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Draft country programme document for South Africa (2026-2030)

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I. UNDP within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

1. South Africa stands at a crossroads, as Africa's most diversified and industrialized economy, endowed with extensive natural resources, providing a strong platform for growth and regional integration. The country is a global actor through the Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) cooperation mechanism, the Group of Twenty (G20), and the African Union, and holds leadership roles in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It has a robust democratic culture and well-established democratic institutions. Yet, deep inequality, record youth unemployment, fiscal constraints, and fragile coalition politics risk eroding these gains. The country's triple challenges—poverty, unemployment, and inequality—are compounded by climate shocks, governance constraints, and diminished public trust. This political-economic context makes inclusive growth, governance reform, and climate resilience urgent national priorities.

2. South Africa has one of the world's most comprehensive social protection systems, covering over 45 per cent of the population, and has made important strides in expanding access to education, health, and basic services since 1994. Ambitious commitments to achieve net zero by 2050 and globally recognized climate governance institutions, such as the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), demonstrate strong potential for rights-based climate action and green industrialization.

3. However, South Africa's progress is characterized by deeply interconnected factors where social, economic, governance, energy, and climate dimensions reinforce one another. This is worsened by shifting geopolitical dynamics, declining official development assistance (ODA) and reduced export potential due to trade tariffs. Over 55 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line¹—with women disproportionately affected (58 per cent compared to 52 per cent for men)—and the highest poverty incidence recorded in Limpopo (67 per cent) and Eastern Cape (65 per cent).² Gross domestic product (GDP) growth consistently trails population growth; in 2025, it is projected at between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent, well below the level required to reduce unemployment and poverty. Inequality remains among the highest globally, with a Gini coefficient of 0.63.³ Wealth concentration is extreme: the top 0.1 per cent of the population controls 25 per cent of national wealth.⁴ Unemployment stands at crisis levels, with 60.9 per cent of youth unemployed, overall female unemployment at 35.9 per cent and 42.8 per cent among women without matriculation compared to 37 per cent for men. Even among graduates, women face nearly double the unemployment rate of their male peers (15 per cent versus 8.9 per cent).⁵

4. Climate change is significantly intensifying vulnerabilities across South Africa, with droughts, floods, wildfires, and heatwaves disproportionately impacting poor households, particularly in coastal provinces. These environmental stresses threaten food and water security, energy stability, and infrastructure resilience, compounding the country's structural challenges of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. South Africa's climate ambition is reflected in its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which target accelerated emissions reductions and a net-zero pathway by mid-century. The Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, delivered in July 2025, has fortified legal obligations to protect the environment, recognizing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and underscoring the duty of due diligence. Biodiversity-rich

¹ World Bank (2024) Macro Poverty Outlook for South Africa. World Bank Group: Washington DC.

(<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099543204082419105>)

² Stats South Africa (2023) National Poverty Lines (<https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03101/P031012023.pdf>)

³ World Bank (2025) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/southafrica/overview>

⁴ Chelwa, G., Maboshe, M., and Hamilton, D (2024) The Racial Wealth Gap in South Africa and United States.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09538259.2024.2318962>: pp 423-440

⁵ Stats South Africa (2025) Gender Gaps persist in South Africa's Labour Market. (<https://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=18668>)

areas—where 68 per cent of households live below the poverty line—remain hotspots of vulnerability, with women receiving less than 15 per cent of conservation revenues.⁶ The country loses an estimated \$129.6 million annually to illegal wildlife trade, a figure projected to reach \$410.4 million by 2030. By 2040, up to 30 per cent of biodiversity could be lost, with annual losses exceeding \$756 million, further damaging ecosystems and livelihoods.⁷

5. There are growing calls to treat digital infrastructure as a public good, as it is key to unlocking economic opportunities and access to education, health care, and employment for women, young people, and marginalized populations. Training teachers and investing in multilingual instruction, modern curricula and vocational skills can help prepare the youth for emerging opportunities in the digital and green economy.

