



**THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF
HIV/AIDS AND HEALTH (SAHA)
RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

Presenter:

Prof Leickness C. Simbayi, D.Phil.

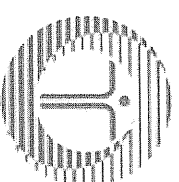
Executive Director

Presentation to DST on 18 June 2009.

HSRC RESEARCH OUTPUTS

5869

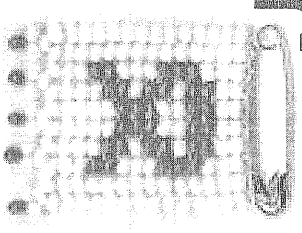
Social science that makes a difference



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

Outline of presentation

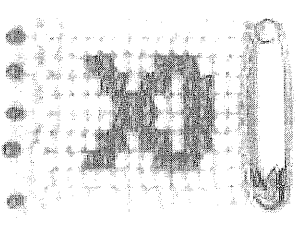
- **Goals**



- **Organogram**
- **Research focus areas**
- **Capacity Development**
- **Challenges**
- **Summary**
- **Conclusions**



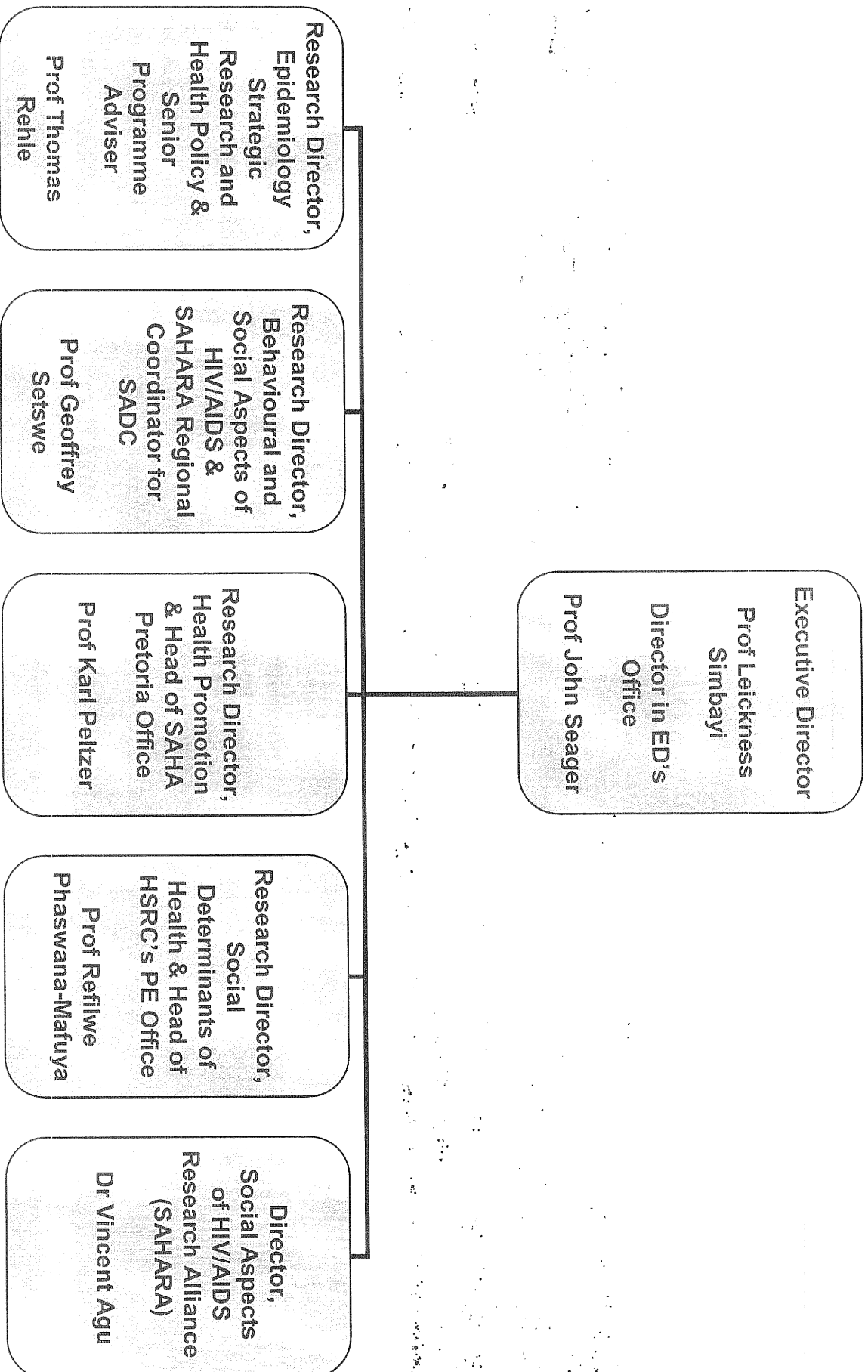
Goals of SAHA



- SAHA has two primary goals:
 - to conduct research that is policy relevant and responds to current challenges facing South Africa;
 - to conduct assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes that aim to improve the lives of all South Africans.
- In addition, it also fosters collaboration in multi-country research as well as promotes the dissemination of scientific information amongst various stakeholders throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.



Organogram



Research focus areas

Behavioural and Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS

Seeks to understand social and behavioural factors that drive the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa; also undertakes development or cultural adaptation of theory-based HIV social and behavioural prevention intervention programmes, and assessment of impact of HIV/AIDS programmes.

THEMATIC THRUSTS

- National or local community-based surveys on behaviours, sero-status testing and evaluation of behaviour change
- Interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on different target groups
- Evaluation of social and behavioural HIV prevention interventions
- Research on social and policy interventions related to HIV/AIDS

CURRENT PROJECTS

- ✓ Capacity Building for Research on HIV/AIDS-related Stigma
- ✓ Phaphama Neighbours, Phaphama2
- ✓ Marang OVC, Marang Positive Prevention
- ✓ Socio-economic vulnerability study
- ✓ SANAC SBI Group
- ✓ DSC HIV social indicators
- ✓ Gauteng Provincial Government employees HIV Survey
- ✓ Tshwane HIV prevention Demonstration Project

Epidemiology, Strategic Research and Health Policy

Provides epidemiological support and expertise, undertakes applied epidemiological research that is policy-relevant, and conducts strategic research that addresses the needs and challenges facing South Africa and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

THEMATIC THRUSTS

- Infectious Disease Epidemiology
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- National programme impact assessment.
- Epidemiological support and expertise (including biostatistics)
- Applied epidemiological and strategic research that address the needs and challenges facing South Africa and other African countries.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- ✓ Marang Strategic Information (SI) South African National HIV Prevalence Incidence, Behavior and Communication Survey, 2008 (SABSSM3)
- ✓ Marang SI
 - ✓ Medical Transmission,
 - HCT,
 - Discordant couples,
 - MSM, and
 - Giving back HIV Test Results (SABSSM4 pilot)
- ✓ M & E for NSP

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Health Promotion

Conducts community-based research projects aimed at promoting the health and well-being of Africans including South Africans through theory-driven, evidence-based and culturally-sensitive health promotion interventions.

THEMATIC THRUSTS

- Health promotion and health disparities
- Population health promotion
- Community health promotion

CURRENT PROJECTS

- ✓ Implement interventions in PMTCT in Cacadu District in Eastern Cape and Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga
- ✓ Traditional medicine and antiretroviral treatment in KwaZulu-Natal
- ✓ Male circumcision in Gauteng
- ✓ Phaphama Male circumcision
- ✓ BSTI in exoffenders in Canada, Marocco & South Africa
- ✓ VCT positive prevention in 20 VCT sites in Apumalanga
- ✓ Diabetes control demonstration project, City of Tshwane
- ✓ Impact of poor health and HIV on small business in South Africa

Social Determinants of Health

Conduct surveys on the social determinants of chronic non-communicable diseases. It also develops, implements and evaluates interventions which address social determinants of health.

THEMATIC THRUSTS

- Longitudinal and cross-sectional surveys on social determinants of health
- Develop, implement and evaluate interventions needed to address chronic non communicable disease
- HIV structural interventions research

CURRENT PROJECTS

- ✓ National Study on Global Ageing and Adult Health
- ✓ Patient Satisfaction Survey in 275 clinics in three health districts of the Eastern Cape
- ✓ Safe Drinking Water in Amathole and OR Tambo Districts (in Eastern Cape)

Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA)

An Africa-wide network which seeks a greater understanding of the epidemic in the hope of contributing to a reduction in the number of new HIV infections, and, ultimately, to a reversal of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

MISSION

To bring together key partners (civil society, donor and international organizations, researchers, policy makers, and people living with HIV and AIDS) to influence policy and responses through the production and dissemination of evidence-based research on the social aspects of HIV/AIDS.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- ✓ Journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS (SAHARAJ) and SAHARA Website (<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/SAHARA.phtml>).
- ✓ 5th SAHARA Conference
- ✓ SAHARA-WHO Collaborative project on operational research agenda on HIV prevention in Africa
- ✓ Review of policies, protocols and guidelines and development of harmonized minimum standards for HCT and PMTCT in SADC region

Capacity Development

Category	Target for 2008-2009	Target achieved in 2008-2009	Target for 2009-2010	HSRC Target for 2009-2010
Masters	10	13	9	32
PhD	10	8	10	21
Post-doctoral fellows	3	4	5	18
Total	23	25	24	71