



Prof Linda Richter
 Executive Director
 t +27 31 242 5544
 e lrichter@hsrc.ac.za

Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD)

Social science that maximises human potential and advances the rights of vulnerable populations

CYFSD aims to promote human and social development through the production of high quality applied research that addresses challenges arising from social inequality, poverty, violence, HIV/AIDS and other causes of ill-health and suffering, and loss of human potential. We focus on individuals, groups, social institutions and processes relating to children, youth, families and vulnerable populations, including older individuals and people with disabilities and we research aspects of the life course, from infancy to old age. We strive, through an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, to contribute knowledge and evidence to inform the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes to achieve a better life for all South Africans.

CYFSD has 18 full-time senior researchers, fairly evenly distributed across the Durban, Cape Town and Pretoria offices, and another 80 additional research and technical staff employed in two large field studies. These are:

- Birth to Twenty, the unique longitudinal birth cohort study situated at Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital at the University of the Witwatersrand; and
- Project Accept in Vulindlela (KZN), a randomised community trial to rapidly increase the number of people, especially youth, who know their HIV status, and thereby to change community dynamics in respect of the HIV epidemic.

During the year, the work of CYFSD was recognised by a National Science and Technology Forum award for an organisation's contribution to science, engineering and technology. It was also the first HSRC research programme to undergo an external five-year review. The four-person review panel, chaired by the special advisor to the CEO, Professor Dan Ncayiyana, spent a week visiting CYFSD offices and field sites, hearing presentations by

researchers, interviewing stakeholders and reading published papers and research reports. The review report will be made public in mid-2007.

Research in CYFSD is organised through six thematic areas, although there are significant cross-cutting activities, networks and dissemination across themes. The thematic areas are:

- Early childhood
- Youth development
- Family studies
- HIV and AIDS
- Social inclusion
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Priority research areas

CHALLENGES TO HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Child and Youth Development Including early child care and development; child rights and wellbeing; participation and engagement in social life; threats to development – health, care, abuse, substance use, conflict with the law
INEQUALITY	Settings for Human and Social Development Including families, households, neighbourhoods, communities, schools, workplaces, institutions and services
POVERTY	Vulnerable Groups Including children in especially difficult circumstances, young people in conflict with the law, men and women caring for dependents, children and adults in institutions, older persons, people with disabilities
VIOLENCE	Interventions and Evaluation to Support Programmes and Policy Including advocacy; demonstration projects and experimental trails; capacity development for sustainable social systems; costing and economic analyses
GLOBALISATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE	

Completed projects

Early childhood

This theme focuses on data that demonstrate the importance of early childhood to both individual and national development, as well as on developing and testing measures and interventions to enhance policy and programmes to improve early child development.

Significant projects during the year included the compilation of a web-based resource for Africa on assessment instruments to determine psychosocial functioning in early childhood funded from the Parliamentary grant; the development of materials to promote early child development in collaboration with UNICEF, the Children's Rights Centre and the national Department of Social Development; the development and evaluation of a psychosocial programme to improve the care of children in health facilities in the context of HIV and AIDS with funding from the Mellon Foundation; an investigation of psychosocial needs and care of young HIV-positive children in paediatric treatment programmes; and estimating the cost-effectiveness of prevention of mother to child treatment programmes at three sites, funded by the Centers for Disease Control in the United States.

Youth development

Under this theme, CYFSD studies the resources and assets of young people, as well as evaluations of interventions to improve youth wellbeing, in the present and into the future.

Some of the projects include: children involved in organised and armed violence (COAV) in five cities, in which CYFSD conducted focus groups and demonstrated very high levels of violence and a lack of safety in children's lives; child work and labour by 12 – 16-year olds, commissioned by the International Labour Organisation, which found that common hazards to which working children are exposed include too long working hours in excessive heat, and without drinking water; youth attitudes and perceptions of their quality of life from data collected in the South African Social Attitudes Survey 2006; an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scout Leadership Training Programme in six African countries, funded by the Johan Jacobs Foundation; and work on substance abuse, including membership of the South African Community Epidemiological Network on Drug Use (SACENDU), the KwaZulu-Natal Integrated Strategy for Teenage Drug Abuse, and costing the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Bill.

