

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Theme “ 30 years of Respect for and promotion of Human rights”

Access To Housing, Water And Sanitation As Safeguards For Human Dignity And Enjoyment Of Other Rights

Presented by: Deputy Minister

Date: 18 – 20 March 2024

WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY

# PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

- In delivering the last state of the nation address for the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration, His Excellency, **President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa** quoted the words of the founding president of our democratic nation, uTata **Nelson Mandela** when he said, after casting his first democratic vote “this is the beginning of a new era. We have moved from an era of pessimism, division, limited opportunities, turmoil and conflict. We are starting a new era of hope, reconciliation and nation building”.

# Background and Key Policy Framework

- In 1994 it was estimated that some 14 million people across the country lacked adequate water supply services while some 21 million – half the country's population - were without adequate sanitation.
- The backlogs were much more severe in the poorer black rural areas than they were in the mainly white and more affluent urban areas.
- The enormous backlogs in service levels, the fragmented institutional arrangements created by Apartheid across South Africa posed a huge challenge.
- The new Constitution, South Africa had to be restructured from 4 provinces and 10 'independent' and 'self-governing' Bantustans to 9 provinces. A new government inevitably had to build on the foundations of the old, which presented internal structural limitations and therefore the need for a thorough transformation process.
- The previous system did not provide for one dedicated department taking responsibility for water supply and sanitation services. It was left to each homeland government and local municipality to decide whose responsibility this was to be.
- The responsibility to provide access rested squarely on the new Government.

# Background and Key Policy Framework

- The Constitution defines the responsibilities and structures of Local Government.
  - Local water supply and sanitation services are a function over which municipalities have executive authority (S156 and **Schedule 4 Part B** of Constitution)
- The **Constitution of South Africa** provides that: “Everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water.” In order to give effect to this right Parliament has enacted the Water Services Act 108 of 1997.
  - The purpose of this Act is to provide for the right to basic water supply and basic sanitation services
- The Act made a clear distinction between **Water Services Authorities** (WSAs) and **Water Services Providers** (WSPs).
- Water Services Authorities are “responsible for ensuring access to water services” and as such have a governance function. On the other hand, Water Services Providers have a delivery function.
- **Free Basic Services Policy:** An important policy milestone, required a national transfer to subsidise the costs of provision to poorer sections of the population: This required municipalities to use their constitutionally mandated equitable share allocations to cover free services
- **the Municipal Systems Act:** it formalised the process by which municipalities select appropriate arrangements for actually delivering services. Specifically, Section 78 (S78) of the Act requires all municipalities with authority over a particular service to follow a step-by-step analysis of the various service delivery options.
- **Water and Sanitation Services Policy on Privately Owned Land:** Ensure all people living on privately owned land are having access to basic water supply and sanitation services under this democratic dispensation

