/21; they achieved about 62.5% of its set target of 37.5%.
- Heritage promotion and Preservation programme. The Department has set out to achieve six programmes; they achieved 100% of its programmes through the target set in the year under review, 2020/21.

The 'I am flag campaign'. Through this campaign, the Department had an annual target of 20 'I am a flag campaign'. The target audience for the campaign was school learners, and all public schools were closed; this also led to the discontinuation of the target.

Furthermore, the workshops advanced knowledge of national symbols, including the flag. The programme targets nine workshops. However, with the lack of interaction due to the restriction of Covid-19, there were no workshops held on advanced knowledge of national symbols, including the flag. The DSAC was forced to discontinue the target from the APP, which means that the department could not reach out to young people, due to this, youth missed out on the knowledge of the national symbols, which also teach South Africans how to live together in unity regardless of race, gender, and religion.

5.2.2 Department of Employment and Labour

The Department of Employment and labour to promote equity in labour tables and amend the Employment Equity Act. The EEA amendment bill 2020 was first tabled in parliament by publishing the bill in the Government Gazette dated 20 July 2020.

In collaboration with DPSA, DEL set a target to develop an income differential data collection tool (EEA4 form) for designated employers by 2022; however, the EEA4 was developed and implemented in the year under review for 2020/21. That means that the target was reached for the year 2020/21 as compared to the IYDS target.

5.2.3 BrandSA

The Department was targeting ten constitutional awareness activities to promote constitutional values. They achieved their target of 10 constitutional awareness activities to promote constitutional awareness amongst the youth. 100% of the constitutional awareness activities were achieved.

The Department had a goal to reach 16 marketing platforms used to promote constitutional awareness per year. The Department achieved this goal and added a single additional platform for constitutional awareness campaigns.

5.3 Equal Opportunity, Inclusiveness and Redress

5.3.1 DSAC

Provincial Resistance and Library Heritage Route (RLHR) site was developed and managed. As shown in the annual report for 2020/21, the Department was targeting three (3) heritage sites to be implemented and managed. Two heritage routes, namely Winnie Mandela Museum and OR Tambo, were developed and managed. Their target was underachieved by one (-1).

Translation and editing service programme. The programme was aimed to help with the fight against the spread of Covid-19 by translating the document and providing information in different languages to the Citizens of SA. The target was set to be 100% (576) of documents to be translated, of which, through the flexibility of translation (576), 100% of documents were delivered and translated. With the 100% achievement of the translated documents, it simply means that more young people have an opportunity to get a job in translation and editing. Furthermore, young people who are not educated could get information about the danger of Covid-19 in the language that they know and understand. This means that the DSAC reached many youths by delivering the message about Covid-19 and its impact on Government services.

Promote the development of official languages (multi-year human language projects supported). The Department set a target of six multi-year human language projects. Through this implementation, the Department managed to reach its target; they were about six multi-year projects supported financially for 2020/21.

The DSAC through the programme Arts and Culture Promotion and Development, under the sub-programme National Language Services. Implement bursaries for the development of qualified language practitioners, targeting 300 students. Four hundred eighty-six language bursaries were given to students. The target was overachieved; there were 186 language bursaries awarded to students compared to their initial target. More students are enrolling in the university to pursue studies in indigenous languages.

This means that more qualifying youth are getting opportunities to enrol in universities. It also indicates that the Department is doing well in teaching and influencing young people to enrol for the courses that deal with indigenous languages; more young people are becoming aware of the importance of indigenous languages in our country in general. Moreover, more students had an opportunity to be in school.

5.3.2 Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

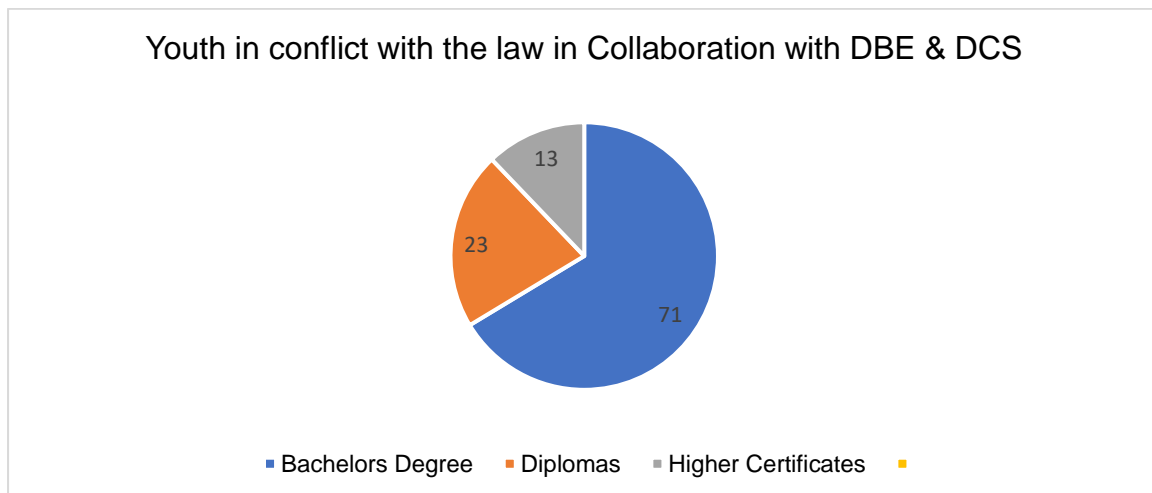
The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ & CD) aimed to conduct a desktop analysis of existing funding models to implement the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) by 31 March 2021. The desktop analysis of existing funding models for the implementation of the NAP was duly completed.

DoJ&CD targeted six anti-xenophobia campaigns conducted in collaboration with other departments and role players. They successfully implemented these six anti-xenophobia campaigns in the 2020/21 annual year.

