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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **General Household Survey (GHS), 2022**

Social grants remain a vital safety net, particularly in the poorest provinces, this is according to the General Household Survey 2022 report released by Statistics South Africa today. Nationally, grants were the second most important source of income (50,2%) for households after salaries (59,7%). Although a larger percentage of households received grants than salaries/wages in Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Free State, salaries and wages remained the main source of income for the majority of households across all provinces. The percentage of households and persons who benefitted from a social grant have increased from 30,9% in 2019 to 37,0% in 2022 due to the introduction of the special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant. The percentage of households that received grants concurrently increased from 30,8% to 49,5%.

The report shows that 83,2% of all households resided in formal dwellings in 2022. Households with access to an improved source of water increased by 3,9 percentage points between 2002 and 2022 (growing from 84,4% to 88,5%). Although large increases were noted in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal during this period, access declined in six provinces, mostly notably in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State. The declines should, however, be contextualised by noting that more households had access to piped water in 2022 than twenty-one years earlier.

The percentage of households with access to improved sanitation increased by 21,5 percentage points between 2002 and 2022, growing from 61,7% to 83,2%. The most improvement was noted in Eastern Cape and Limpopo;

The GHS report shows that 89,6% of households were connected to mains electricity in 2022. Almost one quarter (23,5%) of households did not use

mains electricity for cooking in 2022, and the use of gas (6,7%) and electricity from other sources such as generators (4,8%) has become more prominent. A third of households in Limpopo still used wood for cooking.

The percentage of households whose solid waste was removed weekly or less often declined from 66,4% in 2018 to 62,6% in 2022, the lowest this figure has been for more than a decade. This decline was accompanied by an increase in the percentage of households that reported using their own refuse dumps.

The GHS also found that the percentage of households that did not receive any mail increased from 9,0% in 2002 to 47,3% in 2022. Although 38,3% of households still received some mail at home, only 10,3% used post boxes or private bags.

Looking at individuals, the survey found that 19,5% of children lived with neither their biological parents while 32,7% lived with both parents, while 44,1% lived with their mothers. Approximately 12,3% of children were orphaned, having lost one or both parents.

According to the report, 55,5% of the 0–4-year-olds stayed at home with parents or guardians while 31,5% attended ECD programs at day-care centres, crèches, playgroups, nursery schools and in pre-primary schools. Participation in education institutions was virtually universal (97,0%) by the age of 15 years, and it declined to 66,3% by the age of 18.

COVID-19 vaccination rates varied widely by age and geography, and 44,4% eligible individuals remained unvaccinated in 2022. The highest percentage of unvaccinated individuals were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (57,7%) while 69,1% of individuals aged 12–17 years were unvaccinated compared to 24,3% of those aged 60 years and older.

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