

Poverty



We seek to make a contribution towards alleviating poverty through research and development

Poverty and development

All research done by the HSRC has the eventual aim to contribute towards alleviating poverty, but some of the research is directed towards interventions that could directly influence the dire situation of the poorest of the poor.

Our research has resulted in:

- A series of papers that scope the state of knowledge concerning household food security in South Africa;
- Establishing a new set of official poverty lines for Namibia;
- Developing a social policy framework that has been endorsed by the African Union; and
- Informing the Mozambique government on ways how that neighbouring country's agricultural sector can achieve optimal growth.

Improving household food security

We believe that reducing household food insecurity is critical to halving poverty by 2014. At present, however, South Africans are experiencing high rates of household food insecurity, higher than the norm in a middle-income country.

Food insecurity is exacerbated by a number of factors such as rising food and fuel prices, poor access to land and support, and unemployment and low income. A team of researchers from a variety of research bodies, including the HSRC Knowledge Systems unit and Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), is investigating what contributes to South Africa's food insecurity; identifying policy options; and monitoring and evaluating food security status. This is being done in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, in support of the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme Task Team, and with financial support from the ComMark Trust and the HSRC.

We have produced a series of papers to scope the state of knowledge in respect of household food security in our country. While many insights have been gained, it is clear that the monitoring of household food security and own production require much deeper attention.

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Strategies to support smallholders

Papers on strategies to support smallholders formed part of a project led by the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) and funded by the Second Economy project at TIPS/ComMark.

The core of the exercise entailed identifying successful South African smallholders active in different settings and examining the factors that contribute to their success; whether these are personal, contextual or institutional.

In the process of conducting the smallholder case studies (and in combination with extensive literature review), we also investigated the

efficacy and relevance of different intervention and support strategies. Some of the key findings include the following:

- Group-based projects tend to show less evidence of adaptability than individual entrepreneurs.
- Most of the commercially successful farmers are men (or, more accurately, male-headed households) while women are predominant among subsistence-oriented farmers.
- Current policy places excessive emphasis on commercially oriented smallholders, seemingly predicated on the belief that household production is not a route out of poverty, nor is it even developmental. Yet, household production can, for relatively little investment, make a meaningful difference to the lives of many in a manner that is relatively low risk.
- Despite the widespread subscription to the idea that farming at one level serves as a means of developing skills upon which one can prepare to move to the next level, there is little in current policy that makes it tangible.

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Cup. In the process, the project unravelled the complex interplay of relationships between these objectives as they relate to the potential to foster urban and economic development in particular. It has asked some difficult questions along the way.

The overall conclusion, based on sound, rigorous impact assessment research, is that the contribution of the event to economic development, including tourism, job creation and poverty mitigation, has almost certainly been overstated. The wider urban development benefits are also likely to be rather circumscribed, with little evidence of infrastructural, service and facilities provision beyond the lifespan of the event.

The event's contribution to GDP is also being questioned in recent modelling exercises. Furthermore, in a country like South Africa where disparities among the rich and poor are among the highest in the world, inequality may even be exacerbated as a result of what many consider to be a failure to prioritise expenditure in a developing economy.

On the other hand, the host cities and the economy in general may benefit considerably from investment in transport and information and communication technology and the 2010 FIFA World Cup will no doubt contribute to the design and implementation of an integrated public transport system in our major urban conurbations.

The groundbreaking research project represents the largest consolidated body of independent research on the subject and includes a balanced and largely unsentimental mix of assessments of South Africa's future prospects.

Centre for Service Delivery

Gender and poverty reduction: voice, dialogue, targeting

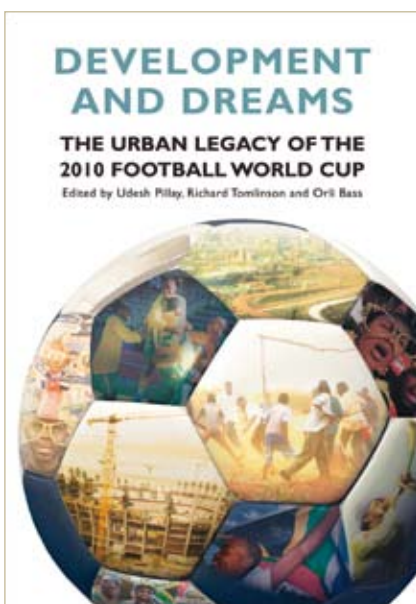
The HSRC produced a gender analysis of national poverty reduction strategies, which was presented to NGOs and policy-makers in a consultative workshop in December 2008.

