



## SURVEYS, ANALYSES, MODELLING AND MAPPING

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of more relevant and comprehensive  
social research

Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping (SAMM) is a cross-cutting entity that brings together the HSRC's capacity in surveys, quantitative and qualitative analyses, geographical information systems (GIS), statistical and econometric modelling, and data management. It supports the organisation's move from previous fixed research groups and disciplines to flexible, user-driven and responsive Research Programmes.

SAMM reinforces the HSRC's vision of more relevant and comprehensive social research. Following its annual strategic planning *lekgotla* in 2003, SAMM has reformulated its programme vision to become the choice provider of longitudinal and attitudinal surveys and analyses, as well as geo-information, in South Africa, SADC and Africa.

The Programme was established during the latter half of 2001 and has grown to 20 research staff – six with PhDs – and three office administrators. Three research appointments were made during 2003/04, and the appointment of another two researchers is imminent in the newly established Urban Renewal and Development (URD) Unit.

The Analysis and Modelling Unit co-exists laterally with the Geographical Information Systems, Surveys, and URD Units.

### Major current and recently completed projects

The **Analysis and Modelling Unit** brings sound and appropriate methodological aspects to the research carried out within HSRC and externally. The Unit has been involved in various projects, among others the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) and the 2002 Nelson Mandela/HSRC Study of HIV/AIDS. The

SASAS and Nelson Mandela/HSRC studies were the first studies of their kind to be conducted in South Africa.

Other projects include two studies with the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA) Research Programme, namely the **prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT)** in South Africa and a study on the **determinants of demand and supply of educators**. The Unit was also involved in projects for the Government Communication and Information Systems (GCIS), a rural schools project, an impact study of a life skills programme in Gauteng, a study for the National Roads Agency and a study on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Mamelodi.

The role of this team in these projects ranged from project conceptualisation, study design, tender and proposal writing, data management and processing, quality control, statistical analysis and modelling, interpretation and report and publication writing. The team is constantly liaising with peers in the field through conference presentations and professional visits. For example, Professor Samuel Manda from the Statistics Department, Leeds University (United Kingdom) will be on a research visit to the Analysis and Modelling Unit in September 2004. The collaboration between the Unit and other researchers has led to high-quality publications in peer-reviewed journals.

**Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Centre** undertook three projects with funding from the HSRC's Parliamentary grant.

The intention of the **Census 2001** project was to provide researchers of the HSRC with access to products of the 2001 Census, including the 10% sample and data at an enumerator area



The dilapidated Schubart Park flats in Pretoria – a well-known landmark in central Pretoria and a typical example of urban decay.

level. From these data several other data sets were to be developed including a geo-demographic classification of South Africa at an enumerator area level. To date, the following databases have been developed: service need and provision, the Poverty Gap (see map on page 56) and the Gini Coefficient. Two other databases, one on disposable income and another on the Gross Geographic Product (GGP), are in the process of being developed.

The **spatial modelling** project aimed to develop the capacity of GIS Centre staff. Professor David Martin of the University of Southampton visited South Africa for a week and provided training in the use of census data in GIS for spatial modelling purposes. Staff members of the GIS Centre also attended a course on access modelling, hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and presented by Professor Tom de Jong of the University of Utrecht.

The **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)** Parliamentary funded project undertook research on the state of GIS and geo-information in the regions and countries of Africa. The aim of this project was to look at existing GIS and geo-information capacity and needs to provide support for NEPAD. Members of the GIS Centre travelled to different regions in Africa and visited institutions in countries like Senegal, Gabon, Cameroon, Kenya, Ethiopia and Egypt.

As a **support unit**, the GIS Centre worked with many researchers in the different research programmes of the HSRC. Extensive support has been provided to the SAHA Research Programme on projects such as the determinants of demand and supply of educators, the OVC project, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Health Sector Coordinating Unit technical assistance project. Research was also undertaken in collaboration with the Integrated Rural and Regional Development (IRRDR) Research Programme on the impact of Government programmes as part of the Ten Year Review, migration studies, poverty mapping and the development of a proposal for a Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS) for South Africa. Proposals and several smaller projects were conducted in collaboration with researchers from the other programmes.