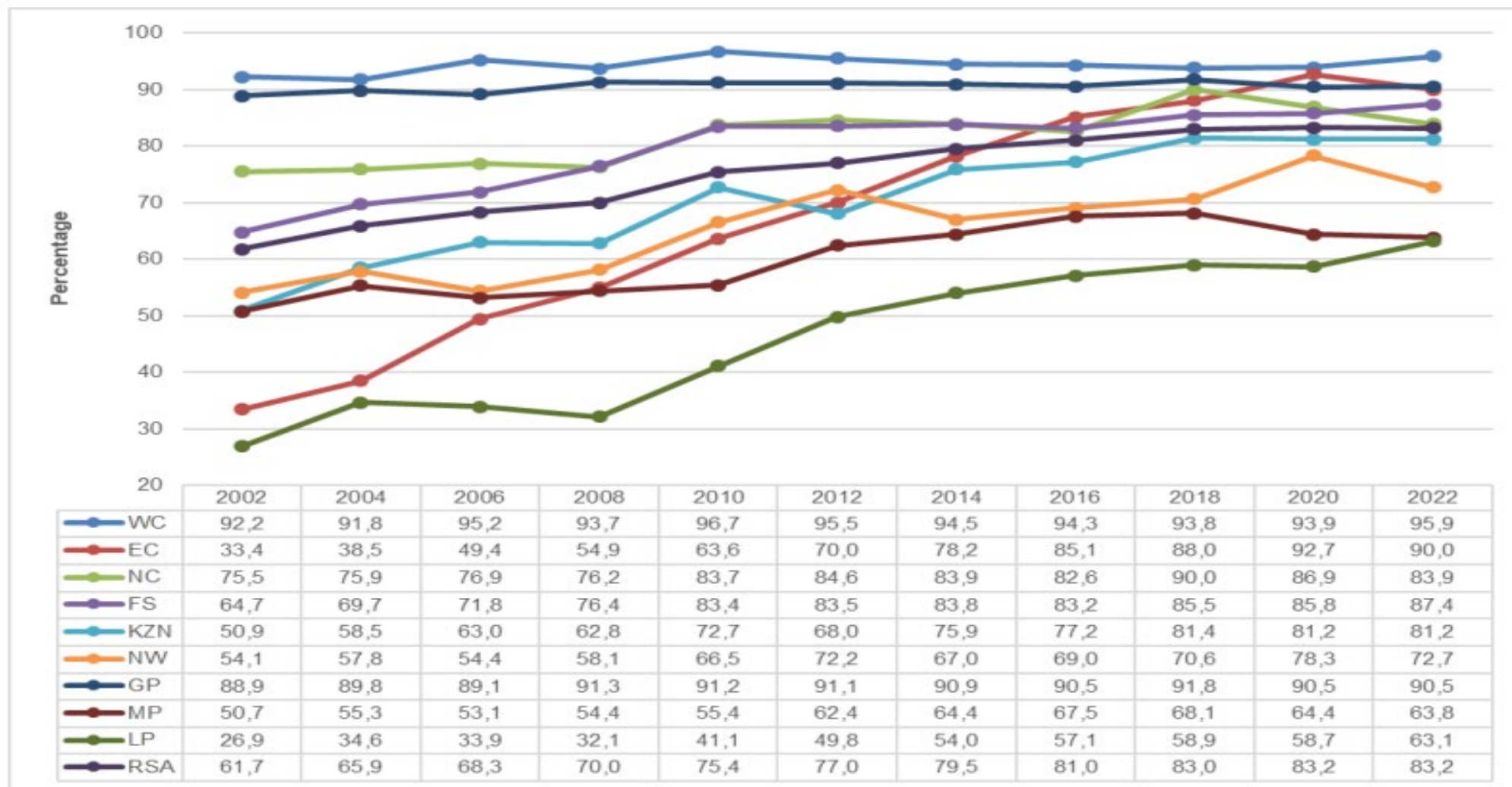
# Millennium Development and Sustainable development Goals

- The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000, commits world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women.
- The MDGs are derived from this Declaration. Each MDG has targets set for 2015 and indicators to monitor progress from 1990 levels.
- South Africa achieved Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to halve the percentage of population without sustainable access to improved sanitation in 2012, three years before the target date of 2015.
- SDG 6 "Clean Water and Sanitation" seeks to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. Access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right.
- DWS had a two day Mid Term Review which took place on 22 and 23 Feb 2023 informing the sector of the current status of all SDG6 Targets, the good, the bad and the ugly and what we need to do as a Sector to accelerate the process going forward and turn the bad situation around.
- DWS also participated in various international forums (UN 2023) and affirm its to achieve the SDG 6 targets by 2030
- UN recognises that Water is a dealmaker for the Sustainable Development Goals, The progress on water related goals and targets remains alarmingly off track, jeopardizing the entire sustainable development agenda
- The Department is implementing various programmes to achieve the SDG6 targets by 20230

