



+25

SOUTH AFRICA'S REPORT

ON THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

2014-2019



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ABBREVIATIONS

ABET	-	Adult Basic Education and Training
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AU	-	African Union
BPA	-	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	-	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CODESA	-	Convention for a Democratic South Africa
CSE	-	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSW	-	Commission on the Status of Women
DoJ&CD	-	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DoW	-	Department of Women
DPW	-	Department of Public Works
DSD	-	Department of Social Development
DTI	-	Department of Trade and Industry
EPWP	-	Expanded Public Works Programme
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
GHS	-	General Household Survey
GII	-	Gender Inequality Index
HCI	-	Human Capital Index
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
IEC	-	Independent Electoral Commission
ILO	-	International Labour Organisation
ISRDP	-	Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme
LGBTI	-	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goals
MIG	-	Municipal Infrastructure Grants
MTSF	-	Medium Term Strategic Framework
NCOP	-	National Council of Provinces
NDP	-	National Development Plan
NGM	-	National Gender Machinery
NGO	-	Non-governmental Organisations
NPA	-	National Prosecuting Agency
NPC	-	National Planning Commission
PMTCT	-	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
RDP	-	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SADC	-	Southern Africa Development Community
SALGA	-	South African Local Government Association
SANAC	-	South African National AIDS Council
SASSA	-	South African Social Security Agency
SCA	-	Supreme Court of Appeal
SBC	-	Social and Behaviour Change
SDG	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SIGI	-	Social Institutions and Gender Index
SMME	-	Small, medium and micro-enterprise
SRHR	-	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	-	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TRC	-	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
UIF	-	Unemployment Insurance Fund
UN	-	United Nations
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
VAT	-	Value Added Tax
VAW	-	Violence Against Women
WEF	-	World Economic Forum
WEGE	-	Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality
WHO	-	World Health Organisation
WNC	-	Women's National Coalition

INTRODUCTION

2019 marks twenty five years of democracy in South Africa since 1994 when the country held its first democratic elections following the era of apartheid and colonialism. The timing of the Beijing+25 review coincides with the 25 year review of democracy in South Africa. The South African Government has undertaken a national twenty-five year review process towards emerging with a set of priorities for the country going forward.

In 2012 South Africa adopted its National Development Plan: Vision 2030 which serves as a blueprint for development in the country towards 2030. The country has also embarked on national elections in May 2019 and the 6th Administration of Government has just come into place. It is an extremely exciting moment in the country where a strong mandate has been given to the incoming 6th administration by the general electorate, responding to the call by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa to his “Thuma Mina” (Send Me) rallying call, adding the tag line “Khawuleza” meaning “move faster”.

It was during the election campaigning in 2019 that the people of South Africa iterated very clearly their impatience for speedy implementation of the country’s plans, programmes and strategies – “a coherent and bold people’s plan for a better life for all, addressing the persistent realities of unemployment, poverty and inequality...”.¹ The campaign illustrated that the [country’s] top 10 priorities are jobs, housing, water, roads, electricity, sanitation, crime, corruption, education and land.”²

The overview of the twenty-five year review indicated that South Africa was able to construct a new society based on a Constitution that guarantees political, social, economic and environmental rights. The commitment to a non-sexist society was written into the Constitution and the country has made advances in women’s political, social and economic spheres as well as in attaining human rights and dignity, in particular women’s rights and women’s representation in parliament, government, the public service, and in the private sector.

Following the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action in 1995, South Africa has periodically reported on the progress made in implementing the Platform for Action in the country, submitting its first report in 2000 (B+5), its 2nd in 2005 (B+10), the 3rd in 2010 (B+15) and the 4th in 2015 (B+20). This B+25 report is therefore building on the previous reports and provides an assessment of South Africa’s progress in implementing the Platform for Action from 2014-2019.

The national review report responds to the issues raised in the Guidance Note provided by UN Women. Part i of the report covers the process undertaken in the country in terms of the national level review and highlights the institutional mechanism for the review, multi-stakeholder participation and the process of preparation of the national report.

Part ii provides a detailed assessment the progress made in implementing the Platform for Action for the period 2014-2019, and is structured in four sections. Section 1 focuses on the priorities, achievements, challenges and gaps in. It also highlights emerging priorities for the future (short, medium and long term). Section 2 outlines the progress across the 12 Critical Areas of Concern of the Platform for Action. It is a detailed analysis of measures taken to advance women’s empowerment and gender equality across the 12 critical areas with a focus on the period 2014-2019, under the following

¹ African National Congress; June 2019: BULLETIN: NEC Lekgotla: Report and Outcomes of the NEC Lekgotla held on 1-3 June 2019“A Five-Year Programme to Translate our Contract with the People of South Africa, Johannesburg

² African National Congress; June 2019: BULLETIN: NEC Lekgotla: Report and Outcomes of the NEC Lekgotla held on 1-3 June 2019“A Five-Year Programme to Translate our Contract with the People of South Africa, Johannesburg

thematic areas: (i) Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity and Decent Work; (ii) Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Social Services; (iii) Freedom from Violence, Stigma and Stereotypes; (iv) Participation, Accountability and Gender-Responsive Institutions; (v) Peace and Inclusive Societies and (vi) Environmental Conservation, Protection and Rehabilitation.

Section 3 focuses on the national processes and mechanisms linked to the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on women's empowerment and gender equality and the other SDGs as related. Section 4 highlights the progress on the availability of data disaggregated by sex and gender statistics.

Part iii of the report comprises the conclusion and the list of SDG country indicators.

PART 1

COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL LEVEL REVIEW

A focus on women's empowerment and gender equality as a key thematic area in the 25 year review of democracy provided an opportune moment for South Africa to reflect on the journey made through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action since its adoption in September 1995, but more specifically over the past five years (2014-2019). Using evidence gathered from disaggregation of data and statistics to measure the achievements made; depictions of trends where possible; and witnessing the changes in the lived experiences and realities of women and girls today has enabled a comprehensive assessment of the progress made on advancing the lives of women and girls in the country. Thus the process of preparing the national Beijing+25 report is very much aligned to the processes undertaken in developing the twenty-five review report on women's empowerment and gender equality in South Africa.

The process of assessing progress was initiated through the establishment of an Interdepartmental Task Team coordinated by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency in 2018. Each sector was required to undertake a review of the progress made, assessing the extent of implementation of legislation, policies, strategies and programmes in line with the National Development Plan: Vision 2030; the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019; and the Constitution of the country. The former Department of Women was part of this Interdepartmental Task Team. Data and statistics were gathered and trends determined. A gendered analysis of the findings was undertaken and an evidence-based, data-driven report was developed.

Consultations of the evidence, findings and reports were extensive. The evidence was consulted through the Government's Director-General (DG) Clusters especially the Governance and Administration DG Cluster and Technical Working Group; and the Social Protection, Community and Human Development DG Cluster and Technical Working Group. Furthermore a presentation of the evidence was also consulted in Interdepartmental Consultation Workshops hosted by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in October 2018 and March 2019. These platforms included government representatives, the business and private sectors; trade unions; NGOs; Faith Based organisations; community organisations; Chapter 9 institutions and civil society structures. Young people and the LGBTQI+ sectors were part of the consultation.

The former Department of Women consulted on the evidence during a National Gender Machinery meeting held in January 2019. The report also includes wherever possible the voices of women obtained through the extensive process of national dialogues undertaken by the former Department of Women from 2017-2019 across municipality and district levels in all 9 provinces in the country. The

dialogues focused on community level participation and included local and traditional and religious leadership, faith based organisations, local business organisations, women's groups and organisations and community based organisations. Women, men, young women, girls, young men and boys participated in the dialogues, including HIV+ groups; members of the LGBTQIA+ sectors; rural women's groups, etc.

The Beijing+25 report has been consulted and therefore validated at a national consultation meeting held on 29 June 2019 in which representatives from government, across the provinces and local government, women's organisations, NGOs, the men's sector; young women's sector; the LGBTQIA+ sector; community based organisations; academics; researchers; and civil society organisations participated. Their inputs have been captured into this B+25 Report. Participants affirmed the report, and indicated they were happy with the data and statistics in the report as it speaks to the realities on the ground as well as the lived realities and experiences of women and girls at the community level. They also indicated the country has done well in advancing a strong legislative framework that provides for women's rights and empowerment – however the implementation has been poor and therefore women do not feel positive impact on their lives. The UN high level Representatives present at this meeting also indicated their satisfaction with the South African Report particularly in the manner in which it utilised data to indicate progress made and highlight the gaps and challenges persisting.

The President of South Africa hosted a National Summit on Gender Based Violence and Femicide in November 2018 following the undertaking by the President when he addressed the women's organisations and women victims / survivors who marched as the #TotalShutdown earlier in 2018. Women's voices were clearly heard by the President at the National Summit which emerged with a Declaration which has since been signed between women's organisations and the President in March 2019. The issues that were raised at the Summit and captured in the Declaration are also reflected upon within this review report.

PART II

NATIONAL REPORT ON BEIJING +25

PRIORITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND GAPS

This section provides a macro analysis of priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks, with a focus on the past five years, from 2014 to 2019, as well new and emerging priorities for the future. Over the first 20 years of the democratic transition in South Africa (1994-2014), the foundations were laid for a non-racial and non-sexist society based on fundamental human rights, equality and unity in diversity. In 2014, the Government's Twenty Year Review Report³ stated that at the end of the fourth administration (2009-2014), South Africa was a better place in which to live than it was in 1994, where political and social rights of people were protected, and the lives of millions of people have been improved through new laws, better public services, expansion of economic opportunities and improved living conditions. Despite this, the challenges that faced the country in 2014 were still immense: poverty, inequality, unemployment, and violence against women and girls continued to impact negatively on the lives of millions - especially Black African women, and in particular those living in rural areas and in informal settlements.

³ Republic of South Africa, The Presidency; 2014; Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), Pretoria

It is against this background that bold and decisive steps had to be taken on a qualitatively different path that sought to eliminate poverty, create jobs and sustain livelihoods, and substantially reduce inequality. Thus Government emerged with a Medium Term Strategic Framework, which was a strategic plan for the 2014-2019 electoral period, with a renewed commitment to fully implement the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 adopted in September 2012. The country considered it important that during the 2014-2019 period there must be focused attention on the creation of a competitive economy, decent work opportunities for all, key social development initiatives such as social security, retirement reform, food security for all, land and agricultural reform, national health insurance, improvements in basic education, expansion of technical and vocational education, and reducing violent crimes against society.

Thus the 2014-2019 electoral mandate focused on the following priorities:

- Radical economic transformation, rapid economic growth and job creation
- Rural development, land and agrarian reform and food security
- Ensuring access to adequate human settlements and quality basic services
- Improving the quality of and expanding access to education and training
- Ensuring quality health care and social security for all citizens
- Fighting crime and corruption
- Contributing to a better Africa and a better world
- Social cohesion and nation building

In its focus on these priorities, Government elaborated them into fourteen key outcomes and associated activities and targets, as follows:

- Outcome 1: Quality Basic Education
- Outcome 2: A Long and Healthy Life for All South Africans
- Outcome 3: All People in South Africa Are and Feel Safe
- Outcome 4: Decent Employment Through Inclusive Growth
- Outcome 5: A Skilled and Capable Workforce to Support an Inclusive Growth Path
- Outcome 6: An Efficient, Competitive and Responsive Economic Infrastructure Network
- Outcome 7: Vibrant, Equitable, Sustainable Rural Communities Contributing Towards Food Security for All
- Outcome 8: Sustainable Human Settlements and Improved Quality of Household Life
- Outcome 9: Responsive, Accountable, Effective and Efficient Local Government
- Outcome 10: Protect and Enhance Our Environmental Assets and Natural Resources
- Outcome 11: Create a Better South Africa and Contribute to a Better Africa and a Better World
- Outcome 12: An Efficient, Effective and Development-oriented Public Service
- Outcome 13: A Comprehensive, Responsive and Sustainable Social Protection System
- Outcome 14: A Diverse, Socially Cohesive Society with a Common National Identity

Top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in the country over the past five years through laws, policies and or programmes included job creation and sustainable growth; improving access to education for girls especially in the STEM field; addressing women's health in particular maternal mortality, the high levels of HIV and AIDS in young women, addressing violence against women and gender based violence in particular issues of rape and sexual offences, femicide and intimate partner violence, killings and rape of lesbian and gay women and addressing trafficking in women and girls; economic empowerment of women in particular women owned businesses, SMMEs, women cooperatives, women vendors, hawkers and village and township enterprises; development of rural women; among others.

In this regard the country focused on ensuring equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice for women; poverty reduction, agricultural productivity and food security for women; right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression) and women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises.

However South Africa also focused on other issues such as:

- Political participation and representation
- Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)
- Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)
- Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport etc.)
- Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability
- Gender-responsive budgeting
- Digital and financial inclusion for women
- Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building
- Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes

The country has made enormous political, social and economic strides. There is, however, concern that the institutionalisation of the transformation agenda for women may have slowed down. Central to this concern are the continuing challenges and multiplicity of oppressions faced by South African women informed by their differently constructed subjective positions in relation to the political, economic, and social power structures. Although the agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in South Africa is advanced in comparison with many other countries, efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment through legislative and policy interventions have yet to substantially transform society and the economy.

Overview of Progress Made: 2014-2019

South Africa has accomplished substantial success in the structural establishment of institutional mechanisms for advancing women's empowerment across all state functions, and in inserting gender equality principles into legislation. The founding provisions and the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Constitution enabled the establishment of institutional arrangements for the advancement of women's rights, empowerment and gender equality at the highest levels of government such as the Office on the Status of Women in 1997, which has since evolved into a dedicated Ministry for Women located in the Presidency. Following the 2019 elections, it evolved further into the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and is still located within the Presidency.

Women, democracy and governance

Government has striven to transform the state sector and to ensure that mechanisms are in place to prioritise the progress of women in all sectors of public life. It is evident from all available data that women have made significant progress in all areas of the civil service - from the number of women serving as Members of Parliament and Legislatures; holding mayoral positions and serving on local councils; women serving in leadership positions in the Executive or Cabinet level; in senior positions in the judiciary, the military, diplomatic corps and in government. Progress has been much slower in the private sector where gendered norms and practices continue to prevail and corporate responses to the imperative of gender equality have been tardy and resisted. Women are poorly represented on company boards and senior management positions, including on companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

The democratic government has accomplished substantial success in advancing women's representation and gender equality across the state machinery, and in inserting gender equality principles and women's rights into a wide range of laws and policies. The rights of women workers are protected through progressive labour laws introduced by government. Women's economic and social empowerment is promoted through legislation and related policies, charters and quotas.

Substantial gains in other areas have been made as well. There has been a steady increase in the number of women elected as Speakers, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Premiers, MECs, MPs, MPLs, Mayors, Councillors, Chairpersons of Portfolio Committees, the NCOP, and Chapter 9 institutions. There is tremendous progress in the representation of women ministers in cabinet reaching 50% in June 2019. Following the 6th democratic elections, President Ramaphosa has appointed 14 female and 14 male ministers – resulting in a 50/50 gender parity among ministers in Cabinet for the very first time.

The trend is similar for the representation of women as deputy ministers, increasing to 42.85% in April 2019. South Africa has 46.1% of seats in parliament taken up by women following the 2019 elections..

Following the first local government elections in 1995, there was 19% women overall in this sphere of governance. This figure has increased to 41% women overall following the 2016 local government elections. Following the 2016 Local Government Elections, overall in the country there is a 39% representation of women as municipal mayors.

There has been a substantial increase in the percentage of women judges to 35.5% in 2018. There are approximately 44% women magistrates in South Africa, with most of them located as Regional Court Presidents (i.e. over 50%).

Important strides have been made in increasing the number of women in senior management positions in the public service, including as Directors-General and Heads of Departments in national and provincial departments. Women have broken down the barriers of entry in sectors such as the military, police force, navy and air force. The gap between men and women in the Public Sector is widening towards 2018, skewed in the favour of women, with women making up more than 50% of all public servants.

Albeit inadequate, we have made some inroads in increasing the number of women in management and decision-making positions in the private sector and state-owned enterprises, especially with respect to professional women, women CEOs, women directors and women managers. In 2018, women only comprise 21.2% of the top management level. The gap between women and men is very wide. According to the 2017 Business Women's Association of South Africa Leadership Census, only 20.7% of directors and 29.4% of executive managers are women. At the top leadership level of organisations, women account for only 11.8% of CEOs or chairpersons.

Women's Economic Empowerment

Economic transformation and the empowerment of women within the economy have been stated goals of government since 1994. The challenge for the country has been to ensure that women are not only integrated into the formal economy, but also equipped with the education and skills required to participate in a modern economy. South Africa has introduced a range of policies and programmes designed to facilitate women's economic empowerment, to provide business resources, information and opportunities for women entrepreneurs, as well as a range of interventions designed to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality in the agriculture sector. Success has been limited, partly as a result of weak economic growth, particularly since the economic crisis of 2007 and partly as a

result of gendered barriers to entry into the formal sector. As a result, women are over-represented in informal and vulnerable employment.

Women's equality and socio-economic independence are important for domestic development and growth and constitutes a vital part of sustained development and democracy. Economic empowerment of women is just not about their spending power—it is about more equitable ownership, control and management of the economy, in order to reduce income inequality and expand access to opportunities, employment, entrepreneurship, access to credit, training and skills development. It remains significant in addressing women's poverty, in particular the high levels of poverty experienced by African women. There is a significant disparity in poverty levels between population groups and sex of individuals. In general, black African females, women in rural areas, and those with no education are the main victims in the ongoing struggle against poverty. There is a higher proportion of females (41.7%) in 2015 living below the Lower Bound Poverty Level compared to males (38.2%). Black Africans females continue to carry a disproportionate burden of poverty levels compared to African males, and when compared to women of all other population groupings in the country. Individuals living in female-headed households also continue to account for shares in poverty that are larger than their shares in the population. A household headed by a female has a 48% probability of being poor compared to a 28% probability for a household headed by a male.

In 2017, although women constituted 51% of the total population of South Africa, they make up only 44.3% of the employed workforce, which is often concentrated at lower levels of organisations. Gender based discrimination and segregation in the labour market, as well as the weak regulation of those markets have served to confine women to jobs that are low paid and of poor quality in terms of working conditions and access to social protection. Women comprise a majority of small business owners in South Africa but make up a minority of workers in the formal sector. The South African labour market is generally more favourable to men than it is to women and men are more likely to be in paid employment than women, regardless of race in general, but with particular significance for African women in the main. Significant numbers of women, mainly Black African women, remain in low-productivity jobs, often in informal sector enterprises whose access to technology is poor. Women are also more likely than men to be involved in unpaid work, with about 55.2% of those involved in non-market activities being women as measured in the second quarter of 2018.

Men outnumber women amongst the employed by more than two million. There are around one-quarter more women than men amongst the non-searching unemployed. Men have better labour market outcomes (employment as opposed to unemployment) and women dominate amongst those with worse labour market outcomes (non-searching unemployment as opposed to narrow unemployment). Working-age women are less likely than their male counterparts to be employed, and that economically active women are more likely than men to be unemployed. Labour force participation rates amongst women are substantially lower than those of men, irrespective of the unemployment definition used. Even though women are exposed to formal labour markets, including in the extractive industries, opportunities are minimal or limited for them. One main factor in this is 'occupational segregation' defined as the division of the labour markets based on gender.

While there is still a long way to go, women have started to break through glass ceilings in the corporate world, especially in previously male dominated fields such as manufacturing, finance, big business, science, engineering, mathematics, technology, ICT related fields, mining and construction. Overall, women have made significant strides in ensuring that they are better represented and have a voice in parliament, in the judiciary, in cabinet, in the public service, in the corporate world, and in society at large.

Social Transformation and Social Justice for Women

The successful process of democratization in South Africa has engendered high expectations for its transformation, but social transformation has proved difficult in both the political and the economic realm, and especially most challenging in changing the lives of women, particularly Black African women. According to Statistics South Africa, (Time Use Survey, 2001)⁴ women are more likely to do the work of rearing and caring for children, caring for other household members, cooking, cleaning, and fetching water and fuel. These types of activities can be seen as 'reproductive' work. Men, meanwhile, are more likely to be producing goods and services exchanged in the market.

One of the greatest development challenges has been the severe inequality in access to basic services across different demographic segments of the population, with women bearing the brunt of poor or non-existent services. Government has sought to promote women's rights through targeted interventions, putting measures in place to address access to basic services, which includes water, electricity, sanitation, housing and food security, affordable transport and access to information. Given that women are the poorest of the poor in the country, special measures especially in the access to basic services took on a significant element in transforming the quality of lives of women. This in turn impacts on the well-being of the family and children.

When the access to basic services are affected negatively, the impact is felt the strongest by women by virtue of the gendered division of labour and the gendered roles and responsibilities that women play in the family and in the up-bringing of children. Women carry the biggest burden of household chores, including cooking, washing, cleaning and caring for the young, elderly sick and frail. In this regard, access to clean drinking water, electricity for cooking and easy and close sanitation facilities would enable women to undertake these responsibilities with a minimal effort. The impact of the lack of such facilities is felt strongly in rural areas and in urban human informal settlements. Once more the impact is felt the strongest by the women and young girls living in these areas.

Women and Health

In 1994 South Africa introduced the Policy on Universal Access to Primary health, which formed the basis for healthcare delivery programmes. Pregnant women and children under the age of six years receive free health care. Access to reproductive health care programmes and antenatal care services are amongst the achievements of the health care system. In 2018, women are outliving their male counterparts. The decline in adult mortality rate is as result of the extensive roll-out of Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment and due to the more responsiveness by women to accessing testing, treatment and care for HIV over the years. The South African Government prioritized women's health through implementation of various interventions aimed at ensuring access to health services and improving the quality of care for pregnant women.

The HIV burden varies widely by geography, age and gender, and for key and vulnerable populations. Women within the age group of 15-49 years bear the greatest brunt of the HIV pandemic. The HIV prevalence rate for women in this age group is higher than that for all adults in that same age group and when measured against the prevalence rate for the entire population. Whilst much has been achieved over the past years, South Africa still has high rates of HIV and unintended pregnancies, with one in three young women aged 15-24 years experiencing an unintended pregnancy before age 20.

⁴ Statistics South Africa: 2001: A Survey of Time Use. How South African Men and Women Spend Their Time, Pretoria.

Contraception coverage in South Africa is high and the unmet need for family planning remains relatively low. However rates of unintended pregnancy, contraceptive failure and knowledge gaps demonstrate high levels of unmet need, especially among black Africans and young women. However although more women now have access to contraceptives, its use is influenced by a number of factors including socioeconomic development, urbanisation; women's education and status in society; cultural norms and beliefs; and the knowledge and attitudes of individuals. Persistent gender inequality in the economic, social and private spheres continues to undermine the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of women and girls.

Despite the many gains made in addressing issues of women's health and well-being, many women are still not accessing quality health care in public health care facilities. Women are still dying during child-birth processes and some are still not able to access antenatal and post natal services. Teenage pregnancy remains unacceptably high in the country, and evidence demonstrates that teenage maternal mortality is a challenge in the country. Many unwanted pregnancies are being terminated through backstreet and illegal abortion procedures, increasing the vulnerability of women and girls to many risks, including in some cases even death. Increasing levels of HIV prevalence and infections affects mainly young women in the age group 15-24. Evidence also points to reduced condom usage in the recent past. Women and young girls are susceptible to other non-communicable diseases as well including high levels of breast, ovarian and uterine cancers; diabetes; blood pressure problems, as well as issues of obesity and /or conditions related to extreme dieting such as bulimia and anorexia.

In addition women's inadequate and poor access to quality health care and well-being is exacerbated by poor and inadequate infrastructure such as lack of clinics and public health care facilities; the poor maintenance of such facilities where they do exist; and in some instances the distance needed to be travelled to access the facilities. Inadequate access to good public transport contributes to the challenges faced by mainly poor, African and /or rural based women. Women are also subjected to poor treatment in clinics and hospitals resulting in long queues, inadequate availability of medicines; deaths of new born infants; poor treatment by nurses and doctors in hospitals and clinics, among many other challenges faced.

One of the main challenges faced by women in accessing quality health care is that of affordability. Access to medical aid funds are mainly enjoyed by more affluent women in the country leaving poorer women forced to utilise inadequate and poor primary health care services in the country. This factor leads to the growing inequalities not only between rich and poor in the country, but between men and women in the same population grouping; as well as between women in the different population groups.

Women and Education

South Africa has introduced policies to facilitate gender equality and equity in education. The 2015 MDG country report indicates that South Africa succeeded in securing the universal enrolment of all children of primary school-going age, as well as gender parity, in schools across the country by 2009.

The percentage of individuals over the age of 20 years who could be regarded as functionally illiterate has declined noticeably for both men and women. In 2016, slightly more females than male had educational attainment below matric. There seems to be an almost even distribution for graduates and those with other tertiary qualifications. The percentage pass rate for male and female learners for the National Senior Certificate since 2008 show higher pass rates for males compared to females over time. Female learners' results have been below the national average over the past 12 years. The number of female learners who wrote Mathematics and Physical sciences over the years has been higher than the number

of male learners. However, the performance of male learners is better than that of female learners in both Mathematics and Physical science in terms of percentages attained.

Evidence shows higher female enrolment in institutions of higher learning. More than half of the students enrolled in public higher education institutions in 2016 were women. Although the gendered inequalities and context in education have greatly changed in recent years with women outnumbering men, fields of study taken by girls and boys continue to mirror gender-typical patterns. The enrolment trend for the two years indicates higher enrolment in Business & Commerce and Humanities for women while higher enrolments for men were in Science, Engineering & Technology and Business & Commerce.

Higher numbers of women are awarded diplomas, certificates, under-graduate degrees up to honours degrees. However, the trend changes from Masters and Doctoral degrees in favour of men. While women constitute about 52% of the population, only 42.3 of the doctoral graduates produced in 2016 are women. Black women are still under represented while black men seem to be more advantaged. Overall, women outnumber men in the number of graduates but sex segregation in fields of study persists. This could be a reflection of persistent gender stereotypes which still remain strong.

Despite the many gains made in terms of women and girls' education, there are several key challenges that persist. In South Africa, despite near-universal enrolment in primary and secondary education, many adolescents are failing to complete secondary schooling successfully, with inadequate pass rates in science and mathematics a cause for serious concern. At the secondary level, even though more girls are registered to sit for the National Senior Certificate examinations at the end of Grade 12, evidence shows that more boys than girls pass the National Senior Certificate exams. The gendered division is also evident in the subjects that girls pass as compared to boys i.e. fewer girls pass math, physical science and technology subjects. Evidence also points to the challenge of high female dropout ratio in secondary schooling as well as very high teenage pregnancy rates among secondary school-going girls. A challenge remains that some teenage moms fail to return to schooling once they have delivered their babies thus limiting their life chances and economic potential. Where girls return into the schooling system after their pregnancies, they are subjected to household and child care responsibilities after school hours, thus also limiting the time attributed to studies.