The GIS Centre was also involved in several externally-funded projects. Three of the more prominent ones were the **pension pay point, financial service access (FSA)** and the **SADC Development GIS** projects. The pension pay point project involved the mapping of all social grant pay points in the country. Teams from the GIS Centre travelled to regions across the country to define the geographic location and collect attribute data for pay points in South Africa. This information will be used

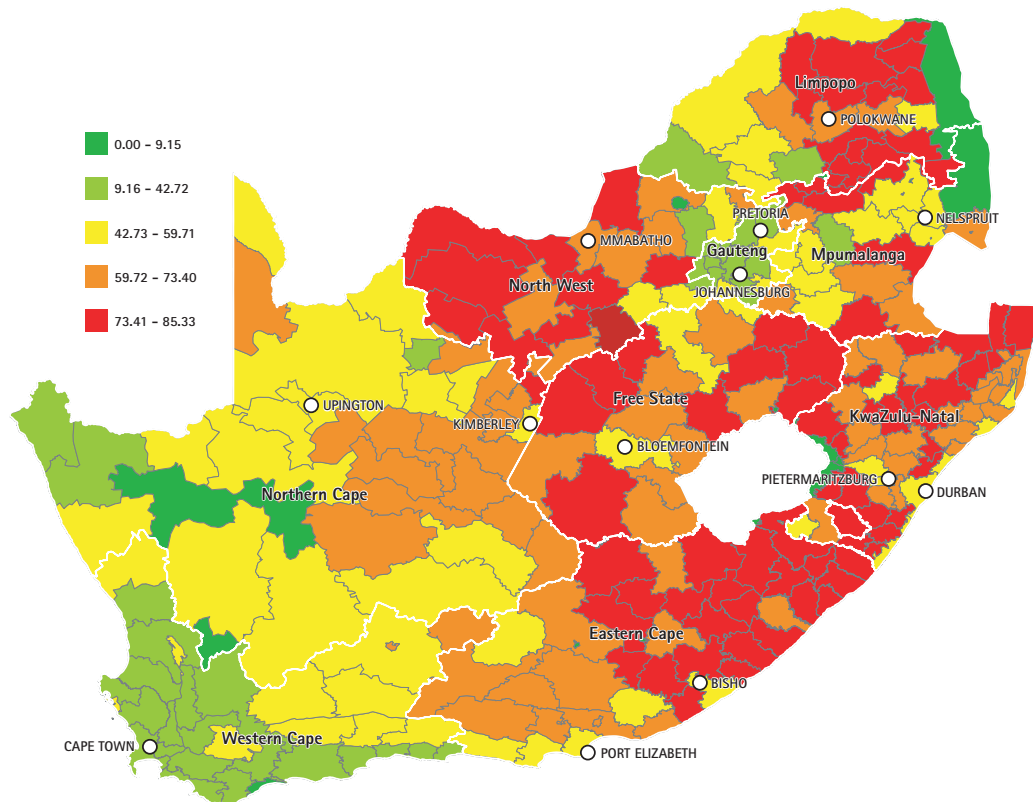


Figure D: Poverty rate by South African municipalities, 2001

to assist the Department of Social Development in their budgeting to maintain these facilities and make critical decisions about optimising the pay points in the country.

The FinMark Trust funds the FSA project and its aim is to provide an extensive spatial database on South Africa's financial services. This project provides critical data for the pension pay point project, which requires an understanding of the location of banks and ATMs, and provides comprehensive data needed to implement the Financial Charter of South Africa in determining what proportion of the population has access to financial infrastructures and their needs for financial services.

The **SADC Development GIS** project has gathered detailed socio-economic information at the equivalent of a district level in most of the SADC countries. This information will be extensively used for the State of the Environment (SoE) reporting in the region and will contribute to continental initiatives such as the Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN). The study has also looked at available census data in the different SADC countries and a feasibility study is being completed in Zimbabwe to see how quickly countries' census enumerator areas can be captured into a GIS. The intention is to seek additional funding with collaborators in the region to complete the capturing of Zimbabwe's census and then to extend this to all other countries that have not yet captured their census data into a GIS.

The **Surveys Unit** conducted the first round of its **SASAS** between August and October 2003. This yielded public opinion responses from a nationally representative 4 980 adults selected from the HSRC Master Sample. Topics included governance, moral issues, education, health, communications, social identity, politics, family, personal violence, poverty and gender. The HSRC

and external researchers will be analysing the resultant data thematically for publication in the first SASAS book, which is scheduled to appear by the end of 2004. The second round of SASAS will start in August 2004 and will include most of the 2003 modules, as well as some new ones.

The Unit also conducted **surveys of HSRC users, stakeholders and staff** as an input to the Institutional Review. Many of the concerns and issues that emerged are currently receiving the attention of management.

