HSRC hosts
Phil Borges
photo exhibition

contents

Message
from the CEO

In for the long haul:
No short cuts in HIV/ AIDS prevention

The challenge of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is to sustain and build on the gains made in the last few decades, but the end of the epidemic is nowhere in sight. To get ahead of the epidemic, it is time to come to terms with its complexity, as stated by UNAIDS executive director, Peter Piot, at the 17th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008), held in Mexico City in August.

HIV spread is fuelled by a number of factors, including behaviour, some of which are driven by socio-cultural, economic and political determinants. The role of these determinants varies greatly between and within countries. There is no single solution that can reduce new HIV infections. The message of AIDS 2008 is that combination prevention, just like combination treatment, is the only feasible option, which means finding the right mix of prevention interventions and treatment for the local situation.

As the largest and most diverse international meeting devoted to a single global health issue, AIDS 2008 drew together scientists, policy makers, advocates for special issues, service providers, people living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers, the gay community, and all those affected or concerned about HIV and AIDS. It is a place where we try to learn from each other about new developments, share experiences of what works in HIV prevention, treatment and care, and to map the road ahead.

In the words of Dr Myron Cohen of the University of North Carolina, AIDS 2008 brought the realisation that it is not possible to "treat our way out of the epidemic." We are experiencing more new HIV infections adding to the already large pool of those already living with HIV, suggesting that we are in this for the long haul.

Southern Africa contributes disproportionately to these new infections. If the global HIV epidemic among the youth in South Africa has to be halted and reversed by 2015, the country will have to dramatically reduce the new infections through community mobilisation and proceed towards a massive uptake of a combination of treatment and prevention strategies. On the prevention side, these include HIV-prevention technologies such as prevention of mother-to-child transmission, the uptake of male circumcision, increasing a consistent use of condoms, and an increase in the number of people who go for voluntary counselling and testing, reducing multiple and concurrent sex partners, and ending transactional sex.

Without a national effort to tackle this epidemic, using multiple approaches and allocating resources, we are unlikely to win the war on AIDS. Half-hearted national approaches will not end this epidemic.

The HSRC sent a group of 30 plus researchers to the conference to present their work in a number of forums, including oral presentations, discussion forums, satellite sessions, posters, skills building, chairing and participating in oral sessions and discussion panels, and in the case of Professor Linda Richter, presenting at a plenary session.

At such a big event, the work done by the HSRC can easily get lost. For this reason we are devoting a special section of the *HSRC Review* to our work on pages 30 to 48. We invite our readers to peruse it and give feedback via media@hsrc.ac.za.

News**Roundup**

Groundbreaking trials in Sweetwaters, Pietermaritzburg

The HSRC officially opened a research office in a rural area outside Pietermaritzburg on 29 August, from where three large, multi-year, randomised control trials are being conducted. These trials will continue for the next five years.

The trials are aimed at testing the effectiveness of interventions in communities, in collaboration with health and education services and civil society organisations, working to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on families.

Dr Olive Shisana, CEO of the HSRC, who officially opened the Sweetwaters office, emphasised that "it is critical to conduct studies that generate evidence using randomised control trials of such magnitude. Arising from these studies will be recommendations that will feed into HIV prevention programme development."

Professor Linda Richter, executive director of CYFSD, who leads the studies, said this is arguably the largest research site in South Africa that concentrates primarily on social-behavioural research targeting children, youth and families in their communities.

Grants for R47 million have been secured for the period up to 2013. "These funds enable the HSRC to employ close to 150 staff, most originally from this area – making the development of the staff and the site a financially and academically viable option for the HSRC and for future research development in this country," Prof. Richter said.

The first project began in 2004. "Key to our success are the partnerships we have built with traditional authorities, ward councillors, health and education services, faith and other civil society organisations," said Prof. Richter. "Through these key partnerships we are able to create employment opportunities that retain talented young people in this community, and contribute to the development of the area as a whole. We try as best as we can to source materials and labour from the area."

Ms Heidi van Rooyen, who heads up the Sweetwaters office, explained that the HSRC's work here aims to evaluate various types of interventions that address the wider context of vulnerable children and youth, as well as their families and communities.

Fieldworkers at the Sweetwaters launch

News**Roundup**

The projects

Project Accept
A phase III, randomised controlled trial of community mobilisation, mobile testing, same-day results, and post-test support for HIV in sub-Saharan Africa and Thailand

Project Accept, is one of five sites in a multi-country randomised controlled trial in 34 communities in Africa (South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) and 14 communities in Thailand.

The study aims to test the comparative advantage of two approaches to HIV prevention using voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), establishing the number of recent HIV infections (incidence) in the population, together with self-reports about behaviour and attitudes. The trial includes comparisons of cost-efficacy between the two approaches. The overall aim is to rapidly increase the number of people in the community who know their HIV status.

Project Accept suggests an alternative model to the standard facility-based VCT services in the country, namely community mobilisation for testing, immediate test results made available by mobile services in communities, and linking testing to post-test support services for both HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals and people in their social networks. The data provides evidence that this community-based approach attracts hard-to-reach target populations that are not serviced by health facilities, including men and young people.

After 25 months of intervention, 5 105 clients have been tested in the mobile VCT services, with a relatively equal number of men (45%) and women (55%), and with more than 72% of the participants falling between in the 16–32 age group.

This multi-site study involves collaboration with four USA institutions (Johns Hopkins University; University of California, San Francisco; UCLA and University of Washington) as well as five non-US institutions (Muhimbili Medical College of the University of Dar es Salaam; University of Zimbabwe; University of Witwatersrand; Chiang Mai University and the HSRC).

Project Masihambisane
Mentor Mothers: A sustainable family intervention in a South African township

Prevention-of-mother-to-child-transmission (PMTCT) coverage is low in South Africa, with only about 30% pregnant women who need these services, using them. This represents a missed prevention and treatment opportunity for mother, child, father and others in the family circle.

While there is increased commitment to invest in the quality and quantity of PMTCT, evidence is required on how best to improve the programme's reach and impact, and what investments are required to do so. Project Masihambisane, a clinic-based effectiveness trial, attempts to address an important aspect of this evidence gap.

The intervention is being implemented in eight primary health care clinics in the Vulindlela District and beyond, all of whom are currently delivering the standard PMTCT programme.

Participants in four clinics will receive the PMTCT programme, while in the other four clinics the PMTCT programme is being supplemented with a mentor mother support programme. The impact of the intervention is being assessed over 12-18 months.

The premise is that mothers living with HIV and who receive

Schoolgirls performing at the launch

Prof. Linda Richter addresses the audience at the launch

good information and helpful support from HIV positive mentor mothers will have better outcomes than mothers receiving routine services, in terms of parenting, health practices, HIV prevention, mental health, and their baby's health and development.

The study is being undertaken in collaboration with the Semel Institute and the Department of Psychiatry, UCLA as well as other local and international collaborators.

Going to Scale

A research project to test income interventions to improve the well-being of South African children affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty

Going to Scale (GtS) is a study of about 6 000 children and their families, which aims to generate scientific and policy-relevant knowledge about how South Africa's children are being affected by HIV/AIDS and household poverty – 60 communities are being randomised to receive a variety of interventions to improve access to social grants and services.

Children's outcomes are being examined on a community level (for example, community resources and norms) and on the household level (for example, household poverty and harmful childhood experiences) as well as at the level of the child (for example, growth, health, school attendance and performance). Children will be followed up for three years through schools and communities.

Nkosi N. Zonda and Dr Olive Shisana unveil the plaque at the new HSRC office in Sweetwaters

The study is being undertaken by a research team from the HSRC, New York University in the USA and local and international collaborators.

For more information, e-mail media@hsrc.ac.za

Media session inspires spirited debate

"People working in the media don't really like thinking about themselves. They report about what other people are thinking. But the South African media has changed radically in the past 14 years. It's become very necessary to think about what role media players are taking in relation to power and identity," said Adrian Hadland, opening up a spirited session at the third Cape Town International Book Fair.

Under the banner 'Holding us together or pulling us apart? The role of the South African media in the creation and mutation of identities', six panellists plus media veteran Denis Beckett as chair looked at a range of ways that a changing media is currently engaging with a changing society.

Adam Haupt of the University of Cape Town (UCT) focused on how local producers of culture piece together black male identity through television series, music and film. By analysing the scripts, the imagery and the music of three specific productions – *Yizo Yizo, Hijack Stories* and *Tsotsi* – Haupt found a view that rewards violent, heterosexual thuggery. But, asks Haupt, what of the unfortunate men like himself who are not gangsters, or misogynists, or criminals? Who is rewarding them in the media?

Tanja Bosch (UCT) spoke of exploring online racial identities through social networking sites such as bruin-ou.com. Her research probes notions of coloured identity as expressed on the internet. She has found that online commentary is often a reflection on a disappearing identity, and that websites help draw people together to try and make sense out of this.

Ian Glenn, head of the Centre for Media and Film Studies at UCT, leapt to the defence of the tabloid press in South Africa, which frequently bares the brunt of criticism from media academics. He reckoned that not only do the tabloids promote literacy, expand newspaper sales and give a voice to people who are often marginalised in the mainstream press, but they are staffed by strong professionals. Glenn said the tabloids were hiring his best graduates at a time when the broadsheets were cutting back on staff.

During the lively discussion thoughts were raised on corporate influence on the media, whether tabloids were African and patriotic or un-African and unpatriotic, and whether the expansion of media channels via blogs and the like had turned the general public into media producers. Also, if this was the case, whether there was a definite need for good editorship to 'guarantee some quality amidst all the noise.'

A visitor from Germany said he had lost faith in South African media which he described as a yellow press which had lost its credibility. The media was also criticised as being 'deeply homophobic and sexist', with some panellists themselves called to task for their throwaway lines about 'moffies' in the tabloid press.

Ian Glenn responded by saying that the tabloids may be politically incorrect in using headlines like 'Moffie hooker shot in gat', but they reflected the authentic voices of the Cape Flats. Adam Haupt pointed out that in South Africa the tabloids and the broadsheets were owned by the same companies. He asked: Who was making money out of 'a pathology that was like Jerry Springer gone local'?

Ultimately, chair Dennis Beckett concluded that while the session may not have provided specific answers to questions, it had certainly provoked a whole set of new and exciting ideas.

*Adrian Hadland is the editor, together with **Eric Louw, Simphiwe Sesanti** and **Herman Wasserman,** of Power, Politics and Identity in South African Media (HSRC Press). **Haupt, Glenn, Bosch** and **Narunskey-Laden** are all contributors to this volume.*

Most influential women award for Dr Shisana

Dr Olive Shisana, CEO of the HSRC, received a CEO Magazine's award for South Africa's most influential woman in business and government in Cape Town on 25 August. She won in the category Public Sector and Utilities.

CEO magazine has embarked on a campaign since February to salute women who are trying to transform South Africa socially and economically as well as to honour extraordinary women who have had an effect on other women.

Annalize Wepener, CE of CEO Holdings, said that in choosing winners they were more concerned with looking at the impact of the work of these women, not only in their organisations but also in transforming South Africa.
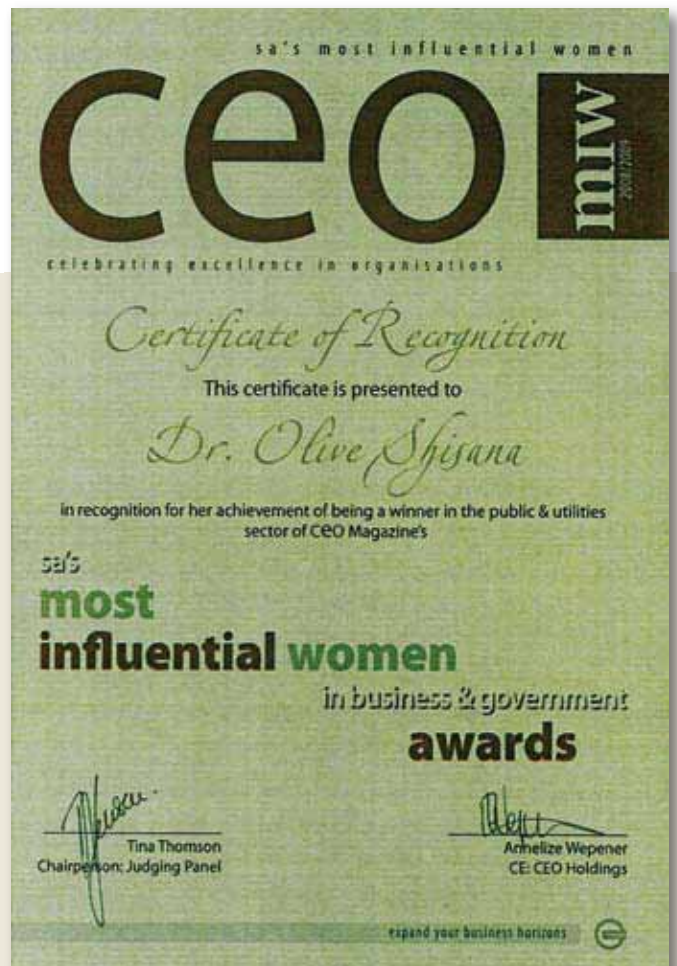
How successful is **racial redress?**

Adam Habib got straight to the point at the HSRC Press discussion on racial redress at the 2008 Cape Town International Book Fair. Addressing a capacity crowd, Habib, deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Johannesburg, identified a key challenge facing South Africa that of advancing racial redress while simultaneously building a national identity. While acknowledging that racial redress, in certain areas, had been a success, redress in terms of gender and disability has been bad.

Moreover, redress in the form of BEE initiatives has largely benefited the black middle class. In order to achieve redress which would impact on a broader scale, particularly on disadvantaged communities, Habib advocated a class-based strategy supplemented by racial initiatives. In this way, he proposed, South Africa could move closer to the ideal of a cosmopolitan nationality.

Jeremy Seekings (UCT) took the debate further when he argued that 'not all forms of redress are about race, nor do they address poverty, but they can create a Patrice Motsepe'. He proposed that BEE policies might be re-racialising society at the same time as making it possible for some people to become super-rich, super-fast. There was something profoundly inequitable in this, he said. What was clear was that questions of redress - of what and for whom - had not been fully addressed in either the public or the academic domain.

Thiven Reddy (UCT) confessed to feeling disappointed and disillusioned at the lack of debate around redress, and in examining whether or not we have reached the goals of a post-apartheid South Africa. He posed that redress, as managed by the state, had been largely couched in the language of affirmative action. Instead, he argued, we should have been more creative and innovative. South Africans would probably never attain full emotional or psychological redress, but attempts at material and political redress could be better, he said.

Ivor Chipkin (HSRC) focused specifically on redress within the public service to evaluate the successes and failures of redress. Based on research he has done, his findings revealed that while on the surface the numbers looked good – 73 % of the public service is now black – there were worrying trends underneath the veneer. Specifically, posts were kept vacant in a 'perverse incentive' to meet equity ratios, and there was a high level of movement among posts, largely due to impossible job descriptions which set black managers up for failure. Chipkin concluded that there was an immediate need to address white racism, in general, as an inhibiting factor regarding redress.

This was echoed from the floor when the debate was opened up. Dr Zimitri Erasmus of UCT said that 'the wrongs of apartheid needed to be put at the centre of the problem, and then white racism could be addressed.' She added that 'the question then is,

who is to do this white work', raising the issue that black people are often expected to 'help' white people with their racism. This was followed up by author Christi van der Westhuizen, who said 'white denial and white privilege was a huge problem', and that what was needed was 'a national debate on what racism means'.

Other points from the audience included the need to address racism and redress at school levels, and the negative stigma attached to affirmative action, including that it was seen as being 'not about the pursuit of excellence, but about the pursuit of a big salary'. Continuing on this theme, it was noted that often the focus of redress has been on acquiring wealth, but that at the same time it has resulted in vast discrepancies between rich and poor.

On a more controversial note, the discussion also touched on the issue that white racism has become an excuse for policies that aren't working. It was also noted that disability, as a focus of redress, was largely ignored. While disability policy was 'wonderful', people were not getting access to the services they needed. It was argued that educational institutions and civil society need to see disability as a human rights issue.

In conclusion, Habib proposed that the discussion clearly showed that what was needed was more nuanced debate around redress and racism. The challenge now, was to look at how to create the spaces where such debate could take place, in the spirit of a cosmopolitan nationalism.

*Adam Habib is co-editor with **Kristina Bentley** of Racial Redress and Citizenship in South Africa (HSRC Press). **Ivor Chipkin** and **Zimitri Erasmus** are contributors to the publication.*

In a Q&A article in the June HSRC Review, **Professor Douglas Wassenaar**, chair of the HSRC Ethics Committee, was renamed as Theo Wassenaar. We apologise for this misnomer.

Field of **dreams** or **despair?**

Since South Africa's transition to democracy and readmission into the international sporting fraternity, much attention has been placed on the transformative and nation-building potential of sports generally and the hosting of global sporting events specifically. By analysing attitudes to the Football World Cup over the last three years, **Udesh Pillay**, **Ben Roberts** and **Orli Bass** confront certain misconceptions about the state of play of this social cohesion agenda.