6. Energy is another critical nexus. South Africa's energy crisis—marked by load-shedding over 250 days in 2023 and an estimated annual GDP loss of up to 6 per cent—continues to erode productivity, livelihoods, and investor confidence. Stabilization and decarbonization must address persistent energy poverty, which still impacts nearly 15 per cent of households, alongside affordability and infrastructure gaps. Accelerating the integration of renewable energy into the grid, expanding off-grid solutions, and building skills for the Just Energy Transition (JET) are critical. The transition to a low-carbon economy must ensure access to alternative livelihoods for coal-mining communities, through reskilling and upskilling, to achieve an equitable and transformative transition that leaves no one behind. As reflected in the evolving NDC debate, achieving energy security requires a balanced energy mix that unlocks renewable and energy-efficient solutions and develops critical mineral value chains, while creating inclusive opportunities for jobs and local economic participation.

7. South Africa's economic and social fractures are deeply intertwined with governance and spatial realities. Low municipal performance, corruption, limited digital connectivity and persistent service delivery failures perpetuate inequality and erode public trust—reflected in the record-low 59 per cent voter turnout in the 2024 elections. While crime levels improved in early 2025 (with murder down 12.4 per cent and property-related crime down 8.5 per cent), gender-based violence (GBV) remains pervasive, with sexual offences and rape cases rising slightly (0.3 per cent increase). These governance and institutional deficits intersect with high unemployment, extreme inequality, and water and energy insecurity, straining the State's ability to respond effectively. Environmental shocks, including droughts, floods, and heatwaves, disproportionately affect poor communities already underserved by weak systems. Collectively, these interconnected pressures reveal how deficits in accountability, capacity, and service delivery reinforce exclusion and stagnation, limiting progress toward inclusive growth, resilience, and sustainable development.

8. South Africa has also been affected by a steady decline in ODA, which fell from \$1.2 billion in 2017 to under \$800 million in 2022.⁸ ODA disbursements continued to decrease in 2024 and 2025, reflecting tighter donor budgets, a shift in aid toward least developed countries, and rising global defense spending amid geopolitical tensions. This contraction further constrains fiscal space to address persistent challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate adaptation. With fewer concessional resources, the country must rely increasingly on domestic revenues and private finance, which remain constrained and unevenly distributed. The decline in ODA thus poses a material challenge to sustaining development gains and financing inclusive transitions.

9. UNDP will contribute to the three mutually reinforcing priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), which align with South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 and Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024-2029. These priorities focus on advancing inclusive economic transformation, job creation, social inclusion and tackling structural poverty and inequality; strengthening

⁶ South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) (2019). The Status of South Africa's Ecosystems and Biodiversity-Synthesis Report. South African National Biodiversity Institute: Pretoria.

⁷ The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) (2024). World Wildlife Report-Trafficking in Protected Species. United Nations: Vienna

⁸ The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) (2023). Development Co-operation Report 2023 (https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/development-co-operation-report-2023_f6edc3c2-en/full-report.html)

governance, accountability, access to justice and community safety; and building resilience through climate action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable natural resource management. They are consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the three directions of change outlined in the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025: promoting structural transformation through green, inclusive, and digital transitions; advancing a rights-based approach to human development that ensures no one is left behind; and enhancing resilience to systemic uncertainty and risk.

10. The independent country programme evaluation (ICPE) for South Africa identified several lessons for the next country programme. It emphasized the importance of designing projects with scale in mind from the outset and planning for periodic reviews to address issues of scalability. The ICPE also recommended that UNDP leverage its comparative advantage—its human-centred perspective, multi-stakeholder convening power, global knowledge, and implementation experience—to deliver transformative results. It further advised strengthening capacity to generate compelling evidence and deepening collaboration with the National Treasury.

11. UNDP contributions to the UNSDCF will build on investments from the previous country programme in youth skills development, innovation, professionalization of the public service, and expanding digital and financial inclusion for marginalized populations. The new country programme will advance these efforts with scale and sustainability at the core of its design. A systems-strengthening approach will be applied across programmatic interventions, balancing human-centred and institutional capacity development. This will support UNDP contributions and linkages across UNSDCF outcomes and open new opportunities for joint programming.

