



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



UNITED NATIONS  
SOUTH AFRICA



# UNCT Country Results Report for South Africa 2021



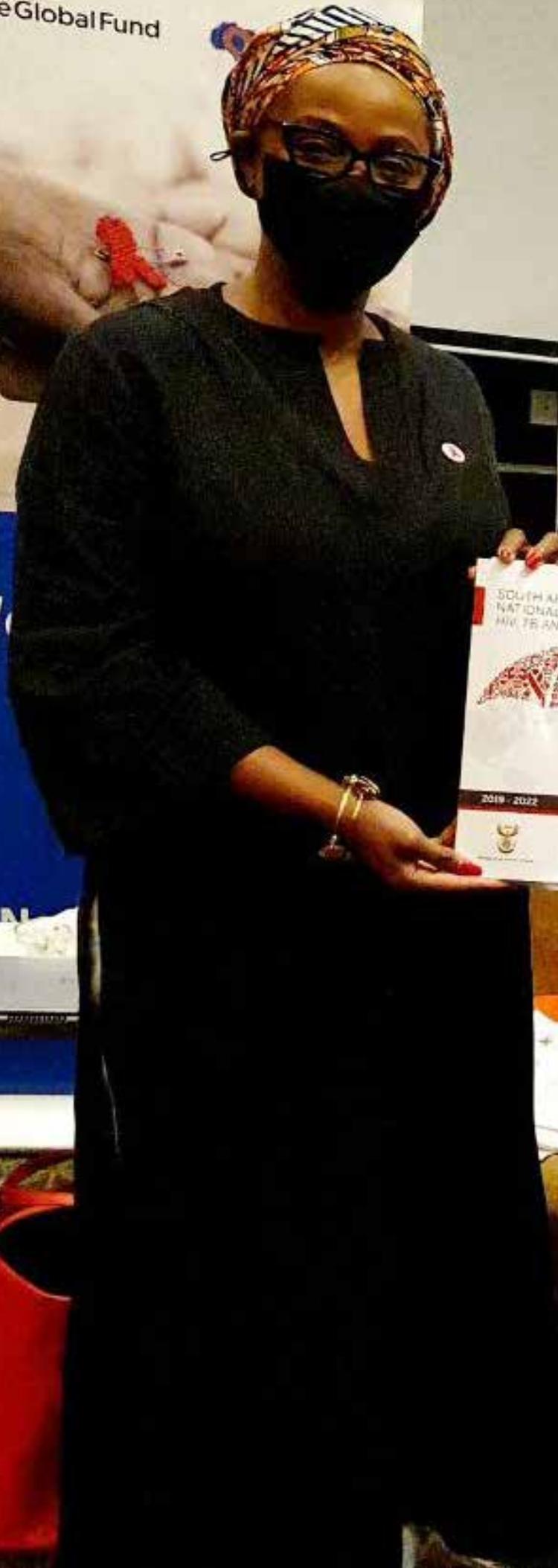
The Global Fund

Sisonke  
National sex workers movement in

Nothing About Us Without Us

Nothing About Us Without Us

Sisonke  
National sex workers movement





**Sisonke**  
National sex workers movement in South Africa

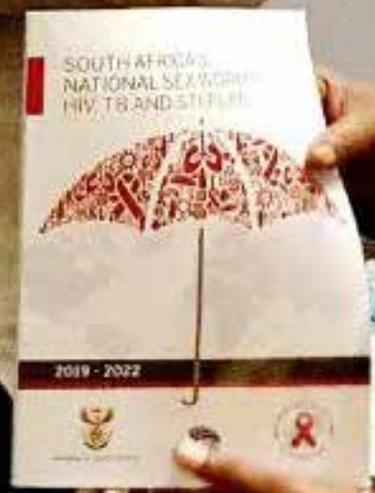
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# ABBREVIATIONS

AGSP	African Green Stimulus Programme	NDP	National Development Plan
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women	NEET	not in employment, education or training
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	NLMP	National Labour Migration Policy
CAOSA	Community Advice Office of South Africa	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CE	Cambridge Econometrics	NHI	National Health Insurance
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	NHQIP	National Health Quality Improvement Plan
CF	Cambridge Econometrics	NHRI	National Human Rights Institutions
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
CIPC	Companies and Intellectual Property Commission	NPM	National Preventive Mechanisms
COGTA	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	NSP	National Strategic Plan
CNPS	Comprehensive National Prevention Strategy	NSSF	National Social Security Fund
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture	OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
CSI	Corporate Social Initiative	PES	Presidential Economic Stimulus Package
CSSD	Central Sterile Services Department	RfA	results for action
DDM	District Development Model	RRI	Rapid Results Institute
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	SADA	South African Disability Alliance
DOH	Department of Health	SAJEI	South African Judicial Education Institute
DoI	Declaration of Intent	SAPS	South African Police Services
DPSA	Department of Public Service and Administration	SANAC	South African National AIDS Council
DSAC	Department of Sport, Arts and Culture	SANAC-PSF	SANAC Private Sector Forum
DSBD	Department of Small Business Development	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
DSD	Department of Social Development	SERF	Socio-Economic Response Framework
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	SMMEs	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises
ESRF	Employment Stimulus Relief Fund	SLP	Scripted Lesson Plans
EUP	Early and unintended pregnancies	SOGIESC	Social Inclusion of Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, and Sexual Characteristics in Schools
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	SRD	Social Relief of Distress Grant
GBVF	Gender-Based Violence and Femicide	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNCG	UN Communications Group
FPI	Foundation Phase Initiative	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
IDC	Inter-Departmental Committee	UNDS	United Nations Development System
IDERD	International Day for the Elimination for the Racial Discrimination	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
IGR	Inter-Governmental Relations	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
IMC	Inter-Ministerial Committee	VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
IMF	International Monetary Fund	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
JTMEC	Joint Technical and M&E committee	WB	World Bank
JWP	Joint Work Programme	WEF	World Economic Forum
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender And Intersex	WOE	Women Owned Enterprises
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	WOB	Women Owned Business
MTCT	Mother-To-Child Transmission	YWfLM	Young Women for Life Movement
MTSF	Medium-Term Strategic Framework	ZEP	Zimbabwe Exemption Permit
NAP	National Action Plan		
NASA	National AIDS Spending Assessment		
NCF	National Framework for Children		
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions		

# FOREWORD



2021 proved to be yet another challenging year for South Africa. It was characterised by new COVID-19 waves and lockdowns, loss of lives and livelihoods threatened with long-term impact on some of the country's development gains over the years. The year also saw an increase in cases of violence against women and children and civil unrest and looting in the provinces of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

The unrest resulted in 251 recorded deaths and impact of about R50-billion on the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). These unprecedented challenges called for an innovative, multisectoral response. In the spirit of Delivering As One, the UN Country Team promptly convened national partners and stakeholders to collaborate in combating the effects of the pandemic and its impact on the socio-economic development landscape. On behalf of my country team, I present the 2021 annual report which documents our efforts, achievements, and challenges of the past year.

2021 was dedicated to "building back better" and emphasising that "we are all in this together". To this end, the UNCT continued to support the national COVID-19 response, through a communications and advocacy campaign to dispel the myths surrounding the global pandemic and vaccination, supporting the COVID vaccination roll-out programme, responding to the HIV epidemic in the country and more importantly providing capacity building to maintain resilient health systems which are critical for responding to the crisis.

The United Nations family worked with partners, across various sectors, to ensure that we make significant contributions to the developmental landscape of the country. We launched the UN-COGTA partnership for the District Development Model (DDM) implementation in the O.R. Tambo and Waterberg District Municipalities with the focus on three critical areas of development for the country i.e. Unlocking Economic Value Chains; Human Capital and Social Transformation; and Service Delivery Enhancement. This was an unprecedented move undertaken by the country team, as for many years our support to our government partners was largely upstream and this year, we agreed that we should support all spheres of governance particularly at a district-level if our efforts towards improving service delivery are to be successful.

We also supported the development landscape through raising the game on climate action, to educating citizens and raising public awareness on the importance of political participation and citizens' right to vote and to contributing to the basic income grant proposal.

Following the civil unrest in July 2021, working jointly with Government, the UN quickly convened to develop an emergency response plan, which was addressing both the immediate impacts and the underlying causes of the recent unrest. Last year we started the implementation of UN-led projects valued at \$2 million and conducted a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the unrest to inform provincial and national responses.

The ever-changing development context in the country has necessitated the UN Development System to be flexible and responsive to national circumstances. In this regard, the UNCT has been adaptive and flexible in responding to the needs of the country. This positive shift in work of the UN is indicative of the UN-Reform in action. The UN remains committed to delivering as one, and ensuring that we leave no one behind, through pioneering good governance and ensuring coherence in the work that we do.

We will continue this approach in 2022, as we seek to assist the Government of South Africa in meeting its NDP priorities. With less than a decade left to achieve the SDGs, we must act at an accelerated speed if we are to achieve equality, justice and dignity for all.

**Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas**  
Resident Coordinator











## KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN IN SOUTH AFRICA

The 2030 Agenda compels the UNDS to accelerate sustainable solutions to the country's developmental challenges. In response the UN system continued to cast its net wide in its engagements with partners in 2021. To enhance the UN's ability to develop strategic partnerships aimed at accelerating the implementation of the UNSDCF, key initiatives were undertaken including the mapping of private sector entities with budgets for a Corporate Social Initiative (CSI).

In reviewing the entities, a selection of partners was made based on the alignment of organisational profiles with the UNSDCF strategic priorities. Based on identified synergies, the UNCT identified private sector entities with which it can collaborate across a range of development interventions. The multi-stakeholder approach included engagements with civil society, think tanks, research and academic, foundations and high-net-worth individuals.

### District Development Model (DDM)

The UN works with numerous national state and non-state partners. One of the main partners for the UN is the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) which was appointed by the President to lead and coordinate the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM).

In addition to COGTA, the UN has partnered with specific Government departments to implement activities within the signature projects of the DDM, namely: the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) for the Thusong Service Centres, Department of Social Development (DSD), Department of Health (DOH), National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and South African Police Services (SAPS) for the Thuthuzela Care Centres and the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) for the Business Solutions Centres.

The DDM is an integrated district-based approach to address service delivery challenges at a local level, and the UN support to the DDM started in 2021 with three pilot districts, which have been fundamental partners together with national and local civil society organisations and private sector partners.

### KwaZulu-Natal Emergency Response Plan

Following the civil unrest that took place in the province of KwaZulu-Natal in July 2021, the UN leveraged on existing and established new partnerships with civil society organisations and private sector partners such as Food Forward SA, ECCLEI Africa, Standard Bank, Microsoft SA, Durban Chamber of Commerce and 22 on Sloan as well as provincial government departments to respond to the impacts of the unrest.

## Embassy of Ireland

The UN continued its partnerships with the Embassy of Ireland in 2021. The Embassy contributed \$470 000 to the UN to support the coordination of the COVID-19 Response in South Africa.

## GovChat

The UN established an important partnership with GovChat, an official citizen-engagement platform, recognised by the GoSA. The collaboration aims to advance the UN principle of Leaving No One Behind through data garnered by citizen engagement. It will assist the UN to understand the services that exist in the districts, carry out policy advocacy, policy development and community engagement

left behind, identify exclusion errors of citizens to services and allow for linkages to be created for citizens on the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant to services through information provision for youth empowerment, economic empowerment and GBV reporting.

## Anglo American South Africa

The UNCT mobilised private sector funds for the implementation of the DDM. A Declaration of Intent (DoI) was signed between Anglo American South Africa and the UN in the county, whereby Anglo American SA is 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.

In addition, the two entities commit to coordinate and synergise development initiatives, under the three Signature Projects of the District Development Model (DDM), namely, the Business Solution Centre, Thusong Service Centres and the Thuthuzela Care

Centres. Within the context of the COP26 Climate Commitment, the UN will support Anglo American SA's Sustainable Mining Plan and its net-zero commitment.

## International development Partners

The UNCT also works closely with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to ensure that there is coherence and coordination in supporting the country.

Examples of some of the joint initiatives between the UN and the international partners include social protection, youth unemployment and improving SDG monitoring particularly regarding SDG 1, SDG 4 and SDG 10. The WB and IMF also join the bi-monthly UNCT meetings to discuss progress on implementation and identify other potential areas of collaboration.

The UN also partnered with foreign Government such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Norway and Japan to advance the implementation of the UN's work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Private Sector Partnerships

The UN continued to engage the private sector through leveraging SDG 17 to fund-raise for programmes. The UN worked with various corporates and NGOs to accelerate implementation of the relevant sustainable development goals SDG1, SDG4 and SDG8.