The grandeur and precision of the pageantry and performance displayed by China during the Beijing Olympic Games ultimately seemed to eclipse the political tensions pertaining to the country's human rights record that characterised the lead up to the mega-event. With Beijing's political baggage presumably packed away, the global sporting event focus rapidly shifted to South Africa and its ongoing preparations for the 2010 Football World Cup.

The 1995 Rugby World Cup, 1996 African Cup of Nations, and the 2003 Cricket World Cup are notable examples of international events that South Africa successfully hosted. Politically, they were used to effectively and symbolically demonstrate how the country has progressed in transcending social divides, and amplify its reputation as a 'rainbow nation'.

Yet, a rip has appeared in the weave of multicultural post-apartheid identity. In Beijing to promote the World Cup, Minister in the Presidency and member of the Board of the 2010 World Cup Organising Committee, Dr Essop Pahad, was recently reported as saying that 'Even though they are a minority, there are still a lot of whites who don't support Bafana Bafana". In addition, he reportedly stated: "They also don't care that the World Cup is being staged in South Africa'.

These sentiments have understandably provoked much controversy. For a prominent government official tasked with ensuring a successful event, trading in stereotypes could serve to undermine international confidence and, more importantly, efforts to promote national unity and social cohesion. In response to Minister Pahad, politicians, political commentators have questioned the veracity of his statement and whether any scientific evidence exists to support the claims made. Some have even gone as far as approaching the Human Rights Commission claiming the remarks as hate speech.

Perceived benefits of hosting 2010

In fact, the HSRC's annual, nationally representative, longitudinal survey provides insight into the attitudes of all South Africans towards both the 2010 World Cup and sport and recreation activities. The survey suggests that, like other population groups, white South Africans do care about the World Cup. What is caring and how does one measure it? Implicit in the notion of care, are elements of concern, worry and even trouble but also pride and anticipation.

Over the past three years, at least 95% of white South Africans

(aged 16 years and older) have consistently perceived there to be some form of benefit accruing to South Africa from the hosting of the World Cup (Figure 1). These benefits are seen mostly to be in the form of economic growth, job creation, putting South Africa on the map and increased tourism. In citing such benefits, white South Africans do not differ appreciably from other population groups, although they do have significantly higher expectations of tourism benefits than do black South Africans. In addition, while all South Africans share high expectations of the other three perceived benefits, their relative ranking varies somewhat.
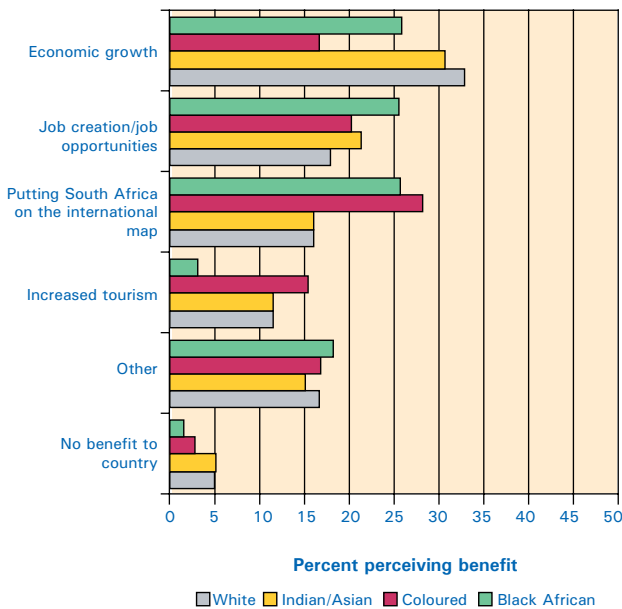

Figure 1: Main benefit of South Africa hosting the 2010 Football World Cup, by population group in 2007 (%)
Source: HSRC SASAS 2007

Legacy and readiness

Furthermore, if one examines attitudes to the likely legacy of 2010, it appears that white South Africans do not differ substantially from Indian South Africans in their view that benefits will be transitory in nature (Figure 2). The pattern of responses for white and coloured respondents is again similar, though slightly more divergent due to the relative ambiguity expressed by the latter group in relation to legacy effects. Black respondents, however, were the most optimistic about the lasting impact of the World Cup, exceeding white respondents by 18 percentage points (55% compared to 37% in 2007). Even so, this point of disagreement does not negate the near universal view that the World Cup will bring benefits to South Africa.
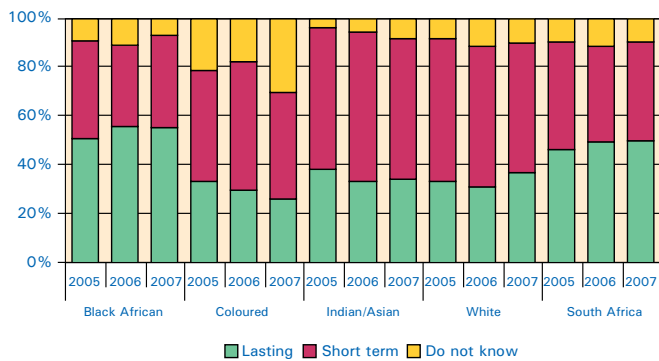

Figure 2: Legacy of the 2010 Football World Cup, by population group (%)
Source: HSRC SASAS 2005, 2006, 2007

On the issue of readiness, white South Africans do emerge as more sceptical than Indian and coloured South Africans and significantly more so than black South Africans. Although white respondents are relatively more concerned that the country will be ready to host the World Cup in 2010, this by no means implies that they care less about hosting the mega-event. Rather than signifying indifference, their concern could be interpreted as a sign of caring that the country is presented in the best possible light.

Unity, pride and performance

The 2007 survey data further reveal that approximately 8 out of 10 white South Africans believe in the unifying power of sport (Table 1). Indeed, all population groups hold similar sentiments that sport brings different groups and races inside South Africa closer together. All are likewise very proud when South Africa performs well at international sporting competitions – 88% of white, 85% of Indian, 83% of coloured and 80% of black respondents are of this opinion.

Table 1: Sports bring different groups and races inside South Africa closer together, by population group, 2007 (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian/ Asian	White	South Africa
Agree	84	81	87	79	83
Neither agree nor disagree	9	8	8	15	10
Disagree	4	10	4	5	5
Do not know	3	1	1	0	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: HSRC SASAS 2007

These statistics suggest that the issue is not one of race but one of performance. Fans are quick to desert underperforming teams. Witness the outrage over the recent South African Olympic, rugby and cricket performances. Support is not guaranteed, it is earned. When Bafana Bafana starts performing its support base will increase – across all population groups.

> " The analysis shows that white South Africans – like others – are engaged and care about the World Cup "

The final scoreboard

For all the progress that has been forged over the last 15 years, the inescapable reality is that social cohesion in South Africa remains fragile. The recent xenophobic attacks across the country have starkly highlighted the tenuous nature of social inclusion. The leaders of our 2010 endeavour have a responsibility to ensure that their messaging is articulate and empirically grounded, instils confidence and positions the mega-event as a fillip to inspire progress towards a unified society. The analysis shows that white South Africans – like others – are engaged and care about the World Cup. To suggest otherwise undermines the very commonalities that should be promoted.

Dr Udesh Pillay is executive director of the Centre for Service Delivery, Dr Orli Bass is a post-doctoral fellow in the same programme, and Mr Ben Roberts is a research specialist in the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development research programme.

Blowing **hot** or **cold?**
South African attitudes to climate change

With growing world interest in climate change and recognition that public opinion influences acceptance of policy initiatives, the annual South African Social Attitudes Survey 2007 included a module on climate change for the first time. **John Seager** analyses the results.

The questionnaire was administered to a representative national sample of 3 164 people sixteen years old and over, and addressed issues such as knowledge and concern about climate change; views on causes and likely impacts of climate change; responsibility for action (i.e. government, NGO, industry, individuals); and support for interventions.

Public awareness of climate change

When asked if they had heard of climate change or global warming, 27% of respondents had not heard about it prior to the interview. But 6% said they knew 'a lot' about climate change and 12% 'a

fair amount'. Predictably, up to 28% of respondents were unable to answer more specific questions on climate change, although there was a reasonable amount of knowledge among the rest of the sample.

There was little variation in knowledge by age, which suggests that information is being accessed via the media, rather than through formal education (Figure 1).
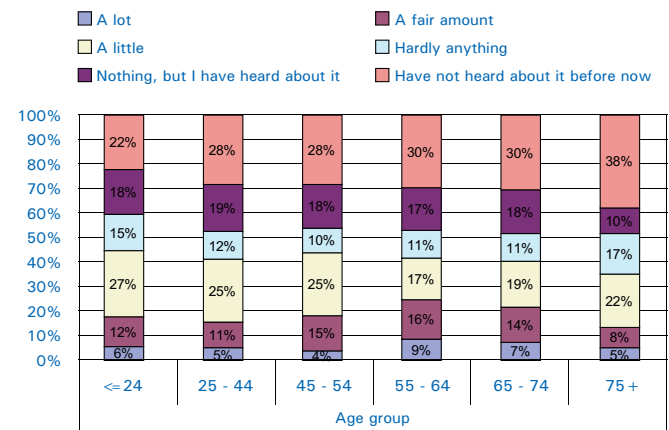
Figure 1: Levels of knowledge about climate change by age group. 'How much, if anything, would you say you know about climate change or global warming?

Perceptions of risk

When asked how serious a problem climate change might be, 54% (overall) responded that it was either a 'somewhat serious' or 'very serious' problem. In terms of knowledge about the causes of climate change, many respondents gave correct responses (unprompted) regarding the main causes of climate change (Table 1)

Table 1: Perceived causes of climate change (multiple response question)

What do you think are the causes of Climate Change?	Percent
Cannot choose	17
Air pollution	17
Burning fossil fuels	14
Power station emissions	9
Greenhouse gases	8
Natural climate cycle	8
Business or industrial energy use	8
The ozone hole	7
Destruction of forests	4
Domestic energy use	4
Other pollution	3
Other	1
Total	100

On a question about people's level of current concern about climate change, as compared to a year ago, almost half the respondents (44%) said they were more concerned about climate change now, suggesting an increase in awareness over time.
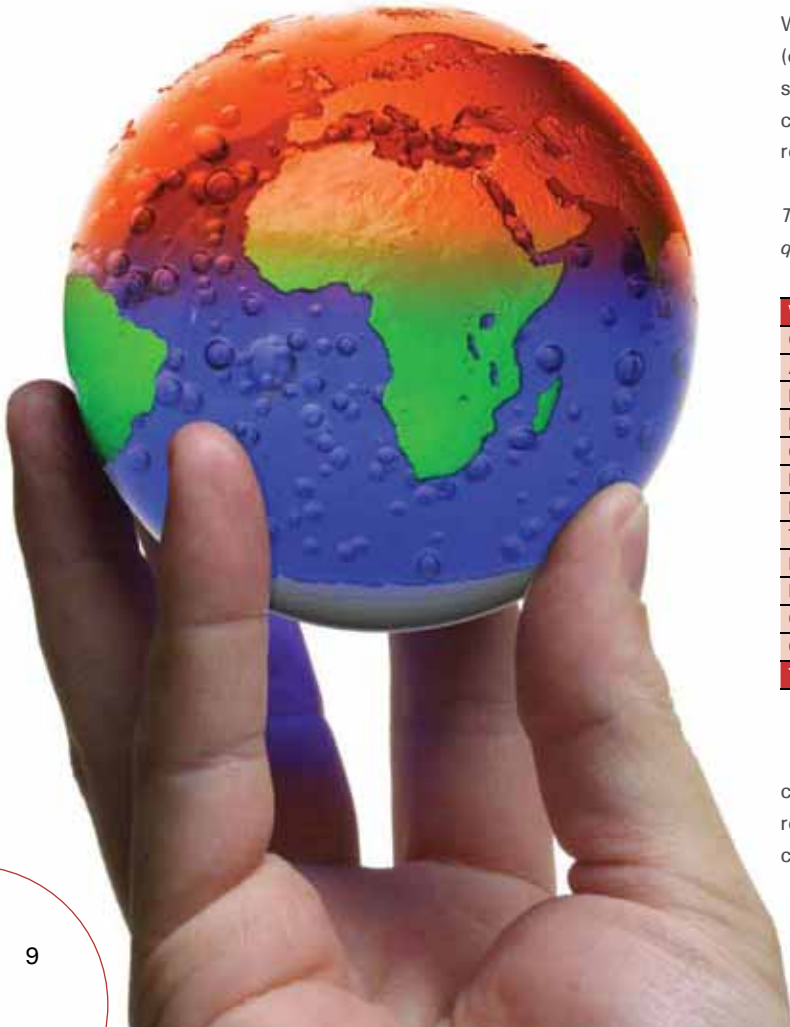
A similar question was used in the GlobeScan Poll , carried out in 30 countries including South Africa, in 2003 and 2006. Their results found that 72% of South Africans felt that climate change was 'very serious' or 'somewhat serious' in 2006, having risen from 62% in 2003.

In our study, of those who were willing to offer an opinion about the seriousness of climate change, 71% stated that global warming is a 'very serious' or 'somewhat serious' problem, suggesting the same levels of concerns to those in the GlobeScan Poll of 2006.

When compared with other countries, even developing countries, levels of awareness of the seriousness of climate change are low in South Africa (Figure 2). Although one might expect perceptions to correlate with socio-economic status (assessed using Living Standards Measure in this survey) there was no clear trend in the SASAS results.
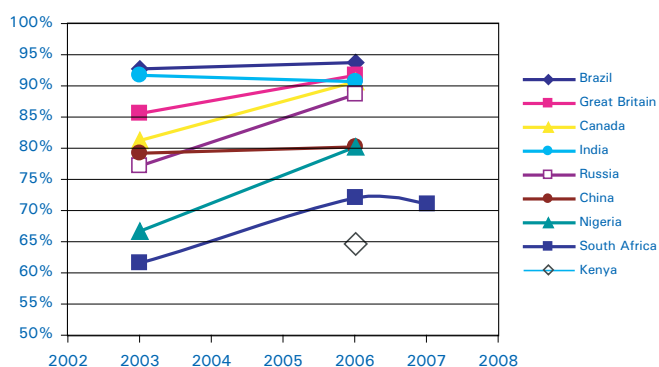
Figure 2: International trends in concern that climate change is a 'very serious' or 'somewhat serious' problem
Source: 2003, 2006: GlobeScan Poll1; 2007: SASAS

When asked about how serious a threat people considered global warming to be for themselves and their families, the majority (55%) felt the threat to be 'very serious' or 'somewhat serious'. There was little difference in overall attitude to whether the perceived threat was seen as personal, as in affecting their 'own family' (55%) or more distant, as in affecting 'people in other countries' (54%).

Beliefs about potential impact

Given that most of the effects of climate change are predicted for the future, it was interesting to see what people thought might happen over the next 50 years. Although 14% were uncertain, the concerns identified by other respondents showed that they were reasonably well-informed.

Respondents said that climate change would have an impact on food security (15%), temperature (13%), disease (13%) and the standard of living (11%). The more frequent responses form a cluster of concerns about personal and immediate threats. The more distant or abstract consequences of climate change, such as storms, floods and loss of biodiversity were reported slightly less frequently (8% and less).

Need and responsibility for action

A set of three questions was used to assess people's willingness to act. The first question referred to climate change as still being an uncertain threat, the second implied that it is real but gradual in effect, and the third implied a 'serious and pressing problem'.

Fifty five percent of respondents felt that action was required even if there were costs involved and half of these agreed with the statement 'We should begin taking steps now, even if this involves significant costs'.

The majority of respondents (48%) felt that government, in its various forms, should take responsibility for action to prevent further climate change. Large companies were also regarded as having a role to play by 14% of respondents, with a range of responses suggesting that there is potential for participation in managing climate change by national government, through provincial and local bodies to households and individuals.

The next step was to enquire whether people felt that the South African government was doing enough about climate change. Whereas 33% were satisfied with the government's response, 29% were dissatisfied, but the most frequent response was 'cannot choose' or 'don't know' (Table 2), which may indicate a general lack of awareness about what the government is in fact doing.

Table 2: Satisfaction with SA government's response to climate change

Do you think enough is being done by SA government to take action on climate change?	Percent
Cannot choose	40
Very satisfied with how much they are doing	15
Fairly satisfied	16
Fairly dissatisfied	25
Very dissatisfied	4
Total	100.0

Public support for climate change interventions

Taking this aspect further, questions were asked about people's support for various potential government interventions. Perhaps predictably, interventions which might lead to reduced costs for the average consumer, received support. For example, the great majority of respondents were in favour of government expenditure being used to develop wind farms or make energy saving devices cheaper (73% and 72%, respectively).

Conversely, increasing prices of gas, electricity, or petrol, in order to reduce consumption, was very unpopular, as was increased tax to improve public transport.

