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Urban, Rural and Economic Development (URED)

Rolling back poverty in southern Africa

URED is a multi-disciplinary research programme, with the primary objective to promote integrated urban and rural development in South and southern Africa and across the continent, through:

- Problem-oriented research
- Monitoring and evaluation
- User-driven policy briefs.

The activities of URED coalesce around four sub-programmes, all designed to respond primarily to the government's key national development priorities and challenges, as identified in the social and economic clusters in particular. These are:

- Poverty and rural development
- Infrastructure and service delivery
- Urban change, city strategies and migration
- Human development, tourism and climate change

Poverty reduction is the unifying, overarching theme and purpose of URED's work, with most of our projects conducted in collaboration with internal and external collaborators. The challenge of combating underdevelopment and poverty, given fresh focus by President Mbeki in 2003 when he first spoke of the existence of 'two economies', has provided an insightful backdrop to the research conducted by this programme. This theme becomes even more prominent as the programme tries to think in deeper and more differentiated ways about why underdevelopment in its many related aspects has proved so difficult to tackle.

URED's objectives, orientation and activities are designed specifically to address key national, regional and Africa-wide development challenges and policy priorities by bringing together the HSRC's capabilities in urban renewal, rural and regional development, and economic development with a

view to developing formidable organisational capacity and competence in integrated development research.

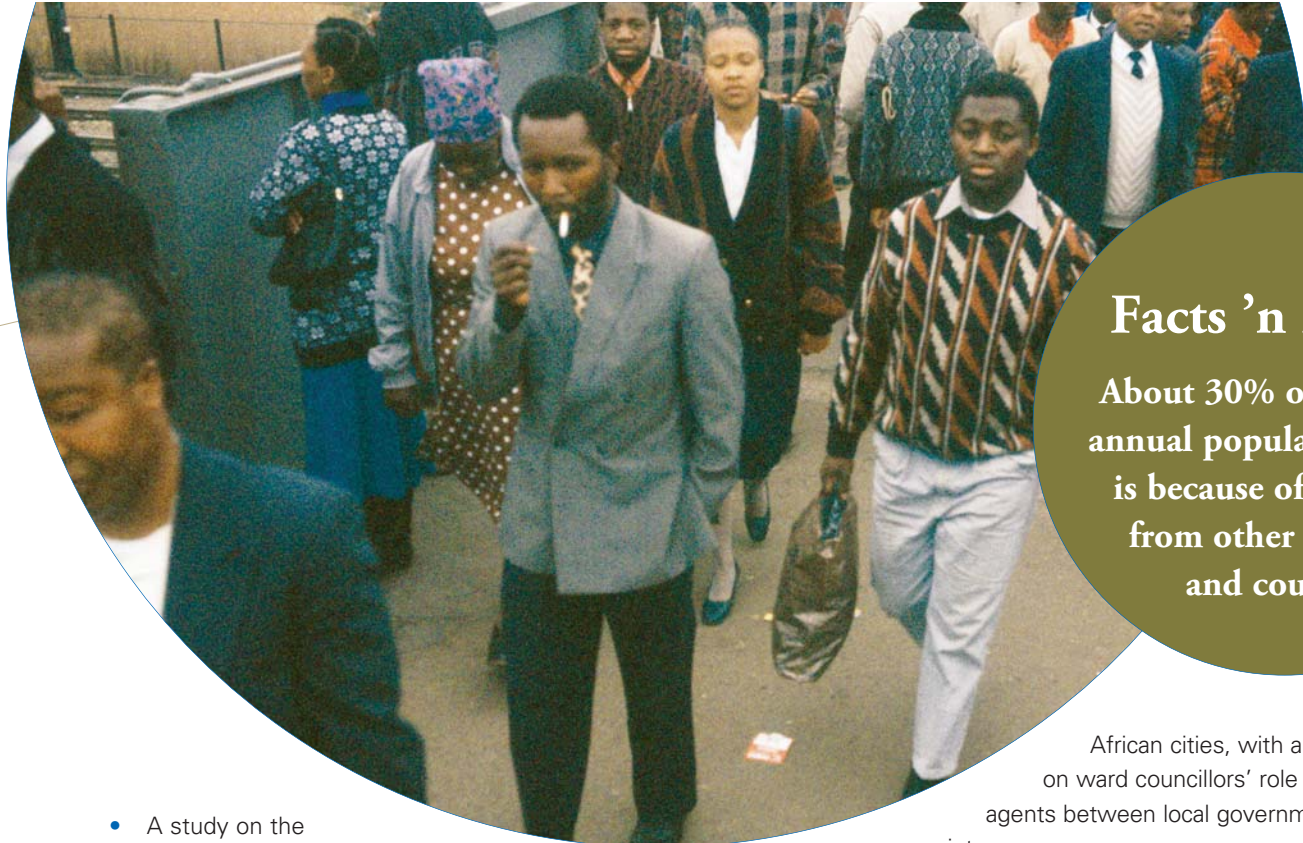
URED has 20 full-time researchers, with four support staff, and has a presence in all three HSRC locations. The programme also houses a complement of 13 interns, two African research fellows and a post-doctoral fellow. New thematic areas to be further developed in 2007/08 include the social aspects of climate change, sustainable energy use and a programme of 'futures' research.

