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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **General Household Survey (GHS), 2025**

Access to improved water, sanitation, and electricity increased over time. Access to improved sanitation (flush toilets and pit toilets with ventilation pipes) increased from 61,7% in 2002 to 84,0% in 2025. The largest increases were observed in Eastern Cape (54,6 percentage points) and Limpopo (37,9 percentage points). An estimated 16,8% of households used pit toilets with ventilation pipes (up from 4,4% in 2002). Pit latrine without ventilation pipes decreased by 12,4 percentage points to 13,0% in 2025. This is according to the General Household Survey (GHS) released by Statistics South Africa today.

Electricity access rose from 76,7% in 2002 to 90,6% in 2025, accompanied by reduced reliance on traditional fuels. However, wood use remains relatively high in some provinces, particularly Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

Access to refuse removal services highlights ongoing inequality. While 84,9% of urban households received regular services, only 13,0% of rural households did so. Consequently, a large majority (84,7%) of households reported burning waste. Recycling practices remain limited, with only 10,5% of households separating recyclable material.

Access to the internet continues to expand rapidly and close to nine-tenths (85,6%) of households had access to any kind of internet in 2025. In contrast, traditional mail services continue to decline, with 67,4% of households reporting no access to postal services.

Families remain central to child development; however, living arrangements vary considerably. In 2025, fewer than one-third of children (31,4%) lived with both biological parents, while nearly half (45,9%) resided with their mothers only. A notable 18,5% of children lived with neither parent, and 11,2% experienced orphanhood. Single-person households accounted for 26,6% of all households, while nuclear households made up 38,9%. Female-headed households remained significant at 42,6%, particularly in rural areas where the proportion rose to 47,6%.

Participation in early childhood development (ECD) programmes remained uneven. Only 36,3% of children aged 0–4 attended ECD facilities, while more than half (50,2%) were cared for at home. School attendance was nearly universal until age 15 when it increased to 97,1%; however, delayed progression persists, with 8,8% of 21-year-olds still enrolled in secondary school.

The report shows that educational attainment continues to improve. The proportion of adults with no education declined significantly from 11,4% in 2002 to 2,6% in 2025. Meanwhile, the share of those with at least a National Senior Certificate increased from 30,7% to 53,5%. No-

fee schools remained a cornerstone of access, serving 65,1% of learners nationally, although provincial disparities remain pronounced.

Medical aid coverage remained relatively unchanged at 15,5%, highlighting persistent inequities in access to private healthcare. Coverage was highest in the Western Cape (25,9%) and Gauteng (22,1%) and lowest in Limpopo (8,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (9,5%). Black African individuals comprised the majority (52,2%) of medical aid beneficiaries.

The GHS report revealed that by 2025, grants reached 39,5% of individuals and 50,6% of households, with nearly one-quarter (23,4%) relying on them as their main income source. Salaries and wages remained the primary income source for 54,3% of households, though this varied widely across provinces.

Just over one fifth (22,0%) of households considered their access to food as inadequate or severely inadequate, 4,2 percentage points higher than in 2019 before the outbreak of COVID-19. The need was most common in NC (43,0%) and least common in LP (6,1%).

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