The time to act is now

Whilst there appears to be a reasonable awareness of climate change as an issue likely to impact on future generations, many people remain uninformed about it or, at least, unwilling to venture an opinion. One of the great challenges with an issue like climate change is that distant threats tend to be ignored when the demands of day-to-day living seem so much more important.

But the time to act is *now* because the longer we delay, the harder and more expensive the remedies become.

Although the data suggests that awareness has increased over the past few years, greater efforts will be required to increase general awareness and to 'catch up' with public opinion in other countries. The real challenge is to provide information that allows people to take control of the situation, recognising that individuals can make a difference.

On the positive side, people appear to appreciate that climate change requires action on many fronts and this bodes well for the multifaceted responses that are likely to be necessary for dealing with this challenge.

Professor John Seager is a research director in the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health programme
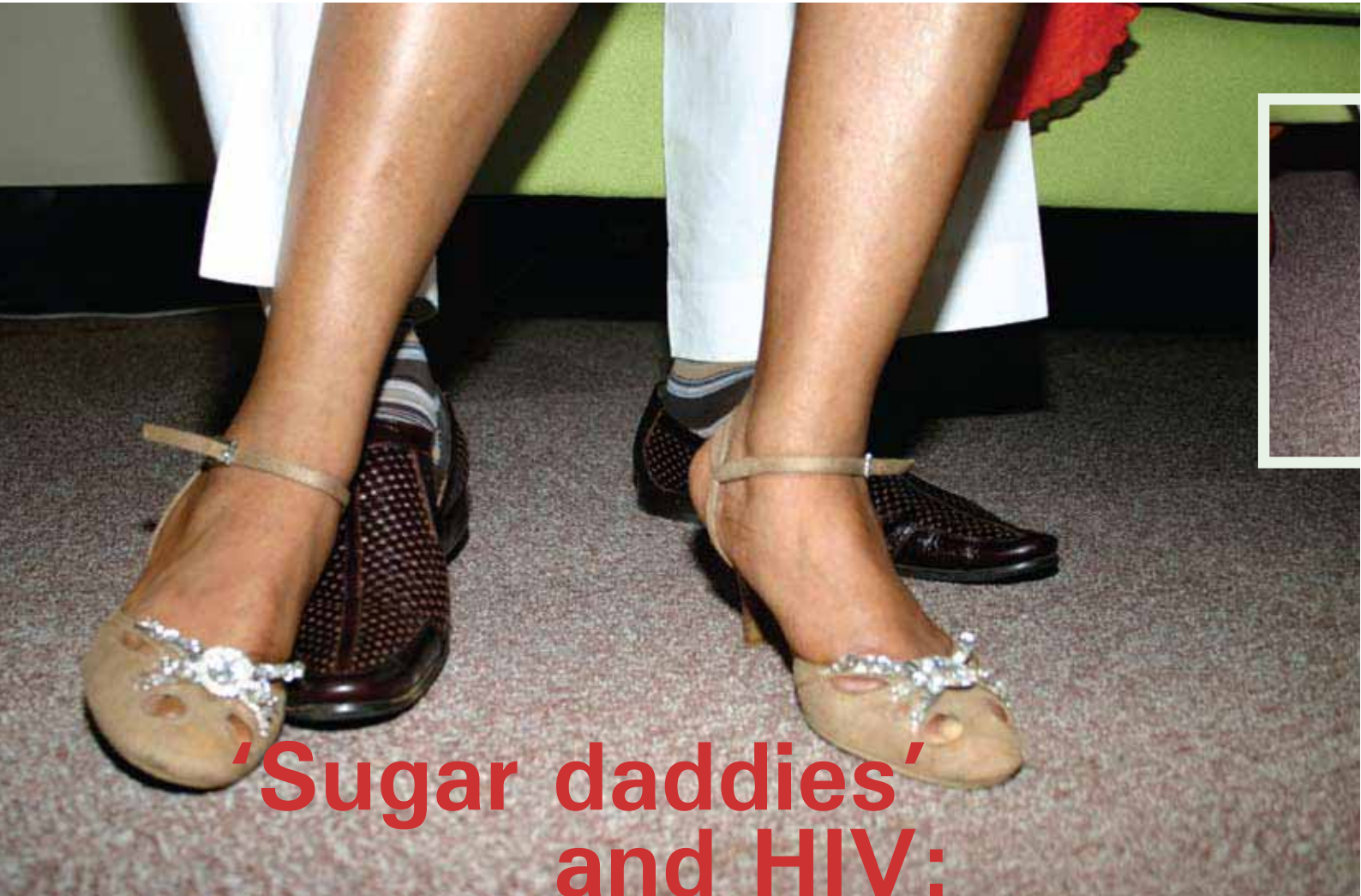
'Sugar daddies' and HIV:
is it really about money, money, money?

The older man with young girlfriend stereotype is an important aspect of the HIV-pandemic in Southern Africa. Can this phenomenon only be blamed on poverty? And how can HIV-prevention programmes be tailored to cater for complex sociological demands? **Suzanne Leclerc-Madlala**

Statistics on the HIV pandemic in Southern Africa show that young women are much more likely to be HIV-positive than their male counterparts. In some places in Botswana, for example, HIV-rates in girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are nine times more than that of boys of the same age.

Apart from the physiological reasons that make women more susceptible to HIV, scientists often blame sugar daddies for the many HIV infections among young women. Intergenerational (where the man is more than 10 years older than the woman) and age-disparate relationships (where the age difference between the man and woman is more than five years) are common in sub-Saharan countries.

" The older men viewed the young women as being 'clean', and the young women regarded the older men as 'safe' partners "

The odds of unprotected sex
Vital to the fuelling of the HIV-epidemic, is the research findings that for every year's increase in the age difference between the partners, there was a 28% increase in the odds of having unprotected sex.

There are a few reasons for the lack of condom use. First and foremost, the partners viewed one another as being 'low risk' as far as HIV was concerned. The older men viewed the young women as being 'clean', perceiving them as being more likely to be free from HIV infection. On the other hand, the young women regarded the older men as 'safe' partners, appearing more responsible and less likely to take risks than young men.

Because of the age difference, young women are less likely to be able to negotiate condom use with an older man. In addition, the larger the economic gap between the partners, the less likely condom use will be.

The high-risk game

But why are young women playing this high risk game? The obvious explanation for why this is happening is purely financial. Older men are more likely to be employed and are therefore able to offer greater economical security than younger men. So girls from poor backgrounds would see wealthier older men as 'meal tickets', providing them with basic needs such as food, housing and clothing.

However, the answer is not that simple. Research has shown that, even where African women were relatively well-heeled, many still continue to be at risk. In a study among teenage girls in Gaborone, Botswana, it was found that they did not regard a relationship with an older man as a way of meeting their most basic economic needs. The older men were used as 'top-ups': a source of money that boosted their access to designer clothes, the latest cell phones and glitzy cars.

A girl that was seen alighting from an expensive sports car, or was seen on the arm of rich or influential men, or who attended the 'right' parties and mixed with the 'right' people, scored vital points in the social status game. It boosted young women's confidence and self-esteem.

A girl that could attract the attention of a wealthy older man, maintain a relationship with him and use him as a passport to the 'easy life' was considered as being 'clever' by her peers. Small wonder that older sexual partners have colloquial names such as 'investors' (Tanzania and Mozambique), 'sponsors' (Botswana) or even 'ministers' (South Africa).

This is a result of changing social and economic conditions. In contrast to previous generations of black women, these young women viewed themselves as active decision-makers and modern, empowered women, able to extract financial and material resources from older men in exchange for sex. Importantly, studies found this to be condoned by society in general.

Another heart-wrenching reason for young women to seek out age-disparate relationships is that young women are only too painfully aware of the realities AIDS-illness and death in their communities and environment. So having a sugar daddy plying her

with money and luxury goods, and allowing her to enjoy life and have fun while she is still young, beautiful and alive, remains a strong motivator.

The desire to 'move the blood'

But it is not only the women who derive benefits from age-disparate and intergenerational relationships. The desire for 'clean partners', the myth that having sex with a virgin can cure HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and the belief that older men can be sexually rejuvenated (or having 'his blood move again') by a young woman, all contribute to men seeking younger women.

And since money or gifts (such as designer clothes, cell phones and other trappings of luxury) are a very important aspect of the relationship, the older men view the relationship as purely transactional – hence the low rate of condom use.

However, age-disparate sex is not only a 'modern' economic phenomenon, driven by young women's desire for luxuries and a particular lifestyle. Studies show that age-disparate and intergenerational relationships are strongly rooted in two cultural beliefs. On the one hand, men are expected to redistribute wealth according to their economic means – the wealthy chief or headman looking after his people, paying large bride wealth transfers for a number of women.

On the other hand, the norms prescribe that women should receive material compensation for sexual favours, as a validation of their worth, and a sign of a partner's love and commitment. Prostitution, or 'doing sex for free', is heavily frowned upon throughout the region. Across socio-economic strata, young women have been culturally conditioned to view their sexuality as a valuable resource, to be used to satisfy the primarily male need for sex.

The protection of self-worth and knowledge

The women in such relationships therefore do not view themselves as victims, explaining why HIV-prevention programmes aimed at tackling 'poor, desperate, women-as-victim' stereotypes will not be hugely successful. While there certainly are many young women that are driven to age-disparate relationships to meet subsistence needs such as bread and school fees, there are many better-off young women who seek out sugar daddies to meet a need for designer handbags and a glamorous lifestyle.

How can HIV-prevention programmes be tailored to meet such complex sociological needs? Educating girls and empowering them for financial independence is vital. Studies that examined factors that protected young women from indulging in age-disparate relationships, found a strong sense of self-worth, knowledge of sexual risks, acceptance of their socio-economic circumstances, social support and religious values to be important. These factors should be creatively incorporated into HIV-prevention programmes for young women.

Men's behaviour and attitudes should also be changed. The onus should be placed on adult men to stop seeking out such potentially exploitative relationships. Men who are willing to speak out against such relationships should be identified and supported to be role models to other men in the community. Finding adult males who are members of communities at high risk of HIV and who represent a masculinity that protects themselves and others from HIV, and making them visible and vocal is important. Community leaders should also support social sanctions against age-disparate relationships and how these are viewed in their communities.

Professor Suzanne Leclerc-Madlala is a chief research specialist on the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health programme.

A restructured teacher education system:
a call for consolidation

The teacher education system plays a pivotal role in producing and developing South Africa's teachers. **Glenda Kruss** investigated the nature of institutional restructuring, and the impact on the ability of the teacher education system to produce the kinds of teachers required for quality schooling.

Any contemporary analysis of development and growth prospects in South Africa quickly moves to highlight the low levels of education and the shortage of critical skills among the population – which in turn shifts the focus to the poor quality of the schooling system. Analysts and activists ponder why it has not been possible to transform more substantially the legacy of the apartheid schooling system.

Explanations are sought and strategies have been initiated in relation to unequal financing, the controversial change to an outcomes-based curriculum or the quality of teachers. But what is the crucial role played by the teacher education system in providing quality teachers?

The task of initial teacher education is now the primary responsibility of 22 universities faced with multiple demands – from a new higher education qualification structure to new programme and curriculum frameworks, from shifting student demographic profiles to new funding and financing models and from new educational approaches to new higher education challenges.

Decade of institutional restructuring takes its toll

Perhaps the greatest challenge is that the very institutions facing these demands have been shaped by a decade of institutional restructuring, both internally driven and externally mandated. Their engagement with new policy frameworks, with qualifications and curriculum change, with the professional development of new teachers and of serving teachers – all occurs on a base of profound institutional change and considerable organisational instability.

Such analysis provided the impetus for the initiation of a research project to investigate the nature of institutional restructuring, and the impact on the ability of the teacher education system to produce the kinds of teachers required for quality schooling.

An initial analysis of the policy and legislative context suggested that restructuring had four main trajectories, in distinct periods:

- In the mid to late 1990s, many universities restructured internally in response to changing higher education imperatives. In many cases, the status and position of education faculties was considerably diminished within the institution;
- In 2001, colleges of education were legislatively incorporated into higher education, driven by state concerns about the cost, efficiency and quality of colleges;
- From 2004, a process of mergers and partial incorporations was initiated to restructure the higher education landscape, impacting in distinct ways on education faculties and schools;
- Some institutions experienced these multiple waves of restructuring cumulatively in rapid succession, over an extremely short period of five years; and
- A fifth trajectory was evident, in that some institutions restructured internally once again to deal with the effects of incorporation or merger more effectively.

The role of global forces

These institutional changes in South Africa were driven in complex ways by a double dynamic that is operating globally to re-shape teacher education. Teacher policy, standing at the heart of the education system, is being reformed, remodelled and transformed.

Debate about the most appropriate policy and mechanisms for producing and distributing educational services, about a new relationship between government, schools and teacher educators, has become vigorous globally.

At the same time, internationally, teacher education has typically been shifted from the specialised college sector into the university sector, making it subject to the multiple new demands of globalisation and the knowledge economy on the higher education terrain.

For teacher education providers in South Africa, as across the world, institutional change is thus inevitable, driven both by shifting education policies and relationships and by shifting policies and relationships within their new higher education location.

Merging of institutions shows complex results

But the form of change is not inevitable – or the same – for different universities in South Africa with distinct historical legacies. In the present, they experience the trajectories of restructuring in different combinations.

So, while the policy intention is to create a single teacher education system, institutional mediation leads to complex outcomes. The outcome is that schools, departments and faculties of education are positioned differently within their institutions and in relation to the national teacher education system. These institutions face the challenge of integrating diverse bodies of academics from merged and incorporated institutions in different ways.

Emerging from this analysis is evidence that the desirable and achievable balance between teaching and research, between initial teacher education and in-service education programmes, between professional education and post-graduate education programmes and between professional education programmes oriented to different phases of schooling, is strongly contested – both within education faculties, schools and their universities, and between universities and the National Department of Education.

> " Now, the most pressing requirement is not more change nor new structures or programmes, but a period that allows the emerging new system to consolidate "

In a large number of instances, restructuring had a *strong direct* impact on the nature of initial teacher education programmes. These universities have to develop new approaches and curricula on the basis of complex organisational dynamics that include multiple academic voices with potentially contrasting histories and identities, potentially giving rise to contest, and requiring considerable energy to negotiate and create synergy.

A typical challenge is to establish working relationships between groups of staff who have come from a college, a historically advantaged university with two geographic locations, and a historically disadvantaged university, each with its own distinct ethos, focus and programmes.

The high toll of restructuring on teacher education

In other instances, restructuring has a 'medium' degree of direct impact on initial teacher education. A single institution dominated incorporation and merger, and only a small number of academics from one or more of the other parties were retained.

This means that the structures, curricula and staff of the dominant party tend to determine the approach and practice in the new institution, but academics from the 'legacy' institutions maintain a subordinate voice that needs to be accommodated. They may add to and complement what is possible in initial teacher education programmes, or they may potentially undermine new programmes in practice.

There are significant common issues of contest between groups of academics from incorporated colleges or merged universities, which present a challenge for initial teacher education in the new university. Examining the substance of the (contrasting) approaches to teacher education that academics with different institutional identities bring to the proverbial programme and curriculum design 'table', and the lines of debate and contest that may ensue, can contribute to the task of building synergy within institutions.

The toll on individual academics is high, both personally and professionally – and this impacts significantly on the conditions for teacher education. If those responsible for carrying out institutional mandates are not fully focused on their task because of personal stress or professional dissatisfaction, it has a negative impact on what is possible. It is important to understand the points of contest and their impact on personal and professional lives, in order to manage change more effectively, and lessen the impact on individuals.

In South Africa, we have the potential to build a quality teacher education system, based on sound policy frameworks. Now, the most pressing requirement is not more change nor new structures or programmes, but a period that allows the emerging new system to consolidate. Teacher education academics, faculty and school managers and university leadership all need time and space to consolidate in order to rise to the challenges of their new responsibilities and opportunities, and to build new relationships with the provincial and national departments.

