

7. Promotion of urban health programmes as evolving models for intersectoral collaboration and health advocacy

7.1 Contributing towards the development of a Human Development Strategy for the City of Johannesburg

The City of Johannesburg has developed a 10-year plan for fighting poverty and promoting human development. The three key points are:

- ♦ safeguarding and supporting poor and vulnerable households,
- ♦ championing rights and opportunities, and
- ♦ building prospects for social inclusion.

Various Centre partners were involved in the identification and contribution of data to the preparation of background reports and informing the final strategy. Liz Thomas (MRC) participated in the reference group for the preparation of the Johannesburg Human Development Strategy.

In cooperation with representatives of the City of Johannesburg and the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) at the University of Johannesburg is developing a Johannesburg focused baseline household study on human development. The primary aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of households, livelihoods and urban poverty. The data gained in the study will serve two broad purposes:

- ♦ to inform human and social development policy and programmes; and
- ♦ serve as a baseline evaluation for a possible longitudinal or panel study of 3000+ households in the city's three poorest administrative regions.

The Principal Investigators are Professors Leila Patel and Thea de Wet, together with Mr Marcel Korth, who is a junior researcher on the project.

The City of Johannesburg's Human Development Strategy represents the City's plan to fight poverty and inequality, and promote human development. The complexity of urban poverty requires a detailed analysis and understanding of households, their livelihood strategies, local level social Organization and their implications for urban social policy.

The study will benefit the City of Johannesburg in at least four ways:

- ♦ it will provide a baseline for the monitoring of the City's Human Development Strategy;
- ♦ it will provide the City and other relevant stakeholders with vital information on changing trends in households, intra-household dynamics and livelihood systems;
- ♦ it will establish a foundation for future policy



formulation to address poverty, inequality and social exclusion; and

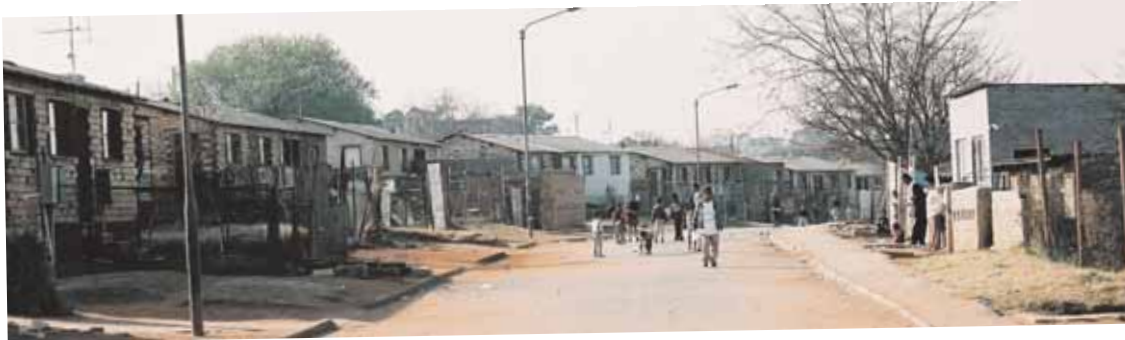
- ♦ it will contribute to improved planning and implementation of the Joburg Triangle's three strategic areas of intervention:
 1. safeguarding and supporting poor and vulnerable households;
 2. championing rights and opportunities; and
 3. building prospects for social inclusion.

The empirical framework for the study is informed by Beall and Kanji's analytical strategy on households, livelihoods and urban poverty. Beall and Kanji's strategy analyses the linkages between households and larger-scale economic, social and political processes. In addition, an adapted livelihoods framework will serve to inform an in-depth analysis of:

- ♦ changing household trends in the city;
- ♦ intra-household dynamics like production and reproduction processes, decision-making powers and social relations, gender relations, as well as coping strategies.

As part of the preparatory work for a comprehensive project proposal, the Centre has engaged in multiple activities. Firstly, existing data and research on human development in Johannesburg was identified and a comprehensive bibliography was compiled. Secondly, preliminary qualitative data on composition and household size was collected from two dozen households in Soweto and Orange Farm. More qualitative data will shortly be collected in other areas of the City, including high-density inner-city areas and informal settlements. Thirdly, a survey of 100 registered households (account holders with the City) and 50 non-registered households (non-account holders, e.g. informal settlements) will be conducted during the coming weeks. This will serve to test household definitions formulated from the qualitative research already completed, and pilot some of the questions to be included in the proposed baseline study discussed above.

