



**UNITED NATIONS**  
SOUTH AFRICA

# 2022 UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT





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# Acronyms

<b>CSTL</b>	Care and support for teaching and learning
<b>DBE</b>	Department of Basic Education
<b>DDM</b>	District Development Model
<b>DoH</b>	Department of Health
<b>DPASA</b>	Department of Public Service and Administration
<b>DSD</b>	Department of Social Development
<b>ECD</b>	Early childhood development
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>S4D</b>	Sport for Development
<b>SAHRC</b>	South African Human Rights Commission
<b>SARB</b>	South African Reserve Bank
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SMMEs</b>	Small, medium and micro enterprises
<b>STEM</b>	Science, technology, engineering and maths
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation

# UN COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in South Africa is headed by the Resident Coordinator, who is the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General.

UNCT comprises 22 UN agencies, funds and programmes. Currently, the country team has 17 resident and five non-resident agencies. UNCT is an inter-agency forum for joint policy formulation and decision making. It provides strategic direction and oversight to ensure that the United Nations Development System agencies deliver coherent, effective and efficient support.

UNCT works with the government of South Africa, civil society, the private sector, international financial institutions and other development partners to support the national development priorities. The UN remains committed to enhancing its performance and impact in contributing to the country's development.

## RESIDENT AGENCIES



## NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES





# FOREWORD



**Nelson Muffuh**  
*UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa*

The UN family works with partners across various sectors to ensure that it makes significant contributions to the development landscape of the country.

The Annual Country Results Report 2022 captures the progress, achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework. We have tirelessly pursued policies and programmes that focus on inclusive growth, social equity, environmental preservation and a brighter future for the people and the planet.

In 2022, South Africa faced several emerging trends and shocks, ranging from the energy crisis, climate-related shocks, growing income inequality and rising youth unemployment to the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these, the government, supported by the UNCT and partners, made substantive efforts to boost economic growth, design just energy transition plans, address social issues, build resilience to climate shocks and close the gap created by the pandemic. This report comprehensively outlines the outcomes of these efforts, spanning the four strategic pillars of the Cooperation Framework.

The intensified electricity crisis created the greatest threat to economic and social progress through national loadshedding or power cuts. This had a huge impact on the lives of all South Africans, disrupting business activities and livelihoods. To support the country in its just energy transition (JET) initiatives, the country team worked closely with the Presidential Climate Commission, government departments, civil society organisations and the private sector to prepare the Just Transition Framework. The framework provides key parameters and direction to ensure the transition leaves no one behind.

Following the devastating floods in April that affected KwaZulu-Natal and parts of the Eastern Cape, the government and the UN developed an emergency response plan to assist the vulnerable population, particularly young people, children and women. To provide the necessary resources, UNCT reallocated US\$733,000 from its programming budget as a catalyst for this endeavour.

During the year, the UN family remained committed to supporting government's efforts to improve the provision of healthcare to its population. This included policy support and technical advice for the implementation of the National Health Insurance Bill, projected to benefit over 60 million people and address the HIV epidemic. Most importantly, the government, with UN support, remains committed to providing capacity building on maintaining resilient health systems critical in responding to the health needs of the country.

While South Africa has a relatively decent basic social security, including social assistance grants, the system still has a significant coverage gap (providing mainly for adults in poverty). To this end, the UN produced a supplementary modelling report on basic income support that will inform policy dialogue on the grant, benefitting more than 10.5 million unemployed and poverty-stricken South Africans.

The UN family works with partners across various sectors to ensure that it contributes significantly to sustainable development in South Africa. The UN expresses its gratitude to the South African government, development partners, international finance institutions, civil society organisations, the private sector, academia, the media, and South African

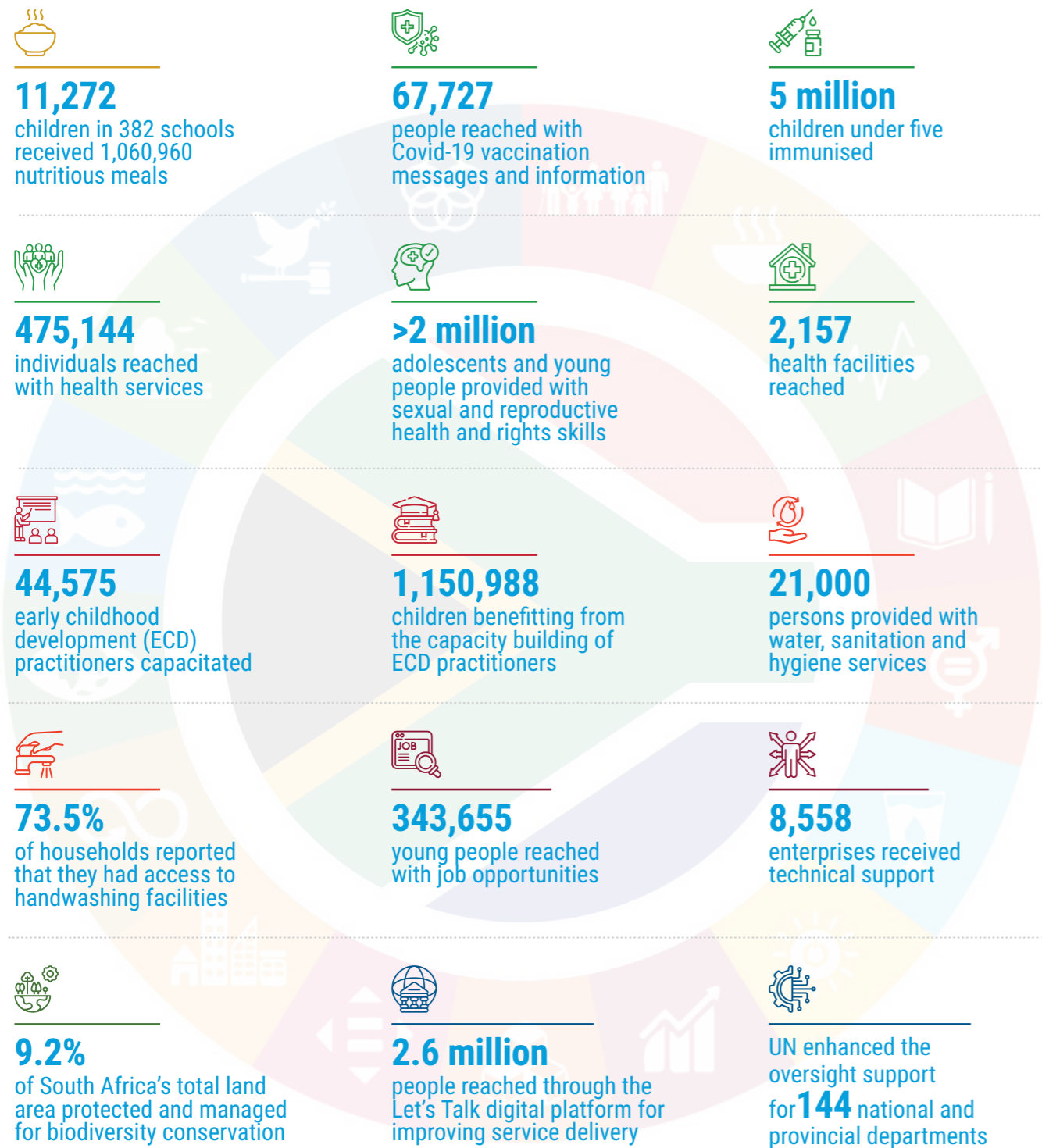
citizens for their contributions to attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

While we celebrate the successes outlined in this report, we acknowledge that our work is far from complete. The road to sustainable development is challenging, and it requires unyielding dedication and a spirit of continuous improvement. As we go into the new year, we renew our commitments to accompany the government and its partners on the journey to achieve the SDGs. We look forward to helping ensure that one day all South Africans can lead prosperous, healthy lives in a safe, cohesive society that prioritises human rights, economic growth and societal and environmental sustainability while leaving no one behind.





# UN CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs IN SOUTH AFRICA



# KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN IN SOUTH AFRICA

During 2022, the United Nations in South Africa worked with several key development partners through the results and theme groups to accelerate solutions for the people and the planet and to meet the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

These included international financial institutions, donor governments and some of their development agencies, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector and business associations, foundations, academia, thinktanks and the media. Based on identified synergies, UNCT, through the results groups, identified partners to collaborate across a range of development interventions. UNCT acknowledges the partners' invaluable role in supporting the implementation of the cooperation Framework in 2022.

that the UN in South Africa would support the government's response to the floods. The UN team drew on its systems strengths as an international development system to provide technical expertise and many other resources in five clusters: immediate humanitarian aid, education, agriculture, disaster risk management and coordination and support for economic recovery. UNCT worked directly with the provincial social, and agriculture and land reform departments and the Provincial Disaster Management Centre.

## District Development Model (DDM)

The DDM is an integrated approach to address local service delivery challenges. UN support of the DDM started in 2021 with three pilot districts.