In rural areas, girls walk long distances to schools increasing their vulnerability to rape, sexual crimes, harassment, trafficking, and abductions for ukuthwala purposes, as well as dangers of natural disasters such as crossing flooded rivers. Where children have access to public transportation to schools, young girls become victims of sexual violence in taxis and buses and by taxi drivers themselves. There are instances where school girls are subjects of the "sugar-daddy" or "blessor" syndrome prevalent in the country.

Young women at institutions of higher learning are subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence and harassment by both male students and lecturers. This is a matter of huge concern in the country.

Gender Based Violence

One of the fundamental challenges that persist in the country is that of patriarchal and gender stereotyped thinking. This results in misogyny and gender based violence. Women and girls are subjected to high levels of rape, sexual offences, femicide, domestic violence and intimate partner violence. The LGBTIQ+ sector is subjected to inhuman and violent crimes as a result of their sexual orientation.

Government has enacted legislative reforms, approved progressive policies and implemented programmes that give expression to the constitutional rights of women and girls to equality, human dignity, freedom and security of the person. However, the high levels of violence and gender-based crimes committed against women and girls are a matter of serious concern. The scourge of violence against women and girls persists, however, as a result of the persistence of patriarchal norms and of the failure to effectively implement laws, policies and provision of services to victims and survivors. Patriarchal violence that drives the systematic abuse and oppression of women as result of male supremacy, societal norms, cultural beliefs and value systems with regard to gender roles remains a significant policy and implementation conundrum.

The review report details the extent of the scourge of violence against women and girls and gender based violence in the country and provides the several measures that are being put in place or already in place to address this scourge.

National Priorities for the next five years

The seven policy priorities that the country will focus on over the next five years are:

- Economic transformation and job creation
- Education, skills and health
- Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
- Spatial integration, human settlements and local government
- Social cohesion and safe communities
- Building a capable, ethical and developmental state
- A better Africa and world

The gender responsive priorities that the country will be focusing on over the next five years will be built into the national priorities. Policy priorities required to address these challenges over the next five years (2019-2024) and in the medium (2019-2030) to long (2019-2044) term include:

- Addressing gender inequality and the effective implementation of gender mainstreaming across all sectors of society;
- Implementing and embedding gender responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and auditing across different sectors
- Full and effective implementation of our laws and policies adopted in the country;
- Greater emphasis should be placed on women's economic emancipation;
- Transforming unequal gender relations;
- Critical to the success of our national effort to build a united, prosperous and a non-sexist society espoused in our Constitution, is to confront head-on the culture of patriarchy, toxic masculinity, misogyny, hierarchies and languages that perpetuate the demons of patriarchal norms throughout all corners of our society, including in the public service.

PROGRESS ACROSS THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

This section covers progress across the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. To facilitate the analysis, the 12 critical areas of concern have been clustered into six overarching

dimensions that highlight the alignment of the BPfA with the 2030 Agenda. This approach is aimed at facilitating reflections about the implementation of both frameworks in a mutually reinforcing manner to accelerate progress for all women and girls.

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, SHARED PROSPERITY AND DECENT WORK

This section seeks to provide progress made against (i) Critical Areas of Concern A on Women and Poverty; (ii) Critical Areas of Concern F on Women and the Economy; (iii) Critical Areas of Concern I on Human Rights of Women; and (iv) Critical Areas of Concern L on the Girl Child. The section also seeks to respond to the UN Women Guidance Note – Section 2, Questions 6-8.

According to Statistics South Africa⁵, women globally are more likely to do the work of rearing and caring for children, caring for other household members, cooking, cleaning, and fetching water and fuel. These types of activities can be seen as 'reproductive' work. Men, meanwhile, are more likely to be producing goods and services exchanged in the market. Reproductive workers produce a wide range of goods and services. Many of these services have their equivalents in the market economy; the bulk of these services are provided on an unpaid basis.

Statistics South Africa⁶ found that South African women spent on average, a larger proportion of their day (23%) on productive activities than men (19%). The survey reveals that for those households which collected water, irrespective of the distance from the source, women and girls were more likely than men and boys to be responsible for collecting water⁷. Women spent more time per day on household maintenance (181 minutes) compared with men (74 minutes) and spent more time per day (32 minutes), taking care of household members compared with men (4 minutes). Men spent more time per day (218 minutes) attending to social and cultural issues compared with women (171 minutes). Women spent 2.2 times more what their male counterparts spent on household maintenance. Women with children less than 7 years spent more than 4 hours doing household activities and 1 hour 25 minutes caring for children and other members of the household. Men in the similar situations spent 1 hour 16 minutes on household maintenance activities and 15 minutes caring for children and other household members. The gender difference for household maintenance was lowest when the household monthly expenditure was R6 001 or more. Women spent less time working in establishments (105 minutes per day) compared to men (182 minutes per day). This presents a huge disparity⁸.

An environment that enables and empowers women to effectively engage in the labour market and be productive is essential to eliminate the various economic and social inequalities that exist between men and women. The centrality of the labour market to women's ability to interact with the broader economy cannot be emphasised enough. Importantly, allowing women to take up productive employment helps ensure that society more broadly directly reaps the benefits of the investment in women.

Economic growth, however, will be short-lived if the focus is entirely on women participating in the labour force, and not on a wider understanding of economic empowerment. A broader notion of economic empowerment comprises both the market economy where women participate in the labour market, and the care economy which sustains and nurtures the market economy⁹.

⁵ Statistics South Africa: 2001: A Survey of Time Use. How South African Men and Women Spend Their Time, Pretoria

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Statistics South Africa: 2013: A Survey of Time Use: 2010, Pretoria

⁹ ODI. 2015. Balancing Paid Work and Unpaid Care Work to Achieve Women's Economic Empowerment.

Achieving on-going change requires policy and programme actions that will cement the gains made and continue to achieve improvements in women's access to secure livelihoods and economic resources, alleviate their extreme responsibilities with regard to housework, remove remaining legal impediments to their participation in public life, and raise social awareness through effective programmes of education and mass communication. In addition, improving the status of women also enhances their decision-making capacity at all levels in all spheres of life, but especially in the area of economic participation.

The apartheid economy that democratic South Africa inherited was built on systematically enforced exclusion linked to racial division in every sphere. The apartheid state deliberately excluded black people, especially women, from opportunities in the labour market and direct ownership of businesses and land¹⁰. The state limited investment in infrastructure and services in black communities, and black entrepreneurs were denied access to industrial and retail sites, as well as credit. Furthermore, apartheid limited the residential rights of Africans in the economically developed areas of the country unless they had a white employer, creating a system of migrant labour and impoverished rural areas that were characterised by extraordinarily high levels of poverty and joblessness, particularly for women. In addition this scenario created an economic inequality where black African women were mainly confined to live-in domestic work in mainly white households in white suburbs.

The results were high levels of poverty and inequality, slow economic growth and falling investment, accompanied by rising joblessness, a poorly educated workforce and skills shortages, high cost structures and an eroded manufacturing base. Unemployment became a key factor behind the high level of inequality and poverty. Black women and youth, as well as black people were particularly likely to be poor and unemployed. There were also structural inequalities in the workplace. Under apartheid, a variety of measures effectively limited most skilled work to non-Africans, while entrenching hierarchical and oppressive management in many workplaces.

South Africa has had the dual challenge of adapting to the shifts in the global economy as well as implementing radical economic transformation policies to address long-standing structural dynamics and finding effective instruments to overcome the country's persistent problems of unemployment, poverty and inequality over the years. For legislators and policy makers a core consideration at the heart of many of these problems is the gendered nature of disadvantage in South Africa, where women typically face the consequences of gender norms and the unequal division of labour.

Despite transformation efforts in the country, representation of women in management and in the workplace, across all sectors of the economy, including manufacturing, remains unacceptably skewed¹¹. Glaring gender disparities remain in remuneration, conditions of service, skills development and economic access. Other significant barriers which affect women's participation to developmental opportunities are access to education; unfavourable economic structures including limited access to credit facilities and financial skills training, traditions and the disregard of women's unpaid care work¹².

Gender based discrimination and segregation in the labour market, as well as the weak regulation of those markets have served to confine women to jobs that are low paid and of poor quality in terms of working conditions and access to social protection¹³. Measures also need to be taken to promote the equal sharing of unpaid care work between women and men and between family and society.

¹⁰ Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation: 2014. 20 Year Review – Economic Transformation

¹¹ The Department of Trade and Industry: 2018: Industrial Policy Action Plan: Economic sectors, employment and infrastructure development cluster 2018/19 - 2020/21

¹² Levendale, C.: Towards Women's Economic Empowerment: An overview of challenges, achievements, legislative mechanisms and programmes.

¹³ International Alliance of Women, <https://womenalliance.org/womens-economic-empowerment-in-the-changing-world-of-work>

Women comprise a majority of small business owners in South Africa but make up a minority of workers in the formal sector¹⁴. The South African labour market is generally more favourable to men than it is to women and men are more likely to be in paid employment than women, regardless of race¹⁵. Significant numbers of women remain in low-productivity jobs, often in informal sector enterprises whose access to technology is poor. Women are also more likely than men to be involved in unpaid work, with about 55.2% of those involved in non-market activities being women as measured in the second quarter of 2018¹⁶.

These factors continue to place limits on women's total access to productive resources that could be used as collateral. As a result, they continue to lag behind men in the ability to obtain credit and bank loans so that access to credit and bank services remains a major obstacle for improving the economic situation of poor South Africans in general and women in particular. This has seen clear government action in ensuring that women-owned enterprises are integrated into the mainstream economic activity and that skills development, access to finance and technology, youth development, building sustainable partnerships and ensuring that women are able to access economic markets are prioritised.

According to Statistics South Africa, the labour market in the country is more favourable to men than it is to women and men are more likely to be in paid employment than women, regardless of race. Further, women are more likely than men to be involved in unpaid work¹⁷. Not only are women less likely to be employed than men, but they also earn lower wages than men with the same endowments. This indicates that women face worse labour outcomes than men at least partly because of societal norms which serve to discriminate against women in the workplace.

The number of South African women in higher-skilled occupations has increased dramatically. With the exception of skilled agricultural and fishery work, women have made net gains in higher-skilled employment. There has been increased feminisation of the labour market in the post-apartheid period and this can be attributed to at least some of these factors such as lower marriage and fertility rates and changes in household structure.

South Africa has conducted two standalone national time use studies. StatsSA conducted the first South African time use study in 2000 and followed this up with a second one in 2010. The aim of the surveys was to understand the economic and social well-being of men and women in society. Two main objectives of the surveys were to improve the concept, methodology, and measurement of the work and work-related activities; and to help develop policies that promote gender equity. Recent work on time allocations to market and home production across the lifecycle in South Africa suggest that women's care responsibilities displace time for market work.

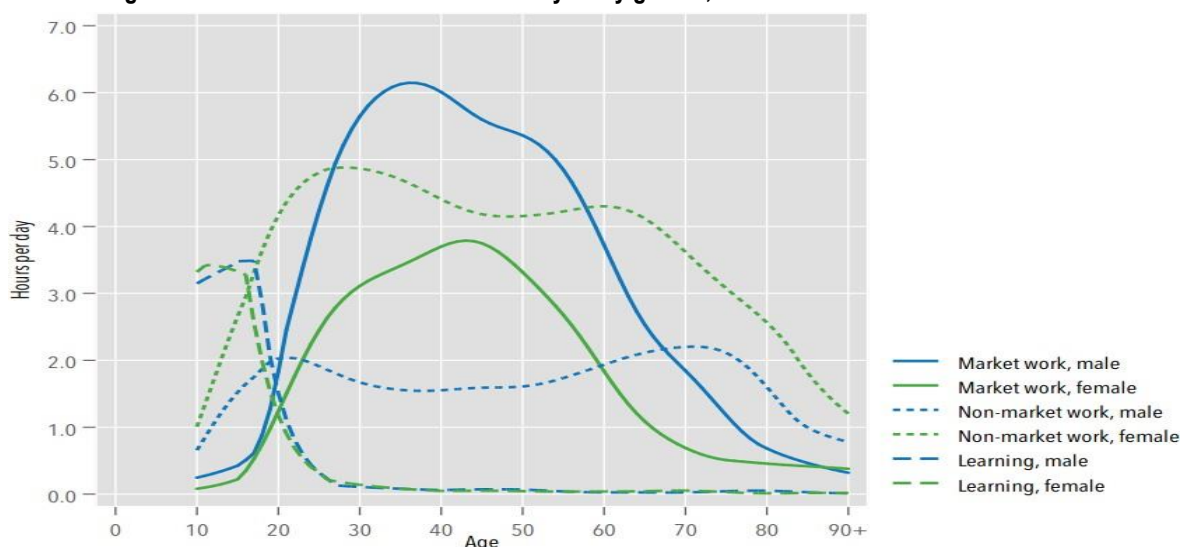
¹⁴ OECD: 2014. Social Institutions and Gender Index.

¹⁵ StatsSA: 2018 at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=11375>

¹⁶ StatsSA: 2018 at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=11375>

¹⁷ Statistics South Africa: 2018: Labour Force Survey Q2.

Figure 1: Allocation of time across the lifecycle by gender, 2010



Source: Oosthuizen: Counting Women's Work in South Africa 2018

In 2010, women between the ages of 20 and 29 years were estimated to have spent 2.3 hours per day in market production activities, and 4.7 hours in household production activities. While men spent more time in market production than women, the opposite is true for household production. In both age groups, women spent more time in total in productive activities than men: amongst 20-29-year olds the difference is 19%, while amongst 30-49-year olds it is 8%.

Government cannot directly affect such factors as fertility, cultural norms and household influences that impact the participation of women in the economy, however, it provides incentive funding, start-up funding and other measures to assist women to improve their financial positions and through doing this create an enabling environment for women's participation in the economy.

The South African Government provided targeted support to women enterprises through programmes and policies that ensure and accelerate the sustainable participation of women in the mainstream economy. It introduced various initiatives targeted at women, with the ultimate goal of developing sustainable enterprises that contribute to the country's gross domestic product, employment, equity and economic transformation to enable women to have equal access to and control over economic resources. The aim is to reverse the imbalances created by previous policies and programmes, which impacted negatively on women-owned enterprises and hindered their participation in the economy; to transform economic conditions; as well as create an enabling environment for women enterprises.

By December 2018, the working-age population was estimated at 38.1 million in total, with women slightly outnumbering men and accounting for 50.5% of the total¹⁸.

Table 1: Labour market statistics by gender, 2016 and 2018 Q4

Aggregates ('000s)	2016			2018 Q4 (October – December)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total

¹⁸ Statistics South Africa: 2018: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (2018 Q4), Pretoria

Working-age population	18 102	18 567	36 669	18 867	19 267	38 134
Employed	8 906	6 874	15 780	9 279	7 250	16 529
Narrow unemployed	2 926	2 827	5 753	3 113	3 027	6 139
Narrow labour force	11 832	9 701	21 533	12 392	10 276	22 668
Expanded unemployed	3 995	4 143	8 138	4 635	5 071	9 706
Expanded labour force	12 901	11 018	23 919	13 915	12 320	26 235
Non-searching unemployed	1 069	1 316	2 386	1 263	1 577	2 841
Rates (%)						
Employment-to-population ratio	49.3	37.2	43.2	49.2	37.6	43.3
Narrow unemployment rate	24.7	29.1	26.7	25.1	29.5	27.1
Expanded unemployment rate	31.0	37.6	34.0	33.3	41.2	37.0

Source: StatsSA, Labour Market Dynamics (2016); Quarterly Labour Force Survey (2018Q4).

There are important gender differences in some of these aggregates, however. For example, men outnumber women amongst the employed by more than two million; in contrast, the gap is just over 100 000 within the narrow unemployed, while there are around one-quarter more women than men amongst the non-searching unemployed. As a result, women account for 52.2% of the expanded unemployed. In other words, men form the majority of those with better labour market outcomes (employment as opposed to unemployment) and women dominate amongst those with worse labour market outcomes (non-searching unemployment as opposed to narrow unemployment).

The implication of these differences is that working-age women are less likely than their male counterparts to be employed, and that economically active women are more likely than men to be unemployed. For example, the national employment-to-population ratio in 2018 Q4 was 43.3%, but there was a difference of 11.6 percentage points between the ratios for men and women. Thus, nearly half of all working-age men were employed compared to 37.6% of working-age women. At the same time, female unemployment rates are higher than those of males: the difference was 4.4 percentage points for the narrow unemployment rate, and 7.9 percentage points for the expanded unemployment rate.

Labour force participation rates amongst women are substantially lower than those of men, irrespective of the unemployment definition used. In the fourth quarter of 2018, the narrow labour force participation rate amongst males (65.7%) was 12.4 percentage points higher than that of females (53.3%).

The table below elaborates on the gender difference in participation rates, disaggregating by location and race. Irrespective of the disaggregation, males have the highest labour force participation rates. Amongst Africans and Coloureds, male labour force participation rates are roughly 12 percentage points higher than those of women. This gap is, though, substantially wider amongst whites (19.5 percentage points) and Asians (29.7 percentage points). Male participation rates range between 63.2% (African men) and 77.3% (white men). This contrasts with the participation rates for women, which range from 45.5% amongst Asian women to 58.3% amongst coloured women. Thus, the highest female labour force participation rate (that of coloured females) is lower than the lowest male participation rate (that of African males).

Table 2: Labour force participation rates by gender and race, 2018

	Urban			Rural			Overall		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
African	72.4	61.7	67.1	48.3	37.4	42.7	63.2	52.1	57.6
Coloured	71.8	57.9	64.6	76.5	63.6	70.4	72.1	58.3	64.9
Asian	74.9	45.6	60.6	93.6	24.3	85.1	75.2	45.5	60.9
White	76.7	58.0	67.3	87.8	52.8	71.7	77.3	57.8	67.5
Total	72.9	60.2	66.5	49.4	38.0	43.5	65.5	52.9	59.1
Labour Force ('000s)	9 326	7 739	17 065	2 925	2 380	5 305	12 251	10 119	22 370

Source: StatsSA, Quarterly Labour Force Survey (2018Q2).

In urban areas, male labour force participation rates across race groups are very similar with almost three-quarters of men participating in the labour force. Indeed, labour force participation rates for all four race groups are within five percentage points of each other. Amongst urban females, the range of participation rates is three times wider: participation rates are lowest amongst Asians (45.6%) and highest amongst Africans (61.7%). On average, 60.2% of urban women are active in the labour force.

In rural areas, though, South Africans are much less likely to be economically active: just 43.5% of rural adults participate in the labour force in 2018. Unlike in urban areas, there is wide variation across race groups in participation rates amongst both males and females. Amongst males, participation ranges from around five out of ten (48.3%) amongst Africans to around nine out of ten amongst Asians and Whites; amongst females, it ranges from fewer than three out of ten (24.3%) amongst Asians to more than six out of ten (63.6%) amongst coloureds. Thus, as is the case in urban areas, the range in rural areas is much wider for females than males.

These low levels of labour force participation have implications for the extent of poverty in areas and this is where government programmes targeted at supporting businesses may face challenges in reaching potential beneficiaries. One reason for this is that information that is readily available on government programmes may not be easily accessible in non-urban areas. Another reason is that businesses themselves in non-urban areas may be more marginal and may require different types of interventions compared to urban enterprises.

Gender differences extend beyond high-level labour market outcomes and are observable in various areas of employment. Even though women are exposed to formal labour markets, including in the extractive industries, opportunities are minimal or limited for them. One main factor in this is 'occupational segregation' defined as the division of the labour markets based on gender, which limits women's employment opportunities in the sector, regardless of their experience or educational qualifications.¹⁹

Female employment is concentrated in four industries²⁰: community, social and personal (CSP) services (31.4%); wholesale and retail trade (22.1%); private households (14.6%); and finance (13.2%). Together, these four industries account for 81.3% of total female employment. In contrast, male employment is less concentrated with five industries each accounting for between 13% and 19% of total male employment. The four industries accounting for the largest proportions of total male employment—wholesale and retail trade (18.6%), CSP services (15.6%), finance (14.6%), and construction (14.1%)—together account for 62.9% of male employment. In construction, there are eight times as many men in the industry than there are women. In manufacturing, agriculture and utilities,

¹⁹ Commission for Gender Equality: 2016: Talking the Talk, Not Walking the Walk: pg.22.

²⁰ Department of Women: 2019: A Report on the Gendered Analysis of Government's Incentive Schemes – especially those administered by the Dti, Unpublished (Report developed for the DoW by the Development Policy and Research Unit, University of Cape Town – 2018/19)

men outnumber women by a ratio of between 2.0 and 2.5 to one, while in wholesale and retail trade (1.1) and finance (1.4) the ratios are much lower.

There are various reasons for these differences between industries. For instance, women have historically not been employed in large numbers in industries where jobs are dangerous and require physical strength. Thus, relatively few women have been employed in mining and construction. Such patterns may be perpetuated by attitudes towards women's employment in those sectors (held by both men and women), as well as attitudes, preferences or even discrimination on the part of firms. Conversely, women's dominance in CSP services is explained by the fact that female-dominated occupations such as nursing and teaching are concentrated within the industry; similarly, the vast majority of domestic workers in South Africa are female, explaining their dominance within private households. Globally, services sectors are found to be more accessible to women (ILO, 2010), explaining the relatively narrow gap in wholesale and retail trade and finance and business services.

African women constitute a relatively large proportion of female employment in the informal sector and in private households compared with their share of total female employment. In rural areas women (as well as men) are much less likely to be economically active.

The ten industries listed in the table below differ in terms of their skills intensity and, as a result, women of different skills levels are distributed differently across industries. Of the almost 6.9 million employed women in 2016, almost one-quarter (1.7 million) are classified as high-skilled. Those in semi-skilled occupations account for 40% of employment, while the low-skilled represent 35% of employment.

The majority of high-skilled women (57.0%) are employed in CSP services, while a further 21.1% are employed in finance and business services. These two industries therefore account for almost four-fifths of the employment of high-skilled women. In both instances, these shares are substantially larger than their shares of total female employment (31.6% and 13.8%). Although they are much smaller, utilities and transport account for relatively large shares of high-skilled female employment compared with their shares of total female employment.

Table 3: Distribution of employed women across industry by skills category, 2016

Industry	High-skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Total
Agriculture	0.4	1.3	9.2	3.9
Mining	0.5	1.3	0.6	0.9
Manufacturing	6.1	11.9	5.5	8.2
Utilities	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.5
Construction	1.4	2.1	3.2	2.3
W&R trade	9.7	31.7	19.6	22.0
Transport	2.9	3.6	0.9	2.5
Finance & business services	21.1	15.5	6.9	13.8
CSP services	57.0	31.3	14.5	31.6
Private households	0.0	0.7	39.5	14.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employment ('000s)	1 686	2 750	2 439	6 874

Source: StatsSA, Labour Market Dynamics (2016).

Two industries—wholesale and retail trade, and CSP services—each account for just under one-third of semi-skilled female employment. Employment of low-skilled women is concentrated in private households (39.5%). Agriculture accounts for 9.2% of low-skilled female employment, more than twice the industry's share of total female employment (3.9%).

Youth status is associated with differences in educational attainment amongst employed women. Amongst employed female youth, 41.0% have completed secondary education, while a further 30.9%

have incomplete secondary education. Just 4.5% of these women do not have any secondary education at all; while just over one-quarter has either diploma/certificate or a degree.

In contrast, amongst employed women aged 35 years and above, the largest cohort has incomplete secondary education (30.7%), while 26.6% have a matric certificate. This latter proportion is 14.4 percentage points lower than that of their counterparts under the age of 35 years. Older women are far more likely to have no secondary education at all: 16.8% of employed women aged 35 years and above have only (some) primary education, more than three times the proportion of their younger counterparts. Interestingly, despite their age advantage, the proportion of employed women with post-secondary education is only marginally higher for non-youth than for youth (25.1% compared to 23.2%).

Males are more likely than females to be employed in the formal sector (77.1% compared to 71.4%), and in the informal sector (19.5% compared to 14.4%). In contrast, private households account for 14.3% of female employment, more than four times the share for males. As a result of these differences women account for around two-fifths or 41.7% of formal sector employment, and just 36.2% of informal sector employment. In contrast, three out of four (76.5%) workers in private households are women.

Table 4: Employment by sector disaggregated by gender and race, 2016

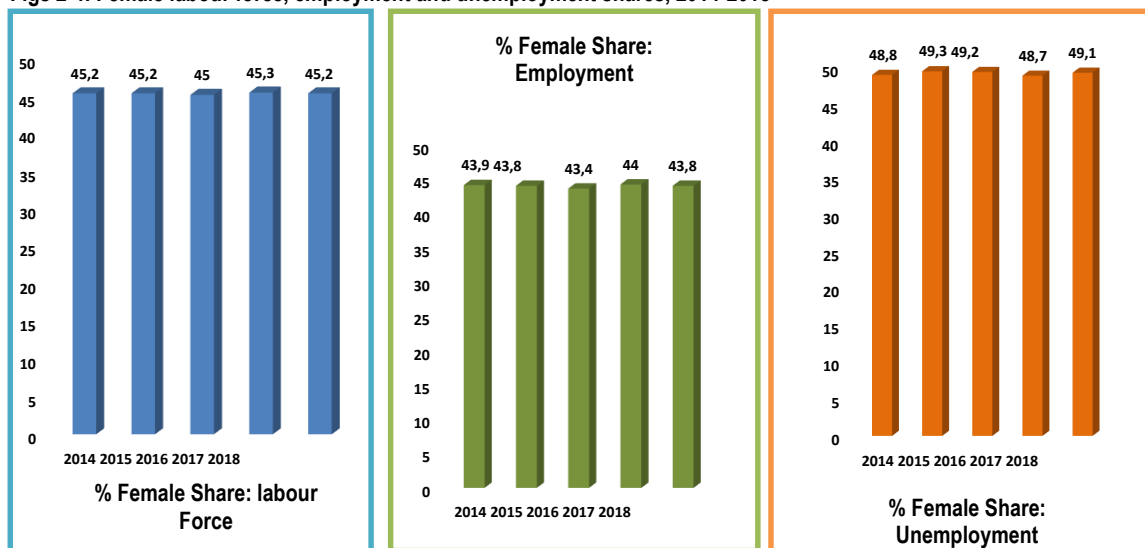
	Formal Sector	Informal Sector	Private Households	Total
Total employed ('000s)	11 772	2 725	1 283	15 780
Distribution (%)				
Total	74.6	17.3	8.1	100.0
Male	77.1	19.5	3.4	100.0
Female	71.4	14.4	14.3	100.0
Female share of sector (%)	41.7	36.2	76.5	43.6
Share of female employment (%)				
African	68.2	86.2	91.2	74.1
Coloured	12.6	5.8	8.3	11.0
Asian	3.4	1.2	0.2	2.6
White	15.9	6.8	0.3	12.4

Source: StatsSA, Labour Market Dynamics (2016)

Out of 100 employed women, approximately 30 are employed outside of the formal sector and, of these, between 25 and 28 are African.

To contextualise women's position within the labour market, the figure below presents the female share of three key labour market aggregates—the narrow labour force, employment and narrow unemployment. While women account for just over half (50.5%) of the working-age population in 2018, they are outnumbered by men within all three aggregates. Women account for approximately 45% of the narrow labour force. Importantly, though, just fewer than 44% of the employed are women. In the second quarter of 2018, women accounted for 49.1% of the unemployed. Within unemployment, the share of women is marginally more volatile, with women even forming the majority of the unemployed in 2008.