Furthermore, in the year under review, DoJ&Cd, in coordinating the implementation of the NAP action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, implemented DoJ&CD activities coming from the NAP programme of action. In collaboration with other role players from the MTSF, the department conducted various initiatives.

Youth in conflict with the law (Department of Correctional Services)

The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Service, placed a total of 124 prison inmates to write exams in the year under review. Seventy-one of those achieved bachelor's degrees, 23 Diplomas and 13 got higher certificates. With the highest number of inmates completing a bachelor's degree, the Department is making it mandatory to give young people a proper education and bring better people back to the community through education. More young people are given an opportunity to be able to get jobs when they finally get out of prison.



Department of Basic Education (DBE)

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) had made it a mandate to introduce Kiswahili as a second learning language across schools in South Africa by promoting and implementing indigenous languages. Ninety schools have introduced Kiswahili as their second learning language in grades 4 - 12. To date, a Kiswahili toolkit for the respective grades has been developed. Learners will now be able to learn in African languages, which will open more opportunities for them to translate indigenous languages. The introduction of the Kiswahili language in school will also encourage the promotion of Social Cohesion and Nation-building amongst Africans.

5.3.3 Pan South African Language Board (PANSLAB)

In the year under review, 2020/21, Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB), in collaboration with the Department, set a target of 36 Government Departments and public entities monitored to implement the use of the official languages act. They achieved 100% of their set target.

5.3.4 National School Governance (NSG)

The National School Governance (NSG) developed an online programme that will help train public servants to deal with all forms of discrimination. The target was achieved, and an online programme called 'Champion anti-discrimination in the public sector' was developed.

The National School Governance (NSG) partnered with DBE. It developed an online curriculum and case study that will help with the roll-out of training of the schoolteachers and management team on how they can handle and deal with all forms of discrimination. The 'Teaching for all' was completed and customised through this collaboration into a short online learning course.

5.4 Promote Social Cohesion Through Increased Interaction Across Space and Class

5.4.1 DSAC

Promote access to cultural facilities/community arts centres and participation in arts, culture, and heritage programmes. The Department targeted about nine provinces, but eight provincial community arts development programmes were implemented. The annual target could not be met because one province (Western Cape) did not complete the implementation of its programmes. It was anticipated that the programme would be completed before June 2021. There is no clear indication of whether they managed to complete their programme.

The number of community conversations/dialogues held to foster social interaction. To foster social interaction, the Department initially set a target of 20 communities' conversations. However, due to Covid-19 and the restriction to travel, community conversations were not implemented; moreover, the

target was reduced from 20 to 10. Therefore, in 2020/21, ten community conversations and dialogues were successfully implemented.

Implement an advocacy platform on social cohesion by social cohesion advocates. The initial target was 20; however, due to Covid-19, the target was revised from 20 to 15. Twenty social cohesion advocates platforms were created and/or supported. Five additional advocacy platforms were implemented due to opportunities that became available.

Support the moral regeneration programme. The Department was targeting five moral regeneration programmes. The target was reached; five moral regeneration movement projects were financially supported; however, only two projects were implemented:

The Department could not implement some of the programmes as planned due to Covid-19 challenges, e.g., Anti-Femicides Campaign MRM Month, Youth Dialogues, Ethical Leader Project, Charter of Positive values.

Through the moral regeneration programme, the Department only achieved 40% of the set target, which means that the Department underachieved and is still way behind. This also has a negative impact on youth since they could not implement a Youth Dialogues project; there is still a need to reach out to young people as they are the key point to the nation. The ethical Leader project, which would have helped in uniting and helping South Africans to live side by side still needs to be achieved. They achieved three youth-focused arts development programmes.

Furthermore, through the sports and recreation promotion campaign, DSAC targeted 46,964 people participating in the campaign; however, the target was revised to 2 400. They achieved 3 553. The target was overachieved by 1,153. By the time of lockdown relaxation, the Department implemented other campaigns, meaning more people were able to join and participate in sports.

Moreover, through sports and active recreation events. DSAC set a performance target of 355 000 people actively participating in the event. Due to Covid-19, they revised their target to 5,000. Only 58,439 people actively participating were achieved and more people joined sports activities with the relaxation of the lockdown restrictions.

Number of schools, hubs, and clubs to be provided with equipment

The Department had committed a target of 2,500 schools, hubs and clubs to be provided with equipment. They had about 5,324 schools, hubs, and clubs equipped with equipment; thus, they overachieved their target by 2,824. With the relaxation of the lockdown, more people were allowed to participate in sports with the reopening of sports activities in February 2021.

5.4.2 NYDA

5.4.2.1 *National Youth Service (NYS)*

The purpose of the programme is to facilitate and coordinate the effective and efficient implementation of the National Youth Service (NYS) programmes across all sectors of society. Mobilise public and private sectors and Civic Society to unlock resources to support the National Youth Services programmes. To engage young people in service to their communities to build the spirit of patriotism, solidarity, social cohesion, and unity in diversity.

5.4.2.2 *The Youth Patriot Programme (TYPP)*

The Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) signed a cooperation agreement where the commitment to implement the Young Patriots Programme (TYPP) was established. The TYPP is a National Youth Service (NYS) programme of the DAC. The NYDA committed to implementing the programme on behalf of the DAC from 2016 to March 2020.

The cooperation agreement was renewed for twelve months, starting April 2020 to March 2021, but due to the pandemic, the programme had to delay its implementation, and as a result, the roles of partners were drawn.

Through the Mzansi Golden Economy strategy, the Department of Arts, Culture and Sports (DACS) aims to make radical socio-economic transformation a reality. The young people of South Africa, as her future, are not left out of participating in transforming this country; hence The Youth Patriots' Programme (TYPP) is being established.