Completed research

Poverty and rural development

This sub-programme focuses on issues related to poverty, inequality reduction, and land and agrarian issues in South and southern Africa. Completed projects in this area include:

- A study to establish baseline statistics and data-collection methods for the Department of Agriculture's monitoring and evaluation system which the department used to track its achievements relative to its strategic plan;
- An evaluation of poverty-reduction projects funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) consisting of a close examination of ten such projects around the country that were aimed at creating new economic opportunities for the poor, in particular the rural poor. It analysed the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of DST's overall approach to poverty reduction;
- The final report for the South African component of the multi-country Metagora Pilot Project, which applied rigorous survey methods to document the realisation of good governance and human rights in respect of concrete, context-specific policy areas. This is the first report to generate substantial and rigorous information regarding the nature and extent of land demand in South Africa, how land reform should be conducted, attitudes towards land invasions, and other issues; and



Facts 'n Figures

About 30% of Gauteng's annual population growth is because of migration from other provinces and countries

in South African cities, with a specific focus on ward councillors' role as the liaison agents between local government and civil society.

- A study on the importance of indigenous knowledge in reducing poverty among rural agrarian households, supported by the DST, explored people's use of local or indigenous knowledge in conjunction with – or as alternatives to – interventions applied by the state and various service providers as a means to ensure their continued survival.

Infrastructure and service delivery

Completed research in this sub-programme focus on infrastructure and service delivery; micro-enterprise support; urban and rural livelihoods and related issues, included the following:

- The cholera project, funded indirectly by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), examined the manifold relationships between poverty and cholera through a social survey of two affected communities.
- The WASH campaign focused on the production of water-related health promotion materials and a strategy for their use in rural and shack communities in which health conditions are poor and people particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.
- A project, undertaken in collaboration with the Centre for Public Participation in Durban, focused on public participation in improving service delivery at the local and district municipal level.

Urban change, city strategies and migration

This sub-programme focuses on urban and economic development strategies in cities, and the dynamics of migration flows.

- A project on local participation in a democratising South Africa, funded by the French Institute of South Africa (IFAS), assessed the effectiveness of local participation

- A project on Women, decentralisation and integrated development planning examined the implications of decentralisation to local government through integrated development planning for women's rights and entitlements established at national level.
- A follow-up project on migration aimed to determine the links between expectations, social networks, family influences, information flows and selectivity factors on the one hand, and migration intentions and subsequent actual migration behaviour on the other hand.
- A project on slum-free cities, sponsored by DST in collaboration with the Department of Housing (DoH), assessed the impact of policies, strategies and activities being implemented in South Africa to reach the Millennium Development Goal Target 11, Goal 6, on action against slums. The study confirmed the powerful South African effort in the field of housing delivery, but noted that slums continue to proliferate in line with trends on the international scene.
- A report on *Urban performance and trends for the South African cities network's state of cities report*, provided a statistical almanac and analysis of trends on demography, and the productive, inclusive, well-governed and sustainable city for the nine largest cities in South Africa.

