

## **Southern African Regional Poverty Network**

**Some recent postings on Food Security, Vulnerability, Safety Nets and Land Reform issues on [www.sarpn.org.za](http://www.sarpn.org.za)**

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### **Food Security, Vulnerability and Safety Nets**

**Livelihoods (un)employment and social safety nets: reflections from recent studies in KwaZulu-Natal**, Francie Lund, presentation to SARPN, HSRC, discussants: Andre Du Toit, PLAAS, UWC, Alan Hirsch, the Presidency, 22 July 2004

Using information from two recent studies in KwaZulu-Natal this presentation considers some methodological and substantive issues in the fields of livelihoods, unemployment and social safety nets in South Africa. It looks at how quantitative and qualitative information gathering methods reflect on each other and how they can improve each other. It goes on to consider what is happening with people who work but do not appear in official figures, and at how to support people who are being missed by government programmers to support small and medium enterprises. A lively discussion followed the presentation. The first discussant, Andre Du Toit noted the need to gain a better understanding of vulnerability and to improve understanding of the informal economy and its complexity. Alan Hirsch emphasised that government's use of the second economy concept is not meant to imply that there are two separate economies. Lund argued that seeing the formal and informal economies as a continuum and seeking linkages offered the best hope for finding solutions to poverty.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000925/P1034-Lund\\_SARPN\\_July2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000925/P1034-Lund_SARPN_July2004.pdf)

**Food pricing monitoring committee: executive summary**, December 2003, National Department of Agriculture, South Africa, 44 pages

Despite national food security in South Africa, many households experience continued food insecurity, malnutrition and unemployment, with food insecurity affecting more than 14 million people. The dramatic impact of food price increases on these people and the overall inflationary pressure it exerts led government to investigate the causes and, in particular, suspicions that there might be manipulation of food prices. The commission found limited evidence of unjust price increases but notes that the existence of a price monitoring mechanism may have contributed to slowing the rate of increase in prices. The report makes recommendations on grain reserves, government programmes, agricultural information systems, on increasing competition and reducing barriers to entry, and on the futures exchange, transport and logistics. The executive summary of the just-released report can be accessed from:

<http://www.nda.agric.za/docs/fpmc/Execsummary.pdf>

**Mission Report: Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland, 14-22 June 2004**, James T Morris, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa, United Nations, Rome, 12 July 2004, 21 pages

Governments in southern Africa and the international community have made progress in averting the immediate threat posed by the food crisis in the last two years. However, the region continues to face a humanitarian crisis as a result of a triple threat composed of continuing food insecurity, lack of government capacity and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has seen a dramatic decrease in life expectancy. The report calls for the international community to stay focused, in the face of this ongoing crisis, on helping to improve

the lives of vulnerable people, especially women children and young people. The United Nations needs to strengthen its response and identify new initiatives that will have a positive impact on the lives of significant number of people. This recently released mission report provides an important overview of issues in the four countries and notes the nature of the UN's response, including the Southern African Capacity Initiative. It also picks up on the concept of the "triple threat" of food insecurity, HIV/AIDS and weakened governance capacity in southern Africa. Essential reading.

<http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000912/index.php>

**Southern African food security brief**, July 2004, Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), 7 pages

The southern African region will continue to face critical food shortages in 2004/5 with Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe experiencing higher production deficits than last year, resulting in a higher than anticipated cereal shortfall. The number of food insecure people requiring emergency assistance during 2004/5 is estimated at slightly over 5 million, down from nearly 6.5 million the previous year, with a significant drop in Angola from 1.4 million to slightly over 700 000. This report provides the most up-to-date statistics of the regional food situation and is an ideal companion piece to the Morris mission report.