Download or order the publication, Teacher Education and Institutional Change, *by **Glenda Kruss**, a chief research specialist in the Education, Science and Skills Development research programme, from www.hsrcpress.ac.za.*
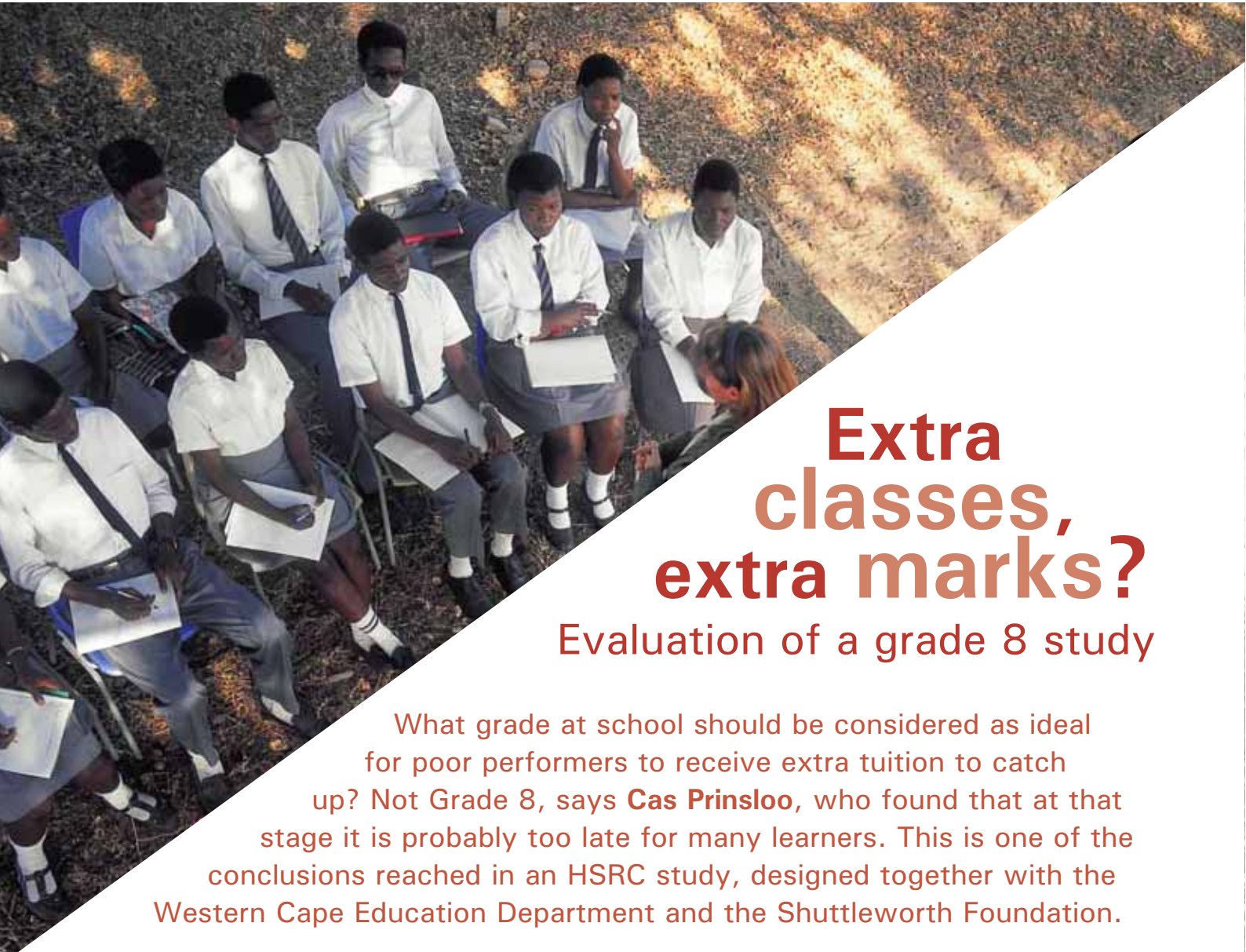
Extra classes, extra marks?
Evaluation of a grade 8 study

What grade at school should be considered as ideal for poor performers to receive extra tuition to catch up? Not Grade 8, says **Cas Prinsloo**, who found that at that stage it is probably too late for many learners. This is one of the conclusions reached in an HSRC study, designed together with the Western Cape Education Department and the Shuttleworth Foundation.

One of the education system's biggest challenges is to improve the performance of learners who are far below par, specifically in mathematics and English. The project was devised to establish whether the performance of a group of grade 8 learners would increase after exposing them for six months in a year to extra tuition.

The aim was to step up participant's performance with 10 percentage points. And better performance in English and mathematics, researchers believe, would eventually spill over into other areas of learning.

Learners from eight schools in the Metropole-South Education Management Development Centre (EMDC), a district stretching from the Cape Flats to the small coastal towns on the Peninsula, participated in the study. Four schools were in a control group, while the other four received 20 hours of extra teaching after school.

In analysing the results the finding showed a larger increase over time in the performance of learners who more regularly attended mathematics tuition sessions compared to those who did not attend as regularly. In terms of English tuition, the improvement in project-school learners' performance generally exceeded those of control-school learners. But the findings of the study were not consistent across learning areas and school pairs, and the effects were not as significant as hoped for.

The main conclusion was that for most grade 8 learners, it is probably too late for meaningful interventions and that mastering basic content of these subjects should be accomplished at the Foundation Phase of schooling (grades 1–3).

Table: Improvement of project and control learner performance by learning area and tutorial attendance level

Group	Mathematics performance			English performance			Tuition attendance*
	Pre-test (n) %	Difference (in % points) →	Post-test (n) %	Pre-test (n) %	Difference (in % points) →	Post-test (n) %	
Project-school learners	(62) 29,1	+0,7	(62) 29,8	(89) 32,4	+1,2	(89) 33,6	Low
	(86) 27,7	+3,7	(86) 31,4	(104) 30,7	+2,7	(104) 33,4	High
	(148) 28,3	+2,4	(148) 30,7	(193) 31,5	+2,0	(193) 33,5	All learners
Control-school learners	(247) 30,1	+3,9	(247) 34,0	(192) 35,9	+1,0	(192) 36,9	All learners

* Low attendance referred to attendance of 82 % or fewer of the sessions, while high attendance entailed attending more than 82 %.

> ❝ Grade 8 is probably too late for meaningful interventions… mastering basic content should be accomplished at the Foundation Phase ❞

Who benefits most?

Contextual, background and other factors appeared to play a role in whether pupils benefited from extra classes or not. As showed by other research, the knowledge, practices and teaching methods of teachers, time spent on tasks and classroom sizes played a role in learning. In this study, learners did better in schools where the overall management and discipline were good and the management of learning areas and departments were sound.

Parent-learner dynamics also played a role, for example, learners who were exposed to reading and writing at home and who were supported by their parents, showed more improvement. Language ability also clearly has an effect on performance improvement in mathematics, as in some other areas of learning.

The picture becomes more complex with further analyses of those factors that may assist the ability to learn. These include:

- motivation level, which is associated with commitment to volunteer for, and undergo further tuition, with girl students having an edge over boys;
- not being too young or too old for the grade (turning 14 in grade 8);
- books at home (of one's own or in general);
- exposure to opportunities to write;
- good access to mathematics text books;
- not being expected to do excessive home chores;
- a sense of responsibility, punctuality and discipline;
- watching appropriate television content within measure; and
- benefiting from using a personal computer.

Other factors contributing to better performance

The study points to the fact that interventions should address the specific needs and contributions of various participants in teaching and learning, and these interventions should be aligned to other teaching priorities.

The school environment plays an important role in learners' motivation, such as facilities, infrastructure, workloads, remuneration, capacity, learning support material, technology, assistance/assistants, and discipline, to name a few. For provincial and district offices such interventions pertain to policies and programmes, security, resource provisioning, large-scale logistics, and overall management.

Would it help if extra classes were taught by outside tutors? This is open for debate, as the school's own teachers may be in a rut concerning learner needs and own work rates, or they may become slack on day-time work because of a second opportunity in the afternoon. On the other hand, a learner's day-time teachers know

their own learners' needs and have good information on the areas of work not mastered well, and at what pace to move. Tutors from outside the school may lack knowledge about the workings of a given school and would be more expensive, but could also bring new enthusiasm, novelty and skills.

The study recommends that tuition should be linked to performance; those teachers who do well should be rewarded, for example, teachers who achieve certain levels of performance among learners should receive a bonus.

The study proposes that there should be a balance between flexibility and standardisation of tutorial material. Standardisation is required for the productive and efficient provision and distribution of a large core component to boost tutor preparation. Equally, the

> ❝ … tuition should be linked to performance; those teachers who do well should be rewarded ❞

needs of individual schools and learners, depending on the extent of backlogs or remedial attention required, would demand some modular options.

Pairing secondary with primary schools

An important recommendation is to do a follow-up pilot study on how best to twin secondary schools with their primary feeder schools; and to identify, address and prevent the kinds of knowledge gaps that seem to hamper learner performance at a later stage. Such a pilot study should evolve within a peer-support model, where primary school teachers are assisted by secondary school teachers to prepare learners for secondary school learning.

Reading and writing crucial to passing

Crucial is that teaching time, teacher capacity, and learning materials should in no ways be compromised in the Foundation Phase. No learner should be allowed to come through the Foundation Phase if they are not able to read and write fluently. The one bar that also needs to be raised, is the volume of opportunity and exposure learners get to practicing reading, writing, speaking and numeracy skills.

A consistent finding across related research is that learners do not produce enough extended work of their own from early on and throughout their school careers. Additional practical, integrative and other support aspects are discussed in more detail in the main report.

> ❝ No learner should be allowed to come through the Foundation Phase if they are not able to read and write fluently ❞

Dr Cas Prinsloo is a chief research specialist in Education, Science and Skills Development at the HSRC. The full report Extra classes, extra marks?: report on the Plus Time Project can be downloaded from www.hsrc.ac.za.
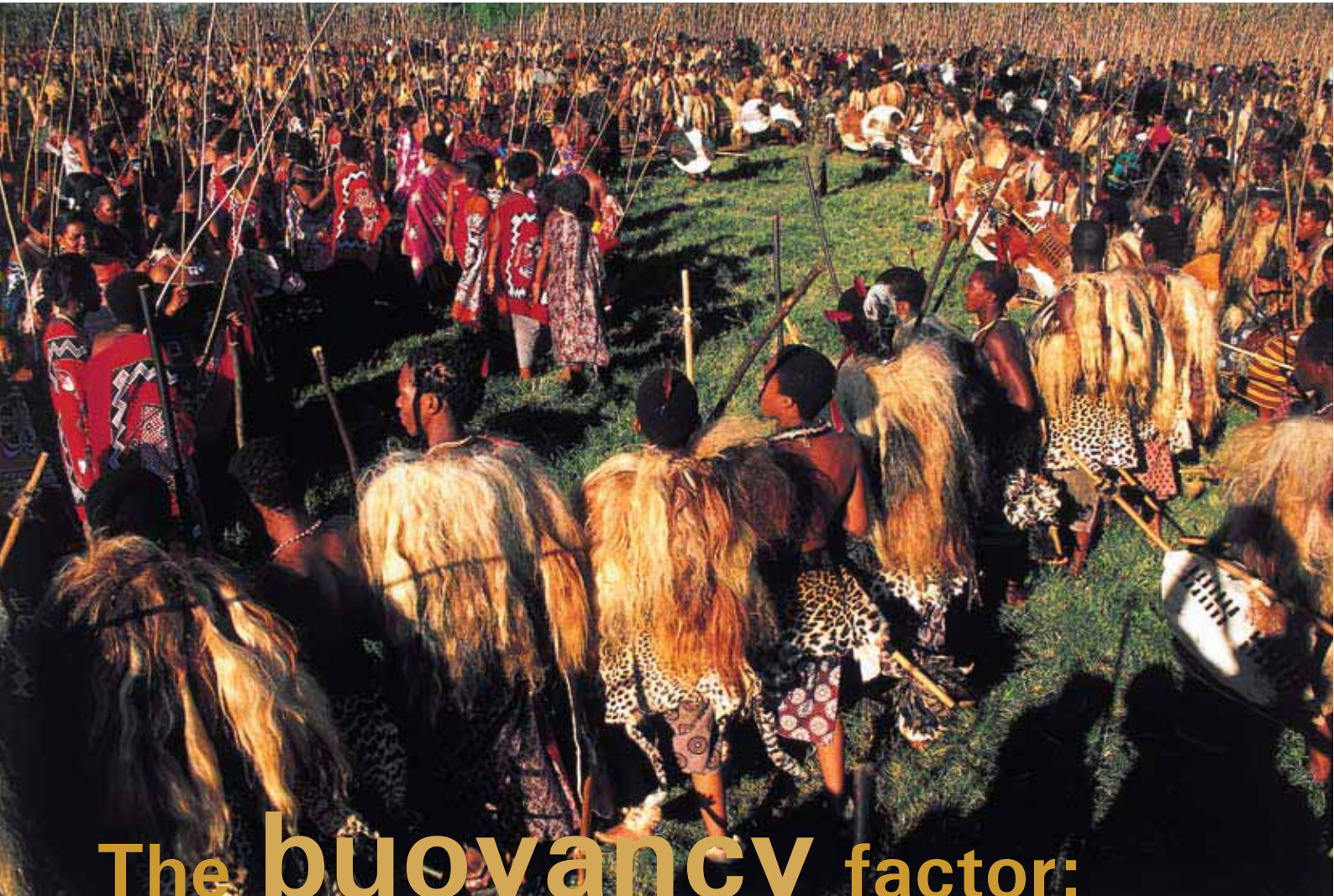
The buoyancy factor:
The tenacity of traditional leadership

Traditional leadership is often judged as an anomaly within a democratic system of governance. It lives in tension with the land-reform programme, and the hereditary nature of its top position (*ubukhosi*) seems to discriminate against women. Yet, people who live under this system do not seem to protest forcefully against it. **Pearl Sithole** explains the resilience of traditional leadership in South Africa.

Qualitative studies, undertaken at the HSRC over the last two years, shed some light on the hardiness of traditional leadership, despite strong opposition from some quarters.

Firstly, without re-opening the debate about 'who is an African', there is a need to highlight the fact that most of the people affected by traditional leadership are African by indigenous descent and some of the intricacies of their lives are related to their normative and survivalist lifestyle linked to their social history. There is therefore a need to relax the idealist presumptions of individualism and of absolute aspirations towards self-sufficiency by all people living in areas under traditional leadership and those who embark on circular migration between the urban and the rural. At the same time one must caution that this is neither 'separate development' nor 'post-modernism', but a call for a closer analytical interest in people's social and survival values.

Rural land remains a security asset

For far too long it has been assumed that the rural social life will disappear, as some recent studies have suggested, asserting that African people in rural areas all have 'urban aspirations'. Contrary to this, rural areas under traditional leadership have proven to be a reliable social-security net for urban-rural circular migrants and for farm workers chased off farms, some due to farm employers trying to evade land reform processes.

> " … people see land under traditional authorities as a stable entitlement compared to the combined vicissitudes of the harsh market forces and unemployment in the urban setting "

The idea of security of land under traditional leadership needs to be seen within the broader context of security of livelihoods and therefore as an asset in traditional leadership areas. Far from the 'market value' aspiration, people see land under traditional authorities as a stable entitlement compared to the combined vicissitudes of the harsh market forces and unemployment in the urban setting.

What appears as patriarchy in traditions of governance and succession to property is underpinned by kinship and although this is a feature of *ubukhosi* it also contains an element of inheritance of property generally. The Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, which aims at alleviating the situation, does not seem to make much of a difference to the situation on the ground.

Changing the role of women

There is a need to differentiate between practical measures to relieve women from patriarchal subjugation on the one hand, and on the other hand, measures to influence social ideology to change over time. Women 'regents', who sometimes temporarily hold power on behalf of their sons or brothers, have made suggestions on how to alleviate their subjugation to patriarchy and achieve fair treatment from *amakhosi* structures, government, and other members of royal family. But there is consensus among these female regents that it would take time, even for them, to agree on having the title of the real *amakhosi* bestowed on them. Until then, the role and treatment of regents leaves room for improvement.

Patriarchal practice and patriarchal ideology are treated differently by both men and women. Women seem to wish away the former and struggle to criticise patrilineal inheritance as ideology behind patriarchy. Under such circumstances, attempts to implement change by proclamation of legislation that is not sensitive to the dynamics of tradition, equality and change could be problematic – especially because conservative traditional leaders are not distancing themselves from tradition by promoting equality and fairness.

Traditional leadership within a democracy

Then there is also the argument that traditional leadership is no longer defensible since the State apparatus took over every element of work that traditional leaders once performed. Closely linked is the argument that traditional leadership is an anomaly in a specifically-defined form of democratic system.

But these are countered by the contention that traditional leaders practice a different form of democracy – one that is not overly concerned about how the system came into being, but about impact, negotiating the practical issues of social welfare on a case-by-case basis. This results in the differences that exist between customary justice and the State justice system, the latter being based on very rigid laws.

There may be substance in the argument that communities operate in different ways; the generic bureaucratic packages of the Western form of democracy to which 'those who need' must help themselves, are not the only form of democracy that people may wish to have. Academics hesitate to analyse this terrain lest they

be judged as betraying the rights and relationships between the individual and the State.

Lastly, without resolving the issues of 'relationship between traditional leadership and government'; 'what kind of a justice system'; and 'what kind of a democracy' is being offered by traditional leaders at local level, the government's close intervention on traditional leadership matters will always be a sensitive matter. Difficulties in the work of the Commission on Traditional Leadership Claims and Disputes are a case in point. Besides the political difficulties of its work, the conceptual framework for tackling its mandate remains unclear.