Some of the salient programmes that the TYPP will implement are centered around, but not limited to:

- Programmes on national symbols, especially with schools, such as Popularisation of National Anthem and hoisting the National Flag.
- Shaping the Youth and instilling in them as the country's future leaders need to be aware of their history, heritage, arts and culture as instruments for building their nation and fostering national identity.
- Presenting the positive spin-offs of national identity, which are numerous, but key in this context, are social cohesion, national pride and patriotism, productive and competitive nation well-being of youth and encourages them to participate in the economy.

The Main Focus of the TYPP

TYPP is multi-faceted in its approach as a movement of youth development focusing on nation-building and social cohesion. The initiative will also educate the youth about history and heritage landscape through practical experience. TYPP participants must be community activists and be actively engaged in the community where they live. TYPP has a dialogue-based (intergenerational) component, debates, discussions, and conversations about the challenges that confront today's youth and how they can find their own solutions today and thus promote better intergenerational understanding. TYPP participants participate in dialogues with the topics/themes around nation-building and social cohesion issues.

One of the impact measurements of TYPP is how it extends the brand visibility of the DAC as it undertakes some of its projects under the banner of the DAC.

The DAC funds the programme through DAC Branch financial contributions and DAC Entities' 'in-kind support'. This also includes TYPP participants being placed and 'working' at DAC Entities and Community Libraries. To promote intergenerational understanding, the selected young people will participate in Social Cohesion Advocates' programmes and Living Legends Legacy Programme (LLLP) and be able to learn in the process of being involved in these two programmes.

5.4.2.3 Ludabi Omama Nentombi organisation

National Youth Service Unit of the NYDA, in partnership with Ludabi Omama Netembi, contributed about 100 sanitary towels to 100 young girls in Gugulethu township, Cape Town. This was done as part of the women's month programme. There were 25 young girls who enrolled in the programme.

The programme was created to ensure that young girls who cannot afford sanitary towels do not miss school during their menstrual cycle. The programme also promotes gender equality. This means that the programme was able to keep about 100 girls in school during their menstrual period. Some young people who joined the programme learned new skills and the knowledge of togetherness and giving back to the community.

5.4.2.4 Theewaterskloof Local Municipality

The NYSU partnered with Theewaterskloof local municipality and participated in the youth-driven food relief initiative and soup kitchen. About 30 young people volunteered and participated in the project through the initiative. Two hundred children and 50 elders in various areas in Villersdorp, Greyton, Botrivier, Grabouw, Riviersondered and Genadendal were fed. This means that many young people were able to get an opportunity to gain skills in giving back to the community while disadvantaged

children and elders were given food to eat. This does not only help with feeding people, but it also helps bring the nation together.

5.4.2.5 Youth in Action Organisation

The NYS Unit partnered with the Youth in Action Organisation (YIA) to conduct the poverty relief programme in Mluti-a-Phofung Municipality for three months. The programme intended to provide relief to the communities that were hardly affected by the pandemic COVI-19, thereby providing them with the groceries and essential supplies that are enough to last them for a month. Through the partnership, seventeen (17) households in Lukaka, QwaQwa, were identified as the beneficiaries of the programme.

Metsimaholo Local Municipality programme. The programme targeted young unemployed and not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) to participate in a nine-month Skills Programme. The programme had targeted about 70 young people. It was implemented in partnership with Metsimaholo Local Municipality, Free State Provincial Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Development and Sasol Firm. It was said that the programme was implemented to reduce unemployment and crime in Dennysville and the surrounding areas while also obtaining accredited skills and gaining knowledge in the various artisan trades.

Additionally, the programme also enables young people to participate in various community service activities as a part of practical training and access technical experiential learning. In the same vein, these young people will receive a certificate in Building and Construction (NQF Level3); and Environmental Practice (NQF Level 2). And, upon completion of the various Skills development interventions such as:

- Civil (build), fixing and maintenance of streetlights, road maintenance, cutting trees/grass, improving municipality fence, stormwater, sewage management, environment awareness and management, and Computer skills training

Metsimaholo Local Municipality, through its partnership, continues to help various economic activities as part of the exit strategy for its participants, in this case, young people. The NYDA, through NYS also plays a role and participates in community service activities and assists in coming up with other exit strategies through other NYDA products and services.

Fundani Nathi Youth Centre, through its mother body Thembisile Hani Youth Development Forum, had partnered with the National Youth Service to launch the 'establishing one centre in every village' through the NYS expanded volunteer programme at Kwa-Mhlanga, which is the small village in Kwaggafontein. Kwa-Mhlanga is the poorest area in Mpumalanga, lacking proper infrastructure and

employment opportunities for young people. This led the area to a social ill that affects its youth primarily as a vulnerable group.

The programme was launched on March the 13th, 2021, and young people volunteered through the NYS, where they were proud to serve the value by renovating a house and cleaning the surrounding area to make it more habitable for use. Through assistance from the local community, the programme donates material for the programme. To complete the project, the NYS contributed paint and cleaning materials. The proceeding of the programme ended with the handing over of the Fundani Nathi Youth Centre.

5.4.2.6 Zwelihle Foundation

NYDA, through the National Youth Service Unit, engaged in the Food Parcel Distribution Project in partnership with the youth-led NPO Zwelihle Foundation in Philippi, Cape Town. Through the programme, young people volunteered and participated in the food parcels to child-headed households that needed assistance during the difficult period of Covid-19. The project is aimed to continue with the contribution of the food parcel to the most vulnerable households until everything goes back to its normal state. This means that during this time, young people volunteering through the programme will acquire skills to bring back to the community and bring about unity in the community.

5.4.2.7 Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Area (DRDLR) partnered with other sectors, including provincial departments of agriculture (PDAs), to implement the target relevant to its mandate contributing toward the Medium-Term Strategy Framework 2019 2024 financial year. Job creation: the department targeted 14,980 jobs in the year under review, 2020/21. They created about 18,232 jobs through various initiatives; approximately 384 youth and 405 were placed in positions created in the year under review.

