

# Highlights

In delivering "social science that makes a difference", the eleven research programmes of the HSRC are engaged in a great variety of projects and programmes, in South Africa and the region. They serve diverse users, especially in the public sector, and are supported by funds from many local and international sources as well as Parliament. The highlights in these four pages illustrate this diversity. More examples and details may be found in the sections for each research programme.

## Assessment Technology and Education Evaluation (ATEE)

- A model to evaluate the performance of learners at the end of Grade 3 and to provide support to their teachers was developed by the ATEE programme for the Assessment Modelling Initiative, and implemented in four provinces. This is a R7.5 million contract from the *US Research Triangle Institute*.
- A five-year school intervention programme, called the Quality Learning Project, is funded by the *Joint Education Trust*. It is aimed at improving learner performance by providing relevant skills and expertise to district officials, school management teams and educators. Phase 2 is in the process of implementation.
- The effective teaching and learning of mathematics and science, and building up the capacity to do so, is at the heart of the Assessment of Maths and Science in Africa (AMASA) initiative, co-ordinated by the programme and funded by *UNESCO*. It involves 12 African countries.
- As a quality assurance initiative, systemic evaluation for mainstream schools is being implemented by ATEE under the leadership of the *Department of Education's Chief Directorate: Quality Assurance*, in partnership with the provincial education departments and a consortium of service providers.
- ATEE was commissioned by the *Commonwealth Secretariat* to evaluate a schools improvement programme in the Seychelles.

## Child, Youth and Family Development (CYFD)

- Routine and discipline at schools protected girls from abuse, according to a CYFD study for *UNICEF* which investigated gender-based violence in schools and communities. Researchers worked with community-based research and intervention programmes, including KwaZulu-Natal Survivors of Violence. The results have been a catalyst for several major initiatives.
- The CYFD programme and collaborators are conducting a five-year study to assess the impact of a family-based intervention programme in fostering the mental health and psychosocial development of young people. The *US National Institute of Mental Health* funds the study.
- As part of an overall approach towards increasing protection and care, the programme assessed the potential to develop care work as a job opportunity. This research was completed for the economic sector of the Alexandria Renewal Project and will address unemployment and simultaneously meet the needs of people for affordable and sustainable care.
- In co-operation with other African countries, CYFD is working with a multi-national team on Pemba Island, Zanzibar, to measure the effects of zinc and iron supplementation on the motor and language development of infants.
- CYFD was contracted by *UNICEF* to study the dynamics of preventing mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission in rural and urban areas of Limpopo province.



Dr Olive Shisana, Minister Ben Ngubane and Prof. Jakes Gerwel at the launch of the Cape Town office



Dr Mark Orkin and Prof. Pei Changhong from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing

### Democracy and Governance (D&G)

- Research was completed for *Gauteng Housing Department* on implementation of its policy and programmes. External consultants collaborated in the project.
- After the 2000 municipal elections, the D&G programme embarked on a study of voting behaviour on behalf of the *Independent Electoral Commission*. The study consisted of a review of the existing data, a national survey of adult groups, and a series of focus groups. It was primarily aimed at a better understanding of the dynamics of voter behaviour and voter participation trends in particular.
- D&G published several collections of essays on economic transformation, civil society, public participation, African identities.
- The implications of integrated development plans for municipal administration are being studied in a contract for the *Northern Cape government*.

### Employment and Economic Policy Research (EEPR)

- EEPR and *Mintek* are collaborating on a sustainable development programme examining opportunities for innovation and diversification that are offered by South Africa's resource base. This project focuses on the mining inputs cluster, but will be applicable to any resource-base cluster.
- The programme is working with the *Mpumalanga provincial government* to build its metals and petrochemicals sectors. The project involves research, capacity building of government officials and informing the building cluster itself.
- A project to improve information on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in critical economic sectors will enable more accurate assessments of public and private interventions to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on industry and workers.
- The *Department of Labour* commissioned an investigation into the appropriate roles of public and private providers of employment services and international models for employment services. The submission forms the basis for the forthcoming



Prof. Linda Richter at the launch of the Durban office

### Green Paper on employment services.

#### Education Policy Research (EPR)

- A comparative case study, funded by the *Ford Foundation*, is investigating the developmental framework linking two rural-based universities - University of Fort Hare and University of the North - to their respective socio-economic habitats. The intention is to enable these institutions to respond to their geographical isolation and structural dislocation.
- The role of NGOs in increasing primary access and quality education in South Africa is being studied by EPR in a collaborative project funded by *USAID*, to complement similar studies in other African countries.
- In collaboration with *universities* and *NGOs*, a study is being formulated to examine the contribution of schooling to democratisation and other values in the constitution.

