

# REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Prepared by the National Planning Commission Secretariat

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Evaluation

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## INTRODUCTION

The National Development Plan (NDP) aims to reduce unemployment and inequality while eliminating poverty. To achieve these objectives, it emphasises inclusive economic growth, enhanced human capabilities, social protection, a capable and developmental state, and strong leadership. Effective implementation relies on coordination among all three spheres of government, local, provincial, and national, as well as the active participation of all sectors of society.



Figure 1: Three spheres of government

Building on the 2024 NDP Indicators and Targets Report, the 2025 report provides an updated assessment of South Africa's progress toward Vision 2030. It incorporates the latest data and emerging trends, reflecting on both achievements and areas requiring accelerated intervention. The report remains a critical tool for stakeholders across government, civil society, and the private sector, facilitating alignment between policy implementation and national development goals.

In 2021, the National Planning Commission (NPC) developed the NDP Implementation Framework to provide clear guidance for achieving established targets. The framework outlined critical priorities and immediate actions required to realise the NDP's goals and strengthened the national planning system accessible to government, social partners, and key sectors. Recognising the need for measurable progress, the NPC also developed the NDP Implementation Tracker, a dashboard that monitors progress against selected indicators aligned with the Plan's objectives, using the most reliable available data to assess performance. The 2025 report examines South Africa's progress across key sectors, including health, education, employment, infrastructure, and social security. It highlights policies that have translated into positive outcomes and identifies gaps that hinder optimal progress. The report also emphasises the importance of integrated planning,

data-driven policy, and adaptive governance to address enduring structural challenges and emerging socio-economic and environmental complexities.

Additionally, the report considers the implications of NDP indicators for South Africa's global commitments, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting areas of alignment between national and international efforts. Adopting a multi-dimensional approach, it integrates quantitative data with qualitative assessments across key themes, including:

- **Sustainable Economic Growth:** It examines economic resilience, employment, poverty reduction, and income inequality, including structural reforms and short-term measures to support recovery from recent economic disruptions.
- **Social Transformation:** It reviews access to quality healthcare, education, housing, and social protection, with attention to marginalised and vulnerable groups, consistent with the principle of leaving no one behind.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** It evaluates climate resilience, the just transition to a low-carbon economy, renewable energy expansion, emissions reductions, and sustainable land and water use within the Just Energy Transition (JET) framework.
- **Governance and Institutional Capacity:** It assesses institutional effectiveness, transparency, citizen engagement, and anti-corruption initiatives essential to public trust and investor confidence.

Central to achieving NDP objectives is the use of reliable data for monitoring and evaluation. The report highlights progress in data collection, partnerships with research institutions, and the adoption of digital tools, which enable targeted interventions and adaptive policymaking.

The 2025 NDP Indicators and Targets Report reflects South Africa's achievements and serves as a call to action, identifying critical gaps and proposing actionable solutions.

# 1. BUILDING A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE

The ability to achieve the NDP objectives primarily depends on the capacity, stability, and professionalism of the public service. To this end, the government is implementing a national framework to professionalise the public service, enhance service delivery, address poor performance among senior staff, and boost retention. The framework highlights meritocracy, competency, impartiality, and accountability, aiming to cultivate a capable, professional, and ethical government. Approved by Cabinet in October 2022, the framework signifies the government's commitment to improving the public service's capability.

However, there are significant concerns about the system's weaknesses. One key weakness is the political-administrative interface, which has been eroding the state's capacity. The establishment of the head of public administration is a significant milestone in stabilising the political-administrative interface and promoting the merit-based appointments of department heads.

The Synthesis Evaluation on State Capacity, conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC, 2022), provided compelling evidence-based insights into the current challenges. The report confirmed the issues identified in the professionalisation framework and once again emphasised the need for consistent leadership to achieve long-term development goals.

The HSRC evaluation findings show that when the interface is unstable, plans remain unfunded, policies are applied inconsistently, and citizens lose trust in the state. When directors-general (DGs) are routinely removed or undermined, when procurement processes are politicised, or when coordination efforts fail due to poor design and mistrust, it is not just departments that suffer, it is the South African people.

A developmental, capable, and ethical state requires skilled managers, especially DGs and heads of departments, with clear lines of authority and accountability to execute their duties in ways that achieve optimal outputs and agreed outcomes. This requires a political and administrative environment free from undue political interference, with effective systems and a consistent, fair application of rules. The mandate of the Public Service Commission is expected to be extended through the Public Service Commission Amendment Bill, in particular to include local government and public entities. This will strengthen its powers to support the government's efforts to professionalise the public service.

Additionally, these efforts are expected to encourage the government to re-examine its institutional arrangements and to address governance gaps that, in some instances, manifest as corruption or misconduct. The recently published White Paper on Local Government, which is intended to update the 1998 version, forms part of these broader government efforts.

It is evident that, while the foundation for a capable and developmental state has been laid, efforts should be sped up. Equally important is tackling corruption in both public and private sectors, as it undermines public trust.

## 1.1 IMPROVING STATE CAPABILITY

### a) State capability and professionalisation

<b>Goal</b>	A state that is capable of playing a developmental and transformative role
<b>Objective</b>	Professionalise the public sector
<b>Indicator</b>	Stabilise the political-administrative interface, create an administrative head of the public service
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP emphasises stabilising the political-administrative interface as a key strategy for building a capable state through the professionalisation of the public sector. Strengthening this interface depends on consistent, merit-based leadership and the institutionalisation of professional practices across senior public service positions.</p> <p>The Public Service Amendment Bill has formalised several of the NDP’s recommendations. It designates the Director-General in the Presidency, as well as the DGs in Premiers’ offices, as the administrative head of the public service, with authority to play an active role in appointing and managing the career progression of departmental heads. The Bill also devolves administrative powers to Heads of Departments, ensuring that administrative responsibility aligns with financial accountability as prescribed by the Public Finance Management Act (Department of Public Service and Administration, 2023).</p> <p>Progress has also been made at the municipal level. The Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill has been enacted, and additional legislative initiatives aimed at professionalising local government have been initiated. Amendments to the Public Service Act, the Public Administration Management Act, and the Public Service Commission Amendment Bill are currently before the National Council of Provinces for concurrence, reflecting ongoing efforts to institutionalise professional leadership across all spheres of government.</p> <p>Despite these legislative advances, leadership instability remains a significant challenge. Findings from the Human Sciences Research Council<sup>1</sup> indicate that frequent changes in directors-general compromise institutional memory and reduce the state’s capacity to implement and oversee policies effectively over the long term. Such instability can lead to policy fragmentation, delays in service delivery, and diminished public confidence in the government’s ability to achieve its development objectives.</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://repository.hsrc.ac.za/handle/20.500.11910/19283>

	<p>Overall, progress towards stabilising the political–administrative interface is measurable but appears incremental. Although legislative frameworks have been established or are being finalised, their effectiveness depends on consistent implementation and oversight at national, provincial, and municipal levels. Without sustained merit-based leadership and institutional continuity, the state risks undermining the delivery of NDP priorities and the broader goal of building a professional and capable public service.</p> <p>To strengthen progress, it is recommended that the implementation of the Framework for the Professionalisation of the Public Sector be expedited, ensuring that all legislative amendments are finalised and operationalised. Mechanisms to stabilise senior leadership, including clear tenure guidelines, succession planning, and merit-based appointments, should be reinforced. Regular monitoring and evaluation of legislative implementation should be conducted to ensure compliance and effectiveness. Knowledge management practices should be institutionalised to retain institutional memory despite leadership turnover, and municipal capacity-building initiatives should continue to be prioritised. Linking senior leadership performance to NDP outcomes will enhance accountability and support long-term state capability, while establishing a rapid-response mechanism for emerging leadership or institutional challenges will further strengthen the public service's resilience.</p>
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## b) Government openness and transparency

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Improving State Capability</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve Public Trust and Confidence in Institutions
<b>Indicator</b>	Percentage confidence in institutions
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The 2024 South African Reconciliation Barometer Survey<sup>2</sup> (Lefko-Everett, 2024), conducted by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, shows shifts in public trust across thirteen institutions. While some maintained similar levels to 2022/23, there is a general decline in confidence in national leadership and key public institutions, reflecting ongoing concerns about mismanagement and accountability.</p> <p>The South African Revenue Service (SARS) remains the most trusted institution at 46%, followed by the legal system at 33%, while local government continues to record the lowest level of trust at 30%. These results highlight persistent challenges in building credibility, particularly at the</p>

<sup>2</sup> [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ijr.org.za/home/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Reimagining-Apartheid-Reparations-2024-1.pdf](https://www.ijr.org.za/home/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Reimagining-Apartheid-Reparations-2024-1.pdf)

municipal level, where service delivery gaps and governance weaknesses remain visible to the public.

Declining trust has significant implications for state effectiveness, as public confidence underpins policy implementation, citizen cooperation, and institutional legitimacy. Addressing this deficit will require targeted efforts to improve transparency, strengthen accountability mechanisms, enhance citizen engagement, and ensure reliable service delivery, especially within local government.

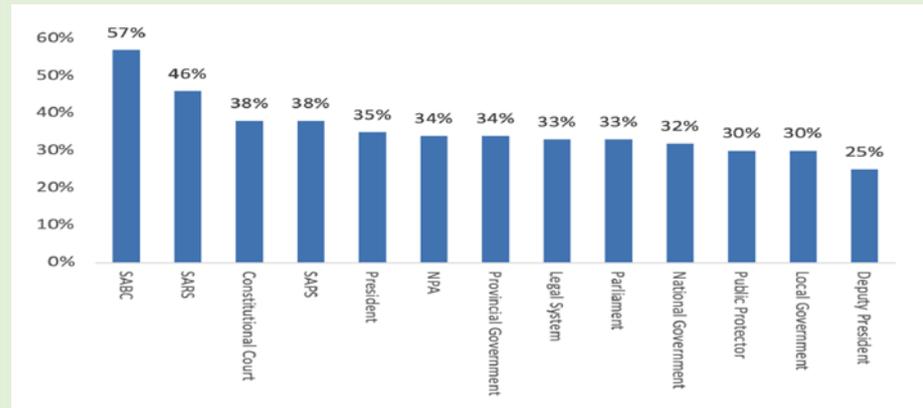


Figure 2: Trust in public institutions

Source: South African Reconciliation Barometer Survey(2024).

<b>Goal</b>	<b>A state that is capable of playing a developmental and transformative role</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve Public Trust and Confidence in Institutions
<b>Indicator</b>	Percentage trust for government, business, NGOs, and media
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The (Edelman Trust Institute, 2025)<sup>3</sup> shows a gradual recovery in institutional trust in South Africa, particularly when compared to the low levels recorded between 2017 and 2018. Businesses and NGOs remain the most trusted institutions, with business trust increasing from 53% in 2018 to 68% in 2025, and NGO trust rising from 50% to 63% over the same period. Government trust, which dropped to 14% in 2018, has since improved to 36% in 2025, its highest level in several years, although it still trails business and civil society. Media trust has remained relatively stable, fluctuating between 35% and 46%, and sits at 46% in 2025.</p> <p>Overall, the data reflect a slow but consistent recovery in public confidence across all institutions. However, the gap between the government and the more trusted sectors, particularly business and NGOs, highlights ongoing concerns about governance, performance, and accountability. These trends signal that while progress is evident, sustained efforts are still required to</p>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.edelman.com/africa/news-awards/2025-trust-south-africa-government>

strengthen institutional credibility and align public expectations with institutional performance.

Table 1: Trust percentages for Government, Business, NGOs and Media

Year	Government	Business	NGOs	Media
2017	15	-	-	39
2018	14	53	50	35
2019	21	58	60	40
2021	-	61	-	-
2023	22	62	-	46
2025	36	68	63	46

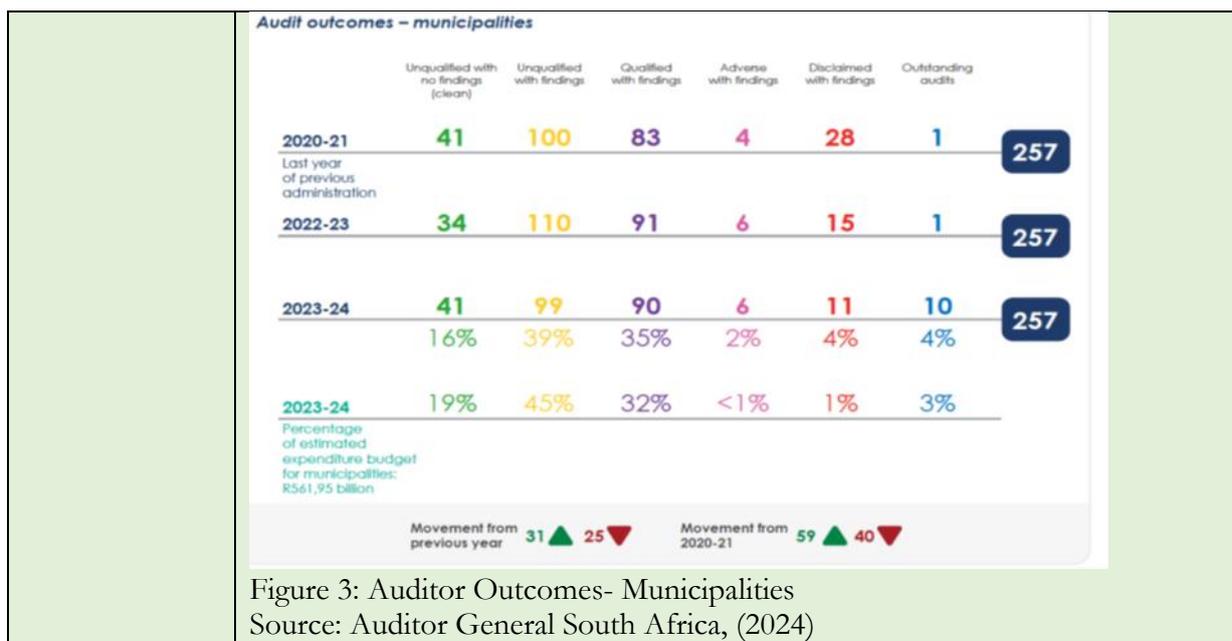
Source: Edelman Trust Barometer, 2025

Goal	Improving State Capability
Objective	Improve Public Trust and Confidence in the President
Indicator:	Percentage confidence in the President
Trend Analysis	<p>Survey findings, particularly from the Afrobarometer<sup>4</sup>, show consistent demographic differences in public confidence in the President. In 2021, about 38% of respondents reported trusting the President “somewhat” or “a lot.” Trust levels vary significantly across age groups, with only 33% of respondents aged 18–25 expressing confidence compared to 51% of those aged 56 and older. Gender differences are also evident, with approximately 41% of men reporting trust in the President compared to 35% of women (Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, 2022).</p> <p>Educational attainment and socio-economic status further shape trust patterns. Respondents with less formal education and those experiencing higher levels of lived poverty tend to report slightly higher levels of trust, while those who are more educated or less impoverished show comparatively lower levels of confidence. Urban–rural differences are less pronounced, although rural respondents tend to express marginally higher trust in some surveys.</p> <p>Overall, the data indicate that younger people, women, more educated respondents, and individuals facing fewer poverty-related hardships consistently express lower trust in the Presidency, while older, less educated, and more socio-economically disadvantaged groups show higher levels of confidence. These trends highlight persistent trust disparities that may affect citizen engagement, political legitimacy, and targeted communication efforts.</p>

<sup>4</sup> [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Summary-of-results-South-Africa-Afrobarometer-Round-9-7mar24.pdf?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Summary-of-results-South-Africa-Afrobarometer-Round-9-7mar24.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improvements in Audit Outcomes</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of Qualified Audits
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Parliamentary interim reports for 2024/25 show mixed audit outcomes across national and provincial departments. Based on publicly available information from provincial government websites, selected provinces report varying performance. In the Western Cape, eight of twelve departments received unqualified audit reports, while two achieved clean audits (Western Cape Provincial Treasury, 2025). In Gauteng, eight departments received clean audits, the Department of Education received an unqualified opinion, and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture received a qualified audit opinion. In Limpopo, the Department of Education received an unqualified audit opinion after many years of qualified opinions, indicating progress in addressing previous audit concerns (Republic of South Africa, 2025). Comprehensive audit outcomes for all provinces were not yet publicly available at the time of reporting.</p> <p>At the municipal level, the Auditor-General’s report (Auditor-General South Africa, 2024)<sup>5</sup> indicates that only 90 municipalities (35%) achieved clean audits, while 99 municipalities (39%) received unqualified audits with findings in the most recent audit cycle. These results underscore persistent challenges in local government, which continues to struggle with poor performance, non-compliance with legislation, mismanagement of funds, and inadequate service delivery.</p> <p>Overall, 2023/24 audit outcomes show continued improvement for the third consecutive year. The percentage of qualified audits has declined for national and provincial governments and public entities compared to 2022/23. At the municipal level, available data up to 2022/23 shows a steady improvement since 2018/19, with qualified audits decreasing from 55.5% to 34.4%. While these trends indicate progress in financial accountability and governance, they also highlight the need for sustained efforts to strengthen institutional capacity, compliance, and oversight, particularly at the local government level.</p>

<sup>5</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/2023-24/MFMA%20Report%202023-24%20interactive%20(updated%20August%202025).pdf?ver=slan798UjMlesR7ldmMsyA%3D%3D



### c) Inclusive governance

Goal	Transformation in the Legislative Sectors																																																	
Objective	Not specified																																																	
Indicator:	Percentage of gender representation in legislative bodies																																																	
Trend Analysis	<p>The Parliamentary Monitoring Group’s overview of the evolving gender dynamics in the Seventh Parliament indicates that in February 2025, women made up 36% of the National Assembly, and by July 2025, that number had increased to 44.6%, a significant increase over five months. However, the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) shows a different picture, with women’s representation declining from 55.65% in February 2025 to 39.6% in July 2025 (Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2025).</p> <p>Table 2: Women in Parliament: Representation in Membership</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month 2025</th> <th>NA Female MPs</th> <th>NA Male MPs</th> <th>%Female (NA)</th> <th>NCOP Female MPs</th> <th>NCOP Male MPs</th> <th>%Female (NCOP)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Feb</td> <td>144</td> <td>256</td> <td>36,0%</td> <td>30</td> <td>24</td> <td>55,6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar</td> <td>174</td> <td>226</td> <td>43,5%</td> <td>24</td> <td>30</td> <td>44,4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr</td> <td>174</td> <td>226</td> <td>43,5%</td> <td>24</td> <td>30</td> <td>44,4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>173</td> <td>225</td> <td>43,3%</td> <td>24</td> <td>30</td> <td>44,4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>176</td> <td>222</td> <td>44,2%</td> <td>22</td> <td>30</td> <td>42,3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul</td> <td>178</td> <td>221</td> <td>44,6%</td> <td>21</td> <td>32</td> <td>39,6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG), Women in Parliament 2025 Report<sup>6</sup></p>	Month 2025	NA Female MPs	NA Male MPs	%Female (NA)	NCOP Female MPs	NCOP Male MPs	%Female (NCOP)	Feb	144	256	36,0%	30	24	55,6%	Mar	174	226	43,5%	24	30	44,4%	Apr	174	226	43,5%	24	30	44,4%	May	173	225	43,3%	24	30	44,4%	June	176	222	44,2%	22	30	42,3%	Jul	178	221	44,6%	21	32	39,6%
Month 2025	NA Female MPs	NA Male MPs	%Female (NA)	NCOP Female MPs	NCOP Male MPs	%Female (NCOP)																																												
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<sup>6</sup> <https://pmg.org.za/blog/Women%20in%20Parliament%202025%20Report>

## 1.2 HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND THE NATIONAL SPACE ECONOMY

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Transforming Human Settlement and the National Space Economy</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve Public Service Delivery
<b>Indicator</b>	Access to basic services: Household access to piped water
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Between 2002 and 2023, the share of households with access to an improved water source increased from 84.4% to 87.0%, a gain of 2.6 percentage points. The greatest improvements were recorded in the Eastern Cape (+11.1 percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (+6.1 percentage points), indicating the successful scaling up of infrastructure and service delivery in historically underserved areas.</p> <p>However, progress was uneven. Five provinces experienced declines over the same period, with the sharpest drops seen in Limpopo (-9.6 percentage points), Mpumalanga (-3.9 percentage points), and the Northern Cape (-2.4 percentage points). These declines point to deteriorating infrastructure reliability, maintenance failures, and growing municipal service challenges.</p> <p>Although the national increase from 2004 to 2023 was only 0.5 percentage points, it translates to six million additional households receiving piped water, highlighting the scale of South Africa’s demographic pressure and the continued expansion of basic service provision despite infrastructure strain.</p> <p>Overall, the trend reflects gradual national improvement but widening provincial disparities and increasing system fragility in several regions.</p>

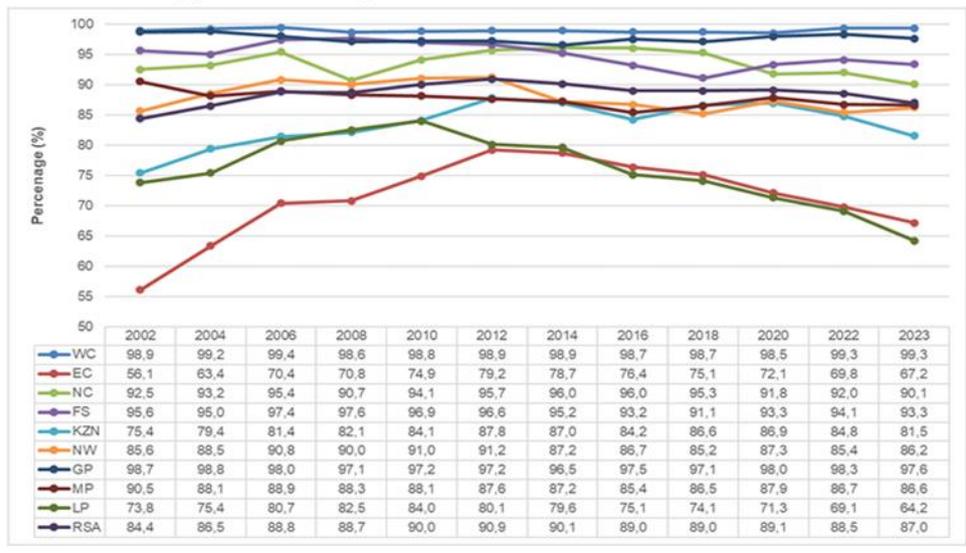


Figure 4: Percentage of distribution of households with access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site, for selected years, by province (2022-2023)

Source: General Household Survey, 2023 (Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), 2023a)