## Cooperation with international development partners and donors

UNCT continued to work with the World Bank on an improved business environment for sustainable growth, strengthening small, medium and micro enterprise (SMME) performance and skills development to support job creation, increased development of selected value chains with strong job-creating potential, strengthened ecosystem for enterprise creation and growth, and employment and skills development services.

## KwaZulu-Natal floods

On 12 May 2022, the Resident Coordinator ad interim, on behalf of UNCT, committed to the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal

## KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE JOINT SUPPORT BY THE UNCT







# 1 COUNTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



The year 2022 will be remembered most for the socio-economic consequences of the persistent Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which caused great uncertainty and disruption in global trade, development finance and supply chains.

Major disruptions in the supply of energy sources such as gas and oil, and cereals such as wheat and maize, caused higher food prices and rising inflation worldwide. South Africa was no exception. In response, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) acted forcefully, raising interest rates six times during 2022. This was a hindrance to recovery and will be even more so in 2023 and 2024, as the effects of the interest rate increases filter through the economy. Concomitantly, the country was already reeling from successive shocks: The Covid-19 crisis, civil unrests, natural disasters such as unprecedented floods and droughts, renewed anti-migrant protests, a weakening of social cohesion and rising political tensions in the run-up to the 2024 national elections.

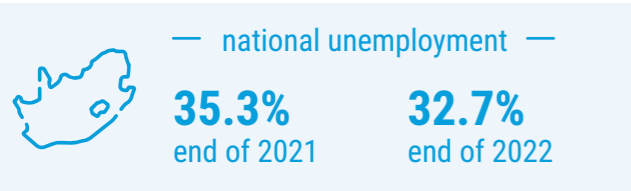
If these shocks were not enough, the intensification of electricity cuts and rationing in the second half of 2022 caused major disruptions to day-to-day business, food supply chains, education, crime-fighting and infrastructure systems such as water and transport, affecting the livelihoods of millions. By year-end, the country faced persistent stages 5 to 6 loadshedding (equivalent to up to eight hours a day without electricity). This is exacerbating societal and political tensions, which are manifesting in sporadic protests and vehement criticism from social commentators and political actors. This has the potential to fuel further social, economic and political instability (UN Common Country Analysis Update, 2022).



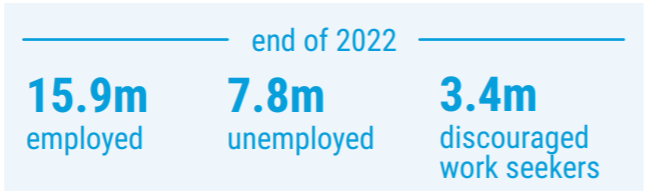
 **Stages 5 to 6**  
loadshedding by the end of 2022

 up to **8 hours**  
a day without electricity

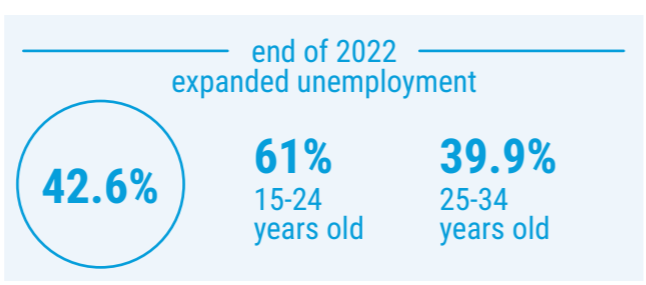




President Ramaphosa **released a plan** to deal with the recommendations emanating from the allegations of state capture report



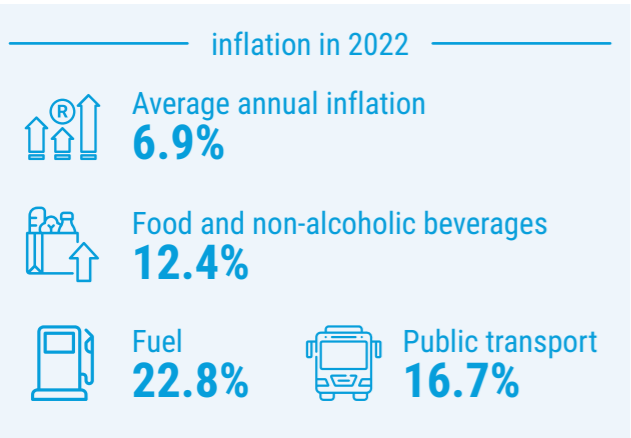
At the end of 2022, the number of employed people stood at 15.9 million, while the numbers of unemployed people and discouraged work seekers reached 7.8 million and 3.4 million respectively. The expanded unemployment rate, which includes discouraged workers, was 42.6%. Among the youth (15 to 24), the unemployment rate was at 61%, while the rate was 39.9% among those aged 25 to 34.



#### Gross domestic product growth and inflation

After a gross domestic product (GDP) contraction of 6.3% in 2020 and recovery of 4.9% in 2021, GDP had a modest expansion of 2.0% in 2022 (Stats SA, 2023).

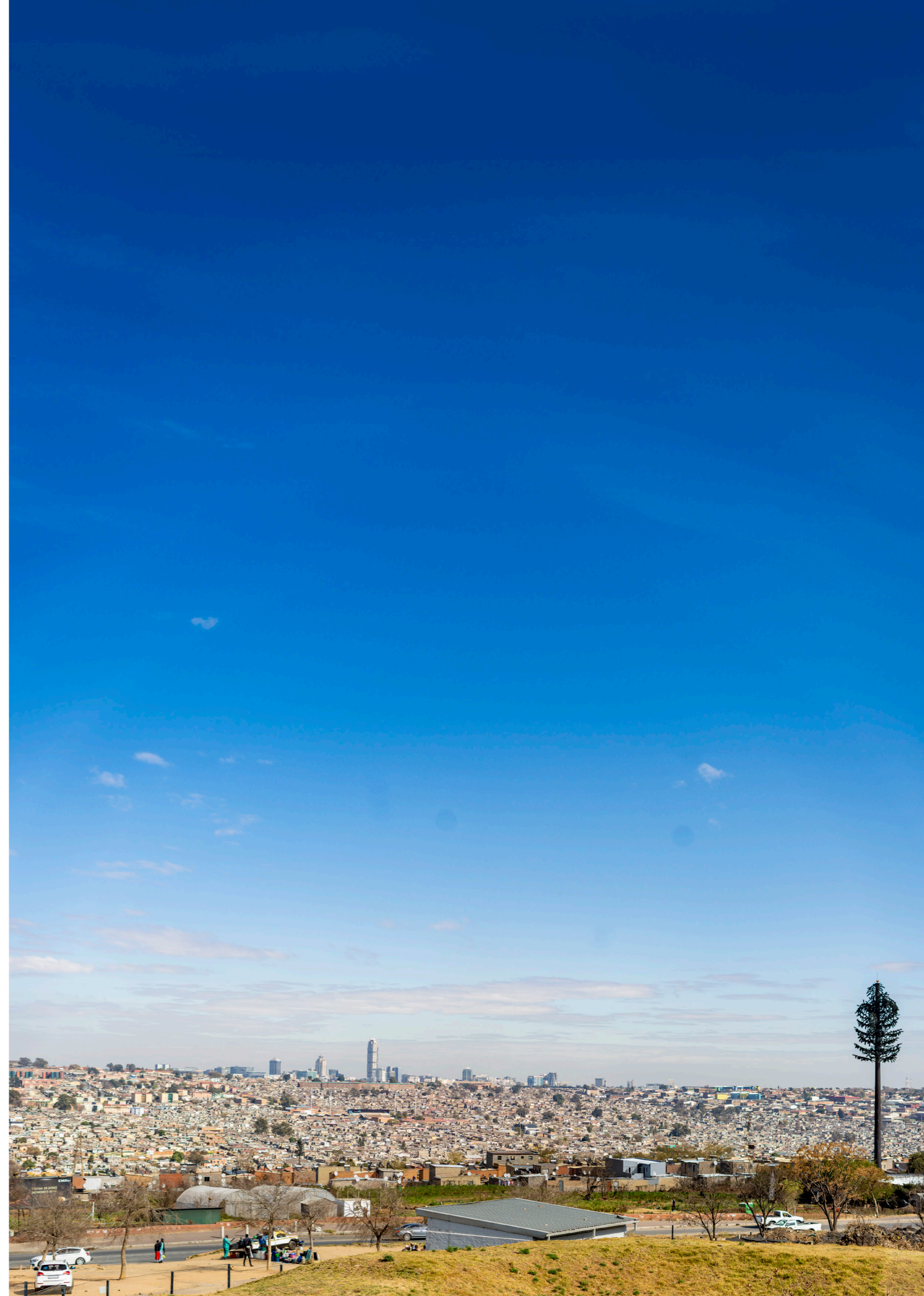
Main contributors to growth were household consumption and fixed capital formation, while net exports were a drag on GDP expansion due to growth of imports (Stats SA).