# Access to water and Sanitation Services

	Apr-18		Apr-19		Apr-20		Apr-21		Apr-22		Apr-23	
Province	Access To Infrastructure	Access to Reliable Water	Access To Infrastructure	Access to Reliable Water	Access To Infrastructure	Access to Reliable Water	Access To Infrastructure	Access to Reliable Water	Access To Infrastructure	Access to Reliable Water	Access To Infrastructure	Access to Reliable Water
EC	74.4	48.9	74.7	49.3	74.9	47.1	75.1	44.9	75.6	45.1	76.1	45.4
FS	98.1	77.0	98.3	77.3	98.4	73.7	98.6	70.3	98.6	70.3	98.6	70.3
GT	99.0	90.3	99.2	90.8	99.4	86.5	99.4	82.3	99.4	82.3	99.4	82.3
KZ	87.1	63.6	87.3	64.0	87.6	61.1	87.7	58.4	88.0	58.6	88.3	58.9
LP	90.9	53.7	91.1	54.0	91.2	51.6	91.3	49.3	91.6	49.7	91.8	50.2
MP	92.6	66.8	92.8	67.3	93.1	64.3	93.4	61.6	93.4	61.6	93.4	61.6
NC	98.2	74.8	98.4	75.1	98.6	71.6	98.8	68.4	98.8	68.4	98.8	68.4
NW	93.6	64.8	93.8	65.1	94.0	62.2	94.2	59.4	94.2	59.5	94.3	59.6
WC	99.5	92.0	99.7	92.4	99.8	88.0	99.8	83.7	99.8	83.7	99.8	83.7
Grand Total	92.9	73.7	93.2	74.4	93.4	71.1	93.6	67.8	93.8	68.0	94.0	68.3

## Percentage distribution of households that have access to improved sanitation per province, 2002–2022



# PROVINCES: GAUTENG

- In Gauteng, DWS is intervening in the Vaal, through Rand Water, to implement approximately R6 billion worth of projects to address the sewage pollution problems there. It is also coordinating Rand Water and all the municipalities to manage the water supply situation in Gauteng, to minimize disruption in supply, the underlying causes of which are that the R40 billion Lesotho Highlands Phase 2 project is delayed by 10 years, coupled with increased demand for water in Gauteng and increased physical losses in municipal distribution systems.



# PROVINCES: LIMPOPO

- In Limpopo, DWS is working with Mopani District Municipality to implement a major billion rand project to supply water to villages in the Giyani area which have never had water. The Department is also coordinating the implementation of the R5 billion Olifants -Ebenezer project to supply additional water to Polokwane and other areas. The Department is further working with Sekhukhune DM to complete the R55 million Moutse and R100 million Nebo Bulkwater schemes, which will also provide water to communities which have never had a water supply.



# PROVINCES: MPUMALANGA

- In Mpumalanga, the Department is coordinating the R2 billion Loskop project to build a pipeline from the Loskop Dam to Thembisile Hani LM to enable more communities in that area to be provided with water. The Department is also supporting the Lekwa LM with the implementation of a range of projects worth approximately R250 million to improve water supply and sanitation services in that area.



# PROVINCES: KWA-ZULU NATAL

- In KZN, DWS is actively supporting the uMkhanyakude, uThukela, Amajuba, Ugu, Umzinyati, King Cetswayo, uMgungudlovu, and uMsundizi municipalities to improve their water and sanitation services, with projects of approximately R2 billion in total. This involves funding of a range of infrastructure improvements projects as well as management support, drawing on the resources of the uMngeni uThukela Water Board. It is also coordinating the R3 billion Mandlakazi bulk water supply scheme to supply water to communities which have not previously been supplied with water, in the Zululand, uMkhanyakude, and Hlabisa municipalities.

# PROVINCES: NORTHERN CAPE

- In the Northern Cape, the Department is coordinating the implementation of various infrastructure projects to assist the Sol Plaatje municipality to resolve water supply disruptions. The Department is also funding projects to improve sanitation in several municipalities in the Northern Cape.



# PROVINCES: NORTH WEST

- In the North West Province, the Department is coordinating the R400 million Bulela Metsi programme to expedite and prioritize projects to improve the reliability of water supply across the province.



# PROVINCES: FREE STATE

- In the Free State, DWS and its Vaal Central Water Board are supporting Matjhabeng (R2 bn) and Maluti-a-Phafong (2 bn) municipalities to implement a range of projects to improve water and sanitation services. Furthermore, the Department and the water board are working on projects to increase the supply of raw and treated water to Mangaung (repair of the Welbedacht pipeline (1.5 bn) and the Gariiep pipeline (still in planning)).