Figs 2-4: Female labour force, employment and unemployment shares, 2014-2018



Source: Own calculations, StatsSA, Quarterly Labour Force Surveys, various years²¹

Self-employment represents an alternative to working as an employee for many working-age adults. However, it is important to remember that self-employment spans a wide range of activities, ranging from individuals running SMMEs in the formal sector to individuals engaged in survivalist activities in the informal sector. From the perspective of women's economic participation and the need for supportive policies, this is an important distinction given that the needs and capacities of individuals in these widely varying situations will often be quite different.

In 2016, just over three-quarters (77.6%) of the self-employed²² were involved in businesses that were not registered for either tax or VAT. However, the rate of non-registration is significantly higher amongst self-employed women, at 84.5%. As a result, while women account for 34.5% of the self-employed, 37.6% of those whose businesses are not registered for tax are women.

It is estimated that in 2016 almost 2.3 million individuals were self-employed in South Africa, representing 13.9% of total employment. Men were slightly more likely to be self-employed than women (16.2% compared with 11.1%), with the gender gap particularly pronounced amongst Asians and whites. More than seven out of ten of the self-employed in 2016 were African, with whites accounting for roughly two out of ten. Thus, whites and Asians overall have relatively high rates of self-employment, driven by particularly high rates for men of around one-quarter. Amongst females, whites (15.2%) and Africans (11.5%) have the highest rates of self-employment. Self-employment rates are highest amongst Africans at 12.5%, with African women marginally more likely to be self-employed than African men. As a result, Africans account for almost 90% of self-employed women in non-tax registered businesses.

The largest cohort of self-employed women, irrespective of youth status, has incomplete secondary education. Amongst all self-employed women in 2016, 44.0% of those under the age of 35 years had incomplete secondary education, as did 32.9% of their older counterparts. Those with matric certificates account for 31.9% of youth and 24.0% of non-youth within this group. While older women are relatively evenly spread across the four educational categories, far fewer women under 35 years report having only primary education (5.8% compared with 23.4%). They therefore also have higher shares with either incomplete or complete secondary education. 23.4% of non-youth self-employed women have

²¹ Estimates are from the second quarter surveys in each year.

²² Statistics South Africa: 2016: Labour Market Dynamics; Pretoria

only primary education compared with 16.8% of non-youth employed women, while 44.0% of self-employed women less than 35 years have incomplete secondary education compared with 30.9% for employed women less than 35 years. Once the sample is limited to self-employed women in non-tax registered enterprises more than seven out of ten²³ of these women have not completed matric: 71.6% amongst youth, and 75.2% amongst non-youth.

Three occupational categories accounted for the majority of self-employed women in 2016. The largest category was elementary occupations, which accounted for 37.2% of self-employed women. This was followed by service and sales workers (23.5%) and managers (16.1%). These figures suggest a lack of occupational diversity within the sector and a bias towards less-skilled occupations, particularly when the diversity of occupations within the managerial category is acknowledged.

Table 5: Distribution of self-employed women across industry, 2016 and 2017

	Self-Employed Women (2016)		Informal Self-Employed Women (2017)	
	Number ('000s)	Share (%)	Number ('000s)	Share (%)
Agriculture, hunting, forestry & fishing	15	2.0	13	1.8
Mining & quarrying	1	0.1	-	-
Manufacturing	82	10.4	66	9.0
Electricity, gas & water supply ("Utilities")	-	-	-	-
Construction	12	1.6	7	1.0
Wholesale & retail trade	409	51.8	455	62.7
Transport, storage & communication	15	1.9	8	1.1
Finance & business services	84	10.6	49	6.8
Community, social & personal services	165	20.9	113	15.7
Private households	6	0.8	-	-
Total	790	100.0	725	100.0

Source: StatsSA, Labour Market Dynamics 2016, SESE 2017

Looking at informal self-employment, it is clear that there is an even greater concentration of women in wholesale and retail trade and CSP services. Trade alone accounts for almost two-thirds (63.8%) of informal self-employment of women, while CSP services accounts for another 16.8%. The shares for all other industries are smaller than those observed for self-employed women overall.

One of the broader benefits of entrepreneurial activity is the potential for increased demand for labour and, hence, employment. The table below presents a breakdown of self-employment in 2018 according to whether the self-employed are employers, with at least one employee, or own-account workers. About 43,6 % of self-employed men hire other workers compared to less than 20.9% self-employed women. While this suggests that female-owned enterprises may typically be smaller than those owned by men, it also points to a potential difference in motivation: enterprises with no employees are more likely to be survivalist in nature, with low returns.

Table 6: Self-employment type by gender, 2018

	Female		Male	
	Number ('000s)	Share (%)	Number ('000s)	Share (%)
Own-account worker (no employees)	652	79.1	918	56.4
Employer (at least one employee)	172	20.9	710	43.6
Total	824	100.0	1628	100.0

Source: StatsSA, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Q4; 2018

According to the Statistics SA "Survey of Employers and the Self Employed" (SESE) data, around two-fifths of the self-employed reported not needing money to start their businesses (Refer table below). The majority of those who did need money to start their businesses reported using their own money:

²³ Statistics SA: 2013: SESE; Pretoria

45.1% of women and 44.9% of men. Just over one-tenth obtained a loan (13.0% women and 11.3% men).

Table 7: Main source of business funding by gender, 2013 and 2017

	Female		Male		Male		Female	
	2013				2017			
	Number ('000s)	Share (%)	Number ('000s)	Share (%)	Number ('000s)	Share (%)	Number ('000s)	Share (%)
Own money	310	45.1	384	44.9	445	42.2	347	47.9
Loan	9	13.0	97	11.3				
Government grant	14	0.2	2	0.2				
Other grant	27	0.4	2	0.2				
Did not need money to start the business	284	41.3	371	43.4	503	46.6	241	33.2
Other Source	-	-	-	-	121	11.2	137	18.9
Total	687	100.0	856	100.0	1079	100	725	100

Source: StatsSA, SESE 2013.

Grants of any type are extremely rare, with less than 1% of the self-employed reporting accessing a grant as their main source of funding. While this is not particularly surprising, given the nature of the sample, it does confirm the very limited reach of government programmes and funding within the informal sector of the economy. For women, the most commonly cited source of money was from other social grants (19.2%) and stokvel pay-outs (11.2%) or from other savings (11.1%). In other words, almost half of women who used their own money to start a business cited savings as the primary source of that money, compared to one-tenth of men²⁴.

In South Africa SMMEs employ around 56% of the workforce (DTI, 2008) and contribute an estimated 45% to 50% to the GDP (DTI, 2004). FinScope (2011) finds that access to credit and access to affordable credit are amongst the most regularly reported obstacles for growth amongst SMME owners. They find that approximately 42.0% of SMME owners are financially excluded—meaning they do not use any formal or informal financial products or services and that any saving that does occur happens at home, while any borrowing is from friends or family. This difficulty for small business owners in gaining access to credit is likely due to the conservative lending practices of banks.

In addition, access to land is a constraint on entrepreneurship. Not only is land used as collateral for finance, in order for business to develop and grow, business needs access to affordable premises that is close enough to workers, the market, and that is safe and suitable for work. FinScope (2011) identifies “space to operate” as the largest obstacle for small business growth, particularly in Gauteng. Transport infrastructure is needed to reach the major economic hubs and to access their respective markets. This is particularly important in South Africa, where due to the entrenched problem of spatial mismatch, millions of labour market participants are located significant distances from the urban centres.

There are specific programmes which specifically target women to facilitate their participation in the mainstream economy. Among these are the Bavumile Skills Development Programme, the Isivande Women’s Fund (IWF) and the South African Women Entrepreneurs Network (SAWEN) to speak of a few. The Bavumile Skills Development Programme targets women who want to pursue their own business by offering them 20 days of training on sewing, knitting, weaving and craft (DTI, 2011). The substantial expansion in the budget between 2015/16 and 2016/17 - effectively a quadrupling of the budget - was accompanied by a more than doubling from 300 to 700 in the number of female entrepreneurs trained.

²⁴ Ibid

The Isivande Women's Fund (IWF) aims to enhance socio-economic development in rural, peri-urban and township areas by empowering South African women (especially black women) through financial assistance of between R30 000 and R2 million and non-financial support (DTI, 2011; n.d). The fund is involved with enterprises that seek finance for start-up, for expanding existing enterprises, for franchising, for business rehabilitation and for gap finance (DTI, n.d.).

The South African Women Entrepreneurs Network (SAWEN) is a Section 21 registered company under the dti, with the main objective to facilitate access to business resources, information and opportunities for South African women entrepreneurs. This programme targets women specifically, who engage in informal income generating activities and/or operate an SMME, or women who aspire to open a business, particularly rural based women-owned SMMEs (SAWEN, 2012).

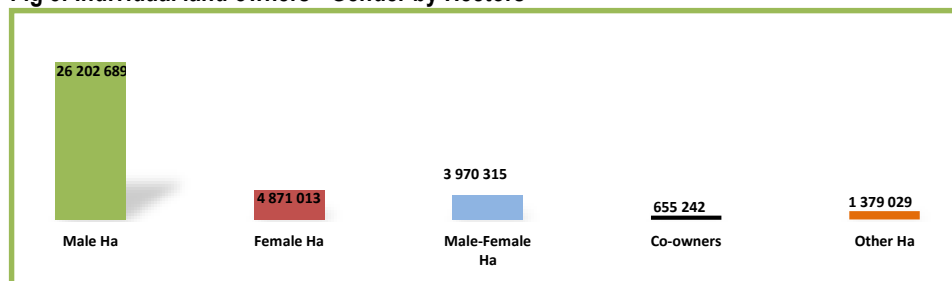
Land has been recognised as a primary source of wealth, social status and power. It builds the foundation to create shelter, grow food and harbour economic activities. It provides the most significant opportunities in rural areas. Access to rights in land is often the condition for other rights such as access to water, other natural resources, and basic services such as sanitation and electricity.

There is a strong link between food security nutrition and gender therefore the land issue becomes critical in ensuring a gender approach to food security. Female headed households have a higher vulnerability to food insecurity as a result of poverty, which can be exacerbated by lack of access to land ownership, means of production and income generating activities. The 2016 Vulnerable Groups Indicator report (StatsSA; 2017) indicates higher percentage share (13.8%) of females living in households that experienced hunger compared to males (10, 3%).

Women tend to be more involved in subsistence farming in an effort to supplement food security at the household level. In 2017, about two and half million households (2 506 000) were involved in one or more agricultural production activity in South Africa. The majority of these households were female headed (52.8%) (2017 GHS, StatsSA: 2018).

The Land Audit Report (DRDLR, Pretoria: 2017) demonstrate women's struggle with regard to ownership and access to land. The Extension of Security of Tenure Act gave women, for the first time, the same rights in land as men, by including women in its definition of "occupier". The White Paper on Land Reform emphasises government's intention to target women in its land reform policy.

Fig 5: Individual land owners - Gender by Hectors



Source: Land Audit Report, DRDLR, 2017

Statistics on individual land ownership indicates that only 34% of individual land owners are female and that males own the largest size of farms and agricultural landholdings. Data indicates that males and females own a total of 37 078 289 ha farms and agricultural holdings land in the country, with 26 202 689 ha or 71% owned by males; followed by females at 4 871 013 ha or 13%.

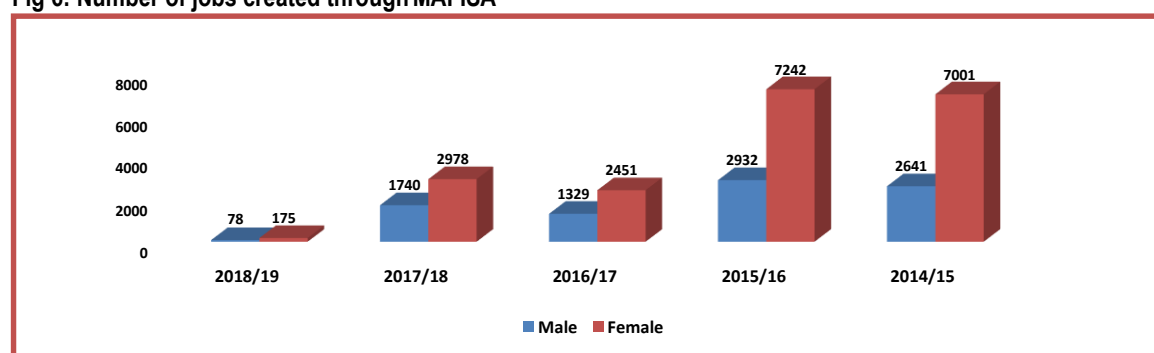
Separate frameworks have guided the development of the Telecommunications and Postal Services sector since over years. These include White Papers on Broadcasting Policy, Telecommunications Policy and Postal services policy. These policy frameworks focused on addressing historical inequalities in access to basic services, while ensuring that all South Africans benefit from new services and access to new technologies and that ICTs are actively used to meet the development goals of the country. These policy frameworks reinforced the constitutional principle of equality and equal access to all communication services by all South Africans.

The National Integrated Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Policy White Paper (2016) marked a significant milestone towards using technology to build a seamless information infrastructure in South Africa which will underpin a dynamic and connected vibrant information society and a knowledge economy that is more inclusive, equitable and prosperous.

Agriculture is an important engine of growth and poverty reduction in South Africa. The country has made progress in attracting women researchers into the agricultural sector. Young South African women who want to go into farming face a range of obstacles, including limited access to information, technology, and financial services. Compounding the impact of poor support services is the fact that researchers and extensionists, who are the backbone of agricultural development in South Africa, lack sufficient communication, gender awareness and people-oriented skills²⁵. Given that women comprise the majority of rural farmers and equal their male counterparts in commercially-oriented small-scale agriculture, the government is working to ensure that its agricultural support interventions reach and empower women farmers with the relevant technologies required to optimise their diverse reasons for farming.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has implemented a range of interventions designed to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality in the agriculture sector. The Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa (MAFISA) is a financial scheme to address financial services needs of male and female smallholder farmers and agribusinesses. MAFISA provides capital (loans) of not more than R500 000 per person to enhance agricultural activities through the purchase of production inputs (fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, animal feed and remedies etc.) and small equipment and implements. Through the loans and support provided by MAFISA many permanent and temporary jobs have been created, as shown in the figure below.

Fig 6: Number of jobs created through MAFISA



Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The data indicates that women farmers have been the primary beneficiaries of the MAFISA initiative.. Generally, most funded projects are related to livestock, grain production, sugar cane, fruits and vegetables.

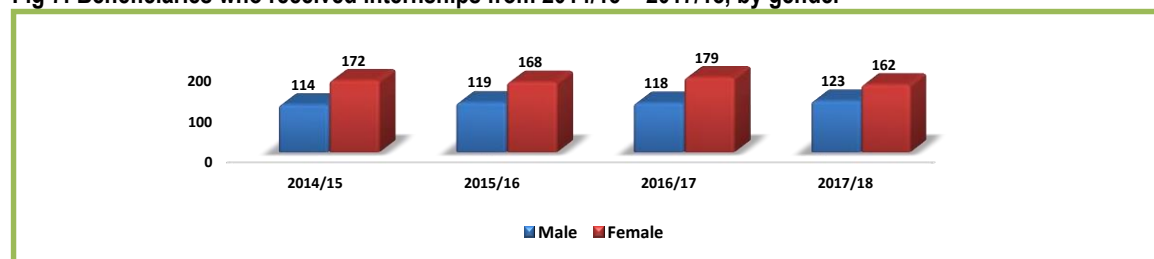
²⁵ Hart, T. and Aliber, M.: 2012: Inequalities in agricultural support for women in South Africa

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' Female Entrepreneur Awards is a departmental programme which seeks to correct the skewed participation of women in the sector by acknowledging, encouraging and increasing the equal participation of women, young women and women with disabilities in agriculture, forestry and fisheries activities. The programme has become the empowerment platform that recognizes the entrepreneurial skills of women, youth and people with disabilities in the sector and their involvement in the country's economic transformation. A total of 336 women were rewarded for their efforts and recognised for their contribution in the sector since 1999. There is an increasing intake of young women into the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' Female Entrepreneur Awards programme between 2016/17 - 2017/18. This increasing trend of young women entrants is a significant shift in terms of transforming the sector and empowering young women farmers.

The AgriBEE Fund is a fund that draws from the AgriBEE Empowerment Charter for its scope and covers the entire agricultural value chain, including production, processing, marketing and distribution. It seeks to promote the entry and participation of previously marginalized groups, especially black African women, in the entire agriculture, forestry and fisheries value chains through the provision of funding for equity deals, acquisition of interests in agriculture, forestry and fisheries entities and enterprise development (small, medium and micro enterprises). A total of 3,750 beneficiaries have been supported through the AgriBEE Fund, including 2,240 women.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries promotes human capital development in the agricultural sector via training and capacity building of farmers and other stakeholders. The Experiential Training, Internship and Professional Development programme caters for experiential work placements and internships and has a strong focus on strengthening the capacity of young women entering the agriculture sector.

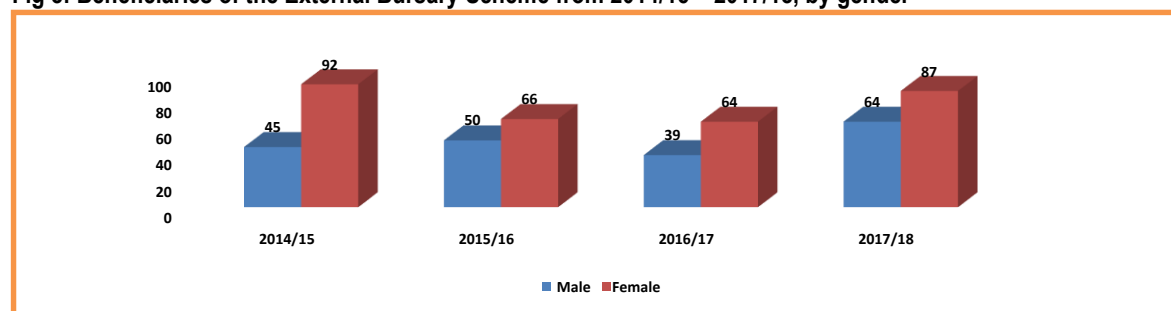
Fig 7: Beneficiaries who received internships from 2014/15 – 2017/18, by gender



Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' External Bursary Scheme is a measure for recruiting young people to follow a career in an identified scarce and critical skills areas in agriculture.

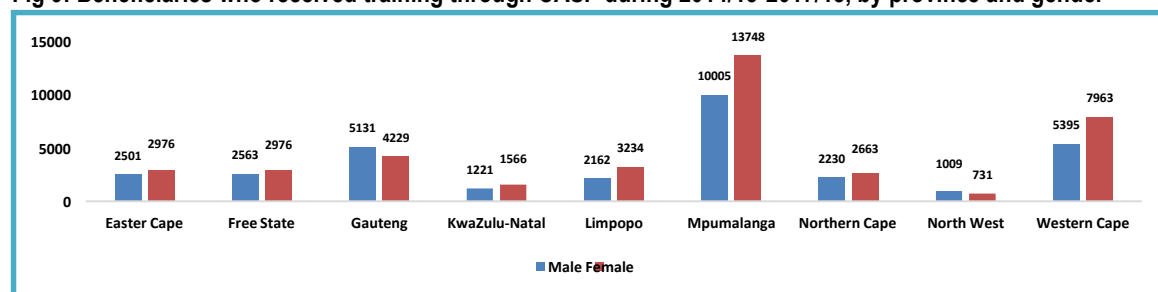
Fig 8: Beneficiaries of the External Bursary Scheme from 2014/15 – 2017/18, by gender



Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The aim of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) is to provide post settlement support to targeted beneficiaries of land reform and to other producers who have acquired land through private means and are, for example, engaged in value-adding enterprises domestically or involved in export.

Fig 9: Beneficiaries who received training through CASP during 2014/15-2017/18, by province and gender

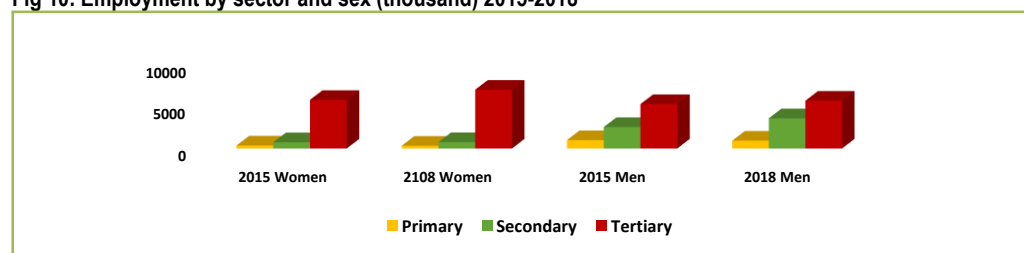


Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The data indicates that women have been the major beneficiaries of training through CASP over the period 2014 to 2018. With the exception of Gauteng and North West provinces more women than men have received training through CASP in the provinces.

Sectoral distribution of employment in South Africa is characterised by gender differentials. Women are over-represented in the tertiary sector, where service-related work is generally of a lower-skilled and lower-paid nature. In South Africa women in services are more likely than men to be found in precarious forms of work and non-standard employment. Non-standard employment is characterised by temporary or short-duration employment contracts, low wages, limited or no social security benefits, work at multiple worksites, low-skill or medium-skill job requirements with limited career prospects, and lack of representation²⁶. Women are over-represented in informal and vulnerable employment. Women are more than twice as likely as men to be contributing family workers. The figure below clearly illustrates how women predominate in the tertiary sector for the period 2015 to 2018.

Fig 10: Employment by sector and sex (thousand) 2015-2018



Source: StatsSA Labour Force Surveys

South Africa adopted a number of strategies to open up the mining sector to historically dis-advantaged South Africans, including women, as part of its economic empowerment policy. Among others, mining legislation, such as the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002) and the Broad-based Socio-economic Empowerment Charter for the South African Mining Industry (the Mining Charter, 2004), was introduced. These pieces of legislation not only prohibited the exclusion of women but also require companies to actively change the demographic profile of their workforce by setting specific targets to be reached. Despite these laws and policies put in place, women in the South African mining industry continue to face a range of challenges – including that which only women working underground have to deal with²⁷. SA's mining sector is shifting to increased mechanisation, and away

²⁶ Bridges Africa: 2017: The Gender Dimension of Services at <https://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/the-gender-dimension-of-services>

²⁷ Minerals Council South Africa: Fact Sheet 2017

from expensive underground mining, however, there is still some 22% of the total 53 100 women employed in the sector working in platinum and gold, most of which is found underground²⁸.

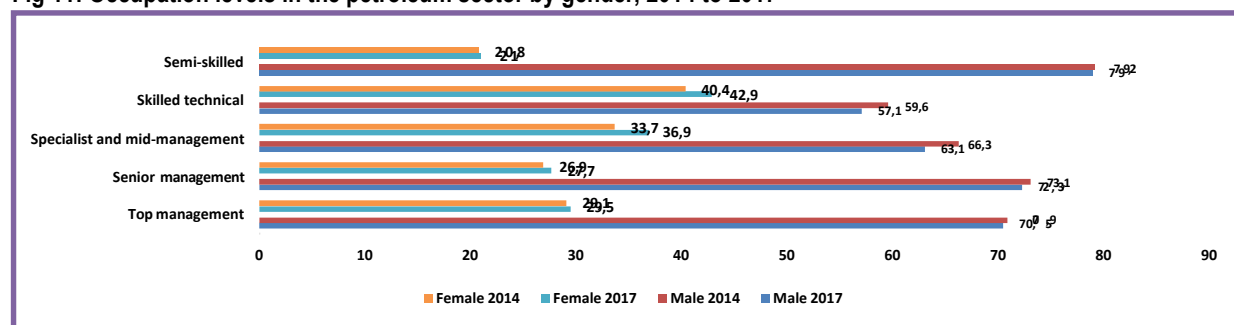
Table 8: Participation of women in mining in South Africa 2017

Women in mining		
Category	Number of women employees	Percentage of women employees (%)
Top management	241	14.9%
Senior management	817	15.9%
Professionally qualified and middle management	3,436	18%
Skilled technical professionals	15,391	18%
Total women	53,179	12%

Source: Minerals Council South Africa

The energy sector remains one of the least gender diverse sectors²⁹. The percentage of women in the industry's workforce drops over time and falls particularly sharply—from 25% to 17% - between the middle-management and senior-leadership career stages³⁰. Data from the South African Petroleum Industry Association indicates that there is a small but steady increase in the number of women at top, senior and middle management within the industry.

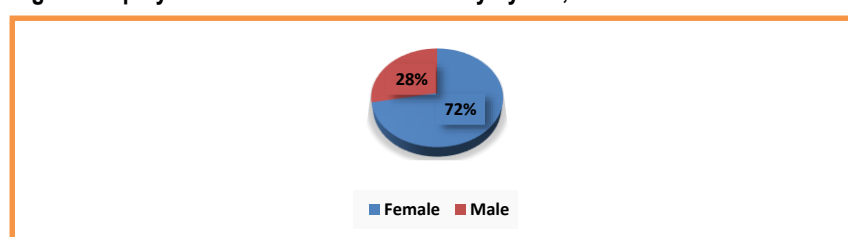
Fig 11: Occupation levels in the petroleum sector by gender, 2014 to 2017



Source: SAPIA Annual Reports, own calculations

The motor and manufacturing trade industry is one of the important sectors in the South African economy. The data shows that the motor trade industry is male dominated³¹ with 72% of the employees in 2015 being males. The dominance of male employees was also observed across different motor trade types³².

Fig 12: Employment in the auto trade industry by sex, 2015



Source: StatsSA Discussion Document on South Africa's Motor Trade Industry, 2018

²⁸ How to bring more women into mining: 2018. <https://www.fin24.com/Finweek/Featured/how-to-bring-more-women-into-mining-20181127>

²⁹ IEA, Energy and Gender at <https://www.iea.org/topics/energyandgender/>

³⁰ Boston Consulting Group: 2018: Women Are Woefully Underrepresented in the Oil and Gas Industry at <https://www.bcg.com/d/press/12july2017-untapped-reserves-gender-balance-oil-gas-164673>

³¹ The industry is diverse covering a wide range of activities, comprising wholesale sales of motor vehicles; retail sales of motor vehicles; maintenance and repair of motor vehicles; sales of new motor vehicle parts and accessories; sales of used motor vehicle parts and accessories; sales, maintenance and repair of motor cycles and related accessories; and retail sales of automotive fuel.