To add to this, skilled and employable youth in the agriculture sector. The department had set a target of graduates placed in the agriculture sector capacity building monitored. About 255 graduates were placed. This means that about 255 had an opportunity to be placed in the agriculture sector in the year under review.

New students enrolled in agriculture training. The department had set a target of 800 new students. However, the department registered about 743 (93%), new students in the agriculture training institution. The students are enrolled in the following institutions:

- CEDARA: 41 students were enrolled

- Elsanburg: about 158 students were enrolled
- Fort cox: 71 students were enrolled
- GADI: 47 students were enrolled
- Glen: 199 students were enrolled
- Madzivhandila: 23 students were enrolled
- Potchefstroom: 96 students were enrolled
- Taung: 45 students
- Tsolo: 63 students were enrolled

Fifty-seven (7%) students could not be enrolled to achieve the set target. Due to the extension of the academic year announced by the minister of DHET, some students that had registered after March could not be considered in the enrolment of 743.

NYRSEC

In the year under review, the NYSEC programme set a target of 1,916 for 2020/21, achieving about 1 926. **District Development Model:** 644 young people were selected to be trained in the agriculture-related learning programmes such as beef, dairy, maize, piggery, poultry and vegetables. This programme was implemented in partnership with the Agriculture Research Centre (ARC). Out of the 644 youth selected, a total of 554 managed to complete all learning interventions. Furthermore, 319 of the youth were selected to participate in non-agriculture training. Fifty-three were young people from Limpopo and they completed their training through small business management, environmental waste management and accommodation and operation services.

In addition, youth in business, employment, or further studies, NYRSEC had 1,432 former youth and agriculture graduates employed by the Department on a three-month contract; they were assisting farmers with applying for the Employment Presidential Stimulus Initiative (PESI) funding. Due to Covid-19, some of the youth resigned while 1,209 of them had their contract extended for 12 months. Only 1,130 of these youth are still active in the (PESI) through the initiative.

5.5 Promote Active Citizenry and Leadership

5.5.1 DSAC

The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture had an initial target of eight campaigns through sports and recreation promotion campaigns; however, the target was revised from eight to two. In the year under review, 2020/21, the Department implemented three sports and recreation promotion campaigns and

events. When the lockdown regulations were relaxed, additional campaigns and events were implemented. They achieved 100% of their set target.

DSAC had a vision to place 3,700 in sports academies; however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown regulations, travel restrictions and budget cuts, the target was revised to 1850. The Department manages to place about 2249 out of 1850 athletics in sports academies. With the relaxation of the lockdown, more sports athletes were supported by sports academies; there was an addition of 399, and the Department overachieved its set target. This means that more athletes are enrolling in sports academies; despite the effects of Covid-19 on the department, they manage to reach out to more youth.

Furthermore, DSAC targeted 5,000 learners in the National Schools Championship in the year under review, 2020/21. However, due to Covid-19, the target was not reached; as a result, the championship was discontinued, meaning that young missed an opportunity to enter the National Schools Championship.

5.5.2 Youth Voter Programme Participation

The effect of Covid-19 disrupted the electoral commission. Due to the regulations and the restrictions of COVI-19, the IEC had to postpone the elections. However, to cover up for the lost time during the lockdown, they introduced an online platform where people who could not register to vote could register. Through this platform, the IEC recorded 11,081,227 (43,5%) young people registered to vote out of 25,502,362 people who registered to vote.

In the hope to promote active citizenry and leadership, the IEC attempts to actively promote and foster awareness and participation in the elections process through civic and democracy education.

5.6 Fostering a Social Impact

5.6.1 DSAC

In the year under review, 2020/21, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture set an initial target of 20 capacity building initiatives; however, they adjusted their target to 14; with that being said, they only managed to financially support ten capacity building projects where they could only achieve 71.4% from the set target. Two more capacity-building projects were partially supported financially, the other two were not financially supported. The DoJ&CD developed a social compact between the executive, judiciary and legislative tiers of the Government in the year 2020/21.

5.7 Key achievements

- Twenty Social Cohesion Advocate platforms were created.
- Three youth-focused Art development programmes were implemented.
- Three thousand five hundred fifty-three people actively participate in sports and recreation campaigns.
- Five thousand three hundred twenty-four schools, hubs and clubs were provided with equipment.
- The 'Champion Anti-Discrimination' campaign was developed in the public sector.
- Thirty-six government departments and public entities were monitored to implement the use of official languages.
- Sixteen, play your part in the activities implemented.
- One gender-based violence and femicide programme was financially supported.
- Four hundred eighty-six language bursaries were awarded to learners studying toward languages.
- Forty athletes were supported through a scientific support programme.
- The Department managed to place about 2,249 athletics in sports academies.
- Six anti-xenophobia campaigns were initiated.

○ Recommendations

- Since the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture deals with mass gatherings and the interaction of the people, the Department should consider introducing e-sports to keep young people out of the streets; they are dominated mainly by youth tournaments such as FIFA. With this move, the department will not only build unity with the young people of South Africa but can also build relationships internationally.
- Through language bursaries, DSAC should also consider funding universities of Technologies that also produce more language practitioners, such as Tshwane University of Technology, which has a considerable influence on indigenous languages.
- Although we need more young people in the parliament for the country to move forward, we still need older people who will teach our youth how the system works. However, going forward, we need younger leaders who will approach our youth in terms of voting, people who can relate more to the struggle of our youth. To put young, energetic people in leadership means that they will be able to mobilise and reach more young people from other rural areas that our leadership cannot reach.