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Transforming Human Settlement and the National Space Economy</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Access to Electricity for All
<b>Indicator</b>	90% Access to Grid Electricity (Target by 2030)
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Household access to mains electricity increased substantially from 76.7% in 2002 to 89.8% in 2023, indicating continued progress toward the 2030 target of universal access. This expansion has contributed to a notable decline in the use of traditional and transitional energy sources, with wood dropping from 20.0% to 7.8% and paraffin from 16.1% to 2.5% over the same period.</p> <p>Despite this improvement, energy poverty remains uneven across provinces. A third of households in Limpopo (31.3%) and 17.8% in Mpumalanga still rely on wood for cooking, reflecting persistently limited access to reliable grid supply and affordability constraints. Nationally, 23.0% of households did not use mains electricity for cooking in 2023, instead opting for wood, LPG, gas, paraffin, or solar-based alternatives. An additional 4.5% relied on non-grid electricity sources such as generators.</p> <p>The continued use of non-electric fuels, including LPG and biomass, is also associated with frequent grid outages, highlighting the dependence of household energy choices not only on access, but also on the reliability and affordability of supply.</p>

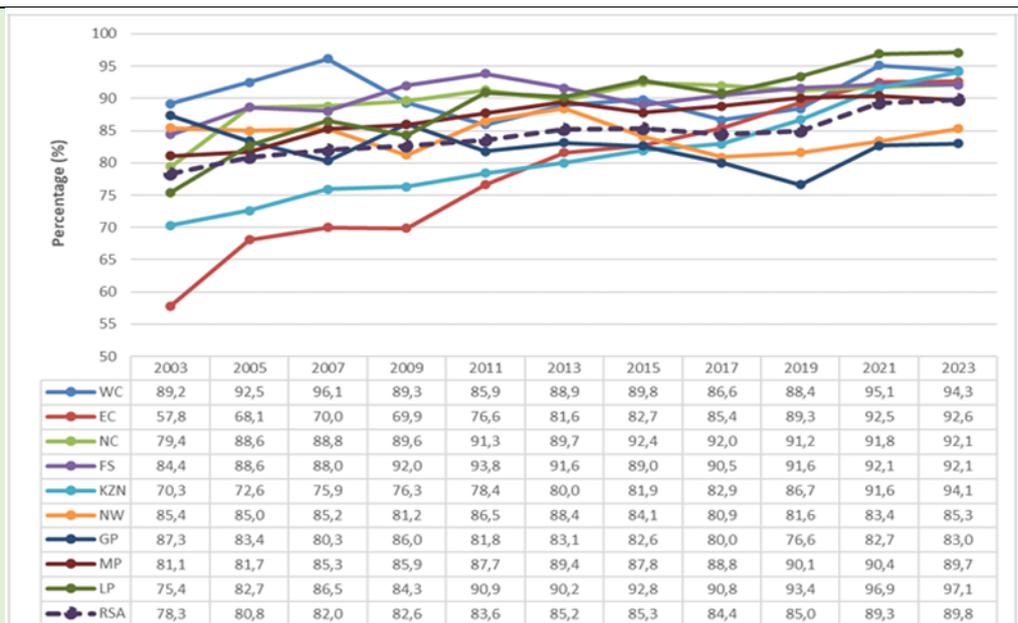


Figure 5: Percentage distribution of households connected to the main electricity supply by province for selected years between 2002 and 2023  
Source: General Household Survey, 2023

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Transforming Human Settlement and the National Space Economy</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Access to Sanitation
<b>Indicator</b>	Access to Sanitation: Households
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The share of households with access to improved sanitation increased significantly from 61.7% in 2002 to 83.3% in 2023, reflecting sustained progress in expanding basic infrastructure. The largest improvements were recorded in the Eastern Cape, where access rose by 54.7 percentage points to 88.1%, and in Limpopo, which improved by 35.0 percentage points to 61.9%. The expansion of ventilated improved pit latrines played a critical role in driving these gains, alongside a rise in flush toilet usage to 66.0% and ventilated pit toilets to 17.3%.</p> <p>Provincial advances were particularly notable in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal, indicating accelerated investment and service rollout in historically under-served areas. Conversely, the proportion of pit latrines without ventilation declined by 15.5 percentage points to 10% in 2023, illustrating a gradual shift toward safer, more hygienic sanitation solutions. Overall, the improvements signal meaningful progress toward improved public health outcomes and enhanced living conditions across the country.</p>

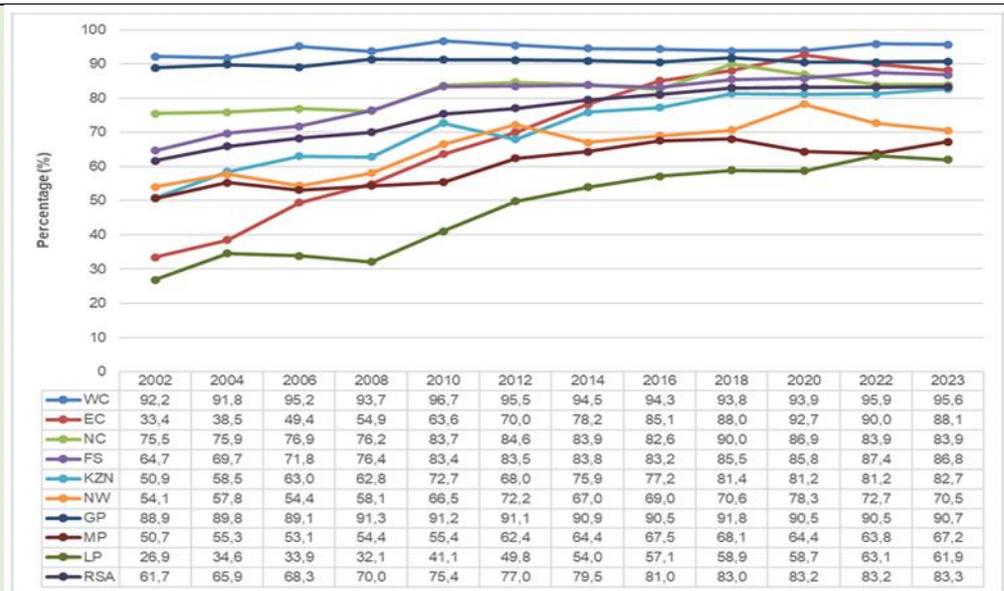
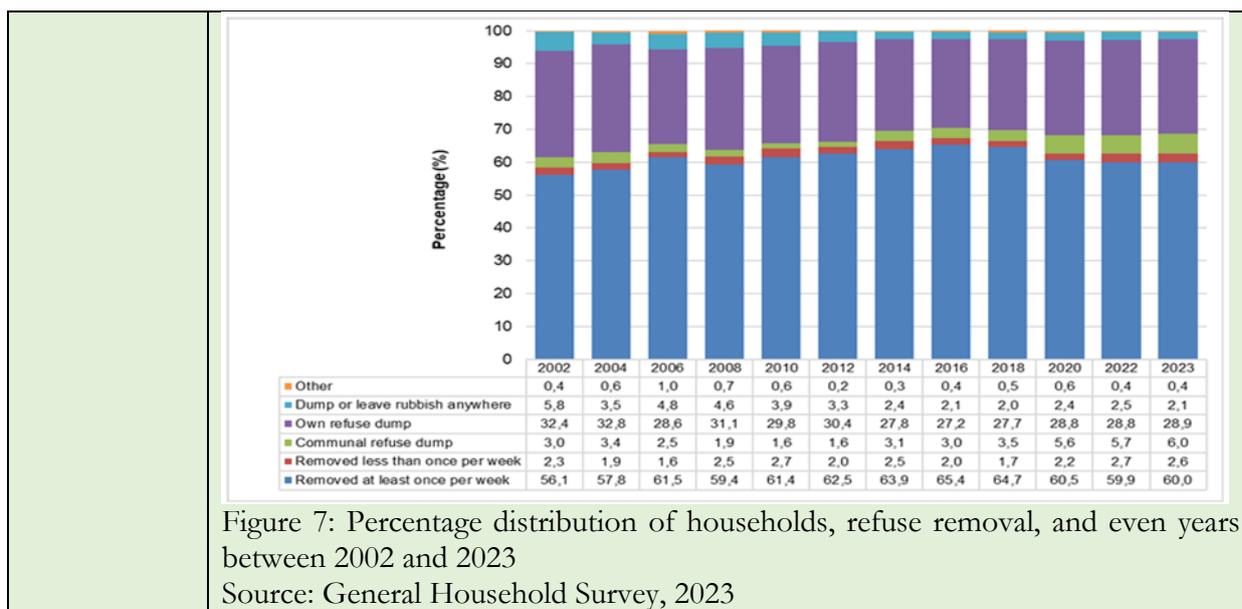


Figure 6: Percentage distribution of households that have access to improved sanitation, for selected years, by province, 2002-2023

Source: General Household Survey, 2023

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Transforming Human Settlement and the National Space Economy</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Access to refuse removal
<b>Indicator</b>	Access to refuse removal
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Access to household refuse removal has fluctuated over time, declining from 66.4% in 2018 to 62.6% in 2023, although this remains above the 58.4% recorded in 2002. Service access continues to reflect significant spatial inequality, with 84.4% of urban households receiving refuse removal compared to only 12.5% in rural areas, indicating persistent under-provision in non-urban municipalities.</p> <p>Despite growing concern over environmental sustainability, recycling participation remains extremely low. More than 92.2% of metropolitan households did not separate waste for recycling, and only 5.1% actively recycled, suggesting that waste management systems, public awareness, and municipal capacity remain insufficient to support large-scale recycling adoption. These trends highlight ongoing challenges in providing equitable, environmentally sustainable waste management services across the country.</p>



### 1.3 JUSTICE, CRIME PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Public Trust in The Court of Law</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator</b>	% Trust in court Laws
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	According to the Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey 2024/25, <sup>7</sup> conducted by Stats SA, public trust in the courts remains low. Only about 21.3% of households indicated that they believe the courts are not corrupt, and approximately 22.7% reported that courts achieve a high conviction rate. Less than half (44.8%) of households were satisfied with how courts deal with perpetrators of crime. These perception indicators point to a persistent trust deficit in the justice system, despite administrative conviction rates remaining relatively high.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Justice, Crime Prevention and Building Safer Communities.</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, school, and work.
<b>Indicator</b>	Percentage of serious crimes
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	According to the South African Police Service's (SAPS) 2024 Annual Crime Report, <sup>8</sup> over 1.8 million counts of serious and violent crimes were recorded in South Africa during the 2023/24 financial year. These counts comprise community-reported serious crimes, which are classified into 17 crime

<sup>7</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0340/P0340%20-%20Governance%2C%20Public%20Safety%20and%20Justice%20Release%202024\_25%20Final\_30102025.pdf?utm\_source=chatgpt.com

<sup>8</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://nationalgovernment.co.za/departament\_annual/513/2024-departament-of-police-(saps)-annual-report.pdf

categories, as well as crimes detected as a result of police action. While an increase in police-detected crimes may reflect improved law-enforcement activity, trends in community-reported crimes are more indicative of changes in the underlying incidence of crime and are therefore expected to decline over time.

In 2023/24, community-reported serious crimes across the 17 crime categories increased by 0.9%, equivalent to 14,360 additional counts compared to the previous year. This trend indicates the continued prevalence of serious and violent crime and suggests persistent challenges for crime-prevention and policing efforts, particularly in high-risk areas.



Figure 7: Community-reported serious crime  
Source: SAPS 2023/24 Annual Crime Report

Goal	Reduce contact crime
Objective	In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, school, and work.
Indicator	Percentage of contact crimes
Trend Analysis	<p><b>Definition:</b> Contact crimes are offences involving violence or the threat of violence directed at a person. They include murder and attempted murder, sexual offences (rape, attempted sexual offences, and sexual assault), assaults (common assault and assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm), and robbery, including common robbery and robbery with aggravating circumstances.</p> <p><b>Trend Analysis:</b> According to the SAPS 2023/24 Annual Crime Report,<sup>9</sup> a total of 678,701 contact crime counts were recorded in 2023/24, representing a 3.8% increase (24,648 additional counts) compared to 2022/23. Over the past decade, contact crimes have risen by 10.0% (61,728 counts), from 616,973 in 2014/15 to 678,701 in 2023/24. Decreases occurred in three reporting periods: 2016/17 (-2.4%, 14,902 fewer counts), 2017/18 (-1.1%, 6,955 fewer counts),</p>

<sup>9</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://nationalgovernment.co.za/departments/department\_of\_police-(saps)-annual-report.pdf

and 2020/21 (-13.9%, 86,065 fewer counts). The 2020/21 decline is considered an anomaly due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, which disrupted normal societal movement patterns and affected crime dynamics.

These trends indicate that contact crimes remain a persistent challenge, highlighting the need for targeted interventions, enhanced policing, and community-based crime-prevention strategies.



Figure 8: Trends of Contact Crimes: 2014/15 – 2023/24

Source: SAPS 2023/24. Crime Annual Report

Objective	Building Safer Communities
Indicator	Reduction in the levels of property-related crimes
Trend Analysis	<p>Incidents of malicious property damage decreased by 2.3%, or 2,652 counts, in 2023/24 compared to the previous reporting period. While slight increases were recorded in 2018/19, 2021/22, and 2022/23, the overall trend over the past decade shows a decline from 120,662 incidents in 2014/15 to 112,466 incidents in 2023/24, representing a 6.8% reduction (8,196 fewer incidents).</p> <p>Malicious property damage is often linked to public unrest, protests, labour-related strikes, interpersonal disputes, or acts of retaliation. These patterns highlight the need for targeted interventions to address social tensions and strengthen public order mechanisms.</p>



Figure 9: Malicious damage to property  
Source: SAPS 2023. Annual Crime Report

Goal	Building Safer Communities
Objective	Not specified
Indicator	Conviction rate
Trend Analysis	<p>In 2024/25, conviction rates remained strong across all court levels, reflecting continued prosecutorial effectiveness.</p> <p>The conviction rate in the High Courts increased to 92% (733 convictions out of 794 cases finalised), up from 91% in 2023/24. This improvement indicates strengthened performance in complex and serious matters adjudicated at the highest court level.</p> <p>In the Regional Courts, the conviction rate improved to 83% (18 094 convictions out of 21 718 cases finalised), compared to 81.8% in the previous year. Regional Courts continue to process a significant volume of serious criminal matters, and the upward trend suggests improved case preparation and trial management.</p> <p>The District Courts recorded a conviction rate of 96% (143 281 convictions out of 149 839 cases finalised), an increase from 95.1% in 2023/24. District Courts remain the primary site of case throughput within the criminal justice system, and the consistently high conviction rate indicates sustained prosecutorial efficiency at this level.</p> <p>The clearance rate on decision-ready dockets increased to 93.8%, with 929 265 dockets dealt with, compared to 92.8% in the previous reporting period. This improvement reflects strengthened case management processes and contributes to reducing backlogs within the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Overall, the 2024/25 performance reflects stable and incremental improvements in conviction and clearance rates across court levels, supporting NDP objectives</p>

related to strengthening the rule of law, improving criminal justice system efficiency, and enhancing public confidence in the justice system.

Table 3: Conviction rates and decision dockets, 2020/2021-2024/2025

Strategic objective	2020/21 actual performance	2021/22 actual performance	2022/23 actual performance	2023/24 actual performance	2024/25 actual performance
Conviction rate in High Courts	93.8% 542/578	90.9% 648/713	89.3% 706/791	91% 691/759	<b>92%</b> <b>(733/794)</b>
Conviction rate in Regional Courts	82.2% 21 246/25 744	80.6% 16 433/20 385	82.6% 17 205/20 835	81.8% 17 328/21 180	<b>83%</b> <b>(18 094/21 718)</b>
Conviction rate in District Courts	95.9% 116 230/121 213	93.9% 124 152/132 222	94.5% 140 178/148 415	95.1% 152 746/160 623	<b>96%</b> <b>(143 281/149 839)</b>
Clearance rate on decision dockets received	92.7% = 858 155 dealt with	93.4% = 843 911 dealt with	91.8% = 854 802 dealt with	92.8% = 879 240 dealt with	<b>93.8% =</b> <b>929 265</b> <b>dealt with</b>

Source: NPA 2025 Annual Report.<sup>10</sup>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improved investor confidence</b>										
<b>Objective:</b>	Improvement in the Corruption Perception Index rating										
<b>Indicator:</b>	Improved Transparency International Ranking. Target - Improvement in Corruption Perception Index ranking by 5 (to 68/100)										
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>South Africa’s performance on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) has shown a gradual decline over the past decade. The CPI score fell from 43 in 2012 to 41 in 2024, placing the country 82<sup>nd</sup> out of 180 nations. While South Africa briefly improved its ranking from 70th in 2019 to 69th in 2020, continued declines in its score reflect persistent challenges in curbing public-sector corruption.</p> <p>The CPI highlights corruption as a major driver of democratic erosion, institutional instability, and weakened public trust. The trend indicates that while anti-corruption frameworks exist, their impact remains limited, and greater enforcement and systemic reform are required to reverse the downward trajectory (Transparency International, 2024).</p> <p>Table 4: Score changes 2012 - 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>CPI</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>43</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	CPI	2012	43	2014	44	2016	45	2018	43
Year	CPI										
2012	43										
2014	44										
2016	45										
2018	43										

<sup>10</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.npa.gov.za/sites/default/files/uploads/NPA%202025%20Annual%20Report\_2025\_v14b\_0.pdf

	2020	44	
	2022	43	
	2024	41	
Source: Corruption Perception Index, 2024 <sup>11</sup>			

## 1.4 SOCIAL COHESION AND NATION BUILDING

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Promoting Social Cohesion</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Transforming Society and Uniting the Country
<b>Indicators:</b>	Percentage of the population aware of the Constitution and its values Percentage adherence to the rule of law and fostering constitutional values State of social cohesion
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The South Africa Social Cohesion Index (Dragolov and Boehnke, 2024)<sup>12</sup> shows that societal cohesion has remained moderate but unstable in recent years. The index declined slowly from 53.5 in 2021 to 51.7 in 2023, reflecting reduced social trust and increased pressure on community stability. However, the downward trend reversed in 2024, with the index improving to 53.3, nearly recovering previous losses.</p> <p>The latest results indicate that while social cohesion remains fragile, recent improvements to strengthen inclusiveness, trust in institutions, and community well-being are beginning to gain traction. Continued progress will depend on sustained implementation of policies addressing inequality, social divisions, and public confidence in the state.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>An inclusive society</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	In 2030, South Africans will be more conscious of the things they have in common than their differences. The nation will be more accepting of people's multiple identities.
<b>Indicator:</b>	State of social cohesion as measured by workforce inclusion, trusting social relationships and unity in the country
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	Recent trends indicate that key dimensions of social cohesion in the South African workforce, including workforce inclusion, social relationships, and unity, have weakened. High unemployment, particularly among youth, remains a major barrier to inclusion and reinforces social divisions. Persistent inequality continues to undermine upward mobility and a sense of shared purpose, highlighting structural challenges to cohesion.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024/index/zaf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CWd76QlvOfji7OXPaE4WK3XpoYe663kb/view>

Trust in institutions has declined, with the 2024 South African Social Cohesion Index showing a drop from 50.1 to 47.9 points, signalling erosion of the social contract. Inter-group trust between different racial communities remains low, although trust within neighbourhoods shows modest improvement. These patterns suggest that while some progress exists at the local level, broader societal cohesion remains fragile and requires targeted interventions to strengthen inclusion, rebuild trust, and promote unity.



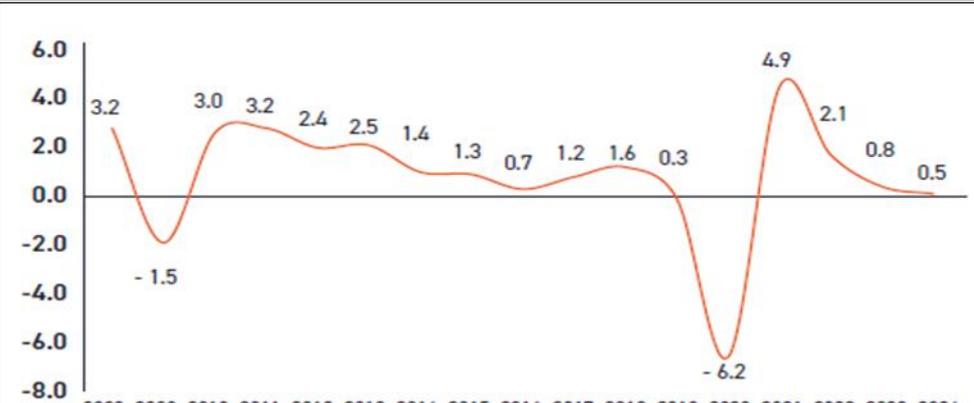
## 2. BUILDING A CAPABLE ECONOMY

The NDP’s overarching goal is to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality and unemployment by 2030. Achieving this requires sustaining economic growth of 5.4% per year, creating around 11 million new jobs, reducing unemployment from 27% in 2011 to 6% by 2030, and increasing total employment from 13 million to 24 million.

Key challenges include improving education and health outcomes, strengthening infrastructure, maintaining a robust social safety net, building a capable state, and reducing corruption. Although poverty rates improved in the period before the NDP’s adoption in 2011, progress stalled between 2011 and 2015, with persistent issues in land redistribution, low-income housing, pension coverage, and household indebtedness.

The 2024 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement outlined a path to address structural weaknesses and support the NDP’s economic targets. Strong implementation of reforms is essential to shift South Africa’s economic trajectory, build sustainable prosperity, and reduce poverty and inequality.

### 2.1 ECONOMY, POVERTY AND EMPLOYMENT

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Increasing GDP Growth</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	GDP growth rate and per capita GDP growth
<b>Target:</b>	5.0% growth by 2030 and an average per capita GDP of R110 000
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	 <p>Figure 10: GDP growth rate (Year-on-year) Source: Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (2024)<sup>13</sup></p>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.dpme.gov.za/publications/Reports and Other Information Products/Development Indicators 2024 Report.pdf>

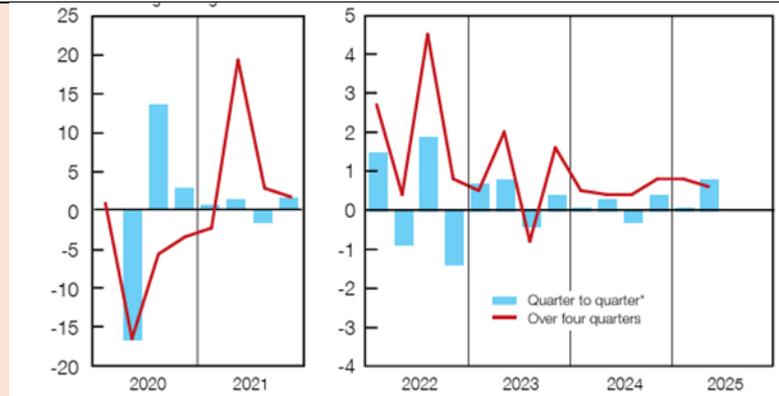


Figure 11: Real GDP, Percentage Change

Seasonally Adjusted, Source (Stats SA and South African Reserve Bank (SARB))

Economic activity in South Africa expanded at a faster pace in the second quarter of 2025, with real gross domestic product (GDP) growth accelerating to 0.8%, up from a marginal 0.1% in the first quarter (SARB, 2025a). This broad-based expansion was primarily driven by the manufacturing, mining, and trade sectors, which benefited from a significant easing of power constraints that had limited load-shedding during the period. On the demand side, growth was supported by a fifth consecutive quarterly rise in household consumption and increased government spending.