DDM Workshop



*UNICEF truck, Britstown, Hopetown and Ritchie were the communities targeted by the @UNICEF\_SA, @HealthZA, @RedCrossSA teams for engagement in Northern Cape*



## 1. Key developments in the country and regional context

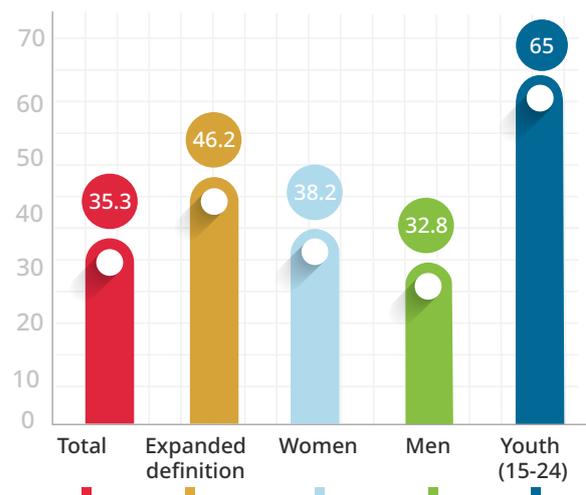
Since the democratic dispensation of South Africa in 1994, the Government has taken notable action to reduce poverty and improve service delivery, especially for the previously marginalised majority.

Despite these efforts and some initial positive trends, South Africa continues to face the triple challenge of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Poverty remains stubbornly high, with 55 per cent of South Africans living below the upper bound of the poverty line. Some of the facets of poverty are hunger and malnutrition, especially among children. Inequality continues to stand as perhaps the most intractable issue in South Africa: 70 per cent of the country's resources are held by just 20 per cent of the population; women continue earning less and having less access to resources than men.

### Unemployment:

In 2021, South Africa witnessed growing unemployment, deepening inequality and poverty. An estimated 3 million jobs were lost, and the unemployment rate escalated to an all-time high of 35.3 per cent (and 46.2 per cent according to the expanded definition, which includes discouraged work seekers) in Quarter 3: 2021. Job losses continued to disproportionately affect low-income earners, women, and youth (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Unemployment rate in South Africa – Quarter 3:2021





Source: *The Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Stats South Africa.*

**COVID-19:** 2021 recorded three severe COVID-19 waves, which led to the reinstatement of lockdown restrictions severely impacting the economy and social sectors. The impacts of the lockdowns on workers in the informal sector revealed the fragility of livelihoods of millions of South Africans who are situated on the margins of the labour market.

Many informal businesses, particularly women-owned businesses, failed to benefit from Government's relief schemes owing to onerous requirements for eligibility.

The health system, which had borne the brunt of the pandemic, saw protracted disruption including the provision of essential health services. With the scaling up of COVID-19 vaccinations and high population immunity from natural infections, there is now a move towards resetting the health systems on a path to recovery, and mainstreaming COVID-19 into day-to-day lives and health systems. With support from the UN, South Africa also plans to review the current 'emergency' approach to COVID-19 response, capitalise on the lessons learnt thus far and identify strategic interventions for building back better.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) played a lead role in working to keep schools open safely but in-person schooling was combined with remote education. In July 2021, ahead of the second school term, the NIDS-CRAM survey and DBE statistics released showed that learners were 75% to a full school year behind where they should be, due to rotational attendance, sporadic school closures and days off. The findings helped to sway teachers' unions and public attitudes towards the need for children to receive in-person schooling as much as possible.

**Civil unrest:** The socio-economic situation was aggravated by the civil unrest that took place in July 2021 following former President Jacob Zuma's imprisonment. The unrest spread through the former President's home province of KwaZulu-Natal

(KZN), and later in Gauteng. What was initially a political demonstration quickly escalated to looting and destruction of properties, loss of 330 lives and over 2500 arrests. It affected food systems and value chains, with many South Africans experiencing hunger and poverty in the affected provinces. The civil unrest also disrupted the country's economic rebound that had started to unfold with the easing of lockdown restrictions, with GDP contracting by 1.5 per cent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021.

The unrest is considered as a culmination of South Africa's unaddressed social inequalities and a historically disadvantaged population and divided society, which created fertile ground for instability, violent crime and substance abuse, among other social challenges.

Shortly after the unrest, President Ramaphosa announced the reinstatement of the Social Relief of Distress Grant (special COVID-19 grant) of R350 per month (which benefits 10.5 million destitute people), thereby acknowledging the linkages that exist between socio-economic rights fulfilment and building stable and resilient societies.

**Gender-Based Violence:** The scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) continues to be a challenge which was further aggravated by the pandemic as well as the "shadow pandemic" of domestic violence. Growing calls to hotline services and media reports indicate that the number of GBVF cases continued to rise throughout the pandemic.

An inquiry report published by CEDAW in May 2021 found that the State party was responsible for grave and systematic violations of rights under the Convention, with available evidence indicating that the scale of domestic violence, including femicide, was alarmingly high in the country.

By November 2021, crime statistics released by the Minister of Police indicated that 10 000 people were brutalised and sexually violated in just three months

(July–September 2021), an increase of 7,1 per cent compared to the previous reporting period. Despite this trend, there was a decrease in some of the sexual offences, especially rape cases in all provinces. (See Elimination of Violence and Discrimination section below).

**Xenophobia:** Additionally, there was a continued occurrence of xenophobic attacks leading to increased vulnerability of irregular migrants and asylum seekers. The decision not to renew the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP) has fuelled the risk of xenophobia. Efforts have been made by the Government to operationalise the national structure to implement the National Action Plan (NAP) on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

2021 was an important year to commemorate 20 years of the World Conference on Racism and the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action which was held in Durban. In the year under review successful litigation enabled asylum seekers and migrants to receive the COVID-19 grant thereby helping reduce their vulnerabilities

**Private Sector Partnerships:** The UN continued to

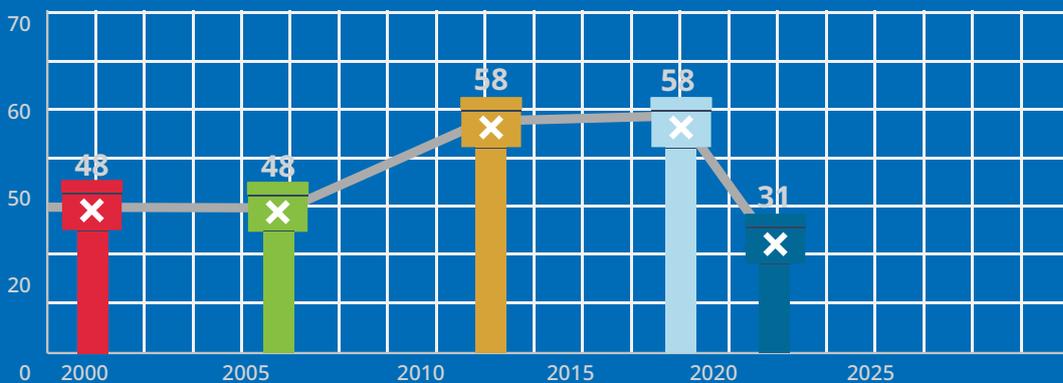
engage the private sector through leveraging SDG 17 to fund raise for programmes.

The UN worked with Absa Bank Africa, Nokia, MTN, De Beers, Standard Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to acceleration accelerate implementation for SDG1, SDG4 and SDG8.

**Elections:** Local government elections held in November 2021 saw the lowest voter turnout since 1994. Of the 39 million eligible voters, 26,1 million voters registered. However, only 46 per cent of registered voters went to the polls or just 31 of the total eligible voters (see Figure 2).

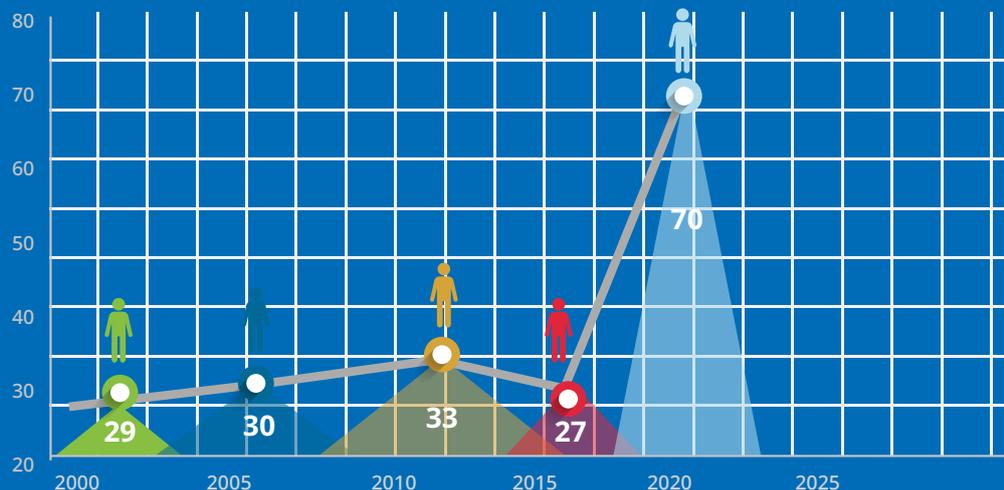
Although the ruling party won 161 of the 213 contested municipalities, the number of councils in which the ANC does not have a clear majority rose substantially, leading to a record number of local coalitions – 70 in total in 2021 against 29 back in 2000 (see Figure 3). This election outcome was seemingly due to the decline of public trust in the political system and the state of service delivery. This rapid decline of trust in public institutions is a cause of great concern, with only a third of the citizens surveyed having full trust and confidence in the public institutions and leaders.

Figure 2: Voter turnout between 2000 and 2021 in South Africa % of total eligible voters



Sources: Electoral Commission of South Africa, 2022

Figure 3: Number of coalitions in South Africa 2000 - 2021



Sources: Independent Electoral Commission 2017; Ndletyana 2021

On a positive note, the global economic recovery continued to boost demand for commodities in 2021, giving South Africa additional fiscal revenues than initially anticipated. The latest estimate of Real GDP growth for South Africa was at 4,9 per cent in the year 2021 and the economy is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2022, largely as a result of global demand and higher commodity prices – as well as the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. For 2022 and 2023, growth is forecast to slow down due to the end of the rebound, softening of the commodity boom and a lack of investment that could accelerate growth (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Annual GDP growth – South Africa 2018-2023 <sup>1,2</sup> %



Sources: World Bank data; Stats South Africa; SA National Treasury.

The best performing industries in 2021 were mining, agriculture, manufacturing and trade, all growing at or above six per cent. The worst performers were construction (suffering a contraction of 1,9 per cent) and Government (with zero growth – see Figure 5).

Figure 5: GDP growth by industry – South Africa Year 2021 %

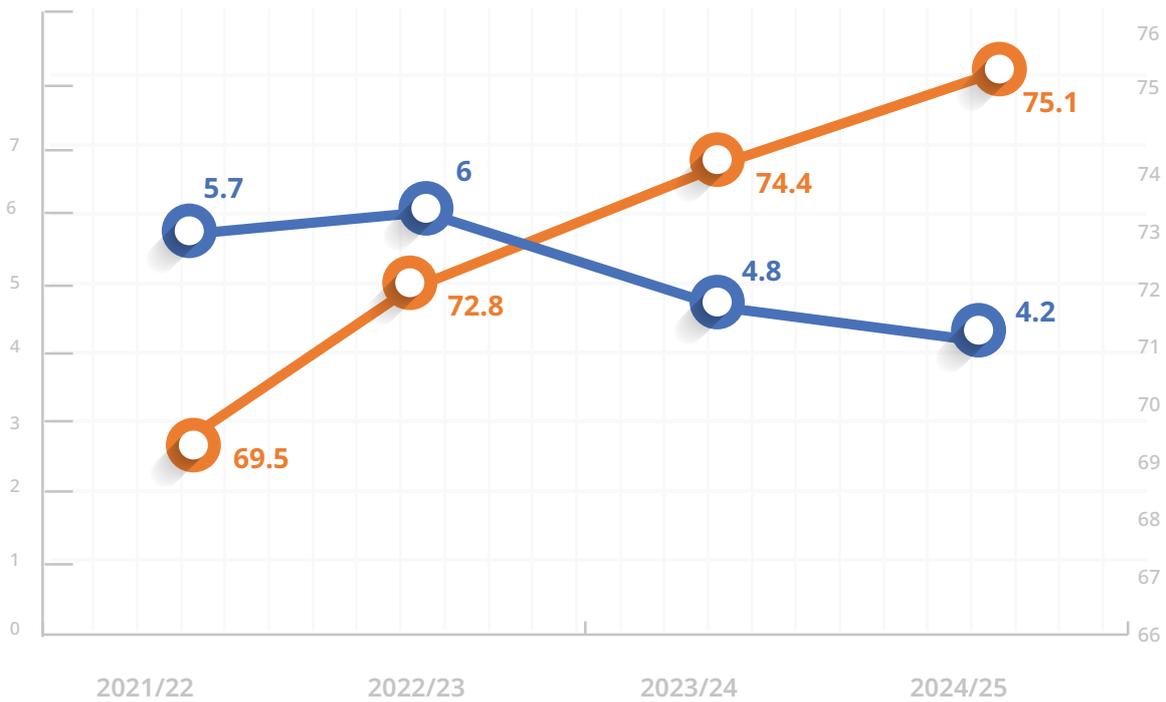


Source: Stats South Africa.