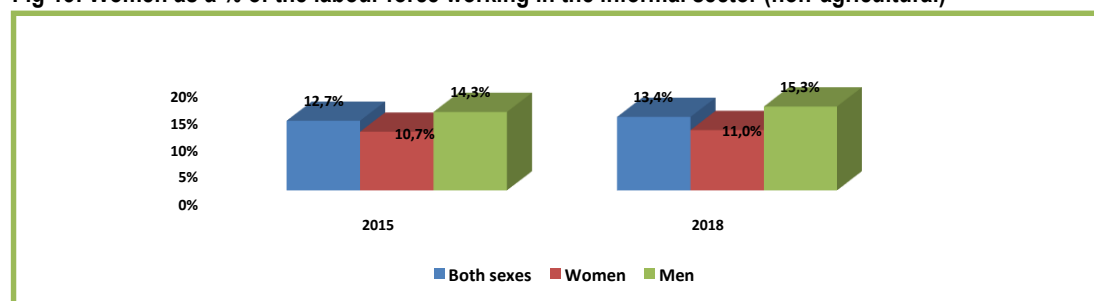
³² StatsSA: 2018: Discussion Document on South Africa's Motor Trade Industry, pg. 21.

Informal trade, commonly referred to as street trade, is one of the largest sub-categories of informal work in South Africa³³. In South Africa, the informal economy is one of the few areas of employment growth, and many women and men have no choice but to work under precarious conditions – creating their own employment in the informal sector as own account workers, finding employment within informal and formal sectors or in households, largely as domestic workers.

Street traders are predominantly black women, driven into the informal economy by desperation for work³⁴. They engage in survivalist forms of street trade such as selling sweets, chips or vegetables and are at risk of being further displaced into marginal income-generating options as competition grows in the informal economy. Household and reproductive responsibilities combined with poverty drive women into flexible, low risk economic activity. Street trade occurs in unprotected and unsecured places thereby restricting street traders' income generation and increasing their vulnerability to injury, illness and chronic diseases. Street traders tend to have limited access to affordable and appropriate health care for themselves and their families and may not seek care, especially when they have an insecure legal status, or are concerned with the potential expense or loss of income associated with seeking care.

According to the 3rd quarter 2018 Quarterly Labour Force Survey statistics, 3,017,000 South Africans work in the informal sector, representing 13.4% of total employment in the country. What is remarkable is the change in the informal-sector component of male and female employment in South Africa, which shows a significant divergence³⁵. The informal sector is a declining source of employment for women. This divergence demonstrates a rapid, significant and sustained decrease in the informal-sector share of total female employment in the period between 2014 and 2018. The data suggest that there has been a particular drop in women's participation in trade, and a significant decline in street vendors selling food – an occupation that traditionally has been dominated by women³⁶.

Fig 13: Women as a % of the labour force working in the informal sector (non-agricultural)



Source: StatsSA Quarterly Labour Force 2010, 2012, 2015, 2018

According to Stats SA, in 2018 elementary and domestic workers represented close to 30% of the South African workforce – of which, domestic workers account for 6.1%. Domestic service is one of the largest sources of employment for black women in South Africa. Women constitute the vast majority of domestic workers, with little variation between 2014 (918 000) and 2018 (997000). The trend pattern for domestic employment by sex is reflective of gendered roles in society and the gendered division of labour. Domestic workers in South Africa were and still are predominantly women with lower levels of education. The Basic Conditions of Employment Act (1997) and the Sectoral Determination 7: Domestic

³³ In line with International Conference of Labour Statisticians (and Statistics South Africa) norms, informal employment identifies persons who are in precarious employment situations irrespective of whether or not the entity for which they work is in the formal or informal sector. Stats SA uses the lack of a written contract and basic benefits such as pension and medical aid as key variables.

³⁴ Sassen, S., Galvaan, R. and Duncan, M.: 2018: Women's experiences of informal street trading and well-being in Cape Town, South Africa *South African Journal of Occupational Therapy* — Volume 48, Number 1, April 2018

³⁵ Rogan, M. and Skinner, C.: 2017: The nature of the South African informal sector as reflected in the quarterly labour-force survey, 2008-2014

³⁶ Ibid.

Worker Sector was designed to address the vulnerability and exploitation of women and men working in domestic service. Under this legislation employers are required to pay at least the prescribed minimum wages as indicated in the Sectoral Determination. The sectoral determination also lays down conditions of employment for domestic workers such as hours of work, leave, termination of employment, contribution to the Unemployment Insurance Fund and so on. It also prescribes the minimum wage rates that employers are required to pay.

StatsSA data shows that foreign-born migrants are more likely to be doing precarious jobs such as domestic work than South Africans are³⁷. Foreign-born workers also often hope to use these jobs as stepping stones to jobs in the formal labour market.

Apart from casualised and externalised workers, another sub-category of vulnerable workers are female farm workers. Traditionally they been employed on seasonal contracts, or just seasonally, without a contract, and their employment has often been tied to that of their partner or father. As they are employed year in and year out on seasonal contracts, they have traditionally been paid the lowest wage of all farm workers. It was only once the Basic Conditions of Employment Act 75 of 1997 was promulgated that farm workers were no longer specifically excluded from general labour legislation. For the first time, they were on par with other employees in South Africa and could participate in the general structures created by labour legislation. In general, most employees are protected by the Basic Conditions of Employment Act which sets the standard for minimum conditions of employment in the farming industry where Sectoral Determination 13 regulates the basic conditions of employment and remuneration of farm workers in South Africa.

The state's main vehicle for providing assistance for farm worker housing is the Farm Worker Housing Assistance Programme, which attempts to address the wide variety of housing needs of people working and residing on farms by providing a flexible package of housing models to suit the local context³⁸.

The Sectoral Determination prescribes full maternity benefits for all workers including seasonal workers. Pregnant workers are entitled to at least 4 consecutive months of maternity leave. This is because maternity continues to be a source of discrimination in employment and in access to employment. Pregnant women continue to lose their jobs, even those covered by protective legislation³⁹.

Foreign female farm workers are an extremely vulnerable segment of the labour force. South Africa's current labour migration policy framework, consisting of bilateral agreements between South Africa and some neighbouring countries on the one hand, and limited legal channels of entry and job opportunities for low-skilled workers on the other hand, has created a context in which labour brokers play a pivotal role in managing labour migration and/or employment in the agricultural sector⁴⁰.

POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

This section seeks to provide progress made against (i) Critical Area of Concern A on Women and Poverty; (ii) Critical Area of Concern B on Education and Training of Women; (iii) Critical Area of Concern C on Women and Health; (iv) Critical Area of Concern I on Human Rights of Women; and (v) Critical Area of Concern L on the Girl Child. The section also seeks to respond to the UN Women Guidance Note – Section 2, Questions 9-12

³⁷ Friedrich Ebert Stiftung: 2017: Fact sheet on foreign workers in South Africa

³⁸ Department of Human Settlements: 2010: National Housing Policy and Subsidy Programmes.

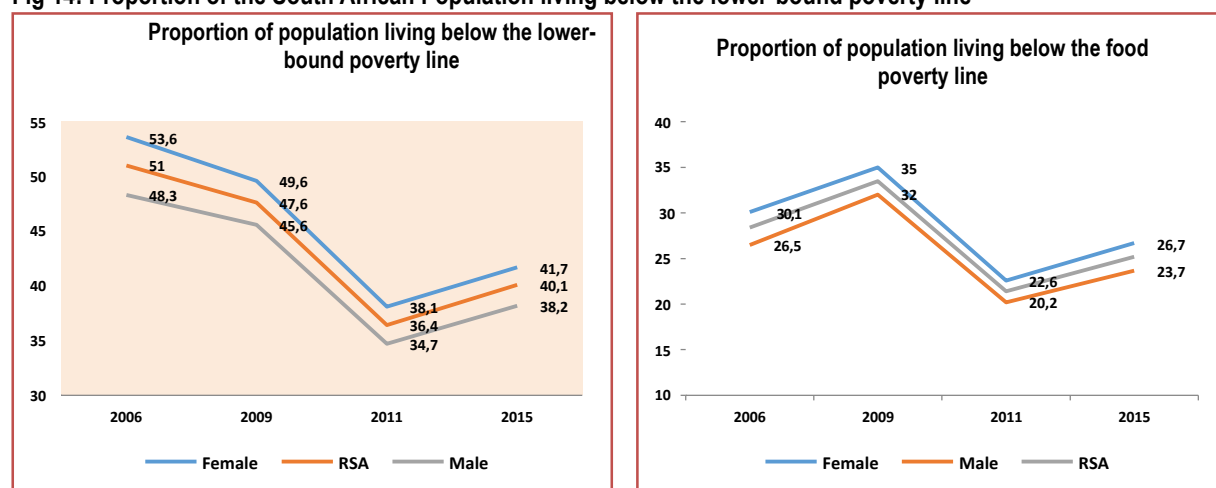
³⁹ Labour Research Service: 2018: Lessons and Insights from the Struggle for Maternity Protection at <http://lrs.org.za/articles/Lessons-and-Insights-from-the-Struggle-for-Maternity-Protection>

⁴⁰ Friedrich Ebert Stiftung: 2017: Fact sheet on foreign workers in South Africa.

The poverty narrative in South Africa requires understanding of the triple challenge of the interface between poverty, high levels of unemployment and persistent increasing of inequalities. Accordingly, social wages in South Africa are packaged in different targeted forms. These include free primary health care; no-fee paying schools; social grants, (such as old age pensions, and child support grants) and RDP housing; provision of basic and free basic services in the form of reticulated water; electricity; sanitation and sewerage as well as solid waste management to households and in particular those categorized as indigent. In this regard, the indigent households are entitled to a monthly free six kiloliters of water, fifty kWh of electricity, R50 worth of sanitation, sewerage and refuse removal. The Municipal Indigent Policy (2005) provides the indigent with free basic water, sanitation, electricity and refuse/waste removal⁴¹.

The 2017 Poverty Trends Report states that there is still a significant disparity in poverty levels between population groups and sex of individuals. In general, black African females, children (17 years and younger), people from rural areas, and those with no education are the main victims in the ongoing struggle against poverty (Statistics South Africa, 2017). The findings show higher proportion of females (41.7%) in 2015 living below the Lower Bound Poverty Level (LBPL) compared to males (38.2%). The trend below further indicates that although there is a decrease in the poverty gap, more women still remain poorer.

Fig 14: Proportion of the South African Population living below the lower-bound poverty line



Evidence from household surveys conducted in the country by Statistics South Africa points out that individuals living in households headed by females remain more vulnerable, with these households continuing to experience higher levels of poverty than male-headed households regardless of the poverty line used. Individuals living in female-headed households also continue to account for shares in poverty that are larger than their shares in the population. A household headed by a female has a 48% probability of being poor compared to a 28% probability for a household headed by a male. Four reasons are given for this: (1) female-headed households are more likely to be in rural areas where poverty is concentrated; (2) female-headed households tend to have fewer adults of working age, (3) female unemployment rates are higher and (4) there is a gap between male and female wages⁴².

One of the poverty alleviation programmes undertaken by Government is the Expanded Public Works Programme, which is aimed towards relieving poverty in the poorest areas, in particular rural areas;

⁴¹ The South African Human Rights Investigative Hearing Report: 2015: Access to Housing, Local Governance and Service Delivery. <http://www.sahrc.org.za>

⁴² Social Protection in Africa: A review of Potential Contribution and Impact on Poverty Reduction. Study Report, 2014. <http://www.za.undp.org/>

assist in human development and capacity-building; provide jobs by involving the community; providing infrastructure in poor areas; having an impact on house-holds in which single women are the breadwinners and seeking project sustainability in the long term. Projects funded by the Expanded Public Works Programme are required to adhere to the criteria that 60% of temporary and permanent jobs created should be reserved for women⁴³.

A number of government departments are involved in the Poverty Relief Programme which included activities under Land Care, Food Security, Investing in Culture, Rural School Building, ABET, Tourism Development; Coastal Management; Waste Management; Household Nutrition projects; Social Rental Housing; Employment Services and Social Plan Information; Social Plan Technical Support Facility; Local Economic Development and Social Plan; Community-based Public works Programmes; Agricultural Processing Projects; Social Development Programmes; Building for Sport and Recreation; Rural Roads and Bridges; Working for water; Community Water Supply and Sanitation and Spatial Development Initiatives. Many of the opportunities created by these poverty-relief programmes went to women. The Community-based Public Works Programme created 1 Million (107 318 000) jobs between as in 2019 of which 72% were allocated to female heads of households. By December 2018, Almost 3 million RDP houses were delivered by Government. Statistics indicates that more female headed households compared to male headed households have benefit from state subsidized housing scheme⁴⁴.

Apart from the Public Employment programmes and skills development programs, other poverty-alleviation programmes that have benefited women include the Project for Unemployed Women with Young Children; National Biodiversity Strategy and Plan; Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme; Women and Natural Resources projects namely Kgabane Rural Women Craft Project; Women in Oil and Energy South Africa; Women in Nuclear; Technology for Women in Business; Levhuvhu River Government Scheme; Water for Food Movement; Provincial Poverty Projects and Local Government projects such as relief packages; food and farming implements and involvement of local communities in game-farming and environmental conservation projects.

The current social security system in South Africa reaches a wide sector of society that is poor and at the margins of the economy. Millions of people benefit from a variety of social grants ranging from the Old Age Pension, Disability Grant and Child Support Grant (CSG) amongst others. The Support Grant had wide-reaching and positive impact on the lives of poor people, especially poor black African women. The threshold age for accessing these grants were raised to 18 years and the threshold for men was reduced to age sixty years (in line with that for women). By 2018, about 17 million people received social pensions or grants, majority of whom were women. Government developed a service delivery model for social services, integrating social intervention with economic development, emphasising a developmental approach to social welfare.

Social grants contribute towards food security and reducing poverty in the country. According to StatsSA, 71.3% of poor households headed by females received child support grants whereas only 50.7% of poor male-headed households are supported by child support grants. The 20.6 percentage point difference highlights the increased pressure on female headed households and their need for child support. By 2015, the proportion of older females receiving an old-age grant was at 94.5% compared with 77.2% of all South African older persons.⁴⁵ Household multi-dimensional poverty reduced by more than half to 7.0% by 2016. In South Africa, social transfers have also contributed to

⁴³ The Presidency, Republic of South Africa, 2005: Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action from 1995-2005 (Beijing +10 Report), Pretoria

⁴⁴ Department of Human Settlement; Housing delivery Statistics, December 2017; [tp://www.dhs.gov.za/sites/default/files/u16/HSDG%20to%20Dec%202017.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov.za/sites/default/files/u16/HSDG%20to%20Dec%202017.pdf)

⁴⁵ Poverty trends in SA, 2006 and 2015, Statistics South Africa.

lower inequality. The Gini coefficient is 7 percentage points lower as a result of the social transfer programme. In South Africa, cash transfers have reduced the poverty gap by 48%.

In response to overwhelming social challenges, in 2014 the Gauteng Provincial through the Department of Social Development launched the Welfare-to-Work Programme to address economic challenges facing young women in the province. The programme aimed to transit youth who are on welfare into decent employment or provide further education opportunities. The programme has restored the dignity of thousands of young women who were dependent on child support grants as their only source of income and has reduced the dependency on the welfare system. A total of 28 769 young women benefited from the programme: 326 in 2014/2015, 4 506 in 2015/16, 11 917 in 2016/17 and 12 020 in 2017/18⁴⁶.

Access to basic services for women as part of the comprehensive social protection package in South Africa demonstrates increased access by women. Government has sought to promote women's rights through targeted interventions, putting measures in place to address access to basic services, which includes water, electricity, sanitation, housing and food security, affordable transport and access to information. Given that women are the poorest of the poor in the country, special measures especially in the access to basic services took on a significant element in transforming the quality of lives of women. This in turn impacts on the well-being of the family and children. Gains have been achieved in this regard, yet much more needs to be done. When the access to basic services are affected negatively, the impact is felt the strongest by women by virtue of the gendered division of labour and the gendered roles and responsibilities that women play in the family and in the up-bringing of children.

Towards alleviating the immense impact of persistent poverty, increasing unemployment and growing inequalities on people, especially women and children and in particular Black African women, young girls and children, social wages are packaged in different targeted forms. These include among others, the provision of basic and free basic services in the form of reticulated water; electricity; sanitation and sewerage as well as solid waste management to households and in particular those categorized as indigent. In this regard, the indigent households are entitled to a monthly free six kiloliters of water, fifty kWh of electricity, R50 worth of sanitation, sewerage and refuse removal. The Municipal Indigent Policy was approved in 2005 to provide the indigent with free basic water, sanitation, electricity and refuse removal⁴⁷.

Women carry the biggest burden of household chores, including cooking, washing, cleaning and caring for the young, elderly sick and frail. In this regard, access to clean drinking water, electricity for cooking and easy and close sanitation facilities would enable women to undertake these responsibilities with a minimal effort. Unfortunately this is not the case across South Africa. The impact of the lack of such facilities is felt strongly in rural areas and in urban human informal settlements. Once more the impact is felt the strongest by the women and young girls living in these areas. More women than men are still without water on site and more women than men spend time on water collection and more women than men have to travel far to access water. For both 2017 and 2018, more male headed households than female headed households received water supplied by their local municipality.

South Africa has a new National Sanitation Policy adopted in 2016 approved towards meeting its goal of universal access to sanitation and hygiene. This National Policy was collaborated upon between the Department of Water and Sanitation and the former Department of Women to ensure that the policy was mainstreamed with issues related to women and young girls. It is envisaged that going forward

⁴⁶ Gauteng Provincial Government: 25 Year Review input, 2018.

⁴⁷ The South African Human Rights Investigative Hearing Report: Access to Housing, Local Governance and Service Delivery (2015). <http://www.sahrc.org.za>

issues of sanitation and hygiene, as it relates to women's and girls' rights and dignity will be fully and effectively implemented through the National Sanitation Policy of 2016.

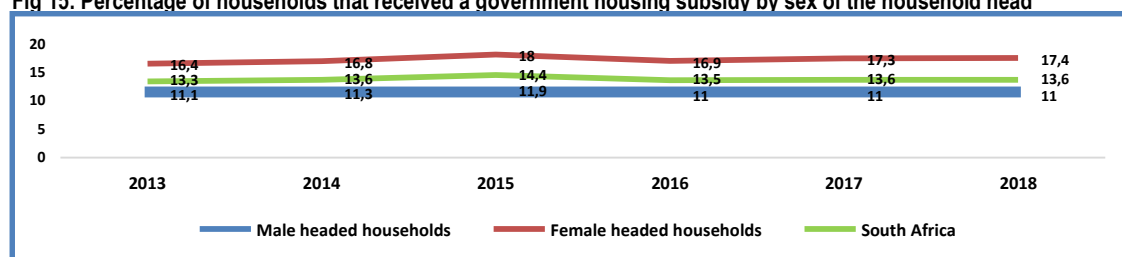
In 2018, nationally the percentage of households with access to improved sanitation was at 83%, increasing from 75.9% in 2014.⁴⁸ According to Statistics South Africa, the distribution of households with no toilet facilities decreased from 4.9% in 2014 to 2.8% in 2018. The percentage of households using pit toilets without ventilation continues to decrease and it stood at 13.4% in 2018 from 13.7% in 2016⁴⁹. The percentage of households that have no toilet facility or have been using bucket toilets decreased from 3.1% in 2017 to 2.8% in 2018⁵⁰.

Having adequate and affordable access to energy sources is vital to address household poverty. The levels of access to more convenient forms of fuel for energy were lower for female-headed than male-headed households at all levels of education. The differences between female- and male-headed households were small at lower levels of education. They became more marked for households where the head had incomplete secondary education or higher. (Statistics South Africa: 2001). The percentage of households who used electricity as main sources of energy used for cooking increased from 75.9% in 2017 to 76.8% in 2018. The Percentage of households using wood as the source of energy decreased from 9.8% in 2014 to 7.7% in 2018⁵¹. There is no significant difference between female headed household and male headed household with access to electricity. Access to electricity has improved over the past few years in South Africa with more than 80% male and female headed household having access to electricity by 2017.

The guarantee of the right to access to adequate housing is found in section 26 of the Constitution. Since 1994, the South African state has created a raft of legislation and policies to give effect to this right.

By 2015, South Africa had made significant progress with the provision of an estimated 3.7 million housing opportunities providing to around 12.5 million people, along with further improvements in access to other basic services including adequate water, sanitation, electricity and refuse removal. Despite these gains the country faces significant challenges to provide access to adequate housing to poor and vulnerable persons, especially black African women who live without access to basic services or economic opportunities to escape poverty (SAHRC Report, 2015:9). The graph below indicates that more female headed households continue to receive government housing subsidies compared to male headed households.

Fig 15: Percentage of households that received a government housing subsidy by sex of the household head



Source: General Household Survey: 2018 ; Statistics South Africa

⁴⁸ Statistics SA; General Household Survey; 2018

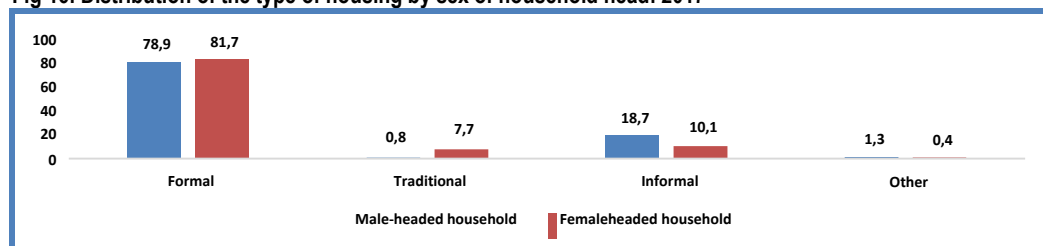
⁴⁹ Stats SA: 2017: Community Survey, 2016, Pretoria

⁵⁰ Stats SA: 2018: General Household Survey, 2018, Pretoria

⁵¹ Statistics South Africa: 2018: General Household Survey, 2018, Pretoria

According to StatsSA, by 2017, about 81.7% of South African households lived in formal dwellings, followed by 13.6% in informal dwellings and 5.5% in traditional dwellings. Female-headed households are more likely to live in formal housing compared to male headed household. ⁵².

Fig 16: Distribution of the type of housing by sex of household head: 2017



Source: Social Profile of Vulnerable Groups, 2017 (StatsSA)

The South African Integrated Food Security Strategy (2002) addresses the challenge of food insecurity. The strategy aims to attain physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food by all South Africans at all times to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the level of inequality that exist in the country played out through poverty and unemployment, irrespective of the political and economic advances that South Africa has made since the dawn of democracy, the steep food and fuel prices, high energy tariffs and increasing interest rates, creates adverse conditions for ordinary South Africans to meet household obligations⁵³.

The concept of food accessibility implies an ability of households to secure food in the market place by growing it or from other sources such as transfers, gifts or grants⁵⁴. A study by the WHO in South Africa between 1999 and 2008 found a reduction in the prevalence of food insecurity in South Africa. This reduction is linked to policy implementation during the period between 1999 and 2008. The Government recognized the constitutional right to food and implementation of several policies led to food fortification, food supplementation, school feeding programmes and day care centre schemes. Since 1999, the government has allocated more than R450 million to the National School Nutrition Programme⁵⁵.

Compared to males, females are more inclined to be vulnerable to hunger and experience poverty.

Table 9: Households who skipped a meal in 2016, by gender of household head

Sex of Household Head		Skipped meal in the past 12 months			
	Yes		No		Total
	Nr	%	Nr	%	
Male	1 224 245	12,4	8 671 284	87,6	9 895 529
Female	1 023 256	14,7	5 945 410	85,3	6 968 666
Total	2 247 501	13,3	14 616 694	86,7	16 864 195

Source: Statistics South Africa, Community Survey, 2016.

The table shows that of 13.3% of South African households that has skipped a meal in the past twelve months preceding the community survey in 2016, 14.7% were female headed households and 12.4% were male headed households. Government through SASSA awarded 461 750 applications for social relief distress in 2016/2017 and 573 196 in 2017/2018. This policy is needs driven and responds to the Zero Hunger Project that addresses malnutrition challenges⁵⁶.

⁵² Statistics South Africa: 2018: General Household Survey, 2018, Pretoria.

⁵³ World Health Organisation (WHO): 2011: Food Security in South Africa: a review of national surveys <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/12/11-089243/en>

⁵⁴ Scott Drimie & Shaun Ruysenaar: 2010: The Integrated Food Security Strategy of South Africa: An institutional analysis, Agrekon: Agricultural Economics Research, Policy and Practice in Southern Africa <http://dx.doi.org/10>

⁵⁵ WHO: 2011: Food Security in South Africa: a review of national surveys <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/12/11-089243/en>

⁵⁶ Republic of South Africa: SASSA: 2018: Annual Report, 2017/2018.

A positive spin-off from the food security and nutrition programmes in the country is that the local economic development programme is also seen to stimulate the creation and operation of mainly women's co-operatives. Some nutrition programmes have an agricultural stimulation outcome. If the food is sourced from local farmers, this offers them a sustained market, stable prices, and may encourage better production techniques⁵⁷. This has huge import for women's lives especially with regard to their economic opportunities. In provinces where procurement favours SMMEs and co-operatives, they can benefit as service providers. An area with the potential to benefit schools and communities and stimulate local agriculture is through the local sourcing of vegetables. This may provide a regular market for local agricultural produce⁵⁸.

According to the General Household Survey by Stats SA, the percentage of persons that experienced hunger decreased to 12.1% in 2017. The percentage of households that were vulnerable to hunger declined to 10.4% in 2017. The percentage of persons that had limited access to food decreased to 24.7% in 2017.

Women and Health

This section responds to the UN Women Guidance Note – Section Two, Question 11.

The National Health Act 61 of 2003 promulgated by the South African Government provides an overarching policy framework of the entire health system⁵⁹. In 1994 South Africa introduced the Policy on Universal Access to Primary health, which formed the basis for healthcare delivery programmes. Pregnant women and children under the age of six years receive free health care. Access to reproductive health care programmes and antenatal care services are amongst the achievements of the health care system. Ten most effective strategies to increase access to health care include amongst others legislation and gazetted policies such as free primary health care, essential drugs programme, choice on termination of pregnancies, anti-tobacco legislation and community service for graduating health professionals. Better management systems included greater parity in district expenditure, clinic expansion and improvement, hospital revitalisation programme, improved immunization programme and improved malaria control⁶⁰.

The National Sexual Assault Policy (2005) aimed to improve healthcare after sexual assault for women, children and men. The policy guides the institutional framework within the Department of Health in terms of collaboration and cooperation between different Directorates; to establish designated, specialised, accessible, 24 hour health care services, for the holistic management of patients to improve health status after sexual assault; to operate as an intersectoral service establishing and maintaining links with the community, key stakeholders at all levels of government and service provision; and to provide training structures and utilise monitoring and evaluation as a tool to ensure quality of sexual assault services.