Family studies

Work in this field includes tracking changes in the structure and function of families, the changing

roles of women, men, children and older persons, as well as assessing the impact of policy and programmes to strengthen families.

Projects conducted include: an investigation and film documentation of community-based supports for families and children affected by HIV and AIDS, funded by the

Table 1: Life satisfaction and expectations by age

	Age group			Total
	16 – 24	25 – 35	36+	
Satisfied with life as a whole	53	42	50	49
Past 5 years: Life improved for the majority of people in South Africa	62	56	56	58
Past 5 years: Life improved for people like you*	45	44	37	41
Next five years: Things will improve for most people in South Africa**	70	67	60	65
Next five years: Things will improve for people like you**	67	63	52	59

* Significant at 5% level, ** Significant at 1% level

Child drawings from the project on children involved in organised crime and armed violence



A normal child who don't belong in a gang has a long future ahead of him/her.

A normal child has a bright education.

A normal child has freedom.



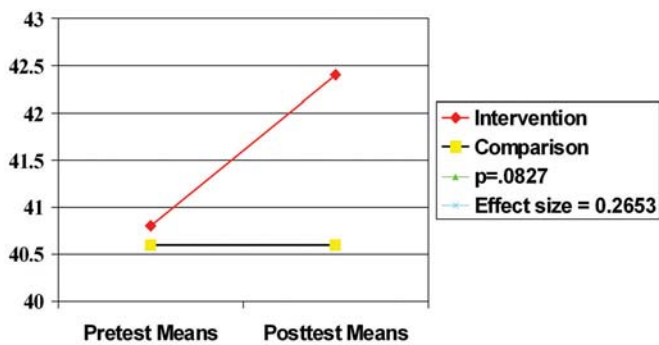
Gangsters have the ability to rule people around

Gangsters have guns, knives and weapons in which they kill people with.

United States Agency for International Development; a study of paraffin use in KwaZulu-Natal households, focusing on the dangers created by inappropriate storage and poor quality appliances; proposal development for the Economic Commission for Africa on how to harness traditional leadership as part of a broader project on dynastic families and democracy; the conclusion of a five-year study to evaluate a programme to support families of pre-adolescent children and to protect children in the context of HIV and AIDS (Collaborative HIV and Mental Health Programme or CHAMP), funded by the National Institute of Mental Health in the USA; and the Fatherhood Project, which is being supported by Save the Children Sweden to continue its advocacy and research activities, including the publication of the book *Baba: Men and fatherhood in South Africa*.



Primary Social Networks



HIV and AIDS

This theme comprises research on social and individual factors that increase the vulnerability of children and youth to HIV, and on interventions to improve the prevention, care and support of children, young people and families in communities affected by HIV and AIDS.



Micro-lending in Limpopo



Child in participatory research methodologies

Projects conducted include: improving advocacy for children affected by HIV/AIDS through better use of evidence, funded by the Bernard van Leer Foundation; assisting community-based organisations to document their successes and challenges, commissioned by the national Department of Social Development; investigating how to enhance resilience among children affected by HIV/AIDS using participatory techniques such as photo-voice methodology; an HIV and alcohol prevention in schools project using innovative electronic technology for data collection; documenting the Caring Schools Project, a programme to enhance the capacity of schools to support children affected by HIV/AIDS, which includes placing youth facilitators in schools to support vulnerable children, funded by Save the Children and the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation; and a very large scale, four-country community randomised trial, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, Project Accept, to assess the impact of knowledge of status, especially among youth, on HIV outcomes including a biological end-point

Social inclusion

Under the theme social inclusion (and its counterpart social exclusion), the development and support of sustainable communities with the aim of reducing poverty is an important topic for investigation and intervention, and encompasses mental health, poverty, burden of disease and disability.

Some of the research projects conducted in the year under review include: a survey of skills development strategies and employment for people with disabilities, funded by the International Labour Organisation, which presented the primary challenge of quality education for children with disabilities; a review for the national Department of Social



Margie Schneider at the 2006 meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics in Uganda

Development of social security options for people with chronic illness, exploring the impact of a grant for people with chronic illness and of strengthened services and poverty alleviation strategies; participation in the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, country-level assistance with disability surveys and programmes in Qatar and Tanzania; a study of the burden of disease due to mental ill-health in the Western Cape; and the Mental Health and Poverty Project (MHAPP), funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), an attempt to improve policy and action in Ghana, Uganda, Zambia and South Africa.