Annual inflation peaked at 7.8% in July 2022, then declined to 7.2% (end of period) in December 2022. Annual inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages, which is the inflation component that matters most to the poor, was 12.4% (with bread and cereal products reaching 20.6%). Fuel prices increased by 22.8% and public transport by 16.7%.

#### Main fiscal indicators

In the 2023 budget review, titled 'Navigating an uneven economic recovery', the fiscal deficit for 2022/23 was revised down from 4.9% of GDP in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement 2022 to 4.2%, reflecting better tax revenue collections. The higher-than-expected revenues were due to a broad-based corporate tax recovery – which accounted for more than 78% of additional tax revenue, and improved tax compliance and administration.





# 2

## UN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

### Overview of Cooperation Framework

South Africa was among the first countries to start developing a new generation United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020 to 2025) centred on the principles of the repositioning of the UN development system as part of the broader UN reform.

The process was advanced jointly by the government of South Africa and UNCT with full participation of key national partners, including civil society, private sector, youth and women's organisations.

Through multiple engagements, the UN and its partners reached consensus on the following four main strategic priorities:

- Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth
- Human capital and social transformation
- Effective, efficient and transformative governance
- Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources.

The Cooperation Framework outlines the UN development system's collective commitment to supporting sustainable development in South Africa in line with national, regional and global development priorities. It is aligned to the South

Africa's long-term National Development Plan 2030, which recognises the environment and science and technology as central drivers of change, and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019 to 2024. It is firmly anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Charter and African Union Agenda 2063.

#### Governance mechanism

The Cooperation Framework's inclusive and collaborative governance model was acknowledged by the government as a much-lauded achievement for the UN-government partnership in South Africa as no such mechanism has yet been put in place. The principle is that the model should reinforce the UN reforms at country level, promoting government ownership and involvement alongside greater collaboration with civil society and other national partners. Governance Mechanism: <https://southafrica.un.org/en/246924-unsdcf-summary-2020-2025>



# Cooperation Framework priorities and delivering for results

In 2022, the UN continued to provide support to government in all three spheres at national, provincial and district level.

The UN also prioritised support to the DDM, with focus on the following areas:

- The KwaZulu-Natal emergency response
- Gender-based violence response
- Strengthening of service delivery
- Small businesses development (particularly women entrepreneurship and youth skills development)

These interventions are aligned with the Cooperation Framework strategic pillars, namely:



**Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth**



**Human capital and social transformation**



**Efficient, effective and transformative governance**



**Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources**

This section highlights the results of the UN's collective and aligned individual actions in implementation of the Cooperation Framework.



Desmond & Leah Tutu  
LEGACY FOUNDATION

**DESMOND TUTU**  
12TH INTERNATIONAL PEACE LECTURE

**A VISION FOR**  
*Hope & Healing*

7 OCTOBER 2022, 7PM SAST  
CITY HALL, CAPE TOWN

**Amina J Mohammed,**  
Deputy Secretary-General  
of the United Nations





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

# Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth

**OUTCOME:** By 2025,

- all people in South Africa, particularly women, youth and other marginalised groups, benefit justly from decent work and other social and economic opportunities
- South Africa’s primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are more productive, diversified, sustainable and employment-intensive



**Support to the just energy transition**

The UN, through the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy programme, collaborated with government to improve policy coordination of the existing green economy policies, deepened collaboration between stakeholders and supported policy implementation. Noteworthy achievements include a green economy progress measurement framework, social dialogue on the just transition and contributions towards policy reforms related to green industry, trade, water management and renewable energy. Post-Covid, the programme conducted rapid modelling to offer insights for potential routes for green recovery and continues to provide technical assistance to green South Africa’s Covid-19 economic recovery packages. The UN also produced situational analysis reports on the opportunities and challenges for a just transition in Free State and Gert Sibande and Nkangala districts in Mpumalanga.

The UN also hosted the Just Energy Transition Hackathon to capacitate more than 120 youth in concepts relating to the just transition and design thinking, resulting in 15 unique solutions being developed. The solutions included artificial intelligence to separate food waste at source, modular aquaponic systems powered by solar panels, conversion of waste cooking oil to biodiesel and a piezoelectricity device to capture kinetic energy.

The UN-government-hosted 77th United Nations General Assembly on Just Transition to Deliver Climate Action in

Africa brought together African ministers, thought leaders, academia and international development partners to discuss the future of energy finance, policy and technical support needed on the African continent to deliver a just energy transition for climate action.



**Green jobs**

The employment-intensive investment programme is about workers and their families, their jobs, their incomes, their living and working conditions and their future. To ensure that the programme is environmentally sustainable, the UN **capacitated 300 officials** from the provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure on integrating into it climate-smart approaches. The capacity strengthening was implemented across all five district municipalities of Limpopo.



**3,270 people employed** in rehabilitation and maintenance of an estimated 275km of provincial roads



**14,500 people involved** in the development and rehabilitation of municipal infrastructure in 27 district and local municipalities

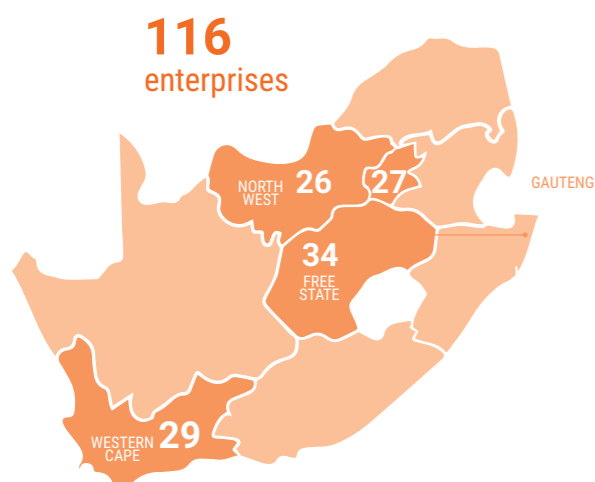






### Promoting agro-processing

For women in agriculture, agri-business and agro-processing, the UN supported the government to develop a database of women-owned enterprises outlining their key challenges. The database assisted government to provide tailored solutions to identified challenges, from level of production (established, mid-level and start-up farmers) to technical agro-processing and agribusiness support.



### Harnessing information and communications technology and technological innovation

Building on the 2021 successful partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to deliver low-cost internet using TV white space technology nine SMMEs were capacitated and trained in the installation and implementation of the network infrastructure. As a result, nine new communities in townships and rural areas across eight provinces have been connected to low-cost internet. In addition, **156 public facilities including schools, hospitals and taxi ranks are now connected to broadband internet.** Numbers of daily concurrent internet users in public hotspots grew from **4,640 in 2021 to 51,326.** Numbers of households connected to broadband internet increased from **470 to 781** and local small businesses connected to broadband internet **numbered 120 from 56.** Job opportunity numbers by SMMEs network operators have grown from 43 to 59. Moreover, these efforts led to a partnership with Albaraka Bank that provided a school in KwaZulu-Natal with a new \$24,000 computer lab. As a result of this contribution, the 2022 matric pass rate jumped to 83.7% from just 76.4% in 2021 and 75.7% in 2020.



### Youth employment and entrepreneurship

Through a joint UN-Department of Communications and Digital Technologies programme, an assessment was conducted to examine the demand for and supply of digital skills in the country. Presented on various platforms, the assessment findings have enhanced the current understanding of key **skills gaps in the digital economy**, particularly the inclusion of young people, especially those not in employment, education and training. Subsequently, a national Digital Skills Innovation Challenge Call was launched that identified training institutions to design and deliver innovative solutions to strengthen the digital skills training curriculum. **Three winners and two runners-up won prizes** that included financial and technical support and a six-month innovation lab programme to prototype and pilot their solutions. The UN-supported Digital Innovation Challenge in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape identified **10 digital innovations by young people. As a result of this initiative, 15 young innovators were granted seed funding to upscale their innovations.** In addition, **18 SMMEs** received empowerment and secured markets, while **10 private sector companies** signed agreements to employ 132 young people. Students from more than five schools benefitted from the 'Each One Teach One' initiative, through which they were empowered to transfer digital skills in their communities.



**694 students**  
found earning opportunities.

The UN supported the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, through the training of **1,124 youth in basic and intermediary digital skills** to enhance skills development and job opportunities. As a result, **165 unemployed youth were afforded job opportunities.** The UN also supported technical and vocational education and training colleges to register **12,230 students** onto the SA Youth Platform. Through it 259 flood-affected informal traders, 226 young people, 216 SMMEs and 15 young innovators found earning opportunities. Overall, in 2022, through the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, 330,181 earning opportunities were secured by young people on the SA Youth Platform and a further 50,375 earning opportunities were secured on Employment Services South Africa.