In 2018, women are outliving their male counterparts. Female life expectancy increased from 64.2 years in 2014 to 67.3 years in 2016. Male life expectancy increased from 58.9 years in 2014 to 61.1 years in 2018⁶¹. The adult mortality rate for females has been lower than both the mortality rate for males and for the country as a whole during the period 2012 to 2016. Female mortality rates declined

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Republic of South Africa: Department of Basic Education 2014. Case Study of the National Nutrition Programme in South Africa, October 2013

⁵⁹ South African Human Rights Commission: 2007: Public Inquiry: Access to healthcare services, 2007

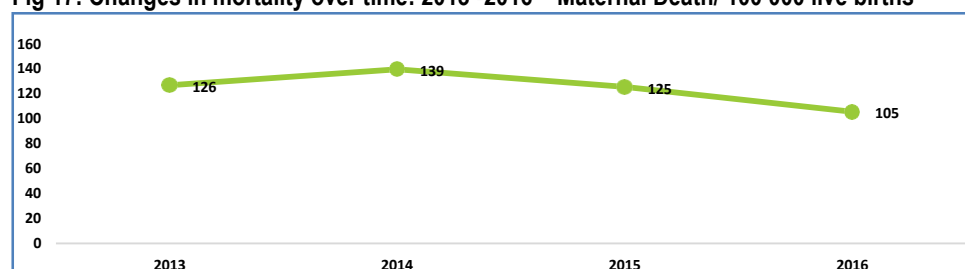
⁶⁰ An Overview of Health and Health care in SA from 1994-2010. Priorities, Progress and Prospects for New Gains.(2009).

⁶¹ Statistics South Africa

from 32% in 2012 to 27% in 2016, compared to male mortality rates that declined from 44% in 2012 to 39% in 2016. The decline in adult mortality rate is as result of the extensive roll-out of Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment and due to the more responsiveness by women to accessing testing, treatment and care for HIV over the years.

The South African Government prioritized women's health through implementation of various interventions aimed at ensuring access to health services and improving the quality of care for pregnant women. The Confidential Enquiries system of recording and analysing maternal deaths has been in operation since 1 October 1997 and the reports all describe the magnitude of the problem of maternal deaths, the pattern of disease-causing maternal deaths, the avoidable factors, missed opportunities and substandard care related to these deaths and made recommendations concerning ways of decreasing the number of maternal deaths in South Africa⁶².

Fig 17: Changes in mortality over time: 2013 -2016 – Maternal Death/ 100 000 live births



Source: DPME, Development Indicators (2019) (Statistics SA's calculations based on civil registration and vital statistics system (CRVS))

The figures above show that there has been a reduction in maternal deaths by 12.5% from 2011-2013 to 2014-2016. There has been an overall reduction of 24% from the peak in 2008-2010, an overall reduction of 1152 deaths from 2008-2010 to 2014-2016. There have been 339 fewer deaths in 2016 than 2011 and 580 fewer maternal deaths in 2016 than at the peak in 2009. The institutional maternal mortality ration (iMMR) declined from 150.2 in 2005 to 140.81 in 2014⁶³. During the period 2012 -2016 the Department of Health implemented a Strategic Plan for Maternal, New-born, Child and Women's Health and Nutrition in South Africa.

The figure below illustrates the high mortality in women younger than 18 years due to hypertensive disorders in pregnancy. There is a relationship between maternal age and underlying causes of death. Women younger than 18 are at an increased risk of pregnancy related hypertension. The latter is one of the major contributors to preventable maternal deaths. As age progresses the mortality risk increases. This is most marked in women dying due to obstetric haemorrhage.

The infant mortality rate in South Africa has declined over the years and by 2017 it is the lowest it has ever been in the history of the country. In 1974 the infant mortality rate was 90.7%, decreasing to 28.8% in 2017. The female infant mortality rate decreased to 25.3% in 2017.

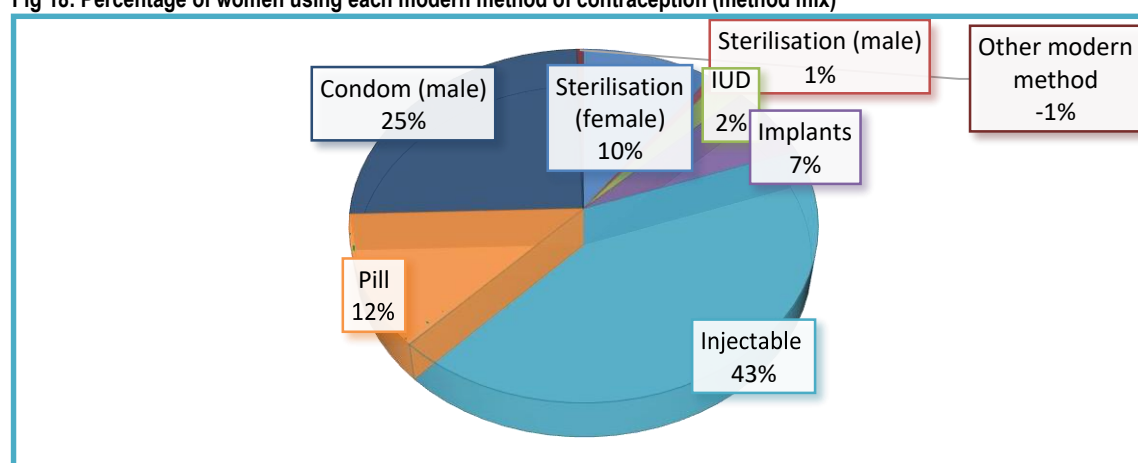
The Department of Health launched the MomConnect programme in 2017, recording 917 053 pregnant women in early antenatal services. By March 2018 a total of 818 688 pregnant women and mothers were engaged through the programme. According to the 2014-2016 Saving Mother's Report, 97% of women give birth in health facilities and 96% of women attend antenatal care.

⁶² Republic of South Africa: Saving Mother's Report, 2014-2016 Seventh triennial report on confidential enquiries into maternal deaths in South Africa: Executive Summary

⁶³ Republic of South Africa: Saving Mothers Report, 2014-2016.:Seventh triennial report on confidential enquiries into maternal deaths in South Africa: Executive Summary

South Africa has progressive legal frameworks in place to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health rights. The Child Care Act 1983 (Act No. 74 of 1983) states that minors of 14 years and older may consent to their own medical treatment without the assistance of parents/guardians. In 1998 the Government approved the National Contraception Policy Guidelines to remove barriers that restrict access to contraceptives, to increase public knowledge of client's rights, contraceptive methods and services and to provide high quality contraceptive services. Contraceptives have been freely available in public medical clinics in South Africa since 2001. According to the World Bank, the contraceptive prevalence, any methods, for women aged 15-49 years in South Africa was at 55% in 2016. In South Africa, male condom use continue to dominate as an individual contraceptive method, whilst female condom usage increased by 2015/2016. Female sterilisation increased by 2015/2016 whilst male sterilisation decreased for the same period.

Fig 18: Percentage of women using each modern method of contraception (method mix)



Source: DHS 2016

According to the 2016 South African Demographic Health Survey Indicator Report, (2017), the proportion of women who want to stop child-bearing or are sterilised increases rapidly with the number of living children, from 24% of women with one child, to 61% of women with two children and 88% of women with four or more children. More than half of married women aged (15-49 years), (58%) and 8% who have been sterilised or whose partners are sterilised, do not want any more children. Among sexually active unmarried women, 64% are currently using a contraceptive method. Among currently married women and sexually active unmarried women combined, 58% are using modern contraceptive methods. Currently, amongst married women 15% have an unmet need for family planning, whilst among sexually active unmarried women 24% have an unmet need for family planning. The demand for family planning among married women and sexually active unmarried women is 77% and at present 76% of the demand is met by modern methods⁶⁴.

South Africa has one of the most progressive abortion laws in the world with abortion on demand. However, it estimated that 50% of abortions in South Africa occur outside of designated health facilities. During the period 2014/2015 and 2016/2017 pregnancy terminations increased from 88 807 to 105 358 in South African facilities.⁶⁵

By 2016, 16% of young women aged 15 -19 years in South Africa have begun child-bearing, 12% have given birth and 3% were pregnant with their first child. Early child-bearing among young women is more common in non-urban areas (19%) than in urban areas (14%)⁶⁶. By wealth, the percentage of teenagers who have begun child-bearing is highest in the second wealth quintile (22%) and is lowest in

⁶⁴ Statistics South Africa: 2016: SADHS Indicator Report, 2017.

⁶⁵ The Presidency, RSA: 2005: Beijing +10 Report

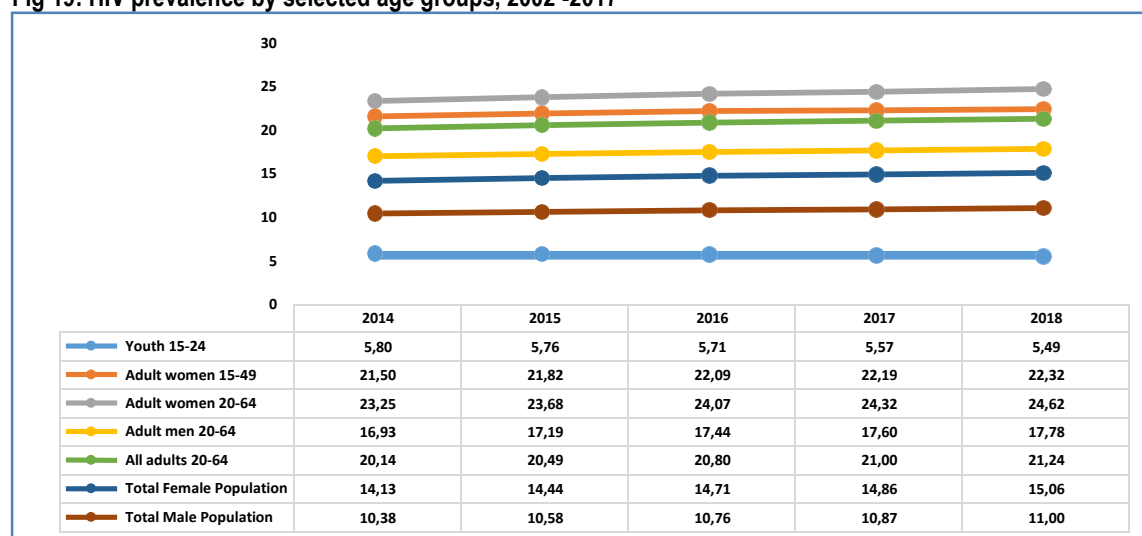
⁶⁶ Statistics South Africa: 2016: SADHS Data Quality Report

the highest wealth quintile (7%). The percentage of women aged 15 -19 who have begun child-bearing is unchanged at 16% in 2016⁶⁷. The adolescent fertility rate declined to 71 births per 1000 girls aged 15 -19 years in 2016⁶⁸. The 'She Conquers' campaign launched in September 2016 by the Government through the Department of health complemented, the Yolo and Zazi programmes of the Department of Social Development, the multi-partner DREAMS initiative and the young women and girls' programmes funded by the Global Fund are programmes that prioritise action to decrease teenage pregnancies, prevent gender-based violence, keep girls in school, and increase economic opportunities for young people, especially young women⁶⁹.

South Africa has implemented the world's largest HIV/AIDS treatment programme⁷⁰. The number of people on antiretroviral treatment (ART's) has increased to 3.67 million in 2016⁷¹. The Government introduced the HIV, AIDS and STD Strategic plan for South Africa in 2000 to respond to the growing challenge of HIV-infection, implemented through the South African National Aids Council, chaired by the Deputy President⁷². In 2012 Government also launched a strategic Plan for Maternal, New-born, Child and Women's Health and Nutrition in South Africa⁷³.

The HIV burden varies widely by geography, age and gender, and for key and vulnerable populations. There is substantial variation in HIV by province, with KwaZulu-Natal having the highest prevalence (18%), followed by Mpumalanga (15%). The Northern Cape and Western Cape have the lowest HIV prevalence, at 6.8% and 6.6%, respectively. Within provinces, there is substantial variation in HIV prevalence, with people living in urban informal areas having the highest HIV prevalence (19.9%), followed by residents in rural informal areas (13.4%). New HIV infections declined to 270 000 in 2016.⁷⁴

Fig 19: HIV prevalence by selected age groups, 2002 -2017



Source: Statistics South Africa.

The figure above shows that for women within the age group of 15-49 years, the HIV prevalence was at 21.5% in 2014, increasing to 22.3% in 2018. The HIV Prevalence rate for women in this age group is

⁶⁷ Statistics South Africa: 2017: SADHS Indicator Report

⁶⁸ Statistics South Africa: 2016: SADHS Data Quality Report

⁶⁹ SANAC National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017 -2022.

⁷⁰ South African National Aids Council: South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022.

⁷¹ Statistics South Africa: 2018: Mid-year Population Estimate.

⁷² South African National Aids Council: <https://sanac.org.za/>

⁷³ Republic of South Africa: National Department of Health: Input into 25 Year Review, 2018.

⁷⁴ SANAC: South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022.

higher than that for all adults in that same age group and when measured against the prevalence rate for the entire population.

Whilst much has been achieved over the past years, South Africa still has high rates of HIV and unintended pregnancies, with one in three young women aged 15-24 years experiencing an unintended pregnancy before age 20. Among females aged 15-24, HIV incidence is four times higher than the incidence of males in the same group. The total number of persons living with HIV in South Africa increased to 7.52 million by 2018, with an estimated 13.1% of the total population being HIV positive. Approximately one-fifth of South African women in their reproductive ages (15–49 years) are HIV positive. HIV prevalence among the youth aged 15–24 has declined over time from 5.80% in 2014 to 5.5% in 2018⁷⁵.

In 2015, the point estimate for HIV prevalence amongst women who attended antenatal care was 30.8%.⁷⁶ HIV prevalence within the 15-24-year age group of antenatal women has shown a steady decline to 19.2% in 2015. Both of the sub age groups 15-19 years and 20-24 years show a similar trend⁷⁷. In 2016/2017, 95.1% antenatal clients were initiated on antiretroviral (ART) treatment and 96% of pregnant women tested for HIV at public health facilities⁷⁸. In 2017, 84% of pregnant women accessed ante-natal clinic-based HIV testing⁷⁹. By 2017, 95% of pregnant women living with HIV received most effective ARV's for prevention of mother-to-child transmissions (PMTCT)⁸⁰. The Mother-to-Child HIV transmission rate decreased to 1.8% in 2014⁸¹, and the rate decreased to 1.5% at 6 weeks in 2016⁸². The PMTCT programme has demonstrated that the programme saved approximately 80 000 to 85 000 new-born babies per year, from early HIV infection⁸³. New infections declined among children by half to 13 000 in 2017. This is due to the success of the PMTCT programme. However, in 2017, an estimated 280 000 children (0-14 years) were living with HIV in South Africa; only 58% of the children were on antiretroviral treatment⁸⁴.

Young women (aged between 15 and 24 years) have the highest HIV incidence of any age or sex cohort, at 2.01% in 2015. Young women in their early 20s have a four-fold burden compared to their male peers. Responding to the social and structural drivers of this vulnerability (which leads young women towards having sexual relationships – many of which are transactional in nature – with men who are five to ten years older than they are) is key to controlling the epidemic⁸⁵. New infections among adolescent girls and young women (aged 15 -24) remain a concern. In 2016 the Government launched the *SHE CONQUERS* campaign to address the high infection rate among adolescents and young women aged 15 -24 years; decreasing teenage pregnancies, gender-based violence and keeping girls at school.

Much progress has been made overall by the South African Government in responding to the HIV epidemic. Notable success over the past years further includes 10 million people voluntarily testing annually for HIV/AIDS; Implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) evidence-based Universal Test and Treat (UTT) guidelines from September 2016; The National Sex Worker Plan for HIV and draft Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Strategy were developed; The Higher Education and Training HIV/AIDS Programme (HEAIDS) drove HIV testing for students.

⁷⁵ Ibid

⁷⁶ Department of Health: 2017: National Antenatal Sentinel HIV & Syphilis Survey Report 2015

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ National Department of Health: 2018: Input into 25 Year Review

⁷⁹ <https://data.unicef.org/topic/hiv/aids/emtct/>

⁸⁰ <https://data.unicef.org/topic/hiv/aids/emtct/>

⁸¹ National Department of Health: 2018: Input into 25 Year Review

⁸² SANAC: South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022.

⁸³ Department of Health: 2018: Annual Report

⁸⁴ SANAC: 2018: Annual Report 2016-2017

⁸⁵ SANAC: South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022.

HIV among infants decreased from 70 000 in 2004 to 6 000 in 2016. The HIV mortality rate decreased to 27.9% in 2016. There are 7.1 people currently living with HIV and by June 2016, 50% (3.7 million) were treated⁸⁶.

Despite these improvements, there are still vulnerable population groups. HIV prevalence among the approximately 150 000 female sex workers ranges from 48% to 72%, compared to 14.4% among adult women in the general population⁸⁷. The implementation of the National Sex Worker Plan for HIV aims to address this risk.

Menstruation is a defining moment in the sexual and reproductive health life of every young woman. This healthy rite-of-passage has been linked to various unhealthy menstrual hygiene behaviours and has exposed millions of girls and women within South Africa to menstrual indignities such as cultural taboos, stigmatisation and unhygienic menstrual practices⁸⁸. Sanitary dignity in South Africa means that every girl child and women in the country can manage their menstruation in a dignified manner. This means that all girls and women would have the menstrual information and knowledge; menstrual products; safe, hygiene and private spaces to carry out their menstrual hygiene practices. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is a fundamental requirement for achieving equity in sanitary dignity in South Africa⁸⁹.

The government has re-affirmed its position on gender equality by dedicating resources to respond to society's gender imbalance in all sectors. Sanitary dignity is one area in which the girl-child is prejudiced against resulting in an unequal access to education, and emotional trauma linked to stigmatisation. "Period poverty" results in girls and women having to deal with menstruation without access to adequate menstrual products, water, sanitation, disposal systems and menstrual health and hygiene information⁹⁰.

Research that featured a cross-sectional study to explore and document menstrual hygiene practices of girls aged between 13 and 20 years in three rural high schools of eThekweni Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa found that one third of 99 respondents reported missing school during menstruation, which was typically one day during a menstruation period⁹¹. The study also emphasized the challenges of sanitary dignity at schools.

Civil society has over the years embarked on activism and campaigns for tax free sanitary pads as well as embarked on distribution of free sanitary pads to indigent and needy girls and women. Some provinces have taken the lead in rolling out free sanitary dignity products in schools. The Gauteng Provincial Government provided sanitary towels to indigent girls. The Dignity Pack was launched, and the distribution prioritizes orphaned and vulnerable girl children within fee paying / disadvantaged schools across the 15 Education Districts in Gauteng. By 2017/2018, a total of 1 304 857 young women and girls benefited from the programme⁹².

In 2014/15 the former Department of Women embarked upon the development of a National Policy on Sanitary Dignity for indigent girls and women in collaboration with key stakeholders, including National

⁸⁶ SANAC: South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022.

⁸⁷ Ibid

⁸⁸ Minister Bathabile Dlamini: Address on International Women's Day: Sanitary Dignity Programme. Free Sanitary Pads to Poor Girl Learners – The First Step to Achieving Equitable and Sustainable Sanitary Dignity in South Africa.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ WASH in Schools Empowers Girls' Education: Menstrual Hygiene Management in Schools Virtual Conference (2013) https://www.unicef.org/wash/schools/files/WinS_Empowers_Girls_Education_MHM2013_proceedings.pdf

⁹² Gauteng Provincial Government: 2018: 25 Year Review inputs

Treasury. The Draft Policy was tabled in Cabinet in late 2017 and Cabinet endorsed the need for such a programme in the country but recommended that an Implementation Framework be developed and to be piloted in three provinces where the need was critical: Kwa-Zulu Natal; Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga. The Sanitary Dignity Programme was launched in 2018. In 2019 the Sanitary Dignity Framework was approved by Cabinet

Recognising the relevance of menstrual management to the health, wellbeing and educational achievements of girls and women and the disparity in sanitary dignity in the country, the Minister of Finance in October 2018 announced in his Medium Term Budget Policy Statement the provision of free sanitary products to school-girls in non-fee-paying schools, as well as there will be no Value Added Tax (VAT) on sanitary pads with effect of 1 April 2019 (i.e. zero-rating on sanitary pads). Zero rating means that all input cost added along the production chain of the item will be eliminated from the consumer. This means that not only will this go a long way in restoring the dignity to women and girls, but that it plays a critical role in the fight against poverty of women and girls.

In the 2019/2020 National Budget Vote Speech, National Treasury has made available R157 million to provide free sanitary pads to quintile 1-3 schools across the provinces of the country. Accordingly, the Department of Women will work with provinces to prepare for the implementation⁹³.

The provision of sanitary products to non-fee-paying schools is only the first step in achieving sanitary dignity in the country. The programme is looking toward the future, planning for provision of sanitary dignity to all indigent women and girls in the country. A phased approach will be adopted, spanning the achievement of sanitary dignity firstly to girl learners, followed by women and girls in indigent households, public institutions and non-institutionalised women and girls⁹⁴.

In 2017 the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) launched South Africa's national lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and/or intersex (LGBTI) HIV Plan making South Africa the first country in the world to produce an LGBTI national framework. This is to ensure an inclusive healthcare approach for minority groups. The plan forms part of the South African National Strategic Plan (NSP) on HIV, TB and STI's for 2017 to 2022.

Women and Education

This section responds to the UN Women Guidnace Note – Section 2, Question 12.

South Africa has introduced policies to facilitate gender equality and equity in education. This includes the South African Schools Act (1996) whose purpose and underlying philosophy includes amongst others combating sexism and all other forms of unfair discrimination and intolerance, and upholds the rights of all learners, parents and educators. The Employment of Educators Act (1998) contributes towards facilitating gender equality in schools. This Act (1998) also seeks to address the issue of sexual abuse of learners by teachers by making it unlawful to employ a teacher who has been engaged in sexual abuse of a learner.

The gender policy backdrop in education has seen a number of policies enacted that address gender issues in education. Learner pregnancy has been identified as a major reason for girls dropping out of school (SAHRC 2012), and therefore the adoption of a 'return to school' policy for girls who fall pregnant while in school is an attempt to ensure the retention and equal participation of girls in schools. The Measures for the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy Guidelines (2007) seeks to eradicate the expulsion of and unfair discrimination against girls who fall pregnant while in school. It also

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

allows girls to return to school no later than 24 months after giving birth. Another policy example is the Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Sexual Violence and Harassment in Public Schools (2008), which aims to deal with the pervading gender violence in schools by enhancing teacher and student knowledge of, and capacity to deal with, gender-based violence in schools.

The 2015 MDG country report indicates that South Africa succeeded in securing the universal enrolment of all children of primary school-going age, as well as gender parity, in schools across the country by 2009 (Millennium Development Goals: Country report 2015: Statistics South Africa).

The female literacy rate in South Africa has been in line with the adult literacy in the country. Only 13.9% of the population is categorised as illiterate. The percentage of individuals over the age of 20 years who could be regarded as functionally illiterate has declined from 28.5% in 2002 to 13.7% in 2017. Between 2002 and 2017, the prevalence of functional illiteracy in the age group 20–39 years declined noticeably for both men (17.1% to 6.0%) and women (15.8% to 3.5%). With the exception of women in the age group 20–39, women remain more likely to be functionally illiterate across all age groups. The difference between men and women has, however, declined significantly over time. Although a higher percentage of women (44.7%) than men (37.6%) over the age of 60 years were functionally illiterate in 2017, the difference has declined in each successive descending age group, to the point that, in 2017, a smaller percentage of women (3.5%) in the age group 20–39 were functionally illiterate than their male peers (6.0%) (2017 General Household Survey, StatsSA, 2018).

Youth literacy rates differ by geographical type and gender. Youth literacy rates are much higher in urban areas (95.7%) compared to traditional areas (91%). The proportion of illiterate youth is higher in farm areas (10.6%). Close to 93% of male and 95% of female youth are literate. By 2016 females (youth) were more literate compared with male youth (Statistics South Africa, 2016).

In 2016, slightly more females than male had educational attainment below matric. There seems to be an almost even distribution for graduates and those with other tertiary qualifications.

Access to childcare is important for women empowerment because where childcare is not available outside the family, it is usually the female members of the household who are responsible for this task. Statistics shows that the majority of children aged 0 to 4 years stay at home with parent or guardians. The 2017 General Household survey results shows that about 50,2 % of the those aged 0-4 stay at home with a parent or guardian and only 36.9% attends grade R, Pre-school, nursery school, crèche, and educare centres (Statistics South Africa: 2017 General Household Survey, June 2018).

South Africa has made access to comprehensive early childhood development (ECD) programmes a very important educational priority. The significance of ECD is also underscored in the National Development Plan – Vision 2030. To this end, the National Integrated Policy for Early Childhood Development (ECD) was approved in December 2015. This Policy is aimed at transforming early childhood development service delivery in South Africa, in particular to address critical gaps and to ensure the provision of a comprehensive, universally available and equitable early childhood development services. The President of the Republic further emphasised the importance of ECD during the 2019 State of the Nation Address when he announced that government will introduce two years of compulsory ECD for all children before they enter Grade 1.

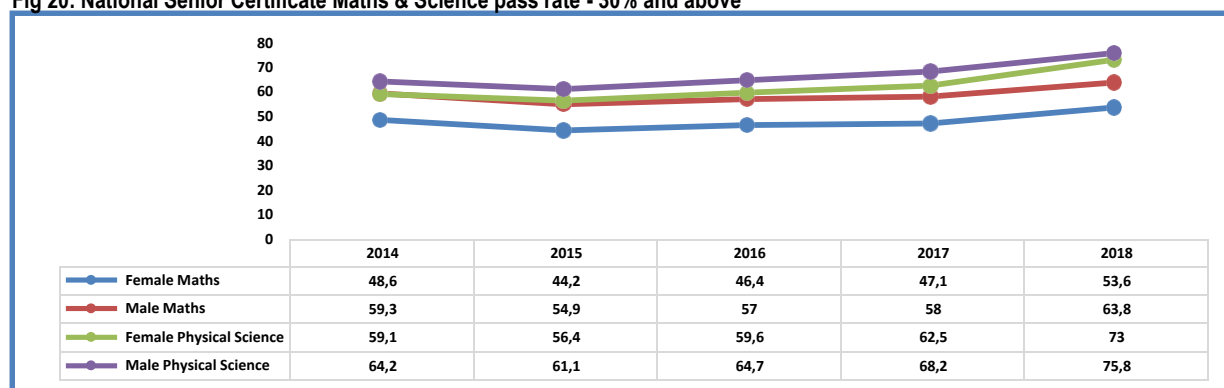
The figure shows that whilst the distribution of female learners in Pre-Grade R remained fairly constant between 2013 (50.6%) and 2017 (50.9%), female learners in Grade R showed similar trend between

2013 and 2017⁹⁵. Policy measures aimed at increasing participation at early childhood development are beginning to bear fruit. However, in 2015, early childhood development phase education reached only about 39% of the eligible population.

The enrolment of female learners in Grade 1 remained consistent in 2014 (47.6%) and 2017 (47.6%). The enrolment of female learners in Grade 12 in 2014 (54.6%) and 2017 (55.4%) shows same consistency, with a slight increase in 2017. In 2017 there were overall more male than female learners in the national schooling system, with more females than males in the Secondary Phase. In 2017, the lowest percentage of female learners in ordinary schools nationally was in Grades 1 and 4 (47.6%) and the highest percentage was in Grades 11 (53.5%) and Grade 12 (55.4%).