The urban legacy of hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup

Hosting the 2010 Fifa World Cup is expected to affect the South African economy, the country's infrastructure and its cities, as well as influence how African culture and readiness is projected to the rest of the world.

The HSRC 2010 Research Project, currently in its fifth year but drawing to a close

with the publication of the book *Development and Dreams*, has interrogated some of the key assumptions in relation to the 2010 FIFA World



Some of our key findings and recommendations included the following:

- Social assistance grants and old-age pensions are the most effective current form of poverty alleviation and impact on women's quality of life. Available statistics in key areas (such as life expectancy, unemployment, being HIV positive, among others) suggest that African women - particularly those living in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal - are the worst off in the country.
- Further research should be conducted on land reform, especially in terms of women's access to land.
- There is a need to understand urban and peri-urban poverty better, especially as far as gendered issues of security, space, and migration between rural and urban areas goes.
- Informal trading, an area heavily dominated by women, is largely unrepresented in dominant literature on poverty and inequality.
- There is a need to understand better the impact of social assistance grants – beyond who it is (men or women) who receives them, but how such income plays out in terms of sustaining households.

Policy Analysis and Capacity Enhancement unit

Namibia national poverty line

This multi-year project, funded by the UN Development Programme Namibia, focused on providing technical assistance to colleagues from the Namibian Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in establishing a new set of official national poverty lines for the country, using the 2003/04 Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES).

The HSRC was also part of the team that prepared the first comprehensive government report on poverty and inequality in Namibia based on the data and using the new poverty lines.



Ovahimba women in Kaokoland, Namibia

The project culminated in the launch of the poverty and inequality report by the Namibian Central Bureau of Statistics during Africa Statistics Day commemorations held at the National Planning Commission in Windhoek on 18 November 2008.

The report has led to the adoption of a new national poverty line in that country. The methodology used to produce the report relies on the cost-of-basic-needs (CBN) approach, which has become one of the international standards in poverty measurement. The approach has also become the norm for poverty monitoring in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and in other developing countries.

The new poverty lines were used to provide a detailed profile of poverty in Namibia. Some of the results have clear potential for enhancing geographic targeting in the design of anti-poverty policies and interventions.

Clear findings emerged about the inverse relationship between poverty and educational attainment, thus affirming the importance of educational investments, especially in expanding access to secondary education.

Useful insight is offered on social protection and the salient contributory role that pensions play for poor households that rely on this source as a main form of income. Our report also illustrates

the social exclusion of certain socio-demographic groups such as the San community.

Child, Youth, Family and Social Development programme.

Mapping of agricultural expenditure in Mozambique

The HSRC undertook a study of the agricultural sector in Mozambique to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditure in that sector. Seeing that its economy is largely dependent on agriculture, the country aims at ensuring that investment is optimised to achieve the best results.

Our study found that rates of poverty declined substantially in the periods 1996 to 1997 and 2002 to 2003. The goal of reducing poverty by 60% by 2005 - as set out in the action plan for the reduction of absolute poverty - has, in all likelihood, already been achieved.

However, the study found no evidence of rural poverty reduction (despite comments made to the contrary by the Mozambique ministry of planning and financing).

The poverty headcount is the highest in Inhambane (81%) while the lowest poverty headcount is in Sofala with 34%. The provinces situated further north (Tete, Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Nampula) have the highest percentages of adults active in agriculture.

The HSRC proposed that money should be invested in maize production, as the main agricultural activity, to increase work opportunities and improve skills. At the same time, investment in other successful crops should encourage diversification so that there is not a sole dependency on maize.