> " … need to develop alternative conceptual and analytical tools if traditional leadership and the socio-cultural aspects of life in rural areas under traditional leadership are to be understood well "

Our research has shown that there are many issues involved in the analysis of traditional leadership which should be resolved at a conceptual level, as practical work hinges on this. This resolution should allow clearer working direction on issues such as:

- Local government should employ participatory methodologies and invite input from indigenous knowledge in developing Integrated Development Plans and Land Use Management Plans in rural areas;
- Devising research that is carefully designed so as not to see rural governance in isolation from land issues, poverty alleviation, urban-rural linkages and socio-cultural issues; and
- The currently 'sensitive' corporate sector should perhaps be persuaded to partner and form alternative legal instruments that enable the use of rural land to decentralise the economy to rural areas. The current difficulties around local economic development in rural areas seem to point to a critical need for a spatial economic redress, without invasion into forms of social and asset security of these areas.

This work shows a need to develop alternative conceptual and analytical tools if traditional leadership and the socio-cultural aspects of life in rural areas under traditional leadership are to be understood well.

Dr Pearl Sithole is a senior research specialist in the Democracy and Governance research programme.

Time to mobilise
frustrated jobless youth

The recent attacks have been described as 'xenophobic' but should really be seen as an expression of frustration. It was a matter of time before large groups of angry marginalised people acted out, says **Miriam Altman**.

This violence should motivate strong action by policy and decision makers to focus on the positive mobilisation of young people.

Approximately 430 000 young people with matric or less enter the labour market each year. There is far less than a 50/50 chance of a black school leaver being employed by the age of 24.

What is the future of work for young people?

Contrary to popular belief, the economy has generated large numbers of low and semi-skilled jobs over the past decade. About 1.5 million net new jobs were created between 2002 and 2006. About 70% of total employment is found in low- and semi-skilled jobs. Most new employment is found in activities like retail, restaurants, construction, personal and business services.

> " There is far less than a 50/50 chance of a black school leaver being employed by the age of 24 "

To halve unemployment by 2014, an average of 500 000 net new jobs are needed each year. If the economy had continued on its upward growth track this might have been attainable. However, the coming years are going to be constrained by a range of global and domestic factors that will impact negatively on the main job creating sectors.

The government can fill some of the job creation gap. In particular, it can offer a first work experience, with a wide geographical spread. This might involve the introduction of a transitional youth job entry scheme. There is a public sector learnership and a Youth Service Programme that reaches up to 40 000 people. Such programmes need to be much more ambitious with dedicated budgets.

Public works and community-based social services will become an important source of job opportunities for a large group of marginalised youth. If the economy grows by 6% or 3% per annum, between 600 000 and 2.8 million Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) type jobs will be needed by 2014 to meet Government's commitment to halve unemployment.

This compares to about 300 000 EPWP jobs created in 2006. The vast majority of opportunities would be found in community-based social service delivery such as early childhood development (ECD) or home community-based care.

Does education help?

The unemployment rate falls dramatically with rising educational attainment, especially with a post-matric qualification. About 30% of those aged 25-34 with matric or less were unemployed, compared to only 13% with a diploma or 8% with a university degree. However, 50% of those entering the schooling system will not get a matric.

By global standards, South African youth spend a relatively long time at school but with poor learner performance. Youth are leaving school without the basic capabilities to help them navigate the labour market. These include search skills, problem solving, reading comprehension, communication, personal presentation, team work, and basic internet and computer skills.

Ideally, these capabilities would be obtained through school and family. Much is being done by the Department of Education to introduce life skills and career guidance, and to strengthen Further Education and Training. This will take time.

In the meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of young people enter the labour market. There are relatively low cost and immediate interventions that might help. Strengthening the link between high schools, FET colleges and the private sector would be one. This can be as simple and low cost as installing human resource managers on college boards and curricula committees and introducing large scale work experience programmes.

Are youth enabled to look for work?

One of the most important reasons for youth unemployment in South Africa is the lack of job search capabilities and networks that are relevant to the labour market. In 2005, a quarter of unemployed people had been searching for a job for one to three years, and 35% had been looking for three or more years.

There are also those who have given up looking for a job, and are defined as 'discouraged'. About 70% of discouraged 16 – 30 year olds say they are not looking because there is no job in their area and they do not have money for transport to look.

Success in the labour market can be linked to previous experience, and getting a 'first' job, is a challenge for young people who don't have that experience. It is also about the way they present themselves, their involvement in social, sport or community activities, and their 'work-readiness', which can make a big difference to their ability to acquire their first job.

One of the most important ways of finding a job is through networks. However, only 10% of African work-seekers aged 15 - 30 use this approach. Many African youth grow up in households without a wage earner and the question is how do young people
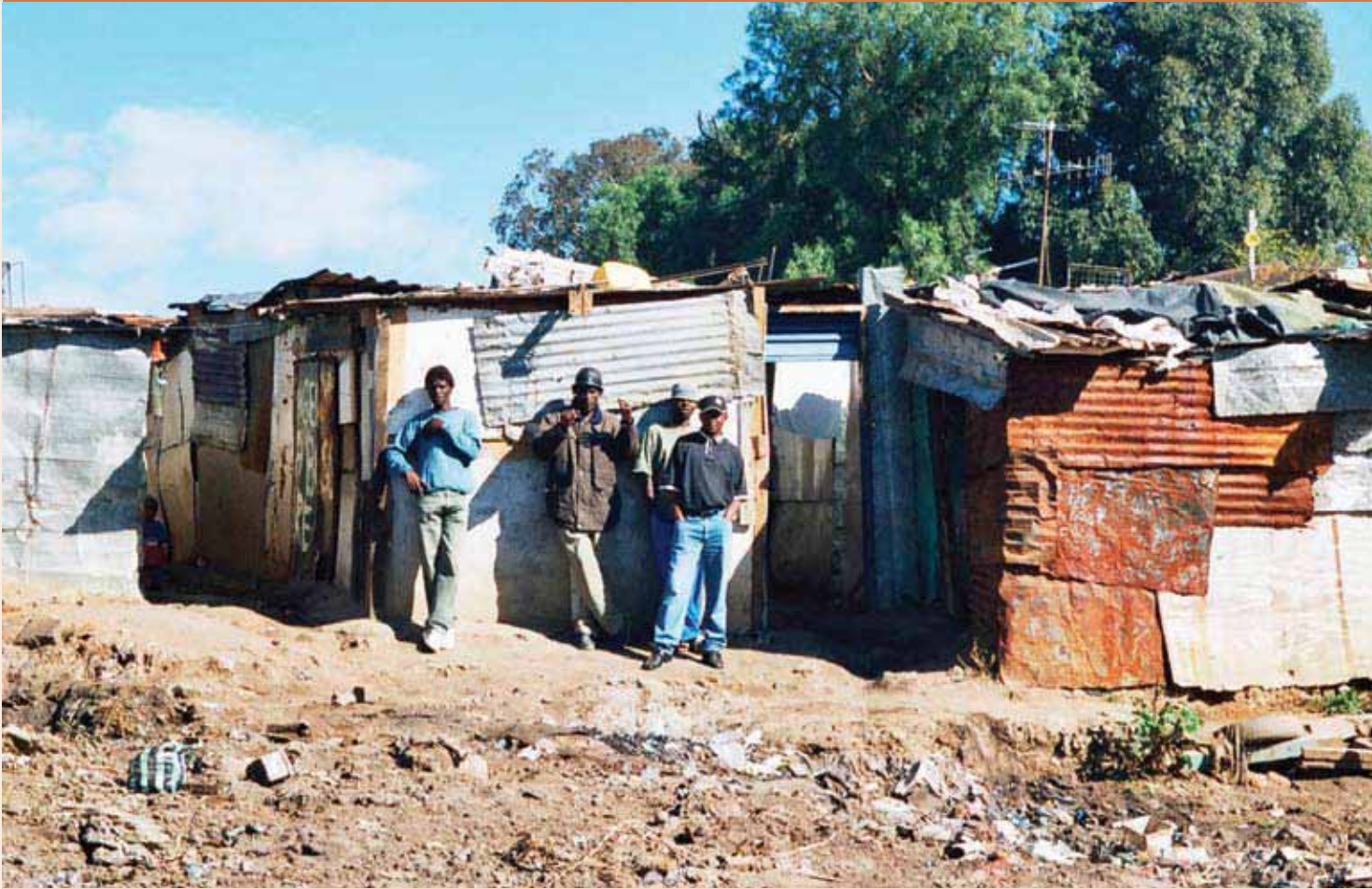
Unemployed youth, Alexandra township, Johannesburg.

obtain information about possible futures and labour market paths.

In the Western Cape, more than 75% of young people in the brown, Indian and white population group have worked by the age of 22, as compared with 24% to 35% of black Africans.

At the HSRC we are exploring a number of possible interventions with government to improve labour market matching. For example:

- Stronger employment services would help to remedy this situation. There is already a growing sector of public and private placement agencies that service low and semi-skilled placements. Some of these companies run training academies. However, weak education raises the cost of ensuring the quality of the worker placed, which is a particular problem since the margins are low. This sector should be recognised as an important market service that needs to be regulated (to prevent pernicious labour practices) and also supported;

- Subsidies for job search, covering costs like transport, could be another approach. This could be offered directly to the workseeker or through agencies; and

- A "youth starter pack" programme for school leavers could offer a basic set of capabilities, linkages and information. This could include the provision of basic training, a drivers licence and ID book, CV preparation, and personal presentation.

Is dysfunctional behaviour, such as crime and violence, caused by unemployment?

If youth unemployment were reduced dramatically, would crime rates fall? There are about 5.8 million people unemployed under the age of 34. If that were halved, there would still be 2.9 million unemployed young people.

Urban African youth have become disassociated from social organisations. In 1992, 78% said they were affiliated to some organisation, especially church or sports. By 2000, only 43% were affiliated to an organisation.

> " Urban African youth have become disassociated from social organisations. By 2000, only 43% were affiliated to an organisation. This is perhaps the most dangerous set of statistics one could identify "

This is perhaps the most dangerous set of statistics one could identify. Young people want to 'belong' and need role models. These are not necessarily national figure-heads, but are most usefully someone close by who can offer guidance and advice.

The kinds of capabilities needed to participate in the economy, are also those needed to be a contributing member of society. These are not necessarily obtained through institutional learning, but rather through experiential learning. There is a major role for the state, corporations and civil society organisations in supporting extra-curricular activities such as music, sport, debating, environmental projects or community support programmes.

Dr Miriam Altman is the executive director of the Centre for Poverty, Employment and Growth.
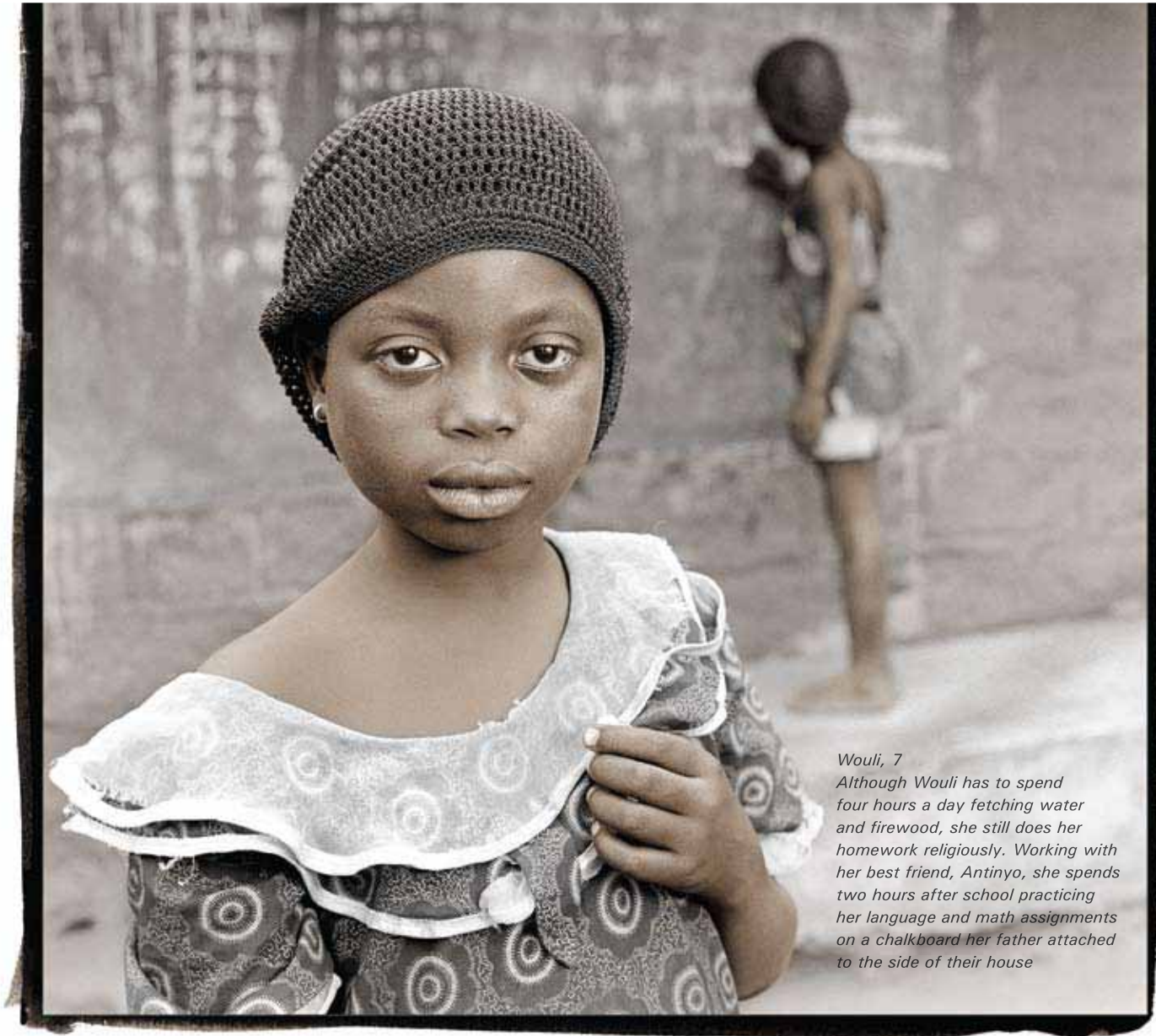
Wouli, 7
Although Wouli has to spend four hours a day fetching water and firewood, she still does her homework religiously. Working with her best friend, Antinyo, she spends two hours after school practicing her language and math assignments on a chalkboard her father attached to the side of their house

Women *Empowered*

An exhibition depicting inspirational images and stories of ordinary women, working tirelessly to transform their communities, was hosted at the HSRC in Pretoria in August.

The works exhibited were created by award-winning photographer Phil Borges in partnership with CARE, a humanitarian organisation fighting global poverty. Borges first visited CARE projects in Ethiopia in November 2004 and over the next eight months, he photographed and interviewed women in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Guatemala, Togo and Ghana.

The inspiration for *Women Empowered* came from a 91-year-old woman named Transito, who lived in the Ecuadorian Andes. Through her lifelong struggle to bring respect and human rights to indigenous people she was known as the Rosa Parks of Ecuador.

Through his photography we also come to know how women, such as Fahima in Afghanistan, Abay in Ethiopia, Hasina in Bangladesh, and Violeta in Ecuador, work to improve and enrich their own lives and those of the people around them.

Borges' portraits have been the subject of over 80 museum and solo gallery exhibits and are included in numerous museum and private collections worldwide. Working cleverly with light techniques, Borges' photos are in muted tones, produced through a bleaching technique and a wash and drying process. The resulting images are powerful and lyrical.

Isabel Allende, the Chilean author, describes Borges' photos as 'deeply inspirational' as they bring us face to face with heroes who are 'remote and mostly unknown women on the edge of a slow but steady transformation.'

Launched on International Women's Day, with an exhibition of thirty 150 x 83 cm prints, the South African and African launch of this remarkable collection was co-ordinated by Professor Vasu Reddy, chief research specialist in the Gender and Development Unit and was hosted in conjunction with the United Nations Information Centre, CARE and the Pretoria Art Museum.

Nafisa was thrilled when she learned she was chosen to attend Salman-e-Fars, a new school recently opened for young girls in Kabul. Girls now make up thirty-four percent of the student population in Afghanistan - a dramatic increase since the Taliban rule, when it was essentially zero

Howa, 8
Howa's mother was one of the first women in Awash Fontale, Ethiopia, to be convinced that female circumcision was a 'bad practice'. Thanks to Abay's efforts, Howa will be the first girl in her entire family history not to be circumcised. Photo, Phil Borges

Asgeli, 52, Ethiopia
As a leader of the circumcision ceremony, Asgeli had performed hundreds of female circumcisions. Now, like others in the village, she is supportive of the change in custom that Abay has advocated. She said, 'We did the circumcisions because that is what had always been done. We were in the dark house and did not know.'