Another interesting project was a comprehensive study, in collaboration with Inkwazi Consulting, of the country's **non-business public entities and Government business entities**, including the HSRC, CSIR, Water Boards and public-funded museums. The study was done on behalf of the National Treasury and Department of Public Service and Administration. The resultant report assessed the extent to which these Schedule 3A and 3B entities are operating in compliance with the corporate governance principles of the King Report and the Public Finance Management Act.

A survey for the **National Roads Agency (NRA)** in respect of their main contractors' compliance with the Agency's Small, medium and micro enterprises (SMME) and Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) criteria involved interviews with sub-contractors to determine perceptions and realities of their relationships with main contractors, the NRA, and its civil engineers and route managers.

The Unit was commissioned by Hewlett-Packard to conduct a baseline survey on **the role of information technology in community upliftment** in the Mogalakwena region of Limpopo. The survey assessed the medium- and long-term impact of this



The staff of the new Urban Renewal and Development Unit, from left: Mr Jacques du Toit, Co-ordinator, Ms Shanthinie Francis, Junior Researcher, Dr Udesch Pillay, Executive Director of SAMM, and Mr Fhumulani Thaba and Ms Shirona Parthab, both Junior Researchers.

emergent "inclusion-community" against the resultant baseline data, which included the community's current forms of social, financial, intellectual, physical and other capital as determined by the Livelihoods framework.

A study of **BEE compliance in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector** was also conducted on behalf of the Department of Communications.

The **Urban Renewal and Development Unit** was established on 1 September 2003 in response to a gap in the HSRC's key priority research areas, and owing to scattered urban expertise across the HSRC. The Unit is intended to facilitate the HSRC's urban social research activities by doing applied research with urban space and processes as key analytical variables. It aims to complement existing developmental research programmes, such as the IRRD and D&G Research Programmes, but also to become a national hub of urban social research.

During its first two years of incubation, the Unit is set to identify two research focus areas, firstly, **urban social and physical aspects**, including urban reform, the built environment, housing, transportation, neighbourhoods and communities, crime and grime and identity and exclusion. Secondly, it will study **urban economic and institutional aspects**, including local government, service delivery, local economic development (LED), transformation and globalisation and city regions. Once the Unit has been properly capacitated, a third focus area will be introduced, namely, **urban monitoring and evaluation** of policies, programmes, projects, indicators and benchmarking.

The Unit's flagship project coincides with the Ten Year Review of South Africa's democracy, entitled **The State of our Cities Project (SOCP)**. Placing the Unit at the forefront of national urban policy, the SOCP aims to review research that has informed the preparation of Government's urban policies and programmes since 1994. A call for papers elicited more than 30 proposals. The resultant papers will eventually be published in a book during 2005. This is intended to be an ongoing review, culminating in

a high-quality HSRC publication every second year. All aspects of the project, including its conceptualisation and reviews, are done in consultation with an urban reference group, consisting of esteemed national and international urban scholars.

The Unit's first empirical project entails a **public transport needs and preferences survey in Tshwane**, in collaboration with the Public Passenger Transport Division of the Metropolitan Council. The aim is to update a similar survey that was done in 1998, this time focusing on the inter-modality of passenger rail and expected minimum levels of services required by users. Results from the survey will be used to assess the viability of using existing rail networks and to inform subsequent planning and restructuring in order to provide better public transport services in the metro.

The Unit has already delivered scholarly outputs based on personal and academic research. These include conference papers and accredited journal articles on an inner city urban renewal project in Pretoria and the competitiveness of South African global city regions respectively.

### Future developments

SAMM continues with its plans to **track national issues through longitudinal analysis**. The HSRC Master Sample, completed in 2002, makes it possible to visit and interview the same households on successive occasions. The HSRC's annual public opinion survey, now called the **South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS)**, incorporates this time-series dimension. The first round of this survey was completed in the latter half of 2003, and the baseline publication is due for release later this year. SASAS will be repeated annually.

In addition, SAMM is planning to roll out a large-scale and repeat-visit **monitoring survey** for Government which, like SASAS, will be conducted annually. A number of Government departments have expressed interest in such a survey, which will allow them to track and monitor their performance over time.

Research on urban development, identified as a national imperative by Government, is an area where SAMM intends making a considerable contribution, and it will be driven by the **Urban Renewal and Development (URD) Unit**. The Unit will incubate in SAMM until it is fully capacitated, after which it could conceivably become a new Research Programme within the HSRC.

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