

referred bills National
revenue account least Revenue comm
proposed framework
liametary prior expenditure
amendments committee
Appropriations amendment budget
provincial proposals national Budget App
Council adopted Director ensure appr
terms member affected finance
Constitution adoption relevant
budgetary



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Social grant
performance as at
end March 20/21

Budget
Office

Parliamentary

consider
financial
name
Bill
ep
ys
mit
ous
spending
ee A
at mo
provide
Appropriat
Appropriat
ments Asser

minister section public means year Bill
reports year

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has been established in terms of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act (Act 9 of 2009). The PBO provides independent, objective and professional advice and analysis to Parliament on matters related to the budget and other money Bills. The PBO supports the implementation of the Act by undertaking research and analysis for the Finance and Appropriations Committees.

Director: Dr Dumisani Jantjies

Authors: Dr Nelia Orlandi

Enquiries: norlandi@parliament.gov.za

Ref. no. 21/1/3 (March 2021)

To obtain additional copies of this document, please contact:

Parliamentary Budget Office
4th Floor Parliament Towers
103-107 Plein Street
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
Tel: +27 021 403 2360
Fax: +27 403 3153
Email: pboinfo@parliament.gov.za

Table 1: Definitions of social grants

1. CDG	Care Dependency Grant
2. CDC	Care Dependent Child refers to a child under the age of 18 years who require and receives permanent home care due to his or her severe mental or physical disability.
3. CG	Child Grant refers to Child Support Grant, Care Dependency Grant, and Foster Child Grant.
4. CSG	Child Support Grant refers to a grant paid to a primary caregiver of a child who satisfies the criteria in terms of Section 6 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (Act No 13 of 2004).
5. DG	Disability Grant refers to a grant paid to a disabled person in terms of Section 9 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (Act No 13 of 2004).
6. FCG	Foster Child Grant refers to a grant paid to a foster parent in terms of Section 8 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (Act No 13 of 2004).
7. FC	Foster Child refers to any child who has been placed in the custody of a foster parent in terms of the Children Act No. 38 of 2005 or Section 290 of the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977).
8. FP	Foster Parent In terms of the Children's Act No.38 of 2005, foster parent means a person who has foster care of a child by order of the children's court and includes an active member of an organization operating a cluster foster care scheme and who has been assigned responsibility for the foster care of a child.
9. GiA	Grant in Aid refers to a grant paid to a person who satisfies the criteria in terms of Section 12 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (Act No 13 of 2004).
10. OAG	Old Age Grant refers to a social grant paid to an aged person in terms of Section 10 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (No 13 of 2004).
11. WVG	War Veteran Grant refers to a grant paid to a person who satisfies the criteria in terms of Section 11 of the Social Assistance Act of 2004 (Act No 13 of 2004). (A person who attained the age of 60 years; or owing to a physical or mental disability, is unable to provide for his or her maintenance)
12. SRD	Social Relief of Distress

1. Purpose

The purpose of the social grant fact sheet is to provide Members with the performance of social grants and the provision of social relief of distress as presented by the South African Social Security Agency's statistical report as at end March 2021.

2. Introduction

Social assistance is by far, one of the most effective pro-poor programmes that has and continues to keep even more vulnerable South Africans from falling deeper into poverty. By the end of the period 2020/21, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) provided income support to 11 450 005 vulnerable individuals and households throughout the country with social assistance.

In addition to the social assistance grants the Department of Social Development also provides for social relief of distress. A temporary provision of assistance, during a disaster, intended for persons in material need that are unable to meet their or their families' most basic needs. Social relief of distress is issued monthly for a maximum period of 3 months. An extension of a further 3 months may be granted in exceptional cases.

It should be noted that a person may not receive a social grant and social relief of distress simultaneously. Any person who receives both social relief and a grant at the same time must repay the value of the social relief of distress received. However, where the person who is in receipt of a social grant received social relief of distress as a result of a disaster, that amount will not be recovered.