This study will make a significant contribution to the City's implementation of its Human



Development Strategy. Data collected will assist the City of Johannesburg and other stakeholders in implementing appropriate social and human development programmes that benefit the city's poor. The study will make a contribution to bringing about sustained improvements in the well-being of the individual, family, community and society at large. It is expected that the study will contribute to the broader aim of building a truly *World-Class African City for All*.

Cost:

Funded by the University of Johannesburg (R100 000), Development Bank of Southern Africa (R50 000) and the City of Johannesburg (R50 000).

7.2 Addressing HIV as a developmental issue

There is a growing awareness of the impact of HIV on families' coping strategies, communities, and local government. In the light of a lack of policy guidance at a national, provincial or local level, the MRC has committed itself to a focus on HIV as a developmental issue. A range of initiatives is underway in conjunction with a range of partners.

Cost:

Funders for HIV and development policy is INCA Capacity Building Fund for over R600 000.

The HIV/AIDS Directorate of the Johannesburg Health Department has prepared a draft strategy called *Jozi Ihlomile*. The strategy aims to address HIV in informal settlements through a multi-pronged developmental strategy including a range of partners. Initially, the work has focused on six pilot sites. Here, volunteers, who were paid a stipend, have been commissioned to, inter alia, undertake a survey of community needs. The MRC has been asked to assist the City of Johannesburg in the evaluation of the study questionnaire, and to advise on the development of an ongoing monitoring and evaluation system. Further, preliminary analysis of the data in one of the settlements, Sol Plaatje, has highlighted a range of needs and informed the approach. The analysis has been undertaken for Johannesburg, in part by a student working on

her Master's in Development Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Ms Tsholofelo Thabane, under the supervision of Liz Thomas.

A joint funding proposal has been submitted to the Canadian CIDA by Planact, the Medical Research Council and the City of Johannesburg to fund a two-year health focused community development approach to address HIV/AIDS in Sol Plaatje and Ivory Park. The funding will help to implement the *Jozi Ihlomile* project as a pilot and advise the steering committee on how the initiative should be rolled out in the whole of Johannesburg.

The acting Chief Director focusing on HIV and local government in the National Department of Provincial and Local Government, has expressed interest in the approach being used as a model for other informal settlements. Further, this is of importance as the new national housing strategy 'Breaking New Ground' has paid limited attention to HIV and social development issues in the new national informal settlement development policy. The idea of documenting good practice and making it more accessible via video and electronic media has been supported. The Chief Director of Research in the National Department of Health has supported the idea of making resources available to documenting good practice at a local level such as that likely to emerge in *Jozi Ihlomile*.

Cost:

A Johannesburg City funding application was submitted to Canadian CIDA, proposal over R1 million pa.



The way forward

The emphasis over the past year has been on further consolidation of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Urban Health as a partnership. This has been achieved through the initiation and implementation of a number of joint projects and programmes. Key among these has been the commencement of the Health, Environment and Development Study in Johannesburg, in which all of the partner Organizations are vital participants, the ongoing Registrars' Environmental Health Placement Programme and sharing in the challenge of hosting the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology. Over the next year, efforts will continue regarding the building of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre as a partnership.

A key concern for the future is the way in which the Centre will "add value" to existing initiatives

and how the Centre identifies and responds to critical research questions. In this regard, an important event on the Centre's calendar will be the strategic planning meeting scheduled for 29 November 2005. Among the objectives of the meeting will be to:

- * review the terms of reference;
- * decide on critical future projects;
- * develop a fund-raising strategy;
- * develop a strategy to increase the Centre's relevance to the World Health Organization-AFRO; and to
- * initiate the development of a 'marketing/communications' strategy.

An important output of the strategic planning meeting will be a five-year plan that will guide the Centre in the years to come. Input from the Advisory Panel will be of particular importance in this regard.

Annexure 1: Members of the advisory panel

- * Dr Thuthula Balfour, Development Bank of Southern Africa
- * Ms Jackie Friedenthal, Department of Science & Technology
- * Professor Trudy Harpham, South Bank University, London (chairperson)
- * Professor Anthony Mbewu, South African Medical Research Council
- * Professor Sue Parnell, University of Cape Town
- * Dr Ram Saloojee, Gauteng Provincial Legislature
- * Dr Tim Wilson, National Department of Health