

## SA receives prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award

Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu has received, on behalf of the department, the prestigious International Social Security Association (ISSA) Good Practice Award in Social Security for Africa 2023.



Image source: [SAgovnews on Twitter](#)

The Minister received the award at the ISSA Regional Social Security Forum for Africa Awards Ceremony held on Wednesday in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.

South Africa is participating in the ISSA Regional Social Security Forum (RSSF) being held from 17 – 19 May 2023. For the Good Practice Award, a total of 138 entries were received from 48 member institutions in over 30 countries in Africa.

The Good Practice Award on the entry entitled, 'Gradual extension of social security coverage to vulnerable children: The case of the Child Support Grant, South Africa', recognises South Africa's efforts in extending social security coverage to vulnerable children.

During the forum, South Africa will in plenary showcase interventions implemented to ensure that the social security system provides much-needed protection to vulnerable children.

At the dawn of democracy, the new government introduced the Child Support Grant (CSG) in 1998 to replace the racially based State Maintenance Grant (SMG), which had been in existence from the 1930s providing income protection to white families, excluding most black families and their children.

The new grant removed the racially discriminatory features, which expanded coverage to all eligible children.

Subject to a means test threshold, the CSG was introduced at a value of R100 and has increased over the years to R500, as of 1 April 2023. The grant has grown over the years, with an increase in the age limit from 7 to 18 years old, with just over 13 million children now receiving it monthly, amounting to approximately R76bn per annum.



## Expired Sassa gold cards' validity extended to end of the year

9 May 2023



As from 1 June 2022, the department introduced a supplementary provision, as an additional payment to the CSG, to the value of R250 bringing the total amount to R750.

This was introduced to assist relatives taking care of orphans and children living in child-headed households to provide for their basic needs and promote family preservation.

“We view the CSG as an investment government is making in the lives of our children, especially those from poor and vulnerable households. The State continues to play a pivotal role in the social protection of children, ranging from social grants to free schooling and free health care amongst others,” Zulu said.

At the same award ceremony, the department’s agency, the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) received two certificates of Merit with Special Mention on:

- Social Relief of Distress for victims affected by regional floods in the KwaZulu-Natal province, and
- Social Relief of Distress: Social assistance for people in distress at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

SASSA also received a Certificate of Merit on the introduction of electronic deductions on funeral insurance premiums for social grants beneficiaries.

ISSA is a world leading international organisation for social security institutions, government departments and agencies. It was founded in 1927 under the auspices of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Today it has over 320 member institutions from over 160 countries.



## 5 key reasons why basic income support for poor South Africans makes sense

Stephen Devereux 2 Aug 2021



## Cooperation on social security

On Friday, Zulu will participate in the joint session of the African Union-ISSA Regional Social Security Summit, which will feature other African States, the African Union Commissioner on Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The summit will feature the official launch of the Africa Social Security Institutions Coordination and Cooperation Forum.

Speaking ahead of the summit, Zulu said: "South Africa looks forward to sharing our commitment to extension of social security coverage to all from a human rights perspective, and ensuring that the state of the people is improved through social-economic development.

"This is in line with achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want."

Zulu used the Abidjan visit to meet with her counterparts responsible for employment and social protection, as well as solidarity and the fight against poverty, having recently signed a partnership agreement with the latter on Comprehensive Social Security, Poverty Eradication and Development Welfare Services.

The Minister reiterated the importance of African countries sharing best practices on social security related matters to improve the well-being of all African people and further reiterated the need to accelerate the implementation of reforms and foster cooperation among all stakeholders within this sector.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>