However, this positive momentum was held back by underperformance in other sectors. Specifically, agriculture, construction, and transport failed to contribute, preventing a stronger overall expansion. The growth remains insufficient when compared to the country's long-term goals. Although real GDP was 0.6% higher than a year earlier, the average growth for the past decade remains far below the NDP 2030 target of 5.4%, highlighting the persistent structural and infrastructure challenges that continue to constrain the South African economy. The GDP growth rate for 2025 is projected at 4.16%, a notable improvement over the previous year but still below the NDP's target.

Although South Africa remains Africa's largest economy, medium-term forecasts indicate that the country will grow below the global average. The current strategy to turn around the economy includes a focus on maintaining macroeconomic stability, implementing structural reforms to unlock constraints

to boost industrialisation, diversification, competitiveness, and infrastructure development, along with greater involvement of the private sector (Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, 2025).

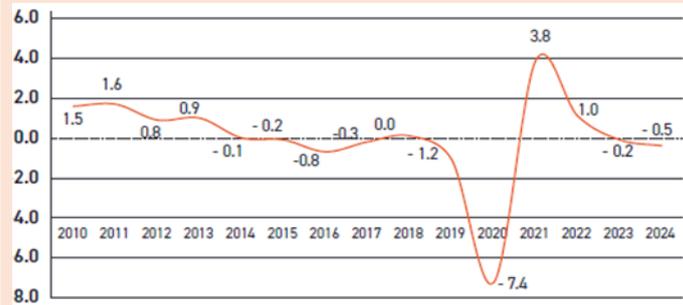


Figure 12: Real GDP Per Capita

Source: Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation, (2024)

South Africa's current economic standing highlights a significant divergence from the NDP's 2030 targets. With a 2024 GDP of R4,658,364 million and an estimated population of 62.0 million, the current GDP per capita stands at approximately R75,135. This places the economy substantially behind the NDP's target of R110,000 per capita by 2030. To bridge the R34,865 gap within the remaining six-year timeframe, South Africa would need to achieve a compound annual growth rate of approximately 6.6% in GDP per capita from 2025 to 2030. This required growth rate presents a fundamental strategic dilemma, as it exceeds the NDP's annual growth target of 5.0%. This indicates that achieving the target per capita income requires sustained economic performance well beyond the plan's ambitious growth goals.

Recent economic performance further underscores this challenge, revealing a pattern of stagnation that contradicts the NDP's growth aspirations. The 0.36% GDP growth recorded from 2023 to 2024, when considered alongside population growth of approximately 1.0%, translates to an estimated 0.6% contraction in GDP per capita. This near-term deterioration forms part of a broader, more concerning trend.

A longer-term perspective from 2017 to 2024 shows total GDP growth at a compound annual rate of merely 0.5%. After adjusting for population growth, this period has witnessed a consistent decline in per capita GDP. This seven-

	<p>year trajectory demonstrates that the economy is not merely growing at an insufficient pace to meet the NDP's 5.0% target but is actually moving in the opposite direction. The foundational requirement of robust annual per capita growth has proven elusive, and the economy has instead experienced persistent erosion in per capita output. This trend highlights the urgent need for policy reforms to promote economic growth that is both inclusive and improves income levels in South Africa.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Reducing Unemployment</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To create decent jobs
<b>Indicators:</b>	Unemployment rate (Official), Number employed, Employment growth, Gap between target and actual employment, Average annual employment growth, Dependency ratio, Employment ratio, Labour force participation rate
<b>Target:</b>	Official unemployment rate to decline to 6%, the number of employed citizens to increase to 24.7 million, employment growth from 2010 to 10.9 million, average annual growth to rise to 517 000, a decline to 2.5 on the employment ratio and a 61.0% increase in labour force participation.
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>According to Stats SA, the country's labour market showed mixed signals in the second quarter of 2025. While there was modest job creation, it proved insufficient to curb the rising unemployment rate. Total employment in South Africa increased by 19,000, reaching 16.8 million in Q2 2025, up from 16.7 million in the previous quarter. The formal sector mainly drove this growth, but overall employment growth remains inadequate to reduce the persistently high unemployment rate, which has remained above 25% since 2014. This underperformance is largely due to slow economic growth, skills mismatches, and limited labour market absorption capacity.</p> <p>The official unemployment rate rose to 33.2% in Q2 2025, up from 32.9% in the previous quarter. This increase was driven by a rise of 140,000 unemployed individuals, bringing the total to 8.4 million. This marks a significant departure from the NDP's target of a 6% unemployment rate, highlighting a persistent gap. The expanded unemployment rate (which includes discouraged work-seekers) remained at 42.1% in 2024, reflecting the broader scale of labour market</p>

exclusion. Sectoral performance was volatile in Q2 2025. The largest job gains were recorded in trade (+88,000), private households (+28,000), and construction (+20,000). However, there were losses in community and social services (-42,000), agriculture (-24,000), and finance (-24,000). Despite these gains, overall job creation remains insufficient to meet the NDP’s target of 24.7 million employed citizens, leaving a deficit of nearly 8 million jobs.

Youth unemployment remains a critical issue. As of 2025, approximately 62.2% of youth aged 15–24 remain unemployed, a slight improvement from the previous year. Additionally, the number of youths not in employment, education, or training (NEET) stood at 3.55 million in 2024, up from 3.48 million in 2023. This increase highlights the ongoing challenges of integrating young people into the formal labour market, underscoring the urgent need for more targeted interventions to support youth employment.

In terms of annual employment growth, the NDP target of 517,000 new jobs per year has not been met. The economy saw a net increase of only 19,000 jobs in Q2 2025, a stark contrast to the NDP’s target. Data from Q3 2024 showed a loss of 133,000 jobs in the formal sector, further underscoring that overall employment growth remains well short of the required targets. A concerning increase in long-term unemployment has accompanied the rise in the official unemployment rate. Between Q1 2015 and Q1 2025, the number of unemployed youth in South Africa increased from 5.5 million to 8.2 million. More troubling is the proportion of those in long-term unemployment, which rose from 63.6% to 76.5% over the same period, underscoring the deepening nature of the crisis.

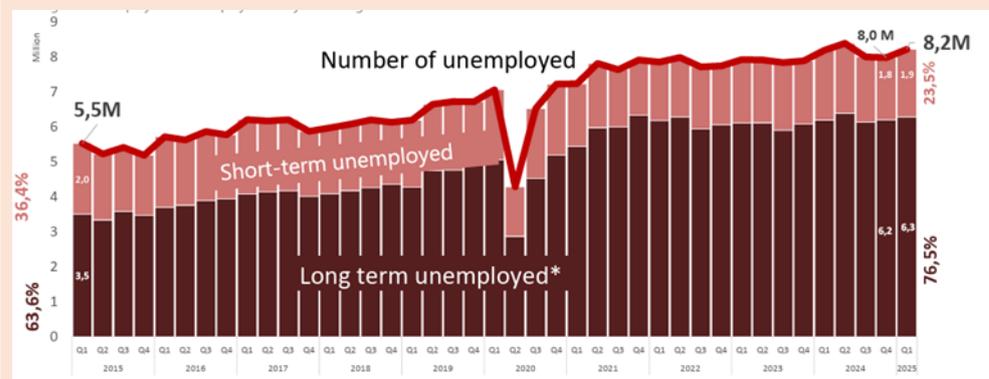


Figure 13: Number of unemployed youth (15-34 years)

Source: Statistics South Africa (2025). Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS)<sup>14</sup>.

The employment-to-population ratio in Q2 2025 stood at 40.2%, far below the NDP target of 2.5, underscoring the challenge of improving employment relative to the working-age population. However, on a slightly more positive note, the labour force participation rate reached 60.2% in Q2 2025, just 0.8 percentage points below the NDP's target of 61.0%. While this shows slight progress, the participation rate has been volatile, having peaked at 60.7% in early 2024 before dropping slightly in Q2 2025.

The persistent unemployment crisis is rooted in profound structural economic challenges. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), South Africa's labour market outcomes are among the weakest within OECD and G20 countries. These challenges are driven by sluggish economic growth, restrictive regulations, and barriers that prevent the effective matching of workers with available jobs. A notable feature of this crisis is the low rate of informal sector employment compared to other emerging economies. As a result, those excluded from formal jobs are more likely to remain unemployed than to find opportunities in the informal sector, highlighting a high level of labour market exclusion. Moreover, spatial inequalities persist, with provincial unemployment rates varying significantly.

The Western Cape has the lowest unemployment rate, while North West province has the highest at 40.4%. There is also a significant gender gap, with the unemployment rate for women standing at 35.5%, consistently higher than that of men at 30.7%.

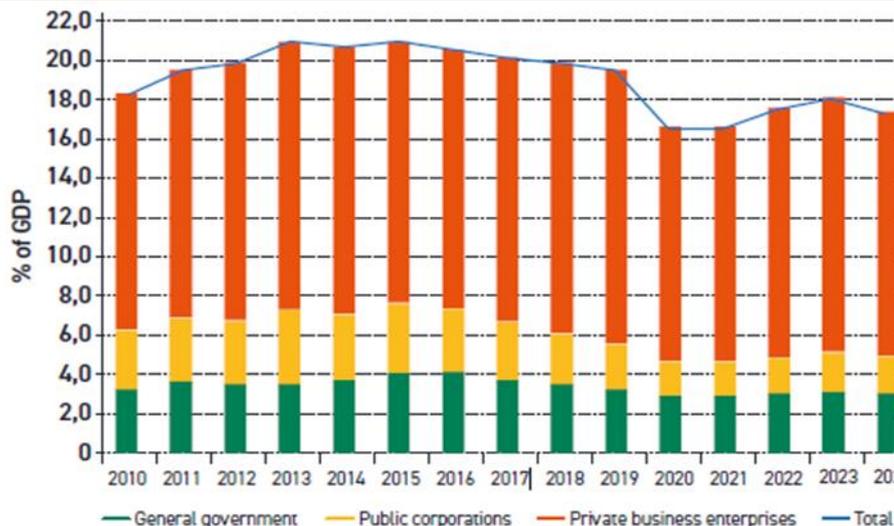
Given these persistent challenges, an ongoing review of public employment programmes is critical to enhance their effectiveness. Programs such as the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Presidential Employment Stimulus need optimisation to address the increasing demand for work opportunities. In parallel, greater emphasis should be placed on strengthening policies that support

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/Presentation%20QLFS%20Q2%202025.pdf>

	private-sector job creation and on interventions to preserve existing jobs. Supporting private sector growth is key to providing more sustainable, long-term employment opportunities and reducing reliance on government-led employment schemes.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Increasing Investment by Government and the Private Sector</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicators:</b>	Gross fixed capital formation (Percentage of GDP), Private sector investment (Percentage of GDP), Public sector investment (Percentage of GDP)
<b>Target:</b>	Gross fixed capital formation to reach 30% by 2030, with 20% and 10% increase in private sector investment and public sector investment as a percentage of GDP, respectively.

<b>Trend Analysis</b>	 <p>Figure 14: Investments Source: Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, (2024)</p> <p>Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) stood at 17.1% of GDP in 2024, still below the 30% NDP 2030 target. This represented a minor decline from 17.8% in 2023, primarily driven by reduced contributions from general government, public corporations, and private enterprises. Real GFCF declined from R688 billion in 2023 to R661 billion in 2024, remaining well below the historical peaks of 20.6% of GDP in 2013 and 2015.</p>
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Real GFCF further decreased by 1.4% in Q2 2025, following a 1.5% decline in Q1 2025. This reduction stemmed from reduced capital spending by general government and public corporations, which outweighed the increased investment by private business enterprises. As a result, total real GFCF spending in Q1 2025 was 3.1% lower than in the corresponding period of 2024. Real fixed investment by private business enterprises grew by 5.6% in Q2 2025, contributing 3.9 percentage points to overall real GFCF growth. This increase was largely driven by higher investments in machinery, other equipment, and construction works, which offset a reduction in spending on transport equipment. As a result, the private sector's share of total nominal GFCF rose to 73.7% in Q2 2025, up from 69.5% in Q1 2025. However, real capital spending by private business enterprises was 3.4% lower in Q1 2025 compared to Q1 2024.

Real GFCF by the public sector declined by 16.7% in Q2 2025, following a 10.9% increase in Q1 2025. Reduced capital investment by both public corporations and the general government drove the contraction. There was a 33.5% reduction in capital spending by public corporations, reversing the robust 27.2% growth recorded in Q1 2025. This decline was primarily attributable to reduced investment in non-residential buildings, transport equipment, and computer equipment. Consequently, public corporations' share of total nominal GFCF fell to 9.5% in Q2 2025, from 13.3% in Q1 2025.

According to National Treasury projections, real GFCF is expected to rebound from a projected decline of -3.7% in 2024 to a growth of 3.2% in 2025. However, the medium-term outlook remains significantly weaker than initially projected in March 2025, driven by fading temporary drivers of consumer spending, weakening external demand, and increasing economic uncertainty.

Goal:	Poverty Reduction
<b>Objective</b>	To foster social transformation and economic access
<b>Indicators:</b>	Percentage of the population living below the food poverty line, Percentage of people living below the lower-bound poverty line, Percentage of people living below the upper-bound poverty line, Percentage of people classed as poor using the South African multi-dimensional poverty index (SAMPI) headcount.
<b>Target:</b>	The NDP's target was to have no people living both under the food poverty line and the lower-bound poverty line by 2030. However, there were no targets for the rest of the poverty indicators.
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Between 2012 and 2024, South Africa experienced significant increases in all three poverty lines: the Food Poverty Line (FPL), Lower-Bound Poverty Line (LBPL), and Upper-Bound Poverty Line (UBPL), highlighting the growing financial strain faced by households. In 2024, the FPL increased by 117.32%, rising from R366 in 2012 to R796, with approximately 23.3% of the population (or 14.7 million people) living below this line, unable to afford a basic, nutritious diet.</p> <p>The LBPL, which accounts for those unable to afford both food and essential non-food items, increased by 104.02%, from R541 in 2012 to R1,109, with 47.5% of the population (about 29.9 million people) living below this threshold. Similarly, the UBPL, which reflects those unable to afford both basic needs and a more comfortable standard of living, rose by 94.95%, from R834 in 2012 to R1,634 in 2024, with 60.5% of the population (38.1 million people) living below this line (Stats SA, 2024b)<sup>15</sup>. These increases underscore the severe and widening financial pressures faced by South African households, stressing the urgent need for targeted poverty alleviation strategies and systemic reforms to address rising living costs, particularly in food, housing, and healthcare.</p>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03101/P031012024.pdf>

	<i>There have been no updates to the SAMPI headcount data since the report was published in 2014, nor to the food poverty and lower-bound poverty statistics from Stats SA for 2025.</i>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Equity</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicators:</b>	Reduce income inequality (Gini income measure and Gini expenditure measure) and share of income going to the bottom 40%.
<b>Target:</b>	To reach an income inequality of 0.6% and a 10% target for the share of income going to the bottom 40% by 2030.
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>South Africa continues to face one of the world's most severe income inequality crises, with recent data indicating a Gini coefficient of approximately 0.67, a figure that has remained stubbornly high since the end of apartheid (Wits University, 2023).<sup>16</sup> This profound disparity is reflected in the income share of the bottom 40% of the population, which was 7% according to the International Monetary Fund (2020).<sup>17</sup> The primary driver of this inequality is an unemployment rate that has reached a catastrophic 33.2% when including those who have stopped seeking work (Stats SA Q3 2025). This creates a situation where, as the World Inequality Lab has highlighted, the top 0.01% of South Africans holds a disproportionate share of the nation's wealth.</p> <p>Social grants recipients increased to 19,1 million in 2023/24 from 18,8 million in 2022/23. When it was introduced in 2020, the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grants increased the number of grant beneficiaries to approximately 28 million, 45% of the 62 million population. South Africa's expenditure on social grants increased significantly from 2013/14 to 2023/24. Expanded coverage of social grants and the social wage package, including access to free education and healthcare, helped mitigate the worst effects of poverty and enhance human capabilities.</p>

<sup>16</sup> Valodia, I. (2023, September 15). South Africa can't crack the inequality curse. Why, and what can be done. University of the Witwatersrand News & Opinion. <https://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/opinion/2023/2023-09/south-africa-cant-crack-the-inequality-curse-why-and-what-can-be-done.htm>

<sup>17</sup> International Monetary Fund. (2020). Six charts explain South Africa's persistent and multi-faceted inequality. <https://www.imf.org/en/news/articles/2020/01/29/na012820six-charts-on-south-africas-persistent-and-multi-faceted-inequality>

	While government interventions like social grants provide a critical safety net, analysts from institutions like the UNDP argue that achieving significant reductions in inequality by 2030 will require more radical, structural reforms focused on inclusive job creation, upskilling, and sustainable economic growth to alter the fundamental distribution of market income.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Exports Growth</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Exports growth (constant rand), Non-traditional exports growth (non-mining based), Mining/metals exports
<b>Target:</b>	The NDP targets an average annual growth in total export volumes of 6% a year to 2030, with growth in non-traditional export volumes of 10% a year. This should result in the share of world exports almost doubling to close to 1% by 2030.
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP envisages the expansion and active promotion of demand for South African products in domestic and foreign markets. To do this, the share of exports in South African output has to rise, and the profile has to become more diverse, with a growing portion of non-mineral manufactures and services and a greater proportion of exports being directed to emerging markets.</p> <p>South Africa's export growth has shown mixed performance in recent years.</p> <p>In 2020, the country recorded a current account surplus for the first time in nearly 20 years, estimated at 2.0% of GDP. The terms of trade were bolstered by higher global commodity prices, which resulted in a stronger export performance, leading to a trade surplus of 3.7% of GDP in 2021 (SARB, 2025). The positive trend continued in 2024, when South Africa's trade surplus more than doubled to R216.4 billion (3.0% of GDP), compared to R103.4 billion (1.5% of GDP) in 2023 (SARB, 2025).</p> <p>However, the trade surplus narrowed somewhat in 2025, with exports of goods and services falling by R23.3 billion in Q2 2025. This decrease in export value was attributed to lower export volumes, while imports rose due to increased prices (SARB, 2025).</p>

Export growth (constant Rand) has varied over the years. In 2010, it stood at 4.0% (DTIC, 2024). By 2018/19, it had dropped to just 0.1%, reflecting a slowdown in export demand (DTIC, 2024).

Despite this, export volumes continue to show steady growth. In 2022, export volumes increased by 7.4%, followed by 3.5% growth in 2023, 3.4% increase in 2024 and a projected 3.7% in 2025 (SARB, 2025). This growth indicates a modest but ongoing improvement in export demand, particularly in non-traditional sectors.

The growth in non-traditional exports, which includes value-added goods like manufactured products and services, is a positive sign for South Africa's economic diversification. In 2010, non-traditional exports grew by 7.6% (DTIC, 2024).<sup>18</sup> After a dip in 2020, when growth was -0.8%, the sector rebounded in 2024, with 7.4% growth (SARB, 2025). This trend shows that South Africa is successfully expanding exports beyond its traditional reliance on mineral resources.

Mining and metals exports continue to be a significant part of South Africa's export base but have faced challenges in recent years. In 2010, mining exports grew by 5.9% (SARB, 2025). However, in 2020, this growth slowed to 1.9%, and it turned negative in Q1 2022 with a contraction of -9.3% (SARB, 2025). This negative trend continued in 2024, with mining exports declining by 3.3% (SARB, 2025). The reduction in growth highlights the vulnerability of South Africa's export sector to global commodity price fluctuations.

The decline in mining exports signals the need for diversification. While mining remains a vital part of the economy, the negative growth seen in recent years underscores the sector's limited capacity for sustained growth. The non-traditional export sector, however, is showing promise, particularly in manufacturing and services. The growth of 7.4% in 2024 (SARB, 2025) demonstrates that diversification strategies are beginning to pay off.

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<sup>18</sup> Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC). (2024). *Annual Performance Plan 2024/25*. Pretoria: DTIC.

	<p>The steady increase in export volumes reflects a cautious but ongoing recovery in global demand for South African products. While overall export growth has been relatively modest, it remains positive, with projections of 3.7% for 2025 (SARB, 2025). The ability to maintain positive growth despite global economic challenges suggests that South Africa's export sector is adapting, but further efforts are required to tap into emerging markets more aggressively.</p>
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## 2.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (INFRASTRUCTURE)

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improved and efficient regulatory authority, Certainty in the energy mix and pricing path. Improved access and competition to reduce cost. Improved maintenance of the distribution capacity of municipalities</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Electricity availability factor (EAP)
<b>Target:</b>	The NDP proposed that 20,000 MW of renewable energy capacity should be procured by 2030, and overall, the new power capacity built by 2030 was expected to be 40,000 MW.
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP sets ambitious targets for the energy sector, aiming to ensure reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy, and envisions the country reaching a total power capacity of 40,000 MW by 2030, with 20,000 MW coming from renewable energy (RE) sources. The overarching goal is to support industrial growth, reduce carbon emissions, and ensure equitable access to energy, especially for disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>To meet these targets, the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) stipulates that 11,000 MW of coal-fired power plants must be decommissioned, while 26,000 MW of renewable energy capacity must be added by 2030. Achieving these goals requires a significant shift in the country's energy mix,</p>

	<p>with a strong emphasis on renewable energy technologies (Department of Mineral Resources and Energy,2025).<sup>19</sup></p> <p>As of 2025, South Africa has successfully procured 10,731 MW of renewable energy from 145 independent power producer (IPP) projects through 10 bidding windows (BWs), including BW3.5 (which focused on concentrated solar power with thermal storage). While this procurement is a positive step, it still falls short of the 20,000 MW renewable energy target set for 2030 under the NDP (NERSA, 2025).<sup>20</sup></p> <p>The procurement process has demonstrated the viability of renewable energy in South Africa’s energy mix, particularly in solar PV and wind technologies, but significant work remains to meet the target. The ongoing risk mitigation procurement has included a range of technologies such as solar, storage, and gas, which will be essential in diversifying the energy mix and ensuring energy security in the long term.</p> <p>A critical challenge in South Africa’s energy sector is the performance of Eskom, the state-owned utility. The Energy Availability Factor (EAF), a measure of the availability and reliability of power plants, has been volatile. Between 5 September and 11 September 2025, the EAF fluctuated between 69% and 73%, with a monthly average of 71.64%. This remains below the required levels to meet the growing energy demand (Eskom, 2025).<sup>21</sup> Despite this, there has been some improvement in Eskom’s performance, with the year-to-date EAF for 2025 standing at 61.8%. However, this figure still falls short of the 63.61% recorded during the same period in 2024, due to increased maintenance activities. Furthermore, the delayed Kusile Unit 6, which is expected to contribute 720 MW to the grid,</p>
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<sup>19</sup> Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. (2025, October). *Integrated Resource Plan 2025: User-Friendly IRP 2025*. Available at: <https://www.dmre.gov.za/Portals/0/Energy%20Resources/IRP/IRP%202025/User-Friendly-IRP-2025.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). (2025). *Annual Energy Sector Report 2025*. Pretoria: NERSA. Available at: <https://www.nersa.org.za/file/8092>

<sup>21</sup> Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. (2025). *Energy Availability Factor Report 2025*. Johannesburg: Eskom. Available at: <https://www.eskom.co.za>

	<p>has not yet been commissioned, limiting Eskom’s ability to meet demand (Eskom, 2025).</p> <p>As of 2025, South Africa’s total renewable energy generation capacity is at 4,443 MW, far below the 20,000 MW target for 2030 (NERSA, 2025). The pace of renewable energy procurement and infrastructure development must accelerate to meet this target. The planned decommissioning of 11,000 MW of coal-fired power by 2030 under the IRP is a necessary step to facilitate the transition to cleaner energy sources.</p> <p>Additionally, South Africa faces challenges in maintaining a balanced energy mix, as the country continues to rely heavily on coal. The energy sector’s shift towards renewables will require ongoing investment in grid infrastructure, energy storage solutions, and a regulatory environment conducive to private sector participation.</p> <p>The NPC, in partnership with SA-TIED, DBSA and the PCC, launched a study titled, ‘South Africa's Energy Sector Investment Requirements to Achieve Energy Security and Net Zero Goals by 2025-2050’.<sup>22</sup></p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improved access, efficiency, and cost of transport</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of goods transported by road and rail, and proportion of the population using public transport
<b>Target:</b>	The NDP envisaged a transport system that was “reliable, economical, with smooth flowing corridors linking its various modes of transport and a public transport system that could bridge geographic distances affordably, and foster reliability and safety.”