<http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000910/index.php>

**Hunger and vulnerability in southern Africa**, a DFID regional strategy paper, January 2004, 16 pages

The recent humanitarian crisis in southern Africa has highlighted the need for a rethink of food security in the region. The need is to strengthen national and regional approaches to tackle underlying problems and improve sustainable access to food for people. This strategy is part of DFID's response to these issues. It sets out DFID's assessment of the main factors contributing to food insecurity in the region and outlines four areas where the organisation will deliver support through a three-year programme to improve regional food security. It emphasises that strong links between these four areas are important for promoting greater commitment from governments and the private sector to sustainable improvements in food security.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000867/P979\\_DFID\\_HungerVulnerability\\_Jan2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000867/P979_DFID_HungerVulnerability_Jan2004.pdf)

**Innovative approaches to meeting the hunger MDG in Africa**, Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on the MDGs and Director, UN Millennium Project, July 2004, 6 pages

Sachs calls on World and African leaders to use the powerful new tools of science and technology to launch a 21<sup>st</sup> Century African Green Revolution. There are proven technologies to improve agriculture, water supply, health and agricultural extension services, energy supply, and access to credit. Low income countries should develop MDG-based poverty reduction strategies and action plans to address specific challenges, while developed countries should increase development assistance – in the form of grants rather than loans – cancel the debt of poor countries, adopt a global plan of action to achieve the MDGs, and open their markets to the developing world. Readers might also want to access the Swaziland and Zambia MDG country reports on the SARPN website.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000902/P1014-Sachs\\_AUSeminar\\_July2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000902/P1014-Sachs_AUSeminar_July2004.pdf)

**Food security, livelihoods and HIV/AIDS: a guide to the linkages, measurement and programming implications**, Save the Children Fund, August 2004, 36 pages

This guide introduces managers and technical staff to the links between the two areas of food security and livelihoods, and HIV/AIDS and reproductive health, the focus is on the economic impacts of AIDS including

loss of labour and the costs of health care. These impacts have results that vary from successful coping to household dissolution and are best understood using a sustainable livelihoods framework. The study looks at ways of measuring the impacts and translating the linkages between the two areas into programmed responses. An important review, building on lessons learnt during the last few years.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000898/P1010-FS\\_Livelihoods\\_HIV-Aug2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000898/P1010-FS_Livelihoods_HIV-Aug2004.pdf)

**Measuring impacts of HIV/AIDS on African rural economies**, T S Jayne, informal presentation at SARPN, Pretoria, July 2004, summary 5 pages, presentation 29 slides

The two postings are a summary of the presentation and ensuing discussion, and a PowerPoint presentation. Professor Jayne's research monitored impacts on rural households in five countries over time in order to test the assumptions made about the impacts of AIDS in macroeconomic studies. The research (in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zambia) indicates that circumstances in particular situations influence whether high or low income sectors have the highest HIV prevalence levels. Initial vulnerability and the particular household members infected play an important role in determining the severity of impacts. The research points to the importance of taking particular circumstances into account in determining support strategies, and the need for both overall economic growth to raise livelihoods and incomes, and targeted support for those affected.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000861/P975-TJayne\\_HSRC\\_July\\_2004.ppt](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000861/P975-TJayne_HSRC_July_2004.ppt)

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000861/P975-TJayne\\_HSRC\\_July2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000861/P975-TJayne_HSRC_July2004.pdf)

**Community managed targeting and distribution of food aid: a review of experience of Save the Children (UK) in southern Africa**, December 2003, Ellen Mathys, Save the Children (UK), 55 pages

Community managed targeting and distribution (CMTD) is designed to enhance community participation and leadership, based on the principle that beneficiary communities are best placed to identify and target the most vulnerable or crisis-affected households in their communities, and to undertake and manage the distribution process. This report evaluates the application of CMTD in varied settings in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Malawi. In each setting the approach was adapted to the local context, giving rise to significant differences in targeting guidelines and procedures, the issues raised and the success of the programmes. While the best results were achieved in Tanzania and Malawi, the challenges of the Zimbabwe situation are receiving attention. The report notes the considerable preparation time required to implement this approach but recommends it for the long term community benefits that local management and participatory decision making bring.