At the National Senior Certificate level, the percentage pass rate for males remains higher than that for female learners. The number of female learners who wrote Mathematics and Physical sciences has been higher than the number of male learners during the review period. However, the performance of male learners is better than that of female learners in both Mathematics and Physical science in terms of percentage.

Fig 20: National Senior Certificate Maths & Science pass rate - 30% and above

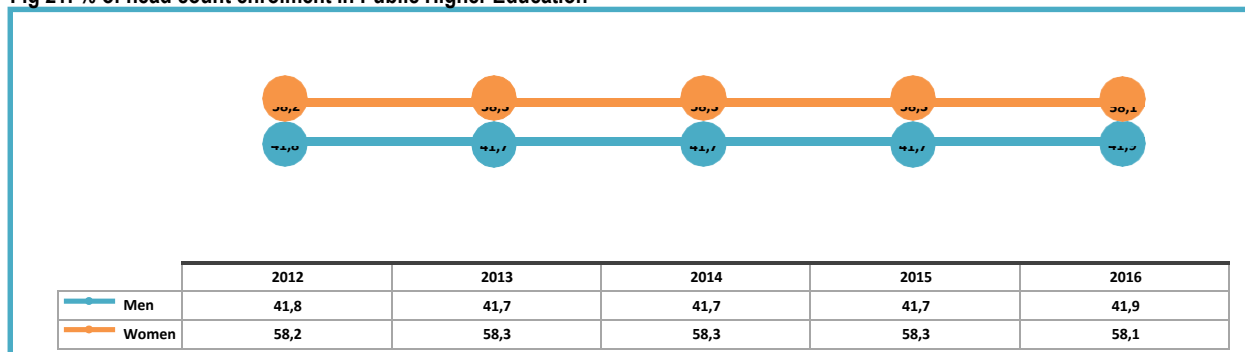


The figure below shows that whilst there has been an increase in learners reported being pregnant from 2013 - 2017, there has been a decline in learner pregnancy in Grade 8 and Grade 9. There has been an increase in learners reported being pregnant in Grade 10 from 3.3% to 3.5% and Grade 11 from 4.9% to 5.2% and Grade 10 from 4.3% to 4.8%.

Evidence shows higher female enrolment in institutions of higher learning. More than half of the students enrolled in public higher education institutions in 2016 were women (58.1%), while 41.9% were men. Female student enrolment was higher than that of males for both the contact as well as distance mode of learning. A larger gender disparity was observed for distance mode of learning where almost two thirds of students were females (65.9%) compared to just over a third of males (34.1%) enrolled through this mode of learning.

⁹⁵ Department of Basic Education: 2017: School Realities - 2005 - 2017

Fig 21: % of head count enrolment in Public Higher Education



Source: StatsSA

The gender distribution in South African higher education has changed since 2001. Women accounted for 54% of the total headcount enrolment in 2001, 55% in 2005 and 58% in 2011 when 542 997 women were enrolled in the public higher education. However, the graph above indicates that the gender distribution in South African higher education has not changed significantly over the past six years. In 2012 there were 554 840 women enrolled in the public higher education section, which constituted 58% of the total headcount enrolment for that year. Women still accounted for 58% of the total headcount enrolment in 2016.

Although the gendered inequalities and context in education have greatly changed in recent years with women outnumbering men, fields of study taken by girls and boys continue to mirror gender-typical patterns. The enrolment trend for the two years indicates higher enrolment in Business & Commerce and Humanities for women while higher enrolments for men were in Science, Engineering & Technology and Business & Commerce filed for both 2011 and 2016.

A higher number of women are awarded diplomas, certificates, under-graduate degrees up to honours degrees. However, the trend changes from masters and doctoral degrees in favour of men. About 58.3 % of those who were awarded degrees in 2011 were women while 58% of those awarded doctoral degrees were men in the same period. Approximately 62% of those awarded degrees in 2016 were women while about 58% of those awarded doctoral degrees in the same period were men (Vital Stats 2016- Public Higher Education; Council for Higher Education). In 2016, South Africa produced 2797 Doctoral graduates. While women constitute about 52% of the population, only 42.3 of the doctoral graduates produced in 2016 are women. Factoring the gender elements, black women are still under represented while black men seem to be more advantaged.

Overall, women outnumber men in the number of graduates but sex segregation in fields of study persists. This could be a reflection of persistent gender stereotypes which still remain strong. In line with the enrolment trend, majority of men who graduated in 2016 were in the field of Science, Engineering and Business and Commerce, while there was no significant difference across the different field of study on women who graduated in the same period. However, the least number of women graduates for 2016 were in the field of Science, Engineering and Technology (Vital Stats 2016- Public Higher Education; Council for Higher Education).

Government introduced the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) as Government's key institution for supporting poor and working-class students to access higher education opportunities. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) was established in terms of the NSFAS Act (Act 56 of 1999), as amended. In terms of the Act, NSFAS is responsible for the allocation of student financial aid funds to the 26 public universities and 50 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and for the administration of loans and bursaries to students at these public institutions.

Slightly higher proportion of female students compared to males benefitted from the National Students Financial Aid Scheme bursaries/loans throughout between 2010 and 2014. The number of female students who received NSFAS loans/bursaries increased from 46 621 in 2000 to 109 829 in 2014 while the number of male students increased from 36 630 in 2000 to 76 322 in 2014 (Investment Trends in Post Education and Training in South Africa; DHET, 2018). In 2016, some 130 297 female and 95 653 male students received loans/ bursaries from the NSFAS (Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa: 2016; DHET, 2018).

In terms of promoting skills development, Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) are established in terms of Section 9 of the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act No. 97 of 1998). There are currently 21 SETAs within the levy grant system. SETAs are required to implement their Sector Skills Plans (SSPs) by facilitating the delivery of improved industries' sector-specific skills in order to contribute to the goals of the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS). They are expected to ensure that intermediate and high-level skills are developed among both workers as well as unemployed persons. SETAs support workplace-based education and training through Learnerships, Internships and Skills Programmes. SETAs perform their functions in accordance with the Skills Development Act, the Skills Development Levies Act and their respective Constitutions (Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa: 2016; DHET: 2018).

Table 10: Proportion of registered and certificated learners by gender, 2011/2012-2016/2017

	Registered								Certificated							
	Learner-ships		Intern-ships		Skills Programme s		Total Registered		Learner-ships		Intern-ships		Skills Programme s		Total certificated	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
2011/12	26 232	12 438	2 00	1 25	47 469	39 849	75 794	54 537	15 766	12 835	44 6	39 6	49 015	36 987	65 227	50 218
2012/13	27 986	22 389	3 86	1 86	46 243	27 465	78 089	51 721	18 950	16 907	1 16	94 3	54 840	38 574	65 953	56 429
2013/14	47 742	25 327	5 77	1 64	52 729	39 779	106 243	66 751	20 561	16 366	1 35	1 03	59 155	48 987	81 071	66 388
2014/15	40 524	32 802	8 16	3 53	79 970	51 890	128 658	88 226	22 081	18 408	1 97	1 59	59 617	44 874	83 676	64 878
2015/16	49 993	38 287	5 69	5 39	66 740	54 253	122 431	97 931	23 827	19 208	1 77	1 36	67 556	56 389	93 159	76 962
2016/17	50 665	50 782	9 89	7 31	72 403	58 614	132 965	116 715	30 075	28 005	3 78	2 98	64 912	51 229	98 775	82 223

Source: (Investment Trends in Post-School Education and Training in South Africa, DHET, March 2018).

The proportion of female learners registered and certificated for SETA-supported learning programmes has been consistently higher than that of male learners since 2011/12. The gender gap was more pronounced in registrations for internships during the 2013/14 financial year, where females were 3.5 times likely to register for internships compared to males (Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa: 2016; DHET: 2018). Major gender differences were observed during the 2014/15 financial year, where 40 432 more female learners registered for SETA-supported learning programmes and 18 798 more female learners were certificated compared to males. The gender gap narrowed down during the 2016/17 financial year, with registrations and certifications between males and females differing by just over 16 000 (Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa: 2016; DHET: 2018).

FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE, STIGMA AND STEREOTYPES

This section of the report seeks to provide the progress made against: (i) Critical Area D on Violence against Women; (ii) Critical Area I on Human Rights of Women; (iii) Critical Area J on Women and the Media and (iv) Critical Area L on the Girl Child, as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action. It furthermore seeks to respond to the UN Women Guidance Note – Section 2, Questions 13-18.

Over the last five years, South Africa prioritised addressing all forms of violence against women and girls with particular focus on rape and sexual offences; femicide and intimate partner violence especially of young women and sexual harassment especially in schools. In the recent past weeks of late August-early September 2019, the scourge of gender based violence and violence against women and children has reared its ugly head again, to the extent that the President of the Republic had to declare it “more than a national crisis”⁹⁶. The President gave his assurance to the country that government will intensify action against men who kill women and commit various forms of violence against women and girls, amid a spate of fatal attacks on women and girls in various parts of the country.

He called upon the nation to work together – Government, civil society, men and boys in particular and all stakeholders – in addressing this scourge afflicting South Africa, adding that it is not a women’s problem. He stated that the national machinery to coordinate the campaign against gender based violence will be better resourced to deliver to this end. He called on families to raise boys to respect women, respect themselves, to value life and human dignity; called on religious and traditional leaders to assist in the fight against the scourge. The President also held a Joint sitting of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces in Parliament on 18 September 2019 to debate the issue of gender based violence.

Some of the actions the country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls focused on enforcement and implementation of legislation and policies to address violence against women and girls, hosted a Presidential National Summit on Ending Gender Based Violence and Femicide; initiating a National Strategic Plan to address gender based violence and femicide as well as reviewing the National Action Plan 2013-2018 on Addressing Gender Based Violence. Government also established an Inter-Ministerial Task Team on Addressing the Root Causes of Violence against Women and Children; and measures specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination such as gay and lesbian women experiencing rape and brutal killings as “corrective” measures by men.

Some of the strategies that the country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls centred on public awareness raising, changing attitudes and behaviours, undertaking national dialogues across the country, community level mobilisation, working with men and boys especially in the religious and traditional leadership sectors and increasing media attention on the atrocities committed by gender based violence. The country has also focused on actions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images).

Data and statistics over the past five years released by the South African Police Service is based on reported cases and is detailed in the sections that follow.

⁹⁶ Address to the Nation by President Cyril Ramaphosa: 5 September 2019, Issued by The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa: www.thepresidency.gov.za

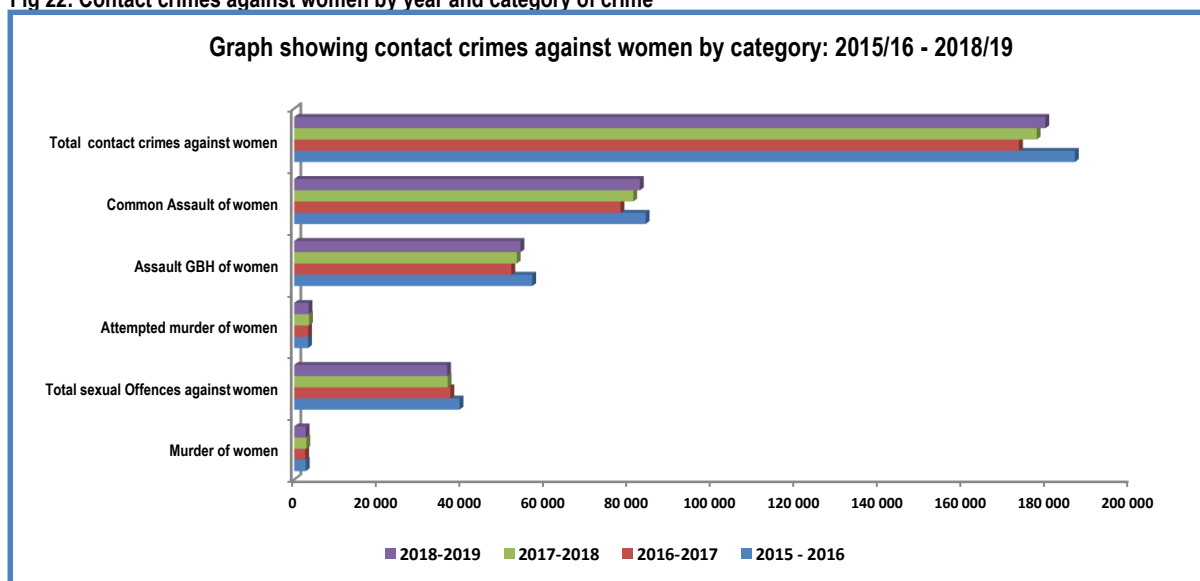
Table 11: Contact Crimes against women: 2015/2016 to 2018/19

	2015 - 2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Murder of women	2 780	2 639	2 930	2 771
Total sexual Offences against women	39 580	37 392	36 731	36 597
Attempted murder of women	3 325	3 328	3 554	3 445
Assault GBH of women	56 969	51 956	53 263	54 142
Common Assault of women	84 091	78 090	81 142	82 728
Total contact crimes against women	186 745	173 405	177 620	179 683

Source: Police Crime Statistics, SAPS, as released on 12th September 2019

- Murder of women decreased by 5.4% from 2017/18 to 2018/19
- Total sexual offences against women decreased by 0.4% from 2017/18
- Attempted murder of women decreased by 3.1% from 2017/18
- Assault GBH against women increased by 1.7% from 2018/19
- Common assault of women increased by 2% from 2017/18
- Total contact crimes against women increased by 1.2% from 2017/18

Fig 22: Contact crimes against women by year and category of crime

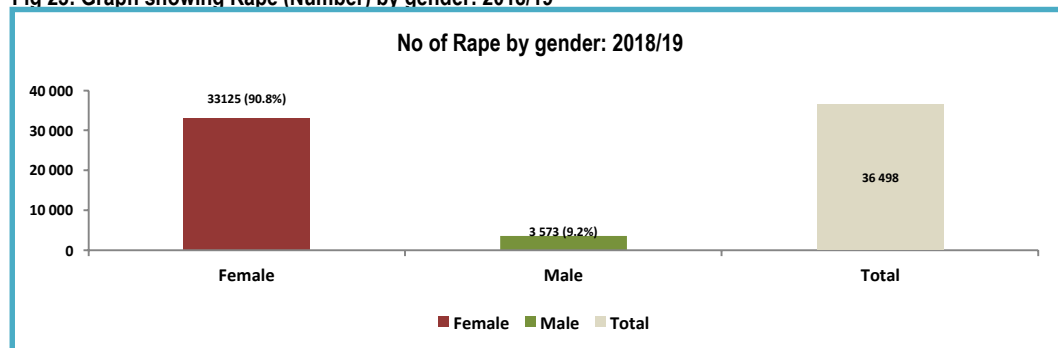


Source: Police Crime Statistics, SAPS, as released on 12th September 2019

The graphic illustration above shows that for the period under review, total contact crimes against women decreased from 2015/16 to 2016/17, but has been on the increase over the past three reporting periods. However, the figure for 2018/19 is still lower than it was in 2015/16. The trend is similar in almost all the categories of contact crimes against women. The illustration also demonstrates that of all the contact crimes against women, common assault of women is the most year-on-year, followed by assault GBH of women. It is within these 2 categories that domestic violence data is classified. The trend illustrates that physical bodily harm, by extension domestic violence in the main, is the leading contact crime perpetrated against women, followed by total sexual offences against women (rape, attempted rape and sexual assault).

The graph below shows the number of rapes of women versus that perpetrated on males. In 2018/19 there were 33 125 (90.8%) reported cases of rapes on women while in the same period, 3 573 (9.2%) cases were reported as perpetrated on men. For every 1 reported rape of a male, there are 10 reported rapes of females.

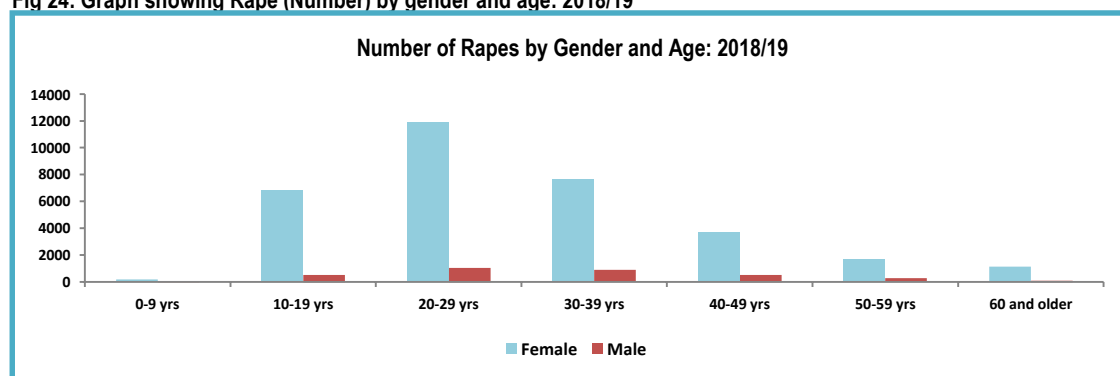
Fig 23: Graph showing Rape (Number) by gender: 2018/19



Source: Crime Statistics: South African Police Service, released 12th September 2019

The highest levels of rape are reported committed against young women in the 20-29 year age group at 35.81%. It also appears that the number of rapes reported by both sexes in this age group is the highest among all age groups.

Fig 24: Graph showing Rape (Number) by gender and age: 2018/19



Source: Crime Statistics: South African Police Service, released 12th September 2019

Girls and young women in the age group 10-19 years show the highest number of reported rapes at 92.66%; followed by women in the age group 20-29 years at 91.7% and women in the age group 60 years and older at 90.03%. These figures demonstrate that young women and girls and elderly women were the most vulnerable in their age groups to being raped in South Africa in 2018/19.

The exact prevalence of sexual violence in South Africa is unknown. Many acts of sexual violence go unreported, not only to state or private institutions, but often also to the victim's family or friends⁹⁷. Rape in South Africa is therefore significantly under-reported⁹⁸. In 2014/15, sexual offences had a 37% under-reporting rate to the SAPS, whilst assault had a 44.9% under-reporting rate⁹⁹. According to the Medical Research Council estimates, the number of rapes may be up to nine times that of the reported statistics. With so many sexual violations going unrecorded, and together with the recorded violations

⁹⁷ Sigworth, S.: 2009: An overview of sexual violence in South Africa: CSV

⁹⁸ Commission for Gender Equality: 2017: 20 Years of Gender on the Agenda Report

⁹⁹ Statistics South Africa: 2016: Crime Statistics Series Volume III: 2014/15

being broadly categorized as ‘sexual offences’, it is difficult to ascertain the true nature and extent of sexual violence in South Africa¹⁰⁰.

By the end of March 2015, all 1,138 police stations across South Africa were rendering a victim-friendly service to victims/survivors of crime. Victim Friendly Rooms (VFRs) have been established at 989 SAPS service points, including 897 at the 1,138 police stations¹⁰¹. According to SAPS, in 2018 the 1,146 police stations had 1,049 VFRs, compared to 1,045, in 2016/2017¹⁰².

The South African Police Service reported that in the 2017/2018 financial year a total of 1,824 life sentences and a total of 7,685 years imprisonment resulted from 2,419 cases prosecuted with 2,270 accused¹⁰³.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) implemented a flagship programme, *Ke Bona Lesedi* meaning “I See The Light” which is based on court preparation and victim impact assessment approach. The needs of witnesses at court are addressed by the “*Ke Bona Lesedi*” Court Preparation Programme (2001) through which services are rendered by dedicated court preparation officers based in courts throughout the country¹⁰⁴.

Government established the Thuthuzela Care Centre’s (TCC) model, which was coordinated through the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit in the NPA¹⁰⁵. These centres are located in public hospitals where they offer a 24-hour one-stop service to victims/survivors of gender based violence. Each centre is linked to a sexual offences court¹⁰⁶. By 2016, there were 55 TCCs in South Africa¹⁰⁷, with plans to establish more.¹⁰⁸

By 2017/18 a total of 74 Sexual Offences courts were operating as sexual offences courts as either a hybrid sexual offences¹⁰⁹ court or a pure sexual offences court¹¹⁰. In 2019, there are 92 such courts operating in the country, with 11 more to be established in the 2019/20 fiscal year.

The government launched the 16 Days of No Violence against Women and Children Campaign in 1998. This campaign against gender-based violence became one of the most recognized advocacy campaigns in the country¹¹¹. In 2014 government launched the #365 Days Campaign; the #CountMeIn as well as the National Dialogues to raise awareness on violence against women and children. The ‘#CountMeIn’ was a social media tool of the campaign for mass mobilization of communities to promote collective responsibility in the fight to eradicate violence against women and children. In 2018/19, a GBV Robot campaign was launched.

¹⁰⁰ Sigworth, S.: 2009: An overview of sexual violence in South Africa: CSV

¹⁰¹ South African Police Service: 2015: Annual Report 2014/2015.

¹⁰² South African Police Service: 2017: Annual Plan 2017/2018.

¹⁰³ South African Police Service: 2018: Annual Report 2017/2018

¹⁰⁴ National Prosecuting Authority: 2015: Ke Bona Lesedi Court Preparation Component, NPS Court Preparation and Victim Impact Statement Strategic Document

¹⁰⁵ National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)

¹⁰⁶ Department of Social Development: 2016: Comprehensive Report on the Review of the White Paper for Social Welfare, 1997

¹⁰⁷ National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)

¹⁰⁸ Department of Social Development: 2016: Comprehensive Report on the Review of the White Paper for Social Welfare, 1997

¹⁰⁹ A hybrid sexual offences court is defined as a Regional Court dedicated for the adjudication of sexual offences cases in any specific area. It is a court that is established to give priority to sexual offence cases whilst permitted to deal with other cases. A sexual offences court is defined as a Regional Court that deals exclusively with cases of sexual offences.

¹¹⁰ Department of Justice & Constitutional Development: 2018: List of Regional Courts upgraded into Sexual Offences Courts by 26 July 2018

¹¹¹ Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities: 2014: Review of the Implementation of the 365 Days National Action Plan, unpublished

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Root Causes of Violence against Women and Children was established by Cabinet in May 2012 to develop a comprehensive strategy to deal with the scourge of gender-based violence. It comprises the Ministers of Social Development, Women, Justice and Constitutional Development, Health, Home Affairs, Police and Basic Education. The findings of the research report have led to the development of the South African Integrated Programme of Action Addressing Violence against Women and Children: 2013-2018. This initiative now encompasses a revised programme of action for the period 2019 -2024 to address violence against women, children and vulnerable populations¹¹².

Trauma centres and victim empowerment centres have been established across the country, and the outreach of police officers, forensic nurses and role players has been prioritised to ensure that victims of domestic violence and other sexual offences are assisted in humane and sensitive ways and to improve successful prosecutions against the perpetrators.

There are six Khuseleka One-stop victim-centres in place to provide a comprehensive package of care services on a 24/7 basis to those in need. In 2014 Government launched a 24-hour toll-free Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, dedicated at providing support and counselling to victims of gender-based violence¹¹³.

The scourge of violence against women and girls persists as a result of the failure of effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes. There are gaps in addressing gender based violence in South Africa across various themes, including gaps in the criminal justice system, access to information, and the relationship between the non-realization of socio-economic rights and the reinforcement of gender based violence¹¹⁴.

A draft National Strategic Plan on addressing gender based violence and femicide has been released for public comments on 12 September 2019.

South Africa has specific specialised facilities and units also aimed at responding to violence against women, children and vulnerable populations, including the Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offences (FCS) Units (SAPS); One Stop Child Justice Centres in terms of the Child Justice Act; Safe Schools Committees; NPA SOCA Units; the National Emergency Response Team and shelters for victims of violence¹¹⁵.

The Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2013 (Act No 7 of 2013) has been enacted to give effect to the Republic's obligation concerning the trafficking in persons. The Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2013 (Act No 7 of 2013) protects women and children from trafficking and related unlawful acts. *The Government launched the Tsireledzani!* initiative, which means 'Protect!' to combat trafficking in persons, and established a National Action Plan on trafficking in persons¹¹⁶.

PARTICIPATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS

This section of the report seeks to highlight progress made on (i) Critical Area G on Women in power and decision-making; (ii) Critical Area H on Institutional Mechanisms for the advancement of women; (iii)

¹¹² Department of Women (DOW). Department of Social Development (DSD).

¹¹³ Department of Social Development. (DSD).

¹¹⁴ GCIS: 2018: Presidential Summit on Gender-based violence and Femicide: Communications Thematic Area Base Document

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Ibid

Critical Area I on Human Rights of Women; (iv) Critical Area J on Women and the Media; and (v) Critical Area L on the Girl Child, as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action. It furthermore responds to the UN Women Guidance Note – Section Two, Questions 19-25.

South Africa has made major gains in the areas of democracy, representation and governance towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. South African women have a long struggle history against patriarchy, suppression, discrimination, subjugation and women's suffrage, and many gains have been achieved through a strong, robust and vibrant women's movement. The Constitution provides an enabling framework that has guided the introduction of policies and laws to enforce transformation, non-discrimination; non-sexism and equality for women and their equal representation and full participation in national government structures, decision-making and leadership positions.

To achieve gender-parity within the public and private sector clear targets have been put in place in key areas of political and governance levels to promote the advancement, representation and full participation of women in power structures and key decision-making levels. In line with its commitment to the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development South Africa attained its minimum 30% representation of women at the political level during the second national elections in 1999. The 30% target was also achieved for representation of women at the SMS level in the public service by March 2005. Following this Cabinet adopted the 50/50 principle for women in the SMS level in the Public Service and called for the same principle to be adopted at all political, leadership and decision-making levels in the country, including in the private sector.

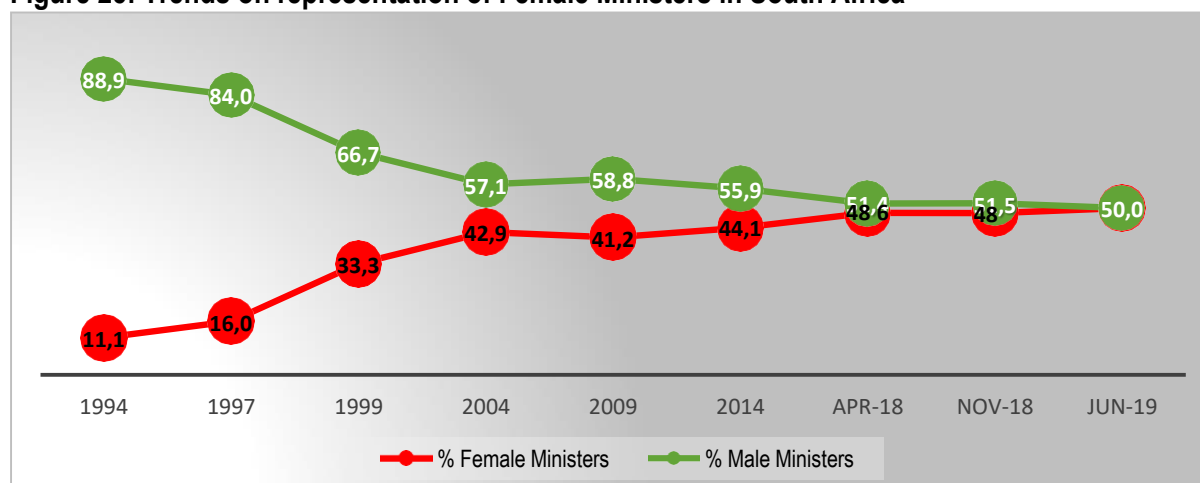
There were 25 million registered voters in 2014, and as at December 2018, it stood at 26 071 154 registered voters. In 2019, there are 14 706 799 women registered as voters, while men comprise 11 709 060 of the total registered voters. In all age categories, women continue to outnumber men. Women in the age group 45 years and older showing greater tendency to vote than women in other age groups and men in all age groups. What is remarkable is that women are well over the 50% mark in terms of registered voters. In July 2016, the Independent Election Committee reported that almost three-quarters of the new registered voters (just over a million people out of almost 1.4 million) were aged between 18- 19 years, and that the numbers of young women as new registrations was higher than that of young men in the same age group.