Furthermore, the HSRC report pointed out that certain provinces are more vulnerable due to socioeconomic conditions and therefore need to be targeted as priority investment areas. The

Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System and the World Bank will oversee the final implementation of the recommendations contained in the HSRC report.

Knowledge Systems unit

A social policy framework for Africa

This HSRC project, commissioned by the African Union (AU) Department of Social Affairs, endeavoured to develop a social policy framework (SPF) for Africa, a notion that emanated from the first session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission held in Mauritius in 2003.

At this meeting the ministers requested the development of such a framework to assist AU member states in their quest to address the compelling and pervasive socioeconomic challenges facing the continent.

The draft social policy framework was presented to the first session of the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of social development in Windhoek, Namibia in October 2008, with the title *Towards a sustainable social development agenda for Africa*. The ministers adopted the framework in its entirety and expressed a willingness to implement its strategies.

The framework formed part of the Windhoek Declaration on Social Development, which renewed the commitment AU Member States to invest in development, and particularly in the continent's social sector. The SPF was further endorsed by the AU Executive Council of Ministers, and Assembly of Heads of States and Governments, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the end of January 2009.

Child, Youth, Family and Social Development programme

Service delivery

Post-apartheid policy in South Africa has focused on the effective and efficient delivery of services to its citizens, particularly to rural inhabitants and those historically deprived of basic essential services such as water and sanitation, housing, electricity and health facilities.

Scientific research towards understanding and explaining the dominant trends in service delivery for human development is critical, as is analysing and generating practical solutions to problems of planning and administration.

Our initiatives have resulted in:

- Improving energy services in the poverty stricken community of Imizamo Yethu in Cape Town;
- Recommendations on the pricing of electricity, which have been adopted by the National Energy Regulator and Eskom; and
- Developing a settlement typology that enables estimates to be made of the number and type of housing needed for different types of communities.

Measuring service delivery in southern Africa

This multi-country assessment in selected southern African countries, titled the *Southern African Trust* (SAT) project, explores the challenges in meeting key service delivery targets implicit in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The project, which is funded by SAT and implemented by the HSRC, supports progress by undertaking country studies, constructing tools of analysis and drawing out lessons for assessment, policy and practice.

The HSRC is managing the entire research process and cooperates across countries via methodological and report-back workshops. The country workshops serve to set up implementation networks between government, civil society and researchers, to carry forward ideas and strategies arising from the research.

Up to now, the project has had a diffused impact through the implementation networks initiated during and following its workshops. High impact is anticipated in the final stage when reports will be drawn together and the full range of networks activated.

Centre for Service Delivery



The impact of electricity pricing and rationing on the SA economy

In a project funded by the ComMark Trust, the HSRC worked with the Presidency and the National Electricity Response Team to help identify an approach that would optimally balance the need to reduce electricity consumption; meet the financial needs of Eskom; and minimise negative impacts on the economy, employment and low-income households.

In 2008, the biggest impact of this work was to offer critical guidance to the key stakeholders in the multi-year electricity price determination. Our recommendations were largely adopted by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa and set expectations in the market and for Eskom.

Our work established a methodology for setting the electricity price in a way that addresses Eskom's commercial needs and meets the growth and employment imperatives of the economy.

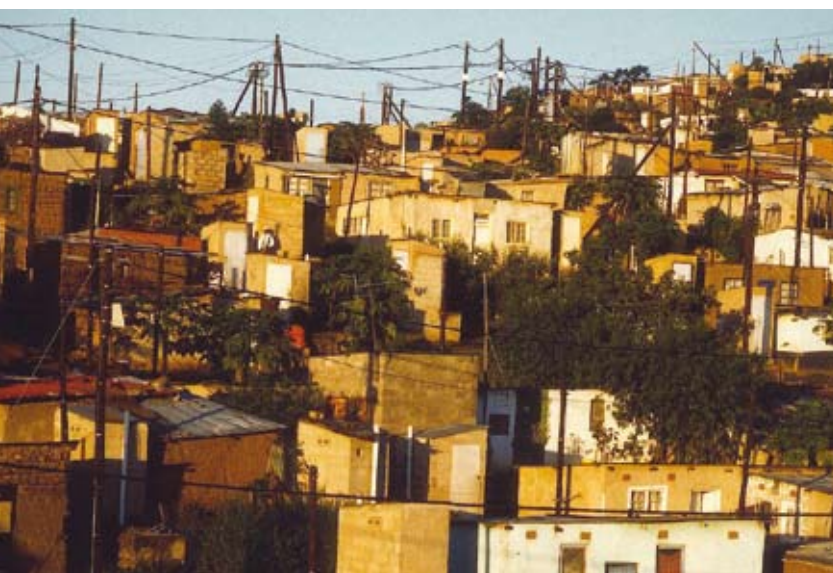
Centre for Poverty, Employment and Growth

