

RC ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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SOUTH AFRICA

December 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It has been seventy-six years since the United Nations Charter came into force as a vehicle of hope for a world emerging from the shadow of catastrophic conflict. The historical document called on all leaders to work together for peace, tolerance, justice, and human rights. The United Nations family in South Africa has carried this hope forward in recognition that the values that powered the UN Charter – peace, development, human rights and opportunity for all – have no expiry date.

As the year draws to a close, we take stock of our success, we heed the lessons from the challenges and opportunities we were presented, and we look forward to strengthening our work as one UN family in partnership with all stakeholders in 2022.

This year has not been in without challenges, we have lost colleagues, friends and family members and many of our lives have been impacted by the pandemic. This year has been marred by a rise in gruesome cases of violence against women and children and the painful scenes that unfolded during the unrest in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal which resulted in 251 deaths and an estimated R50 billion impacts on GDP. The events that took place this year called on the UN to engage all of society to find both immediate and longer-term solutions to these issues.

In the face of these challenges and the ongoing pandemic, the United Nations family has worked with partners to ensure that we make significant contributions to the developmental landscape of South Africa. From the launch of the UN-COGTA partnership for the District Development Model implementation in OR Tambo and Waterberg Districts, to raising the game on climate action, to educating citizens and dispelling myths surrounding the global pandemic and vaccination, to raising public awareness on the importance of political participation and citizens' right to vote and to contributing to the basic income grant proposal. We have worked tirelessly and committed ourselves to Delivering as One.



Indeed, the UN Family has united behind the principle of leaving no one behind and for that I am grateful. I am grateful to the UN Country Team, technical staff, field workers and volunteers for living up to the full promise, potential and hope of the United Nations. Let us continue these efforts with even more vigor and energy in the new. I wish to extend my gratitude to all our national, regional, and global partners for the support provided to the UN in South Africa. Achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda requires a revitalized and enhanced global partnership that brings together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations, civil society organizations and academia to mobilize all available resources.

The year ahead, requires more action and more commitment. I am confident that our dedication to advancing the goals and values of the United Nations Charter will yield great results. I wish you and your families peace, health and success in the new year.

Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas

Resident Coordinator of the United Nations South Africa,

One of the key partnerships and highlights of the UN South Africa office under the “Delivery as One” banner was the cementing of solidarity and support to government’s District Development Model (DDM) in the form of the launch and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in in Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal districts early this year.

The DDM represents a reimagining of the developmental space in the country to address gaps in service efficiencies. The three pilot districts, Waterberg in Limpopo, O.R Tambo in Eastern Cape and eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal represent different contexts spatially and developmentally. Each of them faces huge and similar obstacles of poverty, unemployment and inequality and the associated social challenges that follow.



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, pictured with Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and Director General of COGTA, Ms. Avril Williamson

The UN system, through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, is realigning itself to support local government and service delivery to place its resources and expertise at the disposal of municipalities and their citizens.



“..within these plans I would like to highlight three signature projects the Business Solution Centres and the reinvigorated Thusong and Thuthuzela Care Centre’s will help drive investment and service delivery.”

Speaking at the official launch, the Resident Coordinator and head of the UN in South Africa, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, said: “As we worked in partnership over these last months, I am immensely proud of how we developed and endorsed the District Implementation Plans,” adding, “within these plans I would like to highlight three signature projects the Business Solution Centres and the reinvigorated Thusong and Thuthuzela Care Centre’s will help drive investment and service delivery.”

According to the Resident Coordinator, these care centres “will also act as portals for further interventions. I am particularly excited about establishing Songhai centres, which have a proven track record of successfully boosting agriculture, but in a way that is sustainable. They are a driver of employment and growth, while encouraging food security, they are a fitting embodiment of what the Sustainable Development Goals seek to achieve.”

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“These signature projects,” she said “seek to empower citizens through the enhanced provision of services and bringing citizens and local government closer together.”

In June, the Ms. Bekele-Thomas led the UN team visited the second piloted projects in Waterberg District in Limpopo Province. Speaking at the launch, emphasized that, “To help municipalities deliver, the DDM needs to become a driver of change. It needs to be centred around service to the people of this district and it needs to be implemented with urgency and resolve.



(c) United Nations
UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, pictured with Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu in Waterberg District, Limpopo

The Resident Coordinator reiterated that the emphasis of this implementation model was to empower citizens at community level and that in order for the DDM to be successful, communities must be engaged, consulted and empowered by bringing them into the decision-making process and that no-one must be left behind.



