

DSD and SASSA's Role in Disaster Risk Mitigation and Response

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social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NDA
National
Development
Agency



sassa
SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

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1. Purpose

- ❑ To share Department of Social Development mandate & role with regard to disaster risk mitigation and response.
- ❑ To highlight the enabling legislation and platforms that DSD and SASSA participates in to consult other role players on matters relating to disasters.
- ❑ To indicate the current challenges and gaps in the legislation in relation to provision of relief during disasters.

2. Introduction

- ❑ Disasters occur when an unforeseen event impacts on vulnerable communities, structures, areas, services, households (or a community) to the extent that available resources cannot cope with the problem effectively.
- ❑ The importance of a rapid and effective response in the event of a disaster or incident cannot be underestimated.
- ❑ In terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) each national organ of state must determine its role and responsibilities in relation to disaster risk management and assess its capacity to adhere to the requirements of the Act, particularly with reference to setting priorities for disaster risk reduction initiatives and for response and recovery.
- ❑ DSD and South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) shall exercise reasonable measures to provide expeditious relief intervention, including pro-active measures, to mitigate the impact of a disaster on vulnerable communities.

3. Legislative Provisions

- ❑ The Department of Social Development (DSD) has a constitutional mandate to provide access to social assistance to persons who are unable to support themselves and their families.
- ❑ Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act No. 13 of 2004) provides for the rendering of social assistance to persons, and mechanisms for the rendering of such assistance. Section 13 of the Act, together with Regulations mandates SASSA to provide social relief of distress (SRD) to any person in need of immediate relief provided they meet certain prescribed criteria. One such criterion is that the person has been affected by a disaster as defined in the Disaster Management Act.
- ❑ The Fund Raising Act, 1978 (Act No 107 of 1978) provides for the establishment and management of Relief Funds, including the Disaster Relief Fund.
- ❑ Disaster Management Act and the Disaster Management Framework enjoins DSD and SASSA to participate in disaster management platforms.

4. Background

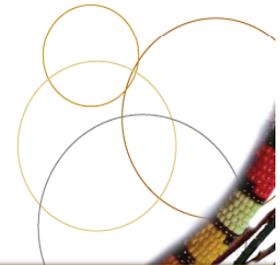
Social Relief of Distress

- ❑ The Department of Social Development, formulates policy for Social Relief of Distress. SASSA, as administrator of the Social Assistance Act, implements the Social Relief Policy.
- ❑ The main purpose of Social Relief Distress is to provide short term assistance to individual, families and households experiencing undue hardship due to lack of basic necessities. Social Relief of Distress is meant as a temporary intervention whilst sustainable intervention are been explored.
- ❑ Notwithstanding the above, any person, being a head of a household, may qualify for Social Relief of Distress if the person's household has been affected by a disaster (declared or undeclared) as defined in the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002).
- ❑ Social Relief of Distress is paid to South African citizens, permanent residents and refugees who have insufficient means and meet the requirements as prescribed in the Social Assistance regulations.

4 . Background

Disaster Relief Fund Board (The Board)

- ❑ The Disaster Relief Fund Board is established in terms of the Fund Raising Act No.107 of 1978 (Act No.107 of 1978).
- ❑ Section 18 of the Fundraising act stipulates that “the objective of the Board of the Disaster Relief Fund is to render humanitarian relief to persons, organizations and bodies who or which suffer damage or loss caused by a disaster, such assistance as the Board may deem fair and reasonable”.
- ❑ The Minister of Social Development appointed the members of the Board on 01 December 2015. The Department provides Secretariat and administrative services to the Board.



5. Department's Role in Disasters Response

Services offered by SASSA

- "Normal" Social Relief of Distress for families who meet the criteria.

- Where people are displaced and are accommodated in community halls or other alternative accommodation : Hot meals, blankets and mattresses, baby packs, vanity packs per individual (ensure no duplication of services).

- Name-lists to be compiled and confirmed by the relevant municipality/disaster management unit of all affected people.

- Where citizens/foreign migrants are accommodated in community halls for extended periods (too dangerous to return home, relocation of informal settlements, etc.): negotiate with NGO's and social workers to conduct de-briefing and provide stimulation for the younger children.

