



MIGRATION TRENDS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE CENTRES

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ECONOMY AND MIGRATION

The economic downturn is now the key driver for migration

The world economy is expected to shrink this year by nearly 3%

South Africa is in recession and government is bracing itself

The main effect will be a **spike in unemployment** – in South Africa and across the continent

- Rising unemployment will hit the poor hardest
- And will hit the **rural sector** in particular

South Africa's rural small towns are already marginal

And change there is already under way

*Expect to see a **wave of rural-to-urban migration** which can have major effects on **servicing demand***

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LAYOUT

1. MIGRATION DISTRIBUTION NOW
2. THE URBANIZATION FACTOR
3. POLICIES
4. BREAKING DOWN MIGRATION
5. KEY MIGRATION CATEGORIES
6. MIGRATION FUTURES

WHERE IS SA MIGRATION GOING?

Where is migration now?

General drift **toward seacoast** and also to **megacities** –

- Gauteng is **migration magnet for SA's north**
- Cape Town for the southern third

➤ SA has **four major migration corridors** –

- From Limpopo, from North West and Free State, and from Mpumalanga and northern KZN, all into Gauteng
- And from southern KZN through Eastern Cape into Cape Town

In 2001 study for Cabinet, half the magisterial districts in impoverished rural sector already had net out-migration based on 1996 data –

- *Rural districts of Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Limpopo, Free State, large parts of KZN*

Also, demographic flood **out of former homelands into formal local government jurisdictions**

But the most rapid in-migration is into secondary cities

– largest flows go to main metros, but relatively fastest going to smaller cities

URBAN VS RURAL?

Demographic hot flows are into **metro peri-urban zones, + secondary cities** – settlement on city fringes

- *The central cities resist taking large inflows*

Expect to see programmes to make **urban land available to the in-migrating poor**, using state land as close in as possible

- *But rural migration crowding into **small towns with no employment base** will remain a problem*

Government is committed to increasing the viability of the declining rural economy

- But there is question how far rural decline can be reversed –
- In a deep world recession, the cost of making South Africa's exhausted rural sector really competitive is probably too high

With heavy investment, South Africa may be able to **slow rural out-migration somewhat**

Families losing their foothold in the farming sector will continue to move to the nearest small town

Others will drift deeper into the urban zone

S A MIGRATION POLICIES?

Existing framework for migration is most recently from National Spatial Development Framework –

Within Constitutional freedoms, NSDF tackles **delivery and services issues** and **where people ought to go**

- South Africa is deeply attached to its struggling rural sector and to the rights of the rural poor
- But also faces the frightening cost of delivery for rural areas off the grid

NSDF lays down **policy of investing in areas with both need and potential** –

- And not investing in areas with **high need but little potential**

For these areas, position has been for **investment to go into people not services**, so migrants can urbanize competitively

It encourages out-migration from worst impoverished areas

Not clear now how far this NSDF position will be maintained under new government's commitment to help rural poverty sector

LIMITING MIGRATION?

If government puts resources including service centres into rural sector to reduce poverty and slow rural-to-urban migration?

Investment, infrastructure and service centres may help slow migration or **may have mixed effects** –

- When a disadvantaged region develops, **migration rises** as more people can cover migration costs
- **Migration continues till high levels of local earning are reached**, able to compete with urban
 - In Africa, Botswana migration into South Africa is steeply down compared to 80s – diamonds and mining
 - Few if any other African countries have increased incomes enough to cut cross-border migration

But delivery itself does affect and can slow migration

Infrastructure attracts – where delivery goes is an active factor in migration

Careful not to deliver so as to hold people in areas with low potential for livelihoods

LOOKING CLOSER

HSRC's Integrated Planning, Development & Modelling project research with CSIR is sponsored by DST

*Results at local level show **widespread changes in rural settlement and population distribution** –*

- The project is working toward a **new planning aid for IDPs** –
- **Based on survey data, using demographics to link migration to community profiles**
- Giving a new demographic typology of settlement down to micro-local level

With South Africa on the edge of a new migration , what service-related **demographic trends** are we seeing now in the rural sector?