However, the 2021 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement of October 2021 and the 2022 Budget Review of February 2022 clearly demonstrate the Government’s commitment to fiscal consolidation and stabilisation of debt levels (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Fiscal deficit and public debt – South Africa<sup>1</sup>



Source: SA National Treasury Annual Budget Review 2022. <sup>1</sup> Years 2022-2025: Projections.

## COP26

Finally, at COP26 in November, the President of the Republic established a historic international partnership to support a just transition to a low carbon economy and a climate resilient society in South Africa. Partner countries will mobilise an initial \$8.5 billion over the next three to five years through a range of instruments, including grants and concessional finance to support the implementation of South Africa’s revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to reduce carbon emissions through a just transition. Climate induced natural disasters are of ever increasing intensity and frequency, examples of which are floods in the provinces of Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

<sup>1</sup> Year 2021: Estimate; <sup>2</sup> Years 2022-2023: Forecast.



## 2. UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework



## 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

South Africa was one of the first countries to embark on the process of developing a new generation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework), centred on the principles of the UN reform. The process of developing this CF (2020-2025) was jointly led by the Government of South Africa (GoSA) and the UNCT with the 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 Priority areas:

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

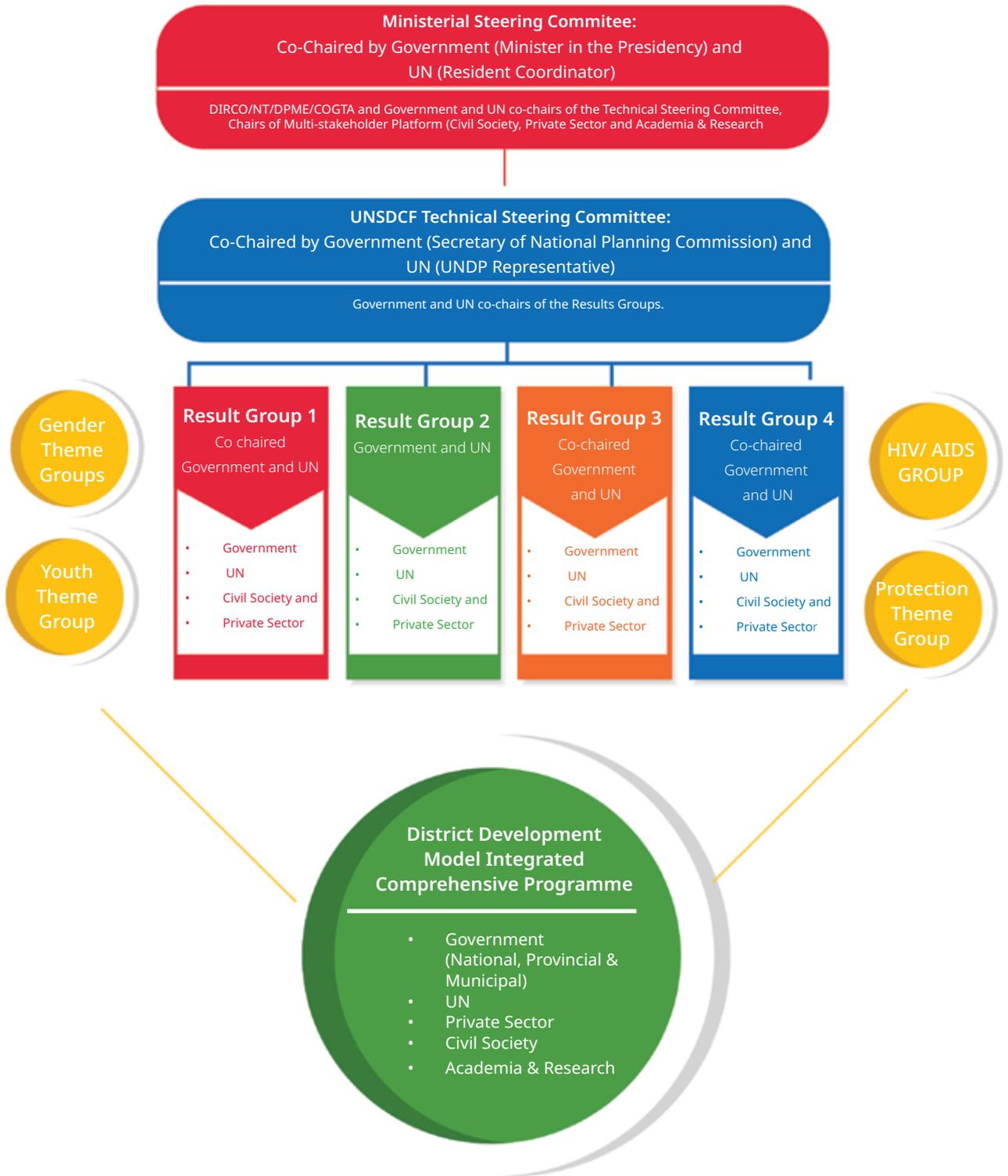
The Cooperation Framework outlines the UN development system's collective commitment to support sustainable development in South Africa in line with national, regional, and global development priorities. It is aligned to South Africa's long-term National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, which recognises the environment and science and technology as central drivers of change, and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024, and is firmly anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Charter and African Union Agenda 2063.

### Governance Mechanism

The Governance Model of the CF has been agreed to by the Government. This is a much-lauded achievement for the UN/Government partnership in South Africa as no such mechanism has been put in place before. The overarching principle for the Governance Model is that it should reinforce the UN Reforms at a country level, serving as a mechanism that promotes greater collaboration between the Government, the UN, and other national partners.



## Cooperation Framework Governance Mechanism



2030 Agenda Pillars	UNSDCF Strategic Pillars	Outcomes	
<p><b>Prosperity</b></p> 	<p><b>Strategic priority 1:</b></p> <p>Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth</p>	<p><b>Outcome 1.1:</b> 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</p>	
<p><b>People</b></p> 	<p><b>Strategic priority 2:</b></p> <p>Human capital and social transformation</p>	<p><b>Outcome 1.2:</b> By 2025, South Africa’s primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are more productive, diversified, sustainable and employment-intensive</p> <p><b>Outcome 2.2:</b> By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly vulnerable and marginalised populations, enjoy improved health, nutrition and well-being</p> <p><b>Outcome 2.3:</b> By 2025, all children and young people in South Africa have equitable access to quality education relevant to a changing society</p>	
<p><b>Peace</b></p> 	<p><b>Strategic priority 3:</b></p> <p>Effective, efficient and transformative governance</p>	<p><b>Outcome 3.1:</b> By 2025, women and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision-making processes and access justice.</p> <p><b>Outcome 3.2:</b> By 2025, state institutions deliver effective public services to all oversight bodies are strengthened</p>	
<p><b>Planet</b></p> 	<p><b>Strategic priority 4:</b></p> <p>Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources</p>	<p><b>Outcome 4.1:</b> By 2025, South Africa is on a just transition to a low-carbon society and vulnerable and marginalised communities adapt and are more resilient to adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p><b>Outcome 4.2:</b> By 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods, health and well-being of vulnerable communities</p>	

	National Priorities	SDGs
	 <p><b>Chapter 3:</b> Economy and employment;  <b>Chapter 6:</b> Inclusive rural economy;  <b>Chapter 7:</b> South Africa in the region and the world;  <b>Chapter 11:</b> Social protection</p> <p>MTSF: <b>Priority 2:</b> Economic transformation and job creation;  <b>Priority 4:</b> Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services</p>	
	 <p>Improving education, training and innovation;  <b>Chapter 10:</b> Healthcare for all;  <b>Chapter 12:</b> Building safer communities;  <b>Chapter 15:</b> Nation building and social cohesion.</p> <p>MTSF: <b>Priority 3:</b> Education, skills and health;  <b>Priority 6:</b> Social cohesion and safe communities</p>	
	 <p><b>Chapter 12:</b> Building safer communities;  <b>Chapter 13:</b> Building a capable and developmental state;  <b>Chapter 14:</b> Fighting corruption;  <b>Chapter 15:</b> Nation building and social cohesion.</p> <p>MTSF: <b>Priority 1:</b> Building a capable, ethical, and developmental state;  <b>Priority 5:</b> Spatial integration, human settlements and local government;  <b>Priority 6:</b> Social cohesion and safer communities;  <b>Priority 7:</b> A better Africa and world.</p>	
	 <p><b>Chapter 3:</b> Economy and employment;  <b>Chapter 4:</b> Economic infrastructure;  <b>Chapter 6:</b> Inclusive rural economy;  <b>Chapter 5:</b> Environmental sustainability and resilience.</p> <p>MTSF: <b>Priority 2:</b> Economic transformation and job creation;  <b>Priority 5:</b> Spatial integration, human settlements and local government</p>	

### 2.1.1. DDM Support

Launched by the President of South Africa in September 2019, the DDM serves as a channel for the UN agencies, programmes and funds to direct their efforts towards improving implementation of development interventions at the local level. The new model aims to strengthen inter-governmental coordination, place local development at the centre of all Government programmes and strengthen citizen participation and collaboration with social partners.

Under this banner, COGTA entered into a MOU with the UN in support of the implementation of the DDM on 6 April 2021. This occasion was a feat for UN/Government relations as it signified that the UN adopted the DDM as an important implementation modality for the current CF. This partnership has enabled the development of district specific implementation plans based on three interrelated pillars.

These are (i) Unlocking Economic Value Chains with the intention of creating opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth; (ii) Increased stakeholder commitment and advocacy in gender-based violence and femicide intended to contribute to Human Capital and Social Transformation; and (iii) Service Delivery Enhancement, focussing on strengthening the work of existing service delivery instruments such as the Thusong Service Centres.

Since the signing of the MoU, notable progress has been made in the implementation of the district mechanism through the signature projects in the pilot districts. The joint COGTA/UN technical teams have built on the extensive consultations with the districts to ensure that key development interventions are understood and implemented jointly by various stakeholders.

The joint COGTA/UN Technical teams carrying out the work of the Thuthuzela Care Centres have made strides in the implementation of interventions. In O.R. Tambo District Municipality the joint technical team has initiated a project to prevent rape, sexual violence and GBV. In the Waterberg District Municipality, the process of localising the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide has commenced.

Progress has been made in unpacking the challenges facing the Government in delivering services through the Thusong Service Centres. The UN conducted a comprehensive Needs Assessment and found two key issues preventing the efficient delivery of services in the O.R. Tambo and Waterberg districts, namely: (i) no overarching legislative and policy framework, and (ii) a narrow conceptualisation and framing of access

issues.

As a first step in responding to the findings of the Needs Assessment, the UN has made headway in engaging the relevant departments through dialogues. Regarding the Business Solution Centres, various activities have taken place in the O.R. Tambo and the Waterberg districts. These activities range from digital skills training to build capacity among the youth, to webinars on waste picking integration and boot-camps to bridge the gap between conceptualising a business idea and developing a business proposal.

The UN also extended its support of the DDM to the eThekweni Municipality through extensive consultations that align the UN and district priorities. The joint technical teams have identified youth inclusion, disability inclusion, Thuthuzela Care Centres and Thusong Service Centres as focus areas for collaboration.

### 2.1.2 COVID-19 Support

In 2021 the UN continued providing technical support and resources, in the context of COVID-19, to the GoSA. This included monitoring and assisting the health care sector in the provision of essential health services for HIV, TB, RMNCAH+N, NCDs, scaling up of vaccinations, supporting risk communication and community engagement, strengthening Infection Prevention and Control, case management, epidemiology and surveillance, and building lab capacity.

The UN also supported the Government in the provision of critical WASH services, distance learning for children affected by the lockdown, supporting SMMEs hardest hit by the pandemic, including those who were employed in the informal sector and other vulnerable groups. In support to the Government response to the pandemic, the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 was utilised.

The UN's central and strategic role within the risk communication and community engagement of the Department of Health technical working group played a vital role in supporting and influencing the COVID-19 response. To promote COVID-19 prevention measures, vaccine demand and to tackle mis-disinformation, the UN produced a suite of multimedia content with Zwakala campaign partners, as well as through other initiatives. The 'multimedia truck' crossed the country playing stories 'from the community back to the community', alongside community outreach to reach and engage more than 500.000 people. The journey evolved from a communication machine to direct health services, providing COVID-19 vaccines, HIV / TB checks and deworming and Vitamin A for children.

The UN also provided vital research and survey results to inform the RCCE response. The health worker survey, focused on perceptions of the COVID vaccine among medical staff, received more than 22,000 replies and enabled the DoH to understand and respond to vaccine concerns and knowledge.

The Framework has five pillars namely, (i) Health First: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis; (ii) Protecting People: Social protection and basic services; (iii) Economic Response and Recovery: Protecting jobs, small, medium-sized enterprises, and informal sector workers, (iv) Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration and (v) Social Cohesion and Community Resilience. The implementation of the Socio-Economic Response Framework (SERF) is monitored through a set of global indicators. The results for each pillar are reflected on the following page.