12. UNDP will leverage its unique position as an integrator, knowledge broker, and development convenor within the United Nations system to support the achievement of programme objectives. Drawing on its expertise in policy and institutional reform, sustainable finance, and transformative governance, UNDP will help advance inclusive economic transformation. It will provide thought leadership and technical advisory services to reinforce accountability within institutions and promote greater citizen engagement. In addition, UNDP will facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships and play a convening role to advance South Africa's just energy transition and climate resilience initiatives.

13. The country programme adopts a coherent, portfolio-based strategy to achieve economic transformation, and climate-nature resilience, underpinned by strong governance capabilities and deliberate attention to inclusion, gender equality, and youth employment. UNDP applies its normative principles of human rights, gender equality, and the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB) to address the country's challenges and harness opportunities. Marginalized communities in townships and other vulnerable groups will be prioritized to promote equality and inclusion. Using systems thinking, UNDP connects historical legacies with current challenges to identify solutions that transform society. This was confirmed through an extensive consultative process with different stakeholders—including government institutions, civil society, academia, and philanthropic actors—during the development of a UNDP Strategic Offer for South Africa.

II. Programme Priorities and Partnerships

14. The proposed programme is underpinned by a theory of change that recognizes the interconnectedness and interdependence of South Africa's development challenges. Strengthening the governance system is the anchor for inclusive and green industrialization, as well as for protecting natural capital and building resilience. In turn, this has direct implications for inclusive economic growth, sustainable job creation, and expanded access to services, while mitigating climate and nature risks. The theory of change promotes systems transformation to achieve inclusive growth, economically vibrant and resilient communities, and sustainable management and beneficiation of natural assets.

15. The UNDP systems approach will inform the design, implementation, assessment, and adjustment of interventions. Portfolios will act as a strong foundation for how the wider system responds to interrelated interventions encompassing policy advice, programmatic delivery, and financing solutions. A human rights-based approach is embedded in the design of this country programme, and underpins its theory of change, which will be revisited throughout implementation. To achieve this, two transformational shifts have been identified:

(i) Inclusive economy and governance – focusing on shared prosperity and economic and governance transformation; and

(ii) Climate, nature, and resilience – focusing on climate action, natural wealth beneficiation, and resilience.

The pathways to deliver these changes will involve complementary actions across two domains:

(i) Productive and inclusive markets that generate jobs and incomes. Strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), local enterprises, and value chains will expand access to finance, skills, and markets. This will boost productivity, generate quality employment—particularly for women and youth—and reduce economic exclusion.

(ii) Capable and climate-resilient systems that build confidence, improve delivery, and reduce risk: Building institutional capability, transparency, and responsiveness will foster investor and citizen confidence while improving service delivery. Scaling nature-positive solutions and climate adaptation measures will reduce economic and social risks, protect communities, and generate new value through restoration, renewable energy, and clean technologies.

Together, these pathways are mutually reinforcing. Productive markets generate inclusive economic opportunities, while capable and climate-resilient systems ensure that such opportunities are delivered sustainably, equitably, and with confidence. These outcomes assume macro-fiscal stability, political commitment to reform, social dialogue around just transitions and economic direction, and predictable access to concessional finance.

16. UNDP South Africa will organize its programme into two complementary portfolios representing the main pathways for transformative change. Each portfolio will comprise a set of programmes familiar to partners and investors, allowing for strategic coherence, blended-finance opportunities, and adaptive management across interconnected interventions. At the same time, UNDP will complement macro-level policy support with province-level, area-based programming to address local disparities, deliver tangible results for communities, and generate scalable models that balance upstream policy support and downstream programmatic actions.

17. The first portfolio focuses on inclusive economy and governance transformation. It will be implemented through an integrated pathway that combines wealth creation, economic transformation, and economic governance as mutually reinforcing drivers of inclusive development. This pathway promotes competitive and equitable growth by de-risking investment, building productive capacity, and linking firms and workers to domestic, regional, and global value chains. Priorities include scaling up SMEs, strengthening township and rural enterprise ecosystems, advancing green and digital industrialization, and enhancing export readiness under the AfCFTA, while addressing structural constraints such as logistics, standards, skills, and access to working capital.