Monitoring and evaluation

The primary activities under this theme are concerned with the development of indicators, measures and related monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools with regard to health and wellbeing, service delivery, intervention programmes and policies, as well as costing.

Some of the projects worked on this year include: the South African Index of Multiple Deprivation for Children, funded by Save the Children Sweden, which uses Census 2001 data to build an index based on several domains of child wellbeing; a book, also funded by Save the Children Sweden, entitled *A rights-based approach to monitoring child well-being*, and including review chapters and a set of user-friendly indicators for measuring key aspects of child wellbeing; testing a disability question for Census 2011 through focus groups and a national survey, funded by Statistics South Africa; an audit of 100 schools in Gauteng in respect of Section 21 functions, such as the maintenance of school buildings and the purchase of learning and teaching materials; the development of monitoring and evaluation tools for the organisation Absolute Return of Kids (ARK), which is promoting and funding de-institutionalisation programmes in Eastern Europe; and a number of costing studies.

Impact of research

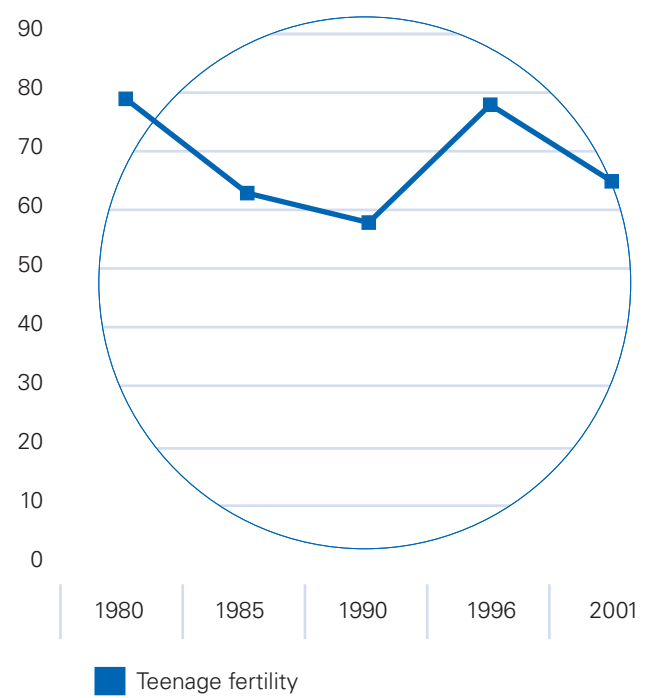
In 2005, the African Union (AU) commissioned the HSRC to report on the status of youth in Africa and to develop the African Youth Charter, which is intended to serve as a guide

and a framework to fast-track implementation of comprehensive youth policies and strategies to empower youth to take advantage of increasing opportunities. In 2006, the Charter underwent an extensive process of validation. Following national consultations with youth at country level, the AU convened a Youth Forum in May 2006, a youth experts meeting and a meeting of ministers of youth in member states, together with key stakeholders including the youth in *diaspora*. As a result of these deliberations, in which the HSRC played a pivotal role, the Charter was adopted by the Heads of State at the AU Summit held in Banjul in July 2006.

The acknowledgements in the Charter state that 'The African Union Commission wishes to express its deep appreciation to all its partners for their unconditional support, which gave birth to the African Youth Charter, especially the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) for their professional and technical commitments and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for its financial and technical support ...'.

The relationship between the child support grant and teenage fertility in South Africa, a study commissioned by the National Department of Social Development, used trends in teenage fertility as well as an analysis of the age

Trends in teenage fertility 1980-2001 (number of births per 1 000 women aged between 15 and 19 years of age)



Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD) *continued*

of grant beneficiaries to examine the recurring question of perverse incentives associated with income transfers in South Africa. In the absence of a specially designed study to definitively address the issues, the available data suggests that there is no relationship between teenage pregnancies and the child support grant. The study generated enormous debate and discussion in South Africa, also among the public and through the media. Follow-up analyses and reports, including by other researchers, corroborate the central finding of the study.