South Africa has made enormous strides in ensuring that women are increasingly represented in and participating in political and leadership positions, not only in political party structures, but at legislative, executive, local governance, diplomatic and international levels. The country has shown tremendous progress in terms of women's representation at the executive level, increasing from 15 female ministers out of a total of 34 ministers in 2014 to 14 of 28 ministers following the 2019 national elections. 50-50 gender parity at ministerial representation in Cabinet has been reached.

Around the world, women are closing the gender gap in areas such as health and education, but significant gender inequality persists in politics. On average, women constitute only 23.5% of representatives in parliament around the world. Impressively South Africa ranks 2nd place out of the G20 members, with a huge 42% of seats in parliament going to women. In June 2019 this figure stood at 46.1% following the national elections.

In 2014 there was a 43% representation of women in National Parliament increasing to 46.1% following the May 2019 national elections. The Speaker of the National Assembly has been a woman from 2014 to 2019, with a female elected again after the 2019 elections. In 2019 there is a 38.9% representation of women in the National Council of Provinces in the National Parliament. In 2019, of the 9 provincial premiers, only 2 (i.e. 22.2%) are women.

Figure 25: Trends on representation of Female Ministers in South Africa



There is progress in the representation and participation of women at the local government level since the first local government elections in 1995 from overall 19% of women to 41% overall following the 2016 Local Government Elections. In 2016, 276 of South Africa's 278 municipalities had a sitting mayor¹¹⁷. There was a slight increase in the number of women mayors with 107 (or 39%) being female. Following the 2016 Local Government Elections, overall in the country there is a 39% representation of women as municipal mayors.

Women have steadily increased in the Public Service and are outnumbering men. The gap between men and women is widening towards 2018, skewed in the favour of women. Although more women are joining the Public Service, they are predominantly at the lower ranks of the public service. Women make up more than 50% of all public servants employed in the Public Sector.

South Africa has ensured that women are represented not only in global leadership positions such as in the United Nations, African Union, and other such forums, but that women are representing the country as ambassadors, high commissioners and consul-generals. Diplomatic appointments of women in South Africa's diplomatic service have increased steadily. In 2014, women accounted for 29.3% of appointed ambassadors, high commissioners and consul-generals. In December 2018, women hold 41 (or 33.88%) diplomatic positions while men hold 80 (66.1%) of these positions.

There is a 41.3% representation of women in senior management in the public service as at December 2018 with an average annual increase of approximately 1 percentage point since 2014 when representation stood at 39.8%.

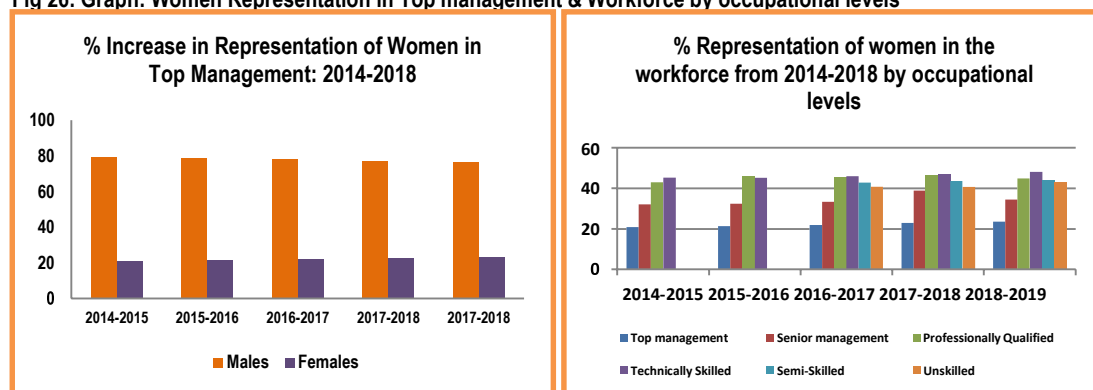
There has been a remarkable increase in the percentage of women judges from 28% in 2014 to 35.5% in 2019. There are approximately 45.6% women magistrates in South Africa in 2019, with most of them located as Regional Court Presidents (i.e. over 50%) increasing from 33.0% in 2014. At the highest level of the Judiciary which is the Chief Justice level, South Africa has never had a female Chief Justice to date. On 20 June 2019, the President appointed five new Judges to the Supreme Court of Appeal, 3 of who are women.

In terms of progress towards women's representation in the workforce the picture remains particularly discouraging. The figure below indicates that the representation of women in 2014 at the top

¹¹⁷ Stats SA. 2017. Non-financial census of municipalities for the year ended 30 June 2017

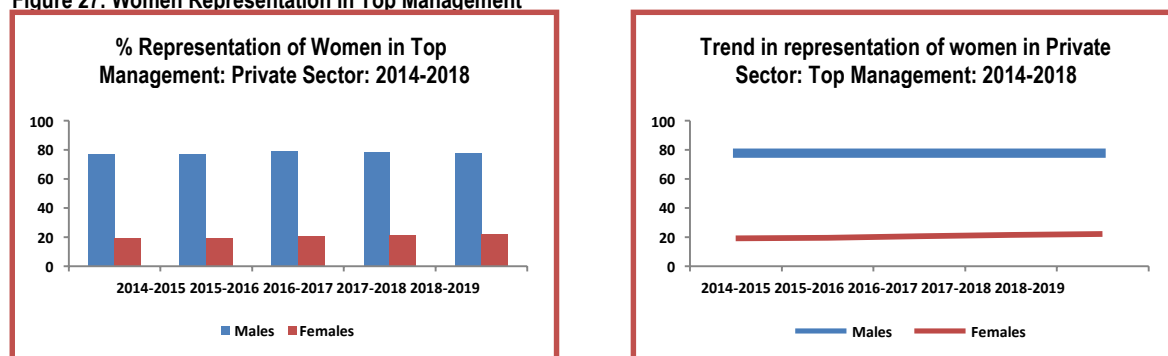
management level across the overall workforce was 20.9% and increased very gradually to 23.5% in 2018/19. The representation of females is approximately half of their economically active population figure at top management level.

Fig 26: Graph: Women Representation in Top management & Workforce by occupational levels



It clearly illustrates that over the review period women continued to dominate at the lowest levels of the workforce, chiefly within the technically skilled levels and remain in the semi-skilled and unskilled work force labour. Within State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) women are mostly found at the professionally qualified level. The trend patterns illustrate that while there is gradual increase in the appointment of women within the different occupational levels, the gap between men and women continues to remain wide.

Figure 27: Women Representation in Top Management



In 2018, women only comprised 22.3% of the top management level in the Private Sector. Although there is a slight increase in the representation of women at top management level from 2014 to 2018, it is only a 3.3 percentage point difference. A trend analysis for the five years under review indicates that men continue to dominate at top management level in the Private Sector. Although there is an upward trend illustrated in women's representation at this level, the gap between women and men remains very wide. Women comprise 40.9% of the semi-skilled and 40.8% of the unskilled labour force in the private sector, which is indicative that women tend to be confined in low skilled, low paying jobs.

In 2019, women constitute 52% of the total population of South Africa; however, they make only 44.3% of the employed workforce, which is often concentrated at lower levels of organisations.

According to the 2017 Women Leadership Census Survey conducted by the Business Women's Association of South Africa (BWASA), only 29.4% of directors and 20.7% of executive managers are women. At the top leadership level of organisations, women account for only 11.8% of CEOs or chairpersons of Boards. However, since the leadership census was initiated by BWASA, the share of organisations with either a female Chairperson or CEO has increased faster than the share of female directors at organisations.

In real terms the share of female chairpersons and CEOs increased by 51.3% by 2017. During the same period, the share of women-held directorships increased by 44.8%. Only 7.1% of companies have a female Chairperson, compared to 9.2% in the 2015 Census and 3.9% in 2008. Overall, there are 21 women chairpersons, 19 of which are Non-Executive Chairpersons.

PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

This section focuses on responding to: (i) Critical Area E on Women and Armed Conflict; (ii) Critical Area I on Human Rights of Women; and (iii) Critical Area L on the Girl Child, as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action. This section also responds to the UN Women Guidance Note – Section Two questions 15-18.

Member States are expected to (i) ensure the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace processes including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post- conflict reconstruction in Africa in line with UNSCR 1325 (2000) and to also appoint women as Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the African Union.

The South African National Defence Force derives its mandate primarily from Section 200(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. Giving substance to this Constitutional mandate, is the Defence Act, 2002 (Act No. 42 of 2002), the White Paper on Defence (1996), the Defence Review (1998) and other national legislation that guide the Defence strategy of the DOD. The important role South African women play in peace and security is grounded by Government's initiatives to promote a non-sexist society. Norms and values promoting gender mainstreaming inform its foreign policy, and particularly promote gender mainstreaming as a significant element of participation in peace missions.

South Africa's attempts to centralise gender mainstreaming in peace missions is also premised on both the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; the African Union's constitutive elements of a Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) framework that seeks to consolidate women's gains made during conflict; and rebuilding public institutions that are responsive to women's needs. South Africa revised its White Paper on participation in international peace missions. This was a collaborative venture between the Departments of Foreign Affairs (known now as International Relations and Cooperation), Defence, Correctional Services, South African Police Services and other government institutions. The National Office for Coordination of Peace Missions is a host to such a joint task team. This is an interdepartmental committee whose mandate is to coordinate various departments' activities pertaining to South Africa's participation in peace missions. One of its chief objectives is to emphasize the role of women in peace missions abroad as well as mainstreaming of gender into such missions.

The country has put in place a draft Plan of Action on implementing UNSCR 1325 and is currently initiating a national implementation framework, which is jointly collaborated on government departments, chapter 9 institutions, civil society organisations academia and private sector. (27 June 2019: DIRCO). The draft Action Plan contains a matrix with clear strategic objectives, activities, expected outcomes, indicators, and means of verification, time frames and responsible key actors. It will provide a coordinating mechanism that the State could rally with all stakeholders to increase women mediators but also connect local practice and expertise with the national structures as well as global efforts for conflict resolution. The Government of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in partnership with University of Pretoria, provides a promising case study of how to achieve this.

For the last few years, DIRCO conducts Capacity Building on Conflict Resolution, Negotiation and Mediation for women and since 2017, for youth leaders as well. The comprehensive capacity building programme aims to create a competent pool of women who can be drawn on as mediators from local to international levels. The Programme not only attracts diplomats and senior decision makers but also civil society and local community women leaders who show great potential in mediation. The local women have experience from the work done to address community challenges that require mediation. Further, the focus on the youth (mainly female and male student leaders) was initially necessitated by the continued student unrests over demands for free tertiary education. It was anticipated that the skills would assist the student leaders in negotiating with the authorities in a constructive way on the fees matter and act as mediators between decision makers and the larger student body. This also contributes to a reservoir of a new generation of mediators, particularly young women. In another intervention for example, the South Africa Department of Women has been holding local level national dialogues to understand the issue of gender-based violence as a human security issue. This also a mechanism learn lessons on how women and men communities have been handling the issue as well as hear possible solutions to be implemented at local and national levels.

The responsibility for peace keeping operations rests with the South African National Defence Force. In terms of gender representation, the Defence Force in South Africa has witnessed an increase in the number and percentage of female employees. This trend augers well for the mainstreaming of gender equality into peace-keeping and conflict resolution operations that South Africa undertakes on the continent.

The Military Police Division as a component of the SANDF are involved in external and internal deployments. A total of 197 members were deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi and the Sudan, while 122 were deployed internally during operations and exercises. Ten female Military Police members, of whom two were commanders, were deployed in the DRC.

In terms of external deployments, as at October 2014, of the total number of 6 348 members of the South African Defence Force deployed to Op-Mistral, Op-Copper and Op-cordite, 14% were females.

South Africa has the highest number of women in the Defense Force in the Region which up from 24% in 2010 to 30% in 2015. The total percentage of males and females deployed in the Mistral and Ops corona are as follows: Males 949 (83%) and Females 194 (17%) on Mistral and Males 2372 (83%) and Females (17%) on Ops Corona. South Africa recruits 30% of women through the Military Skills Development (MSDS) annually and are found in the core mustering such as anti-aircraft, Infantry, Armour, and Combat Navy.

At the Peace Mission Training Centre of the SANDF, the gender specialist is responsible to ensure that gender imperatives are integrated into the curriculum of all courses provided by the Training Centre. These courses include Gender for Instructors and Gender Advisors Course and were attended by 89 males and 51 females. Further preparations for deployment to the conflict areas PMTC also present Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration; introduction to Peace Mission for Commanders, Peace Mission for Staff Officers as well as Military Observers. Gender Advisors Course provides participants with the knowledge, skills and attitude to be in the position to address gender related issues in the conflict areas. Women from SADC Member States also attend these courses.

The SANDF also deployed women in uniform for the border safeguarding and are able to apprehend illegal immigrants, arrest criminals, recover stolen cars, weapons, livestock, copper cables and confiscates drugs. The Anti-Rhino Poaching Operations in the Kruger National Park forms part of the border safeguarding operations that are being executed along the RSA/Mozambique border within the

Kruger National Park. The deployment of the SANDF resulted in a number of poachers arrested as well as the confiscation of hunting rifles, including AK47 assault rifle.

Contributing to peace, stability and post conflict transition in Africa has been integral to South Africa's post-apartheid policy. Since 1994, the country has earned a reputation for being an accomplished mediator, with successive presidents playing key roles in negotiating settlements elsewhere in Africa.

South Africa was also involved with the AU in the following ways:

- Promoting the AU as a continental institution of governance and development;
- Helping to establish and strengthen the AU Commission to implement decisions by the AU Assembly and the AU Council;
- Hosting the Pan African Parliament (an institution of the AU) since 2005, NEPAD Agency and APRM Secretariat since 2001, and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON);
- Contributing to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council, which deploys peacekeeping missions, among other activities;
- Contributing to the establishment of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council, which has become a vehicle for civil society to present its position on major issues; and
- Contributing to capacity building by training diplomats as well as other civil servants from the continent.

South Africa contributed troops which included women, together with the Republic of Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, to the SADC led Intervention Brigade in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo under the UN mandated peace mission (MONUSCO) to end the military attacks and violation of human rights perpetrated by the M23 rebels against the civilian population. This intervention resulted in the M23 renouncing the rebellion and agreeing to enter into negotiations with the DRC government. South Africa also contributed to conflict resolution on the continent through its role as a member of the AU ad hoc high-level committee on the resolution of the Libyan crisis and as a member of the AU high-level panel.

Gender conferences are held to address challenges women experience during deployments and also to empower women for future deployment.

In South Africa, under the Defence Act No. 44 of 1957, the relevant provisions of which operated until 2002, persons between the ages of 12 and 17, both included, were required to undergo mandatory cadet training. The Act further expressly provided that every citizen between the age of 17 and 65, both included, was liable to render service in the South African Defence Force. This position changed in 2002 when the new Defence Act No. 42 of 2002 was enacted. This new Act prohibited the recruitment of children into the armed forces by expressly providing that the South African regular armed forces should consist of persons not younger than 18 years of age. In South Africa, children are defined as between 0-18 years. Thus, the country, in line with the Constitution and Bill of Rights, does not foster the promotion of child soldiers nor the violation of children's rights during conflict, either in South Africa or in any other country, especially if it is serving in a peace-keeping or conflict resolution capacity.

South Africa acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995. The country has put in place an elaborate inter-sectoral programme on the advancement of the rights of the child, which include the development and implementation of a National Plan of Action in 2012, which is being implemented in the country. In addition, the country has adopted the Refugees Act, No. 130 of 1998. The Department of Home Affairs, as the department dealing with documentation of foreign nationals, has established five (5) Refugee Reception Offices assisting refugee children in the Republic of South

Africa. In terms of section 27 of the Refugees Act of 1998, refugees are also entitled to free basic education and health services at the same rate as South African citizens.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION

This section focuses on responding to: (i) Critical Area I on Human Rights of Women; (ii) Critical Area K on Women and the Environment; and (iii) Critical Area L on the Girl Child, as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action with specific reference to issues of gender mainstreaming in environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation processes in South Africa. This section also responds to the UN Women Guidance Note – Section Two questions 30-31.

Over the period 2014-2019, South Africa has taken several measures to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies, including:

- Supporting women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance
- Strengthened evidence and/or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)
- Increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources
- Promoted the education of women and girls in science, engineering, technology and other disciplines relating to the natural environment
- Enhanced women's access to sustainable time- and labour-saving infrastructure (e.g. access to clean water and energy) and climate-smart agricultural technology
- Taken measures to protect and preserve the knowledge and practices of women in indigenous and local communities related to traditional medicines, biodiversity and conservation techniques
- Taken steps to ensure that women benefit equally from decent jobs in the green economy
- Monitored and evaluated the impact of environmental policies and sustainable infrastructure projects on women and girls

The country has also taken several actions in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation. These include:

- Supporting women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects
- Strengthening the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters
- Promoting access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief payments, disaster insurance and compensation
- Introducing, strengthening and implementing gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster)

Sustainable development is enshrined in South Africa's Constitution and laws. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (No. 108 of 1996), Section 24 states that "everyone has the right (a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and (b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that: prevent pollution and ecological degradation; promote conservation; and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social

development.” From 1997 to 2018¹¹⁸ the country has developed numerous policy guidelines which give effect to the environmental rights in our Constitution.

Since 1992 to 2016 various Acts and regulations have been enacted to address matters related to environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation¹¹⁹. In June 2018 the Climate Change Bill¹²⁰ has been gazetted for public comment. In June 2017 the Marine Spatial Bill¹²¹ was gazetted for public comment. The need to sustain biodiversity is directly or indirectly referred to in a number of Acts, not least the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004) and is fundamental to the notion of sustainable development.

Other legislation include the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002) (the main piece of legislation governing all stages of the mining and petroleum production process in South Africa). Mining is prohibited in protected areas defined in the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003). While management and conservation of biodiversity is often associated with formal reserves or protected areas, and protected areas are a key component of biodiversity management, the majority of important remaining biodiversity is found outside protected areas, on private or communal land in production landscapes and seascapes. Numerous opportunities and tools exist to integrate the management and conservation of biodiversity into production sectors (mining, forestry, agriculture etcetera) to reduce impacts on biodiversity and ensure ecosystem integrity (DEA, 2013).

The National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) describes the importance of heritage in the South African context. Mine-water regulations (Government Notice No R. 704) are aimed at ensuring the protection of water resources through restrictions on locality, material, and the design, construction, maintenance and operation of separate clean and dirty water systems.

Since 1997 to 2014 various White Papers has been developed, namely the Discussion Document Towards a White Paper on Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Management (1997); White Paper on Marine Fisheries Policy (1997); White Paper on Environmental Management Policy, (1997); White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (1997); Environmental Management Policy White Paper (1998); Draft White Paper on Integrated Pollution and Waste Management (1998); National Climate Change Response White Paper (2011); White Paper on National Environmental Management of the Ocean (2014)¹²² (Department of Environmental Affairs).

South Africa is signatory to several International Agreements and Obligations since 1994. In 2017, the country ratified the South African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development aimed at enhancing the protection of the environment in order to contribute to human health, well-being and poverty alleviation. This document has incorporated gender mainstreaming to its fullest.

Gender-mainstreaming in the environmental sector

South Africa recognizes the link between gender and the environment, and the role of women in the planning, management and preservation of the environment. The National Environmental Management Act, 1998¹²³ specifically provides that ‘the vital role of women and youth in environmental management and development must be recognised and their full participation therein must be promoted’. Regarding

¹¹⁸RSA: Department of Environmental Affairs: Guidelines and policies: <https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/guidelines>

¹¹⁹ RSA: Department of Environmental Affairs: <https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/actsregulations>

¹²⁰RSA: Government Gazette Vol 636, 8 June 2018, No 41689

¹²¹ RSA: Department of Environmental Affairs: https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/marinespatialbill2017_0.pdf

¹²² <https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/whitepapers>

¹²³ Act No. 107 of 1998

indigenous knowledge systems, the Act provides that all forms of knowledge, including traditional and ordinary knowledge, must be recognized.

The Department of Environmental Affairs in the country established the National Women and Environment Forum that serves as a platform for women to share experiences in the environment sector representing government spheres, private sector and organised business, civil society representatives in rural and urban environments, organised labour, and academia and research institutions. A Sector Gender Framework, 2014 -2019 was developed to prioritise gender mainstreaming related issues within the environment sector.

The objectives of this strategy, amongst others, include: (i) to mainstream gender into environmental policies and programmes; (ii) to assess the effect of women on environmental policies; and (iii) to integrate further gender equality and environmental consideration into their work. It further strives to: (i) strengthen women's, including young women's, leadership and cooperation in the environment sector; (ii) identify opportunities for integration of gender considerations that will ensure environmental sustainability in the respective programmes and initiatives; (iii) ensure active engagement and advice on environmental sector policy development matters to ensure consideration of gender issues; (iv) facilitate partnerships and/or sponsorships from high impact organisations on women programmes; (v) guide the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the medium-term implementation strategy; and ensure compliance with the gender Equality Framework for the Public Service.

The Department of Environmental Affairs implemented the Strategy Towards Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment Sector (2016-2012). The strategy implements the Expanded Public Works Programme's environmental programmes, namely Working for Water; Working for Land and Working on Fire. The Working for Water project has a target of women recruitment of 60%, youth 20%, and disabled persons 5% and to date has provided jobs and training to approximately 20 000 people of whom 52% are women.

The Working for Land project has targets of 60% women, 20% youth and 2% disability, and in partnership with the Land Care Programme, communal farmers and community leaders prevent and continuously control natural resources so as to mitigate bush encroachment/thickening and loss of top soil. The programme is implemented by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) on behalf of the Departments of Environmental Affairs; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and Water Affairs. It forms part of the government's Expanded Public Works Programme, which seeks to draw unemployed people into the productive sector of the economy (DEA Sector Gender Diagnostic Report, 2015).

The Working on Fire project employs more than 5 000 young men and women, of whom 85% are youth; 37% are women¹²⁴. The programme was launched in September 2003 as part of the South African Government's initiative to create jobs and to alleviate poverty. The young men and women in the programme have been fully trained as veld and forest fire fighters and are stationed in more than 200 teams throughout South Africa. The programme addresses the prevention and control of wild land fires to enhance the sustainability and protection of life, poverty and the environment through the implementation of Integrated Fire Management practices - 85% of the participants are youth and 37% are women (the highest level in any comparable fire service in the world) (DEA Sector Gender Diagnostic Report, 2015).

It is important to state that the country has found, given the progress made in gender mainstreaming within the environment public sector, that the absence of a gender mainstreaming strategy has meant

¹²⁴ RSA: Department of Environmental Affairs: Strategy Towards Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment Sector (2016 -2012)

that the collection of gender aggregated data has been an add on function and unstructured in the manner of implementation of gender mainstreaming programmes. This has resulted in the country not being able to effectively assess the level of gender mainstreaming at all tiers of government, in the private sector as well as the within civil society¹²⁵.

The Department of Environmental Affairs identified amongst others, the need for a baseline of indicators to be established which will include the definition of minimum standards and ideal standards for the sector's performance. The variable availability and quality of data suggests that the standard indicators are not adequate for capturing the complex nature of gender equality challenges in South Africa (DEA Sector Gender Diagnostic Report, 2015). The priorities towards gender mainstreaming within the environment sector were identified and are implemented by the Strategy and the Gender Action Plan through the different strategies outlined during the 2016 -2020 implementation.

The Government of South Africa through the Department of Environmental Affairs has set up a Green Fund to support the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient development path delivering high impact economic, environmental and social benefits. Systematic biodiversity planning has provided a powerful platform for mainstreaming biodiversity into planning and decision-making across a range of production sectors, urban and rural development, municipal development planning, and environmental assessment. Women are beneficiaries, albeit at a limited level, of the Green Fund which has enabled women to establish SMMEs and micro enterprises and businesses.

The implementation of a Green Jobs Training Programme in 2014 for government officials, civil society and private sector was aimed to provide stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to assess green jobs potential, devise appropriate policies and strategies, discuss investments and technology options, implement strategies, and monitor and evaluate progress towards job creation in the green economy. Women and young women have been included within this training programme.

Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa requires all spheres of government to 'secure the wellbeing of the people of the Republic'. Schedule 4 Part A identifies disaster management as a functional area of concurrent national and provincial legislative competence, while Part B of the same schedule allocates fire fighting services to local government. In 2016 the President of South Africa, through Proclamation¹²⁶ established the Intergovernmental Committee on Disaster Management.

Gender is integrated into the emergency response to disaster management through understanding the roles of men and women in families and communities to identify needs and ensure the fair distribution of resources (COGTA 2008/2009 Annual report)¹²⁷. The development and integration of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Toolkit into the schooling system was endorsed in 2016.

The distribution of fire-related deaths is not uniform across the age groups. The 0 to 4 years and 25 to 35 years age groups are identifiable as particularly vulnerable groups. Men are more vulnerable to fire than women. This trend is observable up to the age of 55 years where after the vulnerability reverses. More research is required to clarify these phenomena and find suitable solutions to curb the high incidence of fire-related deaths in the Republic (COGTA, 2008/2009 Annual Report). The National Disaster Management Committee ran a project to support implementation of the National Fire Safety and Prevention Strategy through capacity assessments and support of 12 municipalities across the

¹²⁵ IBID

¹²⁶ 61 of 2016 in Government Gazette No 40394, 2 November 2016.

¹²⁷ National Disaster Management Centre Annual Report, COGTA 2008/2009

country. This approach is linked to the 'Back to Basics' programme in the country (COGTA, 2017/2018 Annual Report).

Climate Resilience and Mitigation

The White Paper on Climate Change Response (2017)¹²⁸ addresses the need for collaboration across all sectors of society to achieve the comprehensive approach to disaster management set out in the Disaster Management Act. This includes measures to promote the development of Risk and Vulnerability Service Centres at universities, which will, in turn, support resource-constrained municipalities; collaboration with social networks such as community organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), women and farmers' organisations, and the Adaptation Network to help raise awareness and to transfer technology and build capacity and to develop mechanisms for the poor to recover after disasters, including micro-insurance (National Climate Change Response White Paper, 2017).