A household perspective of electrification

The Department of Minerals and Energy funded a national survey study to investigate the impact of the electrification programme on people's livelihood.

The study found that almost all low-income households surveyed by the HSRC used pre-paid meters. Although free basic electricity is aimed primarily at assisting poor households, only a third of the households in the study indicated that they receive it. The vast majority (85%) of households felt that the electrification programme had benefited them.

Knowledge Systems unit



Alleviation of poverty through energy services

The HSRC has been involved in addressing energy-related challenges in the City of Cape Town metropolitan area. These energy related challenges include: improving energy for basic household needs; reducing dangers and hazards from unsafe energy use; addressing energy problems of under-serviced marginal informal settlements; and using pro-poor (and equitable) approaches to electricity/energy conservation.

We are working in collaboration with members of the Cape Town project team involved in the alleviation of poverty through provision of local energy services (APPLES), international APPLES project partners, and the Energy Research Centre (ERC) at the University of Cape Town.

The HSRC's involvement in the project in the poverty-stricken community of Imizamo Yethu in Cape Town has led to improving local energy services through:

- the collection, recording and analysis of community level data and information regarding local energy services for poverty alleviation;
- raising community awareness by focusing on energy use and energy safety;
- bringing together community stakeholders and local energy service providers to consider the best ways of improving local energy services for poverty alleviation for the benefit of the local community; and
- presenting the initiative to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Minerals and Energy.

Under the thematic focus of the project, the HSRC envisages continued participation and involvement in the APPLES initiative.

Democracy & Governance programme

Social networks and service delivery

Our research project on the degree of fit between social solidarity and government service delivery explored some of the issues raised in *A nation in the making*, the Presidency's review of macro-social trends in South Africa.

We concluded that social networks could provide individuals with access to opportunities and resources that are not available to people outside of these networks. Our study sought to understand how these networks operate, what influences them and how they can be used to improve the efficiency of government service delivery.

Policy Analysis and Capacity Development (PACE) unit

Growth and development in the Limpopo province

In partnership with the Limpopo provincial government, the HSRC has initiated collaboration on the progress that has been made in implementing the Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy 2004 – 2014.

The collaboration consists of three process and outcome evaluation projects. The University of Limpopo is a partner in some of the projects and the intention is for the HSRC develop the university's expertise in programme evaluation.

Policy Analysis and Capacity Development unit

Service delivery in the Municipality of Tshwane

The aim of this project is to conduct multi-layered, action research in an attempt to produce evidence-based knowledge leading to local interventions through pilot 'demonstrations' that will help accelerate service delivery in the municipality of Tshwane. The idea is to build a more effective delivery system in the municipality through interventions that combine better

planning, training and implementation (more detail available under Demonstration Projects on page 84).

Centre for Service Delivery

Futures research

Futures research at the HSRC has been initiated by the collection of 27 key development indicators over a period of 20 or more years, their analysis and use in projections into the future.

The main output so far has been the first State of the Future Index Report (SA-SOFI), which has been widely circulated and well received.

The second round of research builds on the validation of these variables and focuses on the future of the water and energy sectors.

Explorations are being made with the Presidency regarding the alignment of the 27 variables with those maintained by monitoring and evaluation in the Presidency to build a parallel set of past, current, and future indicators.