Collaborative HIV and Adolescent Mental Health Programme (CHAMPSA): Following a five-year study which demonstrated that a community- and family-based programme for families of pre-teen children significantly increased parent-child communication and monitoring of children's behaviour, CHAMP has been registered as a non-profit organisation with support from Elma Philanthropies, taking science to service. The Community Board, established to oversee the research project, is now directing implementation over a wide area.

Future developments

CYFSD and the Policy Analysis Unit announced the Youth Policy Initiative (YPI) in January 2007, at an occasion at the HSRC when the World Bank launched the *World Development Report 2007: Development and the next generation in South Africa*. In collaboration with the major youth agencies and organisations in the country, the YPI aims to bridge the gap between research and policy and to speed up the implementation and evaluation of existing and developing youth policy.

The initiative will consist of roundtables on specific high-profile topics such as second-generation youth policy, violent crime, teenage pregnancy and the emerging youth bulge in the population; seminars

and public lectures; the HSRC bi-annual conference which will focus on youth issues; and efforts to platform and engage youth participation through community conversations, web polling, SMSs and media coverage.

Children are emerging as the next frontier in the global effort to overcome the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The Joint Learning Initiative on Children and AIDS (JLICA) is a global, cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary exercise in collaboration between policymakers, practitioners, scholars and people directly affected by the epidemic. It is positioned at the interface between politics and programming, and between technical expertise and political prioritisation. Comprising four learning groups, the group on strengthening families is led by Professor Linda Richter.

The Birth to Twenty (Bt20) project is now in its 18th year, and is beginning to enrol the third generation – children of Bt20 children. Called 3G, this generation of the children of both young mothers and fathers in the cohort, as well as their partners, will be enrolled in a repeat birth cohort study, together with qualitative studies on young parenting and three-generation genetic studies, particularly on risks for chronic diseases. Bt20 is one of five birth cohort studies in a Wellcome Trust funded initiative called Collaboration on Health Research in Transitional Societies (COHORTS), which includes Pelotas, Delhi, Guatemala and the Philippines.

Professor Linda Richter
Executive Director

Child in the Paediatric treatment programme



Children in participatory research methodologies

Specialist researchers 2006/07

Professor Acheampong Amoateng

PhD, Brigham Young University
Family sociology/demography



Dr Zitha Mokomane

PhD, The Australian National University
Qualitative research, family formation and dissolution patterns, adolescent sexuality, children, youth and HIV/AIDS



Professor Arvin Bhana

PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Youth risk and resilience, adolescent risk-taking behaviour including HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and other youth-related problem areas, fatherhood and protection/care of children, mental health



Dr Saadhna Panday

PhD, Maastricht University (The Netherlands)
Tobacco use, adolescent risk behaviour, youth development, health promotion



Mrs Upjeet Chandan

PhD, University of Southern California
Racial formations, gender, violence prevention and public education, children and HIV/AIDS, qualitative methodologies



Ms Sharmila Rama

MA, University of Natal
Child wellbeing and poverty, patterns of time use, child household work, women, children and transport



Professor Andy Dawes

MSc, University of Cape Town
Child rights and wellbeing indicators, child and adolescent mental health, child abuse and violence, programme evaluation



Ms Marguerite Schneider

MA, Reading University, UK
Disability and health, development and poverty in relation to disability



Mr Chris Desmond

MCom, University of Natal
Economics of child care and HIV/AIDS impacts on education systems



Ms Judith Streak

MComm, University of the Witwatersrand
Child poverty and child socio-economic rights indicators, income and social welfare service interventions to support children at risk, early childhood development, government budgeting for child rights in South Africa



Dr Ursula Hoadley

PhD, University of Cape Town
Sociology of pedagogy; teacher's work, curriculum, social class, schooling and socialisation, and school choice



Ms Heidi van Rooyen

MA, University of Durban-Westville
HIV/AIDS risk behaviours and interventions, voluntary counselling and testing, ethics of working in developing countries



Dr Monde Makiwane

DPhil, University of the Witwatersrand
Social science research, using quantitative and demographic techniques



Dr Catherine Ward

PhD, University of South Carolina
Exposure to violence, mental health, substance abuse, youth



Ms Vuyiswa Mathambo

MPH, Umeå University (Sweden)
Qualitative research, anthropological approaches on children and families, children and HIV/AIDS, children's access to health and social services