### Human Resources Development (HRD)

- The core project for research into HRD is funded by a *DACST* grant of R5 million for three years. It is producing a biennial directory analysing key developments in this area, as well as a cross-sectoral data warehouse to help information-based decision making.
- A study of private higher education, funded by the *Ford Foundation*, provided a detailed qualitative description and typology of such institutions. The resulting research papers were presented by researchers, including international consultants, at a colloquium in April 2002.
- The HRD programme conducted the first large-scale study of the factors affecting student choice behaviour in the South African education system, based on the responses of 12 000 Grade 12 learners across all nine provinces.
- The programme collaborated with the EPR programme in producing a 14-chapter document regarding the sector skills plans of the Education Training and Development Practices SETA.
- A study on the linkages between industry and higher education, funded by the *Carnegie Corporation*, will focus on biotechnology, new materials, and IT, as identified in the national R&D strategy.

### Integrated Rural and Regional Development (IRRDR)

- With the *Surplus Peoples Project* and in consultation with the *Department of Land Affairs*, a project of IRRDR is documenting and evaluating the wide and growing range of joint ventures involving farmers and their employees in South African agriculture.
- Designed to put available knowledge to work more productively towards poverty reduction, the Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) is now in its second year of operation, supported mainly by funding of about R5 million from the *British Department for International Development*. Events have included workshops in South Africa, Angola and Mozambique. SARPN's website ([www.sarpn.org.za](http://www.sarpn.org.za)) was launched in February 2002.
- An assessment of the Water and Sanitation programme of the *Department of Water Affairs and Forestry*, focusing on KwaZulu-Natal, involves a process of participative consultation with communities.
- A three-year survey-based project on migration is at mid-stage to describe and analyse population migration as a basis for modelling future movements.

- IRRD completed a project focusing on improving public micro-financing in three SADC countries for the *WK Kellogg Foundation*.

#### Knowledge Management (KM)

The KM programme of the HSRC is actively engaged in supporting the DACST National Research and Development Strategy through three related projects that will inform the working of the National System of Innovation.

- The largest of the projects, the national R&D survey, quantifies the extent of activity devoted to scientific R&D and will form the baseline for the construction of a reliable time series. Funded by *DACST*, it will survey government, parastatal, higher education, business and non-profit organisations.
- The second project, the survey on the mobility of R&D workers, covers not only emigration and immigration of workers but also their movement and circulation within the country. This study is funded by *NACI*.
- A further *NACI* study on utilisation of research findings entails the careful construction of a set of case histories of publicly funded research projects to examine the extent to which they have influenced policy.

#### Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA)

- SAHA's 2002 national survey on HIV/AIDS behavioural risks, HIV status, and mass media impact is the first national household survey on this aspect of the epidemic. The HSRC study, funded by the *Nelson Mandela Foundation*, the *Nelson Mandela Children's Fund*, and the *Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation*, will provide South Africa with its first empirical estimate of the true extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- The programme established the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA) in August 2001. It has become a broad-based research network throughout Africa, with a flexible alliance of research partners committed to conducting and supporting quality research necessary for urgent implementation.
- The study on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the health sector is a joint project between SAHA and the National School of Public Health, MEDUNSA. Funded by the *US Centers for Disease Control*, it incorporates five separate studies. A progress report on Gauteng was presented to the *Department of Health*.
- The *WK Kellogg Foundation* funded a study to provide information on the HIV/AIDS problem in the SADC region, and to clarify the impact of policies on community-based intervention. In this three-country, five-year project, SAHA, with the support of CYFD, conducts research-driven HIV/AIDS interventions focused on orphans and vulnerable children together with implementing agencies.
- The *Gauteng government* has funded the programme to do the site assessments and evaluations required to expand its programme of preventing mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission.





#### Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping (SAMM)

- SAMM has created, with the help of consultants, an accurate and complete national "master sample", guided by statistics gathered from the census 2001 data set.

This makes it possible to visit and interview households on successive occasions, thereby conducting longitudinal analysis. The project was partly funded by the *Swiss Development Corporation*.

- The programme, with the *Department of Social Development*, completed a full audit of all pension pay points in the country. The aim was to establish their current condition so that the Department could identify budget priorities for future development.
- A study on domestic tourism in South Africa was completed for SATOUR and the *Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism* to support the development of relevant strategies and policies.
- A project funded through DACST's SADC Science and Technology Fund will determine the availability of small-area census information in SADC countries, and test how cost-effectively it can be captured into a geographical information system.

#### Social Cohesion and Integration (SCI)

- The Africa Human Genome Initiative is a partnership between the HSRC, the *Academy of Science of South Africa* and the *Sustainability (formerly Spier) Institute*. A first product, *Science, evolution and schooling*, gives an account of the history and current status of Darwinism and the teaching of human biology at South African schools. Another project, on *Genetics, African history and archaeology*, focuses on the implications of DNA-based genomic research findings for an understanding of the origins, diffusion and naming of human populations in Africa.
- A study by SCI on values in education, for the *Minister of Education*, was the subject of a conference and collected proceedings.
- Social cohesion and globalisation is a research-framing project on South African social, cultural and economic efforts to find new forms of cohesion in the face of public health crises and the challenges of NEPAD and globalisation.
- A comparative analytical study of the lessons that Israel and Palestine can learn from South Africa's negotiating experience will be available from August 2002.