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Poverty and Vulnerability Crisis Facing Amathole District Municipality of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa

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The paper is an evaluation of poverty problems in the Amathole District. Despite numerous policy initiatives there is a lack of research that shows improvement. Data used to examine how poverty conflict has impacted neighborhoods, individuals and how policy action programs this paper was performed in the six local municipalities of Amathole District Municipality and also with intentionally selected officials. Results reflect a multitude of problems with children already facing a variety of challenges, such as a high risk of deprivation, hunger and neglect. The study ends by proposing that government implement a participatory inclusive approach.

Key word: *Food Insecurity, Vulnerability Factors, Poverty, Unemployment, Interventions*

INTRODUCTION

The start of South Africa's democratic transition in 1994 brought with it the high expectations that poverty, unemployment and inequality would be drastically reduced from the very high rates that had prevailed during the Apartheid period. These expectations, however, do not seem to be as prompt and effective as expected. Instead, deprivation, unemployment and injustice have continued to be a pain in the neck of the new government. The food shortage is one of the signs of those challenges. The definition of 'food scarcity' refers to circumstances where food is not readily available, while households face difficulties in obtaining sufficient food for them (Du Toit, 2011); it also means that people are living with hunger and constant fear of starvation (Reddy and Moletsane, 2011).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Despite steady economic growth and development in many parts of the world, the food insecurity and malnutrition continues to affect a significant proportion of the global population. Millennium Development Goal 1 acknowledges that malnutrition and food deprivation are the central afflictions of the poor, and explicitly aims at halving the proportion of the world's extremely poor and hungry. While the situation has shown some change since the 1990s, the rate of enhancement remains well below that needed to achieve these goals. The latest figures from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) suggest that 823 million people are undernourished in developing countries, which is 23 million more since 1996. Nevertheless, the proportion of undernourished citizens in developing countries has dropped to 17 percent over the past 10 years, as the overall population has risen faster than the undernourished part. There is increasing evidence that there are considerably higher numbers of people who remain vulnerable to food insecurity (FAO, 2006). Concepts of food health, insecurity, and disadvantaged and food deprived groups are often used in the literature and among practitioners with specific connotations. The following are key principles and terminology used for the purposes of this study:

Food Security

According to the 1996 World Food Summit (FAO , 2004), there is food protection when all people have physical and economic access to adequate , safe and nutritious food at all times to fulfil their nutritional requirements and food preferences for an active and balanced life. This concept includes access to and quality of food, food supply, and the biological use of food. These factors are inextricably related. Access to food means nothing if poor health status affects the willingness of people to use the food they consume. Similarly, earning money to buy food (access) matters less when there is insufficient food on the market. And, a well-stocked economy is meaningless to those who don't raise money to buy food. Thus, designing food security policies and strategies involves an understanding of each of these variables, their interrelationships and their importance to different groups of people.

Vulnerability

The "at all times" element of the concept of food security relates to the consistency over time of the other three food safety variables. This can be interpreted using vulnerability definition. In the sense of food insecurity, this refers to the tendency in the future to slip, or stay, below a specified level of food health. Vulnerability is a function of and resistance to risk / shocks. Risks / shocks are occurrences that threaten the access, quality and use of food to people and hence their state of food security. Resilience in the sense of food security is often defined by the efficacy of risk management approaches at various levels (through prevention, mitigation and coping) and by the tools (household, society, extra community) that can be drawn on. Vulnerability appears to correlate positively with the probability and effect of a shock, and negatively with resilience and its determining factors.

FOOD IN/SECURE AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The word "vulnerable groups" will be used in the sense of this research study to refer specifically to both the potentially food insecure and the food insecure. Looking at both parts allows the complex existence of food insecurity (and poverty) to be taken into account, as demonstrated by multiple studies, and the fact that, over time , people shift into and out of food insecurity (Baulch & Hoddinott & Dercon, 2005; FAO, 2005). Although the findings vary, the reasons that possibly make people food insecure or keep people in food insecure are mostly the same (FIVIMS / FAO, 2002). Potentially food insecure groups include people whose food status is "living on the edge." While they are not food insecure at the present time when their food safety is evaluated, it is highly likely that they will become so at a later stage of their living. Apparently most people in this category are at risk of being subjected to a negative shock / trend that makes them food insecure due to their risk management capabilities. Those capable of recovering from these shocks are considered insecure transitory food. Chronically food deficient classes consist of individuals who are still below a food safety level and who are unlikely to emerge in the near future from this. Consequently, the actually food poor and food deficient may be viewed as a non-discrete spectrum of food security. It is highly complex to pass through this (i.e. from food insecurity to possible food insecurity and vice versa) (see Box 1).

