

Oct/Nov 2017

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### The Crucial Role of local CSOs in helping communities reduce poverty

The NDA is mandated through the act of parliament, to contribute towards the reduction of poverty and its causes by granting funds to CSOs that carry out projects and programmes aimed at meeting the developmental needs of poor communities and strengthening their institutional capacity so that they could sustainably provide direct services to poor communities. The NDA has funded organizations that respond to the community needs thus creating better livelihoods for the poor.

The economic conditions and standard of living in the different provinces and municipalities in South Africa indicates vast differences in the quality of life enjoyed by respective communities. It is also notable that poverty in some areas has a clear geographic dimension referred to as poverty pockets. Poverty mapping and analysis of indicators of human well-being is an increasingly important instrument to investigate and discuss social, economic and environmental problems. The household is considered to be both the producing and consuming unit.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have a crucial role in bringing local people into the mainstream of development and in establishing new forms of linkages with government. CSOs must be capacitated and developed in such a way that they gradually begin to demand services and resources from public and private institutions for various projects that will benefit the well-being of their communities. Development and capacitation of CSOs will increase both public and private sector services and resources, thus increasing demand for these services and resources.

In the rural areas, CSOs are not always well supported or developed as in the urban areas. Charles David Kleymeyer (1994) states that grassroots development is a process in which disadvantaged people organize themselves to overcome the obstacles to their social and economic well-being. It is people-orientated. Poverty issues cannot be addressed by the Government alone, rather they need partnering with businesses and other CSOs. In businesses, the Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programmes must begin to support more poverty alleviation programmes by allocating some of their resources not only uplifting communities but poverty alleviation as well. Furthermore, the programmes should conduct impact assessments to monitor and measure the actual poverty reduction, especially in the poverty pockets identified and the CSO activity. This will curb the challenges faced

such as economic exclusions, lack of access to basic services in certain wards, poor health services and inequality and unemployment.

South Africa has experienced slow economic growth. The low growth levels have created a number of human development problems which are coined as poverty, inequalities and unemployment. The unemployment in South Africa went up to 27.1 % in the third quarter of 2016 from 26.6 in the previous period. The number of economically active people who become unemployed due to labour instability is very high. The Department of Education provides safety nets for the poor through supporting meals at school and providing school uniforms. The development of cooperatives as a way of job creation is established and supported. It becomes the role of CSOs to develop programmes that would address poverty by engaging with government and the private sector. Programmes must be focussing on issues of reducing poverty and improving the livelihoods of the poor.



**Dr Anthony Bower-Acting:**  
Chief Operations Officer

The NDA has been funding projects that tackle child poverty and access to education through ECD programmes, Rural and agricultural development programmes (Food Security and School-uniform) and

## What's Inside?

Page 2



Meet your National Development Agency leaders

Page 2



The crisis of increasing poverty in South Africa: what is the role for civil society in addressing this?

Page 3



Breast cancer as a Developmental issue in South Africa

Page 4



Rewarding ECD excellence to improve Early Learning in South Africa

Women-led programmes. CSO Mobilisation and empowering is based in the poor municipalities to enable local CSOs to access funding that is available and utilise it according to their critical community development objectives. Economic growth that is pro-poor to reduce inequalities is necessary. Households and communities must be empowered to take advantage of new opportunities and therefore reduce

dependency on Government and develop sustainability. CSOs need to drive the implementation of programmes and ensure that benefits reach the poorest households in communities. They also need to improve technical support in implementing projects. Fighting poverty is the responsibility of all. The fight must involve all sectors of society, all spheres of government, business, voluntary and

community organisations. Every sector must play its part. The NDA supports a concept of developmental local government that promotes civil society participation at local government level regarding planning and implementation of integrated community development programme.

Article by: Dr Anthony Bouwer-Acting: Chief Operations Officer

## Meet your NDA leadership



**Mrs Thamo Mzobe**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Mr Ben Morule**  
Senior Manager Office of the CEO



**Mr Ben Makgae**  
Company Secretary



**Mr Sugar Ngcobo**  
Corporate Services Executive



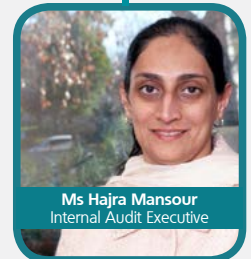
**Ms Cheryl Yeni**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Mr Bongani Magongo**  
Development Management and Research Executive

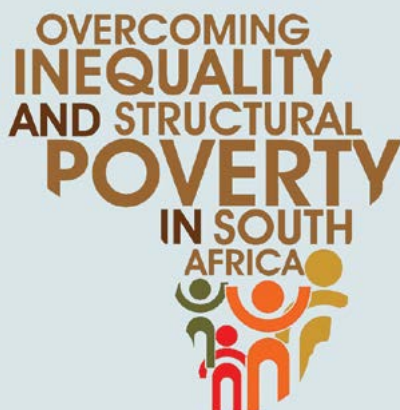


**Dr Anthony Bouwer**  
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## The crisis of increasing poverty in South Africa: what is the role for civil society in addressing this?



