



social development

Department:  
Social Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 MARCH 2025**

**2. SECTION B: THE ORGANISATION'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR:**

Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefitted
<p>The aim of the Society is to support the overall objectives of welfare and humanitarian relief in South Africa by applying its efforts and resources to the conduct of public benefit activities.</p>	<p>To this end the Society strives to provide wholly or in part any of the financial, material, spiritual and social requirements of persons and families in need of assistance and to help redress the situations that cause the need for assistance to arise.</p>
<p>The objectives of the Society are defined in paragraph 3 of the Constitution. These objectives have been largely achieved with the assistance of the members of our conferences that are scattered throughout the country. The conferences are grouped under the jurisdiction of 15 central councils which operate from the main centres around the country to coordinate and assist with local welfare activities where necessary.</p> <p>As in the past, the Society's income was derived mainly from church collections, donations, bequests and various fundraising activities. Only 10% of the income was spent on administrative and operational costs as all work is done by members on a voluntary basis, stipends are paid only in exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>Conferences are comprised of small groups averaging about eight persons who are the "foot soldiers" that carry out the basic work of the Society. There are currently <b>2166</b> conference members in the Republic.</p> <p>The main activity of conference members is to visit poor families in their homes, to lend them a sympathetic ear and provide relief where necessary in the form of food or clothing and to give advice for example on how to budget or to apply for state pensions and grants. In extreme cases it may be considered to assist with schooling, arrear rent, doctor's accounts, funerals, transport and other critical expenses.</p>

<p>Approximately 90% of this income is spent annually on assistance given to the poor in black and coloured communities.</p>	
<p>The National Council is the governing body of the Society. Besides the normal office-bearers, the various regional councils have representation on the National Council.</p> <p>The three-year strategic plan adopted in the National Council in December 2023. The strategic plan is supplemented by an annual work plan and budget which focuses on ways to achieve the Society's strategic objectives. i.e. Integrity and Responsibility, Expansion, Spirituality, Communication, Training and Development and funding.</p>	<p>The Society has in the past assisted with the establishment of a number of homes for orphans and the aged. The Society still has representation on the governing boards of these now independently run organizations.</p> <p>Further steps are still being taken to improve the process of gathering information pertaining to the nature and extent of charitable works performed countrywide.</p> <p>A National Development Plan was adopted to further focus the activities of the Society.</p>

Activities	Who Benefited - 2024 - 2025	
Visits to Homes:	19 503	We conducted numerous home visits, assessing the needs of families and distributing food parcels to those in need. Families consistently received food assistance, with additional support provided to new cases referred by local councils and church members. Spiritual guidance was an integral part of our visits. We also focused on monitoring the well-being of the sick and elderly, ensuring they felt supported during challenging times.
Visits to Prisons:	145	The organization's involvement in prison ministry has mainly centered on supportive visits and spiritual encouragement for inmates.
Visits to Old Age Homes and Sickly:	5 885	Provided spiritual, emotional, and material support to the elderly and sick. Members regularly visited old age homes, hospitals, and individual homes to offer comfort, companionship, and spiritual support including prayers, the recitation of the rosary, and sharing comforting words, enhancing the emotional well-being of the elderly. Additionally, volunteers provided transportation for medical appointments, facilitated social gatherings, distributed goods, and cleaned the homes of those unable to do so themselves.
Visits to Children's Homes:	975	In the past year, our organization has made significant contributions to various children's homes and shelters, focusing on their needs and well-being. We provided essential assistance such as food, clothing, and blankets. Our outreach included distributing food and diapers to multiple safe homes and abandoned children. We celebrated special