18. Economic governance is the core enabler—strengthening institutional capability, integrity systems, regulatory frameworks, and public finance management to reduce investment risk and ensure transparent and accountable decision-making in resource management. Support will also target digital infrastructure and e-governance to enhance economic transformation and public service delivery. The programme applies a human-rights-based approach and adherence to LNOB, with particular attention to inclusive policies

and programmes that empower women- and youth-led enterprises and persons with disabilities.

19. Delivery is anchored in an ecosystem model aligning national and provincial governments, development finance institutions (DFIs), the private sector, the United Nations system, and development partners. Key partners include the South African Departments of Small Business Development (DSBD), Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), Higher Education and Training (DHET), Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), municipalities, the Public Service Commission (PSC), the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). Other partners include commercial banks, DFIs, such as the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SE DFA), the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the European Union, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), philanthropic foundations, and private sector actors as well as United Nations entities such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and International Organization for Migration (IOM). Interventions will target SMEs, cooperatives, townships and informal businesses, and start-ups in green, digital, and agritech sectors, while investing in youth and women through technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges, universities, and innovation hubs.

20. The second portfolio focuses on climate action, natural wealth, and resilience. It positions South Africa’s natural assets—biodiversity, minerals, and energy—as levers for sustainable growth. This includes biodiversity stewardship, biodiversity credits, critical minerals beneficiation, and enhanced climate finance mechanisms. The portfolio aims to strengthen ecological infrastructure and ecosystem services, scale nature-based approaches, and accelerate adaptation and just transition measures aligned with national commitments and global obligations. It will also develop investable pipelines in carbon and biodiversity markets and strengthen ecological disaster-risk reduction and community resilience measures (focusing on climate, water, and energy), targeting relevant government entities, local communities in biodiversity hotspots, and climate-vulnerable municipalities.

21. Delivery will be anchored in partnerships with national and subnational entities, including the Departments of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Water and Sanitation (DWS), Electricity and Energy (DEE), the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC); and conservation bodies, intergovernmental and United Nations partners include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNIDO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the PCC. Funding and technical support will be mobilized from the European Union, GIZ, JICA, and multilateral funds such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Small Grants Programme (SGP), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) to implement climate, energy, and nature-based initiatives that create opportunities, reduce risks, and advance environmental justice.

22. Area-based programming will target select provinces and districts where the intersection between economic and environmental vulnerabilities is most acute, service delivery challenges are greatest, and human development indices are lower. Joint interventions with other United Nations entities will be prioritized in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo to maximize impact.

23. UNDP will leverage its Africa Sustainable Finance Hub (ASFH), its pan-African work on SME platforms, engagement with regional economic commissions such as SADC and the African Union, and innovations in the creative sector, Unipods, digital governance, and natural capital valuation to provide both regional learning and tailored solutions for South Africa. Collaboration with UNV will harness the potential of volunteerism to advance country programme implementation while leveraging global offers such as the Climate Promise, the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs), the Nature Pledge, and the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) initiative.

24. South Africa plays a pivotal role in advancing regional integration and leadership within SADC, leveraging its economic strength, institutional capacity, and democratic governance traditions to drive collective progress. As the region's largest and most diversified economy, it serves as a hub for trade, investment, and industrial development, underpinning regional value chains and cross-border infrastructure. Its leadership in peace and security mediation, renewable energy transition, and intra-African trade reinforces SADC stability and competitiveness. By aligning domestic priorities—such as green industrialization, just energy transition, and digital transformation—with the broader agenda of SADC, South Africa not only anchors regional cooperation but also strengthens continental integration under the AfCFTA. The programme will leverage this unique position to advance continental and global agendas and apply South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) through cross-border programmes and knowledge exchange to maximize results.

25. The role of UNDP vis-à-vis other United Nations entities and development partners is to leverage its comparative advantages in development finance, inclusive growth models, governance, and innovation ecosystems, thereby reinforcing collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By integrating lessons learned and establishing strong feedback loops with national stakeholders, the programme will ensure national ownership, sustainability, and continued relevance in a dynamic development context.