(c) United Nations
UNICEF Representative, Ms. Christine Muhigana, pictured here with stakeholders during a visit to a Thuthuzela Care Centre

Our signature projects will be a key component of the DDM. In these past few days, we have heard about the challenges faced and the solutions we need. I have been inspired by the passion and commitment displayed by the participants.”



(c) United Nations
Business Solutions Centres engagement with stakeholders in Waterberg District, Limpopo

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government's rebuilding efforts received a much-needed boost following the United Nations' pledge of R20-million in catalytic resources. This includes R10 million to support educational interventions, R7 million for social cohesion dialogues and R2 million to support Gender-based Violence shelters in the province.



KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Mr. Sihle Zikalala, delivering a keynote address during the MoU signing ceremony

The support came in response to the damage and destruction caused by the civil unrest and violent looting that took place in the province in July this year. To give effect to this intervention, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in South Africa, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which identifies priority areas in which the province and the UN will collaborate to assist communities and entities as part of the rebuilding efforts. The two parties also agreed to the creation of a joint task team to ensure that the rebuilding process remains on track.

“Our partnership with the UN is critical in our provincial efforts of building enduring peace and advancing sustainable development where no one is left behind.” - KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Mr. Sihle Zikalala

“If we do not face the truth of what happened, if we return to business as usual then we will fail, and it will be on our shoulders,” - UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele Thomas

Speaking at the historic MoU signing ceremony, Premier Zikalala said: “Our partnership with the UN is critical in our provincial efforts of building enduring peace and advancing sustainable development where no one is left behind. As we strengthen our law enforcement and plans to mitigate future occurrences, we also agree that we need to get to the root causes of anti-social behaviour in KwaZulu-Natal and indeed in our country. In this regard, we share the sentiment by the UN Resident Coordinator that people need a stake in the economy because then they will protect it, not destroy it.”

In her remarks at the signing ceremony, Ms. Bekele-Thomas said the MoU “marks the next stage of our relationship with the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal and its people and speaks to the commitment we made to the Government of South Africa, through the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, to further the national developmental agenda (and the DDM) at a subnational level.”



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, pictured with KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Mr. Sihle Zikalala.

The UN response has focused on seven sectors:



The UN system has spent \$755,000 in direct assistance and provided technical advice valued at \$4,59 million to Government and Solidarity Fund programmes.



While public health response and treatment of confirmed cases remain the key priorities, the UN has maintained a strong focus on contributing to the mitigation of the severe

impacts of the pandemic on livelihoods, food security, education and social protection. In order to enable immediate action to support the COVID-19 national response and recovery efforts, the UN repurposed \$12 million from its normal.



In collaboration with the Government, the private sector and civil society, the UN support in the education sector has focused on finding solutions for the immediate period of school

closures. UNICEF has played a vital role in assisting more than 3.7 million children and parents with distance and home-based learning using mass media and technological platforms, focusing on Early Childhood Development. Three UN agencies were instrumental in this sector.



The public health emergency caused by COVID-19 has also created protection challenges, disproportionately affecting people and communities that are marginalized or are

particularly vulnerable. A number of agencies including UN Women, UNHCR and UNICEF have provided resources and funds to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations.



An estimated 7 million people that live in rural settlements do not have access to water. In these settlements, 26% of all schools and 46% of clinics do not have access to

water. There is a concern that informal settlements will continue to experience extremely high infection rates given the poor access to water and sanitation, as well as their generally high population density. At least six UN agencies and programmes are instrumental in the ongoing implementation of about 17 intervention strategies that focus on hygiene, hand washing stations and effective management of waste disposal such as hazardous COVID-19 waste.



The UN strategy to support the governance and livelihood sector has involved providing support for the formal and informal economy to adapt to the pandemic, with a focus on

protecting jobs and livelihoods. The organization has used its technical expertise to enhance the capacity of national institutions to respond to this crisis. In addition, specialized UN Agencies have made efforts to ensure that strategic products remain available and are locally sourced where possible. Efforts also include engagement with and involvement of civil society to ensure a wide buy in from across the board.



The UN has used its unique position as a multilateral organisation to build partnerships with the Government, private sector, civil society and international institutions to

help facilitate a national response. It has used its unique position to strengthen collaboration among the key sectors, continuously engaged with civil society and developed effective inter-sectoral assessments to inform the response to the pandemic.