<http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000911/index.php>

**Economic pathways for Malawi's rural households: report on preliminary research conducted in Malawi in October 2003**, discussion document, Caroline Pinder, CARE Malawi, 20 pages

Poverty in Malawi is deep rooted and structural. Provision of humanitarian relief and safety nets can alleviate its symptoms but will not reduce the vulnerability of households to future crises. Solutions need to address

- economic exploitation, particularly related to gender, lack of basic human rights and inequalities in the market and the inadequacy of traditional safety nets, and
- weak governance, particularly corruption and the failure of traditional institutions to move from patronage to a rights based approach.

Securing sustainable livelihoods means moving towards full participation in a modern democracy where people can exercise their human rights at local and national level. These issues need further debate, and further research to look at the impacts of long-term food insecurity and HIV/AIDS, at improved access to

credit for rural households, and at existing farming systems and ways to change them. The author welcomes comments on the paper.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000904/P1018\\_CARE\\_Malawi\\_Econ-pathways.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000904/P1018_CARE_Malawi_Econ-pathways.pdf)

**Social pathways from the HIV/AIDS deadlock of disease, denial and desperation in rural Malawi**, Deborah Fahy Bryceson, Jodie Fonseca and John Kadzandira, CARE Malawi with the Regional Network on HIV/AIDS, Rural Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL), 42 pages

This is a companion piece to the 'economic pathways' document above. Using qualitative and quantitative information it details the social and political context of present day Malawi, discusses the nature and prevalence of HIV/AIDS, looks at social and cultural factors influencing vulnerability to the disease, the experiences of infected people and the impact on affected households and communities. The document discusses the conflicts experienced by traditional leaders as local administrators and the constraints this poses for rights based approaches at local level. It recommends separating political, economic, cultural and religious leadership roles and instituting democratic elections for local government leaders; educating farmers on land rights; and re-instating fertiliser 'starter packs' for a trial period. AIDS needs to be addressed in terms of the forces propelling it in rural areas rather than as an offshoot of the epidemic in urban areas. This should include measures to reduce vulnerability and promote positive behaviour. These documents, released to SARPN by CARE, are important additions to the substantial literature on Malawi's food crisis.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000906/P1019-Malawi\\_Social-pathways\\_May2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000906/P1019-Malawi_Social-pathways_May2004.pdf)

**Executive summaries of the Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia community and household surveillance system reports on food security and livelihoods**, World Food Programme and C-SAFE, May 2004, 9 pages

CHS data is collected quarterly by WFP and C-SAFE at sentinel sites in these three countries. The purpose of the CHS is two-fold: first, to compare the livelihood and food security status of beneficiary households with that of non-beneficiary households; second, to identify and describe trends or changes in the livelihood and food security status of targeted vulnerable groups in the areas of operation. The reports contain a mass of data on household dynamics, coping strategies and develop a Coping Strategies Index. The executive summary provides details of where the individual country reports may be accessed.

**url.**

**A study to determine the links between HIV/AIDS, current demographic status and livelihoods in rural Swaziland**, Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC), Mbabane, 2004, 86 pages

The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee carried out a nationwide survey of rural areas in Swaziland to analyse links between HIV/AIDS, demographic trends in the country, and possible changes in livelihoods and food security that may be occurring as a result. The aim is to support policy decision making and programmatic interventions (including targeting) in the context of high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates that are influencing demographic trends. The field survey focused solely on rural areas and was carried out in May and June 2003 with staff from the Central Statistical Office (CSO). Findings include that a decline in fertility and a rise in mortality are the main determinants behind the declining population growth rate in Swaziland. Further analysis of the data set is recommended and will provide geographic and socio-economic disaggregation of findings. An initial analysis of the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural livelihood patterns implies that there is a qualitative shift occurring, with households changing their income sources to cope with loss of income from crops sales and remittances. Overall, further analysis of the current data set is recommended to improve our understanding of the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural food security and livelihoods.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000829/Swaziland\\_VAC\\_May\\_2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000829/Swaziland_VAC_May_2004.pdf)

