

Methodology

Qualitative and quantitative methods are being used including:

- Census and secondary data analysis for socio-economic/demographic profiles;
- An initial quantitative baseline survey to establish benchmarks for DSD service delivery, measure poverty and needs;
- Livelihoods analysis with communities to understand the situation of vulnerable groups and how they define poverty;
- Project-level research/monitoring to understand support to projects and monitor the progress of initiatives being led by DSD in each of the nodes;
- Interviews with nodal officials and DSD staff to track services of DSD, the linkage and alignment with other stakeholders and make policy linkages;
- A second quantitative survey to see DSD's progress against benchmarks ;
- A support process facilitated by the researchers to assist DSD in improving service delivery.

Time Frames for key deliverables 2006

Output	Description	Due Date
21 Node Reports	Socio-economic and demographic profiles developed (Chapter 1)	August 2006
4000 Household survey	Full Report to set benchmarks	October 2006
21 Node Reports	Profile of livelihood strategies and context of vulnerability (Chapter 2)	October 2006
Composite Report	An executive summary of the 1st two chapters per node & a 20 page synthesis report	November 2006

Time Frames for key deliverables 2007

Output	Description	Due Date
21 Nodal Reports	Chapter 3: Assess projects, examine role of NPOs, services delivered	March 2007
1 Progress Report	In 10 UNFPA Nodes monitor progress with implementation	March 2007
1 Progress Report	Update progress in 10 UNFPA Nodes	September 2007
21 Nodal Reports + 2 pg Exec Summary	Chapter 4: Assess impact of projects under Poverty Relief Programme	November 2007
Household Survey	Final report on 2 500 Household Survey to assess progress against benchmarks	March 2008
Final Report	Synthesis/ Close out report assessing impact of intervention	March 2008

Project Team

S&T: team leader and quantitative research Contact: David Everatt David@s-and-t.co.za

Khanya-aicdd, supported by University of KwaZulu-Natal and Development Works: qualitative research. Contact: Janet Liebenberg janet@khanya-aicdd.org

EPA Development: nodal-level research among ISRDP/URP and DSD officials. Contact: Baby Mogane-Ramahotswa babyr@epa-dev.co.za

Field Focus: fieldwork for surveys (needs contact details)

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Building Sustainable Livelihoods

A review of Social Development Services
in the ISRDP & URP Nodes
For
Department of Social Development



Building a Caring Society. Together.
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Background

The South African Department of Social Development (DSD) has commissioned this research project to assess the impact of their services on the lives of communities living in the 21 Integrated Sustainable Rural Development (ISRDP) and Urban Renewal Programme (URP) nodes.

The 13 rural and 8 urban nodes were identified as areas in South Africa with high levels of poverty, crime and unemployment, a severe lack of basic services such as housing, water and sanitation, and with a bleak economic outlook. Nationally, Government has set itself the target of reducing by half those affected by poverty by 2014.

This research project is one of a number of contributions by the Department of Social Development (DSD) to target poverty alleviation in the ISRDP and URP nodes.

The Research Project

This is a two-year action-research programme which includes:

- Conducting a socio-economic and demographic baseline study across the 21 nodes
- Providing a situational analysis of DSD services across the 21 nodes
- Evaluating the impact of projects implemented as part of the Poverty Relief Programme on the lives of beneficiaries in the 21 nodes
- Conducting a baseline survey on sexual reproductive health and gender based violence services available in the 10 rural nodes in Limpopo, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal.
- Formulating recommendations to address service delivery gaps and challenges in order to improve overall service delivery by DSD
- Providing support to DSD in the nodes to implement agreed recommendations

Which are the rural Nodes?

Eastern Cape:	KwaZulu Natal
Chris Hani Ukhahlamba Alfred Nzo O.R Tambo	Ugu Umzinyathi Umkhanyakude Zululand
Free State:	
Maluti a Phofung	
Limpopo	Northen Cape
Sekhukhune	Kgalagadi
Mpumalanga	Western Cape
Bohlabela	Central Karoo

Which are the urban Nodes?

Northen Cape	
Galeshewe	
KwaZulu - Natal	Western Cape
Inanda KwaMashu	Mitchell's Plain Khayelitsha

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DSD Service Programmes being assessed

The following services are being assessed:

- Home Community-Based Care
- Support to Non-Profit Organisations
- Social Security Safety Net (access to pensions and grants)
- National Food Emergency Scheme
- Poverty Relief Programme
- Services targeting vulnerable groups
- Services rendered by private welfare Organisations
- UNFPA second country Programmes:
 - Gender-based violence
 - Sexual reproductive health

Key Outputs of the action-research

21 **Nodal reports** which include:

- Socio-economic & demographic profiles;
- Situational analysis & livelihood profiles;
- Description & analysis of local projects;
- Description of services rendered and assessment of these services;
- Monitoring of progress being made in implementation of projects;
- Assessment of impact of projects.

Some **improvements in services** as a result of learnings

Four **papers** in international journals and presentations to conferences.

Forums to ensure lessons learnt are discussed and disseminated to all the key roleplayers and stakeholders in all 21 nodes.