The UN supported the Department of Higher Education and Training towards meeting skill needs in a post-Covid-19 economy in the automotive sector by enhancing

automotive training programmes in three technical and vocational education and training colleges through a series of interventions. These included the delivery of automotive training, lecturer upskilling, provision of information and communications technology (ICT) equipment and automotive components, digital content for soft skills development and the development of digital systems to link graduates to employment opportunities. Furthermore, R6.5 million in ICT equipment support, automotive components, mechanical, electronic, electrical workshop equipment and tools, and digital content and simulators was provided. The UN supported the identification and training of **16 young entrepreneurs** (45% women) for the Driving Force for Change programme, a training and mentorship initiative driven by the Department of Environmental Affairs to provide non-financial resources to aspiring entrepreneurs in climate change, waste management and biodiversity. The programme enhanced their capacity to refine their business plans, shaped their enterprises to be eco-inclusive and improved their business products and branding to meet market demands. Candidates were also taught how to improve their business proposal pitches to potential funders. What has this led to?



### Inclusion of marginalised groups

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure developed a framework to **enhance participation of persons with disabilities** in Expanded Public Works Programme projects. These individuals are often excluded from employment due to factors such as discriminatory attitudes and practices, past ineffective labour legislation, inaccessible and unsupportive work environments, inadequate access to information, inaccessible public transport and lack of skills. The representation of persons with disabilities in employment remained slightly above 1% over the past three years.

With funding support from the Multi-Partnership Trust Fund, the UN's livelihoods partner Hand-in-Hand promoted advocacy with financial institutions and government for refugees to gain access to finance to start businesses and access employment opportunities. The partnership also facilitated grants to **27 businesses owned by refugees and South African nationals** affected by the floods in KwaZulu-Natal. The programme also upgraded the skills of **182 women** to improve their access to socio-economic opportunities.

The UN, in partnership with government's Women Empowerment Programme, local government and the

private sector, boosted the capacity of **8,415 women-owned enterprises** in Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Free State, North West and KwaZulu-Natal. The capacity-building entailed information sharing, linking the enterprises to key service providers for support and guidance on mentoring and coaching.



### Apprenticeship support

South Africa needs to produce 35,000 qualified artisans a year but currently produces only 20,000. To support the government to close this gap, the UN facilitated the participation of South Africa in a global study on apprenticeship development for universal lifelong learning and training to generate new ideas and policy options to modernise apprenticeship systems. The study culminated in a research report, 'Good practices in apprenticeships in South Africa: Challenges and opportunities'. The report made recommendations to **enhance national apprenticeship development** that fed into the development of the **National Apprenticeship and Artisan Development Strategy 2030** adopted by the Department of Higher Education and Training in July 2022.



### Social protection

The UN capacitated its national partners on integrating a human rights-based approach to institutional social protection coverage. In a roundtable discussion with the government, capacity support was provided on the grant and the development of a **composite index on the cost of living** to ensure an adequate standard of living. The Cost-of-Living Index compares relative consumer living costs (such as housing, transportation, utilities, groceries and healthcare) for the typical middle-class family. The average for all participating places equals 100. This index is tailored to ensure that inequality is addressed, particularly at a micro level.

A revised draft Green Paper on Comprehensive Social Security and Retirement reforms has been produced with UN technical support. The revised draft was reviewed to address gaps and issues raised. The Department of Social Development (DSD) awaits its endorsement by National Treasury. Contentious issues raised on the first draft pertained to tax policy implications, contributory elements and governance for national social security and the financial sustainability of social security support.





## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

# Human capital and social transformation

### OUTCOME: By 2025,

- all people in South Africa, particularly vulnerable and marginalised populations, enjoy improved health, nutrition and wellbeing
- all children and young people in South Africa have equitable access to quality education relevant to a changing society
- all people in South Africa, especially women and girls, vulnerable and marginalised populations, are protected from violence and discrimination



### Good health and wellbeing



#### Health systems strengthening

The UN provided strategic and technical support to the Universal Health Coverage-National Health Insurance unit set up in 2020 in the Department of Health (DoH). National Health Insurance (NHI) in South Africa has the potential to benefit the entire population, which currently stands at approximately **60.1 million people**. The current situation in South Africa is that only 16% of the population benefits from some form of health insurance, leaving 84% without coverage. To support the implementation of the NHI, the UN provided technical support on **strategic purchasing mechanisms** and **capacitation models for contracting units for primary healthcare and on provider payment mechanisms and setting up health facility standards for accreditation** – outputs that are instrumental for NHI implementation.

The UN put its weight behind the establishment of South Africa's National Health Observatory, a database that will track health indicators to guide policymaking decisions, thereby improving healthcare. Following the establishment of the observatory, a proposal for scaling up and integrating into it the District Health Information System was agreed on with the DoH. The UN also organised an orientation workshop for and capacity building of the DoH team on Power BI for data

analysis, which strengthened health information, knowledge sharing and service delivery.



#### Migration and health

Migration is a social determinant of health and, therefore, is significant to development. To ensure that migrants in rural communities remain healthy, the UN implemented a peer-led project to reach sex workers, migrants, vulnerable young people (10 to 29 years) and the host communities in Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge. The programme was targeted towards 957,122 people. As a result, **35,596 individuals** now have the correct information on sexual and reproductive health and on safe migration.

To promote use of health services, **157 service providers** servicing more than 1 million people in both health and non-health sectors were given migration and health information and insight into the rights and needs of migrants and sex workers, enabling them to provide sensitive services. Of the **3,458 individuals** in migration-affected communities who were referred for clinical services at health facilities, **95% (3,282)** completed the referral. They were able to access HIV testing, antiretrovirals, sexually transmitted illnesses treatment and family planning advice.







## Nutrition

The UN advanced the strengthening, promotion and protection of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months and beyond through the launch of the South African report 'How the marketing of infant formula influences decisions on infant feeding' during World Breastfeeding Week 2022. The report highlighted challenges in improving breastfeeding rates in South Africa. To address the identified gaps, the UN is now working with the government to review R991 regulations against the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

The UN supported the development of the provincial food and nutrition security plan in two provinces. It advocated the inclusion of evidence-based child nutrition interventions in the provincial plans and supported the establishment of the Food and Nutrition Security Council, which will be chaired by the Deputy President. It is envisaged that more than **60 million** men, women and children will benefit from the plan.



## Covid-19 response

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic and KwaZulu-Natal floods, the UN partnered with local authorities World Vision and WaterAid to reach more than **21,000 persons with water, sanitation and hygiene services** through the installation of water tanks, mobile toilets and handwashing stations, provision of hygiene supplies and promotion of menstrual hygiene.

Risk communication and community engagement work, primarily through the DoH, reached **more than 12.8 million people**, with messages on youth Covid-19 vaccination and the broader impacts of Covid-19. This work also included HIV awareness, tackled high levels of violence in the communities and focused on the measles outbreak.

To assess the general knowledge of Covid-19, vaccines and vaccine hesitancy in communities in the five selected provinces, the UN conducted a rapid assessment and survey in early 2022. Some **190 community healthcare workers** were trained to raise awareness on the importance of vaccination, address vaccine hesitancy and increase the vaccine uptake among migrants and local communities, especially undocumented populations. During implementation, the UN worked with five radio stations across four provinces. As a result, **20,363 people** were vaccinated (**9,038 males and**

**11,325 females**). In addition, **3,800 undocumented persons** were vaccinated and **67,727 people** were reached with Covid-19 vaccination messages and information.



## HIV response

South Africa has one of the highest numbers of HIV-infected adults and children in the world, at 5.7 million.

The UN assisted the South African National Aids Council to enhance its youth HIV prevention campaign by conducting mapping programme interventions targeting adolescent boys and young men. Additionally, a national consultation was undertaken to achieve a theory of change that included the target audience's perspectives.

UN-developed information, education and communication material on the pre-exposure prophylaxis dapivirine vaginal ring was disseminated by implementing partners.

To build the national programme on prevention of vertical transmission of HIV and paediatric Aids treatment, the UN provided technical guidance and advocated the prioritisation of children in the National Strategic Plan on HIV. This was done through consultations with the South African National Aids Council and the Global Alliance to end Aids in Children.

With academia, the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and local NGOs, the UN supported the scaling-up of the adolescent girls and young women peer mentor programme reaching **more than 30,000 individuals**. Working with DoH, the use of data for action both nationally and sub-nationally was improved for the implementation of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and paediatric Aids treatment programme.



## Immunisation

The national immunisation system was advanced through UN-supported analysis of zero-dose children and reasons for vaccine stockout; development of the 'reach every district strategy', the national cold chain manual and effective vaccine management training materials. Other activities included training, coaching and mentoring frontline health workers; procurement of cold chain equipment, and emergency response on measles and polio outbreak preparedness, which benefitted more than **3,000 frontline health workers, 2,000 health facilities, 19 vaccine depots** and more than **5 million children** under five.



## Sexual and reproductive health rights

More than **2 million adolescents and young people** were reached through various social media platforms, community radio and face to face to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent non-communicable disease and improving knowledge on and skills for sexual reproductive health and rights .

The UN helped 70 public health clinic facilities to provide adolescent- and youth-friendly health services and implement youth zones in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal in line with the five minimum standards prescribed by DoH.