Climate change is an issue for all South Africans and government realises that the objectives set out in this White Paper can only be fully realised with the active participation of all stakeholders. This means that women play a pivotal role in the process. The government is committed to substantive engagement and, where appropriate, partnerships with stakeholders from industry, business, labour and civil society in a manner that enhances coordination. Civil society organisations that work directly with communities and particularly with the urban and rural poor and with women are an important conduit for ensuring that climate information is timeously communicated and to inform government and research institutions of vulnerable groupings' climate change-related issue (National Climate Change Response White Paper, 2017).

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

This chapter of the report responds to the UN Women Guidance Note – Section Three, questions 32- 35.

South Africa developed the National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality which was adopted by Cabinet in 2000. This Policy Document outlined the National Gender Machinery in the country as "an integrated package of structures". It comprised four arms: Government, Legislature, Commission for Gender Equality and Civil Society. The nodal or central point was the Office on the Status of Women located in the Presidency. It was established in 1997 and reported to the Minister in the Presidency. In 2009, following the national elections and the reconfiguration of Government, it evolved into the Ministry for Women, Children and People with Disabilities and reported to a Cabinet Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities and the concomitant Department. Hence it became a dedicated ministry.

Following the 2014 national elections, the President announced a dedicated Ministry for Women located in the Presidency, under the stewardship of the Minister in the Presidency Responsible for Women. In May 2019, following the national elections, government is reconfiguring the state once again. Consequently the President announced a Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities located in the Presidency, under the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. She is now the head of the National Gender Machinery in the country.

¹²⁸ https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/national_climatechange_response_whitepaper

Given the several evolutionary developments of the nodal structure heading the National Gender Machinery, vis a vis the National Policy outlines of the Machinery and its coordination, many challenges were experienced in its remaining effective. In 2018 a process was initiated to review the National Machinery and realign its coordination mechanism with the developments that have occurred over the past few years. A diagnostic Report on Reviewing and Strengthening the NGM has been developed and is currently being consulted on. This process will redefine, realign and strengthen the National Gender Machinery in South Africa going forward.

The SDG implementation process is driven through an Inter-Ministerial process and the Minister for Women is part of this process. In addition the SDG coordination process includes the Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality, who is also one of the arms of the NGM. The Department of Women is the Chairperson for the Sectoral Working Group: SDG 5 and is part of the Steering Committee. This task is executed by the current Acting Director General of the Department. The process of the SDG's is inclusive of the gender equality principle and is incorporating gender mainstreaming across all 17 SDGs, including ensuring that the indicators, where possible is gender responsive. This is illustrated in detail in the next Chapter.

Further details regarding the SDG implementation process is outlined in the next chapter of this report. The process is championed by Statistics South Africa as the chief coordinating structure especially with regard to the monitoring of the indicators and reporting to the UN. Formal structures have been established for the coordinating mechanism and includes civil society, business, labour, government (all levels including local level), Chapter 9 institutions, State Owned Organisations, among others.

Global and regional instruments related to women's empowerment and gender equality are implemented through the National Gender Machinery structures. The Commission for Gender Equality acts as a watchdog over this process and develops independent reports in this regard. The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Women as well as the Women's Multi-Party Caucus in the Legislature provides an oversight of this process. The actual implementation of programmes, policies and strategies that would achieve the objectives of the instrument such as CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, among others is done through government departments. The NGM is the platform through which interactions by all stakeholders, including women's organisations from rural areas and marginalised groups such as LGBTQI+ sector takes place.

The involvement of stakeholders in the preparation of this National Beijing+25 Report is outlined in detail in Chapter 2 in this report. The country is embarking on a National Beijing+25 campaign across the country during the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

DATA AND STATISTICS

In this chapter the report seeks to provide a summary of the data and statistics in the country related to women's empowerment and gender equality. Much of the evidence data and statistics available have been highlighted in the previous section of this report. Thus in this section the report seeks to respond mainly to the issues raised under the UN Guidance Note - Section Four, questions 36-40.

The top three areas in which South Africa has made most progress over the past five years in relation to gender statistics at the national level include:

- (i) Conducting new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability):

- Time Use Survey: Statistics South Africa has produced its first Time Use Survey in 2000 and its second one in 2010. Time use surveys will be developed in a ten year period. The next Time Use release will be in 2022.
 - Community Survey 2016 (Stats SA)
 - GBV: annual Victims of Crime Survey; National Police Crime Statistics; NGO surveys; Medical Research Council of South Africa surveys, among others
 - Quarterly Labour Force Surveys (Stats SA)
 - Annual General Household Surveys (Stats SA)
 - Department of Basic Education surveys
 - Department of Higher Education surveys
 - Poverty Trends Analysis (Stats SA, 2016)
 - Department of Justice Task team on LGBTQI+ - baseline information and monitoring of rapes and/or deaths of gay and lesbian women
 - SESE (Stats SA)
 - Disability data (StatsSA)
 - Profile of Vulnerable Groups Series (Stats SA)
 - Department of Health and Stats SA – Demographic Health Survey (2018)
- (ii) Produced knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- Commission for Gender Equality produces a number of user friendly research and investigative reports and Policy Briefs
 - Department of Women has produced research reports and policy briefs – Status of Women in the South African Economy (2015); GVB Report (2014); CEDAW 5th periodic report (2016); AU Women’s Protocol Report – Initial Report 2004-2014; Gendered Analysis of Government’s Incentive Schemes especially those Administered through the Dti (2018), among others
 - Stats SA – Gender series – Gender and Education (2015); Women and Public Transport (2017); Gender and the Economy (2016);
 - Department of Labour (Commission on Employment Equity) – annual Employment Equity Reports – from 1996 to 2019
 - Department of Education Research Reports
 - Women and mining – NGO
 - Gender Links – reports on GBV
 - Human Rights Commission Research and Investigative reports
- (iii) Used more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects
- Sanitary Dignity Programme and Zero rating of pads by National Treasury (2019 Budget) – utilised data and statistics on indigent girls in Quintile 1-3 schools in South Africa; indigent young women in TVET Colleges. Department of Women also produced research reports on the situational analysis of sanitary dignity programmes in three pilot provinces. The data, statistics and information contributed to the evidence based policy development, implementation framework and to the Cabinet approved rollout programme.
 - Employment equity data captured through the Commission for Employment Equity annual Reports is focusing on the issue of wage parity and wage differentials especially in the private sector
 - Recent election manifestos – influenced appointment of Cabinet Ministers following the May 2019 elections and other appointments

- Data on representation in the judiciary is informing the process of transforming the judiciary in terms of representation by sex and population groupings
- Local government positions
- Education and women
- GBV statistics

Other areas were also implemented, or are being initiated, in the country to ensure that the generation of relevant data and statistics on women's empowerment and gender equality are strengthened. These include:

- Promulgated new laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy setting out the development of gender statistics
 - Legal framework and policies are very gender responsive and calls for disaggregation of data and statistics e.g. Amended Employment Equity Act; National Sanitation Policy (2017);
 - Cabinet adopted the Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework (Department of Women) in 2019, and together with the Country Gender Indicator Framework will seek to institutionalise gender responsive targets and indicators across the different sectors of government and through the MTSF 2019-2024 and the National Development Plan's 5 Year Implementation Framework (2019-2024). In 2017 Cabinet adopted that the generation and accessibility of gender and disability disaggregation must be provided for across all targets and indicators of Government
- Established an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee);
 - Interdepartmental coordination mechanism for the National Development Plan 5 Year Implementation Framework (2019-2024) and the Medium Term Strategic Framework (2019-2024)
 - The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation carries out national evaluations on government programmes and policies, a process which generates much data and statistics. This process is coordinated through the establishment of Interdepartmental Steering Committees comprising Director-Generals or Deputy Director Generals. The Department of Women has been included in some of these Steering Committees by virtue of the issue of ensuring that gender is mainstreamed into the process. However the Department's inclusion is sporadic and several evaluations have been gender blind. This remains a challenge that needs to be addressed going forward.
 - The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation has established a unit linked with the Wits University called Twende Mbele Project which has been undertaking work on the gender responsiveness of the Government-wide M&E system and on gender responsiveness of National Evaluations Processes. The Department of Women has been involved in the process in collaboration with Twende Mbele.
- Developing a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics
 - Statistics South Africa is the national statistical agency for the country and is a web based repository of data and statistics that it generates.
 - The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, based in the Presidency, has an existing web-based database / repository for evaluations and research documents. However it is currently working on the process of establishing a national knowledge hub.

- The Department of Women is initiating a process towards establishing a centralised or national Gender Knowledge Hub for the country. This is a process that is envisaged to take about three to four years.

South Africa is focusing on strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years. In this regard, a country gender indicator framework has been developed and is currently being finalised for adoption by Cabinet. This framework will guide the process of gender responsive indicators being mainstreamed across government's M&E systems. This framework will work in tandem with the 2019 Cabinet approved Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework which provides for a short, medium and long term process of ensuring that targets, interventions, and indicators are included into all planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. In the immediate period, the Department of Women is fully involved in the government-wide process of ensuring that gender responsive targets and indicators are included in the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024 and the National Development Plan 5 Year Implementation Framework 2019- 2024. This would also entail the inclusion of gender responsive targets and indicators into all 5 year Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans of Government Departments at all levels.

The engendering of the annual National Budget Statement has also been initiated through the national planning process and this will ensure that gender responsive budgeting becomes institutionalised.

SDGs

The country has also defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs, including gender specific indicators in all 17 SDGs.

South Africa was one of the early supporters of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Commitment is intertwined with its contribution to setting Africa's long-term development goals. In 2013 South Africa played a leading role in the African Union to define 8 long-term development ideals for the continent, which were later translated into the 7 aspirations contained in the AU's Agenda 2063. At the same time, Heads of State of the AU established a High-Level Committee, which included South Africa – to develop the Common African Position on Post-2015 Development Agenda. In September 2014, South Africa was elected the Chair of the Group of 77 plus China and in this capacity it led the group in the international negotiations in 2015.

South Africa emphasises the significant convergence between the SDGs and its own National Development Plan: Vision 2030. Approximately 74% of the SDG targets are addressed through the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 and South Africa's sectoral policies and programmes address 19% of the remaining targets (Stats SA, 2019). Thus the SDGs are seen as a potential to accelerate the realisation of the National Development Plan targets through policy coherence, increasing efficiencies and avoiding duplications.

South Africa developed its SDG Indicator Baseline Report in 2017 (Stats SA, 2017) which covered Tier i and Tier ii indicators. In that period, 156 of the 230 indicators had agreed standards and methods. South Africa was able to report on 63% of these indicators. In 2019, South Africa is able to report on indicators as represented in the table below:

Table 11: South Africa's SDG data availability in 2019

SDG	No of Targets	No of Tier i and Tier ii indicators	No of Tier i and Tier ii indicators with data	No of domesticated and additional	Percentage of Tier i and Tier ii indicators	No of indicators that are gender
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				targets with data	reported	specific
SDG 1	7	11	5	4	45%	0
SDG 2	8	13	4	2	31%	0
SDG 3	13	26	17	8	65%	4
SDG 4	10	10	4	11	40%	4
SDG 5	9	14	5	5	36%	all
SDG 6	8	11	8	4	73%	0
SDG 7	5	5	3	3	60%	0
SDG 8	12	16	9	4	56%	4
SDG 9	8	12	6	2	50%	0
SDG 10	10	11	4	1	36%	0
SDG 11	10	11	2	5	18%	0
SDG 12	11	6	1	1	17%	0
SDG 13	5	3	0	1	0%	0
SDG 14	10	7	0	3	0%	0
SDG 15	12	14	3	3	21%	0
SDG 16	12	22	3*	8	14%	0
SDG 17	19	19	7	1	37%	0

*includes 2 indicators reported under SDG 10 and SDG 17

SDG 5

The country has already begun its data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs.

Prior to the development of the SDG's, South Africa committed to addressing gender equality through the targets set out by MDG's, in particular MDG3. South Africa achieved 5 of the 7 MDG targets in 2015, and this set the path for its smooth transition to the MDGs. The development of SDG 5 sought to further the targets set out by MDG 3 by encompassing both the issues included in the MDG's as well as emerging issues which the MDG's failed to address.

The Global SDG framework includes a target for SDG5 measured through 14 corresponding indicators. These are:

Target 5.1: End all forms of Discrimination of all women and girls everywhere

- Measurement is through indicator 5.1.1.

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation

Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practises, such as child early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation.

Target 5.4: Recognise the value unpaid care work and domestic work through provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection, policies and promotion of shared responsibilities in the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in politics, economy and public life

Target 5.6: Ensure access to universal sexual and reproductive health and rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICDP and Beijing Platform of Action, and outcome documents of their review conferences

SDG 5 contains 9 targets with 14 corresponding indicators. South Africa is able to report on 6 of the 9 SDG targets, using 8 data sources. Apart from the standard SDG indicators, South Africa has provided two domesticated indicators. The table below illustrates the SDG indicators used in the measuring of

SDG 5, including domesticated indicators devised through a round of technical and regional workshops held in South Africa.

Table 12: Indicators measuring SDG 5 in South Africa in 2019

Target	Indicator	Type
5.1	5.1.1 Whether or not legal framework are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non- discrimination on the basis of sex	SDG: Tier II
5.2	5.2.1 Promotion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	SDG: Tier II
	5.2.2D Percentage of ever-partnered women and girls aged 18 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	Domesticated
	5.2.2 Promotion of the rights of girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age, and place of occurrence	SGD Tier II
5.3	5.3.1 Promotion of the rights of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.	SDG Tier II
	5.3.1D Percentage of early marriage experienced by girls before the age of 15 years	Domesticated
	5.3.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 14 -49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	SDG Tier II
5.4	5.4.1 Proportion of the time spent on unpaid domestic care work, by sex, age and location	SDG: Tier II
	5.4.1D Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex	Domesticated
5.5	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliament and (b) local government	SDG Tier I (a) Tier II (b)
	5.2.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	GDG Tier I
5.6	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years, who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	SDG Tier II
	5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee free and equal access to women and men aged 15 years or older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	SDG Tier II
5a	5a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex, and (b) share of women among owners as rights-bearers of agricultural land by type of tenure	SDG Tier II
	5a2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework, including customary law, guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	SDG Tier II
5b	5b1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	SDG Tier II
5c	5c1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	SDG Tier II

Challenges for collection and compiling data on SDG5 in 2019

In the process of developing the 2019 SDG Report, the country has experiences some challenges. These are indicated as follows:

- Target 5.2 is marred by the unavailability of data.
- Data for prevalence of physical and sexual violence is only available for one year. As such, the effectiveness of the relevant laws and policies in this regard is not able to be measured.
- There is a limiting factor in the reporting of data on human trafficking as data is only available for trafficking of sexual nature, and therefore other forms of trafficking such as in human organs, are not included in South Africa's 2019 report.
- South Africa has statistics on registered marriages only, as the validity of a marriage in South Africa is not dependant on its registration. These figures may be understated.

- South Africa does not currently report on the incidence of Female Genital Mutilation, therefore South Africa's progress in eliminating this practise cannot be measured.
- South Africa does not have data on the prevalence of early marriages before the age of 18 as per indicator in SDG 5
- South Africa needs to develop an indicator and means to capture the frequency of incidences of harmful practises such as early marriages and virginity testing.
- With regard to target 5.4, the most recent data that South Africa has is that of 2010. Hence no conclusive assessment can be drawn on the progress made
- South Africa does not currently report on the indicator set out by target 5.6. As such its progress towards fulfilling this target by 2018 cannot be assessed.
- South Africa does not report on the indicators provided by target 5.6. As such no conclusive assessment may be made on South Africa's progress towards achieving this target.
- South Africa does not have a means to measure its progress of achieving target 5.c as it has not yet achieved the other targets set out by SDG 5.

South Africa collects disaggregated data routinely through major surveys which includes disaggregation by geographic location, income, sex, age, educational levels, literacy and numeracy levels, marital status, divorce, death, race, disability, migratory status, economic sectors, occupational levels and ranks, among others. The surveys that periodically collect such data include the following:

- General Household Surveys (annually) – Statistics SA
- Quarterly Labour Force Surveys – Stats SA
- Vulnerable Indicator Report (Social Profile of Vulnerable Groups such as women, children, elderly, youth and persons with disabilities) – Stats SA
- Victims of Crime Survey (annually) – Stats SA
- Demographic Health Survey (once every ten years) – Stats SA and Department of Health
- Mid-Year Population Estimates (Annual) – Stats SA
- Community Surveys (once every five years) – Stats SA
- Vital Statistics – Public Higher Education (annual) – Council for Higher Education
- Annual Report on Employment Equity - Commission on Employment Equity (Department of Labour)
- South African Women in Leadership Census (annual) – Business Women's Association of South Africa (BWASA)

CONCLUSION

In assessing progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in South Africa, it is critical to keep in mind the historical background to the status of women in the country, and to understand how the gendered colonial, segregationist and apartheid legacies created barriers for the achievement of gender equality.

The struggles waged by women have resulted in important strides towards the national goal of a non-sexist society. This also ushered in the rights and freedoms of women which are firmly entrenched in the country's Constitution. The Beijing +25 report shows the progress made on women's empowerment and gender equality, characterized by government efforts to effect political, economic and social transformation and to overcome the barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment.

South Africa has progressive gender responsive legislation, including laws on termination of pregnancy, sexual orientation, the rights of women under customary law, rights of women workers; women's access to justice and protection against domestic violence, sexual offences, rape and harassment.

However a reflection on the past five years highlights that inadequate implementation of these legislation and policy frameworks have resulted in limited and uneven progress being made in some areas. A major challenge in realising gender equality in South Africa lies in dismantling patriarchy and its effects; addressing and eliminating the high levels of violence against women and girls and high levels of gender based violence and femicide; and in breaking the cycle of dependency of those women who continue to be marginalised and who remain vulnerable.

The nature of vulnerability that women face in 2019 is markedly different to the vulnerability women faced in 1994. It is therefore safe to say that the journey travelled for women's emancipation, empowerment and gender equality in South Africa has been a promising, but difficult one. However it remains evident that when one compares the trends in progress over the years there is much to be proud of in the strides that have been made in realising the rights of women in South Africa.

ANNEXURE 1: SOUTH AFRICAN SDG INDICATORS LIST

SDG 1: End Poverty in all its Forms

- 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international Poverty Line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical (urban/rural)
- 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex
- 1.2.1.A Number of social grants (additional indicator)
- 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3.1.D Percentage of population covered by social protection systems, distinguishing children, older persons, and people with disabilities (Domesticated indicator).
- 1.4.1.D The proportion of the population living in households with access to basic services (Domesticated Indicator)
- 1.4.1.D Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100 000 population
- 1.5.3 Number of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies adopted by South Africa (13 strategies)
- 1.A.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services, education, health, and social protection

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- 2.1.2.D Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population
- 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting among children under 3 years of age
- 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years by type
- 2.5.1.D Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities (domesticated indicator)
- 2.5.2 Number of producers benefitting from animal improvement schemes
- 2.A.2 Total official flows (ODA plus other official flows) to the agricultural sector

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio
- 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.1.2.A Percentage of mothers and children who receive post-natal care either at home or in a facility and within 6 days of delivery (additional indicator)
- 3.2.1 Under 5 mortality rate
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate
- 3.2.2.A.1 Infant mortality rate (additional indicator)
- 3.2.2.A.2 Still birth rate (additional indicator)
- 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1000 uninfected population by sex, age and key population
- 3.3.1.A.1 HIV prevalence (additional indicator) (new infections per 1000)
- 3.3.1.A.2 The number and percentage of people living with HIV exposed to ARTs by age and sex (additional indicator)
- 3.3.2 TB incidence
- 3.3.3 Malaria incidence
- 3.3.4.D Mortality due to Hepatitis B (domesticated indicator)
- 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease
- 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate
- 3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries
- 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods
- 3.7.1.A Couple year protection rate (additional indicator)
- 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; 15-19 years) per 1000 women in that age group
- 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning
- 3.A.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among 15 years and older
- 3.B.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines, including in their national population
- 3.B.3.D Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential machines available and affordable on a sustained basis (domesticated indicator)
- 3.D.1 Strengthen capacity for early warning risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

SDG 4:	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
4.1.1.D	Proportion of children and young people (a) in Grades 2/3 (b) end of 10 and (c) end of lower secondary achieving at least minimum proficiency level in (i) reading (ii) mathematics by sex
4.1.1.A.1	Percentage of children in population who complete (a) Grade 7, (b) Grade 9, (c) Grade 12 (Additional indicator)
4.1.1.A.2	Percentage of youth aged 15-24 years and XXXX (additional indicator)
4.2.2	Percentage of children attempting Grade 1 in the current year, after attending Grade R/0 in the previous year
4.2.2.A	Number of children accessing registered ECD programmes (additional indicator)
4.3.1.A.1	Percentage of youth aged 15-24 years attending educational or training institutions in the past 12 months by sex (additional indicator)
4.3.1.A.2	Percentage of adults aged 35-64 years attending educational or training institutions in the past 12 months by sex (additional indicator)
4.4.1	Percentage of youth and adult university graduates by field of study (domesticated indicator)
4.4.1.A.1	Number of graduates in private higher institutions (additional indicator)
4.4.1.A.2	Number of graduates in public higher institutions
4.5.1	Gender Parity Index (a) tertiary education (b) for enrolment in tertiary education by population groups (additional indicator)
4.5.2.A	Percentage of 7-18 year olds with disabilities who are attending educational institutions (Additional indicator)
4.6.1.D	Proportion of population in a given age group achieving a least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex (domesticated indicator)
4.7.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in (a) national educational policies, (b) curricula, (c) Teacher education and (d) student assessment
4.A.1	Proportion 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 facilities and (g) basic hand-washing facilities (additional indicator)
SDG 5:	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex
5.2.1.D	Percentage of ever partnered women and girls aged 18 years and older subjected to physical or sexual violence by any partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age (domesticated indicator)
5.2.2.A.1	Number of women and girls aged 15/18 who have accessed victim empowerment centres in the previous 12 months by age and place of occurrence (Additional indicator)
5.2.2.A.2	Incidence of human trafficking for sexual purposes brought to police attention (additional indicator) (per 100 000)
5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
5.3.1.A	Percentage of early marriages experienced by girls before the age of 15 years (additional indicator)
5.4.1.D	Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location (domestic indicator)
5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments
5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions
5.A.1	(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
SDG 6:	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
6.1.1	Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services (percentage of population)
6.2.1	Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water
6.3.1.D	Percentage of water containing waste safely treated and lawfully discharged (domesticated indicator)
6.3.2.D	Percentage of bodies of water that comply to South African water quality objectives (domesticated indicator)
6.4.1	Change in water-use efficiency over time
6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

6.5.1	Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100_
6.5.2	Proportion of trans-boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation
6.6.1.D.1	Extent in the spatial extent of water related ecosystems at a point in time, including wetlands, reservoirs, lakes and estuaries as a percentage of total land area
6.6.1.D.2	Change in the national discharge of rivers and estuaries over time
6.A.1	Amount of water- and sanitation- related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan
6.B.1	Proportion of local administration units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management
SDG 7:	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity
7.1.2.D	Percentage of the population that uses solar energy as their main source of energy (domesticated indicator)
7.2.1	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption
7.2.1.A.1	Amount of renewable energy at annual operating capacity (additional indicator)
7.2.1.A.2	Annual amount of electricity produced from renewable sources (additional indicator)
7.3.1	Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP
SDG 8:	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
8.1.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita
8.2.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person
8.3.1	Share of informal employment in non-agriculture employment by sex
8.4.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP
8.5.1.D	Average hourly earnings of women and men employees, by occupations, age and persons with disabilities (domesticated indicator)
8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
8.5.2.A	Youth (aged 15-34 years) unemployment rate (additional indicator)
8.6.1	Percentage of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or Training (NEET)
8.6.1.A	Percentage of youth (15-34 years) not in education, employment or training (additional indicator)
8.7.1.D	Percentage of children aged 7-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age (domesticated indicator)
8.8.1	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status
8.9.1	Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate
8.10.1	(a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100 000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100 000 adults
SDG 9:	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation
9.1.2.D	Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport (domesticated indicator)
9.2.1	Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita
9.2.2	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment
9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP
9.5.1.A	Business expenditure on R&D (BERD) as a percentage of gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD)
9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants
9.B.1	Proportion of medium and high tech industry value added in total value added
9.C.1	Percentage of population covered by a mobile network, by 3G and LTE
SDG 10:	Reduce inequality within and among countries
10.1.1	Growth rate of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population
10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
10.4.1	Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers
10.6. D	The number of international organisations in which South Africa has membership and

10. C.1	voting rights Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted
SDG 11:	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
11.1.1.D1	Percentage of urban population living in informal dwellings (domesticated indicator)
11.1.1.D2	Percentage of urban residents having access to basic services within informal dwellings (domesticated indicator)
11.1.1.A	Number of home-loans granted by DFIs to households in the affordable housing market (additional indicator)
11.3.1	Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
11.6.1 D	Percentage of municipal waste generated and recycled (domesticated indicator)
11.6.2	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
11.B.2.D	Number of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies adopted by South Africa (domesticated indicator)
SDG 12:	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
12.2.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita and domestic material consumption per GDP
12.4.1.D	Percentage of international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that South Africa has committed to
SDG 13:	Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impacts
13.1.2.D	Number of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies adopted by South Africa (domesticated indicator)
SDG 14:	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
14.5.1.D	Proportion of marine and coastal ecosystem types that are well-represented in protected areas (domesticated indicator)
14.5.1.A	South African Marine Protected Areas (MPA) as a percentage of the Exclusive Economic Zone (additional indicator)
14.A.1.D	Marine sciences funding as a proportion of total government funding and GERD (domesticated indicator)
SDG 15:	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
15.1.1	Natural forest and woodland area as a percentage of total land area
15.1.2.D	Percentage of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem types (domesticated indicator)
15.2.1.D	Percentage of forest within formally proclaimed protected areas (domesticated indicator)
15.4.1.D	Percentage of mountain ecosystem types that are well-represented in protected areas (domesticated indicator)
15.5.1	Red List Index
15.6.1	Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits
SDG 16:	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
16.1.1.D	Number of murder victims per 100 000 population (domesticated indicator)
16.1.3.A.1	Incidence of rape brought to the attention of police per 100 000 population (additional indicator)
16.1.3.A.2	Incidence of sexual assault per 100 000 population (additional indicator)
16.1.4.A	Percentage of household heads' perceptions on trends of crime (additional indicator)
16.2.3.D	Proportion of learners in grades 8-11 who self-reported to having ever been forced to have sex (domesticated indicator)

16.3.1.D	Proportion of the population 16 years and above who were victims of crime in the past 12 months (domesticated indicator)
16.3.2	Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population
16.A.1	Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles
SDG 17:	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
17.1.1	Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source
17.1.2	Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes
17.6.2	Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed
17.8.1.D	The percentage of households who used the internet from any location
17.10.1	Worldwide weighted tariff-average
17.11.1	Developing countries" and least developed countries' share of global exports
17.18.3	Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding
17.19.2	Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration

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