Transito, 91 Cayambe, Ecuador
4. Transito, a legendary human rights figure, is often referred to as the 'Rosa Parks of Ecuador.' After the Spanish conquest, many indigenous people were stripped of their rights and forced to serve as indentured servants in the hacienda system. In 1926, at the age of 17, Transito spoke out against a hacienda owner who had been molesting her. She was sent to jail for five months for protesting her abuse. Upon her release, she became a legend for speaking out about the plight of indigenous Ecuadorians. Later, she was instrumental in organising a strike by indigenous farmers, which catalysed a newfound respect for indigenous peoples in Ecuadorian politics and in society at large

Awash Fontale, Ethiopia
Abay was born into a culture in which girls are circumcised before age 12. When it came time for her circumcision ceremony,
Abay said, 'No.' Her mother insisted: An uncircumcised woman would be ostracized and could never marry, Abay was told.
When her mother's demands became unbearable, she ran away to live with a sympathetic godfather. Eight years later, Abay
returned to her village and began work as a station agent for CARE, supervising the opening of a primary school and a health
clinic and the construction of a well. After five years, she finally convinced one of the women to let her film a circumcision
ceremony. She showed the film to the male leaders. They had never seen a female circumcision and were horrified. Two weeks
later, the male leaders called a special meeting and voted fifteen to two to end female circumcision in their village
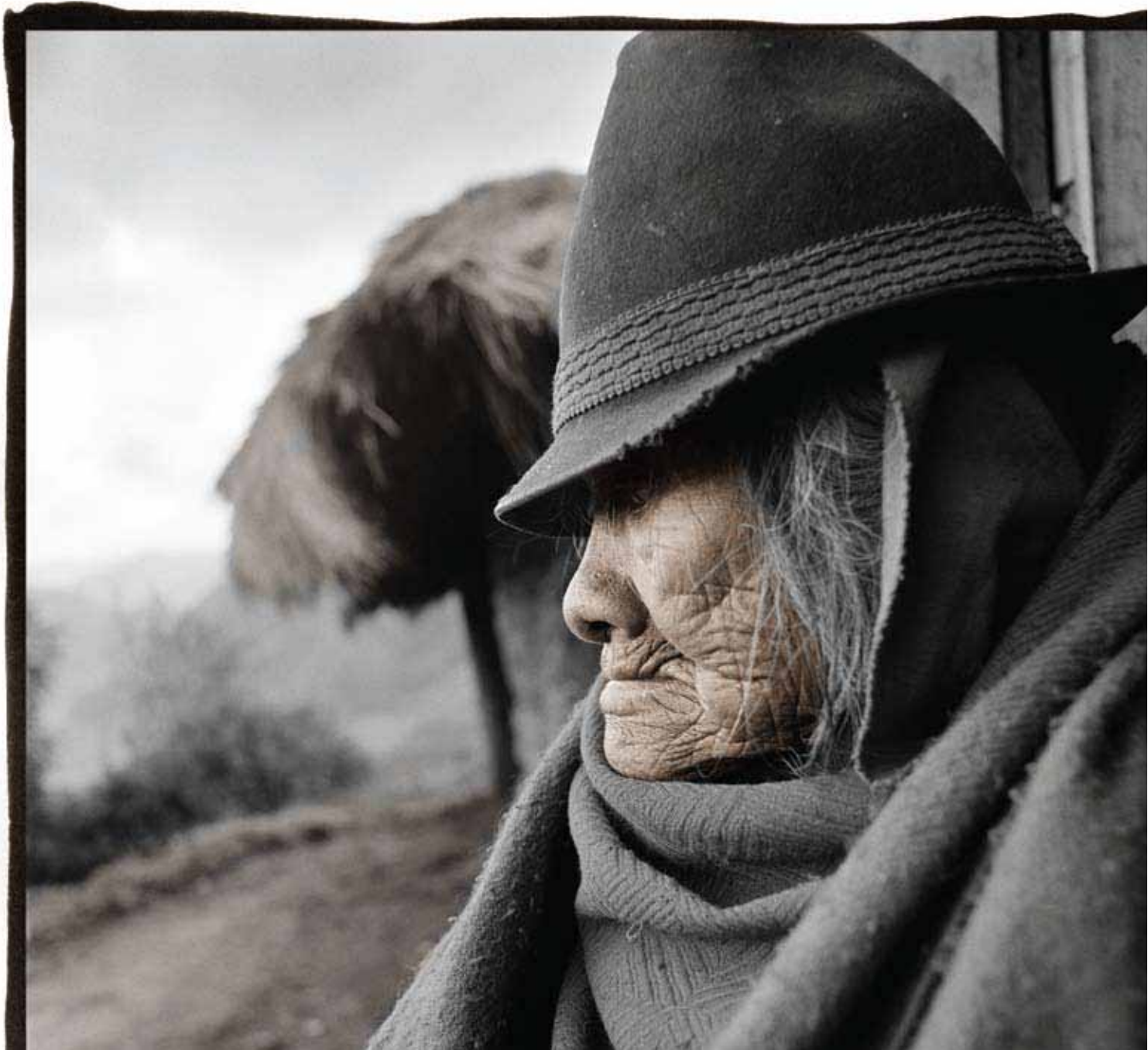
Getting a GRIPP on policies:
turning research into policy and practice

Policy processes are complex and sometimes chaotic. It is naïve to think that a rational model of policy making would, as a matter of course, influence the policy process. A critical factor in ensuring that research is utilised in the policy process is to engage interested parties early on in the research process to ensure that the research is relevant, say **Charles Hongoro, Yu Ke** and **Jonathan Carter**.

The uptake and use of research results during policy making is influenced by the interests of those involved in the process, and the extent to which research findings are compatible with these multiple interests. Ideally, the focus should largely be on the ultimate beneficiaries of any policy.

This was the background to a discussion between policy makers, academics, researchers and representatives from civil society, entitled *HIV and AIDS in Africa - Getting research/evidence into policy and practice* (GRIPP). The discussion was the beginning of a process to canvas views, facilitate constructive engagement
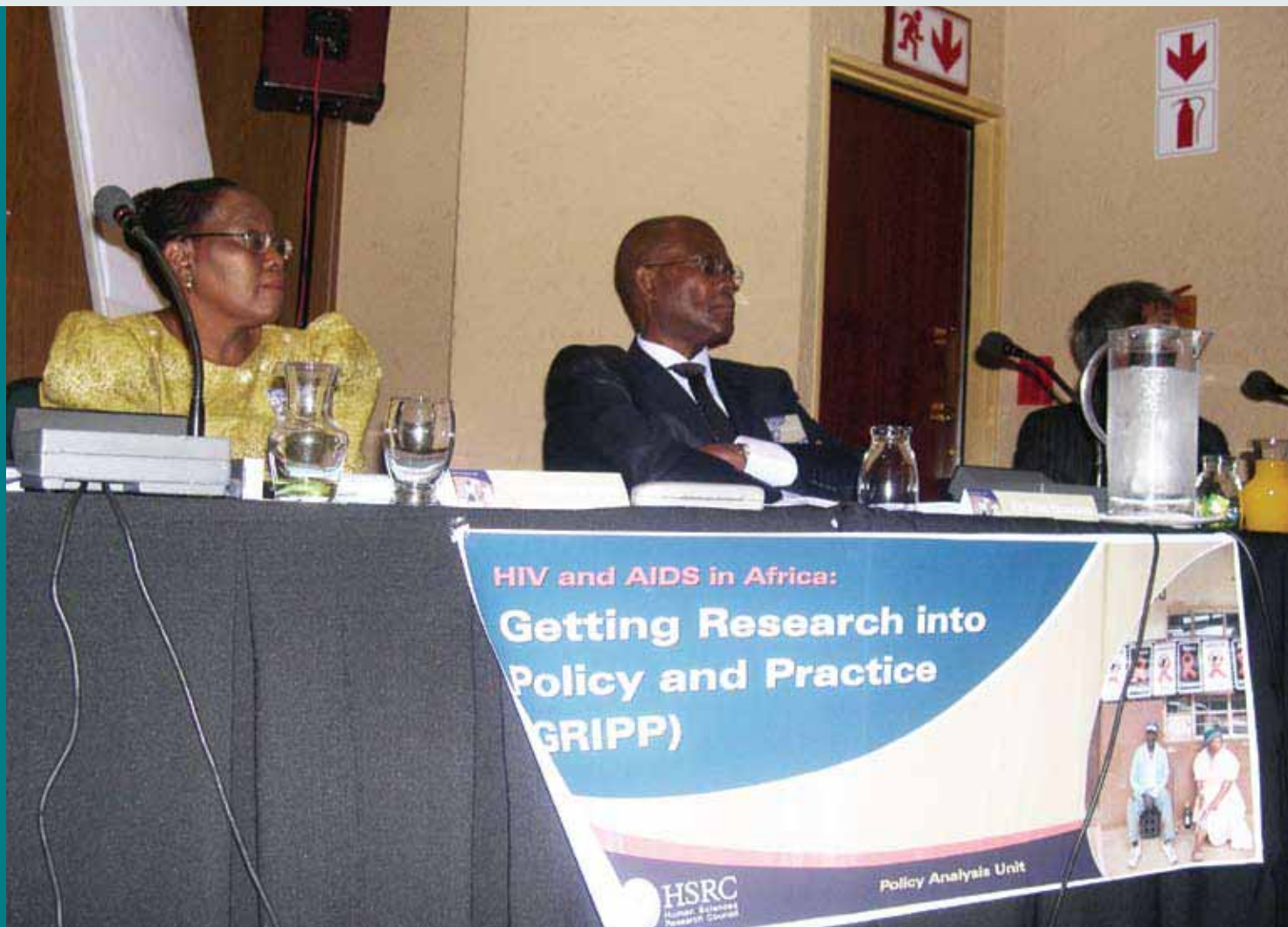
HSRC CEO Olive Shisana and Minister of Social Development Zola Skweyiya listen attentively at the discussion during the GRIPP conference

of interested parties with the subject, and to make them active participants in the debate.

HIV/AIDS was used as a case study for the discussion; not only to tackle one of the biggest moral and developmental challenges of the time, but also to concretely explore the objectives of the discussion. It aimed at reaching some consensus and understanding on how best to use existing and emerging knowledge for combating the disease and influencing policy processes more generally.

To get to grips with the challenges of getting research into policy and practice, the discussion identified possible roles - both ideal and realistic - that research could play in policy making:

- Research can expose policy makers to a wide range of validated concepts and experiences from which they could consider alternatives and choose policy options. For instance, research can reveal alternative and cost-effective ways of achieving objectives from the available resources, or provide warning signals of policy failures;
- Research can ensure that policy makers are held accountable to the political promises made by the government. By comparing historical and current data, monitoring and evaluation research could demonstrate whether policy achieves its stated objectives; and
- Research could legitimise policy decisions – a role which is less desirable than the previous two roles, but in reality quite widespread.

But understanding the possible roles of research in policy and practice does not equate to understanding *how* research influences policy and practices. The discussion identified many obstacles that could hinder the process.

Research characteristics that hamper uptake

Evidence itself changes. With the development of new technology, new evidence can throw doubt on, or even overturn, existing popular evidence. Likewise, when there is a shift in what we know and understand, or the dominant social discourse, the way people perceive the importance and validity of certain evidence could also change. What is more, evidence is often based on probabilities, while for policy makers any level of uncertainty is an enemy in terms of their decision making.

" ... researchers often pursue research in the hope of advancing knowledge, while policy makers want knowledge that buys votes "

Then social research is also a process, informed by systematically arranging the ideas of both those who create knowledge and those who use knowledge. Research evidence is often created for different purposes and the academic definition of the problem does not always match the political definition. For example, researchers often pursue research in the hope of advancing knowledge, while policy makers want knowledge that buys votes.

What is more, policy makers often require concrete suggestion of actions while researchers are often hesitant to provide such. And there are groups and sub-groups of people within each community (both knowledge creators and users), who have different ideologies, world views and belief systems. This implies that there can be different perspectives or definitions of problems between departments and individuals, resulting in difficulty in reaching consensus on the interpretation and implication of certain evidence and also on the importance and validity of a certain methodology.

Fundamental conditions for the uptake of research

Bearing in mind these obstacles, the following conditions were pointed out as crucial in ensuring that research evidence is considered in the policy process:

- Evidence needs to provide policy makers with concrete suggestion and options of actions;
- The policy-making process is bound by time limits and therefore the dissemination of evidence needs to coincide with policy cycles; and
- Researchers should be aware of the political flavour of the times. If their research topic is hot on the policy agenda at the time, they stand a better chance of being noticed and the research results utilised.

And the accessibility of evidence needs to be improved by removing academic jargon from research reports; by using 'policy speak' in communicating with policy makers; by keeping documents short and to the point; and by creating an awareness among researchers that they are not speaking to their academic peers, but that their research might be of no concern to policy makers.

The discussion called attention to the fact that an accessible, good piece of research, does not guarantee that policy makers and practitioners will take it on board. Another point of emphasis was the importance of understanding how power and contestations for control of power could influence the use of research in policy making.

A key challenge for researchers is to ensure that their research meets the needs of the policy makers, and that it is communicated properly. This implies continuous engagement and dialogue between researcher and policy makers from the moment a problem has been defined and to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the research problem and merits of proposed solutions.

The Policy Analysis Unit plans to publish the colloquium report and a series of articles derived from the conference proceeding in the coming months.

Dr Charles Hongoro is the head of the Policy Analysis Unit, Ms Yu Ke a research intern and Jonathan Carter a senior research manager in the same unit.

Expanded Public Works Programme:
Hope for the unemployed?

Since its launch the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has come to be regarded as the flagship employment project of the government as it sets out to provide temporary job opportunities, supported by training, to enable job seekers to access more permanent employment. What has the Programme achieved in the period since its launch in 2004? **David Hemson** looks at the findings of a mid-term review of the Programme.

The headline from virtually all public attitude surveys is that the most urgent priority in present South Africa is job creation. This is reflected in government statements; as set out in the first theme of the Growth and Development Summit (GDS) of 2003: 'More jobs, better jobs, decent work for all'.

Will the second phase achieve greater impact than the first? At the GDS Summit the EPWP was referred to as 'large enough to have a substantial impact' on the problem of mass unemployment. Although it is one of a number of initiatives to increase jobs, the hope of the mass of unemployed rests on such public provision of jobs. Short-term and longer-term objectives are to alleviate poverty through halving unemployment by 2014.

Why and how the research was done

It is agreed there is an urgent need to meet the crisis of structural unemployment particularly as those who suffered most intensely under apartheid are also those who have benefited least in terms of greater employment in the recent past. In terms of the official definition there were 4.4 million unemployed in September 2006. Of these, black African people constituted 3.9 million, of whom an estimated 3.2 million constituted 'discouraged' work-seekers – those who have given up looking for a job.

This gives an indication of the extent of the enormous demand for employment. For the EPWP to be an effective instrument in contributing significantly to halving unemployment by 2014, its contribution needs to be measured by more than a million jobs annually.

In the Mid-Term Review progress is measured against objectives. Indicators of performance in six key objectives were identified: the number of work opportunities created from the launch in 2004 to the "mid-term" 2007, full time equivalent figures, the number of training days achieved, the allocation of budgets to projects, the proportion of the project budgets actually spent and finally the demographic element – the achievement of employment of the targeted proportions of women, youth and disabled.

At the launch the target of 1 million jobs over five years was set, or (put more qualitatively) as 650 000 "real" jobs (measured as equivalent to a year's work).

The following findings are drawn; firstly that the EPWP is succeeding in three important ways:

- The target of 1 million work opportunities is in sight or now achieved.

- The targeted proportion of work opportunities for women and youth (although not for the disabled) has been reached.
- In getting departments to take EPWP seriously by allocating funding to Public Works.

But the EPWP is failing in several other important ways in:

- Decent work: minimum standards for length of a job are not being reached;
- Training: only 19% of training targeted has been met;
- Actual spending: only 59% of the funds allocated over 3 years have been spent.
- Wages: overheads and other costs are rising while wages are static.
- Earnings: earnings per job are declining over time.

This can be summarised as follows: 'Can and must do better'. Although the key objective of one million job opportunities may well be attained and the targeted proportion of women and youth are being achieved, there are major deficiencies. Unfortunately, these substantially undermine these broad achievements. The considerable shortfalls in person years, length of work opportunities, actual spending of budgets, accredited training and exit strategies tend to undermine these achievements as they fall far short of the targets.
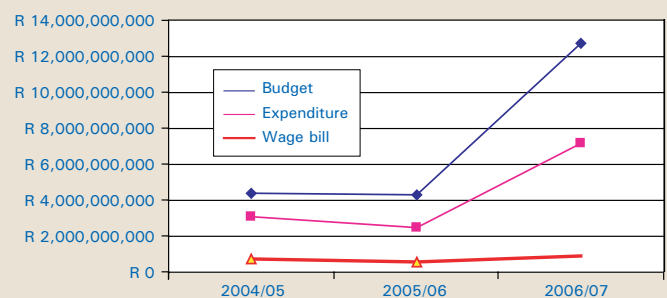

Figure: EPWP Funding and wages, 2004/05-2006/07

Udesh Pillay

Future directions in **urban policy**

In the first ten years of democracy, urban policy in South Africa has been driven by national government in an attempt, inter alia, to accelerate the mass delivery of basic services at a local level. But, over the past five years the increasingly robust role and influence of cities in setting the urban agenda is, in effect, leading urban policy.