Response In Numbers



1 278

healthcare professionally trained on infection prevention and control/case management through remote and in-person sessions



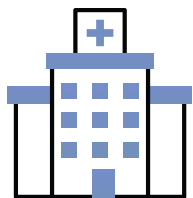
1 431

case investigators and contact tracers trained to reduce transmission through effective contact identification and follow-up



100

health promotion practitioners and COVID-19 champions trained on approaches for targeted risk communication and context specific community engagement



456

public and private health facilities assessed using the IPCAT to review adherence to IPC measures and recommend plan for action



107

international and local experts deployed to 8 provinces to support national COVID-19 response

Acknowledgements

The deployment of surge team members and delivery of the overall response to the pandemic was made possible through the generous and timely support of many development partners and contributors some of whom include Germany, European Commission, Canada, China, Isle of Man, United States, United Kingdom, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Operational Context

The scale and magnitude of the pandemic in South Africa has far exceeded those of other nations in the African Region and its impact has been much more profound. With over 3 million reported positive cases and more than 90 thousand fatalities as of mid-December 2021, South Africa continued to be amongst the high burden countries contributing to over 50% of the COVID-19 infections.

The WHO country office for South Africa started working on the preparedness measures with the National Department of Health from January 2020, much earlier than the first case was confirmed in the country on 5th March 2020. A comprehensive response was mounted both at national and subnational levels soon after the first COVID-19 case was reported. From the outset all the WHO South Africa team members were repurposed to COVID-19 incident management to support the national and provincial authorities. The core team provided strategic technical guidance at the national level and mobilized essential health commodities including personal protective equipment. Given the decentralized health system, WHO teams were deployed at five highest burden provinces in the first instance. Later, based on the Government request, this support was expanded to the remaining four provinces, as over 40 additional surge support was mobilized in August 2020 to work at the central level as well as across the provinces in South Africa to ensure more context specific response.

In coordination with the government partners, WHO prepares for a seamless transition from the emergency response to a sustainable public health approach for building health systems resilience and health security during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. in South Africa.

More about WHO's response to COVID-19 available here: <https://bit.ly/3oVbDec>

Mr. Owen Kaluwa

WHO Representative, South Africa



Panelists of the Disability Management Summit hosted by the United Nations and the City of eThekweni.

As part of UN Day activities in October this year, the City of eThekweni, in collaboration with the United Nations office in South Africa, hosted a summit for persons with disabilities in Durban. The meeting, largely attended by persons with disabilities, senior City officials and the Resident Coordinator and head of the UN in South Africa, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, focused on the challenges facing the community in terms of access to information, healthcare, education and employment following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Disability Summit focused on the challenges facing people with disabilities in accessing information, healthcare, education and employment opportunities following the COVID-19 pandemic and some of the interventions that The City of eThekweni is implementing in support of people with disabilities.

“We need to pay careful attention and listen to persons living with disabilities and produce and implement policies with them at the table, because only they know what it is like to live their lives with these challenges” Ms. Bekele-Thomas told participants at the summit.

“Nothing about us, without us,” was a slogan repeated by several speakers. A University of KwaZulu-Natal PHD student, Gugu Mijilo, and several other persons with disabilities shared moving testimonies of their daily struggles of workplaces and spaces that lack the necessary infrastructure to cater to their needs thus leaving many excluded at the decision-making table.

Tumelo Matlwa, a human rights specialist with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights based in South Africa, presented the findings of their latest report which focused on the impact of COVID-19 on persons living with disabilities. According to the REPORT people living with disabilities struggled to access information about the pandemic.

The report, which was the result of joint efforts between the UN and the Department of Women, Children and People Living with Disabilities and launched earlier this month, highlights for example, that visually impaired persons were severely impacted by mask-wearing because they are dependant on lip-reading for information.

“At the beginning of the lockdown, especially, there were very limited resources on the pandemic for people living with disabilities and this added to their already challenging lifestyles,” said Ms. Matlwa.

Other UN Day activities included the handing over of new radio equipment to a community radio station in Umlazi following severe damage from the civil unrest in July. UN in South Africa and partners also engaged in a social cohesion arts feature and dialogue with youth in Kwamashu as well as a visit to a water desalination plant in Bluff.

The United Nations in South Africa congratulates the Government of South Africa on the launch of the Gender-Based Violence Response Fund

This was one of the strong messages advocated by the Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas as the United Nations in South Africa congratulated President Cyril Ramaphosa on the launch of the first ever Private Sector Gender-Based Violence Response Fund 1 in February this year. The fund is one of the mechanisms set up to finance the implementation of the ambitious National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

As UN South Africa, we are mindful that it is not just the business of Government alone, but requires a whole-of-society approach,” said Bekele-Thomas..

“We therefore congratulate the private sector companies who have come forward to put their money where their mouth is by bringing resources to the table to address this second pandemic – gender-based violence and femicide.”

