

# Kate Wilkinson - Factsheet: The Housing Situation In South Africa

The provision of housing in South Africa was described as one of the country's biggest challenges in 1994. But what is the situation now? How many houses have been delivered? And how many more are needed? This factsheet looks at the housing situation in South Africa.

*How big is the housing backlog?*



A woman gets water for her washing in Alexandra township of Johannesburg. Photo: Alexander Joe/AFP

A 1994 housing white paper described providing housing to the South Africa's citizens as one of the greatest challenges facing government. It estimated that the urban housing backlog stood at about 1.5 million houses and that the backlog was growing at a rate of 178,000 units a year.

The 1996 national census revealed that 1.4 million shacks or informal dwellings remained in the country. This represented 16% of the 9-million households in South Africa at the time.

By 2011, the census showed that the number of shacks and informal dwellings had increased to about 1.9-million. However, this then represented about 13% of all households in the country - a decrease of three percentage points since 1996.

*Read more:* <http://africacheck.org/factsheet-the-housing-situation-in-south-africa/>

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