## 1. HEALTH FIRST



Protecting health services and systems

Number of people accessing essential (non-COVID-19 related) health services, disaggregated by sex, age group and at-risk populations, Number, Vaccination Programmes



869 831

people were accessing vaccination programmes

Whether the country is protecting health services and systems, Yes/No, with a set of core essential services to be maintained during the COVID-19 pandemic defined

- ✓ with a set of core essential services to be maintained during the COVID-19 pandemic defined - **Yes**
- ✓ with health sector policies informed by socio-economic impact assessment focused on at-risk populations being implemented - **Yes**
- ✓ with multisectoral mental health and psychosocial support technical working group - **Yes**

## 2. PROTECTING PEOPLE



Social protection and basic services

Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services



511 128

people received critical WASH services

Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning services



6 986 835

children were supported with distance learning

Whether the country has measures in place to address gender-based violence (GBV) during the COVID-19 pandemic

- ✓ Ensure access to justice build capacity of key services to prevent impunity - **Yes**
- ✓ Integrate violence prevention and response into COVID-19 response plans - **Yes**
- ✓ Provide options for women to report abuse and seek help without alerting perpetrators - **Yes**

### 3. ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY

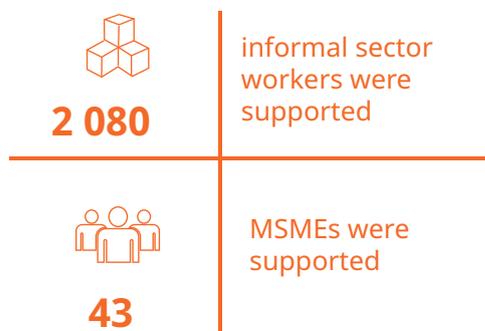


Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers

Whether the country reinforces UN supported employment policies and a regulatory environment conducive to economic recovery and decent work, especially in high-risk COVID sectors for, Yes/No, Women

- ✓ Own account workers and family workers (as proxy for informal workers) - **Yes**
- ✓ Women - **Yes**
- ✓ Workers with disabilities - **Yes**
- ✓ Youth (15-29) - **Yes**

Number of private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers as well as the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic



- ✓ Climate and environmentally sensitive - **Yes**
- ✓ Gender responsive - **Yes**

### 4. MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION



Whether the country undertook socio-economic impact assessments in response to the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on vulnerable groups, directed at-risk populations, Yes/No, Macro-meso economic needs assessment

- ✓ Macro-meso economic needs assessment - **Yes**
- ✓ Gender sensitive impact assessments - **Yes**
- ✓ Human impact needs assessment for at risk populations - **Yes**
- ✓ Labour market impact assessment - **Yes**
- ✓ Multi-sectoral and sectoral needs assessment - **Yes**

Whether the country is implementing policies informed by socio-economic impact assessment, directed at-risk populations, Yes/No

- ✓ Social Protection Policy - **Yes**
- ✓ Labour market policies, including food security assessment - **Yes**
- ✓ Socio-economic policy including employment - **Yes**
- ✓ Women's empowerment policy - **Yes**

## 5. ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY



Community-based organisations capacitated to respond to and mitigate the pandemic, fight against COVID-19 related domestic violence, racism, xenophobia, stigma, and other forms of discrimination, prevent and remedy human rights abuses, Number, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)



**3**

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)



**16**

Women's organisations



**4**

Community organisation representing other at-risk population



**1**

Youth organisations



**16**

Religious community organisations

Number of social dialogues, advocacy and political engagement spaces facilitated with participation of at-risk populations and groups, Number, National at national and sub-national level



**3**

National social dialogue spaces



**2**

Sub-national advocacy and political engagement spaces



**200**

Sub-national social dialogue spaces

## 2.2. Cooperation framework priorities and delivering for results

In keeping with the principles of the CF i.e., localising the UN support, the UN expanded its footprints in the districts and jointly implemented activities. One of the key activities which showcases a UN led multi-sectoral response was the KwaZulu-Natal Emergency Response Plan and medium to long-term implementation plan to address the impact and underlying causes of the unrest that took place in July 2021.

The UN response included:

- Implementation of UN-led projects valued at \$2 million.
- A Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the unrest to inform provincial and national responses.
- An Emergency Response Plan that addresses the impacts of the unrest as well as a medium-term implementation framework focusing on the underlying developmental challenges facing the province.

This is evidence of the UN's adaptability during times of crisis. In 2021, the UN continued to provide support to the Government in all three spheres, including the national and the provincial levels. The results of the support provided in the different strategic areas of work at these different levels is presented below.



Waste workers in PPE at Vaalpark

## Strategic Priority 1: Inclusive, Just and Sustainable Economic Growth



**Outcomes:** 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; By 2025, South Africa’s primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are more productive, diversified, sustainable and employment-intensive

### Towards an inclusive green economy

The UN strengthened the capacity of 35 policy makers in the National Treasury and other Government entities on the use of a green jobs macroeconomic model (E3ME) to assess and better plan for social and employment outcomes of COVID-19 recovery and interlinked climate policies. The training included local government officials from the O.R. Tambo and Waterberg district municipalities.

The UN also enhanced the capacity of Government officials on the application of innovative labour-intensive approaches in the design of infrastructure projects thereby facilitating access to the Presidential Economic Stimulus Package (PES). The Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency received R554 million in PES funding for a project targeting an estimated 25 000 work opportunities, while the tourism sector designed a R90 million project attracting PES funds with a target of creating 2600 work opportunities through labour intensive works (rehabilitation of dongas, fencing etc).

To promote women’s participation and leadership in green industries, the UN strengthened the capacity of Government to mainstream gender in green industrial policies. The support provided by the UN included the assessment of policy priority areas for gender mainstreaming in green industries and gender mainstreaming capacity support to women in the private sector.

### Harnessing ICT and technological innovation

The UN strengthened national capacity on innovative skills related to the circular economy, targeting Government at national and local levels, SMMEs including women-owned businesses, private sector and local NGOs. Government entities targeted for capacity support include the three DDM pilot districts of Waterberg, eThekweni and OR Tambo. In eThekweni, a Community of Practice was established as a result of the training provided.

The UNCT facilitated capacity support to 13 SMME network operators to enable them to deploy and operate Television White Space networks and affordable internet in rural and township communities. Four of the 13 SMME networks are operational, and combined these SMMEs have recruited an additional 43 employees on a full-time or part-time basis. To date, 470 households have been connected to the internet, 4.640 daily concurrent users in public hot spots and 56 small businesses connected to the internet as a result of this initiative.

### Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

The UN has partnered with ITU to support Government’s efforts to promote Digital Skills for Youth for Decent Jobs with a particular focus on youth not in employment, education or training (NEET). Through this partnership, the UN strengthened Government capacity for the drafting of the National Digital and Future Skills Strategy (2021-2025) and implementation programme for the strategy that was adopted in 2021.

Within the context of the DDM initiative, the UN strengthened the capacity of the Municipal Districts of OR Tambo and Waterberg to facilitate digital skills training for NEETS. Informed by a prior digital skill needs rapid assessment, the digital skills training was facilitated for a total number of 147 youth NEET (96 female and 51 male) focusing on basic digital literacy, the basics of artificial intelligence, internet of things, programming of drones and other entry level knowledge of the 4IR.

The UN produced a report based on a rapid assessment of reskilling and upskilling needs arising from effects of the COVID-19 crisis in South Africa. The rapid assessment aimed to identify skills needs arising from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to identify the needs of specific sectors of the labour force. The study and its findings have been included in the publication of the National Department of Higher Education and Training’s Research Bulletin on Post-School Education and Training and will be used to address sector specific skills and labour needs.

## Transition from informal to formal economy

The UN produced a publication on barriers to formalisation based on a diagnostic and gender sensitive review of the impact of policies, laws, regulations, and support programmes on the registration, formalisation and development of informal economic units. Additionally, the publication considered the impact of COVID-19 on the informal business sector. The findings will inform the review of existing policies addressing barriers to formalisation.

The UN strengthened the capacity of over 60 extension officers and 480 women smallholder farmers in the Limpopo and the Free State provinces in the adoption of climate smart agriculture skills and inclusive value chains. This contributed to increased productivity and climate resilience. The support facilitated market linkages for the smallholder women farmers.

The UN supported the issuing of 99 small business grants to refugees, asylum-seekers and South African nationals affected by the protests in KwaZulu-Natal Province in July 2021. The UN also provided entrepreneurship training, mentoring and support to 424 business owners, guidance on business market opportunities to 237 individuals, as well as support to businesses in complying with by-laws and business regulations. A total of 576 individuals received training on life skills for livelihood purposes. During the reporting period, 28 individuals were registered at job placement agencies and 17 were placed in formal and informal employment.

The UN provided capacity building to 255 women entrepreneurs from Blouberg and Musina municipalities to advance their businesses. Additionally, 171 entrepreneurs benefited from post training coaching and mentoring that ensured that the action plans developed by the entrepreneurs are effectively implemented.

730 women entrepreneurs benefited from digital literacy that allowed them to advertise their businesses and enhance marketing as well as limit the transportation costs. 375 women entrepreneurs were supported to register with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) as well as the South Africa Revenue Services. This enabled them to transact in Government businesses as well as access other services that require business registration.



## Social Protection

The UN strengthened Government capacity to undertake actuarial valuations to inform the policy options for a sustainable National Social Security Fund (NSSF). The findings and recommendations of the actuarial report are being used for the Green Paper on comprehensive social security reforms.

Through the UN's convening power, an Expert Panel on the Basic Income Grant (BIG) was constituted to develop an evidence based technical paper on the BIG that was launched by the Minister of Social Development as part of a series of policy engagements. The purpose of these engagements is to find solutions to the challenges facing South Africa's social security system. The UN also produced a research report on options for social insurance for the informal sector focusing on women and youth in South Africa. The study recommends the establishment of contributory insurance schemes that offer once off pay-outs.

As part of its responsibilities to respond to the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on Social and Economic Rights, the UN developed the first approved multidimensional poverty tool for children with Statistics South Africa, which will serve as the country's baseline in its reporting to the UN on the achievement of the SDGs. Furthermore, through work with civil society, the UN provided support in the development of the Decent Standard of Living index, which responds, in part, to the recommendation of the UN for the GOSA to develop a composite standards of living index. Finally, the National Planning Commission (NPC) is presently considering the adoption of a UN report, which tracks the progress made on key elements within the country's Social Protection Floor. The evidence in this report is one of the tools that will be used to define the social protection floor priorities over the medium term.

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## Women entrepreneurship and economic inclusion

The UN has partnered with GoSA to address the structural barriers faced by women owned enterprises/businesses that prevent them from participating in the economy, Government and private sector procurement. Government put in place an Emergency Plan which focuses on among other areas, economic empowerment of women with the aim to facilitate economic opportunities and interventions that seek to address women's economic vulnerability.

The UN partnered with the National Procurement Task Force which includes sector government stakeholders, financial institutions, private sector institutions to increase the awareness of 1 145 WOE and entrepreneurs to improve their businesses and access public procurement opportunities and state financing. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Presidential Task Team, the UN hosted a series of workshops on the Empowerment of WOBs which benefited 149 women entrepreneurs in South Africa.

## Financial Expenditure

Expenditure contribution to Strategic Pillar 1 in 2021	% of total UN expenditure
USD 6 697 830	17%



## Strategic Priority 2: Human Capital and Social Transformation



**Outcomes:** By 2025, all people in South Africa, particularly vulnerable and marginalised populations, enjoy improved health, nutrition, and well-being. By 2025, all children and young people in South Africa have equitable access to quality education relevant to a changing society. By 2025, all people in South Africa, especially women and girls, vulnerable and marginalised populations, are protected from violence and discrimination

### Health and Well-Being

The UN continued to support the Government in its response to the pandemic. The areas of support included coordination and technical advice, health systems readiness, vaccine roll-out and the continuity of essential services and health systems strengthening.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the national and provincial response plans and various SOPs</li> <li>• Conducted IARs to identify best practices and f areas requiring improvement.</li> <li>• Technical support to the MAC and Incident Management Teams</li> <li>• Coordination between various stakeholders in Government UN and development partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of minimum patient safety, IPC, and OHS standards in all health facilities</li> <li>• Conducted assessment of Case management and Clinical Governance structures to develop context specific actions plans</li> <li>• Trainings and skills transfer IPC/Case Management - over 550 IPC experts and Health workers trained.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1. Coordination and Technical Advise</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Health System readiness (IPC, Case management)</b></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the National Vaccine deployment and roll out plan</li> <li>• Ongoing technical assistance to MAC on vaccines including on population prioritisation and vaccine equity</li> <li>• Capacity building of the key national and programme staff in vaccine planning roll out.</li> <li>• Behavioural change communication and cold chain management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of continuity of EHS in the provincial plans and coordination structures</li> <li>• Developed Guidance for maintaining essential health services during COVID-19</li> <li>• Supported Program managers to develop a catch-up plans for restoration of essential health services</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Vaccine Roll out support</b></p> 	<p><b>4. Continuity of Essential Health services</b></p> 

The UN has provided policy advice and technical support to the six work streams of the National Health Insurance (NHI) War Room and nine pillars of the Presidential Health Compact in the Office of the Presidency. The policy advice was focused on: strategic purchasing and financing for NHI, quality improvement and development of accreditation standards, health workforce development and access to quality essential medicines and health financing.