<sup>22</sup> Development Bank of Southern Africa; Presidential Climate Commission; National Planning Commission (South Africa); & SA-TIED Programme. (2025, November). South Africa’s Energy Sector Investment Requirements to Achieve Energy Security and Net Zero by 2050. Available at: [https://www.nationalplanningcommission.org.za/assets/Documents/South%20Africa's%20Energy%20Sector%20Investment%20Requirements%20to%20Achieve%20Energy%20Security%20and%20Net%20Zero%20Goals%20by%202050\\_2025.pdf](https://www.nationalplanningcommission.org.za/assets/Documents/South%20Africa's%20Energy%20Sector%20Investment%20Requirements%20to%20Achieve%20Energy%20Security%20and%20Net%20Zero%20Goals%20by%202050_2025.pdf)

**Trend Analysis**

The NDP envisages that, by 2030, the transport sector investments will enhance affordable access to economic opportunities, support goods movement for growth, facilitate regional and international trade, and promote a low-carbon economy through sustainable transport options.

According to the SARB,<sup>23</sup> rail freight has been declining since 2017, while road freight has increased, suggesting that firms are opting for road transport as rail networks remain constrained. This is depicted in the image below:

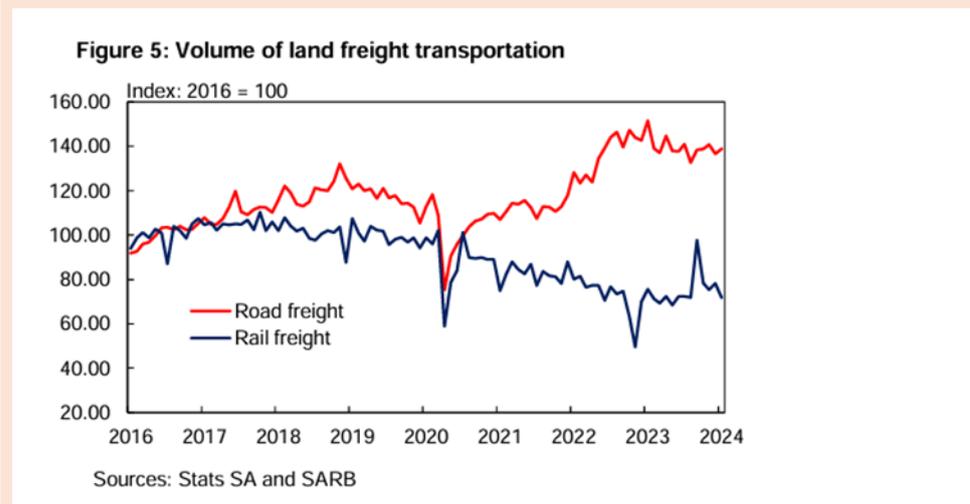


Figure 15: Volume of Land Freight Transportation

According to Stats SA, the volume of goods moved by road between March and May 2025 was approximately 82.1%, while those moved by rail were 17.9%.

Stats SA (2025)<sup>24</sup> states that the number of passenger journeys increased by 8,7% in May 2025. Recent findings from the General Household Survey (GHS) 2024<sup>25</sup> provide an overview of travel patterns. In South Africa, land transport

<sup>23</sup> South African Reserve Bank. (2024, April). *Big drivers of export and import volumes: How have these relationships shifted amidst large shocks?* Occasional Bulletin of Economic Notes. Available at: <https://www.resbank.co.za/content/dam/sarb/publications/occasional-bulletin-of-economic-notes/2024/big-drivers-of-export-and-import-volumes-how-have-these-relationships-shifted-amidst-large-shocks-april-2024-01.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Statistics South Africa. (2024). *General Household Survey 2024: Metadata*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182024.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182024.pdf

	<p>remains the primary means of travel for most South Africans. The data shows that nearly two-thirds (61,1%) of learners walk to school, while 14,8% rely on transport arranged by parents, 10,1% travel by private car, 7,1% use taxis, and 1,5% take the bus. In contrast, fewer than a quarter (22,8%) of workers walk to work, with more than half depending on various forms of motorised transport, private cars (25,9%), taxis (24,3%), buses (3,6%), and lift clubs (2,6%).</p> <p>While the GHS highlights how South Africans move, the 2020 National Household Travel Survey<sup>26</sup> provides further insight into the costs of these journeys. Nearly three-quarters (74,5%) of 6,3 million households, where at least one person uses public transport weekly to get to work, spent R300 or more on transport.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Water Resources and Water Usage</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of population with access to clean drinking water
<b>Target:</b>	By 2030, the aim is to have effective and evolving water management and services to support a strong economy and a healthy environment.
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP envisages that effective water management and the services will support a strong economy and a healthy environment. This includes reliable water supply, efficient agricultural water use, the protection of natural water sources, affordable, reliable access to sufficient, safe water, and hygienic sanitation.</p> <p>According to Stats SA, access to tap water inside dwellings, off-site or on-site improved by 3,3 percentage points between 2002 and 2024; it is notable that access actually declined in four provinces during this period. Declines were observed in Limpopo (-10,9 percentage points), Mpumalanga (-3,0</p>

<sup>26</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0320/P03202020.pdf

	<p>percentage points), Free State (-0,8 percentage points) and Gauteng (-0,7 percentage points).</p> <p>Although the percentage of households with access to water has been declining, it is important to note that more households received tap water in 2024 than two decades earlier.</p> <p>An estimated 46,4% of households had access to piped water in their dwellings in 2024. A further 30,4% accessed water on-site, while 8,8% relied on communal taps and 2,2% relied on a neighbour's tap. Although households' access to piped water improved over time, 2,3% of households used water from rivers, streams, stagnant water pools, dams, wells and springs.</p> <p>The number of households with access to piped water from municipalities increased by 67,4% between 2004 and 2024, rising from 9,2 million to 15,4 million.</p>
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## 2.3 INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE RURAL ECONOMY

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Integrated and Inclusive Rural Economy</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicators:</b>	Total agricultural employment, Land reform progress, Tenure granted to new and existing communal farmers, Number of women and young people gaining access to land
<b>Target:</b>	The NDP set a target of 20% of commercial agricultural land to be transferred by 2030
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NDP envisages better integration of the country's rural areas, achieved through successful land reform, infrastructure development, job creation, and poverty alleviation.</p> <p>The agriculture sector proved relatively resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic. The sector contributed 0.3 percentage points to real GDP growth in 2020 and was one of only two sectors with increasing gross value added (GVA). The nominal growth in primary agriculture increased by 8.9% per</p>

annum since 2010, while the entire South African economy increased by 6.3% over the same period, resulting in an increase of agriculture's share of the GDP from 2.0% in 2010 to 2.7% in 2022 (Stats SA, 2023b).<sup>27</sup>

The agricultural sector's real GVA contracted by 2.1% in the second quarter of 2024, following an expansion of 13.5% in the first quarter. The decrease reflected the lower production of field crops and animal products. Adverse weather conditions and persistent outbreaks of animal diseases over the period constrained agricultural activity. Consequently, the average level of real agricultural output in the first half of 2024 was 10.1% lower than in the corresponding period of 2023 (Stats SA, 2024, p. 5).

According to the Quarterly Employment Statistics (QES, Q2:2024)<sup>28</sup> survey released by Stats SA, total employment in the formal non-agricultural sector increased by 42,000 in the second quarter of 2024, bringing the level of employment to 10,7 million. According to the survey, 144 000 jobs were lost between June 2023 and June 2024. The total number of employees grew by 42,000 (0,4%), with employment rising from 10,67 million in March 2024 to 10,72 million by June 2024.

Between the first and second quarters of 2024, the number of employed persons in the agricultural sector decreased by 45,000 (Stats SA, 2024c).<sup>29</sup>

The NDP proposes redistributing and restoring approximately 20% of private commercial farmland by 2030. Of the 23.5 million hectares committed to land reform in the NDP, South Africa has achieved 16.07 million hectares, or 69.1% (67% in September 2020), by August 2021.

Since the inception of its land redistribution and tenure reform programme, the state acquired over 5.2 million hectares (ha) at the cost of about R20 billion. There are over 2.3 million ha acquired and allocated to farmers through leasehold in terms of the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy, with

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<sup>27</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. *Gross Domestic Product, Fourth Quarter 2023*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0441/P04411stQuarter2024.pdf>.

<sup>28</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0277/QES2024Q2\_Presentation.pdf

<sup>29</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2024. *Quarterly Labour Force Survey: Q2 2024*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P0211Q22024.pdf>

	<p>an asset value of about R12 billion (DALRRD, 2023).<sup>30</sup> This delivery translates to a 32% contribution towards the NDP target of 16.4 million ha by 2030. The 2019-24 MTSF set a target of 900,000 ha for acquisition, of which over 170,000 ha are currently being acquired for redistribution and tenure reform, representing 19%.</p> <p>To accelerate land redistribution and tenure reform during the 2021/22 financial year, 58,000 ha were acquired through land redistribution and tenure reform programmes. The acquired land continued to benefit previously disadvantaged individuals, particularly women, with 20,358 ha allocated to women and youth, amounting to 52% of the total 39,037 ha allocated. (DALRRD, 2023)<sup>31</sup></p>
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## 2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicators:</b>	Reduction in total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, Renewable energy (RE) – total existing, RE – generation capacity, Protecting biodiversity
<b>Target:</b>	No Target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Chapter five of the NDP envisages that, by 2030, South Africa will have made headway in transitioning to an environmentally sustainable, climate change resilient, low-carbon, and just society. In this regard, the NDP prioritises efforts to reduce GHG emissions, with a greater focus on renewable energy and the protection of biodiversity.</p> <p>The draft 9th GHG Inventory Report indicates that South Africa’s GHG emissions were 489 748 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2000, which decreased by 2.2% to 478 888 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2022. This excludes land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF). Overall emissions, including LULUCF, were 435 828 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022, a decrease of 5.5% from 462 205 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2000. The Energy sector was the largest contributor to overall emissions (excl. LULUCF) in</p>

<sup>30</sup> Statistics South Africa. 2023. *Agricultural Land Redistribution Report*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Available at: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0341/P03412023.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. 2023. Annual Performance Plan 2023 to 2024. Pretoria: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. Available at: [https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/phocadownloadpap/Annual\\_Performance\\_Plans/Annual%20Performance%20Plan%202023%20to%202024.pdf](https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/phocadownloadpap/Annual_Performance_Plans/Annual%20Performance%20Plan%202023%20to%202024.pdf).

	<p>2022, accounting for 78% of total emissions, with the industrial processes and product use sector contributing 6.4%. The LULUCF sector increased its sink by 56.3% since 2000 and 17.9% since 2020. The waste sector accounted for 4% of overall contributions (DFFE, 2024b)<sup>32</sup>.</p> <p>The country has implemented a strategy to expand its conservation estate to levels that will ensure adequate protection of biodiversity. A land area equating to a minimum of 0.5% of South Africa’s total land area is added to the protected area network annually.<sup>33</sup> However, the current protected area network remains inadequate to sustain biodiversity and ecological processes. This is largely because only 22% of terrestrial ecosystem types are well protected, and 35% are completely unprotected (DFFE, 2024a).<sup>34</sup></p> <p>South Africa is considered one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world due to its high species diversity, high endemism rate, and diverse ecosystems. Although its endemism rates are about 56% for amphibians, 65% for plants and up to 70% for invertebrates, its Red List Index shows an overall negative trend since 2007, with species becoming more threatened over time. The decline is occurring unevenly, with freshwater fish and butterflies declining faster.<sup>35</sup></p> <p>According to the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the loss of tax revenue in South Africa is due to competition from invasive plant species (40%), crop cultivation (33%), urban development (20%), and habitat degradation due to overgrazing (11%). Marine species are threatened by over-harvesting, the discharge of industrial effluents into the water systems, and climate change. Since South Africa has a high rate of endemism, biodiversity loss may lead to the extinction of some species worldwide.<sup>36</sup> A biodiversity report is expected to be published in 2025</p> <p>In 2023/24, most of South Africa’s electricity was generated from coal (82.8% of total system demand), with renewable energy accounting for 8.8%. The system could not meet 2.2% of the electricity demand, resulting in load shedding. However, no additional utility-scale installed generation capacity was added in 2023/24. The first half of the previous financial year (2024/25) was marked by the absence of load shedding (Centre for Renewable and</p>
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<sup>32</sup> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. 2024. *Draft 9th National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report for the Republic of South Africa for Public Comment*. Pretoria: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Available at: [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/202405/50607gon4772.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202405/50607gon4772.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. 2024. *National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES)*. Pretoria: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Available at: [https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/nationalprotected\\_areasexpansion\\_strategy.pdf](https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/nationalprotected_areasexpansion_strategy.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. 2024. *Environment Outlook: Chapter 7 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health*. Pretoria: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Available at: [https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/environmentoutlook\\_chapter7.pdf](https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/environmentoutlook_chapter7.pdf).

<sup>35</sup> Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. 2024. *State of South Africa’s Biodiversity Report*. Available at: [https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/state\\_of\\_biodiversity\\_report.pdf](https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/state_of_biodiversity_report.pdf).

<sup>36</sup> South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). 2023. *Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Report*. Available at: <https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/>

<p>Sustainable Energy Studies, 2024).<sup>37</sup> The current financial year (2025/26) was marked by no loadshedding.</p> <p>Annual electricity production from coal as a percentage of total production continued to decline in 2023, leading to a corresponding increase in unserved energy. The downward trend in national energy requirements is evident in the decline in electricity peak demand and energy production since 2010. Although renewable energy installed capacity and energy production are increasing, they constitute a small share of total capacity and the energy mix (CRSES, 2024).</p> <p>The 2025 IRP,<sup>38</sup> which was adopted by the Cabinet in October 2025, aims to ensure the security of the electricity supply by planning for adequate capacity to meet electricity demand and a power system that can withstand contingencies or disruptions without interrupting supply. The reviewed IRP proposes adding 105,000 megawatts (MW) of new generation capacity by 2039. This will include 11,270 MW of solar photovoltaics by 2030, 7,340 MW of wind energy, 6,000 MW of gas-to-power, and 5,200 MW of new nuclear capacity.</p> <p>Furthermore, in terms of policy responses to climate change, the government promulgated the Carbon Tax Act in 2019, passed the Climate Change Bill in Parliament in 2024 and is piloting a climate budget tagging system.</p> <p>The carbon tax gives effect to the polluter-pays principle and helps to ensure that firms and consumers take the adverse costs (externalities) of climate change into account in their future production, consumption, and investment decisions. It was introduced in phases to allow businesses to make the necessary structural adjustments to their production processes and practices, ensuring a just transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. The Carbon Tax Act specified an initial rate of R120 per tonne, which would increase by consumer price inflation +2% per year until 2022, after which it would increase only by CPI. The current carbon tax rate is R236 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The carbon fuel levy increased to 14 cents per litre for petrol and 17 cents per litre for diesel from 2 April 2025.<sup>39</sup></p> <p>The Climate Change Act, which was signed into law on 23 July 2024, was proclaimed on 17 March 2025. The Act aims to develop and implement an effective national climate change response, including mitigation and adaptation actions that will give effect to South Africa's fair contribution to the global climate change response, places a legal obligation on every organ</p>
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<sup>37</sup> Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES). 2024. SA Energy Made Visual. Available at: <https://www.crses.sun.ac.za/sa-energy-stats/>.

<sup>38</sup> [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/202510/53596gon6767.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202510/53596gon6767.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> P44 <https://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/National%20Budget/2025May/review/Chapter%204.pdf>.

of the state to harmonise their various policies, plans, and processes relating to climate change to ensure that the of climate change risks and impacts are considered. It also establishes the Presidential Climate Commission to coordinate inputs from organised labour, civil society, and business, and to provide advice on the country's climate change response.

Between October 2020 and June 2024, the National Treasury and World Bank piloted a Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) project that incorporated climate and just transition considerations into the budget and planning processes to establish a conducive regulatory, policy and institutional environment that enables an efficient response to climate change. The project tracks and monitors climate change-relevant expenditure in the public budget system, providing the credible expenditure data required for public planning and budgeting processes. The pilot process included awareness-raising workshops, reviewing international experience on CBT practice, conducting capacity needs assessments, developing design options, and engaging stakeholders in all spheres of government on design choices. The draft CBT system was designed and tested in eight pilot sites across selected national and provincial government departments, and metropolitan and local municipalities. Tagging will be rolled out in a phased approach, as some sectors are affected more than others. Direct investments into adaptation, mitigation and dual-benefit projects are being tracked.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Mokoro. 2024. *Climate Budget Tagging in South Africa*. Available at: <https://mokoro.co.uk/project/climate-budget-tagging-in-south-africa/>.

### 3. BUILDING HUMAN CAPABILITIES

This section assesses progress in strengthening the foundations that enable South Africans to live productive, healthy and secure lives. Human capability is a core pillar of the NDP, and its advancement depends on sustained improvements in learning outcomes, healthcare access and quality, and a social protection system that supports vulnerable households while enabling participation in the economy.

The indicators presented under Education, Health and Social Protection provide a picture of how well the country is equipping its population to contribute to development and benefit from it. Trends in these areas demonstrate where meaningful gains have been achieved, where progress has stalled, and where structural challenges continue to hold back the pace and scale of transformation envisaged for 2030.

#### 3.1 EDUCATION

##### a) Early Childhood Development

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Strengthen the capability of learners entering the education system
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of learners entering quality preschool education
<b>Target:</b>	Two years of compulsory schooling for all 4- and 5-year-olds by 2030
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The Early Childhood Development (ECD) function was transferred from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in April 2022, signalling the government’s intention to strengthen foundational learning outcomes. However, progress is difficult to assess consistently over time as GHS data is not uniformly disaggregated by age groups each year.</p> <p>In 2013, 74.4% of four-year-old children attended ECD facilities, with only a marginal increase to 74.7% by 2019. This modest improvement raises concern, given the objectives of the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy, which prioritises universal access to early learning opportunities.</p> <p>The GHS 2024 (Stats SA, 2024a)<sup>41</sup> shows improvements in participation among children aged 0–4, with 35% attending formal early learning arrangements such as pre-school, nursery school, crèche, or educare centres. This figure is not necessarily alarming, as global evidence suggests that children aged 0–2 benefit most from home-based care. However, more detailed breakdowns for ages 3 and 4 would enable more effective monitoring</p>

<sup>41</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182024.pdf

	<p>of progress in the years immediately preceding formal schooling.</p> <p>For five- and six-year-olds, participation is much higher. In 2022, 90.8% were attending school or an ECD facility, reflecting near-universal access at this level. However, the Thrive by Five Index (2024)<sup>42</sup> highlights serious quality concerns. According to the Index, 58% of children enrolled in early learning programmes are not on track developmentally in the cognitive or physical domains, with direct implications for school readiness and later progression. Only 42% of children are on track, while 30% are falling behind and 28% are significantly behind expected developmental standards.</p> <p>These findings suggest that while access has expanded, quality remains a critical challenge. The next iteration of the Thrive by Five Index will provide further insight into whether interventions improve learning outcomes in the early years.</p>
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## b) Education, Training and Innovation

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Higher quality delivery in the classroom
<b>Indicator:</b>	Time spent in a classroom
<b>Target:</b>	No NDP target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	Teachers in South Africa spend 66% of classroom time on direct teaching and learning, with 17% devoted to maintaining classroom order (DBE, 2020). <sup>43</sup> Internationally, the OECD's Teaching and Learning International Survey average is 78%, indicating South Africa lags behind global norms. There has been no measurable improvement in recent years, suggesting persistent inefficiencies in classroom time use. Strengthening instructional quality and accountability is necessary to increase effective learning time.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Higher quality delivery in the classroom
<b>Indicator:</b>	Improved learner-educator ratio
<b>Target:</b>	No NDP target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The basic education sector continues to face challenges related to learner numbers, teacher recruitment, and unfilled posts, resulting in higher learner-educator (LE) ratios that may affect education quality.