Human development, environment and tourism

This sub-programme investigates the associations between the health and development of individuals, households and communities in relation to their social, demographic, economic, cultural and living environments. It also addresses tourism and development and the social aspects of climate change and sustainable energy. Completed projects include:



- A study on the nature of the tourism's second economy, commissioned by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), investigated the likely economic and social development spin-offs from DEAT-sponsored tourism-related poverty relief activities. It concluded that if poverty eradication is to be achieved, new kinds of interventions will be required that bridge the gap between very small, often informal, micro-tourism enterprises and the formal tourism sector.
- A follow-up to the previous study investigated tourism ventures which were considered as having had some success in terms of local economic and social development. In all cases examined, successful tourism projects resulted from vigorous community collaboration plus strategic support from outside players. The project concluded that there is a need for a collaborative research programme that will design guidelines for government at all levels regarding pro-poor tourism policy.

Impact of recently completed research

The Department of Agriculture has adopted the approach recommended in the study to establish baseline statistics and data-collection methods for the department's monitoring and evaluation system, and has taken forward one specific recommendation, namely that progress in respect of the objectives of black economic empowerment in the agricultural sector, or AgriBEE, be assessed by means of a dedicated survey.

Following the study of its poverty reduction projects, DST commissioned the HSRC to develop strategic guidelines for the department's social impact investments. The document, which has been formally adopted and printed by DST, provides clear operational definitions and steps according to which the department pursues its poverty reduction mandate.

The findings from the project on Women, decentralisation and integrated development planning have been widely disseminated, and are being fed into reviews of the local government gender framework.

The FIFA 2010 project, while ongoing, has elicited much public interest since its inception, with *Business Day* providing the HSRC with a fortnightly opinion column; numerous interviews conducted with the media on South Africa's state of readiness and the legacy impact of the event; the annual public attitudinal survey on 2010 being used by stakeholders to benchmark public attitudes to the

- A study on the relationship between poverty and HIV/AIDS at the household level, conducted in a peri-urban area of Cape Town, showed a significant relationship between HIV and asset depletion and hunger. The study was replicated in Kenya where a relationship was demonstrated between the stages of disease and asset depletion.

event in order to conduct longitudinal analysis, while providing policymakers and practitioners alike with decisive planning information in the run-up to the event; and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the World Cup expressing its desire to work with the HSRC on a programme of 'legacy' research.

The Statistician-General devoted an entire section of the May 2006 *Business Report* to the two reports on migration arising from the migration project. The MDG report has been presented to the national Department of Housing's (DoH) strategic committee, and the recommendations are being considered. Conference papers arising from this topic led to an invitation to present a critique of current housing policy to the DoH in December 2006.

Work on service delivery has attracted high levels of publicity for the unit's research reports and continuing interest in its work. The research on cholera has led to continuing prioritisation of the disease in policy documents of Department of Water Affairs, and the Regulation Strategy, for instance, identifies eliminating cholera as a key strategic initiative and sets out similar concerns about water services in these areas.

A project to develop an appropriate tool to ensure the sustainability of municipal water services to the poor has led to the publication of a scorecard on national targets and the current state of delivery received considerable publicity. The project has had high impact on the training of community practitioners within the national qualification framework, and in carrying out some implementation research by organising workshops of local and district municipalities to discuss the results and plan responses. The training materials have also been accredited by the Education Development and Training Providers SETA. The tool is now available to local and national regulators to engender a high level of well-prepared participation in water services regulation.

Three case studies show that land reform is having a very limited impact on rural development



Ongoing research

In the area of poverty and rural development, ongoing projects include a study in South Africa and Uganda on the impact of women's property rights in mitigating vulnerability to domestic violence; a study of the impact of HIV/AIDS on land reform and land-based livelihoods (with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund); an evaluation of the government's poverty reduction programme on behalf of the Public Service Commission; a study on behalf of the Southern Africa Trust regarding the participation of civil society in developing and monitoring Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in the southern African region; and participation in an ESRC/DFID-funded three-country study (Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa) led by the University of the Western Cape, and of which the HSRC is leading the South Africa component. Also ongoing is technical support to the Namibia Statistics Bureau regarding analysis of recent household surveys.

Projects in the urban change, city strategies and migration area include working with the African Migration Alliance, linking migration researchers across several African countries; academic and applied research on the urban development implications of the Fifa 2010 World Cup, examining in particular how cities are responding to the challenge of this event, and assessing the relationship between mega-events and urban development; a national study of homelessness; a project addressing ways to support government's efforts to defeat the exclusionary legacy of apartheid by spatially restructuring South Africa's metro cities; developing models for spatial planning to enable integrated infrastructure delivery; examining South African trends and patterns in urbanisation and migration; and a socio-economic and epidemiological impact assessment of the Lesotho Highlands Project.