III. Programme and Risk Management

26. UNDP recognizes that the development context in South Africa is highly dynamic, influenced by domestic political developments, global economic shifts, and climate risks. This requires an adaptive management approach that utilizes real-time data, outcome mapping, strategic foresight exercises, and digital monitoring and evaluation (M&E) dashboards to track implementation progress and impact. Collaborative problem-solving will be used to respond to emerging risks and opportunities.

27. Environmental programming is exposed to various risks, including natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and wildfires; climate shocks; industrial resistance to regulations and carbon taxation; biodiversity loss; weak enforcement of environmental policies; limited sustainable infrastructure investment; and the potential marginalization of indigenous and vulnerable groups. In response, UNDP will support integrated resource governance, enhance climate adaptation measures, encourage sustainable livelihoods through green employment initiatives, and facilitate institutional reforms aligned with South Africa's NDCs, the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2063, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the SDGs.

28. Achieving programme objectives requires careful management of diverse risks and the strategic leveraging of emerging opportunities. The theory of change identifies key risks, including potential resistance to governance reforms from vested interests; limited information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas; corruption at various levels; political instability during election periods; declining public trust in governance systems; misinformation; cyber threats; inadequate funding; and the risk of fragmented implementation among United Nations entities. UNDP will strengthen mitigation mechanisms against misinformation and capitalize on opportunities such as artificial intelligence, and the political will embedded in the

Government of National Unity (GNU). It will also strengthen collaboration to address potential funding gaps and reprioritize interventions, as necessary.

29. To address and mitigate these risks, UNDP will provide policy advice and technical assistance to develop digital governance infrastructure and implement capacity-building initiatives focused on transparency, accountability, civic and voter education, and anti-corruption measures. UNDP will also organize civic education programmes and multi-stakeholder policy dialogues involving the private sector, municipalities, civil society, and government institutions to support governance improvements. Proofs of concept with built-in scalability will be developed as part of the resource mobilization strategy. UNDP will apply horizon scanning and invest in strategic foresight planning as part of its risk-mitigation measures.

30. UNDP is committed to the rigorous application of its Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and Accountability Mechanism to proactively identify, monitor, and mitigate risks. Integrating these standards will ensure that UNDP interventions not only mitigate adverse effects but actively promote sustainability, inclusivity, and equity across programming efforts.

31. UNDP will deploy a range of programming instruments beyond standard development projects to ensure effective delivery of results. Project initiation plans, portfolio documents and engagement facilities will enable flexible, rapid-response interventions to address emerging priorities and unforeseen challenges. Development services, encompassing specialized technical advisory capacities, will bolster institutional strength and enhance resilience.

32. Together with other United Nations entities, UNDP will apply the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), conducting joint assurance activities to ensure optimal use of resources, proactively mitigate risks, and maintain agility in responding to evolving contexts. Under mutual recognition arrangements, UNDP will utilize existing long-term agreements established by other United Nations entities and will continue to collaborate with UNV for efficient service delivery and timely programme implementation.

33. This country programme document (CPD) outlines UNDP contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional, and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures and Internal Control Framework.

34. The programme will be nationally executed. Where necessary, national execution may be replaced by direct execution for part or all of the programme to enable response to force majeure. The Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) will be used in coordination with other United Nations entities to manage financial risks. Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness will be charged to the relevant projects.

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

35. Monitoring will focus on output indicators to measure progress against UNSDCF and country programme results. System-level indicators will track overall system dynamics and risks. UNDP will support national data systems, including Statistics South Africa (Stats South Africa), the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), and sectoral M&E frameworks, and will use these sources to report on progress under the country programme. To ensure accountability, a country programme board will be established and co-chaired by the Director-General of the DPME.

36. Monitoring will deploy digital feedback tools, geospatial monitoring, and periodic beneficiary assessments. Annual portfolio reviews will inform adaptive management and pipeline reprioritization. Independent evaluations will include portfolio evaluations and thematic reviews (e.g., SME job creation, governance reforms, climate-nature outcomes), as well as midterm and end-of-cycle country programme evaluations. Learning will be disseminated through policy dialogues and South-South exchanges and used to inform management decisions and future programming.