In her remarks during the launch of the fund, Bekele-Thomas committed the support of the entire United Nations system towards the implementation of the National Strategic Plan adding, “I commit the support of the entire United Nations system toward the implementation of the National Strategic Plan. We understand that this is not the business of a single agency, but the business of the entire UN system – simply because we understand the multi-sectoral nature of the problem.”

“We hope that this is just the beginning as we join in pleading for the support of all partners and donors, especially philanthropic trusts, foundations and the business community operating in South Africa and abroad,” she said.

Multi sectoral
stakeholder
Engagement and
consultation session

Starting soon . . .



Many women and girls in South Africa, especially in rural areas, are victims of harmful practices, including child marriage, abduction for marriage (“ukuthwala”) and polygamy or polygamous unions that often give rise to domestic violence. South Africa “cannot absolve itself from its obligation to ensure protection and assistance to victims of domestic violence by delegating the provision of such services to NGO-run shelters without adequately funding them,” Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

South Africa’s low levels of prosecution and conviction in domestic violence cases and the frequent failures by the police to serve and enforce protection orders, exposed survivors to repeated abuses and resulted in the violation of women’s fundamental rights, the UN women’s rights committee has found.

In a report published in May, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) said available evidence indicated that the scale of domestic violence, including femicide, is alarmingly high in South Africa. Many women and girls in South Africa, especially in rural areas, are victims of harmful practices, including child marriage, abduction for marriage (“ukuthwala”) and polygamy or polygamous unions that often give rise to domestic violence.

Those who reported their abuser often did not get the protection they needed, CEDAW found. According to official figures, out of 143, 824 requests for protection orders in 2018-2019, only 22,211 were granted – and in many of these cases, the protection order just instructed the abuser to sleep in another room in the same house.

“Some survivors used drugs to cope with the violence or had attempted to commit suicide. Even after leaving an abusive relationship, many continued to suffer from depression, trauma and anxiety,” the Committee added.

Failure to tackle domestic violence a violation of women’s rights – UN experts

The Committee highlighted the substantial suffering inflicted on women and girls frequently exposed to domestic violence, including sexual violence from a very young age. “Many victims described physical violence including rape, battery with objects, kicks and inflicted burns by their partners, who often abused alcohol or drugs, had low self-esteem or had sadistic tendencies,” the Committee said.

The Committee noted the absence of State-run shelters for women and their children. South Africa “cannot absolve itself from its obligation to ensure protection and assistance to victims of domestic violence by delegating the provision of such services to NGO-run shelters without adequately funding them,” CEDAW said.

The Committee concluded that South Africa failed to comply with its obligation to effectively investigate, prosecute and punish cases of domestic violence, and provide systematic and effective capacity building for the judiciary and law enforcement bodies, thereby violating the right of South African women to live free from domestic violence.

The Committee has made 34 recommendations for action. These include effective law enforcement, policies ensuring adequate access to justice, protection and victim support services, and measures dismantling patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes that legitimize domestic violence.

Committee members visited South Africa in September 2019 to conduct a confidential inquiry into allegations by civil society organizations that women in South Africa were subjected to extreme levels of domestic violence. The Committee stressed that it had received the full co-operation of the Government of South Africa. In this regard, it remains ready to continue to work with the government, traditional and community leaders, and other stakeholders in the implementation of its recommendations.

UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2021, released prior to COP 26, highlighted that the planet was on course to a dangerous 2.7 °C warming. The pledges and commitments made during the conference could see warming. For the first time, the Conference agreed to phase-down unabated coal and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, all practical steps towards achieving the safe warming thresholds. And all these triggered a manner justly transitions economies to low emissions pathways.

South Africa (SA) is among the many vulnerable developing countries that are already experiencing the impacts of Climate change (CC). This is evident from the increased frequency of extreme weather conditions, such as floods, droughts and heatwaves that threaten lives, food security, and infrastructure.

SA submitted an updated NDC in September 2021. It is among countries with revised NDCs showing increased ambition compared to the first round NDCs. In line with Article 4.19, SA is also among the only 18 countries that have also communicated to the UNFCCC its Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) – the beginning of South Africa's journey towards achieving a net zero economy by 2050.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Mitigation

SA aims to reduce its annual emissions to 398-510 Mt CO₂-eq by 2025, a 17% more ambitious target than in the first submission and 350-420 Mt CO₂-eq by 2030, a 12-32% more ambitious target than the first-round submission. Sectors prioritised are energy, Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU), and waste. In next decade, mitigation NDCs will require \$60-64billion.