POTENTIAL RISK

Persons vulnerable to shocks and transitory food shortages are highly sensitive. Seasonal occurrences (such as flooding or reduced availability of food during the pre-harvest period) or unexpected circumstances (such as work-related injuries or illness) cause them to suddenly become food insecure when their capacity to handle a shock is small. We are food insecure when potentially food insecure individuals can no longer fulfil their minimum food needs because the adverse pressures we face are too high and/or their capacity for risk management

is low. The transformation from potential food insecurity to food insecurity (and from food insecurity into potential food insecurity) is very complex and can occur rapidly.

PROBLEM OF THE STATEMENT

According to the WFP (2007), food insecurity and vulnerability are stated to exist in rural South Africa but differ regionally, with the country's central band showing the highest proportion of food insecure households. For instance, it has been shown that according to Ngumbela (2019), 55 percent of households in Amathole District of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa are food insecure. Ngumbela (2019) further reveals that there is also a high rate of between 24 to 27% of households that are vulnerable to food insecurity in Amathole District. Despite government and civil society action initiatives to tackle malnutrition, there is no question that food insecurity in different parts of the Eastern Cape Province remains a major problem and a recurring phenomenon. An overview of food production over the last 10 years shows variations in food production between surplus years often accompanied by years of food deficits. The central band shows the highest proportion of households who are food insecure, as stated by WFP (2007). A preliminary food crop production forecast survey conducted by the National Food Security Division for the year 2009/10 showed that most of the country's provinces had food deficits, consisting of some districts with high rates of vulnerability as stated by FEWS NET, 2009. The study therefore suggested that vulnerable areas will need to undergo an in-depth risk assessment for appropriate policy action. To that food insecurity over time, a thorough understanding of the factors that decide food insecurity today and, more significantly, those that will affect food insecurity in the near future is therefore necessary. This will include exploring the factors that actually threaten food insecurity for households in the study area and can therefore recommend the steps to be taken to remedy the situation. Therefore, this study will lead to new knowledge by defining and characterizing different vulnerable groups of people in Semi-Arid areas of South Africa's Eastern Cape Province based on their livelihoods, and also identifying factors that make them vulnerable. The expertise and insights gained through this project are intended to supplement established household / community and national evaluations, and to help bridge the gap between local knowledge and decision-making at national level. It is hoped that this study would highlight the need for greater support for food security policies and programs in South Africa. In this context, the results from this study will contribute to the development and strengthening of policies and programs related to food security that reduce vulnerability and thus increase food security for a larger proportion of the country's population.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The overall objective of this study was to examine the Dynamics of Food Insecurity and Vulnerability in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province Amathole District Municipality and thus create a basis for the establishment of an information system to track food insecurity and vulnerability in the province. Amongst other things the study will be specifically aiming to:

1. Identification of food insecure and disadvantaged households in the region studied.
2. Analysis of food insecurity factors for households and susceptibility to food insecurity in the study area.
3. Investigating possible policy alternatives that could enhance current and future food health by reducing vulnerability.
4. Define key measures for better informing policy processes to enhance food security for vulnerable groups.