**Special report: FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission to Swaziland**, FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food Supply and Agriculture, World Food Programme, 23 pages

Late and below average rains have undermined Swaziland's food security for the fourth consecutive year. With cereal production estimated at 64 000 tonnes, import requirements for 2004/5 are estimated at 132 000 tonnes. With commercial imports likely to come to about 100 000 tonnes the uncovered deficit requiring international assistance is estimated at 22 000 tonnes. Livestock production is likely to offset the impact of crop failure to some extent. Food aid should be targeted to offset the impact of HIV/AIDS and support households with no access to available food and agricultural inputs. A total of 262 000 people will face food and income deficits and around 28 355 tonnes of food or income equivalent will be needed for the year.

<http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000907/index.php>

**Annual vulnerability monitoring report, May 2004**, Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee (Swazi VAC), 65 pages

Swaziland's economy remains depressed with the 2003/4 growing season marking the fourth consecutive year of below average cereal production. Combined with high levels of household vulnerability this has left many Swazi households in crisis. Other factors include declining employment and the virtual collapse of the Lowveld cotton industry. The condition and numbers of livestock have declined over recent years due to poor grazing and water shortages, and depressed cereal production has led to increases in the price of maize. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has also helped to weaken livelihood strategies and entrench poverty. The report calls for a comprehensive, government led disaster response strategy, an integrated safety net system, job creation, improved agricultural production, water services in rural areas, better communication and understanding of government policies and a sustainable vulnerability monitoring system within government.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000829/Swaziland\\_VAC\\_May\\_2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000829/Swaziland_VAC_May_2004.pdf)

**Special report Zimbabwe**, July 2004, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Rome, 14 pages

The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to Zimbabwe estimates this year's cereal production at just over 950 000 tonnes. This implies a national cereal import requirement of 1.2 million tonnes to meet projected requirements of 2.35 million tonnes. Anticipated government and commercial imports are likely to make up 285 000 tonnes, leaving an uncovered cereal deficit of about 325 000 tonnes, which will have to be met by additional commercial imports and/or food assistance. An estimated 30-40 % of farmers may run out of food by June/July and the ongoing economic crisis is likely to inflict further hardships on the urban and rural poor. The Zimbabwe VAC report (still not released for public consumption) does indicate that 2.3 million rural people will not be able to meet their food needs in 2004/5.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000854/P971-FAO\\_Zimbabwe\\_5July2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000854/P971-FAO_Zimbabwe_5July2004.pdf)

**Community assessment of socio-economic development and food security in Zimbabwe, June and July 2004**, Civic Monitoring Programme/FOSENET August 2004, 15 pages

Civic organisations in Zimbabwe have been monitoring food security in the country since July 2002. This latest report, covering June and July, notes that about two thirds of households source food from their own harvests; that a falling share of districts reported improvements in food availability in the two months of the survey and that food stocks remain relatively low. But the reported food security situation is better than in the same period in 2003. However the high and increasing price of commercial food is a major problem in a third of the district surveyed, particularly for poor households in urban areas.

<http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000915/index.php>

**The power of propaganda: public opinion in Zimbabwe**, 2004, Annie Chikwanha, Tulani Sithole and Michael Bratton, Afro Barometer, working paper no. 42, 30 pages

Based on a national sample survey of public opinion this report notes that most Zimbabweans feel they are worse off than their parent's generation and many report experiencing food insecurity. They feel government has not succeeded in creating jobs or reducing the gap between rich and poor. Despite this, support for the ruling party has increased, relative to 1999, although it is still below 50%. In contrast support for democracy has declined to less than 50% in 2004, and there is growing acceptance of the idea of one party rule. The report explains this apparent contradiction by pointing out that some people benefit directly from ZANU-PF patronage, others are afraid to express their views openly, the effect of a concerted government propaganda campaign since 2000, and widespread disenchantment with the deadlock between ZANU-PF and the MDC.

