

Presidential Employment Stimulus

January Progress Report



PRESIDENTIAL
EMPLOYMENT
STIMULUS

What is the Presidential Employment Stimulus?

There is no shortage of work to be done to improve our society – so why should there be a shortage of work?

The Presidential Employment Stimulus supports a range of programmes, from expanding public employment to protecting existing jobs and creating new jobs through market-based mechanisms. Its aim is to support livelihoods while the labour market recovers – investing in public goods and services, enhancing skills and employability, and boosting demand in the economy at the same time.

R100 billion

In April 2020, President Ramaphosa announced R100 billion in support for job protection and creation in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

R13 billion

Approximately R13 billion has been allocated to implement the Presidential Employment Stimulus this year.

R87 billion

The remaining funds will be allocated over the next three years.

Highlights



The Department of Basic Education has completed its recruitment of education and school assistants at schools in every province. 94% of assistants have been placed, and received training in curriculum support, ICT, maintenance and other skills during the December/January period.



Calls for proposals issued by the National Arts Council and the National Film and Video Foundation were oversubscribed, and awards have now been finalised. These funds will support new work, enable public and community art projects, and protect jobs at cultural institutions and businesses in the creative sector.



The Department of Social Development is providing crucial income support to the Early Childhood Development sector, which has faced severe challenges during the pandemic. This programme will provide support to 110,000 ECD practitioners, helping them to stay open or reopen. Applications for this support can be submitted until 19 February 2021.

Spotlight

Spotlight on the Subsistence Producer Relief Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

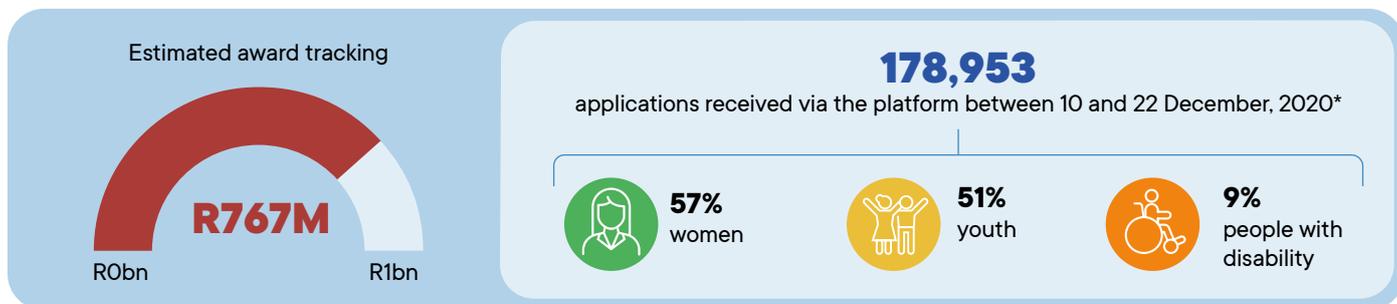
As part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development was allocated **R1 billion** to provide production support vouchers to **74,626** subsistence farmers across the country. DALRRD is currently on track to exceed this target.



The aim of the Subsistence Producer Relief Fund is to support local livelihoods and food security. It supports self-employed farmers back into production after the disruptions caused by Covid-19 and in the process, aims to stem hunger and rebuild and strengthen local food value chains.



It includes rural and peri-urban farmers as well as those engaged in urban agriculture. Successful applicants receive a voucher for production inputs that can be redeemed from participating suppliers. Award sizes range between R1,000 and R9,000, depending on scale and commodity type.



Over 178,000 people applied for support via the USSD platform set up in the period 10 December to 22 December 2020. The criteria included a points system for age, gender, military veteran status and for key forms of vulnerability, such as child-headed households. The vouchers are to support existing farmers, not start-up farmers.