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is prudent to explore and articulate the nexus between theories and the challenge of poverty tension in the review of the relevant theories which guide this study. This research adopted two theories who will better frame it. The two theories are basic needs approach and systems theory. One of the most common techniques to measuring absolute poverty in developing nations is the basic needs approach. It tries to define the bare minimum of resources required for long-term physical well-being, usually in terms of products consumption. Food, along with water, shelter, and clothing, is a typical list of immediate "basic requirements" (Dennis et al, 2008). The poverty line is then established as the amount of money required to meet those requirements (ILO, 2014). Other 'necessities,' such as clothing, housing, fuel, and sundries, were added to this. This is how the concept of a "basket of basic requirements" came to be. The notion was tested in the United Kingdom in 1901, (Rudra, 2009). The basic needs model focuses on measuring what was thought to be an eradicable degree of poverty in the field of development studies. Water is a valuable resource for people who utilize it for household, agricultural, and industrial purposes. In this study, the basic needs approach is appropriate since it focuses on allowing society to consume just enough to get above poverty and meet its basic needs. The systems model is the same as what is referred to as systems analysis (Brazilian et al., 2011). That is, it is a practical philosophy for conducting decision-oriented interdisciplinary research, a perspective on how to best assist a decision maker faced with complex problems of choice under uncertainty, and a method to investigate how to best aid a decision maker faced with complex problems of choice under uncertainty (Alexander et al, 2011). The Systems model (SM), according to Fox et al. (2006:42), is a response of the political system to society's goals, challenges, requirements, wants, and demands, compromising both people and interest groups. In this instance, municipalities, as part of government institutions/entities, should ensure that all people, even those formerly classed as disadvantaged, have access to services (Helmsing, 2000). As local government bodies, they must establish and manage their administration, budgeting, and planning to prioritize people' basic needs and services while also encouraging community socioeconomic development.

METHODOLOGY

This study will be carried out in the six Local Municipalities of Amathole District Municipality of the South African Eastern Cape Province whose households will be randomly selected to represent the district's semi-arid areas. The region is chosen for the study because it has a history of persistent food shortages. After conducting a research survey within the area, the selection of the six local municipalities will be made to know the variations of the question of food insecurity. The six Regional Municipalities will represent the province's most and least affected areas respectively. The target population for this analysis would consist of all households, an interview with the head of the household shall be carried out for the purpose of this report. Where the household is a child-headed household, consideration will be given to the next household due to concerns surrounding research ethics.

DATA ANALYSIS

Information review and evaluation of the collected data from the focus group and face-to - face interviews was carried out using frameworks to promote the writing of references and studies. To interpret and present the findings, the data were analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods with thematic analysis.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The ethical clearance for this research article was accepted by the Scientific Ethics Committee at Fort Hare University; the reference number for the certificate is REC – 270710 – 028 – RA Level 01. The Health and Social Development Departments of Eastern Cape and the Municipality of Amathole District in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa, granted ethical clearance for this report. After an in-depth clarification of what was required of them during their voluntary participation in the study, the participants received informed consent. The option to participate was given to both government officials and development observers (such as scholars and experts in the field of poverty studies) and they were told that they could withdraw from participating without being penalized at any time. The research posed a small risk of discomforts or feelings felt by participants while thinking about their experiences. The privacy of all participants was safeguarded by the use of card numbers as identification codes and discussion of findings was conducted in such a way that the privacy codes could not distinguish participants. Anonymity and fairness rules were ensured for the participants during their interaction, as all participants were given the opportunity to express their experiences without bias or coercion by the researcher. The study will have indirect value for the participants as their exposure to the built tool would be of benefit to the province's potential policy imperatives.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The South African government through its national planning commission, developed a blueprint for development that is called National Development Plan (NDP), alternatively known as vision 2030. The primary intention of the plan is to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by developing human resource capabilities to enable active citizens to grasp all available opportunities for sustainable development. The provincial governments are currently busy developing their respective long range plans to cascade the NDP to their geographic areas in a manner that will ensure synergy with the national developmental trajectory. Consequently, local government is expected to develop their localized long term development plans to give effect to the realization of the national's long term vision. It is on this score that the ADM identified a need to develop its own long range plan that will be referred to as ADM vision 2030. The development of Amathole District Municipality (ADM) vision 2030 forms part of the 2012-12017 Integrated Development Plan and 2014/15 SDBIP. Guided by the national and provincial imperatives, the starting point was to conduct a situational analysis of ADM that sought to lay a solid foundation for the development of vision 2030 for the entire district. It is of critical importance that ADM vision 2030 aligns itself to both the National Development Plan and the Provincial Development Plan. The key elements of the NDP serve as a guide for ADM to grasp their implications and find the local meaning of such elements.