The UN in partnership with the National Department of Health trained over 800 facility managers and quality improvement focal points on the National Health Quality Improvement Plan. The training substantially improved capacity of field staff and improved their knowledge about the NHQIP. As part of the Joint Technical and M&E committee (JTMEC), the UN guided the process of monitoring the implementation of the Presidential Health Compact. As a result, an M&E framework has been developed and fully endorsed.

The UN supported a successful funding application to the Global Fund which secured GoSA and national partners \$537 million in funding for AIDS response. The UN Joint Team on AIDS also worked closely with the US Government PEPFAR Programme to secure \$470 million in funding for efficient implementation of AIDS response initiatives. The Joint Team supported the development and establishment of the strategy for the SANAC Private Sector Forum (SANAC-PSF), the development of an HIV investment case, and the National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA).

Training of health workers was undertaken at district and facility level to build their capacity in the implementation of the new DTG-based guidelines to improve access to HIV testing, linkage to care, ART initiation, retention and mental health, viral load testing and reporting with a focus on those left behind. Project Ritshidze supported the development and roll out of Community-Led Monitoring in 400 high-burden facilities. This flagship model has been used to inform development of similar models in the country and beyond. The UN has continued to provide technical support and guidance to the Masoyise Health Programme that facilitated access to HIV Testing Services and TB screening in 73 mining companies and training on Occupational Lung Diseases.

The UN, together with the Witwatersrand (Wits) University Health Consortium, provided technical support to NDoH to produce age disaggregated data for children and adolescents utilising the NHLS (National Health Laboratory Service) data base. In addition, Wits has developed and produced results for action (RfA) reports which notifies health care workers of abnormal blood results for children and adults. The UN will continue to strengthen and measure the impact of the reports on the quality of care.

The UN in partnership with Mothers2Mothers provided technical support to the Department of Health for the scale-up of a peer mentor model for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) to increase the uptake of HIV testing and treatment, prevent MTCT and retain AGYW and their infants in care. Up to date, the programme has been implemented across seven districts in three provinces: Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo Province.

To strengthen the health system, the UN provided 70 200 pieces of PPEs to the national and provincial hospitals consisting of N95 respirators, nitrile examination gloves, disposable coveralls and disposable aprons to protect health care workers from contracting the virus in order to keep the system running. The UN also purchased 15 Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) autoclaves for sterilising packs within the normal hospital environment.

### Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

The UN strengthened capacity in the provision of quality, integrated Adolescent and Youth Friendly information and services, including SRHR/HIV/GBV to ensure young people and key populations are not left behind in the Eastern Cape and KZN. Over 70 health facilities benefited from this initiative.

The UN also capacitated 2 208 young people (AGWY, youth with disabilities, and LGBTI) on knowledge and skills on SRHR, HIV, and GBV. 10 632 young people were provided with integrated SRHR, HIV and GBV services. Some of the services provided were FP, inclusive of long acting, STI screening, HIV testing and screening. Most facilities ensure that they provide integrated services in their consultation rooms.

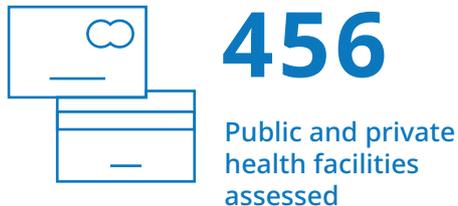
The UN undertook a number of activities in fulfilling its role of advocacy as well as generating appropriate policy responses. 'Girls Talk' videos commissioned by the UN during the commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child were noteworthy, as they covered topics such as the right to access to comprehensive sexuality education, prevention of EUP, GBV, substance abuse, access to SRHS including menstrual hygiene and commodities. The videos were posted on digital platforms of the DBE and reached up to 6 000 people. Additionally, the UN supported virtual inter-generational 'Let's Talk EUP' dialogues on early and unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence and substance abuse during lockdown targeting learners across the nine provinces.

The UN supported Government-led stakeholder consultations on adolescent sexual and reproductive health. These engagements renewed the Government’s commitments to the East and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment on Education, Health and Well-Being of adolescents and young people. Through these efforts, South Africa’s Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) of the National AIDS Council (SANAC) approved the endorsement of the ESA Commitment for the period 2021-2030. In collaboration with the NDoH, a national perception study was conducted to identify barriers and facilitators to access condoms and consistent condom use.

Figure 4: Key statistics on UN health and well-being



On infection prevention and control/ case management through remote and in-person sessions



Using the IPCAT to review adherence to IPC measures and recommend plan of action



To eight provinces to support national COVID-19 response



To facilitate Go.Data rollout and improve quality of outbreak data



To eight provinces to support national COVID-19 response



One national and eight provincial in-depth review of responses that identified gaps, challenges and made recommendations to improve and sustain best practices



## Education

### Early Childhood Development

In 2021, 90 197 ECD practitioners and foundation phase teachers/facilitators (Grade R to 3) were engaged in the UN-funded P.L.A.Y online in-service training. This accredited online in-service training aims to strengthen teachers' skills and knowledge in implementing the play-based learning, in line with the National Framework for Children (NCF). Foundation phase teachers/facilitators demonstrated a high level of interest with a total of 85 919 new enrolments during 2021 and 33 307 completions.

The UN supported a Foundation Phase Initiative (FPI) on manipulatives for learning in Free State, Gauteng and Eastern Cape. This initiative necessitated an adjustment in planning and implementation due to the pandemic. Despite constraints faced, 72 district and provincial officials received training as trainers in the FPI as to ensure the long-term sustainability of the programme. In addition, 4 206 foundation phase teachers/facilitators received training across five districts in the Free State, Gauteng and Eastern Cape.

Through its partnership with DSD, DBE and the LEGO Foundation, the UN distributed an integrated strategy on Early Childhood Development titled Tshwaragano ka Bana (working together for children). This strategy reached 211 095 young children through 142 374 parents.

### Education for Health and Well-Being

To ensure safer, healthier and inclusive schools, the UN supported the development of the Learner Pregnancy Prevention and Management Policy Implementation Plan. The plan details the roles and responsibilities of the DBE, Provincial Departments of Education, districts, schools and educational partners in the delivery of care, counselling and support for learners in the case of pregnancy.

The UN supported DBE in the capacitation of educators and Gauteng Province District Coordinators in the implementation and roll out of Scripted Lesson Plans (SLP) on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). The Plans were subsequently converted to audio files for radio to maximise reach during the pandemic.

The UN supported the adoption of CSE in institutions of Higher Learning. Furthermore, the UN supported a CSE Audit in 26 universities across the country. The CSE Audit assessed the extent to which CSE is implemented for students to inform advocacy and mobilisation of Deans of Education for the inclusion of CSE in the qualification for Bachelor of Education.

The UN is working in partnership with six universities in South Africa to support the introduction of a pre-service CSE module for student educators in universities.

The UN continued its support to ECD programmes which struggled to become fully operational after the looting during the civil unrests in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. The UN supported Government interventions at the national level through the ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Fund (ECD-ESRF), which is supported by the Presidential Employment Stimulus, and as such it continued to disburse funding (ZAR 496 million to assist the sector) in aid of the ECD workforce.

During the year 1,889,057 parents viewed the DBE's TV open view channel which provide information supporting their children's learning in Grades R to 4 during COVID-19 lockdowns. The UN, together with the DBE, Childline and the Psychological Association of South Africa, assisted in the provision of psychosocial support interventions for learners and teachers. This was to ensure the effective implementation of back to school/reopening programme through the conventional models.

The UN provided ongoing technical and financial support to the DBE which facilitated access to learning opportunities in early childhood development programmes as well as the primary and secondary levels. 5,969,080 children were reached through this initiative.

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

The UN supported the provision of online textbooks for mathematics and science which were developed to improve results. A total of 757 230 learners in grades 10 and 11 were reached through this initiative. A total 22 215 grades 10, 11 and 12 learners and teachers accessed online learning and teaching materials aligned with the CAPS.

### Generation Unlimited (GenU)

Significant progress was made towards the realisation of GenU objectives. A Landscape Analysis, Country Investment Agenda, Draft Governance Structure was developed. Government, academic institutions, private sector partners and development agencies participated in the development of the Country Investment Agenda by participating in Country Road Map Development Workshop and Forums. At least 13 4 million young people were reached through Gen U. These include adolescents and youth who participated in UN supported online learning platform.



## Protection from Violence and Discrimination

### Elimination of Violence Response

The UN has strengthened efforts aimed at increasing GBV awareness. This, coupled with the increased contact meetings between the SAPS and communities, has resulted in a decrease in some of the sexual offences, especially rape cases in all provinces. 9% (903 rape cases) decrease in rape cases was recorded in the third quarter of the 2021/2022.

To ensure sustainability, the UN has increased the capacity to address GBV at local level. Local government departments now have greater capacity to plan and strategise to address GBVF in their communities following support provided by the UN to review the GBV emergency referral system. For example, the O.R. Tambo District in the Eastern Cape established a rapid response team and developed an Emergency Referral pathway for victims and survivors of GBV. This has notably increased the speed with which victims of gender-based violence are assisted in the district. This has also promoted intense prevention modalities through co-creation of organic solutions in partnership with communities.

The UN also strengthened the capacity of duty bearers by providing technical support to the GoSA in preparation for the CEDAW Constructive Dialogue and the country's reporting on the normative framework. This resulted in South Africa's successful presentation of a quality report to the CEDAW Committee in a timely manner. The UN has continued to provide technical support, facilitation, and coordination of the collaborative platforms for the implementation of the NSP and this has resulted in the development of the Comprehensive National Prevention Strategy (CNPS) which seeks to strengthen Government's response.

Law enforcement agencies were also capacitated with at least 50 police and investigating officers in the Western Cape now having increased knowledge and capacity on GBV prevention and response during COVID-19 after receiving training using IASC GBV in emergency guidelines. This training was supported by the UN.

The UN has also continued to produce evidence and knowledge on GBVF to influence policy and programming. This entails:

- Development of toolkits to capacitate various stakeholders on violence against women and girls (VAWG) and violence against women and children (VAWC)
- Documentation of the impact of COVID-19 on GBV through women's lived experiences
- A national GBV survey is underway with support from the UN – training of data collectors, pilot testing the questionnaire, field preparation activities, sampling and printing of sampling maps were completed by the end of 2021.
- Feedback mechanisms with beneficiaries of services initiated for insight and quality assurance (U- Report, Volunteer Programme at Institutions of learning)

To support the use of social media as a medium of improving coordination, a multi-disciplinary Rapid Results communication platform with participants including provincial and local officials, RRI team leaders and members, NGOs, district shelter coordinators, district social workers, the UN, NPA, DoJ, DoH, Office of the Premier of Eastern Cape, Department of Safety, SAPS & municipalities who are piloting the Rapid Results Institute (RRI) was formed. The UN additionally assisted in introducing a different collaborative way of handling GBV cases inspiring the development of emergency response protocol for handling of cases coming through this medium and other digital platforms.

The UN also provided technical support to the Mokopane TCC through the DDM. The focus of the support was on strengthening coordination mechanisms amongst all key partners of the TCC. This includes improving data collection analysis and packaging of age/sex disaggregated data as well as strengthening referral mechanisms. The support also strengthens key elements of provision of quality SRHR/HIV/GBV integrated services while building capacity of service providers.

Using the TCC data review mechanisms, the UN supported community engagements on prevention and response to gender-based violence targeting specific audiences and influencers. A community dialogue facilitation guide and technical tools for male engagement are being utilised to improve engagement in the community.

The UN provided technical assistance to DSAC in conducting a review of the 2012 Social Cohesion Strategy and developing and implementing a new strategy for 2021-2024. A key stakeholder consultative meeting was held with 29 government representatives, 49 civil society partners, and 19 private sector partners to inform the strategy.

The UN also provided technical assistance to DSAC to develop peacebuilding, mediation, and conflict resolution training materials. 234 local peace builders (129 women, 97 men, eight non-binary) from five provinces (Gauteng, KZN, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Western Cape) were trained in preventing and mitigating conflict as well as dealing with the scourge of violence affecting South Africa. The training in KZN and Gauteng were prioritised following the largest civil unrest in July 2021.

The UN also developed a draft early warning system with DSAC to help detect and mitigate the triggers of conflicts. The framework has been circulated for wider inputs by social partners.

The UN also raised awareness and promoted positive narratives using socio-cultural approaches, community dialogues, community outreach, mainstream media including newspapers, commercial and community radio stations and social media. During the reporting period, more than 900 000 people were reached.

