

Advertorial

Government has significantly contributed to the eradication of poverty through the creation of EPWP work opportunities in the past five years

As we move towards the end of the fifth administration of the current government, the Department of Public Works is humbled and yet proud to announce that the government has made a significant progress towards its endeavor to eradicate poverty through the creation of short- to medium- term Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) work opportunities. Since the launch of EPWP Phase 3 in 2014, the Government of South Africa has to date (December 2018) created over 4.3 million EPWP work opportunities.

The Department wishes to stress that despite the challenges experienced by the Programme, such as poor reporting by Public bodies, it believes the EPWP delivered its mandate of lifting communities out of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

The information below seeks to shine the light on the performance of the EPWP Phase 3, since it was launched in 2014.

EPWP performance on work opportunities created

The table below shows the overall yearly performance of EPWP since 2014:

Financial year	EPWP annual target	EPWP work opportunities created
2014/15		1 103 983
2015/16		742 179
2016/17		779 251
2017/18		900 234
April to September 2018		845 162
Total: April 2014 to September 2018		4 370 809

These opportunities were created in all four EPWP Sectors: namely Infrastructure, Non-State, Environment and Culture, and Social.

Majority of participants in EPWP in the past four and half years were women. The general annual participation of women in the EPWP stood at just above 69%. This was followed by youth participation which stood at around 46%.

EPWP performance on the delivery of community beneficial assets and services

Below are some of the community beneficial services rendered through the EPWP:

- Home Community Based services – thousands of community members across the country are benefiting from home community based care services that are rendered by EPWP caregivers. These EPWP Caregivers conduct home visits to care for the elderly and the ailing. They also ensure that those on lifesaving medication are eating well and taking their medication accordingly.
- Firefighting Services – communities in the Western Cape have benefited from community work of extinguishing veld fires that annually ravage a number of areas in the Province.
- Pharmacy Assistant Services – community members who collect their medication at some state healthcare institutions have experienced a reduction in the time it takes for them to get their medication as a result of the work done by EPWP pharmacy assistants that are placed at those health facilities.
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) – a total of 81 692 children across the country benefited from the care by EPWP ECD practitioners since the introduction of the phase 3 in 2014.
- Community Safety Services – communities in various provinces have benefited from reduced crime as a result of EPWP community safety practitioners who work with the police and community policing forums to combat crime.

For more information on the EPWP, log onto www.epwp.gov.za and follow us on Facebook [@Expanded Public Works Programme](https://www.facebook.com/ExpandedPublicWorksProgramme).



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EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME