



Highlights of the Human Sciences Research Council's 2006/07 financial year

In fulfilling its mandate to inform policy, contribute to poverty alleviation in South Africa and the region and conduct collaborative research in Africa, the HSRC engaged in a wide range of projects and policy initiatives. During 2006/07, nearly 240 projects were underway at one time or another. The highlights in the following pages illustrate this diversity. More information on these projects is available on 

The research undertaken by the HSRC has been configured into five large, interdisciplinary research programmes, five cross-cutting research units and two national priority initiatives. The cross-cutting units and the initiatives have been established to interactively contribute to, as well as draw from, the five research programmes in order to integrate and enhance the work of the HSRC as a whole.

Research programmes

Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD)

In May 2006, CYFSD won a National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) award for making an 'outstanding contribution to science, engineering and technology'. CYFSD is the only social science group ever to win an NSTF award.

In July 2006 in Banjul, heads of state of the African Union (AU) adopted the African Youth Charter, researched and written by CYFSD on commission to the AU. Following an intensive policy and charter review, validation processes included national consultations with youth at country level, a youth forum, a youth experts meeting, and a meeting of ministers of youth.

CYFSD authors and editors, in collaboration with colleagues in higher education, published several groundbreaking books, including *Zip zip my brain harts* by award-winning photographer Angela Buckland, together with Kathleen McDougall, Leslie Swartz and Amelia van der Merwe from CYFSD; and *Disability and social change: A South African agenda*, edited by Brian Watermeyer, Leslie Swartz, Theresa Lorenzo, Marguerite Schneider and Mark Priestley.

CYFSD is the first research programme in the HSRC to undergo a five-year external evaluation. The review panel, which convened in February 2007, consisted of five national and international experts. The panel visited the Durban, Cape Town and Pretoria offices of CYFSD as well as two research field sites – Birth to Twenty and Project Accept. They scrutinised publications, heard presentations by staff and interviewed funders, clients, donors and collaborators.

Democracy and Governance (D&G)

D&G published three books, focusing on the critical areas of land, economy, women and democracy. All three books have had a wide appeal among activists, academics, researchers, students and policymakers.

The first publication, *Voices of protest: Social movements in post-apartheid South Africa*, by Ballard, Habib & Valodia (eds), (Scottsville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2006), analyses the struggles and social movements of the poor. It focuses on their demands, their politics, organisational structure and membership and the collective effect of these social movements on the country's democracy and its socio-economic system.

The second publication, *The Land Question in South Africa: the challenge of transformation and redistribution*, by Ntsebeza, Lungisile & Hall, R (eds), (Cape Town: HSRC Press, 2007), debates issues of land dispossession among



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blacks under apartheid and post-apartheid land redistribution strategies. It offers a robust assessment of the government's current land reform programme and raises critical questions about its future as well as capacity to transform the economy and to reduce poverty.

The Human Rights Lecture Series, focusing on salient and topical human rights issues and other human rights problems endemic to the African continent, managed to provoke debate about human rights among key decisionmakers and civil society and to facilitate dialogue among various sectors and actors/roleplayers of South African society.

The programme also completed a report that assesses the relationship between Chapter 9 institutions (state institutions supporting constitutional democracy) and civil society. Undertaken by D&G researchers Mcebisi Ndletyana, Geoffrey Modisha, Diana Sanchez and Nadia Sanger and external partners, the report was submitted to Parliament in January 2007 as background information for the ad hoc multiparty Parliamentary committee currently examining the operations and functions of these institutions.

Education, Science and Skills Development (ESSD)

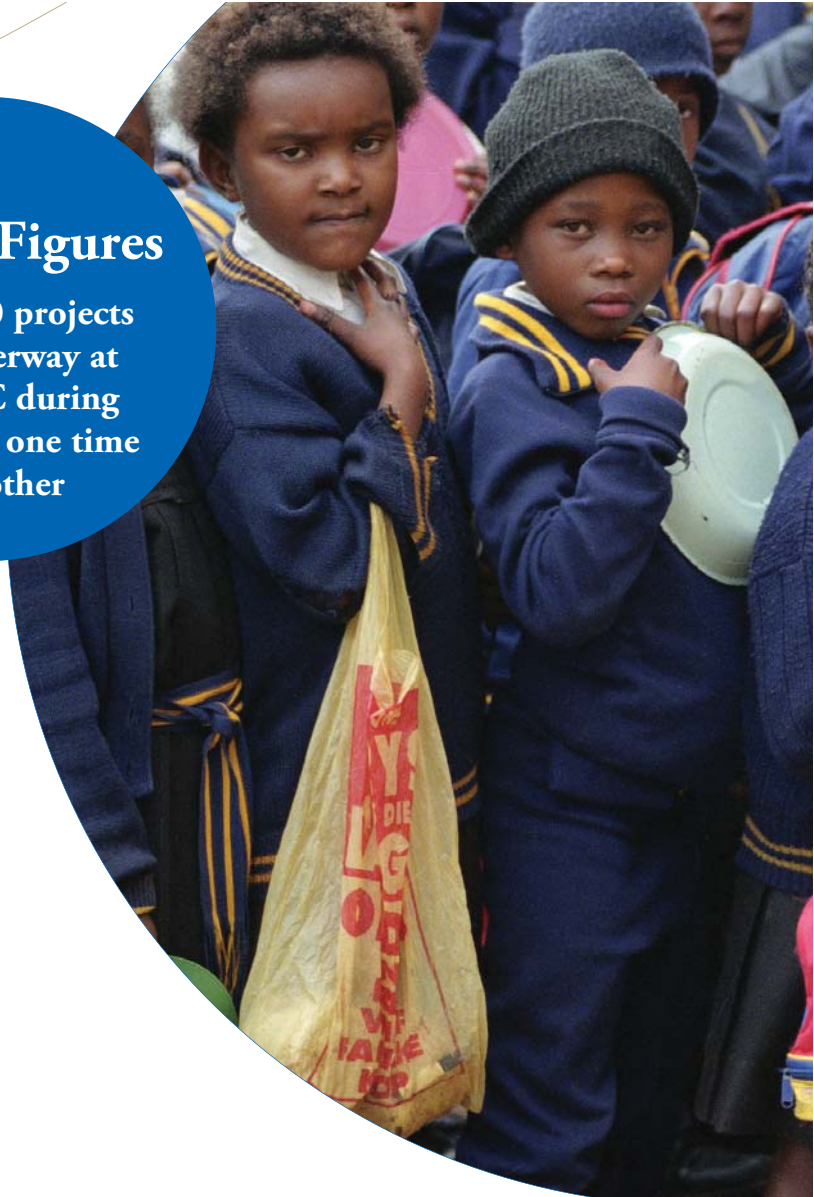
The Department of Labour commissioned ESSD to lead a research project, worth R20 million, on scarce and critical skills over the next two years. The HSRC leads the consortium, in partnership with the Development Policy Research Unit, University of Cape Town, and the Sociology of Work Programme, University of the Witwatersrand.

One of ESSD's objectives for the year was to conduct comparative research and extend our research activities to outside the borders of our country, with the following results:

- The programme established a relationship with European partners in a European Commission/ Framework Programme 6 U-KNOW research project. The consortium consists of nine European Union and four South African partners, with the HSRC as the lead partner. The project is studying the relationship between knowledge and competitiveness.
- ESSD won a grant from the Canadian International Development Research Centre in the Research on Knowledge Systems Research Competition. This project involves South Africa, Nigeria and Uganda, and is investigating university-industry linkages and the developmental role of the university in the South.
- ESSD has developed a relationship with the Eduardo Mondlane University. Five HSRC researchers visited the

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university with the aim of jointly exploring research questions. Based on a productive discussion, it was decided to develop collaborative research proposals on education management, literacy and numeracy, the economics of education and information, and communication technology in education.

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) commissioned a study to conduct a language education report for the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, following on an Africa-wide study completed for the UNESCO Institute of Education and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa on language education. Upon completion of the study, the Ethiopian Ministry of Education decided that its findings should form the basis of the new language policy recommendations for primary schools in that country.

Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA)

The year under review saw the completion of the project on care of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. An OVC best practices closing workshop was held in February 2007. The project was a good case study of 17 communities of

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practice, showing a direct link between research and implementation of OVC interventions. The main beneficiaries were not only OVC, but also families and communities who were empowered to deal with problems affecting children.

SAHA was awarded a US\$3,15 million grant for a five-year project to improve the capacity of an indigenous statutory institution to enhance monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS in South Africa by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Presidential Emergency Programme for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The overall goal of the project is to develop capacity to generate objective, verifiable and replicable HIV and AIDS-related data to support South Africa's efforts in the prevention, treatment and care of the epidemic. This project is a massive undertaking and covers the following areas: strategic information, prevention of mother to child transmission, medical transmission and positive prevention. The results of previous SAHA research reports were used extensively in the development of the finalisation of the 2007 to 2011 National Strategic Plan on HIV, AIDS and STIs.

The results of an evaluation for the national Department of Health on technical support for monitoring and evaluation for the delivery of primary health care including HIV/AIDS programmes were used to strengthen the delivery of these services and support the development of partnerships between government and non-profit service organisations in the provinces of Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and the Western Cape.

Urban, Rural and Economic Development (URED)

The HSRC co-sponsored a workshop during the year, together with Nkuzi Development Association and the University of Greenwich, on area-based and territorial approaches to land reform. The workshop drew participants from the Department of Land Affairs, civil society and academia, and involved the presentation and discussion of research bearing on area-based delivery strategies for land reform as well as the local economic significance of land reform.

The 2007 African Migration Alliance (AMA) book, entitled *Views on migration in sub-Saharan Africa*, disseminated articles from the kickoff international workshop of the AMA, an all-Africa research network with its secretariat in URED. Produced together with the Department of Social Development's Population Directorate, through a partnership memorandum of understanding (MoU), the book defines how migration streams in Africa are overflowing the regions and turning south to southern Africa. Authors include the continent's top ranking migration authorities.

Improved delivery of clean drinking water is a challenge in poor communities in South Africa; as such the Citizen Voice project has piloted a set of tools and teaching materials to effect solutions. The development of Citizen Voice provides routes to effective participation in the regulation of water services for both municipalities and communities.

The tourism and development initiative, launched in April 2006, is now firmly established with three projects having been completed during the financial year. These involved close collaboration with the national Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, for evaluation of pro-poor tourism initiatives, and an assessment of an NGO-managed community-based tourism route running from South Africa into Mozambique.

Cross-cutting research units

Knowledge Systems (KS)

Knowledge Systems is now in its second year of operation and has displayed both cohesion and productivity. Its three components; Socio-economic Surveys (SES), the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Centre, and the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) have all contributed to this success.

SES conducts national surveys and provides technical research support in survey design, data management and statistical analysis to other research programmes in the HSRC. In addition, SES is currently analysing data gathered over three years for the South African Social Attitudes Surveys project that provides a rich platform for in-depth research of societal dynamics. SES through its Client Surveys contributes directly to a better understanding of the dynamics of service delivery.

The GIS Centre has been instrumental in developing the African Network for Social Accountability, a World Bank funded project across African countries. In addition, the GIS Centre is constructing a new nationwide Master Sample by means of aerial photography that will serve as the source of multiple household samples for a variety of inquiries.

CeSTII completed the 2004/05 R&D Survey and the fieldwork of both the 2002/04 Innovation Survey and 2005/06 R&D Survey. Cumulatively these surveys provide the means for government to monitor and steer the national system of innovation. The R&D Survey data provided the evidence base for the introduction of an enhanced tax allowance for firms that conduct R&D. In addition, CeSTII contributed to and managed the service providers of the Tracking R&D Expenditure project of the National Advisory Council on Innovation, requested by Cabinet.

Gender and Development (G&D)

Research on gender and transport was strengthened by the co-hosting of the First International African Conference on Gender, Transport and Development: Bridging the divide between development goals, research and policy in developing countries, in August 2006. The co-hosts were the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) and the National Department of Transport. This was preceded by a monograph, *Women, development & transport in rural Eastern Cape, South Africa*, by Cheryl-Ann Potgieter, Renay Pillay and Sharmila Rama on the gendered nature of women's travel, published by the HSRC Press (2006).

Professor Vasu Reddy was invited to the 2nd International Meeting: Researching the incorporation of sexualities in the academic curricula of universities in Asia, Africa and Latin America project, held in Puebla, Mexico in November 2006, where he presented two papers.

During the 16 Days of Activism, the unit hosted a roundtable discussion on gender-based violence, black lesbians, hate speech and homophobia, in partnership with the Durban Lesbian & Gay Community & Health Centre. The roundtable was funded by the Foundation for Human Rights. A range of stakeholder organisations and individuals attended the roundtable, which was widely reported in the media.

The Department of Science and Technology funded an impact study on the commitment and attitude of educators to gender equality, Millennium Development Goal 3 (MDG), with reference to girls' access to and participation in science, engineering and technology (SET) learning.

Policy Analysis Unit (PAU)

A key strategy of PAU is the creation of policy deliberation and policy implementation networks, which serves to support evidence-informed policy

processes. PAU played a leading role in the creation of a representative network of actors (researchers, policymakers, policy implementers and civil society policy advocates) in the interface between social science research and policy under the auspices of the South African National Commission for UNESCO. It was constituted as the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) National Liaison Committee for South Africa. The focus of UNESCO's MOST programme is on building efficient bridges between social science research, policy and practice, promoting a culture of evidence-informed policymaking. It organises cross-sector policy dialogues on priority national, regional and international issues.

The committee consists of the following people in their personal capacities: Dr Vusi Gumede, Policy Coordination and Advisory Services in the Presidency; Professor Daisy Makofane, University of Limpopo; Dr Edgar Pieterse, Premier's Office, Western Cape; Dr Olive Shisana, HSRC (chair); Professor Jonathon Jansen, Administrator, Durban University of Technology; Dr Steven Friedman, Institute for Democracy in South Africa; Dr Temba Masilela, HSRC (administrator); Mr Daniel Plaatjies, South Africa Social Security Agency; Dr Jimi Adesina, Social Science Network of South Africa; and Ms Margie Schneider, HSRC.

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The Department of Labour awarded ESSD a multi-year grant of R20 million to lead a research project on scarce and critical skills



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PAU serves as a focal point for the HSRC's efforts to support the networking of the social science sector in South Africa. The 2006 South African Social Science Conference was organised in conjunction with the Social Science Network of South Africa, the Africa Institute of South Africa and Young Entrepreneurs for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (YENEPAD). The conference sought to address the question: What does it mean to do social sciences in an African context? Keynote presentations were made by Ambassador Ben Ngubane, South African Ambassador to Japan; Adebayo Olukoshi, Executive Secretary of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA); and Thandika Mkandawire, Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva.

Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA) memoranda of understanding (MoU) have been signed with NEPAD and UNAIDS to formalise the SAHARA partnerships. In East and Central Africa, SAHARA has been developing strategies to translate research into policy, focusing on Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. A draft document of this work was presented at a satellite meeting in Buenos Aires in Argentina in 2006.

SAHARA successfully organised a satellite session at the Toronto International AIDS Conference in August 2006 to reflect critically on the complexity of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, and the challenges key roleplayers face as they respond.

In October 2006, SAHARA provided technical support to the BASICS programme (Family Health International) and to UNICEF, Dakar, for a study on maternal and newborn health-related issues including HIV/AIDS. Technical support was provided to the World Bank Senegal office and the Senegalese National AIDS Programme. SAHARA further gave technical support to MSM organisations to establish MSM networks in West Africa. SAHARA is part of the organising and scientific committee of the next ICASA conference that will be held in Dakar in 2008.

Together with the working partners of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, SAHARA facilitated the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, an offsite satellite session to explore why women are consistently 'missing' in research, policy and programmes and to seek ways to ensure that women's voices do not go unheard.

National priority initiatives Employment, Growth and Development Initiative (EGDI)

Under its Employment Scenarios project, the centrepiece of the initiative's work, EGDI established a forum for dialogue with leading opinion and decisionmakers from government, business and labour organisations.

The aim is to deepen the understanding of employment paths, policy choices and the human and financial resources required to achieve employment targets. The forum has been highly successful in enabling open thinking about policy

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and PEPFAR awarded SAHARA a multi-year grant of US\$ 3,15 million to do HIV/AIDS research

Prof Linda Richter (CYFSD) and Dr Laetitia Rispel (SAHA) in the HSRC's booth at the 2006 International AIDS Conference Toronto



balance and the kinds of decisions needed by different stakeholder groupings to dramatically reduce unemployment and poverty.

The Employment Scenarios project produced its first set of scenarios, focusing on possible sources of job creation and drawn from a number of EGDI background studies which pointed to some critical insights. These insights included: the role of the public service in the labour market, the required scale of public works to meet the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA) employment targets, the constraints on manufacturing employment growth, and the need to be more forceful in expanding different types of service industries. This work also showed how the structure of production is important to poverty reduction, since some sectors inherently contribute more to wage growth than others.

EGDI has established an Employment Policy Network to draw together 'communities of practice' through an interactive web-based service, www.employment-policy.net. The website aims to coordinate the best available research and information on employment and inclusive growth in a developing country context. The International Labour Organisation, the African Economic Research Consortium, and the Consumer Unity and Trust Society International are founding partners of the network.

National Education Quality Initiative (NEQI)

The Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) awarded a grant of R69 million to NEQI to manage a five-year programme on improving literacy and numeracy skills in South African schools. The programme was developed in collaboration with the Department of Education and the following research partners: JET Education Services, Education Policy Consortium (consisting of the Centre for Education Policy Development and Education Policy Units from the Universities of Witwatersrand, Western Cape and Fort Hare) and Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA). The programme commenced in January 2007 and will end in December 2011.

The Child, Youth, Family and Social Development Programme, HSRC Corporate organisation over the last ten years

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In collaboration with UNICEF and officials from the Eritrean Ministry of Education, NEQI provided technical assistance to the Eritrean Ministry of Education for the establishment of a national framework for monitoring learning achievement in Eritrean schools, and the development of capacity of staff for its implementation.

NEQI also provided technical assistance to UNICEF education officers in the Eastern and Southern African Region for the development of indicators so as to monitor the implementation of the Child Friendly Schools (CFS) framework.

NEQI hosted a series of capacity building workshops on advanced data analysis techniques and education change and school reform in collaboration with the University of Twente, Netherlands. The workshops were funded by the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education, and were attended by HSRC researchers as well as staff from the Department of Education.