37. Results-based monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) approaches will be applied to enable regular tracking of progress, generate new knowledge for adaptive programme implementation, support course correction, and promote evidence-informed decision-making throughout the programme period. M&E systems will align with the UNSDCF results framework and national priorities, policies, and development plans. Monitoring activities will be guided by outcome and output indicators derived from national data systems, with baselines and annual targets established in the Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF).

38. Data collection will be undertaken in partnership with Stats South Africa, the DPME, and academic institutions. Gender-disaggregated and spatially disaggregated data will be prioritized to capture regional disparities and monitor inclusion outcomes in urban townships, rural provinces, and informal settlements.

39. Where national data are unavailable, outdated or insufficiently disaggregated—particularly by sex, age, geography, or disability status—UNDP will work with United Nations entities and development partners to strengthen the national M&E ecosystem. This includes supporting implementation of the national evaluation policy, and collaborating with multilateral partners such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the United Nations regional commissions. Nationally owned sources of data and analysis, such as those produced by Stats South Africa, the DPME and sector-specific monitoring entities, will serve as the primary basis for tracking UNDP contributions to national development results.

40. To promote learning and knowledge generation, UNDP will convene regular reflection sessions, round-table discussions, and policy dialogues with government counterparts, development partners, and civil society. South-South and triangular cooperation will be leveraged to exchange good practices and innovations in data systems and evaluation.

41. To promote accountability, 5 per cent of each project budget will be allocated to M&E and communications functions, supporting adequate staffing and capacity development. The programme will allocate 15 per cent of its budget to ensure gender mainstreaming and gender-targeted results.

42. Through these approaches, UNDP will promote evidence-based development, enhance accountability, and strengthen national capacities for sustainable development monitoring and reporting. This will foster data-driven policymaking, accountability, national ownership, and resilience, while ensuring that development progress is inclusive and sustainable.

ANNEX A: Results and Resources Framework for South Africa (2026-2030)

NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: Medium Term Development Plan Priority 1: Drive inclusive growth and job creation (Related to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10)				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (OR EQUIVALENT) OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP: Outcome 1: Equitable and Sustainable Livelihoods Improved for all through Inclusive Economic Growth and Job Creation				
RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: ⁹ Outcome 1: Structural Transformation Accelerated, Particularly Green, Inclusive and Digital Transitions.				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME INDICATOR(S), BASELINES, TARGET(S)	DATA SOURCE AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES	INDICATIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMME OUTPUTS (including indicators, baselines targets)	MAJOR PARTNERS / PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORKS	ESTIMATED COST BY OUTCOME (US\$)
<p>Indicator 1.1: Percentage of people living below the food poverty line. Baseline: 50% (2023 Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity Group (PMBEJD)) Target (2030): 25% Data Source: Living Conditions Survey, Stats SA</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: GDP Growth Baseline: 1.1% (2024) Target: 3% Data Source: Stats SA</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: Gini Coefficient Baseline: 0.63 (2025) Target: 0.58 (2030) Data Source: Stats SA</p>	<p>Data Source: Municipal innovation hubs, DSBD databases, Enterprise Surveys (World Bank), SEDFA, Stats South Africa, Treasury, INFF platform, Provincial Treasury reports.</p>	<p>Output 1.1: Productive and Inclusive Markets Expanded through MSMEs and Local Enterprises</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.1: Number of SMEs supported in productive and inclusive value chains (agriculture, manufacturing, green economy, and services) (IRRF:3) Baseline: 600 SMEs (2025) Target: 4,000 SMEs (2030) Baseline: 30% women (2025) Target: 45% women (2030) Baseline: 45% youth (2025) Target: 60% youth (2030) Baseline: 0.01% (2024) persons with disabilities (PWD) Target 2% PWD (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.2: Number of township-based enterprises supported through digital innovation (IRRF: 6.1.1.B) Baseline: 10,000 enterprises (2025) Target: 40,000 enterprises (2030) Baseline: 30% women (2025) Target: 50% women (2030) Baseline: 45% youth (2025) Target: 60% youth (2030) Baseline: 0.01% (2024) PWD Target 2% PWD (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.3: Volume of private capital leveraged through UNDP-led blended finance mechanisms (IRRF: 6.1.1.B) Baseline: \$10 million (2025) Target: \$50 million (2030)</p>	<p>SEDFA, DSBD, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), private sector foundations (e.g. MTN Group, Microsoft, Mastercard), DFIs (e.g. DBSA), UNCDF, UNV, commercial banks. National Treasury, DPME, World Bank, Municipalities, COGTA, Digital Council Africa, Township Economy Partnership Fund, Youth Employment Service (YES) Initiative, Harambee,</p>	<p>Regular: \$1.1M Other: \$15M</p>
	<p>Data Source: NYDA, Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA), labour survey data</p>	<p>Output 1.2: Enhanced Human Capital, Skills and Capabilities for Innovation, Employment and Livelihoods</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.1: Number of youth and women (including not in education, employment or Training (NEET)) completing future-</p>	<p>DHET, SETAs, Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation (DSTI), GIZ, private sector</p>	<p>Regular: \$0.3M Other: \$5M</p>