<sup>42</sup> <https://thrivebyfive.co.za/2021/thrive-by-five-index-2024/>

<sup>43</sup> Chrome

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\_document/202110/dbe-annual-report-202021.pdf

	<p>Between 2003 and 2010, the aggregate LE ratio (primary and secondary schools) declined from 34:1 to 31:1, before rising to just under 33:1 in 2016. In primary schools, the ratio decreased from 35:1 in 2003 to 32:1 in 2012, then increased to 34.1:1 in 2017. By 2021, primary school ratios reached 33.5:1, with secondary schools at 32.2:1, and by 2023, the aggregate LE ratio increased further to 34.2:1 (DBE, 2023).<sup>44</sup></p> <p>High LE ratios are compounded by grade repetition, particularly in the foundation phase: Approximately 15% of learners repeat Grade 1, and around 10% repeat Grades 2 and 3, contributing to larger class sizes.</p> <p>No NDP target exists for this indicator, but the upward trend signals a need for strategic interventions by the DBE to reduce LE ratios and mitigate their impact on learning outcomes.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Higher quality delivery in the classroom
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of schools meeting minimum standards for infrastructure (sanitation, water, electricity, libraries, and laboratories)
<b>Target:</b>	All schools must meet minimum standards of infrastructure
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The 2017–2018 School Monitoring Survey (SMS),<sup>45</sup> covering 2011–2017, reported that 59% of schools met nationally determined minimum infrastructure standards (sanitation, water, electricity, libraries, and laboratories). While this shows no aggregate improvement over the period, infrastructure conditions likely improved in some schools and deteriorated in others. Provincially, Gauteng achieved 92%, while the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal lagged at 42% (DBE, 2018).</p> <p>By 2020, 67% of schools complied with the minimum physical infrastructure standards set for 2016, including running water, adequate toilets, and functioning electricity (SMS 2022). Despite this progress, the NDP target appears unlikely to be met unless the DBE accelerates efforts to ensure all schools meet minimum standards for infrastructure.</p> <p>Of the country’s 22,511 schools, 57% have waterborne sanitation systems, 38% have VIP toilets, 12% have pit latrines, and 13% have Enviro Loos. Water supply sources include municipal supply (48%), boreholes (34%),</p>

<sup>44</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/School%20Realities%20December%202023.pdf?ver=2024-02-21-110237-047

<sup>45</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/6.%20Summary%20Report%20School%20Monitoring%20Survey%202017-18.pdf?ver=2019-04-08-092923-007

	rainwater harvesting (46%), municipal communal systems (12%), and mobile tankers (6%) (DBE Annual Report 2023/24, p. 30).
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Build effective leadership at the school and district levels
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of schools with School Governing Bodies
<b>Target:</b>	No NDP target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>While there is no NDP target for this indicator, national performance is generally positive. According to the 2022 SMS, 62% of School Governing Bodies (SGBs) met their governance and support responsibilities, indicating broad compliance with statutory requirements. However, the indicator assesses presence and basic functionality rather than quality or effectiveness.</p> <p>The NPC may need to strengthen this measure by establishing explicit targets and incorporating qualitative criteria, such as SGBs' capacity to improve school oversight, financial management, and accountability.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve the quality of teaching at TVET colleges and align it with the industry's needs
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of TVET lecturers who are qualified pedagogically (difficult to measure) and professionally (this could be possible to measure)
<b>Target:</b>	No NDP target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>There is no NDP target for this indicator, but the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has set a target of 90% of TVET lecturers being qualified. In 2021/22, 70% of lecturers had obtained pedagogical qualifications, indicating progress but still below the departmental target. Efforts to increase the number of professionally qualified lecturers have not kept pace; although the annual target is 750, only 235 lecturers were supported to obtain professional qualifications in 2024/25 (DHET Annual Report 2024/25).</p> <p>The absence of a long-term national target and baseline limits assessment of system-wide performance. The NPC may therefore consider establishing a 2030 target aligned with DHET's trajectory to enable more rigorous tracking of professional capacity development in the TVET sector.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve the quality of teaching at TVET colleges and align it with industry's needs
<b>Indicator:</b>	TVET and artisan programme throughput rates
<b>Target:</b>	30 000
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The DHET's 2022 Annual Report<sup>46</sup> and the Statistics on PSET in South Africa report<sup>47</sup> shows enrolment in artisan programmes increased steadily from 15,000 in 2012 to 21,000 in 2019, reflecting improved uptake before the Covid-19 pandemic. However, numbers declined sharply to 10,302 in 2021 and 10,376 in 2022, largely due to disruptions from lockdown measures and restrictions on workplace-based training. Although the NDP 2030 target remains within reach, recent performance shows ongoing pressure. In 2024/25, the target was 26,500, but only 16,273 learners completed artisanal learning programmes, down from 20,062 in 2022/23.</p> <p>This regression highlights implementation challenges that may undermine progress if not addressed.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve the quality of teaching in the PSET sector
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of university academic staff with PhDs
<b>Target:</b>	5000 (25% PhDs obtained by staff by 2030)
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The number of academic staff with doctorates increased from 1,500 in 2012 to 3,000 in 2019 (DHET Fact Sheet, 2020). In 2018, 48% of staff had a PhD as their highest qualification, with a slight decline to 47.7% in 2019. While the numerical target is likely to be achieved, attention is still required to ensure the quality of doctoral training and its alignment with academic and research priorities.</p>

<sup>46</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.dhet.gov.za/Planning%20Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation%20Coordination/FS-Access-to-tertiary-WEB\_2025.pdf

<sup>47</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.dhet.gov.za/Information%20Systems%20Management/Statistics%20on%20Post-School%20Education%20and%20Training%20in%20South%20Africa,%202022.pdf

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve the research and innovation capacity of South Africa
<b>Indicator:</b>	Number of university enrolments
<b>Target:</b>	1 620 000 per year
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The public higher education sector comprises 26 universities: 11 general academic universities, nine comprehensive universities, and six universities of technology. According to the DHET 2024/25 Annual Report, the total number of enrolled students was 1,071,715 in 2023, a slight decline from 1,077,768 in 2022. In 2012, enrolment was 953,373, reflecting a growth of just over 100,000 students over the past decade.</p> <p>The NDP sets a target of 1,600 enrolments per 100,000 population by 2030. At the current growth rate, this target may not be achieved. The higher education sector must also address quality concerns and focus on producing graduates aligned with economic needs, including professionals for the social services sector.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improving Education, Training, and Innovation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Improve the research and innovation capacity of South Africa
<b>Indicator:</b>	Number of ISI-accredited articles and patents registered
<b>Target:</b>	No clear NDP target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The number of ISI-accredited articles and patents registered has increased steadily over recent years. In 2017, a total of 15,388.42 units were recorded. By 2020, this figure rose to 17,194.2, reflecting a 5.71% growth (DHET, 2021).<sup>48</sup> By 2022, the number of publications further increased to 20,017.25 units (DHET, 2021 and 2022a).<sup>49</sup></p>

<sup>48</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.dhet.gov.za/Policy%20and%20Development%20Support/Research%20outputs%20report%202021\_final.pdf

<sup>49</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.dhet.gov.za/Policy%20and%20Development%20Support/2022%20RESEARCH%20OUTPUTS%20SECTORAL%20REPORT.pdf

### 3.2 HEALTH

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Improving life expectancy
<b>Target:</b>	Average male and female life expectancy at birth to increase to 70 years by 2030
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	Life expectancy (LE) is a key measure of a nation's healthcare system's effectiveness. In South Africa, LE increased from 62.1 years in 2013 to 66.9 years in 2025. This reflects a recovery from the decline observed in 2021, when LE dropped to 62.6 years, the lowest point since 2013 due to the Covid-19 pandemic (Stats SA, 2025a) <sup>50</sup> . Based on this upward trajectory, South Africa is on course to achieve the NDP 2030 target of at least 70 years.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Reducing the under-five child mortality rate
<b>Target:</b>	Fewer than 30 deaths per 1000 births
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) is a key measure of child health and primary healthcare performance in South Africa. The U5MR has shown a steady decline, from 74.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2002 to 44 in 2012, and further to 26.1 in 2025 (Stats SA, 2025 Mid-Year Population Estimates). <sup>51</sup> Improvements are largely attributed to better living conditions, enhanced access to HIV prevention and treatment, and advances in antiretroviral therapy, which have allowed individuals living with HIV to live longer and healthier lives.

<sup>50</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0302/P03022025.pdf

<sup>51</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0302/P03022025.pdf

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Reducing the infant mortality rate
<b>Target:</b>	Fewer than 20 deaths per 1000 live births
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The infant mortality rate (IMR), which is used to determine the development of the country's health system, has decreased from an estimated 57.0 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 2002 to 23.1 infant deaths per 1000 live births in 2025 (Stats SA, 2025 Mid-Year Population Estimates). The IMR shows a declining trend from 61.8 in 2005 to 34.1 in 2012 and currently 23.1 in 2025. (Stats SA, 2025 Mid-Year Population Estimates). This decline is a positive indication of improvements in healthcare and overall living conditions over the years. It also reflects successful efforts in reducing infant mortality rates.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Reducing maternal mortality
<b>Target:</b>	Less than 100 deaths per 100,000 live births
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The maternal mortality rate (MMR) reflects the quality of maternal health services and the performance of the healthcare system. South Africa's MMR has declined from 134 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2002 to 109.6 in 2020. Institutional MMR also decreased from 140.4 in 2011 to 100.6 deaths per 100,000 live births by March 2024 (National Department of Health (DoH) 2025 Annual Report). <sup>52</sup> This improvement is attributed to enhanced access to maternal healthcare, greater awareness of pregnancy-related complications, and improved quality of care in health facilities. Despite the downward trend, progress is gradual, and the country may fall slightly short of the 2030 NDP target of fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births.

<sup>52</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\_document/202511/department-health-annual-report-2024-2025.pdf

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Promoting Health</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Number of Ideal Clinics established
<b>MTSF Target:</b>	Transform 3,467 (100%) PHC clinics in the 52 districts to qualify as Ideal Clinics by 2021
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	Primary healthcare facilities in South Africa, comprising clinics and community health centres, number 3,471 in total. According to the DoH's 2024/25 4th Quarter Report, facilities attaining Ideal Clinic status increased from 2,076 in 2023/24 to 2,762 in 2024/25, representing 79.5% of all primary healthcare facilities. This reflects the conversion of 686 facilities to Ideal Clinic status during the 2024/25 financial year, demonstrating substantial progress in improving the quality of primary healthcare and service delivery.

### 3.3 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Enhancing Social Assistance</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	A social wage, which will result in a reduced cost of living (education, healthcare, basic services)
<b>Target:</b>	No target specified
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Access to key social services shows mixed progress over the 2020–2024 period. In education, near-universal primary school attendance remains high at 97.5%, although general school attendance has declined slightly from 95.6% in 2020 to 86.9% in 2024. Learners not paying school fees decreased from 73.3% in 2020 to 65.7% in 2024, reflecting a modest erosion in financial support, while participation in school nutrition programmes has remained relatively stable, rising slightly to 78.4% in 2024. Children with special needs continue to face barriers, with 22.7% of 7–15-year-olds not enrolled in any educational institution.</p> <p>In healthcare, medical aid coverage has remained low and relatively stagnant, ranging from 15.2% in 2020 to 15.5% in 2024, highlighting the continued reliance on public healthcare services to reduce living costs.</p> <p>Overall, the data suggest that while access to education and health services has improved or remained stable in some areas, gaps persist, particularly for vulnerable groups, underscoring the ongoing need to strengthen the social wage to reduce the cost of living meaningfully (GHS 2024).</p>

Table 5: Percentage of individuals or households with access to social services

Service	Percentage of individuals or households with access	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Education</b>	Percentage of children attending primary school	97,5%				
	Percentage of children attending school	95,6%	87.6%	86.8%	86,8	86,9% GHS 2024 p9
	Percentage of children with special needs aged 7-15 years not enrolled in an educational institution	8%	22.7%			
	Percentage of learners who do not pay school fees	73,3%	70.2%	67.7%	66,1%	65,7% GHS 2024 p12
	Percentage of learners in schools receiving social grants	69,1%				
	Percentage of learners in public schools benefiting from the nutrition programme	79,3%	77.3%	78%	76,7%	78,4% GHS 2024 p12
	<b>Health</b>	Percentage of persons with medical aid coverage	15,2%	16.1%	15.8%	15,7%

Source: General Household Survey, 2024

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Enhancing Social Assistance</b>																																																																														
<b>Objective:</b>	Not specified																																																																														
<b>Indicator:</b>	Expand Social grant coverage																																																																														
<b>Target:</b>	Not specified																																																																														
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p><b>Social Assistance</b></p> <p>Social grants coverage in South Africa has expanded significantly over the past two decades. The percentage of individuals receiving a social grant increased from 12.8% in 2003 to approximately 31% between 2017 and 2019, and further to 40.1% in 2024. Similarly, households receiving at least one social grant rose from 30.8% in 2003 to 45.5% in 2019, with a notable increase to 52.4% in 2020 due to the introduction of the SRD Covid-19 grant. By 2023, this percentage stabilised slightly at 50.0% as temporary support measures began winding down (Stats SA, 2023a).<sup>53</sup></p> <p>Table 6: Number of Social grants per type, 2012/13-2024/25</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grant type</th> <th>2018/19</th> <th>2019/20</th> <th>2020/21</th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> <th>2024/25</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Old Age</td> <td>3 553 317</td> <td>3 676 791</td> <td>3 722 675</td> <td>3 774 604</td> <td>3 886 708</td> <td>4 041 763</td> <td>4 163 720</td> </tr> <tr> <td>War Veterans</td> <td>92</td> <td>62</td> <td>40</td> <td>25</td> <td>15</td> <td>9</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability</td> <td>1 048 255</td> <td>1 042 025</td> <td>997 752</td> <td>1 004 798</td> <td>1 035 437</td> <td>1 056 270</td> <td>1 049 646</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant-in-Aid</td> <td>221 989</td> <td>273 922</td> <td>267 912</td> <td>283 771</td> <td>328 507</td> <td>401 761</td> <td>526 826</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Care dependency</td> <td>150 001</td> <td>154 735</td> <td>150 151</td> <td>153 768</td> <td>156 982</td> <td>165 764</td> <td>173 400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster Care</td> <td>386 019</td> <td>355 609</td> <td>309 453</td> <td>294 031</td> <td>274 130</td> <td>253 256</td> <td>224 758</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child Support</td> <td>12 452 072</td> <td>12 787 448</td> <td>12 992 589</td> <td>13 166 342</td> <td>13 147 937</td> <td>13 218 701</td> <td>13 117 004</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>17 811 745</b></td> <td><b>18 290 592</b></td> <td><b>18 440 572</b></td> <td><b>18 677 339</b></td> <td><b>18 829 716</b></td> <td><b>19 137 524</b></td> <td><b>19 255 361</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: SASSA 2024/25 Annual Report</p> <p>Table 6 shows sustained growth in overall grant beneficiaries, rising from 18,440,572 in 2020/21 to 19,255,361 by 2024/25, a 4.4% increase (South African Social Security Agency, 2024).<sup>54</sup> The NDP's intermediate target of full take-up of</p>							Grant type	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Old Age	3 553 317	3 676 791	3 722 675	3 774 604	3 886 708	4 041 763	4 163 720	War Veterans	92	62	40	25	15	9	7	Disability	1 048 255	1 042 025	997 752	1 004 798	1 035 437	1 056 270	1 049 646	Grant-in-Aid	221 989	273 922	267 912	283 771	328 507	401 761	526 826	Care dependency	150 001	154 735	150 151	153 768	156 982	165 764	173 400	Foster Care	386 019	355 609	309 453	294 031	274 130	253 256	224 758	Child Support	12 452 072	12 787 448	12 992 589	13 166 342	13 147 937	13 218 701	13 117 004	<b>Total</b>	<b>17 811 745</b>	<b>18 290 592</b>	<b>18 440 572</b>	<b>18 677 339</b>	<b>18 829 716</b>	<b>19 137 524</b>	<b>19 255 361</b>
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<sup>53</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182023.pdf

<sup>54</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://static.pmg.org.za/2/SASSA\_Annual\_Report\_2024\_25.pdf

old-age pensions by 2020 was achieved (Stats SA, 2021),<sup>55</sup> reflecting effective targeting and administration of this grant category. Social grants continue to serve as a vital safety net, especially in the poorest provinces, with the highest uptake in the Eastern Cape (54.2%) and Limpopo (51.5%), and the lowest in the Western Cape (25.0%) and Gauteng (26.9%).

**Social Relief of Distress Grant**

In May 2020, the Covid-19 SRD grant was introduced as an emergency intervention to offset the economic impact of national lockdowns. Initially targeted at unemployed individuals aged 18–59 with no income, this temporary grant, originally planned for six months, was extended to March 2025, reaching approximately 5.5 million beneficiaries per month during its early rollout (SASSA, 2021). The Department of Social Development’s budget vote, tabled before the National Assembly, stated that the department is forging ahead with processes to replace the Covid-19 SRD with a permanent measure in the form of Basic Income Support. They intend to re-table a policy proposal to Cabinet, which will include the additional element proposing a link between beneficiaries and employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities. (DSD Budget Vote 19, July 2025)

Early receipt of grants is particularly important for child development. UNICEF (2022)<sup>56</sup> shows that the take-up rate of the Child Support Grant for 0–1-year-olds improved from 56.7% in 2014 to 64.5% in 2019, though it remains below the recommended 80% target. Research confirms that timely receipt of grants in the first two years of life significantly influences long-term developmental outcomes.

Table 7: Covid-19 SRD Expenditure 2019/20- 2024/25 R'000

Grant type	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Covid-19 SRD	–	19 543 008	32 330 702	30 221 747	33 468 704	34 907 108

Source: SASSA Annual Report 2024/25<sup>57</sup>

Table 7 details Covid-19 SRD grant expenditure between 2019/20 and 2024/25, reflecting the continued scale-up of this emergency support.

**Development of social welfare services**

The NDP notes that South Africa’s social welfare services are constrained by a shortage of trained professionals, including social workers, community development

<sup>55</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182021.pdf  
<sup>56</sup> https://www.unicef.org/media/141001/file/UNICEF%20Annual%20Report%202022%20EN.pdf  
<sup>57</sup> https://www.google.com/search?q=SASSA+Annual+Report+2024%2F25&rlz=1C1GCEU\_en-GBZA1097ZA1098&oq=SASSA+Annual+Report+2024%2F25&gs\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIGCAEQRRg80gEJMzM5N2owajE1qAllsAIB8QX54w7StOSDFg&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

	practitioners, and child and adolescent care specialists. Estimates indicate that over 55,000 additional social service professionals are needed. The 2016 Review of the White Paper on Developmental Social Welfare found that progress in strengthening these services has been limited. Expanding social grant coverage must therefore be complemented by investment in human resources and service quality to ensure that vulnerable populations receive adequate care and support.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Enhancing Social Assistance</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	Strengthen financial and human resources and infrastructure for social development
<b>Target:</b>	An increase of 1.9% per annum in the budget for the next 5 years and universal availability of facilities.
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	Professional social service positions rose from 10,389 in 2013 to 18 300 in the 2020–21 financial year (DSD, 2021). Of the 7000 jobless professionals, only 163 social service workers were employed throughout the 2021–2022 financial year. It is hard to imagine how the number of social service professionals will increase by a third unless there is a substantial injection of funding to hire those jobless social care professionals, given that the MTSF objective is 31,744 appointments by 2024.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Enhancing Social Assistance</b>						
<b>Indicator:</b>	Increased access to basic services: energy, water, sanitation, waste						
<b>Target:</b>	Energy 75% by 2030, Integrated Resource Plan target						
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	Table 8: Access to basic services between 2012 and 2024						
	<b>Basic Service</b>	<b>Percentage of households</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Energy</b>	Connected to the mains electricity supply	83,6 % (2011)	90%	89.6 %	89.8 %	90.2 % p41
	<b>Water</b>	Access to piped or tap water in their dwellings, off-site or on-site	90,1%	89,1 %	88.5	87%	87.7 % p27
	<b>Sanitation</b>	Access to improved sanitation	77%	83,2 %	83.2	83.3 %	83.1 % p36

<b>Refuse removal</b>	Refuse removal at least once per week	62,5%	60,5%	59.9	60%	61.3%	p46
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Source: GHS 2024

Table 4 illustrates that between 2012 and 2024, the expansion of access to basic services was uneven. Access to energy through connection to the mains electrical supply increased from 83.6% in 2012 to 90.2% in 2024, with a notable 7% improvement by 2020 and a slight further increase in 2024 (GHS 2024, p41).

Access to piped or tap water in residences, whether on-site or off-site, was relatively high among households in the Western Cape (99.0%), Gauteng (98.0%), and Northern Cape (95.1%), but much lower in provinces such as Limpopo (62.9%) and the Eastern Cape (69.9%) (GHS 2024). Between 2002 and 2012, the proportion of households in the Eastern Cape with access to water, whether inside the dwelling, on-site, or off-site, increased by 23.1 percentage points. However, this progress has since reversed, with access declining by 9.3 percentage points to 69.9%.

A similar trend is evident in Limpopo, where access to piped or tap water rose from 73.8% in 2002 to 84.0% in 2010, but then declined to 62.9% by 2024, more than 10 percentage points lower than two decades earlier. On a more encouraging note, KwaZulu-Natal experienced steady improvement, with access to water increasing by 7.5 percentage points to reach 82.9% over the same period.

Although national access to tap water inside dwellings, on-site, or off-site improved by 3.3 percentage points between 2002 and 2024, it is notable that access declined in four provinces during this period: Limpopo (-10.9 percentage points), Mpumalanga (-3.0 percentage points), Free State (-0.8 percentage points), and Gauteng (-0.7 percentage points). Despite these provincial declines, the overall number of households with access to tap water in 2024 remains higher than it was two decades earlier (GHS 2024, p27).

### 3.4 DISABILITY

The NDP emphasises the integration of disability considerations in all planning aspects, aiming to improve access to quality education and employment for people with disabilities. Although the 2015 White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities establishes requirements for equitable socio-economic access, implementation of related programs has progressed slowly (NPC, 2023).

In addition, the NDP Review proposed that future planning must address these cross-cutting issues more comprehensively.

### a) Access to education and schools

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Inclusive Education and Special Needs</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of teachers in service who have received in-service training in the last 12 months to teach students with special educational needs
<b>Target:</b>	No NDP target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Unlike the preceding financial year, the 2023/24 DBE Annual Report does not provide a disaggregated breakdown of trained teachers by specialised areas. For instance, it does not specify the number of teachers trained in South African Sign Language, autism education, braille, or inclusive education programs, as was detailed in previous years.</p> <p>This missing disaggregated data is critical for tracking progress in specialised training areas and for assessing educators' capacity to meet the diverse special needs of learners effectively.</p> <p>According to the DBE (2024), 46,194 educators received training across various areas of inclusive education, including braille, South African Sign Language, autism, and inclusive teaching methodologies. The specialised training emphasised the identification of barriers to reading and numeracy, the implementation of targeted intervention strategies, and the development of foundational pre-literacy and numeracy competencies.</p>

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Accessible Schools</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Build and upgrade education facilities, which are disability sensitive
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of schools with access to (a) electricity, (b) the internet for pedagogical purposes, (c) computers for pedagogical purposes, (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, (e) basic drinking water, (f) single-sex basic sanitation
<b>Target:</b>	No NDP target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>According to the DBE's 2023/24 Annual Report, about 95% of South African schools have grid electricity, but only 27% have internet for teaching. Electronic equipment is used in 145 of 489 special schools. A total of 23,785 schools received 218,370 copies of CAPS-compliant materials.</p> <p>Data is needed on infrastructure and computer accessibility for students with disabilities. The department refurbished 11,077 schools, provided water to 2,459, electricity to 8,313, fencing to 5,605, and built 115,512 classrooms to</p>

	reduce overcrowding. By August 2023, 329 modern schools replaced 510 identified in 2011. Since 2018, the SAFE programme has equipped 3,015 schools with age-appropriate sanitation.
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## b) Access to Employment

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Full Employment</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Achieve full employment for persons with disabilities
<b>Indicator:</b>	Not specified
<b>Target:</b>	No NDP target
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The employment equity target for people with disabilities was increased to 3%, effective January 2025. The Commission for Employment Equity reports that 1.6% of public-sector employees and 1.4% of private-sector employees are persons with disabilities (Department of Employment and Labour, 2023). <sup>58</sup> People with disabilities often face barriers to employment (DPSA, 2023: 13).