The UN has strengthened the capacity of duty bearers and communities to address violence in schools - UN supported collaborative interventions with Government to strengthen parenting programmes and prevent school -based violence. The UN in collaboration with Advocacy Aid supported the DoE to develop a protocol to eliminate unfair discrimination in all 23 000 public schools in the country.

The UN provided capacity support to GoSA for the ratification of the Convention Concerning the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work, 2019 (No. 190). Furthermore, the UN also supported the GoSA towards the formulation of a new Code of Good Practice for the Elimination and Prevention of Harassment in the workplace, aligned with provisions of Convention 190. The Minister of Employment and Labour will publish the Code for implementation in March 2022.

The UN continued to support South Africa's implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) through a joint project on migration funded by the MPTF with a view to achieve social cohesion and address issues of xenophobia, hate speech and racism in the country.

The UN, through SANAC men sector, is working with traditional leaders and men in Parliament to launch a gender equality programme in the 882 traditional courts, addressing GBV/HIV, access to land for women and addressing unpaid care work from a community perspective.

## Support on elimination of discrimination

The UN undertook a number of activities in fulfilling its role of advocacy as well as generating appropriate policy responses. Towards this end, the UN commissioned a documentary on the stories of the survivors of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre for the commemoration of International Day for the Elimination for the Racial Discrimination (IDERD). Furthermore, the UN ran a #FightRacism campaign which generated a significant outreach with 112K impressions on the OHCHR ROSA's Twitter account.

The UN organised an interactive dialogue with young people in Sharpeville on the theme "Youth Standing up Against Racism/Youth Standing Up for Human Rights." The event aimed to solicit innovative ways in which the youth can get involved in actions and policies for overcoming racial discrimination.

The UN in collaboration with Constitution Hill South Africa and the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation hosted a Live/virtual panel discussion by young people on elimination of racial discrimination. The theme "Racism in a post-apartheid era," enabled participants to draw lessons from the past, address current challenges and identify the role of young people in addressing racism and discrimination as well as promoting civic engagement and social change.

The UN commissioned a stocktaking exercise to increase knowledge of relevant national laws, policies, and practices as well as to identify challenges in alternatives to imprisonment with a specific focus on women. This exercise resulted in the adoption of a pilot model on gender-responsive measure for women in conflict with the law and in the development of a handbook on Gender Responsive, Non-Custodial Measures for Women in Conflict with the Law, based on the global tools and standards.

To strengthen interventions aimed at protecting LGBTIQ+ learners, the UN provided funding for the development of Guidelines for the Social Inclusion of Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, and Sexual Characteristics in Schools (SOGIESC). These guidelines are aimed at supporting schools in ensuring a non-discrimination and non-stigmatisation of LGBTIQ+ learners through the creation of safe learning spaces that cater to the needs of the learners. In addition, the UN supported the multi-government anti-bullying campaign launched by the DoE in partnership with DoJ, DSD, DCDT and SAPS targeting schools.

## Financial Expenditure

Expenditure contribution to Strategic Pillar 2 in 2021	% of total UN expenditure
USD 26 371 517	67%

## Strategic Pillar 3: Efficient, effective and transformative governance



**Outcome 3.1: By 2025, women and marginalised groups participate meaningfully in decision-making processes and access justice.**

**Outcome 3.2: By 2025, state institutions deliver effective public services to all and oversight bodies are strengthened**

### Supporting Electoral Democracy

The UN collaborated with the IEC to strengthen the electoral capacity of electoral institutions and stakeholders to ensure free and fair election processes and results. A seminar on Promoting and Preserving the Integrity of the 2021 Municipal Elections during the State of Disaster was held and brought together 30 stakeholders from the Government, academia, and political parties and UN. The UN also provided financial support for training of observers in four provinces (Free State, Gauteng, Western Cape, and Eastern Cape) to enhance their capacity to monitor free and fair electoral process.

To promote civic education and encourage registration and voting, the UN supported four theatre plays called "Democracy on Stage". These plays reached 850 community members. This activity reached over 2 million citizens and allowed for robust engagement on 17 public TV segments, six radio slots, four digital newspaper articles, and two public debates.

### Justice

The UN provided support to SADC in the development of a Model Law on GBV. The model law is critically important in ensuring access to justice for women and other GBV survivors.

### Rights

The UN provided technical assistance to the South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEI) on the promotion and protection of human rights. The UN also supported SAJEI in the organisation of a series of workshops for magistrates in South Africa during August 2021, on family court skills in relation to GBVF. This included capacity enhancement of the judiciary to tackle gender stereotyping and encouraging judicial activism on GBV and sexual and reproductive rights.

The UN, in collaboration with the DoJCD, provided technical support to strengthen the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC). The UN also

provided support to the IDC on State party reporting to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Report.

Technical support and advisory services were provided to South Africa with the preparation of a state report on International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). The work also included follow-up reports on the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). As a result of the UN's technical support and guidance, state reports on ICERD and follow-up reports on CAT and the ICESCR were duly submitted to the relevant treaty bodies. Advisory support and technical guidance were also provided by the UN through the preparation of a state report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 4<sup>th</sup> cycle.

The UN has also worked with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to advance the work of the National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM). The UN supported a conference aimed at taking stock of South Africa's implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), by bringing together NPMs to share lessons and best practice on how NPMs have managed to adapt their operations within the context of the COVID-19. The outcomes of the conference resulted in the adoption of several significant recommendations and proposal by the NPMs to strengthen the protection of persons deprived of their liberties.

The UN collaborated with Amnesty International and enhanced the capacity of organisations working on the rights of persons with albinism under the auspices of the Albinism Task Force to advance the rights of persons with albinism. The UN also collaborated with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism to provide technical support to the Albinism Task Force towards the development of a National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Albinism.

The UN in collaboration with the South African Disability Alliance (SADA), organised training for organisations of persons with disabilities in which the capacity of 20 national disability organisations was strengthened to monitor implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the aim of advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The UN worked in partnership with the Community Advice Office of South Africa (CAOSA) to safeguard the rights of vulnerable populations and promote social cohesion. This resulted in 7 582 people (4 318 women and 3 264 men) accessing legal aid services and a total of 9,500 vulnerable people (5 551 women and 3 947 men) receiving support to access human rights protection services such as assistance with labour disputes, discrimination at work and at health facilities and access to primary residences in the case of family evictions.

### Public Administration and Transparency

The UN provided capacity building for 10 officials from NPA, the Financial Intelligence Centre and SARS on asset management. The training aimed at strengthening knowledge of the national legal and institutional frameworks for the management of criminal assets that are frozen, restrained, seized, or forfeited under relevant national legislation.

The UN also developed the Asset Management Manual for South Africa to assist national policymakers, legislators, and mandated Government agencies to establish and strengthen national legal and institutional frameworks for the management of criminal assets that are frozen, restrained, seized, or forfeited under relevant national legislation.

Sixteen officials from NPA, the Financial Intelligence Centre, SARS and SAPS received capacity building from the UN on countering cash courier and smuggling. The workshop put emphasis on cash smuggling and its role within the spheres of money laundering. At the end of the training, all the officials reported increased knowledge that will change their work approach in handling cases of cross-border cash smuggling.

The UN also conducted training in partnership with DPSA on risk-based verification of asset disclosures. The training seminar was attended by 40 ethics officers from national departments. The training equipped the participants with the necessary skills to conduct risk-based methods for detecting illicit enrichment.

### Improving Service Delivery

The UN partnered with the Provincial Government of the Eastern Cape to conduct a scenario planning exercise to explore a socio-economic recovery route and options and imagine different possible futures. This is part of the Building State Capability project with the view of strengthening the capacity of the public service to use data and evidence in planning and programme implementation.

As part of the support to the implementation of the DDM, under the priority of service delivery enhancement, the UN forged partnerships with relevant Government entities to assess the state of Thusong Service Centres. The initiative also aimed to develop an action plan for increased digitalisation, capacity development, and infrastructure support to revive these centres.

### Inclusion of Marginalised Groups

As a result of UN support, legislative quotas have been introduced in South Africa's law on Public Procurement. Women and Youth entrepreneurs are now entitled to 30% of all contracts commissioned by the GoSA.

The UN supported GoSA in drafting a rights-based National Labour Migration Policy (NLMP). The UN assisted with ensuring that the draft policy aligns with international instruments, the latest African Union guidelines on migration, relevant court judgements linked to migration and proposed amendments to the Employment Services Bill. The draft NLMP has been approved by Cabinet and will be published for public comment in February 2022.

### Inclusive and participatory governance

In 2021, the UN supported an evidence-led process driven by social partners to reposition the National Social Dialogue Institution (NEDLAC) to make it more effective and better fit for purpose within the context of the transformational changes impacting the world of work. As a consequence of this process, NEDLAC is currently reviewing its founding legislative framework to enable the reconfiguration of NEDLAC as an inclusive National Social Dialogue institution.

### Financial Expenditure

Expenditure contribution to Strategic Pillar 3 in 2021	% of total UN expenditure
USD 1 280 571	3%



## Strategic Pillar 4: Climate Resilience and Sustainably Managed Natural Resources



**Outcomes: 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; by 2025, natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods and well-being of vulnerable communities.**

### Climate Change

The UN capacitated vulnerable and marginalised communities on implementing climate-smart, energy- and capital-efficient agriculture interventions that promote household food and nutrition security in various parts of the country. The UN also enhanced water and food security in the Eastern Cape through the WEF nexus. This initiative allowed for the installation of five water reservoirs, provision of seedlings and training on climate-smart agriculture to five villages in which 50 households benefited.

The UN's assistance to 120 small-scale farmers in the Northern Cape enhanced stewardship within and by communities, translating to improved climate-smart livestock production, range land conditions. The lessons learnt and best practices documented from the pilot project provide a basis for replication of the Conservation Stewardship Agreements in other parts of the country. The UN supported 100 young women, who were unemployed owing to COVID, through the Young Women for Life Movement (YWfLM) in Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, in starting and sustaining enterprise in farming.

The UN promoted job creation in the Waste Management sector through the development of inclusive and sustainable recycling value chains which supported the integration of waste pickers and reclaimers into South Africa's recycling system and the promotion of waste separation at source (S@S) programmes. The UN convened monthly webinars and various workshops and trainings to empower waste pickers and reclaimers.

The UN supported the development of the African Green Stimulus Programme (AGSP) through AMCEN to support the continent's sustainable recovery in mitigating the devastating socio-economic and environmental impacts of the COVID-19. The implementation of the AGSP is expected to drive efforts to conserve, protect and enhance the resilience of the environment to avoid similar crises in future.

The UN supported and provided capacity and skills development for 200 Municipal Officials (Practitioners and Policymakers) in the following areas:

- Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA),
- Waste Management, and
- Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)

20 Online Dialogue, Awareness Campaigns, Sensitisations and Training Workshops were undertaken by the UN to raise awareness around climate change and climate change related topics such as informal waste integration.

The UN also capacitated vulnerable and marginalised communities on implementing climate-smart, energy- and capital-efficient agriculture interventions that promote household food and nutrition security in various parts of the country.

### Natural resources are managed and utilised sustainably for improved livelihoods

The UN supported 43 people (36 women and seven men) with information and skills to establish food gardens in their community. This was a crucial initiative as COVID 19 had adverse effects on many households in the communities. Improving food security at the household level is instrumental in ensuring access to nutritious food and as a source of income from produce. Embedded in this initiative is the deployment of innovative ways of motivating young people to engage in gardening/farming.

### Bridging Technology Gaps for a Green Economy

The UN has prepared a Perspectives on a Green Technology Gap Analysis Report. The study identifies existing needs and costs in the enabling environment required for the uptake of green technologies in the water, energy, and biodiversity sectors. The set of recommendations coming out of the report can be used to guide the development of a Technology Action Plan. Identifying and prioritising climate technology needs and enabling technology uptake are key steps for effective action on climate change.

### Econometrics Modelling on post COVID-19 Economic Recovery Options

The UN partnered with Cambridge Econometrics (CE) to conduct an econometric modeling analysis on post-COVID-19 economic recovery options for spending plans and multi sectoral impacts. The analysis offers an additional scenario with a 'green push', which includes measures such as increased investment in renewables and the decommissioning of coal power plants. The analysis found that green policies can promote economic growth, job creation and environmental sustainability. The results were shared with the Presidential Coordinating Commission on Climate Change (P4C) and will guide the National Planning Commission's work on 2050 Vision Pathways for Just Transition.

### Driving Green Business Development

The UN with DFFE hosted the 2021 Driving Force for Change II Youth Challenge. The Challenge was an opportunity for young entrepreneurs and green innovators to further develop early-stage entrepreneurial skills and competencies. It aimed to support the country's green economy development and create decent jobs for youth. From a total of 811 applications, 16 winners were selected in six different categories. Technical support including tailor-made mentoring and coaching will continue to be provided to the 16 winners throughout 2022.

The UN identified Climate Smart Agriculture as a Flagship Programme Initiative (FPI), a high-impact, scalable initiative to deepen its efforts and achieve transformative change. The initiative focuses on supporting women in agriculture to participate in decision-making fully and equally at all levels as necessary for the development of appropriate policy interventions.