The development of most urban areas is influenced, to some degree, by the processes of urban policy and urban planning. Urban policy and planning are generally concerned with the management of urban areas. They are state activities that seek to influence the distribution and operation of investment and consumption processes in cities for the 'common good'.

The first ten years of democracy in South Africa has seen the creation of democratic, integrated and developmental local government; mass delivery of housing and services; a finely crafted array of capital and operating subsidies for delivery to low-income households; and a number of programmes intended to enhance the capacity of local government to undertake delivery. These have all been driven by a national perspective.

What can be done?

The Review recommended that the EPWP should be substantially redesigned to have an impact on the level of unemployment. The labour intensity of infrastructure should be mainstreamed, direct government employment undertaken by line departments, and enterprise development supported by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Research undertaken by the HSRC indicates that at lower levels of growth the EPWP should be contributing more than 1 million jobs annually if the target of halving unemployment by 2014 is to be met. The second phase of the EPWP is now being planned; the recommendations in the Mid-Term Review point to the way forward. Will the second phase announced mark their adoption?

Dr David Hemson, a director in the HSRC's Centre for Service Delivery, conducted the analysis and review of the EPWP Mid-Term Review, incorporated in the Expanded Public Works Programme Synthesis Report, which was written by Geci Karuri-Sebina of the Centre for Service Delivery and included contributions from local and international partners.

Government's urban policies

A more recent agenda repeats the emphasis on delivery, with four potentially significant 'urban policies' being promoted by the national government. These are the Presidency's 2003 *National Spatial Development Perspective* (NSDP), the Department of Housing's 2004 *Breaking New Ground* document, the Department of Provincial and Local Government's *Local Economic Development Framework*, and the pending, rewritten *Urban Development Framework*, whose location within the Presidency, the Department of Provincial and Local Government or elsewhere had, at the time of writing, still to be determined. Each of these policies is briefly described below.

The *NSDP* provides an indicative guideline that will encourage creative interaction and co-ordination between departments and spheres of government about the nation's spatial priorities. Its main argument is that areas with 'potential' or comparative advantage should be pinpointed, and thereafter receive priority in the allocation of resources.

Breaking New Ground outlines a plan for the development of sustainable and integrated human settlements over the next five years. Embracing a people's contract, the delivery of housing is seen as a key strategy for poverty alleviation and job creation, creating assets, promoting social cohesion, and improving the quality of life for the poor.

The *Local Economic Development Framework* attempts to develop and support robust and inclusive municipal economies through the active and dynamic alignment of the NSDP, Provincial Growth and Development Strategies (PGDs), and District/Metro Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). This recognises the desire for horizontal co-ordination among national government departments, as well as vertical co-ordination within the three spheres of government.

The 2005 draft *Urban Development Framework* appears to be an attempt to propose and promote, through a deeper understanding of the policy issues at hand, a set of practical urban interventions, like the accelerated delivery of services, through a more co-ordinated approach.

Agenda of the cities

The counterpoint to the national perspective and frameworks is the agenda of the cities, especially those comprising the South Africa Cities Network (SACN). The SACN and its members (Buffalo City, Cape Town, Ekhuruleni, eThekwini, Johannesburg, Mangaung, Msunduzi, Nelson Mandela Metropole and Tshwane) have been playing an increasingly robust role in setting the urban agenda and, in effect, leading urban policy. Many points contribute to this view.

First, the context for urban policy reflects a level of ambivalence within government regarding the preparation of new urban policies. Reportedly, it was following debate within Cabinet that the *NSDP* was termed a perspective and not a policy. *Breaking New Ground* is presented as an 'amendment' or 'enhancement' to existing policy. The LED policy was downgraded to a framework. The *Urban Development Framework* is, of course, a framework. This national policy-shy approach to urban policy is in part a reaction to past accusations of government policy favouring urban areas.

In contrast, in its 2006 *State of the Cities Report*, the SACN, 'through description and analysis of trends...hopes to set up a strategic agenda for further research, planning and action...' In addition, the SACN unabashedly specifies that 'a national urban renewal policy framework must be developed as part of a broader South African urban policy framework'. And, in the absence of a national policy framework, the document also indicates areas where cities can themselves take aspects of the policy agenda forward.

It is further indicated that this should take the form of *City Development Strategies* (CDSs). Such strategies are seen as action-plans for equitable growth in cities and their surrounding regions, developed and sustained through participation, to improve the quality of life for all citizens. The output of a city development strategy includes a collective city vision and a strategic action plan aimed at policy and institutional reforms, increased economic growth and employment, and implementation and accountability mechanisms to ensure systematic and sustained reductions in urban poverty.

As prescribed in CDSs, South African cities are taking their development forward in partnership with the private sector. The significance of the relationship with the private sector is that it further emphasises the independence of the cities from alignment with the national policy direction.

Focus on housing and poverty

The presumptions and prerogatives of the SACN cities are further contributed to by the 'normalisation' of the urban agenda, with the legislative and institutional prerequisites for dealing with the aftermath of urban apartheid having been put in place. For example, the SACN is now turning its attention to developing instruments of urban governance such as an effective regulatory system for land use planning that addresses the realities of informal settlements.

To this should be added the role of municipalities in the delivery of housing and services. The Constitution requires that municipalities invest in services infrastructure for delivery to low-income households. This requirement is abetted by the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, which came into effect in 2004/05, and accords municipalities increasing independence in the allocation of resources for investment in services infrastructure. The same can be said for the Department of Housing's intention to accredit cities to deliver houses.

Then, to add to the urban voice, there is increasing recognition of the fact that poverty is not solely a rural issue and there is an equivalent, if not greater, prevalence of poverty in urban areas. Well-run cities are a precondition to drive both competitiveness in the global economy and alleviate poverty in both urban and rural (owing to remittances and migration) areas.

Cities Network sets the pace

The point is that in a context of ambivalence at the national level in relation to urban policy, the cities comprising the SACN are proceeding with an urban agenda that, to a significant degree, is self-defined, enabled by national housing and services policies and subsidy frameworks, and embodied in their commitment to city development strategies.

The point is also that the SACN agenda influences that of non-member secondary cities. A useful window through which to examine this development is in the planning and preparation ahead of the FIFA World Cup in 2010. While a national planning blueprint exists (derived from the 2004 Bid blueprint), and a number of national government departments have assumed responsibility for driving facets of the planning, it is really the nine host cities themselves, liaising closely with the Local Organising Committee and FIFA, that are driving this process.

Given strict timeframes and an unforgiving set of obligations and specifications from FIFA, it seems prudent that the host cities are advancing the planning process in earnest. In doing so, they seem to be further consolidating a trend where cities themselves have become the lead agents in most facets of urban development, regeneration and renewal.

Dr Udesh Pillay is the executive director of the Centre for Service Delivery

In the first plenary address ever to be devoted to the wellbeing of children affected by HIV and AIDS in the 23-year history of the 17th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008), Professor Linda Richter, executive director of the HSRC's Child, Youth, Family and Social Development programme, presented a paper, entitled *No Small Issue: Children and Families*. She was one of only two South Africans who were invited to present at a plenary session of the largest and most diverse international meeting devoted to a single global health issue, which brought together some 22 000 delegates from more than 190 countries. The other South African was Supreme Court of Appeal Judge Edwin Cameron.

HSRC researchers also presented more than 20 research posters, chaired sessions, participated in panel discussions, and held workshops.

In this special section of the HSRC Review, we bring you a selection of the studies presented at AIDS 2008.

No small issue: **New action agenda** for children affected by HIV/AIDS

'Children have been short-changed in the response to AIDS. They are visible in the photo opportunities and headlines, but mostly invisible in the response to HIV,' Prof. Linda Richter of the HSRC told the XVIIth International AIDS Conference in a plenary address entitled No Small Issue: Children and Families in the first plenary address to be devoted to the wellbeing of children affected by HIV and AIDS in the conference's 23-year history.

UNAIDS estimates that two million children aged 0-14 were living with HIV in 2007 – an eight-fold increase since 1990 – while both new infections and deaths among children have grown three-fold in the same period. Some 370 000 children became newly infected with HIV last year and about 270 000 children died. About 90% of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated 12.1 million children have also lost one or both parents to AIDS-related illnesses.

While the global response to AIDS has accelerated, prevention, treatment and care for children continue to lag behind:

- **HIV prevention is failing children.** The overwhelming majority of children who are HIV-positive are infected through mother-to-child transmission. Despite recent progress, services to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) in low- and middle-income countries – the effectiveness of which has been established for over 10 years – reach only a third of those that need them.

- **Children living with HIV have far less access to treatment than do adults in the same settings.** Only about 10% of children living with HIV are receiving ART worldwide. Last year, fewer than 8% of infants in low- and middle-income countries were tested within two months of their birth, and only 1 in 25 babies exposed to HIV received the antibiotic co-trimoxazole, which is essential to prevention.

- **There are serious gaps in the data on children and HIV, and the evidence that does exist is often overlooked.** For example, very little is known about infections among children between

Prof. Linda Richter delivering her plenary presentation

infancy and 15 years of age, despite household surveys in countries showing significant levels of HIV prevalence in this age group. Conversely, population-based surveys in many African countries identify a relatively low number of child-headed or skip-generation households (with only elderly people and children) – yet very large amounts of money and attention are focused on these tragic but relatively rare situations.

- **Current approaches to children affected by HIV/AIDS too often focus only on "AIDS orphans", to the detriment of other needy children and families.** Targeting interventions specifically to orphans or AIDS-affected children is neither helpful nor efficient in hard-hit communities where there is widespread poverty and destitution. In these circumstances, orphans are seldom worse off than other vulnerable children. Singling out specific groups

of children can even result in undesirable effects, such as stigmatisation and abuse of those in need of help. All children in communities severely affected by HIV require support.

'Children orphaned by AIDS are, sadly, only the tip of the iceberg of HIV-affected children,' said Prof. Richter. 'Our primary focus in designing and implementing policies must be the actual needs of all children affected by HIV/AIDS, not whether they meet an agency's definition of "orphan".'

Larger-scale support is urgently needed

Prof. Richter said families, broadly defined, care best for children. Yet many efforts to assist children affected by HIV and AIDS have ignored the clear benefits of supporting families, many of which live in extreme poverty and receive little or no assistance from governments.

'The poorest families face the worst effects of the epidemic, financing the health care of those who are sick, and absorbing kith and kin – largely by eating less and spending less on education and health care. This critically affects the wellbeing of children,' remarked Prof. Richter.

In several southern African countries, more than 30% of families have an adult member living with HIV or have experienced a recent AIDS-related death. In addition, over 60% of children live below the poverty line – in countries that are themselves already very poor. In such situations, support to individual children by local community members and organisations has been critical, but falls woefully short of meeting children's needs.

To date, however, few interventions for children have been formulated, resourced or implemented on a scale that matches the epidemic's impact on children and their families. The current response for children is largely composed of ad hoc projects with limited outreach that are often imperfectly designed and under-funded.

> "HIV policies and funding must be significantly refocused to achieve what they should for children"

In the most severely affected regions, families and communities are left to bear the overwhelming burden of the epidemic, including approximately 90% of the financial cost. Indeed, only about 15% of households supporting vulnerable children globally receive any support from community-based or public sector programmes.

'Civil society organisations and faith groups provide most of the available support," Richter said. "But small, localised projects can only take us so far. To have a bigger impact requires larger and more systemic responses – responses which support families and address the pervasive poverty in which so many of them live.'

A new action agenda for children

In her plenary remarks, Prof. Richter laid out a new action agenda to provide the poorest families in poor countries with social protection and universal access to services, key steps toward addressing the needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS.

This new agenda includes:

- **Redirecting support for children to and through their families.** Families are the most influential force in the lives of children and adolescents. Strengthening the capacity of families through systematic, public sector initiatives has been identified globally as one of the most important strategies in building an effective response for children. Institutional, orphanage and other forms of non-family care have well-documented problems and cost up to ten times more than family care.

- **Providing integrated, family-centred services.** By targeting only individuals, many HIV interventions and services – such as PMTCT, the home care of a very ill person or starting a family member on antiretroviral treatment – are missing critical opportunities to reach out to family and community members as well. Action for children's wellbeing must address not only their health but also their basic material needs, psychosocial wellbeing and cognitive development. These comprehensive approaches provide crucial opportunities to reinforce key components of primary health care delivery for all, integrate health sector action with child-focused work in other sectors, and leverage broader advances in social development.

- **Providing social protection for poor families.** HIV-affected households typically experience a worsening of their socio-economic status, which greatly affects children in their care. Reducing the impact of extreme poverty through social protection efforts is the crucial missing ingredient in responses to children affected by HIV/AIDS.

'Every developing country, no matter how poor, can afford a social protection package for children affected by HIV and extreme poverty,' Prof. Richter remarked. The International Labour Organisation estimates the cost of a small universal old age pension, universal primary education, free primary health and a child benefit of US$0.25 per day at between 1.5 to 4.5% of GDP in low-income African countries. 'Putting needed resources into the hands of affected families should be urgently considered as a solid foundation for small scale programmes currently reaching very small numbers of children,' she added.

Richter also noted the success of income transfer programmes, especially for the poorest families affected by HIV/AIDS who are often too incapacitated to take advantage of micro-lending or skills training programmes. Income transfer programmes can include social security entitlements such as old-age pensions and child support grants; programmatic interventions targeted to vulnerable communities and households; treatment allowances; or small amounts of money to cover the transport and opportunity costs of accessing HIV/AIDS prevention and care services.

'Whatever approaches are taken, some form of income assistance for the neediest households is critical," Richter said. "In many high-prevalence countries in Africa, poverty is arguably the single biggest barrier to the scale-up of HIV treatment and prevention. Further expansion of these services may not be possible without addressing individual and household incapacity, including financial incapacity, to access them.'

In conclusion, Prof. Richter noted that the spotlight is finally moving to children, as a result of projects such as the Joint Leaning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA) and vigorous advocacy by a number of child-oriented agencies.

Missing the children
in the HIV/AIDS epidemic

The theme of the neglecting of children in the response to AIDS was carried forward by many other speakers, among them a satellite session hosted by the HSRC in partnership with the 46664 Nelson Mandela HIV/AIDS campaign and the South African Department of Social Development.

David Alnick and Olive Shisana listen to the discussion at the HSRC Satellite Session

This session explored key issues, efforts and challenges in programme and policy responses to children and HIV and AIDS, reinforcing the view that the focus should shift from orphans to vulnerable children and families.

Data collection essential

Countries are unlikely to prioritise HIV prevention, care and treatment for children as long as epidemiological data on children with HIV are inadequate, which is the case in most sub-Saharan African countries, said Dr Olive Shisana, CEO of the HSRC.

At this stage, only Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland include children in their national HIV population-based surveys.

> **"Countries are unlikely to prioritise HIV prevention, care and treatment for children as long as epidemiological data on children with HIV are inadequate …"**
> **Dr Olive Shisana**

Collection of data on a national scale to determine the size of the problem would be a first step to put children high up on country's national HIV and AIDS agendas, she said.

HIV programmes fail the children

There are several areas where HIV programmes fail children. These include programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the virus where children are seldom the focus of prevention, treatment and care programmes; even programmes that aim at preventing vertical transmission often end once the mother is discharged from hospital.

Another area is voluntary counselling and testing (VTC) for HIV, which is often reserved for men, women and young people, but seldom for children under 10 years old. As the World Health Organisation points out, providing VCT for children presents a problem for policy makers, programme managers and health care providers.

When is comes to AIDS treatment and care programmes, health services in most countries focus on acutely ill children with AIDS, and few seek out children in need of antiretroviral treatment.

Action to put children on the HIV agenda

Shisana advocated for action to put children's issues high up on the HIV agenda. To achieve this, the following need to be done:

- Collection of data should take place on a national scale to determine the size of the problem;
- Risk factors should be identified, and intervention strategies be developed;
- Advocacy materials should be prepared that pinpoints the problem and the action to be taken; and
- Legal experts should take up children's issues within a human rights approach.

Moving beyond orphans to all vulnerable children

Mr David Alnwick, head of the eastern and southern African regional office of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Nairobi, said the emerging consensus on children is to move beyond targeting orphans for special assistance.

'The rates of malnutrition in several countries show that the ratio between orphans and non-orphans is much the same. This

> **"… in many countries it is poverty that keeps children from school, not whether they are orphans or not."**
> **Mr David Alnwick**

is also visible in figures on school attendance, where in many counties it is poverty that keeps children from school, not whether they are orphans or not', he said.

The best approach to assist children affected by HIV is to keep them in families and to provide support to poor families who care for additional children, Alnwick said, reaffirming the concept of: 'A basic cash transfer approach for poor families can be the entry point for building a comprehensive social welfare system.'

Risky behaviours **must change** for HIV prevention to have any chance of success

Radical behavioural change needs to be initiated and sustained in enough people at risk of HIV infection, and these behavioural changes must be part of a comprehensive combination prevention package for the strategies to have any chance of success.