Centre for Service Delivery

Citizen report card

The World Bank commissioned the HSRC to do a consultative community report card survey in the municipalities of Tshwane in Gauteng and OR Tambo in the Eastern Cape.

It is interesting to note that in spite of the differences in geography and settlement types in the two municipalities, both experienced the same problems in terms of service delivery. Participants not only tabled their opinions but also provided suggestions on how to improve the process of service delivery. The problems noted in service delivery were:

- ineffective consultation/participation;
- ineffective communication channels;
- ineffective community structures (e.g. ward committees);

- lack of capacity concerning councillors and community leaders; and
- lack of awareness of government policies.

The results suggest that government needs to adhere to and intensify the implementation of the *Batho Pele* principles, which aims to enhance the quality and accessibility of government services.

Knowledge Systems unit

Integrated planning, development and modelling

Phase 1 of this project, funded by the Department of Science and Technology and implemented in partnership with the CSIR, aimed to develop an online facility for local government delivery planning to speed up delivery of housing, infrastructure, transport and other government benefits to communities.

Delivery at local level has been slow relative to the urgent need, partly because there has been no available planning data for municipal planners to use in estimating the volume and character of the need for housing, which comes with the

Dr David Hemson of the Centre for Service Delivery, tastes the ground water at a borehole in the Eastern Cape; people do not drink this water because it is brackish.



need for linked delivery of transport and other infrastructure.

The HSRC contribution is to draw together empirical data on migration, economic activity, housing and transport as the base for the developing of a model. To this end, a pilot survey of the Sekhukhune-Gauteng migration corridor was completed.

The HSRC has also developed a settlement typology for poor communities. The typology allows estimates to be made of the number and type of housing needed at community level for all different types of communities. The settlement typology is available online in a prototype format as a planning instrument and has drawn interest from several government departments as well as from the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

The specific findings of the HSRC project component – documenting the sudden explosion of quality self-build housing and the probability that traditional housing is now disappearing – have been presented to the Parliamentary Budget Committee (October 2008) and several enquiries have been received from committee members.

Child, Youth, Family and Social Development programme

Accelerating sustainable water service delivery

This project, in which the HSRC is acting as the project manager to implement rural water schemes in the Eastern Cape, is unusual in the sense that it explores the relation between the 'hard' and 'soft' sciences of project implementation in deep rural areas.

Our project is designed to produce concrete results - through innovation and scientific intervention - to accelerate the provision of safe drinking water to poor communities (also reported under Demonstration Projects on page 85).

Centre for Service Delivery

Social inclusion and exclusion

The HSRC studies factors that lead to the social exclusion, alienation and disenfranchisement of certain groups of people in the South African society. Our research investigates the plight of people with disabilities, the elderly, women, orphans and vulnerable children, and of teenage fathers.

Our initiatives have resulted in:

- A report that provides insight into the plight of teenage fathers in impoverished communities; and
- The recent launch of a study that will shed light on the complexities of intergenerational relations.

Teenage Tata: young fathers in impoverished communities

The HSRC conducted a study on the plight of impoverished young South African men who became fathers during their teenage years.

