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Capacity Development (CD)

Strengthening research capacity for the social and human sciences

CD was established in September 2005 as a unit that cuts across all the other HSRC research programmes with the main purpose of providing support to researchers and development of research skills in the HSRC, and to outside organisations through collaborative activities.

The activities of CD are guided by the following objectives:

- to increase a pool of competent researchers for the human and social sciences in South Africa;
- to support and drive professional development at the HSRC in line with organisational strategy and performance management system;
- to support the development of black researchers, women and disabled persons in order to enable the HSRC to meet its equity targets;
- to facilitate the placement of international scholars and students at the HSRC; and
- to foster collaborations within South Africa, the African continent and with other international institutions to support capacity building initiatives.

In the year 2006/07, the unit focused on capacity development needs and priorities of the HSRC and has created a platform for prospective and novice researchers to gain valuable experience on research in the human and social sciences. Building on the HSRC's continuing programme on researcher training for Master's and doctoral level interns, the unit organised training in STATA 9 at the University of Cape Town. The training provided the interns with valuable skills to be used when dealing with data of a quantitative nature. A follow-up project is underway to give support to the interns to enable them to sustain the knowledge gained. Over and above the training, workshops and regular contacts are held with the interns.

Following a workshop organised with Higher Education South Africa, the HSRC entered into agreements with local higher education institutions to create opportunities for collaborative activities. The HSRC has concluded a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of South Africa in addition to MoUs concluded in the previous year. A number of MoUs with other South African universities and other research institutions are underway and will be concluded by end of the financial year.

In 2006, the HSRC signed a MoU with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), which opens up a variety of opportunities for our researchers to engage with their counterparts on the African continent on matters relevant to research in the human and social sciences. Another MoU was signed with Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique. The unit is continuing to engage with national and international institutions at institutional and programme level to create an enabling environment for the researchers, and support the growing of new researchers.

Specialist researcher 2006/07

Professor Mukole Kongolo
Director (from 1 July 2007)
PhD, Potchefstroom University
Developing scientists and scientific leadership in the social sciences