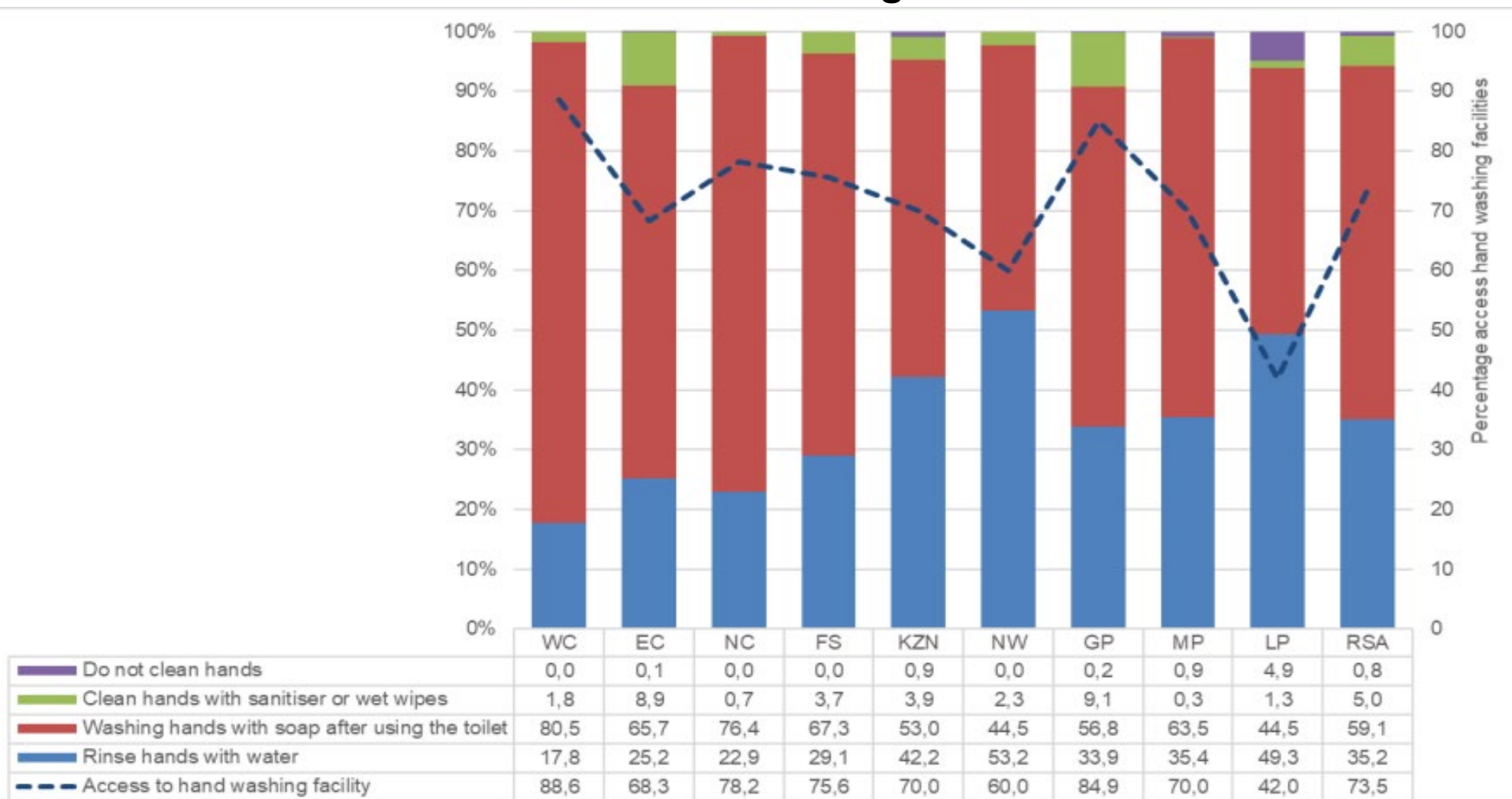


# PROVINCES: EASTERN CAPE

- In the Eastern Cape, the Department has recently completed a R500 m project to increase the capacity of the Nooitgedact water treatment works to enable additional water to be supplied to Gqeberha. Through the Amatola Water Board, the department has also been assisting the Makana (R500 m) and Ndlambe (500m) Local Municipalities to improve the reliability of their water supply.