Ongoing work in the area of infrastructure and service delivery includes a project to evaluate value-for-money in

Urban, Rural and Economic Development (URED) *continued*

the public sector, commissioned by the Public Service Commission; measuring service delivery in South Africa and southern Africa; the WASH campaign and health promotion; and measuring the human-scale development impact of infrastructure-led development projects.

Under human development, environment and tourism, ongoing work includes the relationships between poverty and HIV at the household level; assessments of best-practice models for pro-poor tourism; teachers' experiences of people living with HIV/AIDS in South African schools; and segmenting domestic tourism in South Africa, using the Travel Career Ladder.

Future developments

Two major research initiatives will be launched in the 2007/08 financial year:

- A State of the Future Index (SOFI) for South Africa, which is a measure of the 10-year outlook of the future, highlighting the direction, intensity, and factors responsible for change. It will be the first time a SOFI has been developed for South Africa, and the HSRC will interrogate the efficacy and relevance of the method for application in the African context, possibly leading to recommendations about how best to develop SOFI for Africa countries and regions.
- The social aspects of climate change and sustainable energy. Climate change research, partly through a survey of attitudes to climate change and by encouraging social scientists to take a

fresh look at development issues through a 'climate change lens', will assess the role of this phenomenon in social development and health issues, and investigate its role in limiting developing countries' potential in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Energy research will focus on the social aspects of energy demand and the appropriateness and acceptability of mixed energy models of supply.

URED is projected to increase its full-time research complement by five, and grow its intern complement to 13, in the 2007/08 financial year. Much of the programme's future work will be devoted to initiating large-scale, multi-year, collaborative projects with our African counterparts on issues deemed to be of both national and continental importance in the fields of poverty and development.

Facts 'n Figures

Some 51% of respondents believe that the main benefit of the 2010 Fifa World Cup will be economic and employment benefit



Specialist researchers 2006/07

Dr Michael Aliber

PhD, University of Wisconsin
Public policy, micro-finance, land reform, poverty reduction and sustainable development, small-scale farmer development and monitoring and evaluation



Ms Geci Karuri-Sebina

MA, University of California, Los Angeles
Infrastructure and service delivery, public policy, development planning, futures study, technology and poverty



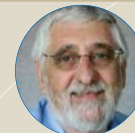
Dr Orli Bass

PhD, University of Cape Town
Relationships between urbanity and culture, postcolonialism, creolisation and identity, site-specific performance, cultural strategies and culture-led regeneration, African urbanity and representations of Africa and its cities



Dr Pieter Kok

PhD, University of Pretoria
Regional human resource flows



Dr Sarah Mosoetsa

DPhil, University of the Witwatersrand
Urban livelihoods, work and unemployment, intra-household dynamics, poverty and gender, social and economic policy.



Dr Claire Benit

PhD, University of Poitiers (France)
Urban policy, urban governance, community participation, local government, labour, security



Professor Adekunbi Omidéyi

PhD, University of London (LSE)
Techniques of demographic analysis, fertility and reproductive health, poverty, environment and development



Ms Catherine Cross

MA, University of Michigan
Migration, environment and settlement, urban and rural development, housing, poverty, homelessness, rural finance



Mr Benjamin Roberts

MSc, University of Natal
Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Millennium Development Goals, subjective wellbeing, poverty analysis, rural development



Mr Tim Hart

MPhil, Stellenbosch University
Agricultural and rural development, indigenous knowledge, participatory research



Professor John Seager

PhD, University of Wales
Social, environmental and economic determinants of health and wellbeing in poor communities.



Dr David Hemson

PhD, University of Warwick
Public service delivery, social issues, policy impact assessment



Ms Jarè Struwig

MA, University of Pretoria
Surveys and research methodologies



Mr Richard Humphries

MA, Rhodes University
Sub-national government and public policymaking dynamics



Professor Alison Todes

PhD, University of Natal
Urban policy and development, urbanisation, urban development strategies, regional development, urban spatial organisation, urban economic development, urban and regional planning



Dr Peter Jacobs

PhD, Fordham University (New York)
Poverty and rural development



Mr Johan van Zyl

BA Hons, University of Pretoria
Analytical demography, field surveys, data analysis