Adaptation

Among target sectors are water, agriculture and forestry, health, biodiversity, human settlements, and infrastructure. The adaptation priorities range from policy, planning, enhancing governance and implementation of programmes. Adaptation investments needed from 2021-2030 is \$16-267billion. The country/ national adaptation efforts in the past 5 years (2015-2020) amount to \$6billion, with \$3.1billion spent at national level and \$2.9billion spent at provincial level programmes.





100 countries join the methane pledge (aiming to curb methane emissions by 30% by 2030).



20 countries and five development institutions committed to end new direct public financing of international unabated fossil fuel projects by the end of 2022 and steer their spending to clean energy instead.



US\$8.5 Billion deal to support South Africa's transition from coal to clean energy



40 countries pledge to phase out their use of coal for electricity generation, with the bigger economies doing so in the 2030s, and smaller economies doing so in the 2040s.

Adaptation

Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forest and Land Use (committing to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030). Among the 141 countries that signed the pledge were 24 African countries, including Botswana, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Commitment by wealthy countries to meet and catch up on the annual \$100 billion commitment of financing adaptation. Despite this commitment, there is still a huge finance gap. Africa will need investments of over \$3 trillion in mitigation and adaptation by 2030 in order to implement its NDCs. Parties also committed to a process to agree on long-term climate finance beyond 2025.



US\$415 million

in new funding for the LDCs Fund (in support of the most vulnerable countries).

African countries comprise of 33 out of the 46 countries classified as the Least Developed.



Heads of States and Representatives to the UN Climate Change Conference 2021

The US\$8.5 billion is not nearly enough to enable a full transition. However, it is a critical amount that can be used as a 'seed finance' to de-risk and attract private sector investment in Renewable Energy development pathways. Plays a catalytic role for South Africa to meet its most ambitious targets in its recently updated NDCs that would require equally ambitious financial commitments to meet those targets, a critical negotiating point of the country at the COP26.

Among others, in its mitigation effort enhances the retirement of existing coal plants while building large amounts of renewable energy generation and transmission lines to meet demand. Although South Africa, did not sign up to phase out coal, the agreements to retire many existing coal plants and the shift towards clean energy solutions is a step in the right direction towards the achievement of a net zero economy by 2050

Countries representing over 90.94% of the world's forest signed onto the Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forest and Land Use agreement - including Brazil, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which house the largest tracts of tropical forests. South Africa's natural forests cover less than 0.5 % of the country, sub-tropical thicket about 3% and the various dry to subhumid woodland types collectively cover about 39% of the country's land surface area, with planted commercial forests covering about 1.1%. South Africa therefore has a massive potential to expand tree cover as a climate mitigation tool - to act as a protected carbon sink that will further drop emissions accelerating climate change

Proposed workable solutions for SA to meet the emission reduction target for both adaptation and mitigation

A just approach to the transition is necessary for SA, as it is a country that heavily relies on coal (80%). A new National Power Master Development and investment Plan to be developed in order to stop plans to commission new coal power generating plant. South Africa needs to work on using clean coal technology including reducing its methane emission by utilizing methane capture and utilization technology, both in the mining and waste sectors.

Invest in Off-grid solutions such as solar energy for productive uses (Water, food security etc..) : South Africa averages more than 2500 hours per year, and average solar-radiation levels range between 4.5 and 6.5kWh/m2 in one day. However, South Africa's total solar power consumption is only 2% of the cumulative global solar capacity. NB: This untapped resource could be used to target productive applications, i.e., to power key income-generating activities, such as micro-irrigation farms.

Increase level of capacity and skill development and technology transfer in RE sector for job creation, income generation for youth and women. Support the government in Climate, Socioeconomic and Political dimensions to accelerate the Just transition.

Support the government in development and implement a range of clear, coherent and harmonized policies that attract private investments both in terms of Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Independent Power Producers (IPP). The shift away from coal will also require support in the form of transition finance (e.g. Public finance, Clean Development Mechanism) technology and capacity/skill development.



CAPTION

South Africa is believed to be the most unequal country in the world. Media reports in December 2021 were rife with the news that a South African panel recommended the country gradually implement a basic income grant, beginning with the institutionalisation of a monthly welfare payment introduced last year to offset damage wrought by the coronavirus pandemic. The panel was appointed by the Department of Social Development, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations-backed Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund.

The UN SDG Joint Programme in South Africa is an integrated and universal social protection working group linked to advancing developmental social welfare services in South Africa. The agencies that constitute the working group are the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF, UN Women, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The Joint Project seeks to address exclusions from existing social protection programmes and advocates for a comprehensive and inclusive system that leaves no one behind focusing on three result areas:

- 1 Development of feasible options of social assistance scheme (Basic Income Grant - BIG) for 18- to 59-year olds to fill the glaring gaps in social protection in South Africa.
- 2 Proposal on social insurance package for women working in the informal sector.
- 3 Strengthened social welfare policy and regulatory frameworks, financing and delivery requirements.