The Amathole District Municipality was official demarcated after the local government elections of December 2000 during the establishment phase of South African municipalities. The district is situated on the eastern seaboard of the Eastern Cape, and stretches from the Indian Ocean coastline in the south to the Amathole Mountains in the north, and from Mbolompo Point (just south of the Hole-in-the-Wall along the Transkei Wild Coast) in the east to the Great Fish River in the west. It is one of six districts within the Eastern Cape, and is the 3rd largest in terms of population, behind the O.R Tambo and the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan areas. It is bordered by the Cacadu, Chris Hani, and OR Tambo municipalities. The District covers a land area of roughly 21 229km². The geographic area of the district municipality has suffered a major reduction in size due to the re-demarcation process that occurred prior to the 2011 local government elections. Buffalo City Local Municipality used to be one of the eight local municipalities of ADM but has since been categorised as the metropolitan municipality. The re-demarcation process resulted in the district being compared of six local municipalities which are Amahlathi, Great Kei, Mnquma, Mbhashe, Ngqushwa and Raymond Mhlaba. Despite the new district demarcations, which directly affect the economic and socio-economic figures of the Amathole region, Buffalo City Metro and ADM continue to share inter-regional trade and administrative services as before, and the status quo is expected to remain in the future The Amathole District Municipality is made up of two former homelands of Ciskei and Transkei. A significant part of the former Ciskei homeland is located within Amatole District, and this has influenced the region's population growth. Population density is high in settlements along major transportation routes including the N2 (Butterworth &Dutywa), the R72 (Peddie), the R63 (Alice) and the N6 (Stutterheim). In the main

consideration should be made for three principal categories of assets which are physical, natural and human. Physical assets consist of human-built infrastructure that is strongly related to economic activity. The second category is natural resources and the services they provide, including water, waste material and energy. It is very important consider this category in planning due to the interdependence with humans for their sustainable livelihood and economic prosperity. The third categories are humans human taking into consideration their health and educational status for effective and sustainable development.

In terms of the population growth, the overall negative growth in the district has huge implications for the future. This may cause dilemma in planning as there is a possibility of making wrong decisions in providing social and economic infrastructure like clinics, schools, economic hubs, etc that may end up being white elephants without utilitarian values. Negative population growth which is sometimes referred to as "Under-population" is usually defined as a state in which a country's population has declined too much to support its current economic system. This is highly unlikely for the district due to the broad based population pyramid which reflects a baby boom with a potential for procreation. Population dynamics influence economic growth, employment and poverty, and the management of assets.

Health indicators

The Amathole District's health statistics indicate only 37.7% of all pregnant women perform an antenatal visit before the 20 (of 38) week period, which is below the national average of 44%, but an increase from the district's 23.4% in the 2007/2008 review. The average Amathole person, when requiring a hospital stay, stays for 5.5 days, above the average of 4.2days, and the national target of under 4 days. Both of these could indicate that poor transport infrastructure and low socio-economic status lead to complications in health care. High Average Length of Stay numbers can also indicate that the health facilities are ill-equipped for efficient treatment cycles.

The Amathole District has the 4th highest rate of deliveries from teenagers younger than 18, and the 3rd highest rate in the Eastern Cape behind Alfred Nzo and O.R Tambo Districts. Alternatively, the Amathole District has the lowest maternal death rate in the province, with only 18.8 deaths per 100 000 births. Post birth, Amathole has only an 80.7% immunisation rate, 13% below the national average, indicating that almost 20% of all children born in the district do not receive vaccinations, and are at risk of Hepatitis B, Measles and Polio. The Amathole District has one of the highest Tuberculosis occurrence rates nationally, with 3.53% of all suspected TB cases confirmed. This figure is well above the national average of 2.4% and the target of 2%. However, the Amathole District has the lowest number of reported cases per 100 000 people in the Eastern Cape, with only 591 reported cases, below the national average of 687, per 100 0005. The lower ADM incidence of TB does not necessarily mean that it is not a serious problem for the district, as only 72.8% of all reported cases complete treatment successfully, and only 61.8% are cured.

Main Demographic Challenges

The main demographic challenges for the Amathole District are:

- Poverty, with 59% of the district population earning under R 1 600 per month
- Education, with only 19% of the population having completed Matric or higher qualifications, and;
- HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis remain national, provincial and district level concerns for South Africa, although the Amathole and Eastern Cape situation is improving slowly.