It implemented a multistakeholder izigodi model in Olivier's Hoek, uThukela District Municipality. The model promotes community dialogues to address poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes, particularly the **high level of teenage pregnancy in a locality**. Biomedical data from the clinic was presented to stakeholders.

## Education



### Transforming education summit

UNCT supported the government in convening national consultations to prepare for the transforming education summit. Preparation began with the establishment of a national task team led by the UN with representatives from the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Department of Higher Education and Training, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the Basic Education Attaché in Paris and the National Youth Development Agency. Following the consultations, the UN also helped to prepare the country's national statement of commitment and report on national consultations, which were submitted to the summit secretariat.



## Early childhood development

Another UN priority was building the government's capacity to deliver early childhood development (ECD) through upgrading the knowledge and skills of **44,575** practitioners and grades R to 3 educators. Those trained demonstrated enhanced active pedagogical approaches (play-based learning) in their classrooms, which benefitted **1,150,998 children** from birth to nine years.

The foundation phase initiative on manipulatives for learning (grades R to 3) in Free State, Gauteng and Eastern Cape provinces was expanded in 2022, with **19,600 educators receiving training**, which benefitted **615,440 children** (indirectly). This also included the training of 350 district subject advisers and 4,400 school management team members to ensure sustainability of the initiative. Sets of six bricks were distributed to each child in the classrooms of educators who had been trained, a total of one million sets.

Under the National Parenting Programme, the UN supported the training of 97 social workers (ECD coordinators) as master trainers in two provinces. A total of **4,195 parents used the ECDmobi app, which in turn benefitted 5,278 children**. ECDmobi is a low-cost, easy-to-use app to support parents and primary caregivers of babies and children under four years to facilitate learning through play at home, using easy-to-understand activities.

In 2022, the Presidential Proclamation concluded the function shift of ECD from DSD to DBE. In its capacity as secretariat to the DSD/DBE ECD finance workstream, the UN's role – including review of all ECD-related legislation, regulations and policies – was crucial in ensuring a smooth transition.

The UN partnered with the DBE and LEGO Foundation in the **first-ever national ECD census**, which was endorsed by Statistics South Africa and launched mid-2022.







### Education emergency response/recovery

Despite learning lost to Covid-19, good progress was made in strengthening multilingual/mother-tongue education by improving early-grade reading through benchmarking in African languages, supporting the intervention in North West and developing a short learning programme for reading coaches.

Assistance was given in KwaZulu-Natal for the development of a quality assurance framework and design of the national reading survey. This included **capacitating 3,505 teachers, 209 education administrators and 5,200 parents**. Online platforms reached **2,484,044 learners** and an additional **33.4 million** practice questions were completed on the Siyavula online learning platform. Textbooks, handwashing stations and school rehabilitation benefitted **17,015 children**. A total of **1,134 ECD practitioners** received psychosocial guidance on managing young children through play-based learning and **11,272 children in 382 ECD centres received 1,060,960 nutritious meals** between May and August. A further 2,113 parents enhanced their capacity to help their young children (58,711) at home using play, while 600 flood-affected families in temporary shelters received play resources/materials.

Refurbishment/reconstruction of five KwaZulu-Natal schools improved the learning environment of **4,383 learners**. The UN supported psychosocial support organisation Childline, which helped **295,622 children** (based on number of calls). It was also involved in the induction of learners support agent supervisors on the common elements treatment approach.

The UN was instrumental in care and support for teaching and learning (CSTL), which responds to the educational rights of all children through inclusive, caring and supportive schools. A draft CSTL framework was prepared to guide the provision of inclusive and transformative education. Also supported was the CSTL research group, a DBE-led initiative to promote evidence generation among universities to develop the CSTL research programme strategy.



### Education for health and wellbeing

As part of the national strategy to address school-related gender-based violence (GBV), the UN partnered with DBE to develop the Protocol for the Elimination of Unfair Discrimination in Schools to assist school administrators, leaders and educators to develop and implement strategies for a safe and equitable learning environment. The protocol has been disseminated to two provinces, reaching more than 250

educators. The organisation also lent its weight to the launch of the Learner Pregnancy Prevention and Management Policy, its guidelines and the Education Plus Initiative, which will expand access to secondary education and gender equity.

It also bolstered local youth- and community-based initiatives for nurturing life skills and dialogues on social issues. About **28,300 adolescents and youth (directly and indirectly) participated** in the UN-supported Sport for Development (S4D) programme. A total of 628 learners were trained as S4D peer facilitators (**80% girls**) to facilitate dialogues on social issues that affect learning in schools. An additional 379 educators, volunteers, coaches, learner support agents and girls and Boys Education Movement alumni were trained to deliver S4D issue-based programmes. As part of this, the UN helped to develop the 'Sport for climate change' initiative, environment manual, life skills and online safety course and gender empowerment package. A total of 895 youths registered for at least one programme on the learning passport, 47 of whom (22 males and 25 females) participated in S4D practitioner training.



### Science, technology, engineering and maths

The UN supported a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) awareness and engagement programme that involved job shadowing for learners to explore **STEM-related careers**. This resulted in **784 adolescent girls being trained** in data analytics and 3D-modelling in the drone industry. **Seven trained girls** secured employment as drone pilots.

Another initiative was the TechnoGirl programme, which selected schoolgirls (ages 15 and 18) from disadvantaged communities and placed them in mentorship and skills development programmes for STEM-related careers. The programme reached **2,359 girls** through job shadowing, with about **89% reporting increased** knowledge and confidence in such careers. Additionally, the Cradle to Career programme supported 137 Grade 9 and 201 Grade 12 learners to gain career opportunities knowledge. An additional **455 Grade 12 learners** and **366 youngsters** not in employment, education or training completed a basic computer literacy course.

The development of 180 online coding and robotics content items benefitted **1.2 million schoolgoers (60% girls) and 341 educators**. The content for grades R to 3 and 7 was translated into isiZulu, Xitsonga, Sepedi, Tshivenda and Setswana. The teaching strategy and methodology tool was also produced, which assisted 890 educators.

The UN also procured 33 robotics kits for 1,000 schools across two.

### Protection from violence and discrimination



### Elimination of all forms of violence

**Eighty-three people participated** in the Women, Peace and Security dialogue on migration and violence in South Africa, including representatives of civil society partners, government, the international community, academia, development partners and migrants. It set out to understand the drivers and manifestation of migration in southern Africa and the impact of migration on those who have migrated and on the communities in which they settled.

As part of the flood response, the UN collaborated with government to provide training **on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse** to 500 implementing partner staff, volunteers and shelter coordinators, create **safe spaces** for stimulation and recreational purposes for children in 15 shelters and facilitate **mental health and psychosocial services for 500 families and 3,650 children**.

The UN joint programme commissioned a study to provide an overview of existing mechanisms in South Africa that can act as an early warning system to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by improving institutional systems for understanding **the causes and dynamics of crisis and violence**.

Under the 'Enhancing migrant integration and social cohesion' initiative, the UN participated in the establishment of four community networks to carry out anti-xenophobia activities within the communities. In addition, partnership agreements were signed between the UN and the South African Masters and Legends Football Association and the International Federation of Professional Footballers to involve African footballers in **promoting a peaceful and cohesive society through joint implementation of social cohesion and peacebuilding activities**.

Furthermore, **185 community focal points received capacity building using the community capacity enhancement** through a community conversation tool to ensure they can mediate, respond to and report possible xenophobic conflicts in the community. Media practitioners were also upskilled to ensure accurate and balanced reporting on social cohesion and migrant integration.



### GBV and femicide prevention

The UN worked closely with the President's office in translating the National Strategic Plan on GBV for practical implementation.

This included both private and public advocacy to have pillar 7 of the plan included so that it would concentrate on the **effects of violence on children**.

The UN supported the development of a **GBV prevention strategy** and a theory of change. A prevention strategy is particularly important in this country, given that close to 10,000 rapes occur every quarter. In 2022, 18% of 15-to-49-year-old partnered women and girls experienced physical or sexual violence. Other forms of GBV, such as femicide and bride abduction (ukuthwala), are also widespread.

The UN participated in the development and implementation of the **KwaZulu-Natal GBV and Femicide Strategy** and trained gender focal persons in uThukela, eThekweni and Ugu on the strategy.



### GBV and femicide coordination

The UN is part of the broad national collaborative platform on GBV across the six pillars of the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide. This is a national multistakeholder forum comprising development partners, government, civil society, the business sector and others. Similar coordination structures have been developed in Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal to localise the plan and coordinate the response. This initiative will benefit more than 24 million South Africans.

The UN has engaged the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders to develop a manual for male initiates on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and GBV and engagement, including a training of trainers for traditional surgeons and nurses on safe practices during initiations.



### Gathering GBV data

The UN is working with the Human Sciences Research Council **on a study on the prevalence of harmful** practices in uThukela and Alfred Nzo district municipalities in Nelson Mandela Bay. The findings of this study will inform social norms change programming in the targeted areas.