		occasions, including Christmas, by delivering toys and party packs to various centres. Additionally, we engaged in assessments to determine ongoing support needs, such as delivering school supplies and toiletries to several facilities. Overall, our efforts aimed to ensure that children under our care received nutrition, clothing, and emotional support, fostering a sense of community and hope among those facing challenging circumstances.
Number of Food Parcels:	126 477	We focused on distributing food parcels to families and individuals in need within our communities. We identified numerous impoverished families, including refugees and those referred by local councils. Recipients received essential non-perishable grocery items. Special distributions occurred during festive periods, providing Christmas hampers and additional provisions to those facing hardships. Monthly distributions were maintained, with particular attention to families with children, the elderly, and emergency cases.
Number Assisted with Clothing:	39 956	We made significant strides in providing clothing support to families and individuals in need. We distributed numerous bags of clothing, including school uniforms and shoes, to various communities and local organizations. Notably, donations included items for both adults and children, sourced from parishioners and community members. Efforts extended to specific groups, such as homeless individuals, victims of fires, and children in orphanages. Special initiatives included assistance to families affected by hardships, with clothing parcels prepared for both immediate needs and seasonal support, such as winter gear.
Number Assisted with Bedding:	7 131	We distributed blankets, sheets, duvets, and pillowcases to those affected by hardships, including victims of fires and vulnerable families. Notable efforts included assistance to families who lost their belongings in fires and the elderly requiring bedding. Additionally, we

		initiated winter blanket drives, ensuring that blankets were collected and distributed to those facing the cold.
Number Assisted through Soup Kitchens:	279 709	We provided regular soup handouts to children, the elderly, and families in need. Each week, we collaborated with local partners to support multiple soup kitchens. Donations from parishioners and local businesses facilitated the distribution of essential ingredients. Special initiatives, such as the World Day of the Poor, allowed us to expand our outreach further, serving meals and providing baked goods to communities.
Number Assisted with Cash:	30 776	We provided essential financial assistance to individuals and families in need, focused primarily on basic necessities such as food, clothing, and transportation. Notably we allocated funds to families, allowing them to purchase essential goods. Cash support was also provided for specific needs, including transportation for medical visits, utility payments, and funeral expenses.
Number Assisted through Feeding Schemes:	267 017	We effectively operated multiple feeding schemes to provide essential nutrition to those in need. We organized regular soup handouts and sandwich distributions at local schools. Our feeding schemes served hundreds of individuals weekly, distributing meals, cooked soup, and sandwiches throughout various community locations.
Number of Elderly Assisted:	25 402	We prioritized support for the elderly within our communities through various initiatives. We provided essential food assistance, including food parcels, cooked meals, and basic necessities like adult diapers and toiletries. The elderly received significant support through our soup kitchens, which offered meals and bread weekly.  We also ensured that blankets and warm clothing were distributed to vulnerable elderly individuals, particularly during cold months. Home

		visits were conducted to assess individual needs, offer transportation to medical appointments, and provide companionship.
Number Assisted through Parishes:	31 079	Through generous donations from parishioners, we provided essential support, including food parcels, clothing, and school supplies for children. We organized several initiatives, such as the "Bags of Love" campaign, which aimed to create holiday hampers filled with non-perishable items.
Number Assisted through other Organisations:	25 180	We actively collaborated with various external organizations to enhance our support for those in need. We received essential food donations and vouchers, alongside retail contributions that enabled us to provide meals for the homeless consistently.  We facilitated the distribution of clothing and bedding to families affected by disasters, including those impacted by fires. Notable contributions included emergency food packs, blankets, and school supplies for children in need. Additionally, we organized charity activities, such as Christmas hamper distributions, which brought festive cheer to various beneficiaries.
Number Assisted with Rent:	310	We provided essential financial support for rent to individuals and families in need, focusing on those facing urgent housing challenges.
Number invited for Christmas Meal:	20 857	We organized meaningful Christmas celebrations and meals to support the less fortunate in our communities. Notably, we hosted lunch events at local shelters and community centres, providing meals and toys for children, and engaged parishioners in assembling party packs.
Number Assisted through Ad Hoc Projects:	25 762	We successfully implemented a variety of ad hoc projects aimed at assisting vulnerable individuals and families in the community. Key initiatives including educational support. We provided stationery,

		practical teaching assistance. We assisted children with school shoes and stationary, ensuring they were prepared for educational opportunities.
Number given any other Assistance :	9 468	We successfully implemented a range of ad hoc projects aimed at supporting vulnerable individuals and families in the community.
<b>Total number of People assisted</b>	<b>915 632</b>	

**NB. 95% of our beneficiaries are from Black and Coloured communities living in townships and informal settlements throughout South Africa.**