3. Legal Mandate

The Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004 intends to provide for:

- The rendering of social assistance to persons
- The mechanism for the rendering of such assistance
- The establishment of an inspectorate for social assistance
- Matters connected therewith

It further provides for the Minister, with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance, to make funds available, appropriated by Parliament for:

- A child support grant
- A care dependency grant
- A foster child grant
- A disability grant
- An older person's grant
- A war veteran's grant
- A grant-in-aid

The Disaster Management Act or the Fund Raising Act, 1978 provides for persons, that has been affected by a disaster, to apply for social relief of distress.

4. Statistical information

Table 2 shows that between 18.26 million and 18.49 million social grants has been paid to beneficiaries. The 18.44 million grants paid in March 2021 benefitted 11.45 million (Table 3) beneficiaries. The difference in the number of social grants paid and the number of beneficiaries is an indication that one beneficiary can access more than one grant. The distribution of grants per beneficiary is as follows:

Number of social grants	Number of beneficiaries
1	8 951 474
2	2 059 866
3	420 839
4	24 656
5	170

Source: PBO calculation from SASSA data

Table 2: Summary of the number of social grants paid to beneficiaries per month

Social grants	Beginning of Apr 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sept 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan.21	Feb. 21	Mar. 21
CDG	154,735	154,451	157,258	157,295	157,172	157,524	158,248	159,396	149,801	149,907	149,297	149,344	150,151
CSG	12,787,448	12,777,926	12,767,774	12,824,805	12,857,228	12,878,891	12,904,388	12,936,610	12,956,601	12,945,457	12,947,691	12,958,690	12,992,589
FCG	355,609	355,127	357,727	362,954	347,642	370,337	374,611	378,587	299,608	288,014	287,950	295,482	309,453
DG	1,042,025	1,033,243	1,069,900	1,068,665	1,039,567	1,064,595	1,067,633	1,074,985	1,084,524	888,934	908,484	953,755	997,752
GIA	273,922	271,517	270,349	268,807	265,396	264,182	263,741	264,902	266,747	264,029	263,639	265,045	267,912
OAG	3,676,791	3,666,558	3,689,572	3,708,333	3,702,918	3,706,233	3,712,141	3,719,763	3,731,034	3,729,103	3,713,071	3,714,004	3,722,675
WVG	62	61	59	59	54	49	47	45	44	43	43	42	40
Total	18,290,592	18,258,883	18,312,639	18,390,918	18,369,977	18,441,811	18 480 809	18,534,288	18,488,359	18,265,487	18,270,175	18,336,362	18,440,572

Source: SASSA statistical report, March 2021

Table 3 shows the distribution of social grants per region. The total number grant beneficiaries increased from 11.31 million at the end of April 2020 to 11.45 million at the end of March 2021. The total increase in social grant beneficiaries amounts to 137 933 or 1.2 per cent in 2020/21.

Table 3: Total Number of beneficiaries receiving social grants by region and the change between April 2020 and end March 2021

Region	End of April 2020	End of March 2021	Change
EC	1 704 506	1 709 751	5 245
FS	663 203	668 083	4 880
GP	1 870 052	1 911 013	40 961
KZN	2 424 499	2 446 537	22 038
LP	1 536 615	1 567 169	30 554
MP		940 160	
NC	294 081	300 707	6 626
NW	787 230	800 387	13 157
WC	1 107 852	1 113 198	5 346
Total	11 312 072	11 450 005	137 933

Source: Source: SASSA statistical report, March 2021. note: data used as presented

The highest number of beneficiaries amounting to 2.45 million, at the end of March 2021, were in KwaZulu Natal and the lowest number of beneficiaries amounting to 300 707 were in the Northern Cape. The highest increase in social grant uptake is in Gauteng amounting to 40 961.

In addition to social grants, social relief of distress is paid to South African citizens or permanent residents, who have insufficient means and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The applicant is awaiting payment of an approved social grant
- The applicant has been found medically unfit to undertake remunerative work for a period of less than 6 months
- The bread winner is deceased and application is made within three months of the date of death
- No maintenance is received from parent, child or spouse obliged in law to pay maintenance, and proof is furnished that efforts made to obtain maintenance have been unsuccessful
- The bread winner of that person's family has been admitted to an institution funded by the state (prison, psychiatric hospital, state home for older persons, treatment centre for substance abuse or child and youth care centre)
- The applicant has been affected by a disaster as defines in the Disaster Management Act or the Fund Raising Act, 1978
- The person is not receiving assistance from any other organization or
- Refusal of the application for social relief of distress will cause undue hardships

Table 5 shows that R19. 54 billion has been spent on the Social Relief of Distress Covid-19 allocation, to between 4.4 million and 6.1 million (Table 6) beneficiaries. It should be noted that beneficiary numbers are only available until end December 2020.