### Financial Expenditure

Expenditure contribution to Strategic Pillar 4 in 2021	% of total UN expenditure
USD 4 986 899	13%





### 2.3. Key challenges in the implementation of the SDGs during 2021

#### Prosperity

The first challenge concerns ineffective inter-governmental coordination which impairs the formulation and impact of policies. Examples of Government strategies that have been impaired by coordination issues include the implementation of the National Employment Policy.

Businesses of refugees and migrant communities have not been eligible for Government relief schemes during the pandemic. Additionally, refugees and asylum seekers whose businesses were looted during the civil unrest were not eligible for Business Recovery Support packages, which created a humanitarian crisis. This necessitates robust advocacy efforts for the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in social protection programmes.

During the pandemic, the use of digital platforms to train young people in disadvantaged communities has been a challenge. A case in point was a training workshop facilitated by the UN in collaboration with Government. The workshop was intended to strengthen young people's business acumen for green entrepreneurship. A sizeable number of young people who had signed up for the training lacked sufficient data to stay online. The cost of data has always been prohibitive for unemployed youth.

#### People

UN work with NDoH, which was progressing with good speed was severely hindered by the protracted COVID-19 pandemic. Several planned events including capacity building sessions as well as field visits had to be cancelled. The lockdowns had a direct effect on service delivery outlets with challenges that lead to low uptake of services in health facilities. Furthermore, the movement restrictions and fears of contracting COVID-19 in health care facilities led to major reductions in the use of health services. This compromised continuity of care to integrated SRH/HIV and GBV services including access to termination of pregnancy. This is a major stumbling block in a country faced with 19% unmet need for family planning among women of reproductive age and where unsafe abortions accounts for over 50% of all abortions despite progressive laws.

Limited number of staff and staff turnover in the UN and NDoH were a major challenge which resulted in inadequate attention to some of the critical areas and in disruptions to the continuity of support and engagement. For programmes focused on NCDs, hepatitis, etc., there is inadequate funding from Government and other partners.





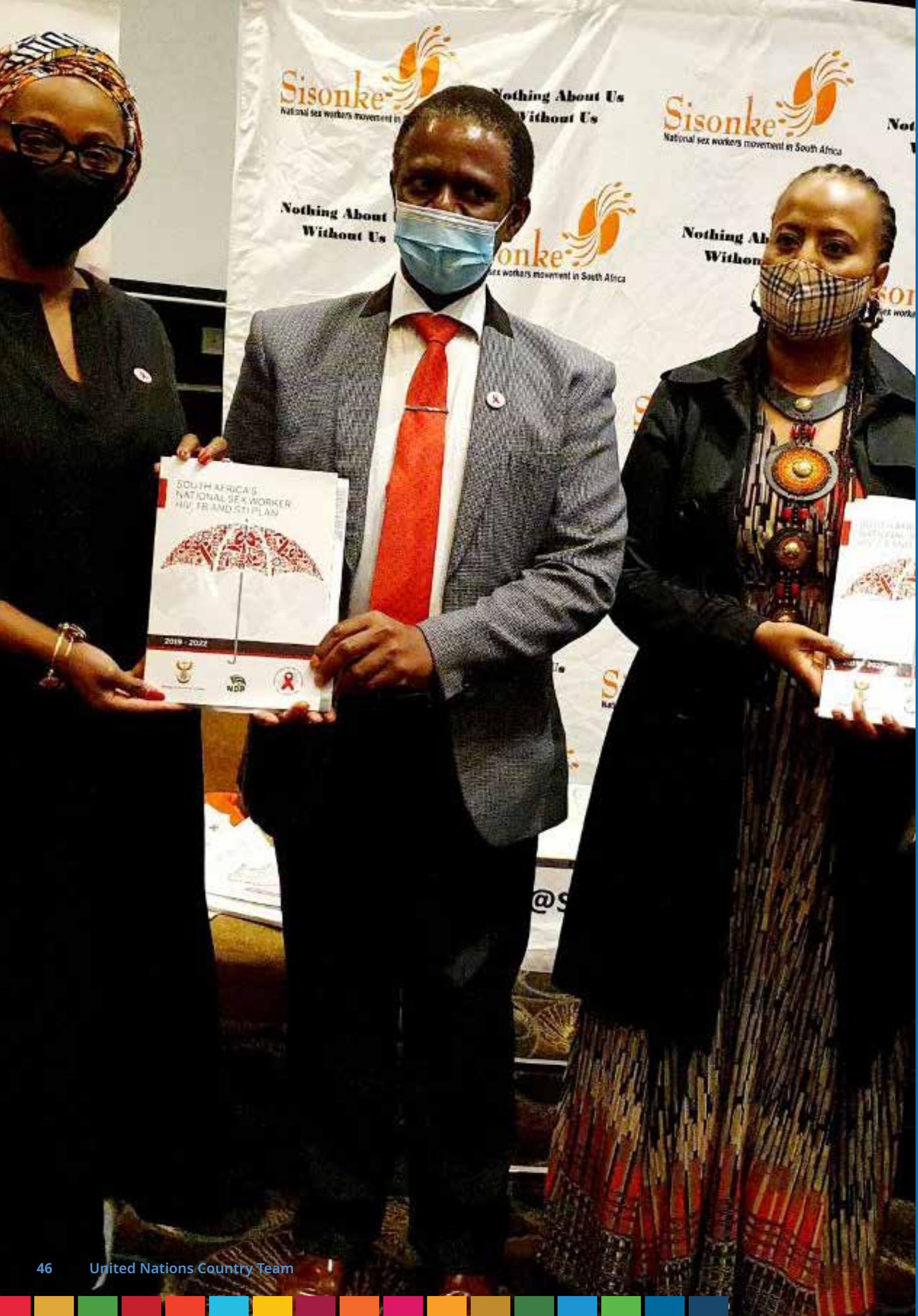
NDOH determines the variables to be collected as part of the National Indicator Dataset; and predominantly only age and geographical location are collected for immunisation and surveillance data. Efforts were made to advocate for more variables. However, there were concerns by the NDOH that additional variables would put an additional burden on health care workers who are collecting data. Emergency situations arising from COVID-19, civil unrest, and climate change negatively impacted programming, increased women and children's vulnerability to violence, and reduced community engagement and mobilisation activities. During those emergency situations, the UN conducted most meetings virtually. This led to the exclusion of some marginalised and vulnerable groups from participating and engaging due to lack of connectivity and data.

Emergency situations arising from COVID-19, civil unrest, and climate change negatively impacted programming, increased women and children's vulnerability to violence, and reduced community engagement and mobilisation activities. During those emergency situations, the UN conducted most meetings virtually. This led to the exclusion of some marginalised and vulnerable groups from participating and engaging due to lack of connectivity and data.

Teenage pregnancy remains a serious concern. The high reported rates of teenage pregnancy are a cause for concern as they pose risks for the teenage mothers, their babies, their families as well as communities. Teen mothers are more susceptible to having medical, social and emotional problems in comparison to adult mothers. High rates of teen pregnancy also affect the community's welfare as they increase the rate of school dropout, decrease graduation rates, and increase unemployment rate.

### Planet

Without effective adaptation, climate change has the potential to reverse South Africa's developmental gains and push millions of people further into poverty. The loss of life, land and livelihoods, against a backdrop of persistent poverty, displacement and other insecurities, triggers a desperate competition for scarce natural resources and further disadvantages vulnerable populations. In the past year, South Africa has witnessed floods in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, droughts in Northern Cape and wildfires in Western Cape. For this reason, responding to climate change requires comprehensive and integrated strategies that simultaneously address social, economic and environmental consequences.



## 2.4. Results of the UN working better together

### UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

UNCT South Africa has four result groups implementing the Cooperation Framework, with each result group having its own focus, namely: RG1 - Inclusive growth, RG2 - Working on human capital development, RG3 - Working on governance and RG4 - Climate change and natural resource management. During the drafting of the UNSDCF, these groups began by articulating the theory of change for each pillar. This process highlighted the synergies and complementarity of the different agency competencies which are critical in achieving the desired results. When the Joint Work Planning phase started, it was clear to all participating agencies that they were working towards results that could only be effectively achieved by drawing on the strengths and comparative advantages of each agency.

The process of developing the Joint Work Plan also brought together the participating agencies to jointly deliberate and design activities to which at least two or more would contribute collaboratively. The involvement of the Government in the design of Joint Work Plans worked well to ensure coherence with Government's development agenda in contributing to the identified strategic pillars. The design of the Joint Work Plans jointly with the Government, particularly those from the District Municipalities piloting the DDM, enabled the UN to present itself to the partners in one voice, and to reduce transaction costs.

UN Communications Group: Report on communication and advocacy in 2021. Predominantly, the communication and advocacy work of the UNCG during 2021 were centred on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with activities and events being hosted virtually. UNCG was responsible for the internal and external communication materials related to the pandemic. This included the production and procurement of educational materials on the pandemic as well as promotional messaging through partnerships the Verified and Zwakala campaigns.

The UNCG also provided communication support for the signing of an MOU between the UN in South Africa and COGTA for the implementation of the District Development Model. The UNCG produced and disseminated the media advisories and press releases, facilitated media interviews in various South African languages and facilitated interview requests as was required.

The UN undertook several activities in fulfilling its role of advocacy as well as generating appropriate policy responses in the fight against racism. The UNCG commissioned visual and print materials in commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Durban Declaration against Racism. The lessons learned from two social cohesion activists who participated in the production of the materials were shared with HQ and other countries to raise the voice against discrimination.

As part of the UN Day commemoration activities, the UNCG documented and published a week-long series of events organised in conjunction with GoSA. The system-wide communication showcased several projects supported by the UN in KwaZulu-Natal through the Emergency Response Plan following the civil unrest in July.

The UNCG also organised an annual media round-table, bringing together media executives and senior editors as well as UNCG and UNCT members to discuss the role of the media in encouraging vaccination. The UNCG built on the Verified and Pause campaign about how misinformation is a contributing factor to vaccine hesitancy among other issues.

### Business Operations Strategy

The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) which was signed off in March, represented an important step in the process of strengthening the coherence and harmonisation of the interventions of its agencies, funds, programs and entities in the country, for the strengthening of the strategic focus, coordination, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its business operations.

## 2.5. Evaluation and lessons learned

### Lessons Learned and Best Practices

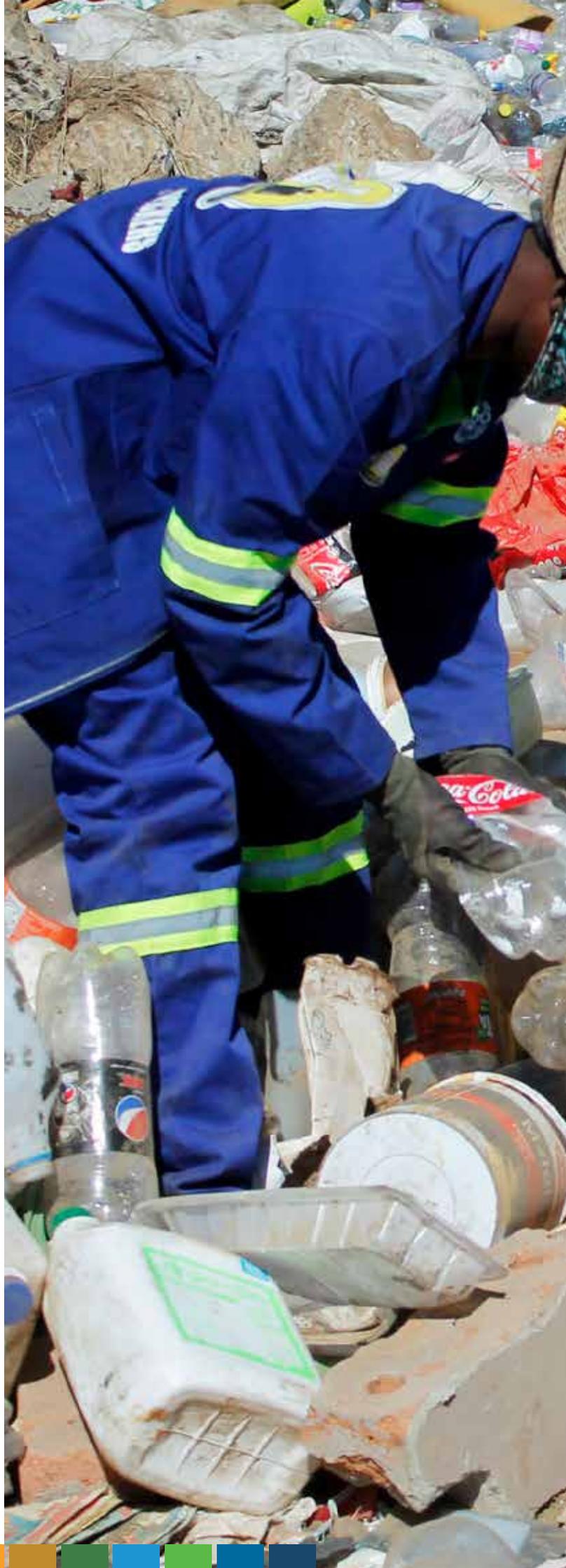
In the past few years, notably with COVID19, the UN has learned the importance of being able to adapt rapidly to an ever changing world that can be beset by crises. For example, ITC which is a non-resident agency, was able to find ways to overcome such problems and present solutions to continue delivering on time. The UN continues to assess the situation on the ground to re-adjust and modify the current portfolio to serve the country better.