- If we say we need more young people in parliament and leadership, the government must prioritise encouraging young people to vote in numbers. If older people keep on voting in numbers than young people, they will always vote for the leadership they know and trust; with more youth voting; this will put more young people in higher positions. Furthermore, young people will vote to bring change to our country.
- It is said that young people do not vote because of ignorance and lack of election education. Therefore, to correct this, election education should start at the primary level, where young people will grow up knowing the importance of voting.
- In their Life Skills Curriculum, the Department of Education should introduce a section about elections. It is said that children practice what they grow up learning at their school level as well as at home; if these young people grow up with this from a very young age, that means that they will be able to know how important it is for them to be part of election then young people will be able to vote in number.

5.8 Conclusion

Covid-19 poses became a challenge for most of government Departments threatening lives and changing how people do things. It has brought a new normal to all aspects of life. The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, where most of its activities required mass gathering as well as in-person interaction, the Department was left crippled. Most activities such as sports and handing over awards were paused, postponed and cancelled. To recover from the effects of Covid-19, the Department redirected some of the funds meant for other programmes to the programme they were able to conduct with the relaxation of the National lockdown. However, the Department partnered with other stakeholders to bring about social cohesion and national building made magnificent progress in other programmes given a little time at hand.



**EFFECTIVE AND
RESPONSIVE YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT
MACHINERY**

6. Effective and Responsive Youth Machinery

6.1 Background

Youth Coordination Framework

Pillar five is within the youth development domain and finds expression in National Youth Policy 2020 - 2030. This pillar is not covered by government's Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) for the 2020 – 2024/5 period, as it has been witnessed in other pillars, which are education, skills and second chance, economic participation, and job creation, mental health promotion interventions, and nation-building and social cohesion.

The NYP 2030 is very pragmatic about realising effective and responsive youth development machinery. In short, this is mainly about mainstreaming and coordination of youth development across the board. South Africa postures itself on two streams of government systems. South Africa is a unitary state in terms of the constitutional framework, wherein the central government has a constitutional mandate in public affairs management. On the second stream, South Africa characterises itself as a federal state.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, section 40 (1) is unequivocal about the dependence and interdependence of the spheres of government, and thus, it states that “In the Republic, government is constituted as national, provincial, and local spheres of government which are distinctive, interdependent and interrelated”. Therefore, it is essential to point out the significance of the term distinctive, which implies the relationship in which each sphere of government must observe when engaging one another.

In this case, the Constitution provides an important mechanism to enable the government to execute its mandate seamlessly without the shackles. Similarly, Chapter 3 of the Constitution can also be read together with the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 [Act 13 of 2005] to coordinate government programmes, from national down to local government sphere. It is against this background analysis that a similar approach can be adopted even with the coordination of youth development. In essence, the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 [Act 13 of 2005] is the backbone of the relationships’ management of the three spheres of government in South Africa.

For a long time, there seem to have been challenges with coordinating youth development as there had been duplication in efforts by the government. Other arguments are based on the absence of legislation towards youth development, none the less the sector has taken posture in an approach to youth development through the Department of Women youth and people with disabilities and the

NYDA Act 54 of 2008, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) is mandated by the Act of parliament, number 54, of 2008, to integrate youth development in the mainstream of the economy.

The Department of Women, Youth, and Person with Disability (DWYPD) under the branch of youth desk is therefore responsible for policy function, thus is responsible for developing and reviewing the National Youth Policy document as a legislative framework that guides youth development in South Africa. The NYP 2030 recognises the Department (DWYPD) as the standard-bearer on key youth research, advocacy, and mainstreaming.

Concerning youth coordination, the NYP 2030 clarifies that all sectoral departments and youth units/directorates must be created/established to coordinate youth development. This is cascaded down to the second and the third sphere of government. The offices of the Premiers shall be responsive with coordinating roles. This should further be cascaded down to local government spheres wherein local youth offices shall be entrusted with delivering services to youth. This will require youth development to find expression in Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

Through this policy, a more coordinated role is proposed for the youth development sector where the Department under the youth desk coordination the policy function and the agency implements programmes. The purpose of the programmes and initiatives is to develop platforms of empowerment for young people that are aligned to the legislative framework that is meant to ensure the advancing of the rights of the youth with the understanding that youth represent a powerful resource in our country, it is the departments aim to ensure that the National Youth Policy assists in shaping positive youth development combining efforts from local, provincial, and national level in South Africa.

The Women, Youth, and Persons with Disability department is responsible for facilitating and developing national strategies and all policies aimed at young people. The NYDA oversees all youth development programmes.

6.2 Coordinating Model

This pillar should strengthen youth structures across government, where youth development should occur within and outside government spheres. To have effective and responsive youth development machinery adequate budget should be allocated and build capacity in all youth directorates.

6.3. Institutional Arrangements

6.3.1. Role of Youth Branch

Youth Development Programmes: Provides support to the National Youth Development Agency.

Programme Purpose: To promote the development and empowerment of young people by reviewing the legislative framework and other interventions to advance youth rights over the medium term.

6.3.2. Key Role Players

There are many government role players and civil society actors who play a role in developing South Africa's young people and could play an essential role in coordinating youth development.

- **Presidency:** As the centre of government administration, the Presidency has established a Project Management Office that focuses on youth employment interventions. The Presidency has delegated delivery of the youth employment interventions to key departments and entities but remains the coordinator of these programmes.
- **Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities:** The Department is a policy and coordinating department. The Department contains the Youth Branch, which coordinates Youth Policy and the National Youth Development Coordinating Forum.
- **Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation:** The DPME coordinates the government department for planning, monitoring and evaluation to address poverty, unemployment and inequality.
- **National Youth Development Agency:** The NYDA is an entity of the DWYPD and is an implementation agent for youth development.
- **Department of Employment and Labour:** The Department of Employment and Labour has taken on a renewed role in the sixth administration, particularly in its role of employment. The National Pathway Management Network is located within the DEL.
- **Department of Higher Education and Training:** The DHET contains the key delivery entities of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and the Sector Education Training Authorities. It exercises oversight over Universities, Community Colleges and TVET Colleges.
- **Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator:** Harambee has established itself as a key youth development Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in South Africa and has equally established a network of youth organisations across South Africa and is critical to the delivery of the National Pathway Management Network.