The UN has also partnered with the council on a **study on GBV and femicide quantify**. This is essential to quantify and qualify problems, inform policies and design programmes based on evidence.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

# Efficient, effective and transformative governance

**OUTCOME:** By 2025,

- women and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision-making processes and access justice
- state institutions deliver effective public services to all and oversight bodies are strengthened



**Strengthening the delivery of social services**

With the Centre for Public Service Innovation, the UN implemented the innovative service-delivery-focused Let's Talk Digital platform for citizen engagement in five municipalities. The platform has provided a real-time communication interface, linking citizens and authorities in the wards for **service delivery reporting and response, especially for water, applications for indigent services and billing**. To date, 20 interns (12 female and eight male) have been recruited in five municipalities to promote the app.



The app is being rolled out in **87** wards



**2.6 million** people are benefitting from the services rendered in these districts

The UN, through the building state capability initiative and working with the Public Service Commission, National Planning Commission and National School of Governance, contributed to the professional framework for the public service, which aims to professionalise the public service.

Through case studies on district development planning and analysis on the efficacy of the DDM in the selected districts, a geographical information platform was developed to identify and track the status of catalytic projects locally, provincially and nationally to provide detailed, high-level information to government officials, decision-makers and potential partners and funders of district projects.

The UN and Eastern Cape provincial government conducted a **scenario planning exercise to explore a socio-economic recovery route and options**.

The UN continued to provide funding and technical backup to the Refugee Appeals Authority of South Africa to eliminate the asylum appeals backlog (currently at about **150,000**) and **prevent new backlogs**.



**Advancing the rights of South Africans**

In partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Multiparty Women's Caucus, the UN capacitated **30 women councillors on gender-responsive budgeting**. National Treasury, working with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, has committed to working further with the UN to rethink budgeting to make it gender responsive, and to track and monitor progress.

The UN supported the hearing of the South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) before the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institution Sub-committee on Accreditation by making submission on the commission's





Paris Principles compliance. The submission focused on the **effective functioning of the commission** and its impact on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

The UN took part in the institutional review of South Africa's National Preventive Mechanism co-organised by the SAHRC and the Sub-committee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and facilitated engagement between the two to enhance the preventive mechanism. The sub-committee provided technical guidance to South Africa with the development of a **comprehensive legislative mandate** for the mechanism.

South Africa benefitted from UN technical expertise in the preparation of a written response to several issues before reporting on the Convention against Torture and of a state report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) fourth cycle. The latter **generated a successful examination of South Africa's human rights record**.

The UN, with the SAHRC and UPR, capacitated civil society organisations on UPR submission, which led several of these organisations to submit to **the UPR fourth cycle**.



### Reinforcing administration and transparency for better results

UNCT partnered with the Public Service Commission and University of South Africa to engage stakeholders and commemorate **International Anti-corruption Day**, which

increased awareness of the effects of public sector corruption and reinforced the resolution to collaborate on measures to improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency.

With the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), the UN enhanced oversight functions for more than **144 national and provincial departments**. Ninety percent of departments participated in training on risk-based analysis of financial disclosures. Through this training, DPSA was **capacitated to roll out the same training to more than 200 ethics officers** across the public service, which enabled departments to conduct preliminary lifestyle audits using financial disclosure data and risk indicators.

Responding to the President's call to protect whistleblowers, the UN joined DPSA to conduct a **study on whistleblowing protection measures** in public entities. The UN further reviewed internal reporting measures at the Health Professions Council of South Africa and proposed improvements. This review resulted in **a new internal whistleblowing policy for the council**.

To strengthen government accountability, the UN trained 85 ethics officers to conduct risk-based analyses of financial disclosures, which promoted ethical behaviour and integrity in the public service.







STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

# Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources

**OUTCOME:** By 2025,

- South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change
- natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods and wellbeing of vulnerable communities



## Just transition and climate change



### Awareness raising on the just transition

In 2022, the UN launched a new virtual reality experience to provide children and young people with information on pressing environment and climate-related issues. The virtual reality experience at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Johannesburg includes multimedia content, quizzes and direct interaction through which the learner engages in protecting forest life and keeping water safe, and is exposed to the impact of fossil fuels and the importance of sustainable food systems.

A UN **youth barometer survey collected data from 10,000 youth nationally** on their views and perceptions of climate change, the green economy and the just transition. **More than 100 unemployed youth** were capacitated to collect the data in their community, which achieved greater reach in rural and peri-urban communities. A report on the findings and implications for policy has been developed and shared with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

The UN, with iMvelisi Hackathon, which provides ideation training for youngsters considering business opportunities in the water, biodiversity and environmental sectors, trained **124 candidates in just transition concepts and development of innovative** solutions through design thinking and

mentorship. The top three innovations won their creators grants to pilot and scale their concepts.

In addition, 30 environmental human rights defenders were upskilled on human rights and the environment, including understanding UN human rights mechanisms.

The organisation provided the parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries with comments on the Climate Change Bill. The submission sought to ensure that human rights and gender are integrated throughout South Africa's response to climate change. Public consultations on the Bill are underway.



### Capacity for a just transition

The UN provided technical assistance and skills development to **200 municipal officials (practitioners and policymakers)** in ecosystem-based adaptation, waste management and climate smart agriculture.

**Twenty online dialogues, awareness campaigns, sensitisations and training workshops** were undertaken by the UN to raise awareness around climate change and related topics such as informal waste integration.

The UN also guided vulnerable and marginalised communities on implementing climate-smart, and energy- and capital-





efficient agriculture to promote household food and nutrition security in various parts of the country.

It supported the Youth Agency Marketplace Green Challenge, which is linked to the outcome of the Youth Climate Action Plan presented at COP27. The intervention reached about **500 youth and produced 36 finalists** who received awards and post-challenge follow-up.



### Promoting clean and renewable energy

The UN, with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy under the South African Wind and Energy project, established a wind-solar hybrid mini-grid in the Upper Blinkwater community in the Eastern Cape, contributing to the development of renewable energy technology solutions. Further complementing this work, the UN installed groundwater-pumping wind turbines in two remote primary schools (Matyantya and Kleinbooi) in the same province.



### Biodiversity

The UN was involved in a programme to improve management effectiveness for a protected area, which received enhanced conservation attention and was increased by 121,278 hectares.

UN support in the mainstreaming of biodiversity into land-use regulation and in municipal management increased the areas under South Africa's conservation estate using the stewardship model, with **81,000 hectares secured**, submitted for declaration and/or in negotiation with landowners.

Through sustainable land management, the health of multiple ecosystems was improved, making degraded landscapes more productive. Some 345,321 hectares – against an end-of-project target of 167,300ha (206.4%) – are being more sustainably managed. This includes 335,629 hectares in the Karoo, 806 in Olifants and 3,990 in Eastern Cape. Of the total land under improved practices, 248,058 hectares (71.8%) are receiving landscape planning and environmental stewardship support.

The UN supported the Ocean Economy Innovation Challenge, which identified **63 blue economy innovations, created a community of practice with 152 stakeholders** and developed **seven videocasts of ocean innovation storytellers**.

Through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative programme, the UN supported the government in the development and launch of the biodiversity sector investment portal, a link between investors and communities with economically viable projects to advance the biodiversity economy.

The UN took part in Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action Programme implementation. This is a basin-wide framework for the implementation of a prioritised set of national, joint transboundary actions and investments to address jointly agreed environmental priorities. In 2022, a joint basin survey and groundwater assessment was undertaken to determine the status of water resource quantity and quality in the basin. The assessment covered a catchment area of 972,783km<sup>2</sup> in South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Namibia (64.2% of which belongs to South Africa). Findings will be shared with the ministers of the four countries.



### Waste management

The UN presented the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research with laboratory equipment (respirometer, automated titration system and elemental analyser), making the institute **the first International Organisation for Standardisation-accredited biodegradation assessment testing facility in South Africa**. The initiative will further the testing and verification of biodegradation claims of alternative plastic materials, including compostables, as viable alternatives.





# Key challenges in the implementation of SDGs during 2022

## As South Africa emerged from the Covid-19 crisis, the country had to reprioritise its sustainable development agenda alongside recovery policies.

As a result, implementation was delayed, affecting delivery of targets for the period. This is evidenced in Covid-19 widening the gap between technology required for digital learning and what exists in South Africa, with such innovations often leaving marginalised communities behind.

The constrained health sector supply chain has created setbacks in access to essential medicines. Further, there are limited dedicated resources for non-communicable diseases, especially for upstream interventions such as raising awareness, prevention and screening.

The reporting period was affected by climate-induced disasters such as the severe floods in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Gauteng threatening the livelihood of communities with far-reaching environmental, social and economic impacts. The floods that hit KwaZulu-Natal and

parts of Eastern Cape in April 2022 caused significant property and infrastructure damage and colossal loss of lives and livelihoods. During the floods, 443 people died, 35 were injured and 72 went missing. A total of 13,790 houses were totally or partially destroyed and 6,210 people were left homeless. This interrupted programming, with emergency response packages being prioritised. It also reinforced the need to enhance the country's capacity to respond in a more coordinated and effective way to different shocks.