HIV/AIDS Occurrence

Antenatal HIV prevalence is around the national average of 29%, indicating that 29 babies from every 100 HIV-positive pregnant women are HIV-positive. The availability of Anti-Retro Virals in the district is among the lowest in the country, with only 62% of eligible children receiving the drug. Provincially, HIV/AIDS remains a problem with 11% of the provincial population diagnosed as HIV-positive, and 27% (9 000 deaths) of all deaths (33 000 deaths) as a result of HIV in 2013.The success of Anti-Retro Virals is evident, in that the number of people who are consuming ARVs is increasing, with 28 000 adults (of an estimated 100 000 HIV-positive people) and 2 000 children (of 3 200 HIV-positive children) in the ADM currently on the drug in 2012/2013 period.

Biodiversity and natural resources

In its analysis of the strengths of the District Area, the workshop noted amongst other things the region is endowed with natural resource and could its biodiversity as a key investment and marketing tool. The region contains significant portions of natural forests and numerous game reserves. The game reserves in the district, while well run and can be profitable and could also be marketing to derive greater economic benefit are however challenged by the infrastructure issues. These relate to the road network for accessing these game reserves. There has been some investment in the road network in the 5 year in the Wild Coast game reserves. It is critical that the Provincial Government and the District Municipality pull resources together to ensure that maintenance of the network is carried out timeously.

Ocean Economy

The district is host to a third of the provincial coast or marine resources. The national government through operation phakisa has identified the ocean economy as one the key drivers of economic growth in the next 10 years. The District has to leverage this commitment by the national government as a mechanism of mobilising resources to build an ocean economy. The challenges associates with illegal sand mining next to the coast line have to be dealt with as matter of urgency. The long term vision has to outline a strategy of placing the ocean economy

at the centre of economic growth drivers. Key to the growth the ocean economy in the region is the need to pay particular attention to the Wild Coast and the coastal area near Ngqushwa. It is important that the region raises the level of investment in infrastructure to access the coast and mobilise the participation of the private sector.

Heritage and the tourism potential

The district also a history of massive heritage that can be turned into economy and in particular drive the tourism strategy of the region. Most colonial wars were indeed fought in the district. These include Fort Fordyce, Fort Malan, Fort Beaufort and Fort Hare. These historic sites have to market in a manner that goes beyond history towards a tourism package that includes hospitality. The district is also host to historic educational institutions where the leadership of the country graduated. The University of Fort Hare produced Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Robert Mugabe, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, etc. This role of the District as source of education empowerment by distinguished leaders of the country and the continent has to exploit to the benefit of the regional economy.

Favourable climatic conditions and agricultural potential

The region also possesses favourable climatic conditions including areas that have higher prevalence of rain fall. Umbhashe and Mnquma have the best climatic conditions with favourable rain fall. However this advantage is not being utilised to the benefit of the regional economy. The agricultural potential associate with the favourable climate conditions has not exploited fully. The region has not invested in irrigation schemes that can ensure that communities in the Mbhashe and Mnquma area move away from subsistence towards commercial agriculture. Areas such Great Kei with comparative less climatic conditions continue to be the centre of agricultural activity in the region. Amongst other constraints to the growth of the agricultural sector in the region is the land tenure system in the former Bantustan Area. However, the district can still put measures in place to support higher agricultural production using the expertise available in the Great Kei municipal area as base.

Weaknesses of the District

Low skills base and its impact on economic growth

While the region is host to 4 higher educational institutions (University of Fort Hare, Walter Sisulu, Fort Cox, Lovedale Further Education and Training,), data from census 2011 shows that the majority of the population does have post matric qualifications. The district has to develop a tailor made strategy for the raising the educational levels in the region. Such a strategy has to be aligned to the long-term vision of the region and in particular the emerging core drivers of the economy. The current offerings by the higher educational institutions to contribute to the skills base of the region. The Provincial Department of Education and the

institutions have to be engaged in a programme that sets out a human resource development strategy of the regional that is aligned to Vision 2030. Particular attention has to pay to skills that are required in the infrastructure development arena and the requirements of the ocean and agricultural economy amongst others.