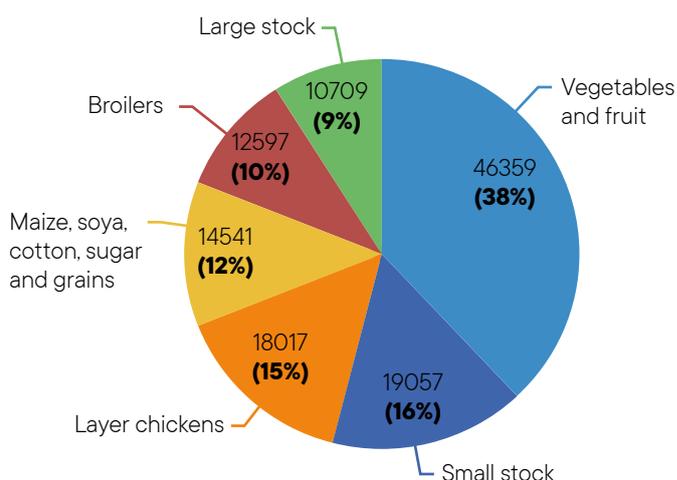
On the 23 December 2020, the approvals process began. After applying the criteria, 131,595 applicants were pre-qualified, triggering visits for physical verification of the information provided.

DALRRD has used the verification process to create jobs for youth, recruiting former National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) and unemployed agricultural graduates to support the department in this process. They are working with local extension officers in each Province. Thus far, 1,464 jobs have been created with appointments continuing.

By 5 February, 33,241 applicants had been visited to collect proof of identity, geo-locate them and to verify their production status as per the advertised criteria. DALRRD is also using this process to build an online geo-spatial data-base of subsistence producers, which has not existed previously.

Meanwhile, in parallel, processes of issuing eVouchers and appointing approved suppliers are being finalised.

Applications per commodity



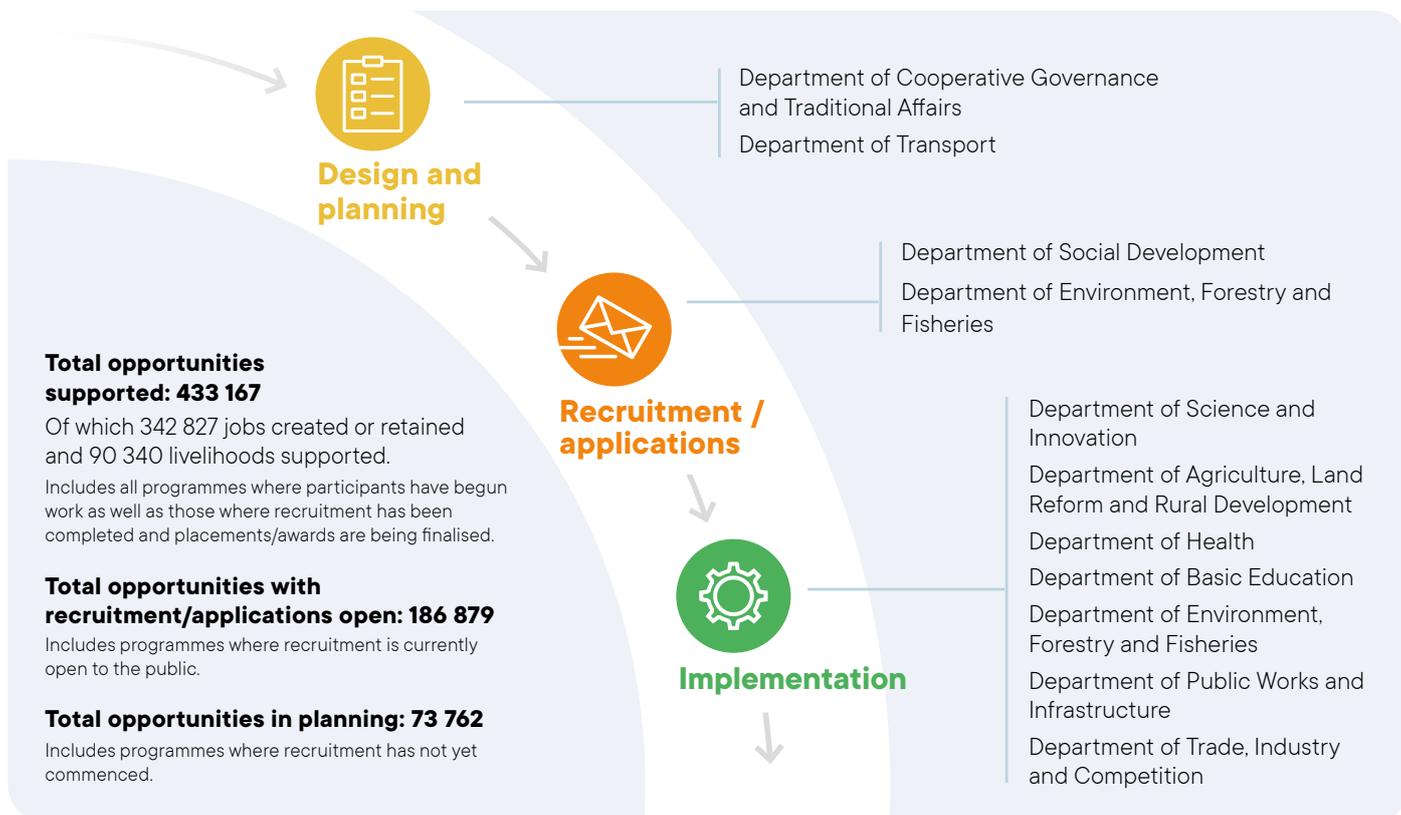
“The Presidential Employment Stimulus is critical for job creation and job retention amongst subsistence farmers, who play a vital role in stemming challenges of hunger at a household level. Many subsistence producers experienced disruptions as a result of lockdown. This programme supports them back into production...”