⁹ The CPD development predates the endorsement of the Strategic Plan, 2026-2029. The results framework will be aligned subsequently.

		<p>oriented skills programmes (digital, green, entrepreneurial), aligned to labour market demand. disaggregated by gender, age group and disability.</p> <p>Baseline: 500 <i>participants</i> (2025) Target: 4,000 participants (2030) Baseline: 40% <i>women</i> (2025) Target: 50 % women (2030) Baseline: 40% <i>youth</i> (2025) Target: 60 % youth (2030) Baseline: 0.01% (2024) PWD Target: 2% PWD (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.2: Percentage of participants gaining employment or self-employment. Baseline: 30% (2025) Target: 80% (2030)</p>	partners, Presidential Youth Employment Initiative	
	<p>Data Source: Government service access surveys, Government Communications and Information System (GCIS) Tracker, Good Governance Africa Index, Development Indicators, State Information Technology Agency (SITA), STATS South Africa, Presidency, Department of Home Affairs (DHA), Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT), Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC).</p>	<p>Output 1.3: Digital capability strengthened for enhanced delivery of economic and social services.</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.1: Number of government services enhanced with digital capability (IRRF: E1) Baseline: 1 (2025) Target: 15 (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.2: Proportion of township and rural enterprises reporting improved access to and use of digital-enabled services. Baseline: 12% (2025) Target: 60% (2030)</p>	Presidency, Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), COGTA, DCDT, GovTech, CSOs, UNV, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ, Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI), SITA	<p>Regular: \$0.4M Other: \$5.3M</p>
	<p>Data Source: Auditor-General reports, DPME M&E reports, National Treasury, World Bank.</p>	<p>Output 1.4.: Institutional capabilities, integrity and anti-corruption preventive systems strengthened at both national and sub-national levels for enhanced public service delivery, transparency, accountability and reduced illicit financial flows.</p> <p>Indicator 1.4.1: % of municipal entities with functioning financial management and revenue management instruments, and anti-corruption and consequence management measures Baseline: 20% (2025) Target: 60% (2030)</p> <p>Indicator: 1.4.2: Number of measures in place at national level to prevent illicit financial flows Baseline: 1 (2025) Target: 5 (2030)</p>	The Presidency, Auditor-General, National Treasury, SALGA, Corruption Watch, Public Protector, Public Service Commission, SIU, UNODC,	<p>Regular: \$0.4M Other: \$6M</p>
<p>NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: Medium Term Development Plan Priority 3: Build a capable, ethical, and developmental state (Related to SDGs 7, 12, 13, 14, 15)</p>				
<p>COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (OR EQUIVALENT) OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP: Outcome 5: Sustainable economic growth and resilient livelihoods enabled through environmental stewardship and ecosystem-based approaches</p>				

RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: ¹⁰ Outcome 5: Resilience Built to Respond to Systemic Uncertainty and Risk.				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME INDICATOR(S), BASELINES, TARGET(S)	DATA SOURCE AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES	INDICATIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMME OUTPUTS (<i>including indicators, baselines targets</i>)	MAJOR PARTNERS / PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORKS	ESTIMATED COST BY OUTCOME (US\$)
<p>Indicator 5.1: Climate change vulnerability index Baseline: 0.395 Target: 0.360 Data Source: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Green Book, Stats South Africa</p> <p>Indicator 5.2: Number of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies adopted by South Africa (Domesticated indicator) Baseline: 1 National, 140 Municipalities Target: Updated National, (all 257 municipalities) Data Source: COGTA NDMC</p> <p>Indicator 5.3: Proportion of jobs created through the expansion and implementation of environmental sectors. Baseline: 5% Target: 10% Data Source: Stats South Africa</p>	<p>Data Source: DFFE, CSIR, World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA) reports.</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Stewardship or investment in biodiversity and ecological infrastructure strengthened for ecosystem protection and climate resilience.</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.1: Hectares of land under stewardship (ecosystem protection) Baseline: 18,000 ha (2025) Target: 200,000 ha (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.2: Number of aquatic systems (rivers, wetlands and strategic water source areas (SWSAs) sustainably managed for water security. Baseline: 2 (2024) Target: 10 (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.3: Number of communities and direct beneficiaries benefiting from ecosystem-based approaches (stewardship, adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods) Baseline: 30 communities (2025) Target: 60 communities (2030) Baseline: 50% women (2025) Target: 55% women (2030) Baseline: 5% youth (2025) Target: 10% youth (2030)</p>	<p>DFFE, LandCare, rural cooperatives, IUCN, GEF, Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), GCF, SGP</p>	<p>Regular: \$0.4M Other: \$26M</p>
	<p>Data Source: SANBI, DFFE reports, DBSA reports and National Treasury reports</p>	<p>Output 2.2: Access to climate and nature finance expanded and responsible market instruments increased to mobilize resources for sustainable, inclusive development.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.1: Number of green/sustainability financing instruments developed, supported, or issued. Baseline: 4 (2024) Target: 10 (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.2: Amount of nature and climate finance mobilized through UNDP-supported mechanisms and initiatives. Baseline: \$5M (2024) Target: \$150M (2030)</p>	<p>SANBI, DFFE, GEF, GCF, UNEP, BIOFIN</p>	<p>Regular: Other: \$5M</p>
	<p>Data Source: DFFE, CSIR, DMRE, South African National Energy</p>	<p>Output 2.3: Local adaptation, mitigation, and energy efficiency measures strengthened to enhance disaster preparedness and climate resilience nationwide.</p>	<p>DFFE, PCC, DEE, SANEDI, GEF, NDMC</p>	<p>Regular: \$0.4M Other: \$14.5M</p>

¹⁰ The CPD development predates the endorsement of the Strategic Plan, 2026-2029. The results framework will be aligned subsequently.

	Development Institute (SANEDI), municipal level report.	<p>Indicator 2.3.1: Number of municipalities capacitated to implement local adaptation and mitigation plans. Baseline: 0 (2025) Target: 10 (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.2: Number of energy efficiency solutions deployed at sub-national level. Baseline: 2 (2025) Target: 5 (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.3: Number of national and sub-national institutions supported to implement disaster risk reduction strategies (IRRF: 1) and early warning systems (IRRF: 3.1.2) Baseline: 1 (2022) Target: 4 (2030)</p>		
	Data Source: DTI/DMRE reports, mining council data, DFFE, SANBI, DMRE, SANEDI, municipal level report. Stats South Africa, Water Research Commission (WRC).	<p>Output 2.4: Local beneficiation of natural wealth and assets (critical minerals and water) enabled to increase domestic value-addition and support sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.1: Number of policy or industrial frameworks on local beneficiation developed and tested. Baseline: 0 (2025) Target: 4 (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.2: Level of domestic value-addition to support livelihoods Baseline: 0 (2025) Target: +25% (2030)</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.3: Number of communities directly benefiting from selected SWSAs. Baseline: 0 (2025) Target: 10 (2030)</p>	DMRE, IDC, Mintek, mining associations DFFE, PCC, SANEDI, GEF, SGP, Water Boards, SALGA, DWS, WRC, WWF, and Catchment Management Agencies	<p>Regular: \$0.2M</p> <p>Other: \$5M</p>