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Policy Analysis Unit (PAU)

Creative solutions for policy implementation

The focus of the work of the PAU in social policy that forms the five national priority areas is structured on five themes:

- Meanings, costs and impacts of HIV and AIDS
- Regulatory aspects of employment, social protection and economic growth
- Capacity and procedural justice in service delivery
- Investment, quality and choice in education
- Coherence and performance of poverty reduction strategies.

To enhance the relevance of its impact assessments and policy recommendations, the PAU utilises five analytical lenses, drawn from the National Research and Development Strategy: indigenous knowledge systems and social innovation; public engagement and stakeholder dialogue; opportunities, risks and incentive structures; institutions, ethics and accountability; and inter-generational interactions and equity.

The work of the PAU was further delimited by three primary assessment criteria, namely equity, effectiveness and appropriateness, taking into account the focus of government on policy implementation.

Completed research projects/policy dialogues Colloquium on education and poverty

A colloquium on Education and poverty reduction strategies: Issues of policy coherence, was held in February 2007. The keynote speakers were Mr Duncan Hindle, Director-General of the Department of Education, and Dr Yusuf Sayed, senior policy analyst, UNESCO.

The colloquium was attended by close to 100 participants, including government officials, local and international policy

researchers and civil society policy activists. Policy briefs and other publications based on the research papers and dialogue are in the pipeline.

Analysis of the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS)

An issue paper on national priorities in the view of the people, based on a secondary analysis of the SASAS datasets from 1999 to 2005, will be published later this year.

Ongoing research projects/policy dialogues

PAU coordinated six Millennium Development Goal (MDG) impact assessment studies for the Department of Science and Technology by means of various research programmes in the HSRC. It also initiated two multi-year, multi-site policy research project proposals and launched a national priority initiative on youth in conjunction with the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD) programme.

The policy research MDG projects are:

An assessment of antiretroviral (ARV) delivery models in South Africa

The study seeks to answer the following questions:

- What are the characteristics of existing ARV delivery models?
- What are the health systems constraints to the ARV delivery models?
- Who uses each of these services?
- How are the different delivery models performing in terms of effectiveness, quality, costs and equity in access? and
- What are the implications of scaling-up each or a combination of ARV delivery models to the national level?

The study will be implemented in Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape as from April/May 2007. It is anticipated that the results will inform the implementation of the new National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS and the scaling-up of ARV delivery in South Africa.

The return to education in South Africa: understanding investment, quality and choices in education

The aim of the project is to investigate the returns to investment in education and amongst other issues it examines:

- school investment policies
- national and provincial budgets and allocations to education
- parental and learner choices in education
- best practice in the effective and efficient provision of quality education.

Youth Policy Initiative

In line with its mandate to host time-limited priority policy development initiatives and provide policy-related services to the research programmes in the HSRC, PAU embarked upon a Youth Policy Initiative (YPI) on 31 January 2007, which will run for a three-year period. This event was in conjunction with the launch of the World Bank's South Africa office of the *World Development Report 2007: Development and the next generation*.

Dr Emmanuel Y Jimenez, who led the core team at the Bank which prepared the report, gave a presentation.

During 2007, the Initiative will consist primarily of a series of roundtable meetings at which experts from the policy, programme and research environments will come together to consolidate the state of the science, the demands for

action, and interrogate key questions on youth development. The debates will attempt to move the youth development agenda beyond acknowledging the extent of the challenges, to proposing viable policy and programmatic directions that can be undertaken in an integrated manner. Our implementation network for this initiative encompasses the Presidency, the Youth Commission, Umsobomvu Youth Fund, the youth desks in various government departments, and a network of researchers and civil society policy activists.

Future developments

In order to give further impetus to the HSRC public benefit mandate and provide systematic support to various HSRC efforts to enhance the interchange between research and policy, PAU has established a convening and policy dialogue facility, which will organise the annual HSRC conference, the HSRC seminar series and support various policy dialogues. The facility will also be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a portal on the Research-Policy Nexus in South Africa, under the auspices of the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) National Liaison Committee.

The MOST National Liaison Committee is also backing PAU in organising two policy dialogues in 2007. The first, entitled: Health within a comprehensive system of social security: Is national health insurance an appropriate response?, will take place in July 2007. The second, HIV and AIDS in Africa: getting research into policy and practice, will be held in September 2007, in conjunction with the University of Limpopo.

Specialist researchers 2006/07

Ms Claire Botha

MPH, Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa)

Funding options for public and private health care within the public health system, in particular the funding of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS



Mr Jonathan Carter

MSc Agric, University of Stellenbosch

Public finance, governance, social economics



Dr Seán Morrow

DPhil, University of Sussex
Capacity development issues



Mr Geoffrey Nkadimeng

MA, University of the Witwatersrand

Youth development, labour market issues in the areas of employment creation and labour legislation, social dialogue and social policy analysis