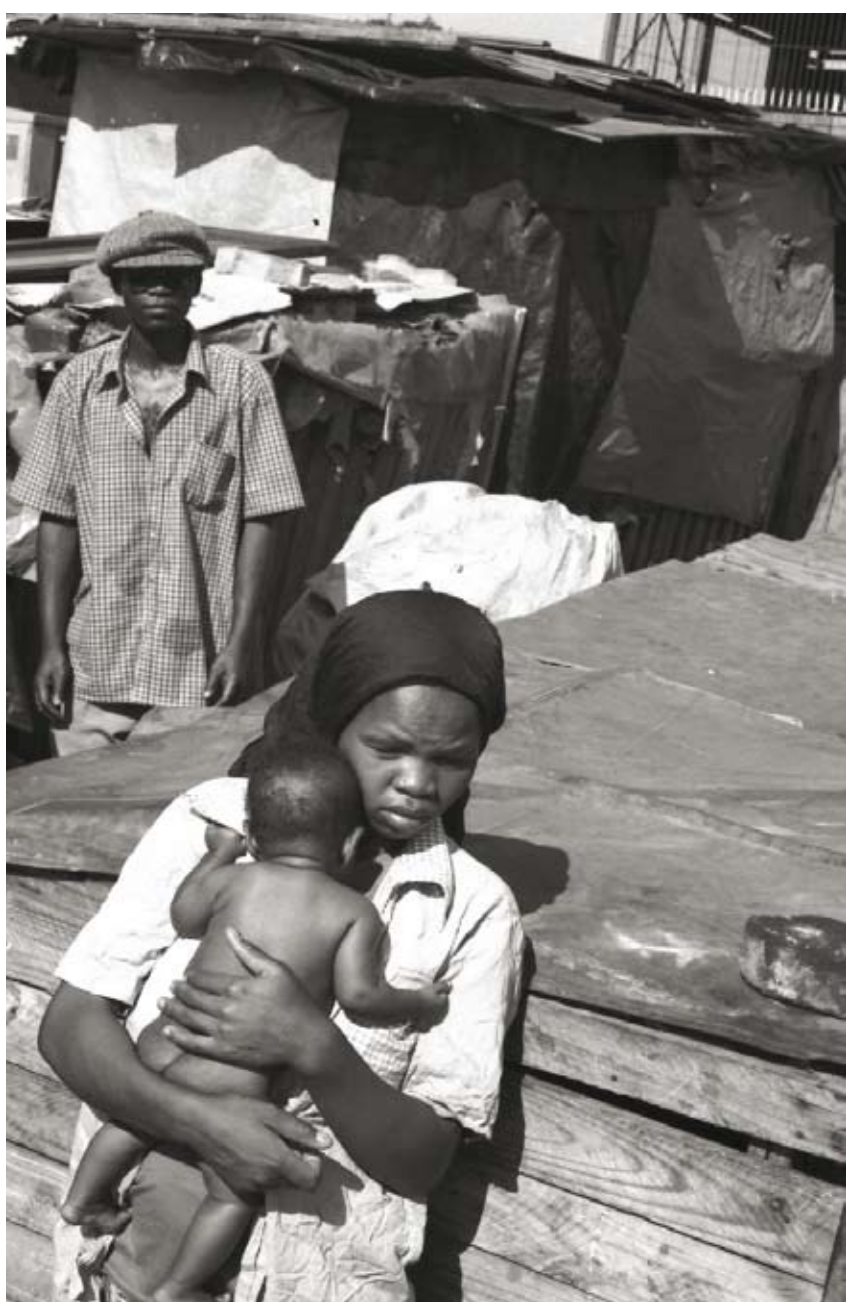
The research design was qualitative and employed a set of interviews with 27 young men from Langa and Bonteheuwel in Cape Town and Cato Manor, Bonella and Mayville in Durban.

The main findings of the study are distilled into ten factors that either hinder or encourage young men's sexual health and participation in the fathering of their children. Among these are:

- the cultural measure of money being equated with responsibility;
- high unemployment rates;
- multiple concurrent partnerships (MCP) among young men;
- ignorance about basic biology and contraception;
- the way in which parents commandeer young fathers' responsibilities ; and (please insert)
- the widespread failure of services and sex education for these young men.

The study was funded by the Swedish organisation Save the Children.

Child, Youth, Family and Social Development programme



Relationships between generations in South Africa

It is believed that rapid social changes in Africa have resulted in high intergenerational disjuncture on the continent. In spite of the importance of intergenerational relations in African societies, very little attempt has been made to understand this phenomenon. The HSRC has thus commenced a research project to fill the gap in information on this important aspect of African societies.

The project studies the two main aspects of intergenerational relations, namely the direction

of intergenerational flow of economic resources and the patterns of co-residence. We aim to show how older persons are disadvantaged on these fronts and to investigate the level of conflict (of which abuse is the extreme form) as well as the level of solidarity and detachment between the existing generations.

The HSRC research is intended to lead to the formulation of a manual that will assist communities to forge intergenerational solidarity.

Child, Youth, Family and Social Development programme