Some of the key achievements and results of the group for 2020-2021 have been the much talked about launch of the report on the Basic Income Grant which is being used by the Department of Social Development as a basis of engagements and development and follow up actions on a government paper and implementation of the Basic Income Grant.

Another significant achievement has been the finalization and dissemination of study findings on the impact of COVID-19 on women in the informal economy and its implications for social insurance needs.



(c) United Nations

CAPTION

The joint group has made significant progress on challenges facing the informal sector in the country as a draft report is currently under review focusing on a study on “Options for Social Insurance Schemes for the Informal Sector with specific emphasis on Women and Youths in South Africa” and also produced an award-winning documentary on the situation of women in the informal sector.



(c) United Nations

CAPTION

In addressing SDG 1 - the eradication of poverty in all its forms - the group completed research on the socially perceived necessities index and a comprehensive report is being finalized on the human-centric multidimensional poverty tool. The group also supported the first Child Multidimensional Poverty Analysis in South Africa with a budget brief series on equity for children. This includes support to budget processes and fiscal space analysis. Research on the Real Time Monitoring Tool for children was completed and a final report is now available. Engagements with the Department of Social Development on integrating the tool routine monitoring and evaluation systems is in process.



JOINT SDG FUND

ANGLO AMERICAN SA



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, pictured with the Chairperson of Anglo American's Management Board, Ms. Nolitha Fakude.

On 12 November 2021, Anglo American South Africa signed a Declaration of Intent (DOI) to partner with the United Nations Development system in the country. The DOI was signed at Anglo American's 4th Annual SDG Accountability Dialogue. This dialogue provides an open forum for stakeholders to track Anglo American's progress on the SDGs. The partnership with the UN will focus on the three signature projects in the Waterberg District Municipality in Limpopo Province, as part of the South African Government's District Development Model (DDM). The projects include the community-based Business Solution Centres, Thusong Service Centres, and the Thuthuzela Care Centres. These projects seek to improve service delivery, widen economic opportunities, and tackle social ills such as gender-based violence.

Nolitha Fakude, Chairperson of Anglo American's Management Board in South Africa, said "Achieving the SDGs by 2030 requires us to do more together, differently. As a leader in sustainable mining, we have a crucial role to play both through the direct value we create and through the innovative partnerships that will help us ensure that we leave no one behind."

"We recognise that this is a journey and that we do not have all the answers. By ensuring that the SDGs are at the heart of the sustainable impact we make – and working collaboratively with the UN and other partners – we are changing mining as we know it, one community at a time." - Ms. Nolitha Fakude, Chairperson of Anglo American's Management Board in South Africa,

Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in South Africa, said: "Given Anglo American's long standing approach to community engagement and development, our partnership will help empower people in the Waterberg District Municipality. Through this partnership, we are determined to drive impactful projects that will improve the quality of life for the thousands of people in this crucial economic node of South Africa."

The Partnership includes:

- UN South Africa and Anglo-American SA to jointly establish a Regional SDG Accountability Forum in the Waterberg District Municipality in 2022
- Anglo American SA to actively participate and provide strategic input to the UN South Africa Private Sector Consultative Platform to be launched in 2022
- Anglo American SA and the United Nations South Africa commit to coordinate and synergise development initiatives, where possible, under the three Signature Projects of the District Development Model (DDM)
- Anglo American SA to allocate a total budget of \$900 000.00 (nine hundred thousand US Dollars / three hundred thousand per annum) over a three-year period from 2022.
- Within the context of the COP26 Climate Commitment, the UN will support Anglo American SA's Sustainable Mining Plan and its net zero carbon transition by 2035, through its global expertise, advisory role and convening power.



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, pictured with the Chairperson of Anglo American's Management Board, Ms. Nolitha Fakude.



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, pictured with the Chairperson of Anglo American's Management Board, Ms. Nolitha Fakude.

Anglo American SA to allocate a total budget of \$900 000.00



Attendees at the Anglo American's 4th Annual SDG Accountability Dialogue

GOVCHAT

“We need meaningful partnerships between stakeholders that are solution centred and address the issues facing South African citizens in real time.” Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas

In September, the United Nations in South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GovChat, the official citizen engagement digital platform for ordinary South Africans with their government. So far, GovChat has amassed over eight million users since it was launched in 2017, three million of them over the last year alone.