- Minister Thoko Didiza

Current state of progress

Who is responsible for implementing the stimulus?

Eleven national departments are responsible for implementing the various programmes supported by the Presidential Employment Stimulus. The Project Management Office (PMO) in the Presidency is responsible for overall coordination of the stimulus.



Detailed progress report

Department	Programme	Opportunities	Budget (R'000)	Progress
Basic Education	Education assistants and protection of vulnerable teaching posts	344 933	7 000 000	Appointments have been finalised in most of the provinces and 94% of the assistants have been placed. The national department conducted monitoring visits in over 400 schools across the country and has recently administered a survey of assistants to verify information received from provinces.
Social Development	Income support and registration support for the early childhood development sector, and retention and recruitment of social workers	111 142	588 728	All appointed social workers have commenced work. The Department of Social Development is working closely with its partners in the ECD sector to distribute income support for 108,833 workers in registered and unregistered ECD programmes.

				
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	Subsistence Producer Relief Fund, providing input vouchers to vulnerable small-scale farmers	74 626	1 000 000	Over 178 000 applications were received through the USSD platform established by the department, and the process of issuing vouchers to eligible applicants has begun.
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries	Investing in the environment and natural resource management through public employment	50 311	1 983 000	Existing public employment programmes in Natural Resource Management have been expanded, while new programmes have been initiated in the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme (EPIP).
Transport	Provincial Roads Maintenance	37 079	630 000	Recruitment commenced through provinces in January 2021 and is ongoing.
Sports, Arts and Culture	Support for the creative, cultural and sport sectors	34 070	665 000	An open call for funding proposals released by the National Arts Council and the National Film and Video Foundation was oversubscribed. Awards will be issued to successful applicants in February 2021. Support to job retention schemes in the sports sector were also oversubscribed.
Cooperative Governance	Municipal infrastructure maintenance	25 000	50 000	The Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA) will capacitate and support 15 municipalities to adopt labour-intensive methods in the delivery of infrastructure maintenance projects, leveraging funds in the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).
Trade, Industry and Competition	Global Business Services sector development incentives	8 000	120 000	The Global Business Services incentive programme has been reinstated, with incentives to create 8 000 new jobs. Of these, 7 572 jobs have been to date.
Health	Expanding enrolled and auxiliary nurses	5 531	180 200	Provinces have begun the process of recruiting enrolled and auxiliary nurses from existing databases of unemployed professionals.
Science and Innovation	Graduate programmes at the HSRC, WRC and CSIR	1 900	44 999	The department is supporting a range of programmes targeted at young science and social science graduates. All build on prior experience in similar programmes, and implementation is on track.
Public Works and Infrastructure	Public employment in water and energy efficiency, Welisizwe Rural Bridges programme, facilities management and waste management	1 560	158 880	A total of 1875 participants have been recruited across various programmes, exceeding the target by 315.



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The Presidential Employment Stimulus has a unique logo which is used to identify programmes that are funded through the stimulus. The logo uses the symbol of a protea from South Africa's coat of arms. The protea is our national flower, and can survive tremendous heat – in fact, it depends on wildfires for its survival. It symbolises recovery, rebirth and renewal from even the most difficult circumstances.