Fiscal formula and its impact on the delivery of infrastructure

The challenge of delivery infrastructure to the rural parts of the region is further compounded by the absence of reliable source of finance. The District is currently depends on conditional grants that are made available by National Government. The fiscal formula for the allocation of funds to municipalities does not favour the district. The district as host to 2 former Bantustan areas has to deal with the challenge of massive infrastructure backlogs. The current formula used by the National Treasury does not take into account the presence of these backlogs inherit for our apartheid past in the determination of the allocation of resources. It is therefore critical that the district explore creating means of mobilising resource to deal with backlogs in water, sanitation, transport and other economic needs. These backlogs constrain the capacity of the region to grow at levels that can deal decisively with underdevelopment and poverty.

Settlement structure and the cost of delivery bulk infrastructure

In addition to the infrastructure backlog of the former Bantustan areas, the district is confronted with the challenges of settlements that sparsely distributed. The rural villages of the district are located in areas that have the most complicated topography. This results in high costs of delivering bulk infrastructure such as water and electricity. These communities have an expectation that these service must be delivered in line with the requirements of the constitution. The regions own revenue cannot sufficiently provide for bulk infrastructure in these areas. A conversation with other spheres of government is required to deal with this challenge as it is not unique to the district.

Legislation on land ownership

The district's economic development landscape, in particular the agricultural activity by the plethora of land related legislation that is derived from the existence of the Bantustans. These pieces of legislation have not been harmonised into one piece. This has a negative impact in the drive of the district to bring foreign direct investment in a context where land ownership and acquisition is not guaranteed. The district has identified the Wild Coast as growth node but this areas land is locked in the old land dispensation that governed the former Transkei.

Opportunities

It is clear that the district has massive opportunities in the areas such as the ocean economy, agriculture and tourism. However the district has to undertake an in-depth review of the binding

constraints to the growth of these other sectors. Such a review must determine the interventions that required based on an analysis of the binding constraints and institutional weaknesses. Based on such a review, it is crucial that programmes for intervention be packaged on the basis of both the economic benefit and the impact on poverty and unemployment. The workshop identified that following opportunities that need packaging and collaboration with the other spheres of government and the private sector. The Province prides itself as having a coastline that can be developed into an attractive tourism venture that can contribute towards food security especially by the communities that are next to the coastline. Also within the province there are four (Universities of Fort Hare, Rhodes, Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu) institutions of higher learning who can assist the province through research and development and contribute on the formulation of viable food security strategies who can drive hunger and vulnerabilities away and come up with viable and sustainable policy directions that can assist on the food value chain. Amongst other things the province prides its self with the flora and fauna with its beautiful biodiversity of the area since it's one of the coastal provinces of South Africa that can also boast ecotourism which can be promoted as an economic game changer.

Threats

In developing Vision 2030, the District Planners have to take into account challenges that the district cannot control but that can have negative consequences to our ability to successfully transform the development landscape of the district. We have package a mitigation strategy that minimise the impact of the external factors in the implementation of the programmes that must underpin the long-term vision. Amongst the threats that are facing the province is the lack of rural development that results in rural migration into South Africa's urban centres. The citizens who migrate into these urban centres are mostly without skills and are in search of economic opportunities which also makes it impossible for them to be absorbed by the labour markets in the urban nodes. Also in these urban centres the people from rural areas find it difficult to cope because they are unable to pay rates and taxes that are required by the municipalities for operational exercises.

Key elements of Vision 2030

A process of developing a framework for the long-term vision had already been outlined. Such a framework will be based on a well-researched diagnostic process. The diagnostic report will set the key structural constraints to a higher growth and development path for the district. In addition to the diagnostic, the framework will review the existing programme of the District Municipality and other stakeholder and set out a process of strengthening the programmes that have improved the lives of the citizens.

