**Sub-region:** Southern Africa **Population:** 55.29m **GNI/capita:** USD12, 000.00 **Tax to GDP:** 27.3 **HDI:** 0.67

**Social Assistance Overview**

South Africa enacted laws on old age, disability and survivors, sickness and maternity, and work injury before the 1994 independence. All social assistance programmes, except for the Child Support Grant and the Expanded Public Works Programme, started operating before independence. The Older Person’s Grant is the oldest social assistance programme, having been first legislated in 1928 with an objective of supporting older South Africa citizens who could not support themselves. In 2015, the programme reached 3,194,087 with a monthly cash payment ranging from US$297.76 to US$301.95. Three social assistance programmes were introduced in 1946 and these are the Care Dependency, Disability and Foster Child Grants. Of these, the Disability has the largest number of participants, which were 1,098,018 individuals in 2015 receiving a monthly cash transfer of US$297.76. Four years after independence, a Child Support Grant was introduced and as at 2015, it had 11,972,900 individual participants receiving a cash transfer of US$61.60 every month. The Expanded Public Works Programme started in 2004 with an objective of drawing significant numbers of unemployed into productive work, accompanied by training, so that they increase their capacity to earn an income. The social assistance programmes allows applicants to appeal against selection decisions. South Africa has a single agency responsible for managing programmes and coordinating government efforts. The government fully funds the social assistance programmes and in 2015, the spending of social assistance was 3.17 percent of GDP, translating to social assistance expenditure of US$966.02 per poor person per year.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Social Assistance Policies and National Legal Framework** | | | | | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Policies/Strategies** |  | **Year Introduced** | | **Social Protection policy/Strategy** | No |  | | **Social Assistance Policy/Strategy** | No |  | | **Social Assistance in Social Protection policy/strategy** | No |  | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Legal framework** |  | | **Constitutional provision for social protection** | **Yes** | | **Social protection objectives contained in the constitution** | **2** | |  |  | | **NB: 1=Health Coverage; 2=Reasonable standard of living; 3=Food security; 4=1&2; 5=1&3; 6=2&3; 7=1,2&3; 8=other** | | | | | |
| **Ratified Regional and International Social Assistance related Instruments** | | | | | |
| **Regional** | | **International** | | | |
| **Sub-regional Communities** | **Africa Union** | **United Nations** | | **International Labour Org** | |
| Protocol on Employment and Labour | African Charter on Human and People’s Right (1981)[1996] | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1996)[2015] | |  | |
| Code on Social Security | African charter on the Rights and welfare of the child (1990)[2000] | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1966)[1995] | |  | |
|  | African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003)[2004] | Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)[1995] | |  | |
|  | African Youth Charter (2006)[2009] | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)[2007] | |  | |
|  |  |  | |  | |
| **Social Assistance Programmes and Institutionalisation** | | | | | |
| **Name** | **Target Group** | | **Centralisation** | | **Executing Agency** |
| Care dependency grant | Children with disability | | High | | Government Department |
| Child support grant | Children under 18 years | | High | | Government Department |
| Disability grant | People living with disability (PWD) | | High | | Government Department |
| Foster child grant | Children | | High | | Government Department |
| Grant-in-Aid | Elderly People and PWD | | High | | Government Department |
| Older Person’s Grant | Elderly people | | High | | Government Department |
| War Veterans’ Grant | Other | |  | | Government Department |
| Expanded Public Works | Youth and adults | |  | | Government Department |