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Inclusion and Empowerment</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, and disability.
<b>Target:</b>	Percentage of positions in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) held by persons with disabilities
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	According to the DPSA, the public sector has exceeded the national 2% employment objective for people with disabilities, attaining 2.3% by the end of the financial year 2023/24 (DPSA, 2023). <sup>59</sup> This indicator only covers the basic public services as specified by the Public Service Act. The Commission for Employment Equity (CEE) statistics, which includes both public and private sector companies, often shows lower representation levels due to a larger labour market. Currently, no updated CEE data equivalent to the 2023/24 DPSA statistic is available, limiting direct comparison of the two indicators.

## c) Access to Transport

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<sup>59</sup> chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.dpsa.gov.za/dpsa2g/documents/annualreports/DPSA%20Annual%20report%202023-2024.pdf

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Accessible Transport</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, including persons with disabilities
<b>Target:</b>	Percentage of public transport vehicles meeting the minimum national standards for accessibility by persons with disabilities
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	The Stats SA National Household Travel Survey (Stats SA, 2020) <sup>60</sup> shows that only 17% of persons with disabilities had access to special transportation services. Despite this limited provision, a large share still relied on mainstream public transport: 31.7% of employed persons with disabilities and 22.1% of students with disabilities used public transport in 2020. These figures underscore the need for public transport systems that are accessible, reliable, and easy to use for individuals with disabilities, as many depend on them for work, education, and daily activities. Strengthening the availability and accessibility of specialised transit services, alongside improving universal access in mainstream transport, would significantly improve mobility and inclusion for this population.

### 3.5 CHILDREN

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Reduce Malnutrition</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Percentage of students who benefit from the National School Nutrition Programme
<b>Target:</b>	End all forms of malnutrition by 2030
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Progress on children-related programmes such as health, education and social development has been provided elsewhere in the document as their well-being is cross-cutting.</p> <p>Early nutrition outcomes have weakened, with exclusive breastfeeding rates falling from 49% in 2019/20 to 44% in 2021/22, continuing a longer-term challenge. However, the National School Nutrition Programme remains a major stabilising intervention, reaching over 9 million learners in approximately 20,000 schools in quintiles 1–3 nationwide. The programme ensures that children from low-income households receive at least one nutritious meal per school day, supporting attendance and learning despite persistent household poverty (Ilifa Labantwana, 2024).<sup>61</sup></p>

<sup>60</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0320/P03202020.pdf

<sup>61</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://ilifalabantwana.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SA-early-childhood-review-2024-FINAL.pdf

	This reflects strong delivery during the schooling phase, although early nutrition remains a concern that may affect children before they enter the education system.
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### 3.6 GENDER

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Gender Inclusion</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	No Indicator
<b>Target:</b>	Not specified
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>South Africa has built a strong legislative and policy framework for gender equality and has made measurable progress in women's political and economic participation. In 2024, women held 43.5% of parliamentary seats and 41.5% of positions in provincial legislatures, demonstrating sustained improvement, even if parity has not yet been achieved.</p> <p>Access to basic education is nearly universal for both boys and girls, reflecting strong gender parity in enrolment. However, progress weakens at the leadership level. Women account for 42.5% of senior management in the public sector and 37% in the private sector, while at the top management level, representation drops to 35.8% in government and 26.2% in private industry. Government policies that direct 40% of public procurement to women-owned businesses signal an effort to expand their participation in the economy.</p> <p>Despite these advances, the lived realities of many South African women reveal persistent structural inequalities. The country continues to experience one of the highest rates of rape and gender-based violence globally. A 2024 HSRC prevalence study found that one in three (33.1%) women over 18 had experienced physical violence, reflecting an environment where safety and dignity are far from guaranteed. Women also face lower employment participation and continued pay disparities in the labour market.</p> <p>Overall, while the regulatory environment and representational gains are notable, progress is constrained by deep-rooted social and economic barriers that continue to undermine full gender equality in practice.</p>

## 4. POSITIONING SOUTH AFRICA IN THE WORLD AND POLICY MAKING

South Africa's progress towards achieving the goals of Chapter 7 of the National Development Plan (NDP) reflects the country's ongoing strategic efforts to strengthen its global standing, regional leadership, and diplomatic influence.

This chapter remains highly relevant, especially over the 2024 - 2025 period, as South Africa navigates a rapidly shifting international environment marked by geopolitical realignments, climate and energy transitions, digital transformation, and renewed debates around multilateralism and global governance reform.

South Africa has made significant strides in aligning its policy implementation with the NDP's long-term objectives by expanding trade and investment opportunities across the continent and globally, deepening engagement and integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), within regional economic communities like Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Southern African Customs Union (SACU), leveraging its unique role in international groupings such as BRICS and the G20, advancing South Africa's role as a science, technology, and innovation hub, promoting peace and security on the continent, and deepening economic cooperation with strategic partners. This is evident in the continued diplomatic posture and international partnerships that shape South Africa's membership in BRICS+, its leadership roles within the African Union (AU), and its ongoing advocacy for reform of global institutions such as the United Nations Security Council and the World Trade Organisation.

While South Africa continues to assert its presence on key global platforms and contributes to global governance debates, the effectiveness of its foreign policy execution remains a challenge due to constrained resources, declining diplomatic influence, regional perceptions, and inconsistent institutional coordination. The government is focused on pragmatic reforms, including enhancing trade infrastructure, strengthening diplomatic expertise, and mobilising business and civil society partnerships to support a global positioning aligned with the NDP's long-term goals.

The achievement of the NDP's vision depends on implementing the proposed reforms, enhancing inter-sectoral collaboration, and sustaining a coherent, pragmatic approach to foreign policy aligned with domestic development needs.

These efforts are anchored within the broader government development agenda, including the 2025-2030 Medium-Term Development Plan, which emphasises inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and a capable, ethical state. Ultimately, the progress made so far underscores the complex but deliberate pathway South Africa is forging toward realising its vision of being a leading voice in global governance and a driver of African development by 2030.

## 4.1 DEFINE NATIONAL PRIORITIES

### a) South Africa’s National Interest

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>South Africa’s National Interest</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Clear articulation of South Africa’s national interest
<b>Target:</b>	Strategy or document compiled and finalised
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>The NPC convened a national planning summit under the theme, “Charting South Africa’s Future: A call for collaborative long-term planning as a foundation for equality, solidarity and sustainability”. A draft report has been developed.</p> <p>As part of the National Dialogue, South Africa convened a national convention under the theme “Uniting Voices, Shaping the Nation”. A draft report for this convention, which laid the groundwork and set the agenda for the National Dialogue, has been produced.</p> <p>These engagements play a strategic role in reinforcing South Africa’s national interest by addressing the domestic conditions that shape the country’s ability to act effectively on the global stage. Their outcomes are a reflection of the Chapter 7 of the NDP and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation’s (DIRCO) framework document, ‘South Africa’s National Interest and its Advancement in a Global Environment’ (DIRCO, 2022).<sup>62</sup></p> <p>The national planning summit contributed to the national interest by promoting policy alignment, long-term planning, and state capability, which are important for a developmental state and for strengthening economic diplomacy. Effective planning enhances South Africa’s credibility with development partners, international investors, and multilateral institutions, by directly supporting the country’s economic and geopolitical objectives.</p> <p>The National Dialogue’s convention addressed the social and political dimensions of national interest by aiming to foster unity, reduce political division, and promote inclusive decision making. The National Dialogue aims to strengthen social cohesion, which is a critical factor for national stability and sustainable growth. Stability, in turn, improves South Africa’s international reputation as a reliable partner.</p> <p>Collectively, these platforms advance South Africa’s national interest because they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen domestic governance capacity.</li> </ul>

<sup>62</sup> [https://www.dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/sa\\_national\\_interest](https://www.dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/sa_national_interest)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support economic and social recovery.</li> <li>• Reduce uncertainty and improve national unity.</li> <li>• Enhance South Africa’s ability to negotiate, engage, and influence globally.</li> </ul> <p>Ultimately, the success of South Africa’s foreign policy goals depends on these kinds of internal processes. Without domestic stability, coherent planning, and strong democratic engagement, the country’s ability to position itself effectively in the world, as envisaged in the NDP, would be significantly weakened. Both initiatives are, therefore, foundational instruments for achieving South Africa’s long-term development and international relations objectives.</p>
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## b) International, Continental, and Regional Geopolitics

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>International, Continental and Regional Geopolitics</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Review the geopolitics of the region, the continent, and the world
<b>Target:</b>	Assessment is done and documented
<b>Progress and analysis</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International Geopolitics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. South Africa held the G20 Presidency in 2025, which was a key platform to promote the Global South and focus on the African development agenda under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability".</li> <li>1.2. BRICS membership is a cornerstone of South Africa's international strategy, which is used to access development finance through the New Development Bank and strengthen the voice of the emerging economies in global affairs. South Africa further supports the use of national currencies in trade within BRICS to reduce reliance on the US dollar and advocates for a more representative global order.</li> <li>1.3. South Africa continues to maintain relations with key global partners such as the US, China, and the EU. Balancing these relationships to diversify partnerships and avoid dependency on any single bloc is important.</li> <li>1.4. South Africa follows a peace-centred foreign policy, which is actively involved in the Africa Peace Initiative regarding the Russia-Ukraine war and advocating for a peaceful two-state solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict. South Africa took a step to initiate a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for alleged genocidal intent in Gaza.</li> <li>1.5. One of the significant developments in relation to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing is that South Africa exited the Financial Action Task Force grey-list in October 2025 (SARS,</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>2025a),<sup>63</sup> following a commitment to implement action plans to address deficiencies.</p> <p>2. Continental Geopolitics: Africa remains the primary focus of South Africa's foreign policy, with a strong emphasis on regional integration and peace and security:</p> <p>2.1. South Africa continues to play an active role within the AU, advocating for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and AfCFTA to boost intra-African trade and industrialisation.</p> <p>2.2. South Africa contributes to peacekeeping and stabilisation efforts, notably in the Democratic Republic of Congo through SADC-led initiatives, while consistently advocating for African-led solutions to continental conflicts in regions such as the Sahel and Sudan.</p> <p>3. Regional Geopolitics: South Africa leverages its position within Southern Africa to drive regional development and integration:</p> <p>3.1. SADC is key to South Africa's regional strategy. South Africa was recently elected as the incoming (Deputy) Chair of the SADC Troika, positioning it to assume the Chairship in August 2026 and drive economic and trade cooperation.<sup>64</sup></p> <p>3.2. South Africa works through SADC and SACU to enhance regional integration, address trade barriers, and manage economic disparities across the region.</p>
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### c) South Africa's Foreign Representation

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>South Africa's Foreign Representation</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Research review of South Africa's foreign representation to determine efficacy and efficiency
<b>Target:</b>	Assessment is done and documented
<b>Progress and analysis</b>	South Africa has not publicly released a specific, comprehensive "Research review of South Africa's foreign representation to determine efficacy and efficiency" with detailed findings in 2025. However, a review of foreign representation to determine efficacy and efficiency is an ongoing goal outlined in national planning documents, and DIRCO has produced a related strategic plan for 2025-2030. <sup>65</sup>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.sars.gov.za/latest-news/media-release-south-africas-exit-from-the-fatf-grey-list/>

<sup>64</sup> <https://dirco.gov.za/statement-on-south-africas-foreign-policy-engagements-and-diplomatic-achievements>

<sup>65</sup> <https://dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/DEPARTMENTAL-Strategic-Plan-2025-2030.pdf>

#### d) Training of Foreign-Service Officers

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Training of Foreign-Service Officers</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Not specified
<b>Target:</b>	Assessment is done and documented
<b>Progress</b>	The indicator shows no measurable progress over the reporting period. However, as part of ongoing capacity-building efforts, DIRCO continues to utilise its Diplomatic Academy to offer structured learning programmes for both new entrants and experienced diplomats. These efforts are enabling in nature and may not yet be reflected in outcome-level indicators.

#### e) Collaboration in Cross-Border Research

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Collaboration on Cross-Border Research</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Research collaboration among vital state institutions that deal with cross-border issues
<b>Target:</b>	Research outputs
<b>Progress</b>	No research has been done; however, the Department of Home Affairs and South Africa's Border Management Authority have launched a new high-tech initiative aimed at boosting the fight against corruption and tightening border security <sup>66</sup> .

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/home-affairs-launches-programme-tackle-illegal-immigrants-challenge>

## 4.2 AGGRESSIVELY EXPAND TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE REGION, ON THE CONTINENT AND GLOBALLY

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Intra-regional Trade</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Increase intra-regional trade in Southern Africa
<b>Target:</b>	7% of trade to 25% of trade by 2030.
<b>Analysis</b>	<p>The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the DTIC) hosted a three-day South African Export Symposium and Expo at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, Gauteng, during the 2023/24 financial year. The Expo formed part of ongoing NDP implementation efforts to strengthen South Africa's export capacity, promote trade diversification, and support sustainable export-led growth, particularly in the context of global trade challenges such as tariff increases and heightened market volatility. Key outputs of the Export Symposium and Expo included business-to-business engagements across sectors such as agro-processing, ICT, automotive components, and mining machinery, as well as the profiling of youth-owned enterprises through the Next-Gen Exporter Incubation Programme.</p> <p>The symposium reinforced the government's strategic direction of export-led growth, industrialisation, and regional integration, demonstrating a coordinated effort between the government, business, and civil society to enhance South Africa's global trade presence and economic resilience.</p> <p>As strengthening regional value chains will be key to building resilience for South Africa's export markets in the longer term and as establishing alternative value chains will take time, this moment presents South Africa with an opportunity to advance the implementation and expansion of the AfCFTA. Reducing over-dependence on certain markets is a strategic imperative for building the country's economic resilience. It will also enable the country to expand the frontiers of opportunity for South African businesses, goods and services.</p>

### a) Trade with Regional Neighbours

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Trade with regional neighbours</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Increase South Africa's trade with regional neighbours
<b>Target:</b>	15% of trade to 30%.
<b>Trend analysis</b>	South Africa's regional trade is characterised by strong, fast-growing integration within SACU and SADC, as shown by increasing alignment with AfCFTA and a strategic push to position South Africa as the industrial and

export hub of Southern Africa. Trade with neighbouring countries, especially Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Namibia (BELN), remains one of the most stable and important components of South Africa's export profile, with manufactured and value-added goods dominating exports. SACU continues to ensure duty-free access and coordinated customs management, supporting the seamless flow of goods across the region.

South Africa has also intensified efforts to strengthen wider SADC trade, which is supported by regional initiatives as indicated by the recently launched Time Release Study for the North–South Corridor,<sup>67</sup> aimed at reducing border delays and lowering trade costs. SADC's 2025 AfCFTA Coordination Plan and multiple Rules-of-Origin training programmes across the region, one of which South Africa recently hosted,<sup>68</sup> is helping to operationalise AfCFTA at a practical level by preparing businesses, freight forwarders, and customs agencies for continent-wide trade preferences. These measures enhance regional supply-chain development and improve the capacity of African states to benefit from the agreement.

Trade data for 2025 indicates positive momentum for South Africa as it recorded a monthly trade surplus of R21.8 billion in September 2025. This surplus was driven by exports of R186.4 billion against imports of R164.6 billion and is inclusive of trade with BELN countries<sup>69</sup>. This reflects the resilience of regional markets amid global economic volatility.

The region remains a key destination for South Africa's machinery, automotive components, minerals, agro-processed goods, and chemical products, which are reinforcing the country's role as a diversified manufacturing centre.

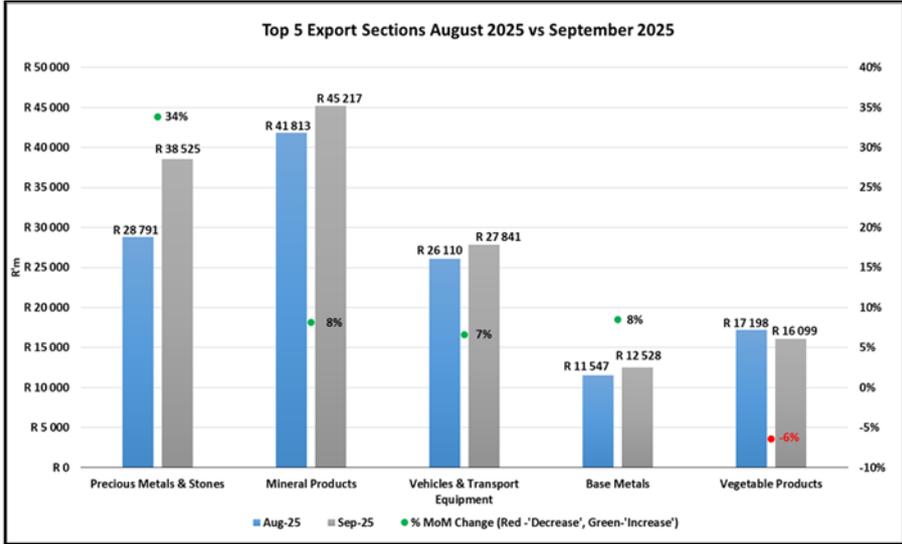
Despite the good progress, challenges remain. For instance, the non-tariff barriers, infrastructure bottlenecks, and unresolved Rules of Origin in sensitive sectors such as textiles and automotive, which still limit full integration. However, 2025 showed a clear direction for South Africa: deepening its regional footprint, aligning trade policy with continental industrialisation goals, and using SACU and SADC as platforms to scale up AfCFTA implementation. Regional trade remains one of the most dynamic and strategically important pillars of South Africa's economic diplomacy and export-led growth agenda.

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/sadc-launches-time-release-study-report-north-south-trade-corridor-bolster-trade-and>

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/empowering-trade-sadc-freight-forwarders-trained-afcfta-rules-origin>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Sep8871/Media-Release-September-2025.pdf>

## b) Exports

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Exports</b>																								
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified																								
<b>Indicator:</b>	Increase South Africa's exports (as measured in volume terms)																								
<b>Target:</b>	Grow by 6% a year to 2030, with non-traditional exports growing by 10% a year.																								
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>South Africa's export sector is showing signs of resilience and strategic development, driven by a mindful shift towards market diversification, value-added production, and increased reliance on regional demand. South Africa continues to benefit from strong export revenues, underpinned by key sectors such as machinery, vehicles, electrical equipment, coal and minerals, and agricultural products such as grapes and maize.</p> <p>On a month-on-month basis, exports increased by R16.1 billion (9.4%) from R170.3 billion in August to R186.4 billion in September 2025. Over the same period, imports declined by R3.3 billion (-2.0%), falling from R167.9 billion to R164.6 billion. The increase in export flows during September 2025 was primarily driven by higher shipments of gold, platinum group metals (PGMs), and passenger vehicles. In contrast, the decline in import flows was largely attributable to reduced importation of original equipment components, automatic data processing machines, and crude oil.<sup>9</sup></p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Top 5 Export Sections August 2025 vs September 2025</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Section</th> <th>Aug-25 (R million)</th> <th>Sep-25 (R million)</th> <th>% MoM Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Precious Metals &amp; Stones</td> <td>28 791</td> <td>38 525</td> <td>34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mineral Products</td> <td>41 813</td> <td>45 217</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vehicles &amp; Transport Equipment</td> <td>26 110</td> <td>27 841</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Base Metals</td> <td>11 547</td> <td>12 528</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vegetable Products</td> <td>17 198</td> <td>16 099</td> <td>-6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Figure 16: Top 5 Export Sections August 2025 vs September 2025 Source: SARS preliminary trade statistics for September 2025</p>	Section	Aug-25 (R million)	Sep-25 (R million)	% MoM Change	Precious Metals & Stones	28 791	38 525	34%	Mineral Products	41 813	45 217	8%	Vehicles & Transport Equipment	26 110	27 841	7%	Base Metals	11 547	12 528	8%	Vegetable Products	17 198	16 099	-6%
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## c) Foreign Direct Investments

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Foreign Direct Investments</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified

<b>Indicator:</b>	Increase Foreign Direct Investments in South Africa
<b>Target:</b>	Not specified
<b>Progress and Analysis</b>	<p>In 2025, South Africa’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) landscape was marked by mixed momentum, where there was a moderate rebound in the first quarter of 2025 with the net FDI inflow increasing to R11.7 billion, a 56% increase from R7.5 billion in Q4 2024. This marked the strongest quarterly performance since mid-2024 (SARB, 2025c).<sup>70</sup> and was driven solely by equity investments from non-resident parent companies into existing South African subsidiaries, reflecting renewed confidence following two years of improved electricity supply and incremental regulatory reforms.</p> <p>However, Q2 produced a dramatic reversal where the net FDI recorded an outflow of R73.5 billion, which was the largest quarterly negative figure in South Africa’s history (SARB, 2025b).<sup>71</sup> This was primarily due to a major corporate restructuring in the mining sector, where Anglo American’s platinum-group-metals business, Amplats, was restructured into the newly listed Valterra Platinum. This was a transaction classified as a direct investment outflow, as the ultimate parent was based outside South Africa. Excluding this single corporate event, underlying FDI flows remained modestly positive.</p> <p>Despite the instability of investments, the stock of FDI remained strong at approximately R2.9 trillion by mid-2025.<sup>72</sup></p> <p>Other sectors, such as renewable energy, financial services, and manufacturing, continued to dominate new commitments, with South Africa capturing several multi-billion-rand solar and wind projects under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme and the Just Energy Transition Partnership framework.</p>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.resbank.co.za/content/dam/sarb/publications/quarterly-bulletins/quarterly-bulletin-publications/2025/march-/01Full%20Quarterly%20Bulletin.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/publications/publication-detail-pages/quarterly-bulletins/quarterly-bulletin-publications/2025/june>

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.resbank.co.za/content/dam/sarb/publications/quarterly-bulletins/quarterly-bulletin-publications/2025/september/01Full%20Quarterly%20Bulletin.pdf>

### 4.3 INCREASE TOURISM IN SOUTH AFRICA.

#### a) Foreign Tourist Arrivals

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Foreign Tourist Arrivals</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Increase in foreign tourist arrivals (numbers)
<b>Target:</b>	
<b>Analysis</b>	<p>South Africa’s tourism in 2025 reflects a sector that has not only recovered but is steadily regaining its position as a key pillar of national growth. The rise in international arrivals between January and December 2025 welcomed approximately 10.48 million international arrivals, which showed a 17.6% increase when compared to 2024<sup>73</sup>. This signal renewed global confidence in the country’s safety, accessibility, and unique offerings. This surge is more than a statistical improvement, but it represents a shift in how the world is reconnecting with South Africa’s landscapes, heritage, and cultural energy. It shows the impact of sustained marketing efforts, improved air connectivity, and revitalised tourism infrastructure that have made travelling to and within the country more seamless.</p> <p>The growth also suggests a broader economic ripple effect, including stronger demand for hospitality services, revitalisation of small tourism enterprises, and new opportunities for communities that depend on visitor-driven income. Importantly, this strengthens South Africa's position as one of the continent's most resilient tourism markets, with momentum that supports job creation, rural development, and positive global perceptions. Overall, the 2025 tourism performance indicates that the sector is confidently rebuilding itself, contributing to national stability, and deepening South Africa’s global appeal.</p>

#### b) Foreign Tourist Expenditure

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Foreign Tourist Expenditure</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Increase in foreign tourist expenditure
<b>Target:</b>	
<b>Analysis</b>	In 2025, foreign tourist expenditure recovered strongly, driven by rising international arrivals.