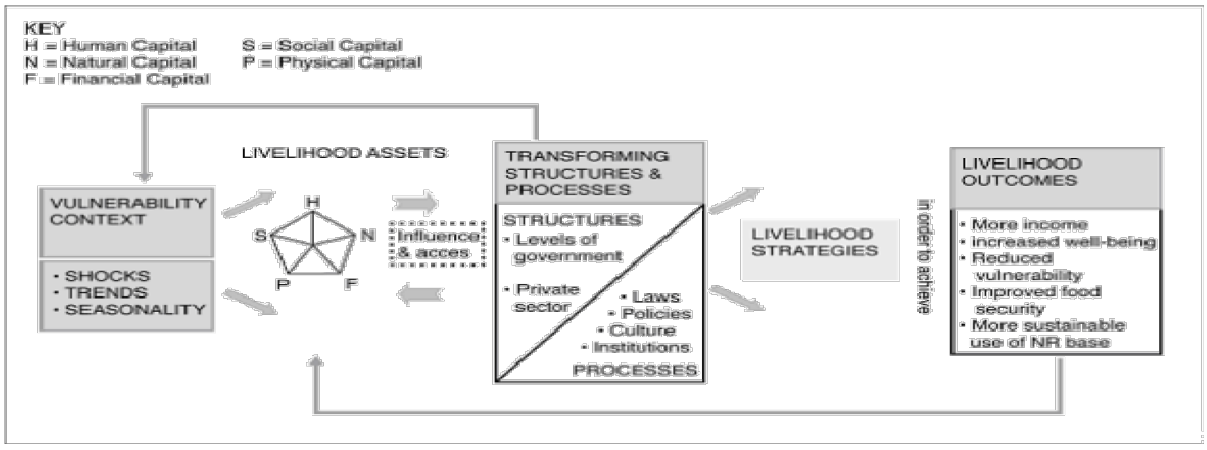
Clearly the district is characterised by a number of positive institutional issues such stability and the ability to deliver infrastructure such water and sanitation. It is therefore important to understand the reasons for such improved performance despite fiscal allocation challenges. In

addition the framework must set out a strategy of mobilisation of both resources and other institutions that are relevant to development.

A LIVELIHOODS APPROACH TO FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS

A working concept of livelihoods given by Ellis (2000) is: "... the assets (natural, physical, human, financial and social capital), the activities and access to them (through institutions and social relations), which together decide the individual's or household's acquired living." The vulnerable community profiling methodology outlined below draws directly from the sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) developed by Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The SLA offers a forum for analyzing how people are going about making a living. It helps to understand how people combine the various assets they have access to in order to undertake behaviors to achieve a survival objective, within the framework of policy and insecurity they are embedded within. The SLA is a multi-sectoral approach that allows for the multidimensionality of factors affecting food security to be taken into consideration. It provides a way of looking at the macro-, meso- and micro-connections, thus accounting for the fact that household food security is determined by factors at the household level such as food production but also by factors at the macro-level such as inflation, devaluation, changes in the world markets. Through this way, the correct form and best level of interventions can be defined for improving food safety. The participatory principles on which the SLA is based indicate that the viewpoints of different stakeholders, including those whose food security is being studied, are included in the study via its implementation. This contributes to enhancing the ownership and accuracy of findings, and thus the success of the interventions that follow.

Figure 1: Sustainable Livelihood Framework



Source: Department for Internal Development (DFID) cited in Shahbaz, 2008

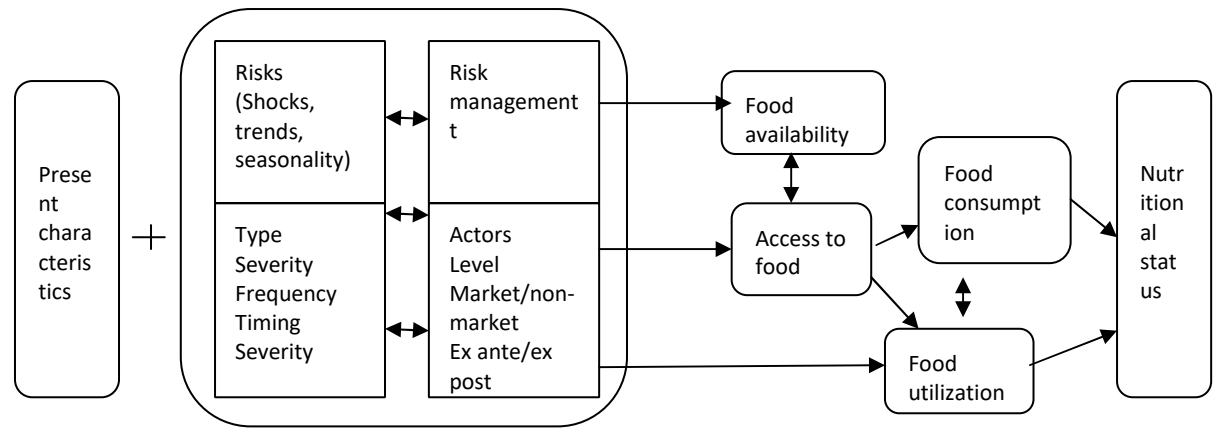
Vulnerable Group Profiling (VGP) will be used to examine the multiple factors influencing relatively homogeneous groups' food insecurity: their properties, external factors influencing their lives, their own behaviour, the resulting intermediate outcomes and their ultimate food security status. The most important criterion for identifying common livelihood groups is