In her remarks at the virtual signing ceremony, the Resident Coordinator of the UN in South Africa, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, said the digital platform “has already yielded incredible results, providing the government with invaluable data in their quest to deliver services to the people.”

Initially launched in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, GovChat has extended its technical capabilities to the Department of Health as part of the COVIDConnect consortium and has played a critical role in the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA)’s successful disbursements of COVID-19 social relief grants, having processed over 11 million applications.

The platform also receives real-time feedback and report its findings through the ChatBot mobile device and various other digital interfaces, such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, USSD and SMS, and links citizens with crucial government services throughout the global pandemic. With 500 million messages processed to date from a largely youth cohort of citizens (61% of the users are aged between 18 and 34 years), GovChat has established an impressive and relevant digital footprint across the topography of the land, giving a voice to millions of ordinary citizens, many of them poor and previously disenfranchised.



GovChat Founder and CEO, Mr. Eldrid Jordaan, pictured signing a MOU between GovChat and the United Nations during the virtual signing ceremony.

The data that will be provided to the UN will remain anonymous and will be used for the purposes of understanding the lived experiences of ordinary citizens in order to improve the conditions of those who have been left behind. As an example, GovChat picked up a spike in reports of gender-based violence and cyber-bullying during the month of August, sadly a month when women are commemorated in South Africa.



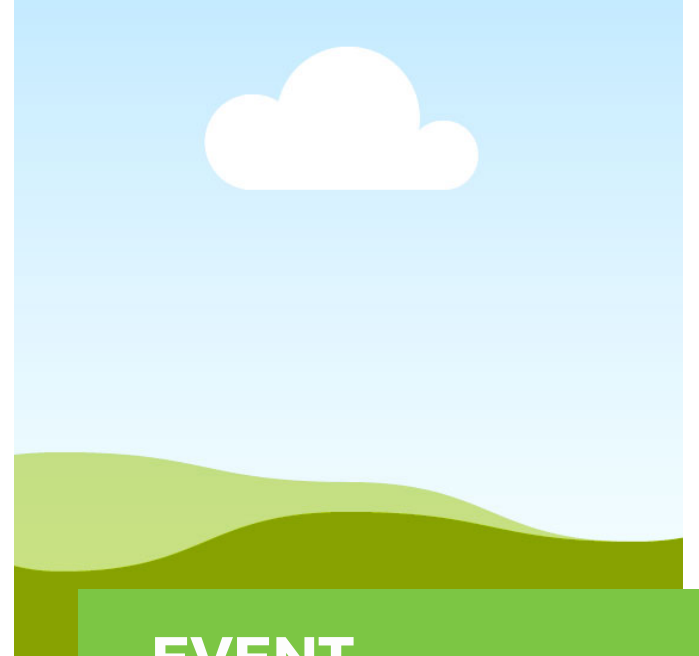
UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, pictured signing a MOU between GovChat and the United Nations during the virtual signing ceremony.