These are among the conclusions of Professor Thomas Coates, University of California, Los Angeles, Professor Linda Richter, executive director of the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development research programme at the HSRC, and Professor Carlos Caceres, University of Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru, authors of a third paper in The Lancet Series on HIV prevention, which was presented at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City.

The authors said varieties of sexual expression are infinitely greater than what is acknowledged or sanctioned by most societies' defined legal and moral systems. And substance use to the point of intoxication is not only allowed, but is central to many countries' economies – little wonder that attempts to control such substances, especially alcohol, stimulants, and injecting drugs, have met with little success.

Behavioural strategies are those that attempt to delay first intercourse, decrease the number of sexual partners, increase the number of protected sexual acts, provide HIV counselling and testing and give access to treatment for those who are infected with HIV. Add to these providing access to male circumcision, decrease the sharing of needles and syringes, and decrease substance abuse.

The authors called for new initiatives based on behavioural science to add to those based on communications, peer education and others, as part of a combination framework. It is essential that the right programmes are initiated.

They discussed programmes such as the 'Abstain, Beautiful, Use Condoms' (ABC) of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which until recently insisted a third of its funding be spent on abstinence before marriage instead of where the evidence suggested funds were most needed.

But advocacy has seen these restrictions removed from the 2008 PEPFAR legislation, so that the money can be better directed.

There are many challenges facing behavioural change for HIV prevention. Many people with HIV do not know they are infected – thus one of the major tasks for HIV prevention in the developing world must involve increasing the number of people who know they are infected.

Risk compensation — where advances in HIV prevention are undone by increases in risky behaviour — must also be addressed. HIV prevention counselling and services need to be a regular part of treatment for persons with HIV, the authors said.

Major focus on young people is essential

There is a shocking gulf in the knowledge that young people have in HIV knowledge, with indications that the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) target of 90% of young people having comprehensive HIV knowledge by 2010 will not even be half-met.

The authors say: 'Nothing should be more important than a major focus on young people, not only in sub-Saharan Africa but in many other parts of the world as well.'

Injecting drug use remains a controversial area, and while many governments will not object to their HIV-infected population receiving antiretroviral drugs, they can and do refuse to implement harm-reduction policies to prevent HIV transmission in injecting drug users.

The authors conclude: 'The radical behavioural change that is needed to reduce HIV transmission requires radical commitment. Prevention strategies will never work if they are not implemented completely, with appropriate resources and benchmarks, and with a view toward sustainability. The fundamentals of HIV prevention need to be agreed upon, funded, implemented, measured, and achieved. That, presently, is not the case.'

Research posters

Beliefs and adherence to antiretroviral therapy and medication

A large proportion of rural dwellers on antiretroviral therapy (ART) in KwaZulu-Natal believe that their lives would be impossible without taking their traditional, complementary and alternative medicines (TCAMs). This is a concern for medical doctors who notice unexplained medical conditions in their patients, reports Mr Shandir Ramlagan, a senior researcher in SAHA.

Ramlagan presented a study on the beliefs in TCAM medicines in rural KwaZulu-Natal - the province with the highest HIV prevalence (16.5%) in South Africa - and the effect it has on adherence to ART.

The study found that over 66% of respondents believed they would not be able to live without TCAM, and over 60% believed that TCAMs control their HIV and are their best hope for their future, compared to ART.

The study was conducted among 484 HIV-positive rural dwellers in three public sites who administered ART to HIV patients in the uThukela district in rural KwaZulu-Natal. Interviewers completed a semi-structured questionnaire, comparing the characteristics of those who used TCAM in the past six months with those who did not use TCAM during the same period. The respondents were interviewed on the day they were first placed on an ART programme.

Strange medical conditions in ART patients

Qualitative data showed that medical doctors were concerned with the effect of TCAMs as they see unexplained medical conditions in their patients, for example the use of traditional enemas on a daily basis which reduces ART absorption into the body.

The study found that the contents of traditional medicines were unknown as are the effect they have on ARVs. Research should be undertaken into the effects of TCAM on patients on ART and patient education is essential in this regard.

The same study also assessed attitudes towards the necessity of, and concerns with, taking prescription medications in general. Of all study respondents, 96% (96.5% male and 95.7% females) believed that doctors prescribe too many medicines.

Just over 50% of these respondents believe that people who take medicines should take a break every now and then by stopping taking their medication. When respondents were asked if they believed that natural remedies are safer than Western medicines, 47% agreed, with 18% uncertain. Nearly 50% believed most medicines are addictive, and 90% believed that doctors place too much trust in medicines.

The fact that such a large proportion of respondents hold a negative view of prescription medication in general is of some concern as this view could easily be transferred to ART, putting respondents at risk of not taking their therapy in the proper, consistent manner required and therefore running the risk of the ART not working, and leading to drug resistance.

The study recommends an intensive education campaign to better inform patients on the importance of adherence to prescription medication at the patient-doctor level and at the level of home-based carers.

Men who have sex with men: To disclose or not

A study among HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM) in Cape Town showed a high percentage of participants engage in unprotected anal sex with partners who were unaware of their HIV-positive status.

Secrecy and concealment of either sexual orientation or HIV positive status is typical of many sexual relationships between men because of the taboo nature of homosexuality in many African societies. Disclosure is important in the prevention of the further spread of HIV.

The study, presented by Ms Allanise Cloete, a PhD intern in SAHA, aimed to inform the adaptation and development of an intervention that would reduce sexual risk for HIV-positive MSM in Cape Town, South Africa.

The study included a survey among 92 HIV-positive MSM, purposefully sampled from venues where gay men congregate. Fifty-one percent were 25 years or younger, 33% described themselves as indigenous African, and the average number of years since testing HIV-positive was 2.7.

It showed that 68 of the 92 participants in the study reported having anal sex with more than one partner without informing them that they were HIV-positive. And 36 of the 92 indicated that they had unprotected vaginal sex more than once in the previous three months with partners who were also unaware of their HIV-positive status.

Almost 60% of the respondents indicated that it was difficult for them to tell other people about their status; 64% reported discrimination resulting from their positive status, including loss of housing or employment. Of interest is that 11% of the MSM reported that they were currently married.

The study concluded that in developing interventions that would reduce risk behaviour for HIV-positive MSM, a strong component would need to be included focusing on disclosure decisions. But this will not be effective unless legal and other protective measures against discrimination were also implemented.

Strengthen families to strengthen children

Well-implemented home health visiting and early child development (ECD) programmes can help improve outcomes for children where HIV prevalence is high, provided support is available to caregivers and families to help alleviate the care burden for women and girls in households, said Dr Upjeet Chandan, a research specialist in the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD) programme.

The study reviewed the evidence available from high-income countries on the best ways to strengthen families and how this evidence could be applied to strengthening children and families affected by HIV and AIDS in countries with a high HIV prevalence.

The study, commissioned by the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA) reflects a growing global consensus that one of the best ways to support children is by supporting their families. Programmes reviewed include home visiting programmes, ECD programmes, and behavioural parenting and family skills building programmes.

Programmes that work

Two key areas, namely home health visiting for pregnant mothers and young children, and a combination of centre and community-based ECD programmes, emerged as areas of promising intervention that should be considered as key strategies, on a country-by-country basis, to improve the lives of children in high prevalence countries.

Well-implemented, evidence-based home health visiting and ECD programmes can improve outcomes for children, and provide support to caregivers and families in the care of their youngest members. Such programmes can also alleviate the care burden for women and girls in households, enable caregivers to take up other activities such as income generation, schooling, and self-care, and provide a conduit for the delivery of other services, for example nutrition and health care.

However, the study warns that without quality programming, it will be difficult to see quality results. For this reason careful attention must be paid to issues of programme implementation and ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

Sufficient resources must be allocated to attract, train, and retain staff, and active efforts must be made to engage families in services. And while it is useful to learn from programmes in resource-rich countries, the study cautions that intervention strategies proven to work in resource-rich contexts cannot be implemented 'as is' in resource-constrained settings and require testing through local effectiveness and implementation studies.

Obstacles
in executing preventions plans
for HIV birth infections

Good programmes to prevent the transmission of HIV from mother-to-child during birth (PMTCT programmes) exist, but what prevents the proper implementation of these programmes in the Eastern Cape? **Nancy Phaswana-Mafuya**, a director in the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health research programme, presented a study at the Conference that shows that these obstacles are systemic, starting at provincial, district, facility, and community levels, right down to household levels.

In-depth interviews were conducted with three provincial PMTCT officials and 22 PMTCT co-ordinators as well as through four focus group discussions with 21 sub-district officials and another four with 71 PMTCT clients. This is what they said:

Barriers at provincial level

These include poor management systems, inadequate human and physical resources and lack of co-ordination and integration of PMTCT with other health programmes, such as tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections and nutrition.

On poor management systems, the following was a typical remark from local service area managers: 'The provincial financial system is not user-friendly, it keeps on changing and this causes delays with the loading of budgets and in creating costs at province, resulting in delays to process requests'.

And on the issue of inadequate human and physical resources: 'There are no permanent full time PMTCT posts; the programme uses seconded staff. This affects programme continuity, progress, quality, and supervision at lower levels'.

Barriers at district and sub-district level

Again inadequate human resources and the fact that there is no dedicated PMTCT staff is a sticking point: 'Available staff is overloaded dealing with voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), HIV, sexually transmitted infections, the ordering of test kits, ordering of formula and distribution of anteretrovirals, in addition to overseeing PMTCT services'.

There is limited geographical coverage: 'When we started with the PMTCT programme at another sub-district, we had only one site serving a population of 460 000 people'.

Then the programme is not accessible: 'There is generally no reading material, information leaflets with pictures, no brochures and no videos on PMTCT'.

Another problem is the lack of proper monitoring as there is no

> " There are no permanent PMTCT posts... This affects programme continuity, progress, quality, and supervision "

Barriers at household/community level

From families women with HIV experience stigma and discrimination from spouses, parents, in-laws and community: 'Our spouses, parents, in-laws and communities do not accept us, they think we contracted HIV because of being promiscuous; they distance themselves and gossip saying she has a disease with Amagama amathathu, meaning a disease with three words'.

Traditional beliefs are also an obstruction: 'Sometimes babies do not receive nevirapine 72 hours after delivery because of the belief that the new born baby should be given isicakati (a traditional drink) as their first feed for a couple of days; some mothers are not allowed to go to hospital 14 days following delivery as they are to receive home-based postnatal care (efukwini) provided by their families and some people believe that the new born baby should be taken to ilawini, which means to a "coloured" traditional healer to make sure they get a relief of evil spirits'.

Some nurses have a negative attitude towards HIV-positive mothers: 'Some used to shout at us saying we are too many and that they even regret why they tested us'. Another mother said: 'I was tested and came for results; I was ill-treated and not given the results for my status. As I was leaving, the water broke and immediately I gave birth to the child. I didn't get nevirapine though the baby got the syrup'.

It is not only the attitude of nurses that is an obstacle, but also

> " Many of the barriers are systemic in nature and relate to the functioning of the healthcare system in general as opposed to the functioning of the PMTCT programme specifically "

a lack of dedication and organisation: 'Nurses take their time during lunch and tea breaks and when it is time to knock off, they stop working irrespective of whether or not there are still patients in the queue; there is a general laxity in dealing with patients in very long queues; we sometimes spend the whole day in the queue and nurses don't bother'.

The unavailability or limited supplies of nevirapine is a constant difficulty: 'Sometimes when we go to the clinics to fetch formula on a scheduled date and we are told that the formula is finished and when the formula comes, we are not given the formula in retrospect. If it was out of stock that month you forfeit it'. Another said: 'Sometimes clients deliver before getting the results and therefore without getting nevirapine if they have been found to be HIV'.

Barriers are systemic in nature

Many of the barriers are systemic in nature and relate to the functioning of the healthcare system in general as opposed to the functioning of the PMTCT programme specifically.

The barriers identified in this study are common across other parts of South Africa. Lessons learned in this study should be considered when identifying best practices for expanding and providing PMTCT services.

record-keeping to establish whether the programme is effective; and a lack of integration, co-ordination and communication results in confusion of roles and responsibilities between the HIV manager and the PMTCT co-ordinator in some sub-districts. Sub-district managers do not sufficiently share information among themselves, which affects progress in terms of PMTCT service delivery.

Barriers at facility level

There are limited PMTCT trained nurses in the facilities due to high staff turnover and transfer of staff. And the infrastructure at this level is poor: 'In some facilities one consulting room is used for the support group meetings, ANC mothers counselling, antiretroviral drugs roll-out, VCT, testing, issuing formula and general health consultation'.

Poor management systems are also a problem on this level: 'Facilities have no effective drug monitoring system, uniform protocol for formula distribution, adequate inventory control, and monitoring and evaluation system'.

The lack of support and supervision is a general setback: 'Limited supervision, if any, is given to PMTCT patients due to time constraints as they have to oversee the VCT, STI, and PMTCT programmes as well as attend other meetings and workshops. There is no support from facility staff'.

From HSRC **Press**

Financing South Africa's National Health System through National Insurance: Possibilities and challenges – Colloquium Proceedings

Claire Botha and Michael Hendricks for the HSRC Policy Analysis Unit

Although much progress has been made towards the creation of a national South African health system which makes 'access to health for all' a reality, much remains to be done. As a means to facilitate debate, the Policy Analysis Unit of the HSRC hosted a colloquium on 'Health within a comprehensive system of social security'. The main purpose was to initiate policy dialogue and critical discussion on how health services are accessed, provided and funded – and to formulate ideas, views and recommendations that could be presented to those involved in health policy development. This publication contains the keynote addresses and a summary of deliberations emerging from the colloquium.

2008 / 64pp / 978-0-7969-2235-9 / R 80.00 / Soft cover

In Search of 'Best Practice' in South African Desegregated Schools

Mokubung Nkomo & Saloshna Vandeyar

One of the daunting challenges facing South Africa in the contemporary period is that of achieving social cohesion. This monograph records what a few schools have managed to achieve and examines their potential to grow into models of best practice in managing diversity. A small survey of stakeholders' perceptions about what constitutes 'best practice' in a desegregated school environment, supported by classroom observation, interviews and focus groups, form the basis of this analysis of emergent patterns in the practices which foster healthy identities in our learners, both as individuals and as members of South African society.

2008 / 168pp / 978-0-7969-2224-3 / R 85.00 / Soft cover

Interventions for orphans and vulnerable children at four project sites in South Africa

Geoffrey Setswe & Donald Skinner

This report describes interventions for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) at four sites in South Africa – the Rustenburg and Orkney areas in the North West province, and the Kopanong and Matjhabeng municipalities in the Free State. The report highlights the knowledge, attitudes, practices and prevention, care and support issues concerning HIV/AIDS among the people located in these four areas.

In 2002, the HSRC was commissioned by the WK Kellogg Foundation to develop and implement a five-year intervention project focusing on OVC in southern Africa. The aim of the project is to develop models of best practice so as to enhance and improve support structures for OVC in the southern African region as a whole.

2008 / 96pp / 978-07969-2218-2 / R 95.00 / Soft cover

Promoting Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in East and Southern Africa

Knut-Inge Klepp, Alan J. Flisher & Sylvia F. Kaaya (eds)

In Africa, as in many parts of the world, adolescent reproductive health is a controversial issue for policy makers and programme planners. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to HIV and AIDS and to a host of other problems such as sexually transmitted infection, unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortions, sexual abuse, female genital mutilation and unsafe circumcision. Articulating new perspectives and strategies to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health, the authors of this volume comprise a network of researchers working in east and southern Africa. They make a unique attempt to bring together the social and biomedical sciences and to disseminate concrete empirical evidence from existing programmes, carefully analysing what works and what doesn't at the local level.

2008 / 344pp / 978-07969-2210-6 / R 190.00 / Soft cover
Co-published with Nordic Africa Institute -
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Rapid appraisal of social inclusion policies in selected sub-Saharan African countries

Laetitia Rispel, Cesar da Sousa & Boitumelo Molomo

This monograph explores the notion of social exclusion in sub-Saharan Africa and summarises available baseline indicators of the scale of inequality in five selected countries: Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Ethiopia and Nigeria. The study was done as part of the Social Exclusion Knowledge Network (SEKN), set up under the auspices of the WHO's Commission on Social Determinants of Health. SEKN's scope is to identify and examine the relational processes excluding particular groups of people from engaging fully in community and social life.

2008 / 64pp / 978-07969-2225-0 / R 90.00 / Soft cover

The RPL Conundrum: Recognition of prior learning in a teacher upgrading programme

Mignonne Brier

The practice of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in the education of adults seeks to affirm and accredit the knowledge and skills which they have already attained in the course of their working lives. This monograph explores the implementation of RPL in a programme designed to upgrade tens of thousands of under-qualified teachers and finds a baffling dilemma: how does one value prior learning which one believes to be misguided, outdated, or inappropriate?

Case studies of the implementation of RPL in the National Professional Diploma in Education (NPDE) at three universities present interesting approaches to the conundrum and reveal the importance of phronesis, or practical wisdom, in considerations of RPL.

2008 / 184pp / 978-0-7969-2220-5 / R 150.00 / Soft cover