The ability to nurture and foster adaptive approaches was crucial for successful programming in the emergency context. Examples of this include pro-activity in developing online content for children in the foundational stages, broadcasting messages about the pandemic on community radio stations and the to utilisation of social media for early learning and development.

For as long as uncertainties such as those brought by the lockdown regulations remain in place limiting face-to-face interactions, online training takes place. Whilst this has been mostly successful in more urban provinces with appropriate infrastructure and network connectivity to allow for these online sessions, there is a need to strengthen the digital structure to ensure that all provinces benefit. Unequal access to the internet risks exacerbating existing inequalities.

The leadership of the GoSA in the development of the CF was important in ensuring ownership of UN work in the country. The strong relationship nurtured during the CF development process further manifested in the joint implementation of the national COVID-19 response. In keeping with the principle of the UN Reforms which emphasise the shift from assistance to cooperation all UN work is integrated into the national plans and actions. This has also seen greater accountability of the UN Development System to Government and other national partners.

The ever-changing development context in the country has necessitated the UN Development System to be flexible and responsive to national circumstances. In this regard, the UNCT has kept the CF as its key implementation instrument by consistently updating it with the changes in the national context. Examples of this are the integration of COVID-19 into the CF as well as the ability of the Development System to respond to the civil unrests that occurred in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.







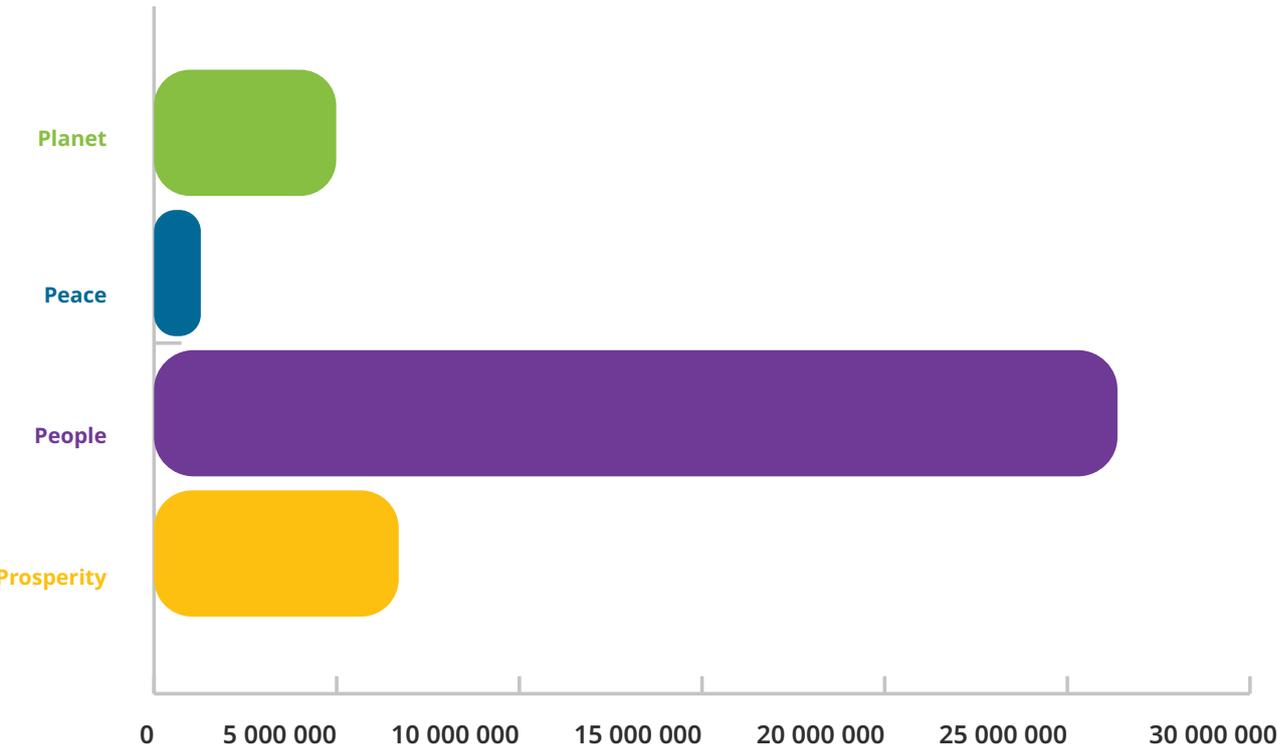
## 2.6. Financial Overview And Resource Mobilisations

On expenditure, the UN invested more resources in the people pillar, with approximately 69% of total expenditure going to the education, health, and eradication of violence responses. The UN expenditure rate across all the strategic pillars stood at 99% in 2021.

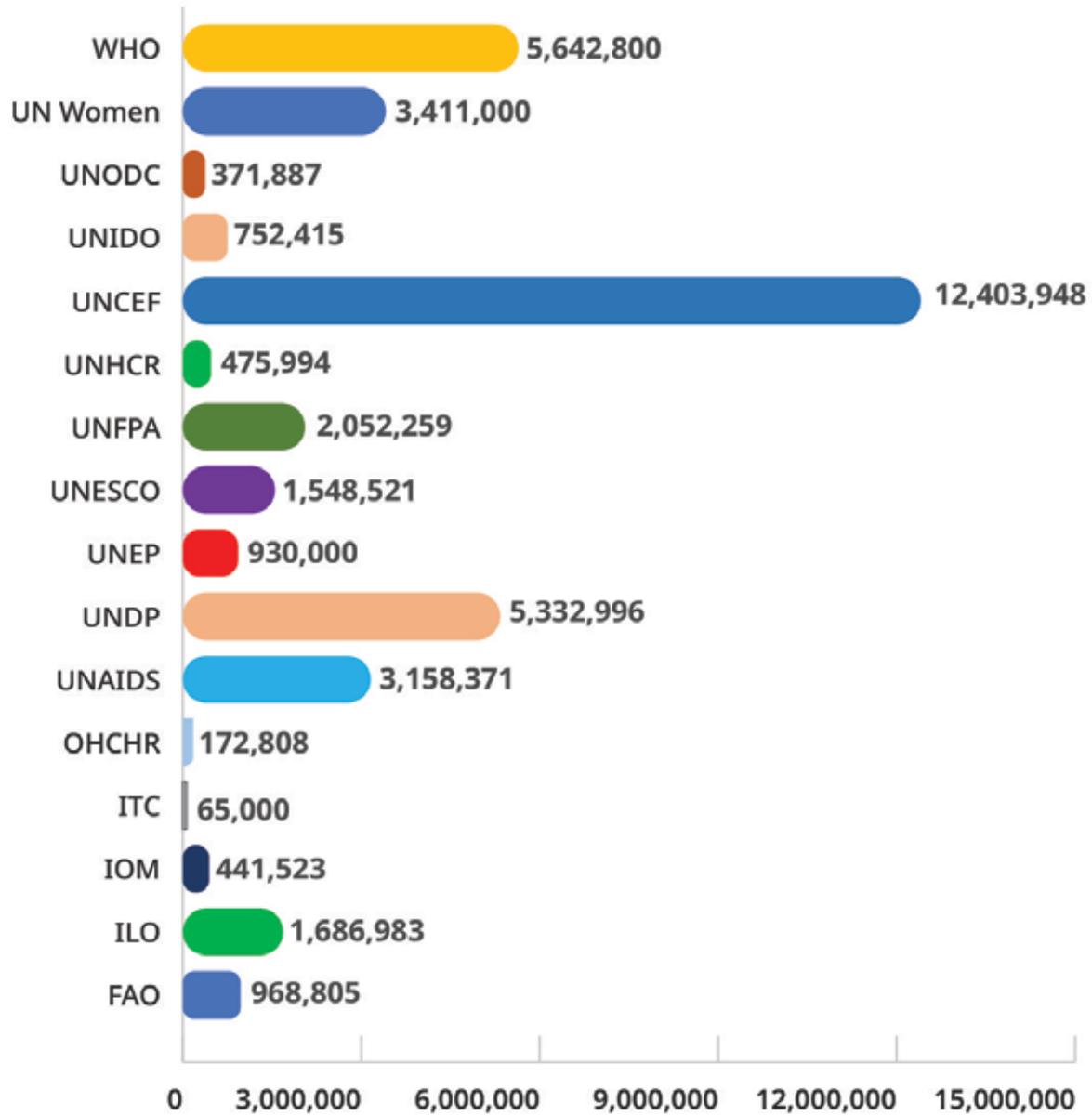
### Delivery rate of the JWPs for all Strategic Priorities

Total resources required	Available resources	Expenditure	Expenditure rate
\$41 322 619	\$39 667 982	\$39 415 309	99%

Expenditure per Pillar (in USD \$): 2021 Expenditure



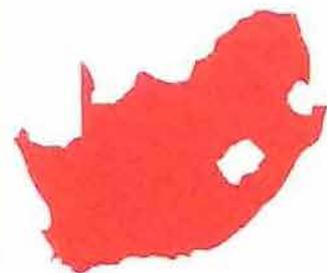
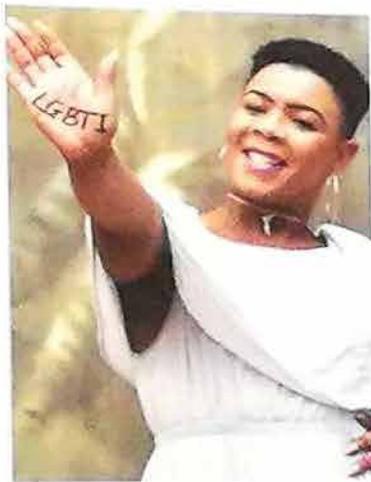
Expenditure per Agency (in USD \$)



# SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON

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### 3. UNCT key focus for 2022

In 2022, the UN Development System will continue to provide support to national COVID-19 recovery efforts. To this end, the UN's contribution has been integrated into the work of the four strategic priorities of the CF. This will include the commissioning of a Health Impact Analysis of COVID-19 to assist in resetting South Africa's health care system and continued support for the vaccination roll-out.

#### Continued support to the implementation of the NDP

The National Planning Commission has identified five critical pathways to ensure successful implementation of the National Development Plan over the next eight years. These are: enhancing state capacity, improving the quality of life for all, activating citizens participation in the implementation of the NDP service, addressing spatial, social, and economic justice and growing an inclusive economy.

To advance and support enhancing state capacity and citizen participation pathways, the UNCT will prioritise the strengthening of the Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) framework and its implementation, as well as legislation which seeks to improve coordination between the three spheres of Government for better service delivery.

Working with various national partners the UN will continue its work promoting ethical leadership across society with specific focus on the state. This will entail interventions focusing on anti-corruption, integrity management and developing best practice for local governance.

The Government recognises that in order to improve the quality of life for citizens a social system that builds human capabilities is necessary. This will strengthen early childhood development, access to quality schooling and universal health care.

To support this, the UNCT will continue prioritising implementation of the National Health Insurance. This is particularly important for the country given the high inequality and access to health care. The UNCT will also continue to play a very central role in supporting Government's efforts at instituting evidence-based policy interventions for sustainable and inclusive social protection coverage.

Creating an inclusive economy and addressing climate change, remain important and critical for the advancement of the NDP and Agenda 2030. To this end, the UNCT has identified the following areas to support South Africa's just transition:

- Prioritise green renewable technologies in the energy sector
- Ensure that these technologies are employment intensive thus translating into a maximum number of 'green jobs' created
- Provide support in building the resilience of communities as well as climate proofing of existing/new public assets through adaptation strategies

#### Inclusion of marginalised groups

Disability, Youth and Gender mainstreaming remain in the forefront of the UN agenda both internally and externally. In 2021, the UN met or exceeded minimum requirement for 40% of the indicators for the gender swap and 57% for disability inclusion, meaning that there is still some work to be done in improving conditions for women and people with disabilities. The UN has developed concrete actions which will be undertaken in 2022 to ensure enhanced performance and to promote the inclusion of marginalised groups, thus leveraging on the momentum of the achievements of the South Africa UNCT.

#### District Development Model

Recognising the continued challenges of service delivery at the local government level and noting the need to reposition the sector towards its developmental role, the UN's work in supporting the District Development Model will remain a central pillar of work. This will include strengthening non-state sector partnerships at both a local and national level, alignment of UN activities to District One Plans and full implementation of the Governance Model.









**UNITED NATIONS**  
SOUTH AFRICA



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