
SOUTH AFRICA

Despite a progressive constitution and 23 years of democratic rule, South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world. Key challenges include high levels of poverty, weak public sector capacity and high unemployment. This is coupled with an unskilled labour force and unequal access to basic public services.

The perception of corruption and government inability to provide equitable access to basic public services has eroded public confidence. This perception has worsened in the face of economic challenges. The result has been increasingly violent protests, xenophobia and a fractured social compact.

While South Africa has made strides in establishing a strong legislative and policy environment to support gender equality and empower women, there remain significant challenges. This is particularly true in the area of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination. South Africa has one of the highest rates of violence against women and children in the world. Few resources are devoted to prevention and prosecution, or support to victims.

Canada's development assistance in South Africa focuses on inclusive governance. It is helping the Government of South Africa to use its resources transparently and effectively to deliver essential public services to its citizens, particularly vulnerable groups. Current governance programming is supporting improved social housing, local green economic development and enhanced pediatric care services. Ultimately, this helps reduce poverty and inequality.



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