MIGRATION INTO SETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Migration and settlement are what the poor use for anti-poverty striving – how the excluded overcome exclusion

Different types of settlement make up a **broad grid of settlement opportunities across the urban and rural sectors**

People migrate across this grid searching for accommodation that will locate them where they want to be

- Migrating households choose the best combination of **access, affordability, earning and social environment** they can locate

How effectively migration works determines residents' **chances to mobilize resources and escape from poverty**

- *But among the poor, does everyone benefit?*
- *And what will happen when unemployment spikes?*

BREAKING DOWN MIGRATION

Where people live now affects the chances that they will migrate –

For migration, SA's poor can be separated into several key settlement categories:

- **Traditional rural settlement areas:**
 - 12% – but *traditional settlement appears to be disappearing fast - families are turning to brick housing*
- **The old townships:**
 - 27%, the largest single settlement type
- **Rural villages** with non-traditional housing :
 - 21% now – *village families are very poor but 70%+ now have decent-quality self-built dwellings*
- **Slum areas** of shack-type housing:
 - 21% only – not a large share compared to most other developing countries
- **Self-development areas** of owner-built decent-quality housing
 - 8 % – mostly RDP standard or better, growing fast in rural

TRADITIONAL SETTLEMENT VANISHING?

IPDM results show rural **traditional settlement starting to disappear** fast –

- *People are building brick housing instead*
- *And have already largely given up cattle and farming*

Autonomous rural communities are already integrating fast into the national economy

And becoming fully dependent on cash earnings

Rural jobs have been falling steadily in most areas –

A steep rise in unemployment will finally push this 15 percent into the urban sector?

And a large part of the rural village population may go the same way – at 21 percent

What will this mean for servicing needs?

If up to 36 percent of the population migrates to the cities?

SELF-DEVELOPMENT AREAS EMERGING

Self-development areas are informal response to need for new housing developments

New settlements with decent housing emerging on informal land, mainly in rural sector

- Outer fringes of towns or smaller cities, on abandoned land or in former homelands
- Easier and cheaper in rural sector to get informal sites to build
- Often look like formal development with roads, yards, modern houses

Poor but upwardly mobile, younger families moving inward to establish new households

RDP housing seems to cluster on formal municipal land

Self-development areas respond in informal areas with less delivery

- Municipalities often come in later with infrastructure

Significant rural-to-rural migration is going into these areas, service centres often needed

RURAL INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS?

Rural informal settlements are different –

Urban informal settlements are turbulent, crowded

- Bad conditions but good access to work, earning potential

Rural shack areas are the opposite – they represent the people left behind –

- Badly run-down conditions, **very little access to work**
- High percent **women heads and damaged households** that have lost key members to sickness or out-migration

These households lack resources to migrate to the cities

They move short distances toward rural towns instead

This is a relatively small, under-resourced population that needs help – *service centres in good spatial positions can make a difference*

UNDERSTANDING MIGRATION?

What will happen if unemployment spikes?

Increased migration levels are likely -

Depending on their needs in the developed economy,
**people migrating into neighbourhood communities
sort themselves –**

- *In terms of their social identities*
- *And of the demographics of the people who live there*

**Metro, urban and peri-urban communities are closely
aligned with the developed economy**

Residents tend to be *younger and better off the closer to
the urban core* they locate themselves

Outlying rural communities remain more conservative, and
people are older and poorer

But in the rural sector things are changing -

RECESSION MIGRATION TRENDS?

Most of the urbanizing migration stream moves into the shack settlements –

- The **townships are too overcrowded** to absorb many
- **Subsidy housing** has long existing waiting lists
- And **formal rentals** can't yet absorb a lot more people

Right now, the shack settlements are where the cities absorb new migrants arriving

We can expect the shack areas to mushroom?

But many will not get jobs, may have to live on social grants

→ Heavy new strain for:

- *Infrastructure and services delivery*
- *Subsidy housing development*

Government delivery will have to rescue very big numbers of rural in-migrants in the shacks –

Delivery will want to mobilize rapidly? More resources?

UNKNOWN: CROSS-BORDER MIGRATION?

South Africa's increased rural-to-urban migration stream will be joined by many more **cross-border migrants** –

The world-wide recession will hit the continent's vulnerable economies hard

- The cross-border migration flow **will go up by an unknown amount** – there have probably been millions so far
- From just over the border, and from much further away –

In SA cities, **competition for jobs will increase**

So will **direct competition for housing opportunities**

New large-scale flare of xenophobic violence will remain a significant risk

Services access will be critical for many migrating families

Government delivery will need to be ahead and alert to establish service centres in the right places

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