source of income (often closely linked to location based on relatively homogeneous living / agro ecological zones). The VGP is a easy and relatively low cost tool for developing a local knowledge-based overview of vulnerability and food insecurity. To refine the study of people sharing similar livelihood structures, subgroups within each livelihood community are identified and organized along a "continuum of vulnerability" This tool helps express the relative degree of vulnerability of different subgroups and the main features of each. This may include asset base e.g. land access, physical asset geophysics characteristics, future alternative livelihood strategies, diet and nutritional status. The essence of the study involves the application of a longitudinal perspective and the use of a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to allow a lot about the vulnerability of the households to food insecurity. A longitudinal approach applies the time limit to the study of the various reaction patterns of the household to different events in its course of life (Pennartz and Niehof, 1999). A full spectrum of results and reactions to coping within a cross-sectional sample is hard to catch. Primary data collection approaches may include identification visits, tentative visits, main informant interviews, focus group conversations and household surveys. Secondary processing of data may require review of many recorded documents.

A MODEL OF VULNERABILITY TO FOOD INSECURITY

The model to be used in this analysis is based on the approach to social risk management (Holzmann and Jørgensen 2000; World Bank 2000) and, more precisely, the conceptual framework that Løvendal and Knowles (2005) have derived from it. In this context, vulnerability is the product of a recursive process: current socioeconomic characteristics and risk exposure decide the future characteristics of households and their capacity for risk-management. The current food security status of households is affected by their past status at every point in time, and affects their future status.

Figure 2. Vulnerability to food insecurity. Conceptual framework



Source: Hamelin et al., 1999

Houses have a two-period lifetime consisting of the present (t0) and the future (t1), as in the family of economic models with "overlapping generations." Houses and policy-makers are aware of the present characteristics and assess the actual food security status of households. On the other hand, households and policy-makers are uncertain of potential characteristics. Between the present and the future (t0-t1), a variety of previously unknown variables (i.e. risks of different kinds) manifest themselves and decide the future food security status based on the risk management capabilities of households (as measured through various dimensions, including e.g. food consumption and nutritional status). Both the actual food security status and future status aspirations decide over a period of time the overall food security condition of the households. Given that the food security status of each household is being evaluated in the present but includes aspirations for the future, this model's vulnerability to food insecurity is complex and forward-looking. The theoretical model presented here captures the recursive structure of the conceptual system in two ways: on the one hand, it econometrically specifies the relationship between a measure of food safety status (food intake expressed in kilocalories) and a collection of household characteristics; on the other hand, it describes how the current characteristics, Risks and capacity to handle risk impact the probability of a favorable (or unfavorable) potential state of food security. This can collect data from both primary and secondary sources. Specific approaches would be used to collect primary and secondary data from respondents, such as survey techniques, using questionnaire, interview schedules, focus group meetings, expert and main informant interviews, and analysis of different records from desks. The data will be analyzed using various methods.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the fact that for any country to be successful in fighting poverty and vulnerability participatory and consultative process of developing poverty fighting strategies need to been set in motion. The collaborative strategies are very critical to mention as there is still a lot of work to be done in order for the district win the war on poverty. Intensive consultative and participatory sessions are necessary to ensure that there is broad consensus among all social partners. These should include inputs and comments from both the representatives from communities, businesses, rate-payers, traditional authorities, NGOs and CBOs, the political and administrative leadership of all local and district municipalities, provincial and national government departments, parastatals and interested individuals.

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