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/minister-patricia-de-lille-reaffirms-tourisms-economic-role>

	<p>Without recent, clear data, it is difficult to say exactly how much revenue was generated or how much of that growth came from high-spending tourists versus volume from regional markets.</p> <p>The potential foreign tourist expenditure is very strong, especially if South Africa can continue attracting high-value visitors and increasing per-visitor spend, but realising that potential depends on strategic marketing, infrastructure, and data-driven policy.</p>
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#### 4.4 HARMONISE BORDER POLICIES BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA'S REGIONAL TRADING PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE EMERGING TRIPARTITE FREE TRADE AREA

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Harmonise border policies between South Africa's regional trading partners, especially in the emerging Tripartite Free Trade Area</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Harmonised border policies between South Africa and its trading partners
<b>Target:</b>	Not specified
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>South Africa made significant progress in 2025 towards more integrated and efficient cross-border management, reflecting a deeper commitment to align border governance with its regional neighbours and major trading partners.</p> <p>The One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) Bill, passed by South Africa's National Assembly in November 2025, will introduce positive changes.<sup>74</sup> The legislation will establish a clear legal framework for OSBPs in shared control zones, where officials from both countries work in the same physical space. Within these zones, each country's laws can be applied in a coordinated manner, eliminating duplicate inspections, reducing delays, and significantly speeding up the movement of people and goods. The Bill grants the Minister of Home Affairs explicit authority to negotiate bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries to establish such posts. Most importantly, the OSBP legislation is fully aligned with the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, reinforcing South Africa's commitment to deeper regional integration.</p> <p>Regarding the bilateral implementation with neighbouring countries, in October 2025, the Border Management Authority (BMA) co-chaired a high-level steering committee meeting with Eswatini to drive a joint action plan for shared border management<sup>75</sup>. This meeting followed a Joint Action Plan signed in late 2024, committing both countries to a series of immediate,</p>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.parliament.gov.za/press-releases/media-release-national-assembly-passes-one-stop-border-post-bill>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.gov.za/news/media-advisories/government-activities/border-management-authority-co-chairs-eswatini%E2%80%93south>

	<p>medium- and long-term measures to better coordinate resources, harmonise procedures, and jointly plan border operations. Key aspects include shared planning, policy alignment, and the optimised deployment of border resources, such as customs and immigration.</p> <p>Beyond the region, South Africa is deepening cross-border trade cooperation through its Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme. In July 2025, SARS announced Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) with the US (Customs and Border Protection), UK (His Majesty's Revenue and Customs), and India (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs).<sup>76</sup> These MRAs allow accredited “trusted traders” in South Africa to benefit from faster customs clearance, fewer inspections, and reduced administrative burdens when trading with these partner countries.</p> <p>South Africa had a breakthrough year in 2025 in harmonising its border management policies with trading partners and neighbouring countries. The progress of the One-Stop Border Post Bill, coupled with practical bilateral cooperation via the BMA and global trade facilitation through AEO MRAs, marks a shift toward more efficient, coordinated, and modernised cross-border governance. While the real impact will depend on effective implementation, these reforms could substantially deepen regional trade integration and strengthen South Africa’s role in continental and global supply chains.</p>
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#### 4.5 INTEGRATE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY, INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, AND MONITORING.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Integrate national institutions responsible for foreign policy, international negotiations, and monitoring.</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Not specified
<b>Indicator:</b>	Integrated national institutions
<b>Target:</b>	
<b>Progress and analysis</b>	<p>South Africa has a well-developed institutional architecture for foreign policy where multiple layers help ensure that foreign policy is not just about diplomacy, but about advancing development and national security through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DIRCO - provides strategic leadership by formulating, coordinating, implementing, and managing South Africa’s foreign policy. The department explicitly links its foreign missions to economic outcomes, promoting foreign direct investment, tourism, and trade.</li> </ul>

<sup>76</sup> <https://www.sars.gov.za/latest-news/media-release-south-africa-deepens-global-trade-ties-through-landmark-aeo-agreements-with-the-usa-india-and-uk>

- Parliament - the Constitution gives Parliament oversight power over foreign policy, including ratification of non-executive international agreements. In March 2025, Parliament launched a “people-centred oversight mechanism” in three provinces to allow ordinary South Africans to engage more directly with international relations policy.<sup>77</sup> The Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation also participates in multilateral and inter-parliamentary diplomacy (e.g., SADC-PF, BRICS Parliamentary Forum), shaping foreign-policy debates from the legislative side.
- DPME - plays a coordinating role by ensuring that foreign-policy actions align with South Africa’s development goals, and in 2025, DPME was responsible for chairing and coordinating the Development Working Group under the South African Presidency of the G20.
- Intelligence and security agencies - South Africa’s State Security Agency includes a foreign-intelligence branch that is tasked with monitoring foreign threats, and the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee brings together intelligence agencies to interpret strategic risks and recommend national security priorities. These intelligence bodies provide key inputs into foreign policy decision-making by assessing geopolitical risks and security implications of South Africa’s international engagements.
- External partners such as the think tanks, the private sector, and civil society provide research, strategy support, and economic diplomacy engagement.

DIRCO played a central coordinating role in high-level foreign-policy dialogues and international negotiations in 2025, specifically:

- In June 2025, DIRCO hosted a high-level dialogue on democratic governance in partnership with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.<sup>78</sup> The conference, titled “Re-imagining Democracy in Africa: Comparative Experiences from the Global South”, brought together about 200 participants, including senior government officials, electoral bodies, judges, parliamentarians, and civil society. This event highlighted DIRCO’s role not just in foreign policy but also in institutional diplomacy, where South Africa is actively shaping its narrative and partnerships in the Global South.
- In June 2025, following the G7 meetings, the Cabinet issued a statement supporting enhanced cooperation between the G7 and G20, and stressed reform of international financial institutions.<sup>79</sup>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.parliament.gov.za/press-releases/media-statement-committee-launch-people-centred-oversight-mechanism-international-relations-three-provinces>

<sup>78</sup> <https://dirco.gov.za/dirco-to-host-high-level-dialogue-focussing-on-re-imagining-democracy-in-africa/>

<sup>79</sup> <https://dirco.gov.za/statement-on-the-cabinet-meeting-of-25-june-2025>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DIRCO worked closely with other national departments in its international engagements. For example, in the South Africa - EU political dialogue (Feb 2025), the Cabinet welcomed deeper cooperation across multilateral and regional issues such as climate change, human rights, and sustainable value chains, where it will reflect policy alignment across domestic and foreign ministries.<sup>80</sup></li> <li>• At the Cabinet meeting held on 26 February 2025, South Africa reaffirmed its commitment to multilateral reform, particularly pushing for the UN Security Council reform.<sup>81</sup></li> </ul> <p>In 2025, there was meaningful progress towards better integrating South Africa’s foreign policy institutions. DIRCO was at the centre of this with a clear reform agenda, planning aligned to national development, and active diplomacy.</p> <p>The country leveraged both multilateral engagement, such as the UN reform and G20, and development diplomacy to make foreign policy more “whole-of-government.”</p>
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#### 4.6 IMPROVE HUMAN SECURITY THROUGH EFFECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Improve human security</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To promote effective transnational natural-resource management – especially water and energy – and knowledge-sharing on vital issues such as communicable diseases, most notably HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and transnational crime and maritime piracy.
<b>Indicator:</b>	Effective transnational natural resource management
<b>Target:</b>	Not specified
<b>Progress and analysis</b>	<p>South Africa made measurable progress on integrating national institutions and regional partners to improve human security through transnational resource management, disease cooperation, and security partnerships. Several policy advances and projects show real momentum, while persistent financing, capacity and implementation gaps limit how quickly benefits reach communities.</p> <p>South Africa has moved from planning to early implementation across several fronts: basin-level water cooperation and project pipelines; a clearer national energy roadmap backed by new financing; strengthened disease surveillance and national plans; and more active regional policing and maritime cooperation. These moves improve the institutional architecture for human security, but the scale-up, sustainability and measurable impacts on</p>

<sup>80</sup> <https://dirco.gov.za/statement-on-the-cabinet-meeting-of-wednesday-26-february-2025>

<sup>81</sup> <https://www.presidency.gov.za/node/8801>

communities depend on continued funding, operational reform, and multi-year regional coordination.

- Water: strengthening transboundary management, planning and projects:  
South Africa continued to deepen cooperation over shared river basins and joint infrastructure. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project remains a central, long-running transboundary scheme supplying water to Gauteng and generating hydropower in Lesotho; parallel basin planning under ORASECOM (Orange-Senqu) and related climate-resilient water investment plans advanced in 2025. Regional endorsement and “kick-start” actions for multi-country transboundary projects (Incomati/Maputo basin; Lesotho–Botswana–South Africa frameworks) were reported in 2025, reflecting increased political backing and momentum in project preparation. These initiatives aim to improve water security, climate resilience, and equitable allocation across borders but most are still in the planning/implementation start-up phases and require sustained financing and institutional coordination.<sup>82</sup> Policy and project pipelines are improving (better basin plans, investment strategies, and political sign-offs), but tangible service improvements (more reliable household supply, full construction of major transfers) depend on continued financing and multi-year implementation.
- Energy: planning for security and greener, regional connectivity:  
The past year saw clearer national energy planning and external financing that support both energy security and a low-carbon transition. The government and Eskom engaged around the IRP 2025; Eskom signalled pathways to scale renewables and “repower” older plants; international finance, for example, a major World Bank-backed infrastructure/green energy package, was announced and strengthened the prospects for grid upgrades, new generation and regional links. Nevertheless, Eskom’s legacy debt, tariff constraints, and delivery risks mean the energy transition and regional power trade improvements remain ongoing.
- Disease cooperation: knowledge-sharing and national programmes for HIV, TB and malaria  
South Africa continued to prioritise communicable disease control through national strategy updates, surveillance, and regional engagement. The DoH published its 2025–2030 strategic planning documents: Its 2024/25 Annual Report documented progress against the National HIV, TB and STI Strategic Plan. SANAC and other bodies launched and hosted global/regional updates to renew urgency on HIV/TB/malaria

<sup>82</sup> [https://wis.orasecom.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CRIP\\_010\\_2019\\_Climate\\_Resilient\\_WR\\_Investment\\_Plan\\_BasinWide\\_Investment\\_Plan.pdf?](https://wis.orasecom.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CRIP_010_2019_Climate_Resilient_WR_Investment_Plan_BasinWide_Investment_Plan.pdf?)

	<p>elimination efforts. Large population surveys (e.g., the South African HIV Behavioural, Sero-status and Media survey) and improved monitoring are strengthening evidence for policy. At the same time, funding gaps (including international donor shortfalls) and service delivery constraints are flagged as risks to rapid progress.<sup>83</sup> Institutional capacity for surveillance, strategy, and knowledge-sharing improved with better data, renewed national plans, and regional dialogues. However, sustaining treatment coverage and closing funding/service gaps remain crucial to lower incidence and mortality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Transnational organised crime and maritime security: Improved cooperation but evolving threats</u>        South Africa and SADC partners intensified law-enforcement cooperation with SADC police chiefs publicly committing to deepen regional operational cooperation against transnational organised crime. South Africa hosted and participated in high-level INTERPOL and regionally-led forums to enhance information sharing, deploy INTERPOL mobile tools, and coordinate investigations.<sup>84</sup> Maritime authorities (South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA, navy) increased inspections, port audits and strategic engagements with other African maritime administrations; SAMSA’s 2025/26 plans and national exercises strengthened maritime safety, while region-wide research flagged shifting organised-crime risks in the South Atlantic and persistent piracy threats in adjacent regions.<sup>85</sup> International reporting (IMB, ENACT) suggested piracy and armed robbery remained a concern globally and in African waters, and that coordination across naval, coastguard and regional centres remained vital.</li> </ul>
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<sup>83</sup> <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/NATIONAL-DEPARTMENT-OF-HEALTH-STRATEGIC-PLAN-2025-2030-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.sadc.int/latest-news/sadc-police-chiefs-commit-enhancing-regional-cooperation-fight-against-transnational>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.samsa.org.za/api/api/File/view/XxPWHvYBiBBKcK187FwdTw%3D%3D>

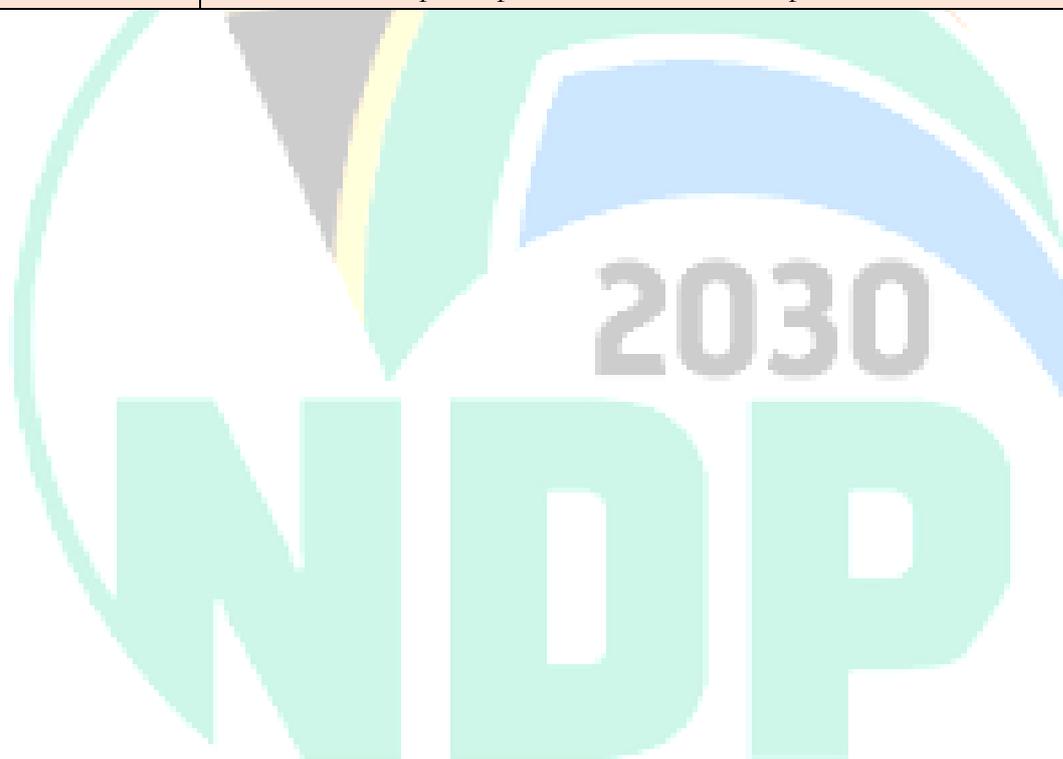
#### 4.7 ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS FOR PLANNING, INCLUDING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

##### a) United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To foster development that meets the global development goals standards
<b>Indicator:</b>	Progress report on the implementation of UN Agenda 2030
<b>Target:</b>	Alignment and domestication of SDGs
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>There is meaningful progress in South Africa toward aligning and domesticating the SDGs through the Voluntary National Review (VNR), the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and political and institutional mechanisms.</p> <p>The UNSDCF for South Africa (2020 - 2025) remains the core UN-South Africa structure for aligning UN support to the national SDG priorities. With the 2026-2030 framework underway, the UNSDCF aligns directly with the NDP, ensuring coherence between national development plans and the global SDG agenda.</p> <p>South Africa’s 2024 VNR report, approved by Cabinet in 2025, reaffirms the country’s commitment to the SDGs and shows how they align with the NDP and Agenda 2063. The VNR also stresses “localisation of SDGs” through the development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) conducted in 2024-2025. There were 10 municipal VLRs produced, including one civil society organisation SDG Peoples Report, one children’s SDG Report, and one private sector VNR Report.</p> <p>Further to the localisation, the NPC Secretariat in partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, South African Local Government Association, Economic Commission for Africa, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and UNDP in South Africa, hosted a second phase training and peer learning workshop on SDG localisation, Voluntary Local Reviews and Infrastructure Asset Management for local and central government officials in South Africa.</p> <p>The workshop brought together representatives from 37 municipalities across all provinces, the private sector, civil society and national departments. The workshop aimed to accelerate the localisation and implementation of the SDGs through the development of the new VLRs and to strengthen capacity in SDG planning, budgeting, and implementation. A key focus was on enhancing infrastructure asset management to improve resilience, revenue generation, and service delivery at the local level.</p>

## b) African Union (AU) Agenda 2063

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>African Union (AU) Agenda 2063</b>
<b>Objective</b>	To foster development that meets continental development standards
<b>Indicator:</b>	Progress report on the implementation of AU's Agenda 2063
<b>Target:</b>	Alignment and domestication of Agenda 2063
<b>Trend Analysis</b>	<p>Currently, there is no publicly released 2025 South Africa progress report on Agenda 2063.</p> <p>However, South Africa is actively engaged in implementing Agenda 2063. It has submitted reports, aligned its national plan (NDP) with the continental framework, and participates in AU evaluation processes.</p>



## **6. CONCLUSION: CHALLENGES AND LESSONS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NDP**

### **6.1 CONCLUSION**

The review shows that South Africa has achieved progress across several NDP indicators, particularly in social protection, basic education access and aspects of public sector reform. However, improvements remain uneven, and in many areas the pace of change is too slow to meet the 2030 targets. The persistent gaps from rising service delivery pressures to uneven institutional capacity and stalled socioeconomic indicators underscore that implementation, rather than policy direction, remains the country's central constraint. Strengthening execution capability, improving coordination across government, and ensuring performance-driven management will be essential if progress is to accelerate. South Africa has the policy frameworks and institutional foundations required to advance. Translating these into sustained, measurable impact will require a renewed focus on delivery and accountability.

### **6.2 CHALLENGES**

South Africa has demonstrated steady progress in expanding access to key public services, social assistance, and education, as well as in institutional reforms. However, the pace of progress remains uneven, and many of the intended developmental outcomes of the National Development Plan have not been fully realised. While policy direction is strong and aligned with long-term transformation goals, implementation capacity remains a central constraint. Operational weaknesses, gaps in technical capability, and administrative inefficiencies undermine service delivery and reduce the impact of otherwise well-conceived policies. This has resulted in slow improvements in several areas and persistent backlogs that continue to affect vulnerable communities.

A major challenge lies in the fragmented nature of planning and execution across government. Coordination among the national, provincial, and local spheres is inconsistent, often leading to duplication, siloed delivery, and weak alignment among budgets, planning, and institutional mandates. This fragmentation has affected progress in basic services, infrastructure development, and long-term service improvement. At the same time, shortages of skilled professionals and specialists across critical sectors, including education, social development, planning, engineering, and monitoring, continue to weaken institutional performance and limit departments' ability to meet rising public needs.

Another structural weakness is the limited use of monitoring and evaluation data to drive decision-making. Although reporting systems have improved, evidence is not consistently integrated into management, budgeting, or policy refinement. As a result, poor performance is not always corrected early, and lessons from previous implementation cycles are not systematically fed back into planning. Strengthening routine data systems, expanding the use of administrative and statistical evidence, and building a culture of performance accountability remain essential steps to improving government effectiveness.

### 6.3 LESSONS

The lessons emerging from this review are clear. Policy success depends not just on legislative or strategic direction, but also on the basic functionality and capabilities of institutions tasked with delivering programmes. Improving performance requires a decisive shift toward implementation excellence, better intergovernmental coordination, stronger professional and technical skills, and a governance culture that embraces continuous learning and evidence-based correction. South Africa must deepen the use of “learning governance” systems that systematically integrate feedback, evaluation, and performance data into planning and budgeting to overcome long-standing institutional weaknesses and move closer to the NDP’s long-term goals.



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## 8. ANNEXURE: 2025 DASHBOARD FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NDP

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>Confidence in institutions</b>	Percentage of respondents with confidence in institutions	No baseline	90% by 2030  The 2019-2024 MTSF outcome target is 80% trust in government as per the Edelman Trust Barometer.	Trust in national and local government:  In 2025, 36% (7% increase)  This positive shift is attributed to the establishment of the Government of National Unity.
<b>Service delivery</b>	Number of major service delivery protests	In 2012: 173	No target	Progress on service delivery is mixed, with some services showing improvement and others remaining areas of concern that continue to fuel protests. While statistical data indicate progress in areas like access to clean water and sanitation over the last decade, public dissatisfaction persists due to a lack of comprehensive and consistent service delivery, inadequate skills within local governments, and widespread socioeconomic disparities. Consequently, protests remain frequent, sometimes escalating in intensity and violence, despite efforts to address issues through

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				formal negotiations and legislation.
<b>The general political climate</b>	The political climate is a serious constraint on business conditions	No baseline	Improved efficiency and capabilities of the state and political leadership	Index value: 2019: 87 2020: 81
<b>Adherence to the rule of law and constitutional values</b>	Agreement with statements on the rule of law	No baseline	Improved leadership, governance, and accountability	The Constitution must be upheld: In 2017: 66%, In 2019: 77%  Elected representatives always have the right to make governance decisions: In 2017: 44%, In 2019: 54%
<b>Stabilise the political-administrative interface</b>	Security of tenure of DGs and senior management	2.7 years (2014)	Capable, professional, responsive state in 2030	3.08 years (2017)  7-10 years (National Implementation Framework on Professionalisation of the Public Sector Recommendations, 2022)
	Separation of political and administrative decision-making in respect of	No baseline	Appointment of an administrative head of the public service	Cabinet approved a policy proposal that seeks to amend the Public Service Administration Act of 2014 and the Public Service Act of 1994.