Table 5: Social Relief of Distress Covid-19 expenditure (please note: February numbers are the total as at end February 2021)

Region	June 20 R'000	July 20 R'000	Aug. 20 R'000	Sept. 20 R'000	Oct. 20 R'000	Nov. 20 R'000	Dec. 20 R'00	Jan.21 R'000	Feb.21 R'000	Mar.21 R'000	Total R'000
EC	133 481	406 371	90 124	160 968	737 980	277 230	254 349	239 961	2 300 464	235 474	2 574 434
FS	48 088	163 459	38 282	63 290	300 162	113 680	105 676	102 767	935 404	100 475	1 053 675
GP	194 469	676 183	159 188	219 351	1 183 475	436 029	421 752	388 196	3 678 643	415 085	4 168 640
KZN	205 766	674 227	158 867	267 456	1 244 278	465 252	427 686	408 372	3 859 842	398 992	4 325 910
LP	139 225	404 411	110 595	153 774	778 460	285 210	283 479	259 918	2 415 072	254 605	2 718 304
MP	79 734	251 285	64 934	97 338	468 599	173 087	167 241	157 461	1 459 679	153 885	1 640 874
NC	14 980	54 707	16 787	22 780	114 559	42 624	38 544	37 815	342 796	37 189	388 086
NW	61 825	198 011	54 916	81 649	388 359	145 686	135 592	130 851	1 196 889	129 569	1 354 717
WC	51 404	193 111	55 673	74 346	392 151	143 784	129 649	127 228	1 167 346	124 732	1 318 368
NATIONAL	928 972	3 021 765	749 367	1 140 952	5 608 024	2 082 582	1 963 969	1 852 568	17 356 137	1 850 005	19 543 008

Table 6: Number of beneficiaries paid from the Covid -19 SRD Grant per Province

Region	2020 May	2020 June	2020 July	2020 August	2020 Sept	2020 Oct	2020 Nov	2020 Dec
Eastern Cape	606 590	676 964	736 948	787 627	797 968	807 170	790 426	679 575
Free State	236 483	267 410	295 374	320 720	325 450	330 614	322 503	289 002
Gauteng	961 164	1 091 070	1 181 231	1 255 514	1 267 441	1 282 847	1 243 367	1 116 979
KwaZulu Natal	997 869	1 137 896	1 237 010	1 326 291	1 346 228	1 360 891	1 324 036	1 150 547
Limpopo	600 686	700 230	773 695	826 273	836 763	845 270	827 349	741 148
Mpumalanga	365 146	424 926	468 621	504 119	507 781	514 032	496 950	446 876
North West	293 985	341 259	381 082	413 018	418 532	425 936	412 610	369 294
Northern Cape	80 823	92 984	107 330	119 961	121 907	124 299	120 378	105 330
Western Cape	281 064	324 676	368 126	409 264	414 387	421 601	405 875	355 995
Total	4 423 810	5 057 415	5 549 417	5 962 787	6 036 457	6 112 660	5 943 494	5 254 746

Source: SASSA statistical report, March 2021

5. Total expenditure

Table 7 provides a summary of the expenditure against the 2020/21 budget per grant. Total preliminary expenditure on social grants and social relief of distress shows under expenditure of below 1 per cent for the 2020/21 financial year.

Table 7: National Social Grants Expenditure per grant type

Social Grant type	Budget R'000	Preliminary expenditure as at end March 2021 R'000
OAG	83 105 596	81 024 952
WVG	1 797	1 101
DG	24 390 083	23 031 721
GIA	1 632 230	1 311 643
FCG	5 046 095	4 783 110
CDG	3 568 568	3 445 776
CSG	84 885 559	85 590 843
Sub Total	202 629 928	199 189 146
Other(SRD)	407 000	224 781
COVID-19 SRD	17 569 629	19 543 008
Total	220 606 557	218 956 935

Source: SASSA statistical report, March 2021