○ Key Achievements

- **NYP 2030**
- National Youth Policy was reviewed and approved by Cabinet
- NYP translated into all official languages in addition to English and Braille
- The Minister launched NYP and over 100 copies were distributed

- An abridged youth-friendly version will be printed for distribution
- The monitoring and evaluation framework was developed in partnership with UNFPA and Human Sciences Research Council
- Draft monitoring and evaluation were consulted, and stakeholders and the minister approved.
- The validation workshop held and helped refine indicators
- The document has already been presented to different government clusters

- **NYDA Amendment Bill**
- SEIAS sign off
- OCSLA certification
- Nedlac sign off
- Presented to government clusters, recommended by cabinet for parliament submission
- After cabinet approval, it will be submitted to Parliament

- **South African Youth Development Bill**
- Draft bill and legal opinion approved by the minister
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment System (SEIAS) precertification obtained
- Presented to clusters for approval for discussion (gazetting, call for public inputs and provincial consultations).
- National Youth Coordinating Forum
- Quarterly meetings have been held

- **6.4.1. Key Programme Coordinating Achievements**
- Furthermore, the President has programmes coordinated by the presidency and thus far, the progress has been as follows:
- The Presidency has signed the MOA for the National Pathway Management Network, DEL, DTIC, DPWI, DHET, DSI, DSBD, DWYPD and the NYDA
- The Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) and the Presidency established and operationalised the Pathway Management Network and have convened a coordinating committee of key departments and the NYDA to deliver on the objectives.
- The NYDA also set up a technical committee that includes partners (inside and outside of government) that express an interest in being part of the PMN to explore how the principles can be practically given expression through ensuring equity of access to opportunities across the PMN. Through the technical committee, mechanisms have been established to share information across partners - SAYouth.mobi/YES/Basic Package/MPowa/Khetha (DHET) and plans are being made for ESSA to share as part of the PMN.

- SAYouth. Mobi platform has been zero-rated by all mobile operators ensuring that young people can access the site for free and this is also true of ESSA. Other partners are exploring how this can make their offerings more accessible to young people.
- The President invited young people to join the PMN on Youth Day 2021.

6.4. Coordination Implementation Strategy

The DWYPD is currently drafting the 'focal points' guidelines that will facilitate the mainstreaming of youth development, including young women and youth with disabilities. The professionalisation of youth development becomes imperative; hence the focal point guidelines document acknowledges the professional recognition of focal persons as experts with specialised knowledge and skills. It implies that youth development shall never be realised without investing in the skills development of the focal persons.

6.5. Challenges

- Lack of effective and responsive youth machinery will render youth mainstreaming and development ineffective; therefore, adequate youth coordination becomes more critical, as in the National Youth Policy 2020 - 2030.
- There are currently systematic structural challenges related to uniformity and synergy among provinces; consequently, this silo effect has negatively impacted youth development.
- Budget allocation is also not situated in the right places, and political appointees and interference exacerbate this.
- Political instability wherein an office bearer is removed from office within six months in the office directly affects youth development adversely.
- Finally, there is no proper programme that includes the youth budget at the local level in most provinces.

6.6. Recommendations

- The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation does a significant amount of monitoring and evaluation work on the economy, education, skills, social and health outcomes. The NYDA proposes leveraging this existing work by working with DPME to report youth outcomes.
- The Presidency is taking centre stage on the economy and jobs in partnerships with the NYDA with Harambe and YES Programme.

- The NYDA coordinates the Youth Service (Social Cohesion and Nation Building) and the Youth Development Machinery (Provincial and Metropolitan programmes).

6.7. Provincial Achievements

The NYDA has the responsibility to ensure that the implementation of IYDS is monitored and implemented by all youth structures. The IYDS has gone through all government clusters and was recommended to be submitted to Cabinet for approval. The NYDA anticipates the approval to be processed in the new financial year 2022.

The KZN OTP has successfully developed its Five-Year Provincial Integrated Youth Development Strategy (PIYDS), which was approved by the cabinet on the 9th of June, 2021..

The province implements PIYDS through Provincial Departments and Local Municipalities; this is done by submitting and compiling integrated youth development plans, which is also a cabinet resolution. These Departments report against their plans quarterly to the OTP Youth Chief Directorate. These reports are evaluated for impact analysis on the implementation of the PIYDS. Implementation has already started, and all provincial departments participate in reporting IYDS in the province.

On pillar 1: The Provincial Government continues to support bursary students. There has been an increase in learners that took and passed NSC gateway subjects in 2021. An unemployed graduate's database has been developed and has collected about 6,000 names of unemployed graduates that seek employment and reskilling. This database is currently utilised for opportunities.

On pillar 2: The Premier's pronouncement Sukuma 100,000, in 21/22 financial year, this programme recorded an amount of 122,029 youth placed in jobs and skills development opportunities, with DOE being the most significant contributor and employed about 62,229 teacher assistants and 95,324 placed on EPWP. The premier pronounced Youth Fund and set it on R100 million to fund start-ups with a grant between R50k to R2 million per entity, 51 already benefited and R69,497k disbursed.

On pillar 3: DOH is driving the COVID-19 vaccination programme to curb the pandemic amongst youth. Youth are also assisted with programmes aimed at reducing HIV and Aids.

On pillar 4: DAC continues to implement awareness and promotional campaigns aimed at nation-building responsible citizenship and lifelong learning dialogues.

