

Working in the water sector

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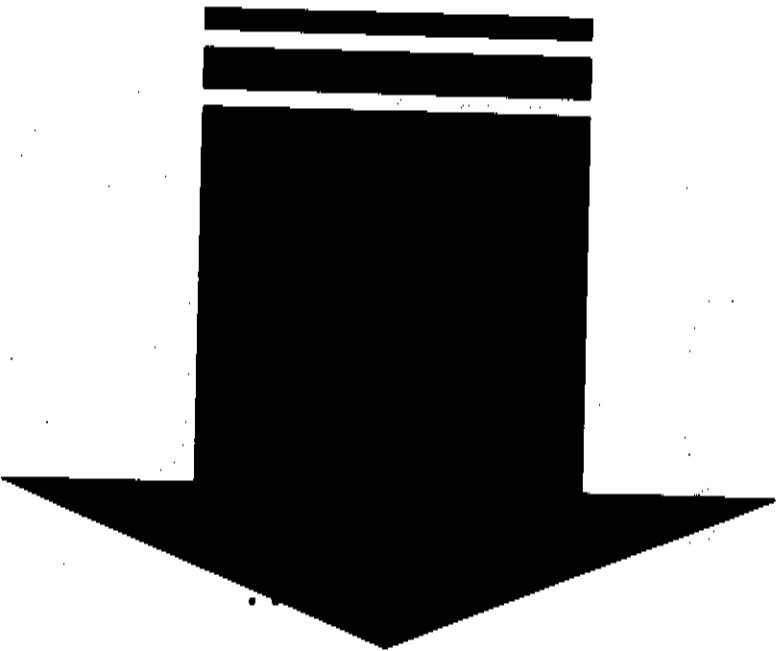
RESEARCH OUTPUT



Introduction

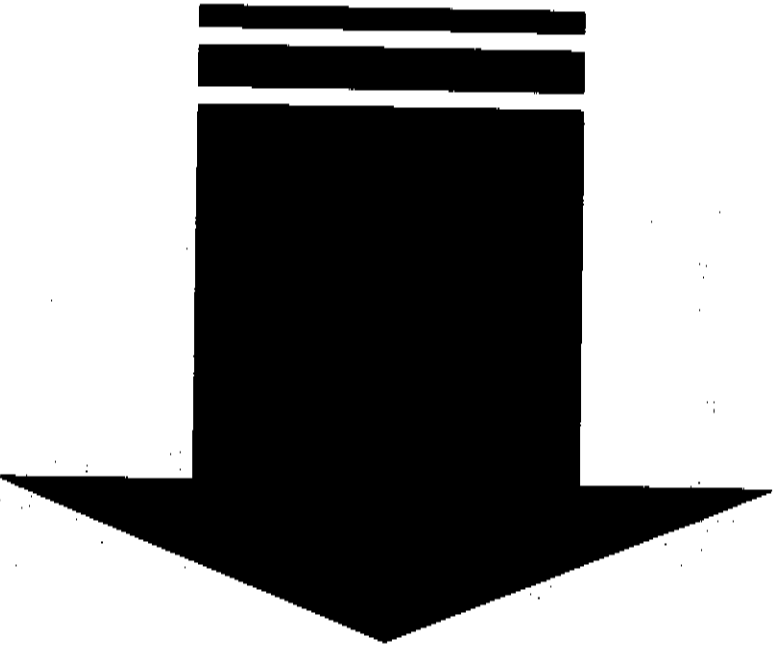
- The Centre arises out of a commitment to:
 - contribute scientific research towards not only understanding and explaining the requirements and dominant trends in service in service provision for human development,
 - but also to analyse and generate practical solutions to problems of planning and implementation.
- The Centre will formulate a set of strategies to
 - help mitigate the service delivery problems in South Africa by
 - implementing multi-layered, action research projects
 - which aim to produce evidence-based knowledge and
 - demonstrations leading to local interventions that will have
 - a significant impact on the service delivery problematic in the country and else where in Africa.

Purpose of the Centre



- To conduct scientific research into the nature of and key trends in South Africa's system of service delivery (leading and lagging regions, access to services by the poorest, sequencing of different services)
- To undertake action research to diagnose and address service delivery challenges;
- To undertake case studies in which various approaches to improving service delivery are assessed, modeled and alternatives considered through a number of pilot interventions;
- To provide practical conclusions and solutions to the continuing problems of achieving universal access, sustainable services and quality services.

