

Profiling Poverty Dimensions in SA

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Big Picture: Unemployment in SA

- Big problem: SA has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world with over 5 million people unemployed.
- Youth unemployment – unique feature. School leavers have a 50/50 chance of finding a job by age 24. Between 500,000 and 700,000 school leavers join the ranks of the unemployed annually
- Only 3% of unemployed receive u/e support
- Split between those searching and those discouraged – 61 % looking for more than a year.
- Urban 55 % U/E; Rural 45 %

Poverty and Employment

- Informal economy workers almost all earn under R R2,500 and mostly below R 1000.00 – street traders
- Formal sector employment in agriculture, domestic work – sector determinations generally below R 2500.00
- Low and semi skilled wages have been stagnant – not benefiting from productivity improvements

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Food Insecurity

- 14,3 million food insecure people in SA – 38% of population
- 38% of SA did not meet daily energy requirements
- Female headed households worse off
- Children bear the brunt of this

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Whats happening to Children?

- 25-27% stunting in children under 5 years
- IMR – one of the highest globally 63 per 1000 in 1998 compared to 43 per 1000 in 1992.
- MDG target 14 per 1000
- Child support grant reaches over 8 million
- Only 38% of children under 1 accessing the grant.

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