

Population and Development

Background

The National Population Policy of 1981 emphasizes the shift to sustainable human development which places population at the centre of development, and regards people as the driving force and ultimate beneficiaries in development. The policy has two main pillars:

- i) The systematic integration of population factors into all policies, plans, programmes and strategies aimed at the improvement of quality of lives within all sectors and institutions of Government; and
- ii) A coordinated, multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary and integrated approach in designing and implementing programmes.

Underpinning these two pillars is the need for reliable and up to date information on population and human development to inform policy making and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

15 and 24 accounting for over 70 per cent of the unemployed. In the 3rd quarter of 2012, 3.2 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 were neither employed nor in any educational institutions⁴. According to the Government's Development Indicators 2011⁵, the richest 20 per cent of South Africans earned 68.1 per cent of national income, compared with 1.6 per cent for the poorest 20 per cent of the population.

Average household income for all households in South Africa increased from R48385.00 (2001) to R103 204.00 (2011) per annum². Female headed household income improved from R27864 (2001) to R67330 (2011) per annum². While this is remarkable, improvements lagged behind male headed households which recorded an increase from R63626 (2001) to R128329 (2011)².

The country has in recent years put concerted efforts towards improving the quality of data on the National Population Register. The President of the Republic and Minister of

Situational Analysis

South Africa has a population of 51 770 560². 48.7 per cent of the population is male, and 51.3 per cent is female². The population comprises a large proportion of young people with 37.6 per cent of South Africans between the ages of 15 and 34². Classified as a middle-income country, South Africa is well-off in economic terms and has made much progress in service delivery

and addressing social challenges. Despite these successes approximately 50 per cent of the population still lives below the poverty line.

With a Gini coefficient of 0.7³, the country has one of the highest levels of inequality in the world. Racial and gender disparities persist, as do disparities between rural and urban areas. The official unemployment rate is 29.8 per cent² percent, with young people between the ages of

Home Affairs launched the "National Population Registration Campaign" in March 2010. "Our strategic objective is the consolidation of a secure and credible National Population Register (NPR) with a single point of entry through an expedited process of registration and application of enabling documents to citizens" said Minister Dlamini-Zuma during the launch.

1. South Africa. White paper on Population Policy Ministry for Welfare and Population Development April 1998 Vol 399 No 19230. Accessed 3/01/2013. Available at: www.info.gov.za/view/DownloadFileAction?id=70431
2. South Africa. Census 2011. Accessed 2/01/2013. Available at: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/Census2011/Products.asp>
3. Frederick Solt, 2008-09, "The Standardized World Income Inequality Database". Accessed 3/01/2013. Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1902.1/11992 V4>
4. Statistics South Africa. Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), 3rd Quarter 2012. Accessed 3/01/2013. Available at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/Publications/statsdownload.asp?PPN=P0211>
5. South Africa. Department of Monitoring and Evaluation as well as Administration. Development indicators 2011. Accessed 3/01/2013. Available at: www.thepresidency-dpme.gov.za/.../Dev%20Ind%20For%20Print%20
6. South Africa. National Development Plan. Accessed 21/01/2013. Available at www.npconline.co.za
7. South Africa. 2011. Magongo B & Motimele M. Youth Context, The Young Generation. Produced by the National Youth Development Agency

Key Challenges:

- South Africa has high levels of poverty and inequality and high unemployment rates.
- While population data is available, it is often deficient, especially with regards to quality, reliability, coverage and completeness.
- As a result of weak technical capacity in demographic analysis and the limited integration of population concerns into development programmes, National Population Registration needs continuous improvement in terms of quality and coverage.
- These challenges limit data utilisation for accurately assessing population and human development including for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Key Opportunities:

- The challenges of data quality and utilisation present an opportunity for UNFPA to partner with Government, to produce reliable population data to inform policies and programmes.
- Capacity building initiatives (on the integration of population issues in development planning, policies and programmes), need to be up scaled and interdepartmental collaboration in policy implementation needs to be fostered. These two activities will help to ensure realisation of the two pillars of the National Population Policy.

UNFPA Responses:

- UNFPA has worked in collaboration with National and Provincial Population Units to develop State of the Province Population Reports in KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Eastern Cape.
- Provincial Population Reports contain data on various population indicators which informs of the state of development in the provinces.
- Support is provided to Government in the implementation of the National Population policy through research, capacity building and technical assistance.
- UNFPA promotes generation and utilisation of policy relevant data to inform policies and programmes and fosters interdepartmental collaboration in policy implementation.



SOUTH AFRICA 

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