The year 2022 had more than 200 days of power cuts, constraining economic growth and affecting investment, particularly towards other SDGs. Against this backdrop, continued power outages threatened water supply amid limited water availability, which hampered agricultural production. Escalating competition for limited water raises the fear of taps in South Africa running dry.

# The UN: Delivering more and better together

## UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

UNCT South Africa has benefitted immensely from UN reform. The agencies collaborated on several joint programmes and met regularly to discuss priorities for the year. To encourage joint work, UNCT identified two to three priorities. UNCT also benefitted from the results of one of the joint programmes on social protection, which helped the country make great strides in closing much-needed gaps in the system. A key lesson identified was the need for effective joint programming. UNCT should eliminate independent operation of joint programme components to avoid missing opportunities to generate additional resources for continued implementation. With this in mind, UNCT continued its preparations for the transforming education summit.

UNCT, through the Gender Theme Group, also rallied all agencies around the Presidential Summit on GBV and Femicide, ensuring a coordinated UN response.

The result group focusing on strategic pillar 3: Efficient, effective and transformative governance, worked together to host and promote International Anti-corruption Day in December 2022. This included the participation of UNCT, with other agencies joining forces to produce audio-visual material highlighting UN anti-corruption work. The event generated media publicity as it included participation of institutions supporting democracy and political leadership.

The UN contributed to South African law reform by making human rights-based submissions on the following draft laws and policies in line with SD Goal 16 Target 16.b: Covid-19 regulations published by the DoH in March, the draft National Labour Migration Policy for South Africa, the Employment Services Amendment Bill published by the Department of Employment and Labour in February and the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill of June. The submissions sought to ensure that vulnerable and marginalised groups such as asylum seekers and refugees are not left behind in South Africa's development efforts.

The government and partners have participated in all UN processes, including the update of the common country analysis and programmes and interventions of the past year. UN reform has brought UN agencies together, eliminating silos and avoiding duplication. The year 2023 brings an even better outlook, as UNCT identified two to three multisectoral interventions from each correct result group for joint implementation.

## Business Operations Strategy

In 2022, the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy was an important step in strengthening the coherence and harmonisation of the interventions of UN agencies, funds, programmes and entities in the country. This also bolstered the strategic focus, coordination, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its business operations.

## Communication and advocacy

In 2022, the UN's major communications activities were communicating and publicising UN priorities in South Africa using traditional and social media platforms. These included the implementation of the Cooperation Framework signed between the UN and the government, the UN response to the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape floods and the implementation of the DDM memorandum of understanding with the government to improve the delivery of social services in local communities. In addition, UNCG organised three media training sessions on climate change reporting; misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, and social cohesion. Feedback from media participants was largely positive with requests for similar training on topical issues.

Furthermore, UNCG produced communication material to promote UN work in South Africa. This included a partnership with Ster-Kinekor, South Africa's largest cinema group, to produce a promotional video that was played to thousands of moviegoers. Another video, on climate change, targeting youth and high school students, was widely promoted on social media platforms. Factsheets were developed on brief overviews of UN work in South Africa to meet SDGs. The factsheets also included the UN's humanitarian response to floods.

UNCG continued to build on its relationship and engagements with the media, including through its flagship annual media roundtable meeting, which brings together UN heads of agencies and national editors to discuss issues of mutual interest. In addition to raising awareness on the UN's commemorative days such as UN Day, World Aids Day, International Day of People with Disabilities and International Anti-corruption Day, UNCG published stories from agencies on these events and other activities that were featured in InFocus, the UN in South Africa's quarterly magazine.

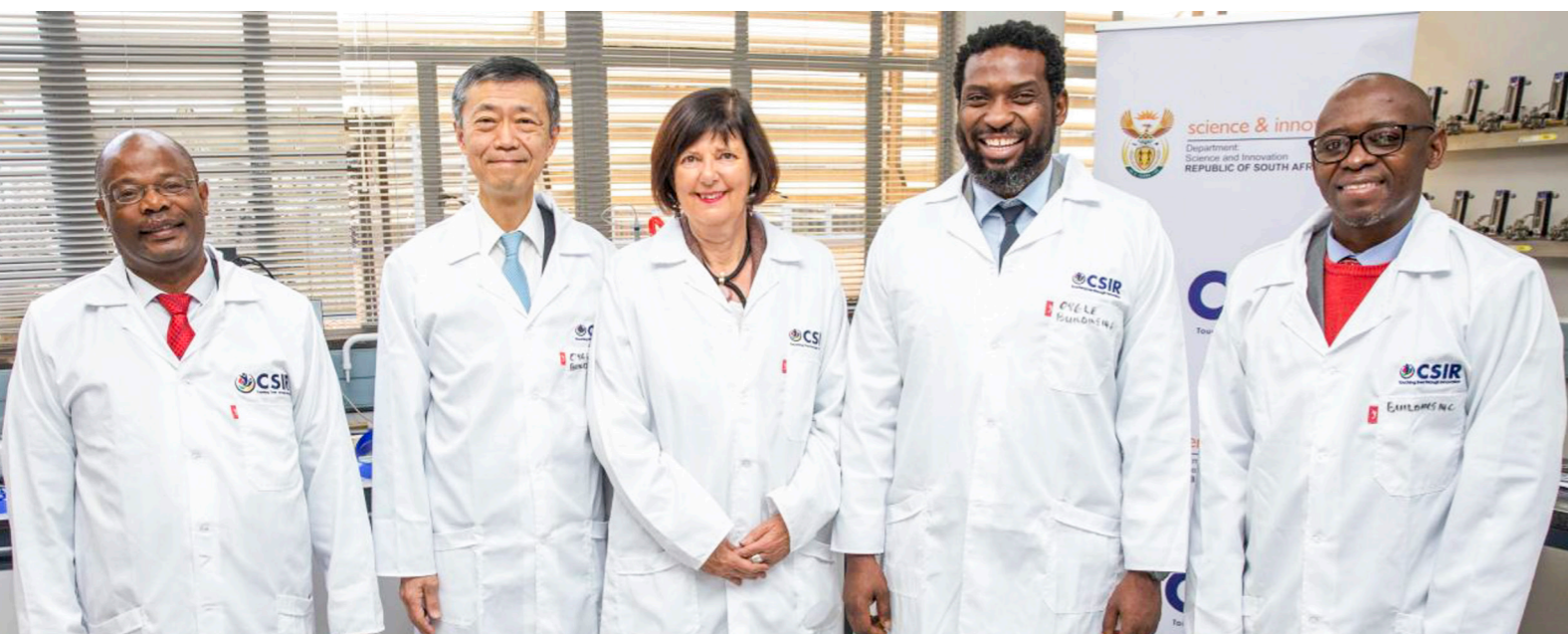




# Evaluation and lessons learnt

During annual review sessions on the delivery of the Cooperation Framework, several crucial lessons and recommendations were noted by UNCT. These included both operational and programmatic lessons important to the government's pursuit of SDG targets. Lessons include:

- Enhancing joint programming remains a priority to deliver effectively on UN reform and joint approaches. The country team drew crucial lessons from an evaluation of the joint SDG-funded social protection programme. The evaluation revealed that running independent programmes risks missing opportunities for additional resources. Combining joint programming and joint resource mobilisation strategy is vital, as is clear by the UN-private sector-led programmes in Waterberg District Municipality.
- Strengthening operational efficiency through indicators ensures that joint programme partners operate through mutually beneficial measures.
- Involving all agencies in joint work such as DDM and work on civic and human rights education, including democratic participation and service delivery, could enhance inter-agency collaboration and ensure impactful interventions, working with state and non-state actors. This is evidenced by the UN's participation in the DDM and the emergency response in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Implementing the cooperation Framework governance mechanism was a priority and strengthening government participation is necessary to ensure co-planning that will drive coherence and constructive collaboration with stakeholders.
- Cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration among results groups remains crucial to avoid duplication of efforts, take advantage of complementarities and maximise the benefit to the country by delivering as one.
- Programme implementation in 2022 highlighted the need to mainstream marginalised communities to ensure that no one is left behind. A people-centred programming approach will ensure stronger results. For instance, involving communities and those with non-communicable diseases to empower communities to prevent and control diseases could promote a whole-society approach with formidable and sustainable solutions. In addition, synergies among public health programmes and integrating mental health with other entry-point platforms will improve access to and delivery of a comprehensive universal health package. The inclusion of women in science, technology, engineering and maths is embedded in the gender biases of recruitment policies and staff, but a reinvigorated policy shift to include communities furthest behind is crucial to realise the goals of the cooperation Framework.
- With the increase in climate-induced disasters, the UN must develop agile responses based on optimum coordination of partners and systemised climate adaptation measures.



# Financial overview and resource mobilisation

The financing and joint resource mobilisation landscape for UN initiatives in South Africa has seen significant efforts and developments.

The UN has actively invested resources in various pillars, particularly the human capital and social transformation sector. A noteworthy 41% of total expenditure has been directed towards crucial areas such as education, nutrition, health and responses to violence elimination, demonstrating the commitment to fostering positive social change.

To mobilise resources effectively UNCT has followed a coordinated approach outlined in the cooperation Framework Joint Financing and Resource Mobilisation Strategy, which was formulated and approved in 2021. This strategy has been instrumental in guiding the allocation of resources and maximising impact. It has facilitated the continuation of previously awarded joint programmes throughout 2022, including those funded by the Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund and the Joint SDG Fund.

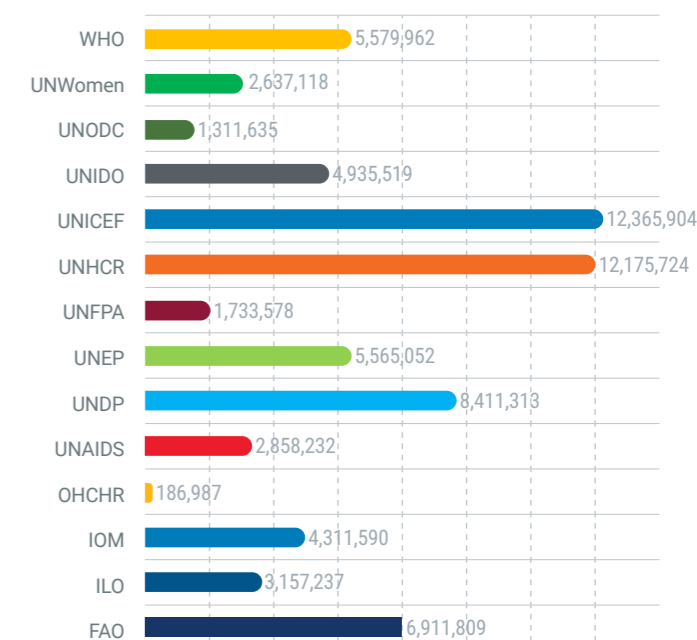
A key aspect of the resource mobilisation strategy is identifying partners whose profiles align with the strategic priorities of the cooperation Framework. In this pursuit, UNCT has engaged with diverse stakeholders, including civil society, thinktanks, research and academic institutions, foundations and high-net-worth individuals. This multistakeholder approach has broadened support and enhanced collaboration in pursuit of common goals.

UNCT has prioritised identifying and collaborating with private sector entities to expand and deepen its impact, leveraging additional resources and expertise to address pressing challenges toward sustainable development.

However, it is essential to acknowledge that 2022 posed unique challenges in securing financial resources. The year was a period of recovery for various sectors, which influenced the availability and accessibility of funding. Despite these challenges, the UN remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving SDGs and continues to work towards addressing financial constraints and mobilising resources to make a positive impact on the lives of people in South Africa.



## Expenditure per agency in US\$





# 3

## UNCT KEY FOCUSES FOR 2023

Informed by the common country analysis update conducted in 2022 and the State of the Nation Address early in 2023, UNCT identified a set of crucial actions for 2023, including support to improve service delivery and build resilience to shocks; deepening UN work on localising SDGs through the DDM; further support to JET among other climate action-related initiatives; strengthening UNCT's commitment to Delivering as One, with a focus on new forms of impactful partnerships and collaborations; leveraging the UN's convening power at all levels and ensuring that it is done in the right way to accelerate collective delivery of strategic results; increased attention on catalytic interventions that have the largest impact in the shortest time; greater collective action on cross-cutting issues that relate to all agencies, e.g. just transition, GBV, avoidable deaths from initiation and food security.

Concretely, for 2023, the UN is set to strengthen partnerships, seek greater stakeholder participation, strengthen disaster management and pandemic preparedness (including early warning), empower municipalities, support a country-led and country-driven voluntary national review on the implementation of SDGs nationally and sub-nationally, make results more visible to attract partners, have a national strategic plan for GBV and femicide, work with the Public Service Commission and the National School of Governance to strengthen state capabilities, use the SDGs to mobilise the private sector, leverage UN assets at all levels to bring about large-scale projects and identify entry points for transboundary issues. Delivering as one, these areas will be implemented jointly through each results group.

### Energy access

The power crisis has both macro and household impacts, puts in jeopardy the lives and livelihoods of people and undermines several SDGs targets. The UN will initiate a study on the energy crisis to identify policy responses and make recommendations on actionable and corrective policy measures to ensure energy access and security for all.

### Just transition

JET-IP is significant in the decarbonisation of the South African economy and will ensure that social costs of the transition are minimised. UNCT will continue to support the country in advancing JET-IP.

### Enhancing state capacity, citizen participation and social cohesion

The UN will continue to support the government in promoting ethical leadership across society, specifically the state. This will include anti-corruption, integrity management and developing best practice for local governance. Other focuses include advancing citizens' partnership in local governance, evidence-based policy design and planning, promoting digitisation to drive modernisation in service delivery and accountability.

South Africa is experiencing a breakdown in social trust, increased disillusionment and community/societal tensions causing voter apathy and fuelling rising sentiment against

migrants and foreigners. The UN will bring to bear concerted actions, including continued support to initiatives that can strengthen the country's social protection system, combat violence and harmful practices, supporting disaster management response and promote youth engagement and empowerment. Adequately addressed and supported, these steps will strengthen social cohesion and advance leaving no one behind. The UN is already working in partnership with the government in many of these areas and further collaboration would help ensure sustainable transformation.

### Human capital and social transformation

The government recognises that a social system that builds human capabilities is necessary to improve citizens' quality of life. This will advance ECD, access to quality schooling and universal healthcare. This includes continued UN support for a basic income support. The UN and its national partners will support the government to ensure that national and global education transformation commitments are taken forward to improve access to and quality of education. This will include the development of a core competency framework for early learning, basic education and post-school education and training.

UNCT will continue to prioritise national health insurance implementation in the light of high inequality and uneven access to healthcare. It will also contribute to instituting evidence-based policy interventions for sustainable and inclusive social protection coverage.

### Youth empowerment and Inclusion of marginalised groups

Given high youth unemployment, the UN will also focus on expanding opportunities for youth development and employment through digital skills development, SMME development, entrepreneurship and, particularly, empowering youth through innovation and skills for the just energy transition.

Disability, youth and gender mainstreaming remain at the forefront of the UN agenda internally and externally. In 2022, the organisation met or exceeded minimum requirements for 40% of the indicators for gender swap and 57% for disability inclusion, signalling that there is work to be done in improving conditions for women and people with disabilities. Action plans are in place for 2023.

### Localisation of SDGs through the DDM

Recognising local government's service delivery challenges and noting the need to reposition the sector for a developmental role, the UN's work for the DDM will continue. This will include strengthening non-state sector partnerships locally and, nationally, alignment of UN activities to district one plans and full implementation of the governance model. Above all, it will reinforce development interventions at sub-national level through localising SDGs. The DDM will serve as a key mechanism as this allows direct engagement with and ownership of interventions by municipalities and communities in which SDGs take place, are most needed and can make the biggest contribution to alleviate poverty, restore justice, promote agency and participation in the development process, and give hope for a better future.





# Annexure

## List of partners

1. Presidency: Republic of South Africa
2. Department of International Relations and Cooperation
3. Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
4. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
5. Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
6. Department of Social Development
7. Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
8. Department of Public Service and Administration, Public Service Commission
9. Independent Elections Commission
10. Department of Sport, Arts and Culture
11. Department of Social Development, Women, Youth and People with Disabilities
12. Department of Environmental Affairs
13. Department of Energy
14. Department of Health
15. Department of Higher Education and Training
16. Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
17. Orange-Senqu River Commission
18. Global Environment Facility
19. Montreal Protocol
20. Euro International Diabetes Federation
21. Japan
22. Belgium
23. Green Climate Fund
24. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
25. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
26. Global Water Partnership South Africa
27. Limpopo Water Commission
28. South African National Aids Council
29. Umthombo
30. Optidel
31. Stats SA
32. EURO Trust Fund Finance by European Union
33. State Secretariat for Economic Affairs Switzerland
34. Johannesburg Development Authority
35. KwaZulu-Natal Office of the Premier
36. City of Johannesburg; City of Cape Town; City of eThekweni; City of Tshwane
37. Amathole District Municipality
38. Tshwane University of Technology
39. Sinc Point
40. Women Economic Assembly
41. Azali Health (NGO)
42. John Francis and Associates (procured company)
43. South Africa Women in Farming
44. Hand-in-Hand Southern Africa
45. Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
46. Azali Healthcare
47. Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
48. Human Sciences Research Council
49. Ilitha labantu
50. Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising
51. South African National Editors Forum





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**UNITED NATIONS**  
SOUTH AFRICA



Metro Park Building, 351 Francis Baard Street,  
Pretoria, South Africa

PO Box 12677, Tramshed, Pretoria,  
0126, South Africa

Telephone: +27 12 354 850