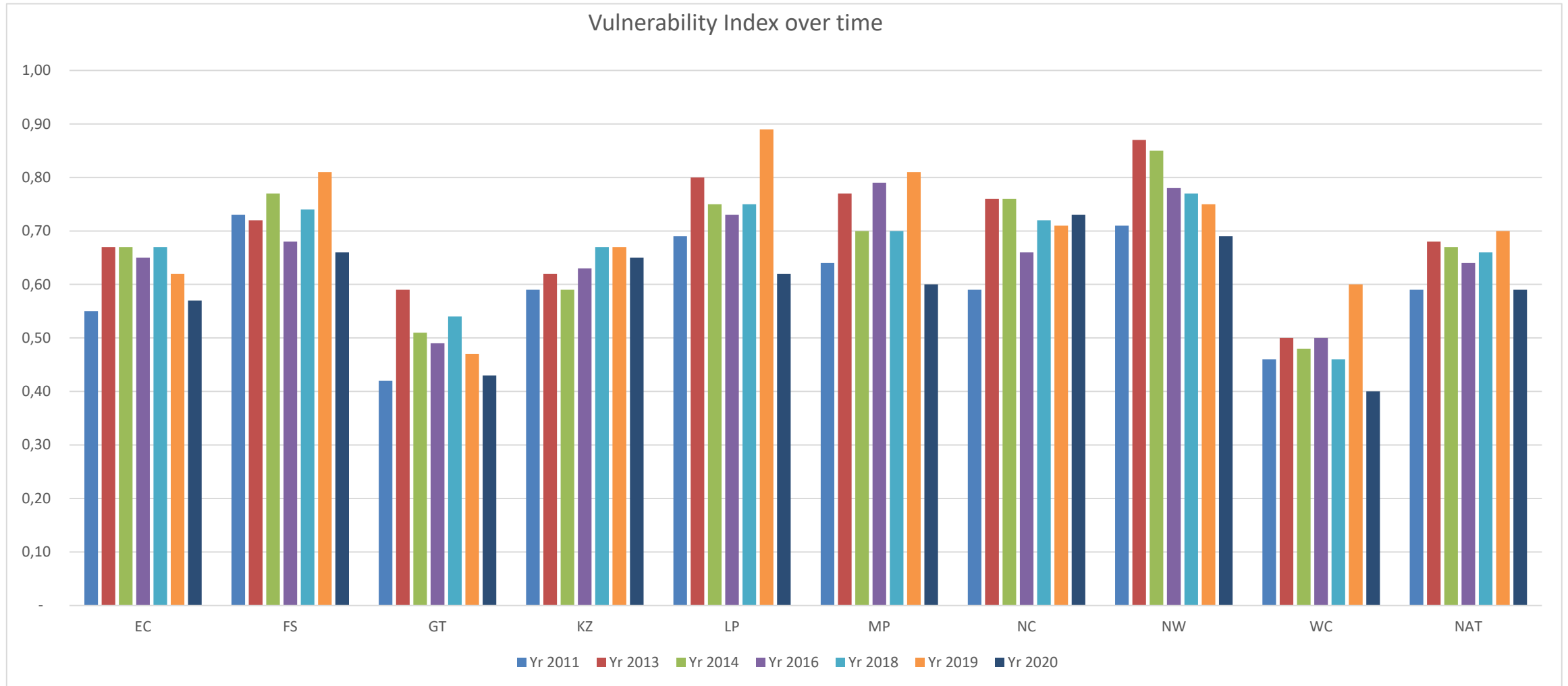


The percentage of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet by province and the percentage of households with access to hand washing facilities in 2021.