Aims & Objectives of the Centre



- Why lags in service delivery persist when resources are available?
- What characterizes successful implementation systems ?
- Establishing what are the most effective forms of interventions in different settings and
- What an appropriate exit strategy for a research institution would be, for example, strategies for capacity building, timing of disengagement, forms of continued support in specific domains, etc

Related projects and reports

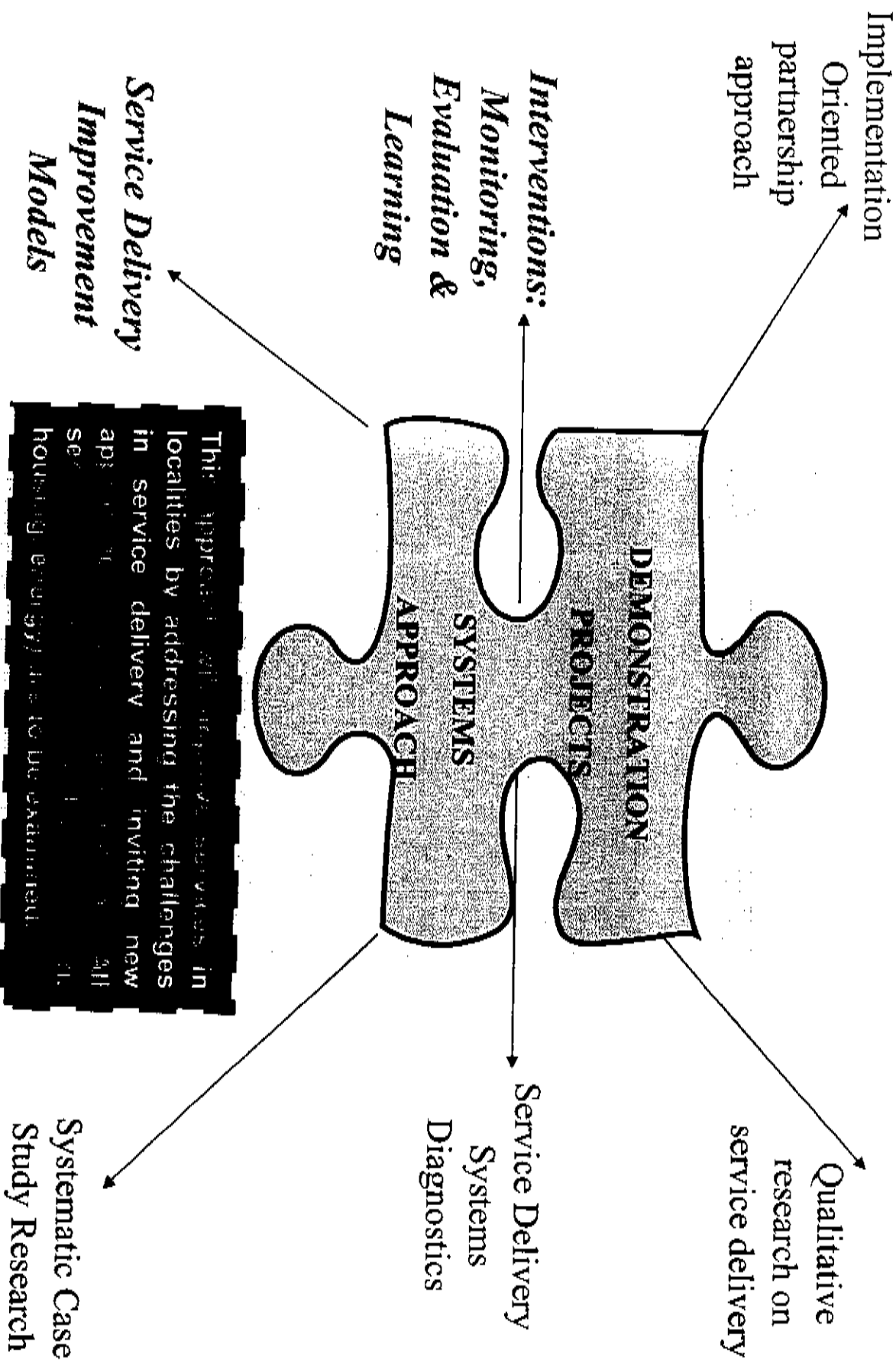
- Children carrying water: TECL/ILLO
- Cholera epidemic study
- WASH campaign research project
 - Revised school curriculum; "Engaged" health promotion
- WRC Voice and sustainability project
 - Accreditation + materials: Development Practice (Water Services), SAQA Learnership #23093
- Developing HESET (Health, Environment, Social, Economic and Technical) toolkit to establish impact of water services, UJ

- Technology Transfer For Poverty Reduction (DST)
- Value for Money project
- PSC's Evaluation of Government's Poverty Reduction Program
- Expanded Public Works Program
 - Methodology for assessment
- Service delivery, analysis of data project
 - Review of State of Nation commitments
- Public participation in planning project
- Southern African Trust: Measuring Service Delivery, BMT