<http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000899/P1020-AfropaperNo42-Zim-3aug04.pdf>

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## Land reform

**Land reform highlights in southern Africa, 2003-4**, Independent Land Newsletter, June 2004, 13 pages

This is the first edition of a newsletter that was initiated as a result of consultations between land experts and land reform stakeholders in southern Africa in the first half of 2003. It contains overviews of the situations in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It ends by noting that the fast track process in Zimbabwe, although controversial, has had a major impact on the perceptions of many Africans, demonstrating that massive expropriation of white owned land could offer an alternative to the painfully slow progress made by the willing-seller willing-buyer model. The newsletter is in a formative stage and readers are invited to make suggestions on ways to improve it.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/livelihoods/landrights/downloads/ind\\_land\\_newsletter\\_sth\\_afr\\_june\\_2004.rtf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/livelihoods/landrights/downloads/ind_land_newsletter_sth_afr_june_2004.rtf)

**To have and to hold, women's property and inheritance rights in the context of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa**, Richard Strickland, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, June 2004, 105 pages

The study starts from the premise that poverty, which constrains household options and leads to risky choices, is partly responsible for driving the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, and that gender inequality, power dynamics in sexual relations and women's lack of economic empowerment relate directly to poverty. It looks at the determinants of property rights and the consequences of loss in five African countries, Kenya, Lesotho,

Malawi, Namibia and Zambia. It goes on to look at the policy context and at examples of good practice in local and national activities. The study ends with suggested next steps in the fields of: legislation and reform; litigation, judicial capacity and legal services; education and awareness; organizing and networking; and research and evaluation. Readers might also wish to access the recent report of the UN Secretary General's Taskforce on Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa (also posted on SARNP's www) since it covers many of the same issues.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000864/P962-ICRW\\_ToHaveToHold\\_June2004.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000864/P962-ICRW_ToHaveToHold_June2004.pdf)

**A rich man's hobby**, Robin Sherbourne, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), December 2003, 7 pages

The policy of the Namibian Government is to encourage black people to purchase land and become commercial farmers. However, this paper argues that the high price of commercial farmland in Namibia means that returns from farming are not sufficient to pay off loans to buy land. As a result farming is becoming a lifestyle choice for the urban rich rather than a profitable economic activity. This is bound to cause frustration, and new farmers will demand increased subsidies to purchase land and diversify into other activities that will enable them to make and income. Government will face the choice of increasing subsidies to broaden land ownership or accept that land reform will only benefit those who can afford to farm.

<http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000643/P654-IPPR.pdf>

**The land question in South Africa: the challenges of transformation and redistribution**, Cheryl Walker, Human Sciences Research Council, Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust Conference, Cape Town, 25 – 27 March 2004, 12 pages

This study sets out to look beyond the feel-good sentiments frequently expressed about land reform to what it can realistically achieve in the context of competing priorities and limited state capacity. Walker argues that land reform should focus on restitution for those who lost land in the recent past, legal recognition of customary land rights, state acquisition of rural and peri-urban land for poverty relief projects, and legislation, policy and practice to enhance women's economic and social status. Deracialising commercial agriculture, while an important objective, will have little impact on rural landlessness and poverty. The paper goes on to look at what land reform can realistically achieve, discussing the tension between national outcomes and local process, and structural constraints that will continue to confront and constrain current or alternative land reform programmes. It then looks briefly at the difficulties land restitution beneficiaries face in re-establishing viable rural communities.

[http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000823/P926-Wolpe\\_Walker.pdf](http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000823/P926-Wolpe_Walker.pdf)

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