On pillar 5: The Provincial Youth Development Forum is functional and continues to monitor the implementation of the PIYDS. The province is rolling out youth mobile offices to strengthen youth machinery and has procured 12 mobile offices. 50% of Departments have Youth Development Directorates; however, all departments have a youth champion, including municipalities.

The Western Cape government youth strategy places emphasis on youth until the age of 25 aiming for early intervention to ensure every young person leads a productive life. This is implemented through a life course approach with a particular focus on the first 1 000 days, children, and NEET youth.

As part of the commitment to youth the Western Cape has put in place various institutional machinery to ensure youth are prioritized including:

- Establishing the first Children’s Commission in South Africa and appointing a Children’s Commissioner
- The successful establishment of the Premier’s Skill Council which held a successful engagement in 2021 focused on strengthening the schooling
- pipeline into industry by strengthening the interface between business and academia
- The establishment of the WCG Youth Forum and transversal hub established to coordinate efforts across government
- The establishment of the whole of society youth learning lab to strength work between government and the rest of society
- The release of a 2021 Youth expressions publication providing a platform for youth voices
- Support for youth hubs called youth cafes via the Department of Social Development.

Overview of main programmes

Key programmes	2021	Notes
Chrysalis	404 youth enrolled in 3 month programme	100% placed at WCG sites to gain work experience. Partnership with NDA will unlock enterprise support.
YearBeyond	964 youth provided with a 9-month work opportunity and training programme	74% supported to progress to work or studies, over 50 private partners secured and over 10 000 learners supported by these youth.
DEDAT	1 667 youth training and workplace opportunities provided ranging from 4 to 12 months	80% of these secured employment post the programme. DEDAT grew its private sector partnerships to provide this support and formalized its collaborative work with WCED.
PAY	741 opportunities provided across 11 Departments for 12 months in the public	This includes 549 extensions from 2020.

	service	
14 to 18 year olds	Key focus is on sport and arts 'clubs'/ teams at school via the MOD and ASP	Over half of all no and low fee schools are supported to run after school programmes which engage youth in positive teams
	WCED providing wellbeing support to 14- to 18-year-olds	
	100 youth participated in Youth Camps which focused on building responsible citizens area of the importance of social inclusion, national identity and leadership	

Key challenges:

Across the province a key challenge has been that the demand for programmes exceeds available space. This results in 10 or more youth applying for every available opportunity and long waiting lists. The impacts of the pandemic on the economy and sectors like tourism has exacerbated this challenge.

Across programmes we have witnessed an increase in food insecurity and trauma. This places an extra burden on programmes – a demand for psycho-social support.

Key successes:

The Western Cape has leveraged partnership to meet the needs of youth – both between spheres of government, between departments and between government and civil society.

All the main programmes have a structured skills development programme in place along with the entry level work experience. It is heartening to see how many programmes have responded to the need for increased trauma support. Both Chrysalis and YearBeyond now include crisis support services for youth in need.

Finally, the high post programme placement is key to the long-term success of programmes and a key focus for the province.

The Northern Cape province from 2000 to date was able to Train more than 356 unemployed young people of different skills ranging from Plumbing, Welding, Safety in Mining, Nail Technician, Computer Technician, Safety and Health Reps, Comprehensive Health Care, Environmental and Personal Health, Security Training, Dump Truck and Assessors through the department of social development youth directorate. These skills development were linked to the growing opportunities within the labour markets and demand in terms of entrepreneurial development.

The premier in his state of the province of 2021 announced the removal of R150 million debt by beneficiaries of the Premier's Bursary fund of which he is the patron, these beneficiaries are young people from disadvantaged families, he further announced the centralization of all bursaries by the department to the fund to ensure more young people access the fund. Through the leadership of the Premier the province is currently developing a Provincial Integrated Youth Development Strategy which will see a development of APP targets for young people from all government department linked to a budget, terms of reference have been adopted by the provincial government and a task team consisting of all government departments have been setup, the Office of The Premier, Department of Social Development and the NYDA are the lead institution for the process. The Premier further committed to the establishment of the Youth Directorate within the Premiers office.

In Mpumalanga, the Office of the Premier is tasked with Mainstreaming of Youth Development into Government Programmes.

- The Mpumalanga Youth Development Fund (MYDF) stands as one of the ***flagship projects to realize vision 2030***. The fund is worth R90 Million
- The Strategic focus of the MYDF is on enterprise development as a key strategy that will ***increase economic opportunities*** for the Youth of Mpumalanga
- It also seeks to increase opportunities in entrepreneurship and encourages youth to youth employment and not to be job seekers. It provides non-financial and financial support to young entrepreneurs

Achievements to date:

- MYDF Strategy Developed
- Youth fund established
- R 44 million disbursed to 50 deserving youth-owned companies*

FORTUNE 40 MPUMALANGA YOUNG FARMER INCUBATION PROGRAMME

The Fortune 40 foster and accelerate the growth of Mpumalanga's agriculture and agro-processing sectors, thereby helping to commercialize agricultural production, increase agricultural incomes, and reduce poverty.

The objectives of the programme is to transform the agricultural sector and catalyse the participation of youth in farming sector.

TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- **246** Incubates trained
- **36** Cooperatives Established
- **23** Farms

TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- **450** Jobs Created
- **90** Centers across the province
- **R242 000.00** per Center

EPHRIAM MOGALE BURSARY SCHEME

BENEFICIARIES: 1396 BURSARS

- External: **1050**
- International: **346**

In the North-West province, the province launched a Youth Advocacy Programme. The Programme rallies youth and stakeholders' formation that have the interests of youth in their mandate to tackle the undesirable effects of poverty, joblessness, and inequality. The province identified the four pillars as a strategic intent for youth empowerment and development during Covid-19 and beyond as a means towards an end. Hereunder are pillars:

- Food Security
- Talent Development and Management
- Entrepreneurship Support
- Cultural Edutainment

Department	Number of Projects	Number of Beneficiaries Targeted
Office of the Premier	03	19
Arts, Culture, Sport & Recreation	06	1 982
Education	06	370
Human Settlement	02	302
Health	11	682
Social Development	01	30
Economic Development, Conservation, Environment and Tourism	09	865
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	02	11
Provincial Treasury	04	222
Public Works and Roads	01	41
Community Safety and Transport Management	04	237
Agriculture and Rural Development	05	1540

Partnership with Microsoft

To train 40 master trainers who in turn will train a total of 400 trainers, to provide face-to-face and/or virtual training to 20 000 youth in one or more of the following:

- Digital Skills
- Basic IT skills – digital literacy and computer skills
- Basic Digital Literacy

- End User Computing (Microsoft Office Suite Applications)
- Virtual Collaboration Tools
- Intermediate IT skills – fundamentals of software development, databases, and digital marketing
- Advanced IT skills - data analytics, data scientist, cybersecurity, app development programming etc..
- Employability and entrepreneurial skills, customer service/call centre, which will include freelancing skills.

2020/2021 Bursary Intake

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY	No	RACE				GENDER	
		African	White	Indian	Coloured	Male	Female
Bojanala Platinum	45	42	3	0	0	26	19
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	18	16	1	0	1	9	9
Kenneth Kaunda	14	13	1	0	0	3	11
Ngaka Modiri Molema	56	54	2	0	0	33	23
TOTALS	133	125	7	0	1	71	62

Gauteng Office of the Premier is currently developing the Provincial Integrated Youth Development Strategy aligned with the NYP 2030. The OTP, through Tsepo 1 million, continues to create job opportunities for young people. The Tshepo 1Million (T1M) is a network that supports young people in Gauteng on their journeys to learning and earning. T1M offers free resources, support, and access to opportunities through the programme and our network of partners. The initiative created an opportunity for 110,000 economically excluded young people to be set on a pathway to becoming positive contributors to the economy and earning a living. This included an opportunity to build a profile and be part of the volunteering programme.

The Gauteng OTP Tshepo 1M Ambassadors and Community Partnerships teams also supported at a number of departmental and partner events including an EGov Youth Summit, DSRAC Social Cohesion event, a DED Dinokeng Stakeholder Engagement Meeting, a UNDP Tshwane South TVET College Activation, the GDE Education Summit in partnership with the Westonaria Parliamentary Constituency Office, the West Rand Bootstrapping Trade Show in partnership with GEP and the NYDA, the Gauteng Youth Policy Consultations hosted by Mdu Mbada and some select Nthiriso engagements. Similar across all platforms, the T1M audience sits within the targeted youth age range. Female audience makes up 62% of the total audience this will inform consideration of campaigns to attract and better engage our male audience into FY22/23 Q1. T1M content continues to reach young people, not just in the metros, but across Gauteng and South Africa. Young people who attended T1M events in Q4 reported feeling energised and appreciative of T1M and partner support. With nearly 40 000 engagements in Q4, sentiment is generally positive or neutral. The audience trusts T1M for information pertaining to work / entrepreneurial opportunities and appreciates the support they receive through responsive community management.

The programme continues to see the Tshepo 1M audience engaging on its platforms and sharing content they find helpful with their networks. The programme continues to see great feedback from young people when they receive opportunities or complete their Thinti'Million courses and about Kasi Unlimited events - indicative of the impact of our engagement and relevant messaging across platforms. Through over 66 activations (Kasi Pop Ups, Mobilisations, Desk and Kasi Unlimited events) with 28 partners, Tshepo 1M meaningfully engaged over 2847 young people with over 2648 new joiners. The ongoing partnership with District Health delivered vaccine advocacy and Vax Pop Ups at Kasi Unlimited events with over 200 people vaccinated (predominantly youth). Tshepo 1M Ambassadors, as AmaSuperhero for Tshepo 1Million continued to deliver supportive messaging and engagement at Kasi Unlimited events through the Hustle Show - a relatable, entertaining, and informative performance designed to shift behaviour from passive to active.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS (TSHEPO 1MILLION)

DESCRIPTION	Q4 20/21 (Jan - Mar)	Q1 21/22 (Apr - Jun)	Q2 21/22 (Jul - Sep)	Q3 21/22 (Oct - Dec)	Q4 21/22 (Jan - Mar)
Reach	2 281 272	2 639 559	2 951 729	3 468 000	2 704 415
Listeners	737 500 young listeners reached	1 097 500 young listeners reached	1 000 000 young listeners reached	1 000 000 young listeners reached	1 358 200 young listeners reached
Engagement	Over 165 000 engaged	Over 189 500 engaged	Over 208 000 engaged	Over 202 589 engaged	Over 195 533 engaged
Platform Growth	10 765 new followers	11 690 new followers	13 614 new followers	10 725 new followers	8 913 new followers
Total Owned Audience	Over 205 000	Over 216 690	Over 230 304	Over 241 029	Over 249 942

<p>Impact No. of young people meaningfully engaged at activations</p>	<p>Over 1784</p>	<p>Over 3000</p>	<p>Over 2000</p>	<p>Over 1700</p>	<p>Over 2847</p>
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All other provinces will be engaged by NYDA and assist in conceptualising and developing the provincial Integrated Youth Development Strategy.

6.8. Conclusion

The policy development and implementation seem to be taking shape in this coordination model, particularly the coordination in planning at a national level; most key role players of the sector seem to grasp the concept of integrated planning, as a result, hence the progress at national level. It is notable that although all efforts could be jotted on paper, there are still enormous challenges when it comes to the implementation of programmes concerning the establishment of a youth directorate at a provincial and local level. This challenge is based on the lack of legislation that must govern entities to implement youth development independently from the so-called special or transformation programmes. In the long run, the DPSA will be engaged to create structures such as youth directorates for provincial and local governments.

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