5. Department's Role in Disasters Response

Services offered by SASSA

- Link with Home Affairs for ID documents to be replaced.
- Link with CPS for SASSA cards to be replaced.
- When families are ready to return home:
 - Where everything - total lost (fire, etc.) provide cash amount not exceeding an adult grant per family (Paid through payment contractor).
 - Provide school uniforms for qualifying school going children (policy for school uniforms indicate that children where the only income is a Child Support Grant qualify {CSG}).

5. Department's Role in Disaster Response

Disaster Relief Fund Board

- ❑ The Board conduct assessments in disaster stricken areas with the aim to collect information to inform interventions to address needs of communities affected by disasters and complement other government efforts.
- ❑ The Drought situation in large parts of South Africa has prevailed since 2013 which resulted in declaration of disaster in terms of Section 41 of Disaster Management Act in most provinces. The South African Weather Service indicated that although most parts of South Africa recently experienced above normal rainfall there is still likelihood of El Nino phase to develop towards spring season.
- ❑ In 2016/17 financial years the Board focused on mitigating the impact of drought due to severity of drought condition in most provinces. This was done in collaboration with departmental agencies (NDA & SASSA) and other departments.
- ❑ In 2017/18 financial years, the Board issued a call for proposals to service providers in the field of food security to provide humanitarian relief to communities affected by disasters such as drought.

6. Budget Allocation

SRD BUDGET ALLOCATION PER PROVINCE FOR 2017/18	
REGION	BUDGET ALLOCATION 2017/18
Eastern Cape	96 000 000.00
Free State	36 000 000.00
Gauteng	80 000 000.00
KwaZulu Natal	100 000 000.00
Limpopo	84 000 000.00
Mpumalanga	50 000 000.00
Northern Cape	25 000 000.00
North West	45 000 000.00
Western Cape	84 000 000.00
Total	600 000 000.00

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7. Co-ordination: Disaster Risk and Mitigation

Legislative Compliance

- ❑ The Intergovernmental Relations Framework (IGR) Act 13 of 2005 provides for the establishment of a national intergovernmental forum to promote and facilitate intergovernmental relations in the functional area.
- ❑ Section 5(1) of Disaster Management Act provides for the establishment of National Disaster Management Advisory forum (NDMAF) , The Forum is the Body in which national, provincial and local government and other disaster management role players consult one another and co-ordinate their actions on matters relating to disasters.
- ❑ Section 25 (1) require each organ of the state to prepare disaster management plan including but not limited to the way in which the concept and principles of disaster management are to be applied in its functional area, including expected climate change impacts and risks.
- ❑ DSD and SASSA participates in the NDMAF in order to co-ordinate disaster response with other key players and avoid duplication of services.

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8. Challenges

- ❑ The Department is in the process of amending the Fund- Raising Act due to the fact that the Fund Raising Act No.107 of 1978 has become dysfunctional over the years, with many parts being repealed owing to the introduction of the Non-Profit Organisation Act No. 71 of 1997. Only Chapter 2 of the Fund Raising Act remains.
- ❑ The Draft Amendment Bill seeks to repeal certain provisions of the Fund Raising Act, thus aligning the Act with the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002, PFMA, the Social Assistance Act on issues of Disaster Relief and general provisions of Social Relief of Distress to poor communities.
- ❑ The Draft Fund Raising Amendment Bill was published in the Government Gazette for public comments.

8. Challenges

Challenges: SASSA

- The role and the responsibilities of local authorities/municipalities with regard to the provisioning of immediate relief.
- The SASSA to provide a **supporting** role for relief provided and **not be the sole provider** of immediate relief.
- The contribution, role and responsibilities of Non Governmental Relief Organizations.
- The co-ordination and management of donations.
- Verified and confirmed name-lists of affected people.



9. Conclusion

- ❑ The department remains committed to providing immediate to long term humanitarian relief to persons, households and communities affected by disasters.
- ❑ DSD continuously strive to collaborate disaster relief efforts with other role players in the field of disaster management with the aim to ensure collaborative decision making & coordinated response to disasters.
- ❑ Clear roles and responsibilities are identified and agreed upon to deal with disaster related assistance

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