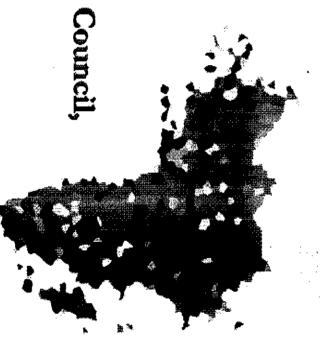


REGION FOOD CRISIS IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICA THE UNDERLYING SOLUTIONS TO THE

Scott Drimie Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa



Objective:

to promote sustainable livelihoods in the security. factors affecting people's food and livelihood by providing an analysis of the different region through programmes and advocacy, to inform the development of OGB's strategy

Understanding the "entangling crises":

A Range of "Entangling Crises" including:

- •rainfall failure,
- •widespread disruptions in food availability,
- ·failures of governance,
- extreme levels of prevailing poverty,
- •HIV/AIDS.

Implications:

reducing their long-term vulnerability. Need to support people through short-term crises while

- transitory food insecurity. •Need for social protection - linkages between chronic and
- •Need to build national capacity and self-reliance

HIV/AIDS & Food Security:

insecurity feed into the risky behaviour; and the which again feeds into risk. impact of HIV/AIDS exacerbates food insecurity, Relationship is bi-directional: vulnerability and food

erosive" coping strategies. communities respond through "erosive" or "non-Impact on besieged agricultural systems severe –

Women experience the greatest losses and burdens

Agricultural subsidies and price controls:

- Economic liberalisation & removal of agricultural subsidies.
- ► Inadequate safety nets
- Developed countries able to exploit markets (subsidies).
- Food price fluctuations.

The impact of drought:

already weak systems

The environmental shock of drought will bring collapse to

- Unavailability of seeds and fertiliser.
- ➤ Reinforces OGB's dual mandate

The impact of land reform:

& landless, including farmworkers – therefore land reform is particularly important for single-headed households, widows, orphans important Access to land is part of a multiple-livelihood strategy that is

and development: Policy Recommendations - relief, rehabilitation

development challenge with immediate relief and rehabilitation required. Not a transitory "traditional" food crisis - but a long-term

support. rather than "silo-orientated", fragmented development Needs integrated approach through strategic partnerships,

term consolidation to "drive down" prevailing vulnerability. Need to adopt "fast track" recovery combined with longer-

Policy Recommendations - relief, rehabilitation and development:

Need action research for a robust understanding of the underlying situation, diversity of needs and creative & pragmatic responses.

interventions have been implemented which need to be documented & shared Learn from research - cases exist where innovative

Need to close gap between policy & practice research and policy to catch up with experiences to better understand them.

sustainable livelihoods: Policy Recommendations - building diversified

► Alternative indigenous staple crops.

Effective communication systems.

Strengthen government capacity.

Rehabilitation of rural infrastructure (incl. health).

agricultural production. ▶Promote rural development policies beyond

Policy Recommendations – HIV/AIDS:

HIV/AIDS must be recognised as as a cross-cutting

households and communities to support productivity. > Identify specific needs of HIV/AIDS affected

needs of orphans and elderly. > Identify gender and age bias in policies to meet the

between gender inequity and vulnerability to HIV Implement gender analysis - given the close link

subsidies, food distribution). Implement welfare models for vulnerable people (eg,

and price controls: Policy Recommendations – agricultural subsidies

OGB "traditional" role in advocacy on trade issues should be strengthened to build an enabling environment for small producers.

Strengthen link between global advocacy and local help in taking forward advocacy at various levels experiences - micro-level analysis and anecdotal evidence

policy and practice - facilitate "write-away weekends". Need to stop stereotyping about who writes or defines

Policy Recommendations – agricultural subsidies and price controls:

negative effects of rapid economic liberalisation. Conceptualise community safety net programmes to mitigate the

programmes - using local participation. Build these on existing government welfare and social

Focus on income maintenance or asset strengthening to enable households to maintain or re-establish their productive capacity.

Policy Recommendations - land reform:

contemplate expanding their work into the fast track resettlement areas in Zimbabwe. Oxfam-International faces a crucial challenge in whether they should Polytical Control of the Control of

If the position that fast track is a fait accompli becomes official within settlers on the resettlement areas OGB then imaginative ways will need to be found to engage with the

capacities, training for farmers, and offering institutional support to partner organisations working in these areas (throughout region). Options include supporting extension services, improving productive

Land, HIV/AIDS & vulnerability central.