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	departmental management  Change in section 3 of the Public Service Act.			The Public Service Amendment Bill seeks to amend section 7 of the Public Service Act and facilitate the implementation of the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector, and the establishment of the Head of Public Administration.
	Qualifying exams to serve in the public service.	No baseline	Implement the writing of qualifying exams for recruitment into the public service	Roll out of compulsory induction programme, focused on inducting new entrants to the public service at levels 1-12, Wamkelikile Induction for senior managers, and the executive induction programme for levels 15 and 16.
	Strengthened merit-based appointments.	No baseline	Professionalise the public service.	National Implementation Framework for the Professionalisation of Public Service, approved by Cabinet in 2022
	Lifestyle audits are to be done as standard routine	No baseline	Introduce and implement lifestyle audits	Guide to implement lifestyle audits in the public service approved by Minister: DPSA, from 1 April 2021, making it compulsory for national and provincial departments and

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				government components to conduct lifestyle audits.
<b>Building safer communities</b>	<p>Murder rate (murders per 100 000 people)</p> <p>Number of individuals aged 16 years+ who experienced street robbery.</p> <p>Perceptions of safety: Feeling at least fairly safe walking alone when it is dark.</p> <p>Number of reported crimes</p>	In 2011/12 murder rate: was 29 per 100 000.	People in South Africa feel safe and have no fear of crime	<p><b>Trends:</b></p> <p>In 2024/25 Q4;</p> <p>Murder: There was a 12.4% decrease in murder cases, with 5,727 reported incidents, averaging 64 murders per day.</p> <p>Aggravated Robbery: This crime category saw a 10.4% drop, totalling 31,749 incidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempted Murder: Cases reduced by 5.8%, with 6,985 reported.</li> <li>• Serious Assaults: These incidents fell by 5.3%, totalling 43,776 cases.</li> </ul> <p>In 2025, South Africa is facing a significant increase in murder rates, with 5,727 murders recorded in the first quarter alone, averaging 62 deaths per day.</p> <p>Overview of Murder Statistics.</p> <p>Rising Rates: The 2025 report indicates a distressing trend, with the murder rate reaching record highs. This</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	<p>compared to the number of successful prosecutions</p>			<p>surge has raised alarms across communities and government sectors, highlighting the urgent need for effective crime-fighting strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly Data: Between January and March 2025, there were 5,727 murders, a decrease from 6,289 in the same period the previous year. This indicates a slight improvement, but the overall numbers remain alarmingly high.</li> </ul> <p>Firearm Involvement: Firearms were identified as the weapon of choice in a significant portion of these killings, with 2,559 murders involving guns. This underscores the ongoing issue of illegal firearms in the country.</p> <p>Despite the overall positive trends, certain crime categories have seen increases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Offences: The total remained largely unchanged at 13,452 cases, but there was a slight increase in rape incidents.</li> </ul>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial Crime: This category rose by 4.7%, totalling 35,000 incidents.</li> <li>Kidnappings: Increased by 6.8%, with 4,571 cases reported, indicating a growing concern for law enforcement agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthen the anti-corruption system.</b>	Protection of whistle-blowers (Number of whistle-blower reports received)	No baseline	A resilient anti-corruption system  South Africa has zero tolerance for corruption	<p>In 2017: 5327</p> <p>In 2019: 3560</p> <p>In 2020: 4560 whistle-blower reports were received by Corruption Watch.</p> <p>Transparency International's Corruption Perception</p> <p>The index suggests that between 2012 and 2019 South Africa did not make any progress. In 2019, it was ranked 70th place out of 198 countries.</p>
<b>Revive the National Anti-Corruption Forum</b>	Relaunch of the National Anti-Corruption Forum (NACF) and tracking commitments made by all sectors and measuring these.	No baseline	An effective, integrated anti-corruption strategy	<p>Reconstitution of NACF in 2017 to combat and prevent corruption.</p> <p>Approval of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2020-30 by Cabinet in November 2020</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				<p>Appointment of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) in August 2022 to advise the President on effectively implementing the anti-corruption strategy in all spheres of society and provide advocacy and action in the fight against fraud and corruption.</p>
<p><b>Improvement in Corruption Perception Index rating</b> (The Corruption Perception Index score measures the perceived levels of corruption in the public sector)</p>	<p>The conviction rate for serious fraud and corruption in the private sector.</p> <p>The conviction rate for serious fraud and corruption in the public sector.</p> <p>Percentage of cases finalised by departments through investigations.</p> <p>The number of financial intelligence reports used for the</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>Statistical report for the years 2023/24 suggests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact on Governance: The persistent low score indicates deep-rooted corruption issues that hinder economic growth and development, affecting both domestic and foreign investment.</li> </ul> <p>Future Outlook</p> <p>While the specific CPI score for 2025 has not yet been released, the stagnation observed in 2024 raises concerns that South Africa may continue to struggle with corruption issues in the coming year.</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	<p>identification of high-priority cases.</p> <p>The number of civil cases enrolled in the Special Tribunal Court.</p> <p>Specialised Commercial Crime Courts established in five provinces</p>			
<p><b>Effectively defended, protected, safeguarded, and secured communities</b></p>	<p>Percentage of identified drug syndicates neutralised with arrests.</p> <p>Percentage increase in the number of arrests (number of cases) for dealing in drugs (excluding cannabis).</p> <p>Percentage of identified organised criminal groups or syndicates neutralised with arrests.</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>Specialised cybercrime investigative support case files successfully investigated, increased from 80,22%, in 2019/20 to 80,30%, in 2021/22.</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	Percentage of identified illegal mining operations terminated with arrests.			
<b>Expanding basic services and infrastructure</b>	Access to basic services (water, sanitation, waste, energy)	No baseline	Energy: 75% by 2030 Integrated Resource Plan target	<p>90.2% of households have access to piped water (2024). Basic sanitation access is 84.1% (Stats SA, 2024). In the provision of adequate sanitation, 84,1% of households have access to improved functioning or hygienic sanitation facilities in 2024 (Stats SÁ). An increase from 83,1% in 2020 - Eskom’s energy availability factor (EAF) 66.9% in 2019</p> <p>Households with access to grid electricity marginally decreased from 90% in 2020 to 89,3% in 2021. (Stats SÁ, GHS 2021)</p>
<b>Increase in the number and type of residential units</b>	Informal settlement upgrading	No baseline	Upgrading of the 1 500 informal settlements by 2024 (MTSF 2019-24 target)	<p>The upgrading of informal settlements target is currently at 1.5% (MTSF). The proliferation of informal settlements has increased from 1 453 018 in 1996 to 1 979 000</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				households in 2020 (36,2% increase)  The underperformance in the upgrading of informal settlements poses a negative impact on households that live in uninhabitable living conditions in informal settlements and reinforces spatial poverty traps.
<b>Adequate housing and improved quality of living environments</b>	Social housing/rental housing units in Priority Development Areas (PDAs)  Community residential units (CRU)/ rental housing units in PDAs	No baseline	300 000 social housing/rental housing units in PDAs  12 000 CRUs  18 000 rental housing units in PDAs	Delivery of 300 000 Breaking New Ground houses at 57% in 2022  Delivery of 5 000 CRUs – 34% in 2022  Delivery of 18 000 social /rental units in PDAs – 47% in 2022
<b>Security of tenure including the eradication of title deed backlogs</b>	Eradication of title deed backlogs	No baseline	Issuing of outstanding title deeds.	Issuing of 1 193 222 outstanding title deeds comprising pre-1994 backlog (45 535), post-1994 (500 845), post-2014 (346 842) and new title deeds (300 000).

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				<p>New title deeds</p> <p>2019: 898</p> <p>2020/21:3457</p> <p>2021/22: 12935</p> <p>2022 Sept: 14960</p>
<p><b>Equal opportunities, inclusion, and redress</b></p>	<p>The number of designated employers is subject to the DG review process to enforce compliance with the Employment Equity Act.</p> <p>The number of persons with disabilities employed increased annually by at least 1.5% of the total workforce reported by designated employers.</p> <p>The number of sustained and visible initiatives</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>No target</p>	<p>1782 (against a target of 1662) employers were subjected to the DG review process to enforce compliance with the Employment Equity Act, 1996 (56%) employers were found to be compliant and 786 (44%) non-compliant</p> <p>Persons with disabilities decreased by 0.1% in 2021/22 (from 1,3% in 2020 to 1,2% in 2021) in the workforce of both public and private sectors against a target of a 1.5% increase.</p> <p>Data from the DPSA also indicates that the government has not been able to meet the 2% target over the past four years (1.03% March 2019, 1.03% March 2020, 1.04% March</p>

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	<p>and campaigns throughout the year on gender and anti-xenophobia.</p> <p>The number of sustained and visible anti-xenophobia campaigns conducted with departments and role players. An effective governance structure to lead and coordinate the overall implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (NAP).</p>			2021, and 1.12% March 2022).
<b>Promoting social cohesion through increased interaction</b>	Number of programmes on television and radio showcasing national days and	No baseline	No target	The 2024 South African Social Cohesion Index serves as a tool to assess the current state of social cohesion and to develop targeted strategies and

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>across space and class</b>	<p>constitutional values.</p> <p>The number of digital campaigns showcasing the significance of national days.</p> <p>The number of community conversations/dialogues held to foster social interaction.</p> <p>Number of people actively participating in organised sport and active recreation events</p>			<p>policies that promote inclusivity, equity, and tolerance among all citizens.</p> <p>Despite an overall moderately high level of social cohesion, the index indicates that much work remains, with several areas requiring urgent attention.</p>
<b>Promoting active citizenry and leadership</b>	The number of face-to-face career development events held per annum.	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported.
	The number of election results declared within seven days after election day.	Local elections 2011	Election results are declared within seven days after election day.	Elections have been declared seven days after the elections for 2016 and 2021
<b>Fostering social compacts</b>	The number of social compacts for a more democratic, equal, and prosperous society.	No baseline	No target	Different sectors have been in a process of fostering social compacts. Quantifying the indicator remains a challenge.

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	Overarching social compact.			
<b>Increasing GDP growth, measured</b>	GDP growth rate	3.3%	Average GDP growth of 5.4% for 2011-2030 (5.0%)	-7.0% (2020) 0.2% (2020) 4.9% (2021) 4.16% (2025) 0.8% (2025)
	Per capita GDP growth	R50 000 per person (2010)	R110 000 per person (2030)	R 54 900 per person (2020) R 75 135 per person (2025)
<b>Reducing unemployment</b>	Unemployment rate (Official)	25% (2010)	6%	34.9% (Q3: 2021) 33.2% (Q2: 2025)
	Number employed	13 million (2010)	24 million	14.3 million in Q3: 2021 16.8 million in Q2: 2025
	Employment growth relative to the 2010 baseline	No baseline	11 million	3.8 million (2025)
	Dependency ratio	3.9 (2010)	2.5	3.6 (2025)
	Employment ratio	41.9%	61.0%	40.2%: Q2:2025
	Labour force participation rate	55.7%	65.0%	60.2%
<b>Increasing investment by the government and the private sector</b>	Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	19.3% (2010)	30% of GDP	15.8% of GDP (2020) 14.1% of GDP (2022) 17.1% of GDP (2024)
	Private sector investment (% of GDP)	No baseline	20% of GDP	11% of GDP (2020) 9.9% of GDP (2021) 12% of GDP (2024)
	Public sector investment (% of GDP)	6.8%	10% of GDP	5% of GDP (2020) 4.1% of GDP (2021) 4.1% of GDP (2024)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>Poverty reduction</b>	Percentage of the population living below the food poverty line (FPL)	21.4%	0%	25.2% (2016) 23.3% (2025)
	Percentage of people living below the lower-bound poverty line (LBPL)	36.4%	0%	40% (2016) 47.5% (2025)
	Percentage of people living below the upper-bound poverty line (UBPL)	53.2%	No target for UBPL	55.5% (2016) 60.5% (2025)
	Percentage of people classed as poor using the South African multi-dimensional poverty index (SAMPI) headcount	8.0%	No target for SAMPI	7% (2016) 7% (2024)
<b>Improving equity</b>	Reduce income inequality (Gini income measure)	0.69 (2009)	0.6	0.68 (2015) 0.63 (2024) 0.67(2025)
	Reduce income inequality (Gini expenditure measure)	0.65 (2009)	No target for expenditure measure	0.65 (2018)
	Share of income going to the bottom 40%	6% (2010)	10%	Less than 6%
<b>Export growth</b>	Exports growth (constant rand)	4.0% (2010)	6%	0.1% (2018/19)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				-10.2% (Q2, 2023) 3.4% (2024)
	Non-traditional exports growth (non-mining based)	7.6% (2010)	10%	-0.8% (2020) 7.4% (2024)
	Mining/metals exports	5.9%		1.9% (2020) -9.3 (Q1,2022) -3.3% (2024)
<b>Improved and efficient regulatory authority, certainty in the energy mix and pricing path, improved access, and competition to reduce cost and improved maintenance of distribution capacity of municipalities</b>	Electricity availability factor (EAP)	No baseline	40 000 MW power capacity	3 700 MW (2018) 29,167MW (2024)
	Renewable energy (RE)-total existing RE generation capacity	No baseline	20 000 MW	12041 MW (2018) 4443 GW (2025)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>Improved access, efficiency, and cost of transport</b>	Percentage of goods transported by road and rail	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
	The proportion of the population using public transport	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
<b>Water resources and water usage</b>	Percentage of population with access to clean drinking water	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
<b>Integrated and inclusive rural economy</b>	Total agricultural employment	781 000	+393 000 (Under-utilised land/ smallholder (field crops only)  +250 000 (Export-led)  +326 000 (thousand Agro-processing/integrated value chain)	-100 000 -utilised land/ smallholder (field crops only)  +25 000 Export-led  +102 000 Agro-processing/integrated value chain.
	Land reform progress	No baseline	23.3m ha	15.56m ha
<b>Environmental sustainability</b>	Reduction in total GHG emissions	No baseline	No target	
	Renewable energy (RE)-total existing	No baseline	20 GW	6.5 GW (2019)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	RE generation capacity			6.2 GW (2022)
	Protecting biodiversity	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
<b>Basic Education</b>	Percentage of learners entering quality preschool education (target: two years of compulsory schooling for all 4- and 5-year-olds by 2030),	4-year-olds (2013): 74.4% of attendance  5-year-olds (2016): 87% attendance	Two years of compulsory schooling for all 4- and 5-year-olds by 2030	4-year-olds (2013): 74.4%, (2019): 74.7% (2020): 56.6%, (2021): 55%  5-year-olds (2016): 87% (2019): 92.7% (2020): 77.5%
	Time spent teaching.	No baseline	No baseline	Teachers in South Africa spent 66% of classroom time on actual teaching and learning
	Improved learner: educator ratio	LE ratio of 31 in 2003		Average LE Ratio (primary and secondary schools) (2003): 34  (2010): 31  (2016): 33  (2023): 33.5 primary school

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				(2023): 34.2 secondary school
	Percentage of schools meeting minimum standards for infrastructure (sanitation, water, electricity, libraries, and laboratories)	59% compliance in 2011	All schools to qualify by 2030	(2011):59% (2017): 59%
	Percentage of schools with School Governing Bodies	2011- 56%	No target	(2017): 100% compliance 2020 - 97.05% (1 941/ 2 000)
<b>Post-school Education</b>	Percentage of TVET lecturers who are qualified pedagogically (difficult to measure) and professionally (this could be possible to measure)	No baseline	No target	(2022): 59%.
	TVET and artisan programme throughput rates	(2012): 15 000	30 000	(2019): 21 000 (2021) - 10 302 (2022) – 10 376 (2024/25) 16 273
	Percentage of university academic staff with PhDs	(2012) - 1 500	5 000	(2012) - 1 500 (2018)- 48% (2019) - 3 000 (2012) – 47.7%

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	Number of post-graduate students per 100 000	(2012): 1 050	1 600	(2015):1 901 (2019):45 685 (2023) 1 071 715
	Number of ISI-accredited articles and patents registered	No data available	No target	14 612.27 units in 2016 to 15 388.42 in 2017, a 5.3% growth.  In 2022 there were 20 017 publications.
<b>Promoting health</b>	Improving life expectancy	61 years in 2012	70 years	60 years (2011) 62.1 years (2013) 65.3 years (2019) 65.4 years (2020) 61.7years (2021) 62.8 Years (2022)
	Reducing the under-5 child mortality rate	44 deaths per 1000 live births	Fewer than 30 deaths per 1000 live births	42.4 deaths per 1 000 births (2017) 35.2 child deaths per 1000 live births (2020) 30,8 child deaths per 1 000 live births (2021) 30,7 deaths per 1000 births (2022)
	Reducing the infant mortality rate	34 deaths per 1000 live births (2012)	fewer than 20 per 1000 births	32,8 per 1 000 births (2017)  The infant mortality rate for 2021 is estimated at 24, 1 per 1 000 live births.

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				24,3 per 1 000 live births (2022)
	Reducing maternal mortality	Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) per 100 000 live births 164 in 2012 (Rapid Mortality Surveillance Report 2019 & 2020)	Less than 100 deaths per 100 000 live births	134 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in 2016, reduced from 153 per 100 000 in 2013.  Nationally, the ratio stands at 109/100 000 live births in 2017
<b>Improving the quality of primary healthcare at clinics</b>	Number of ideal clinics established	Base of zero in 2013/14	Transform 3,467 (100%) PHC clinics in the 52 districts to qualify as Ideal Clinics by 2021	Ideal Clinics stands at 1928 (of 3479 PHC clinics)
<b>Enhancing social assistance</b>	A social wage, which will result in a reduced cost of living (education, healthcare, basic services),	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
	Expanded social grants coverage, increasing the take-up rate for those who qualify (target: 100% coverage for	2012 – Individual – 29.5% Household – 42.9%	No target	2012/13: 16 106 110  2019/20: 18 290 592  2020/2021: 18,9 million

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	old age pension by 2020),			
<b>Development of social welfare services</b>	Strengthen financial and human resources and infrastructure for social development (target: increase of 1.9% per annum in the budget for the next 5 years and universal availability of facilities).	2012: The baseline was for 3908 scholarships to be awarded to Social Service Practitioners (SSPs), only 918 were awarded  932 SSPs were trained	Human resources 55 000	10 389 posts in 2013  2020 / 21:  Currently: 18 300  There has been an increase of 163 SSPs (during the 2020/21 financial year)
Inclusive education and special needs	Ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities	No baseline	Percentage of teachers in service who have received in-service training in the last 12 months to teach students with special educational needs	(2015): 557  (2020): 45 942  (2022): 7067 (53 009)
Accessible schools	Build and upgrade education facilities which are disability sensitive	(2012) a: 88  (2012) b: 12,5  (2012) c: 23,6	Percentage of schools with access to (a) electricity,  (b) the Internet for pedagogical	(2015)  (a) Electricity = 98,0%  (b) Internet for pedagogical purposes = 19,7%  (c) Computers for pedagogical purpose =

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
		(2012) d: 93 (2012) e: 99,9	purposes, (c) computers for pedagogical purposes, (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, (e) basic drinking water, (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities, and (g) basic hand washing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)	32,6% (e) Basic drinking water = 99,0% (f) Sanitation facilities = 100,0%
Full employment	Achieve full employment for persons with disabilities	(2014): 24,9%	The unemployment rate, disaggregated for persons with/without disabilities	(2012): 14 838  (2021): 16 832 were not economically active
Inclusion and empowerment	Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of	No data	Percentage of positions in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and	(2021): 12

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
	age, sex, and disability.		judiciary) held by persons with disabilities	
Accessible transport	Providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, including persons with disabilities	No data	Percentage of public transport vehicles meeting the minimum national standards for accessibility by persons with disabilities	(2018): 2349
<b>Define national priorities</b>	Review the training of foreign-service officers, starting by studying global best practices in economic diplomacy and international negotiations.	No baseline	Assessment is done and documented	No progress
	Enhance research capabilities and co-operation among vital state institutions that deal with cross-border issues	No baseline	No target	No progress
<b>Aggressively expand trade and investment in the region, on</b>	Increase intra-regional trade in Southern Africa	No baseline	From 7% of trade to 25% of trade by 2030.	As a share of South Africa's total merchandise exports and imports, trade from Sub-Saharan Africa did not play a significantly more

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
the continent and globally.				<p>prominent role in 2018 than in 2010. In 2018, exports to Sub-Saharan Africa were at 26% and imports at 11.6%.</p> <p>From January to October 2023, South Africa's intra-Africa trade balance amounts to R307 billion, with exports at R454 billion and imports at R147 billion. The exports, excluding BELN, amount to R294 billion and imports are R94 billion.</p> <p>South African exports to African markets show a notable shift towards the services sector, as the percentage of surveyed service sector exporters more than doubled from January 2022 to May 2023.</p>
	Increase South Africa's trade with regional neighbours	No baseline	From 15% of our trade to 30%.	No progress has been reported
	Increase exports (as measured in volume terms)	No baseline	Should grow by 6% a year to 2030, with non-traditional exports growing by 10% a year.	South Africa's trade as a share of GDP peaked in 2014 but declined after that. In 2019, it was only 3% points higher than in 2010.

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
				South Africa's global export trade, for January to October 2023, stood at R1 trillion.
	Increase FDI into South Africa	No baseline	No specific target	<p>FDI into South Africa is related to the commodity cycle, accounting for the drop in inward FDI after 2013. South Africa's FDI outflows exceeded FDI inflows between 2014 and 2017 but returned to a net positive position in 2018 and 2019. In 2020, South Africa attracted \$2.5 billion in new foreign investments. A 45% drop from the figure of \$4.6 billion in 2019.<sup>86</sup></p> <p>South Africa recorded foreign direct investment inflows of R53.8 billion in the second quarter of 2023. The acquisition of a domestic beverage company by a non-resident firm contributed to the increase.</p>

<sup>86</sup> report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
<b>Increase Tourism in South Africa</b>	Increase foreign tourist arrival numbers	No baseline	No target	<p>In 2019, 14,8 million non-resident visitors to South Africa, down from 15,0 million in 2018. Of the 14,8 million, 31% were same-day visitors, and 69% were tourists.</p> <p>More than 4 million tourist arrivals in South Africa between January and June 2023 (4.8 million). In August 2023, 165 705 foreign tourists came to South Africa.</p>
	Increase foreign tourist expenditure	No baseline	No specific target	<p>Inbound tourism expenditure increased by 1,2% to R121,5 billion in 2019 compared with 2018.</p> <p>R25.3 billion expenditure in the first quarter of 2023, which is an increase of 143.9% compared to quarter 1 of 2022</p>
<b>Harmonise border policies between South Africa's regional trading partners,</b>	Harmonised border policies between South Africa and its trading partners	No baseline	No target	South Africa has ratified as a member of AfCFTA.

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
especially in the emerging Tripartite Free Trade Area,				
<b>Integrate national institutions responsible for foreign policy, international negotiations, and monitoring.</b>	Integrated national institutions	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported
<b>Improve human security through effective transnational natural-resource management – especially water and energy – and knowledge-sharing on vital issues such as communicable diseases,</b>	Effective transnational natural-resource management	No baseline	No target	No progress has been reported

Goals	Indicator	Baseline	NDP 2030 target	Progress
most notably HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and transnational crime and maritime piracy				
Establish international partnerships and networks on planning, including with respect to sustainable development	Progress on implementation of UN Agenda 2030 (SDGs)	No baseline	Alignment and domestication of SDGs in domestic plans	<p>The first Voluntary National Review (VNR) was presented to the UN in 2019.</p> <p>The process to present the second VNR in 2024 is underway.</p>
	Progress on implementation of AU's Agenda 2063	Report submitted to AU	Alignment and domestication of Agenda 2063 in domestic plans	<p>Progress report presented in 2020 during the Heads of State and Government Summit.</p> <p>The stakeholder consultation report on the evaluation of the first ten-year implementation plan and developing the second ten-year implementation plan was submitted in 2022.</p> <p>Data input submitted towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial report of Agenda 2063.</p>