# The Municipal Strategic Self-Assessment (MuSSA)



The graph shows measured vulnerability index over time. A score closer to 1 indicates more vulnerability.

## What the Blue and Green Drop Reports focus on

- The **Green Drop report** is a comprehensive assessment of the state of all **wastewater treatment systems** in South Africa, including municipal, Department of Public Works and private wastewater treatment systems
- The **Blue Drop report** is a similar assessment of the state of all **drinking water systems** (including Water Treatment Works and municipal water distribution systems) in the country
- Both reports cover:
  - assessments of the condition of the infrastructure
  - whether the required maintenance is being done on the infrastructure
  - whether the infrastructure is operated correctly
  - whether the proper treatment processes are followed
  - whether proper monitoring and controls are in place
  - whether the staff have the necessary skills and qualifications

## What the No Drop report focuses on

- The **No Drop report** is an assessment of the degree to which the drinking water distribution systems of municipalities supply water efficiently, without **wasting water**
- The No Drop assessment covers:
  - levels of physical water losses in the system (for example through leaks in pipes)
  - levels of non-revenue water
  - the average amount of water used per capita per day
  - whether infrastructure is being maintained properly to minimise wastage
  - the existence of plans and strategies to reduce water losses; the effectiveness of metering, billing and revenue collection systems

## Results of DWS Blue Drop (drinking water), Green Drop (wastewater) and No Drop reports

- 67 out of 144 Water Services Authorities (WSAs) scored 'critical' on average across their water supply systems and/or wastewater systems in the 2023 Blue Drop and 2022 Green Drop assessments. A further 38 scored 'poor' on average. Therefore 73% of WSAs scored critical or poor
- Percentage of water supply systems with poor or bad microbiological water quality compliance (i.e. water that is not safe to drink) increased from 5% in 2014 to 46% in 2023 – resulting in increased risk of water-borne diseases
- Lack of skilled staff is a key issue - Gauteng has highest percentage of drinking water systems with excellent or good performance and lowest shortfall of qualified staff; Northern Cape has highest percentage of drinking water systems with poor or critical performance and highest shortfall of qualified staff
- 66% of municipal wastewater infrastructure is in a poor or critically poor condition; percentage of municipal wastewater systems in an overall critical state of performance increased from 30% in 2013 to 39% in 2022
- 90 of the 144 water services had at least one critical wastewater system – i.e. discharging partially treated or untreated sewage into rivers - resulting in increased risk of diseases such as cholera across the country
- National average for municipal non-revenue water increased from 37% in 2014 to 47% in 2023. Implications:
  - Money spent to develop dams and water treatment works is wasted if a large portion of the treated water is thrown away through leaks in municipal water distribution systems
  - Municipalities with high non-revenue water are unable to pay water boards for treated water supplied by them and cannot afford to properly maintain and operate their water distribution infrastructure

# Grants

- The Department of Water and Sanitation manages two conditional grants namely Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) and Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), which are aimed at supporting municipalities to develop their water and sanitation infrastructure and to address backlogs of infrastructure and access to water services.
- The RBIG programme started in 2007/8 financial year, as schedule 7 of Division of Revenue Act (DoRA). A number of projects and phases have been completed since inception resulting in millions of people/household benefiting from completed projects.
- WSIG: National Treasury embarked on Grants Review during the year 2015/16 and the outcome of the review merged several grants into one grant- WSIG in 2016/17 year. The grant fund projects that are R50 million or less in terms of cost. The grant grows substantially and the impact is realised, although there are several challenges experience in the municipalities.

## Conclusions

- Impressive progress has been made in providing basic services over the past 30 years.
- The Government. Department has over the years developed and implemented various support programmes which has assisted and improved set up and process in municipalities to ensure the provision of basic water and sanitation services,
- Institutional and financial challenges at the local government level, coupled with a lack of political will, are causes for concern, and contribute to continued compromised access to basic water and sanitation services
- This lack of access is particularly acute in informal settlements, inner city buildings, townships in rural areas, and on farms.
- Women, the disabled and people living with HIV/AIDS are most affected by a lack of access to water and adequate basic sanitation.

**THANK YOU**