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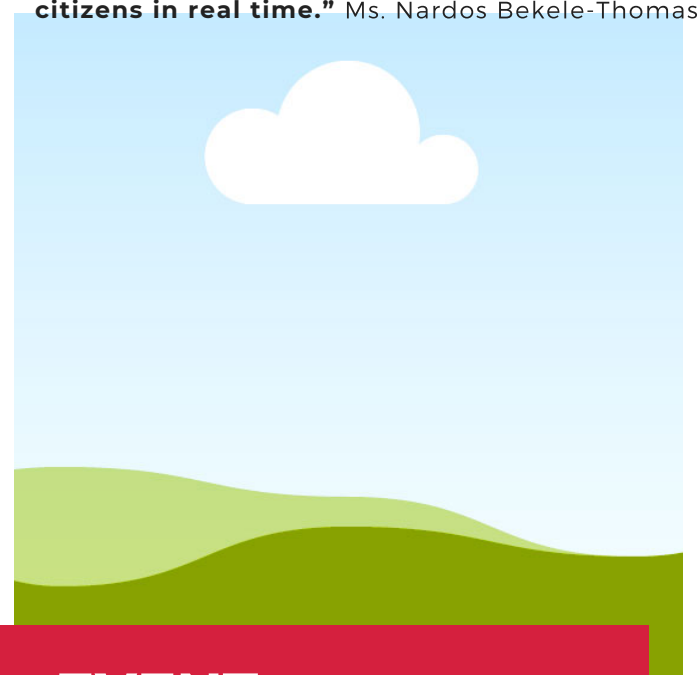
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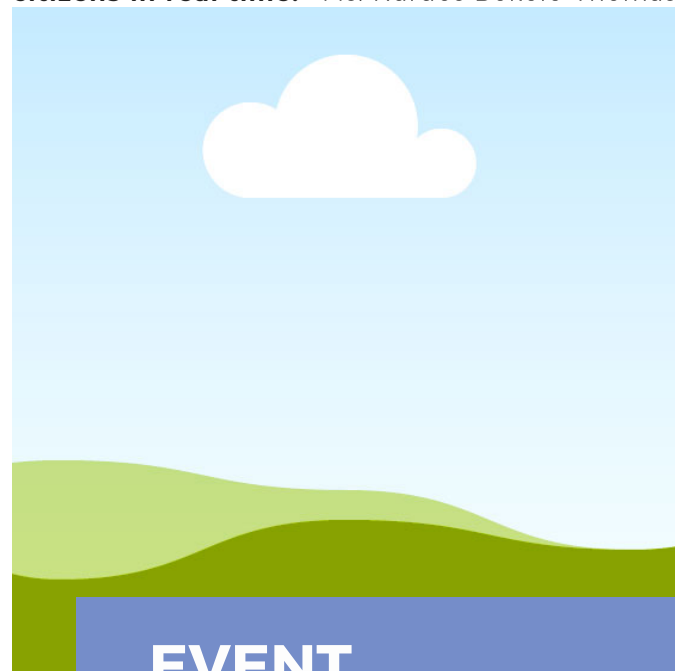
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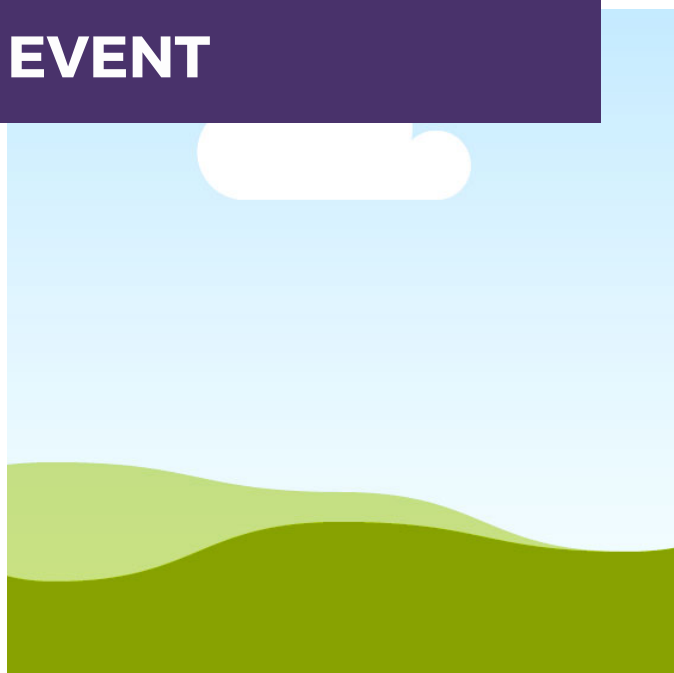
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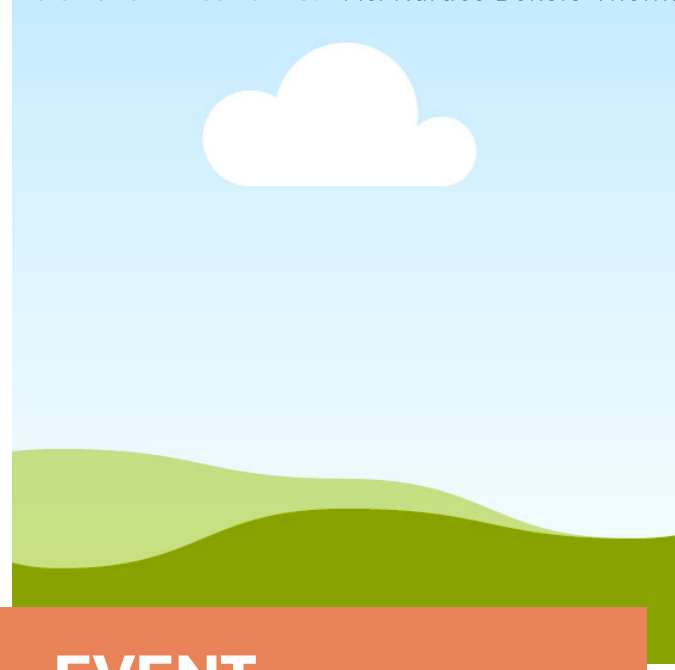
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