Relevant publications

- Poverty and Water - Explorations of the reciprocal relationship (eds), CROP International Studies in Poverty Research Zed Press.
- Community development and engagement with local governance in South Africa. Community Development Journal. May 22, 2008.
- Can participation make a difference? Prospects for people's participation in planning. Critical dialogue. 3 (1): 9-15. 2007.
- Last but not least? Free Basic Water and the poorest. Chapter for book on Free Basic Water.
- Commitment to accountability. Water Sewage and Effluent, pp31,33. May 2007.
- The burden of care: water, health and gender in the Dolphin Coast concession. Urban Forum 18(3): 211-225. October 2007.
- 'The toughest of chores': Policy and practice in children collecting water in South Africa. Policy Futures in Education. Volume 5, Number 3, pp315-326, 2007.
- The long walk: burden child water collection. SA Labour Bulletin, Volume 30, Number 4, pp26-28. October-November 2006.
- KZN: Pipedream for the province's poor? Mail and Guardian. 28 April 2006.
- Learning to live with rats. Mail and Guardian. 28 April 2006.
- The cholera aftermath. Mail and Guardian. 14 July 2006.

Demonstration Project



EPW/P

"Expanded public works programmes can provide poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed to carry out socially useful activities. These EPW/P will be designed to equip participants with a modicum of training and work experience, which should enhance their ability to earn a living in the future." *GDS Agreement, June 2003*

What is the EPW/P?

- EPW/P was designed as a five-year initiative (2004/5 - 2008/9), and is coordinated under the auspices of the Department of Public Works.
- Components of the strategy include: environmental, social and economic.
- The key objectives of the strategy are:
 - Utilise public sector budgets to reduce and alleviate unemployment;
 - Draw significant numbers of the unemployed into productive work to enable them to earn an income;
 - Provide unemployed people with education and skills;
 - Ensure that beneficiaries of the EPW/P are either enabled to set up their own businesses or employed once they exit the programme.
- All of these are to be achieved through the creation of social and economic opportunities and the provision of training and other means of support.

Developing impact indicators

(derived from EPWP Logframe)

EPWP Indicator	Criteria
1 Number of work opportunities created	Specifically: additional jobs through implementation of projects
2 Person-years of employment created	Establishing more quantitative measures of value of a job
3 Training (number of people + person days)	Type, duration, quality and certification
4 Project budget	For EPWP within project budgets
5 Actual expenditure	Proportion of EPWP budget spent, Y/Y
6 Demographic characteristics of workers	To establish whether most vulnerable are benefiting
a Youth	40% of total
b Women	30% of total
c Disabled	2% of total

Evaluation criteria

- **Relevance** is regarded as the appropriateness of objectives in relation to problem to be solved.
- **Effectiveness** is defined as whether the purpose or agreed objectives of the Programme are being achieved.
- **Efficiency** is a measure of the extent to which a programme is achieving its objectives optimally and within budget and programme.
- **Feasibility** in relation to the EPWP is whether the practical conditions exist for implementation. It is measured ultimately in the capacity of the EPWP to achieve more with the existing resources and to scale up with additional resources.
- **Sustainability** is defined here in terms of whether intended positive effects of the programme persist beyond cessation of the intervention.
 - Institution development impact
 - Scale of engagement
 - Targeting
 - Interactions and externalities
 - Monitoring and evaluation effectiveness

Some key findings: Infrastructure

- Majority of projects (besides roads and civils) have no labour intensification (LI)
- LI mainstreaming is doubtful
- Several compliance criteria are not met – e.g. training of contractors
- Very poor delivery and benefit of training to workers
- Poor alignment of training approach to sector skills needs and opportunities (artisanal skills and higher grade contractors)
- Beneficiary dissatisfaction: wages, conditions of employment, understanding of employment duration, training = labour disputes
- Many complaints from contractors about the programme
- Bureaucratic barriers to implementation of EPWP projects
- Reporting problems
- Exaggerated data

Possible inputs in water sector

- Conceptualisation and development of suitable indicators: infrastructure delivery, service delivery outcomes, EPWP and other cross-cutting objectives
- Programme design around key performance areas (to incorporate internal MEL)
- Analysis (case studies and diagnostics) and review of current programmes

KPA and CSD engagement

KPA from Strategic Framework for Water Services and DWAF KPI

Key performance area	Comment
Funding Environment to facilitate delivery	VFM experience
Sustainability / O&M	Community appraisal
Institutional Capacity of WSPs	VFM + WRC project experience
Community participation	Experience / training materials
Delivery of water Facilities	Experience of data issues
Delivery of Health and Hygiene	Experience of data issues
Meeting Socio / Economic requirements	EPWP experience / methods
Institutional development and performance	Experience at community level
Water standards – Quality and quantity	Tools at community level
Health & Hygiene – Impact on Community Health	Tools and some capacity

Centre model provides for extensive networking and partnering