On 22 August 2017, the Statistician General Pali Lehohla, released a disturbing poverty analysis report

that analysed comprehensive poverty trends between 2006, 2009, 2011 and 2015. The take home message that sounded the alarm nationally was that while poverty levels had fallen generally between 2006 and 2011, between 2011 and 2015, poverty, measured by all three poverty lines, had substantially increased. One in four people (13, 8 million people) in 2015 were found to be food poor, and over half the population, or 30,4 million people, fell below the upper bound poverty line in 2015 of R992 per person per month.

This is a critical report for a number of reasons. Poverty, as we know, hampers human development and the productive potential of a person in life. As such, it has a knock on effect on the ability of people to add to the economic upliftment of the country. However, it also means that more than half of all South Africans are not able to enjoy the fundamental right to dignity as guaranteed in our Constitution. Moreover, the report further shows how this poverty is not equally spread across the population. South Africa is an upper middle income country. Historical dispossession and inequities are clearly demonstrated in this report, along

racial, gendered and age dimensions. Just one example of this shows how little we have been able to transform the apartheid patterns: in 2015, households headed by a white person on average had an annual household expenditure that was FIVE times more than that of a household headed by a Black African person – R350 937 per annum compared to just R67 828 per annum. This does not even take into account the fact that in general more people are dependent on this household expenditure in a black headed household than in a white headed household. Civil society organisations (CSOs) that are committed to social and economic justice and transformation need to examine our practice with regard to how we seek to remedy this.

The National Development Agency, established in 1998, was tasked with a serious responsibility in this regard. In terms of section 3 of the Act, its objectives are to 'contribute to the eradication of poverty and its causes' by providing funding to CSOs to meet the needs of poor communities, to strengthen the ability of CSOs to provide direct services to poor communities, to

promote consultation and social dialogue between CSOs and the state, to promote debate about development policy, and, finally, to undertake research to provide the basis for development policy.

In addition to this, all sectors of South Africa are obliged to realise the socio-economic rights of the Constitution. These include the rights to housing, to sufficient food and water, to healthcare, to social security and to basic education. These obligations are not just carried by the state, but all organs and sectors of South Africa due to the horizontal, as well as the vertical application of the Constitution, as had been confirmed by the Constitutional Court.

The State has committed itself to addressing poverty. Indeed, in the National Development Plan 2030, the State commits to ERADICATING poverty by 2030. The recent figures cited above however demonstrate that the extent of the crisis is getting worse, not better. Why is this? While the State has embarked on a variety of poverty reduction programmes, including social assistance grants, the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Community Works Programme, it is very important to realise that poverty in South Africa is structural – it is not the effect of a short term crisis. This, as indicated, has historical roots in the deeply wrong laws of apartheid that took people's land away from them, and prevented black people from accessing acceptable levels of education or having equal access to jobs or being able to start their own businesses.

It is vital to remember that land is not just about housing – it is also an asset that can enable people to grow their productive capacity and to use it to acquire financial

loans, etc. Sadly, in some of these instances, these historic trends are continuing today, with low educational levels in some rural and township schools leading to high school drop outs and low returns for people even with a Matric in obtaining decent work. Class, in addition to race, is now becoming a pressing obstacle to emancipation.

Employment levels – the traditional source of income – have fallen too. Unemployment levels that include the people who have given up looking for a job ('discouraged workseekers'), sit at over 36% of all working age people.

### So, what is to be done by civil society?

In work that SPII has undertaken over the last two years through community dialogues and community human rights mapping, it is critically clear that communities are crying out for information and education about their rights and how to access these, and also what remedies are available when these procedures are not followed by duty bearers. CSOs usually have a far more direct relationship with communities and community structures than any organ of the State, even local government. This is an immediate role that CSOs can play in addressing people's deficits in enjoying their socio-economic rights. Social dialogue is also another vital process that should be used to build people's agency in terms of articulating the obstacles that they experience in accessing their rights, and also in identifying local solutions to local problems. CSOs should endeavour to bring together all stakeholders in these dialogues so that ordinary people can begin to see how political accountability can and should work around issues such as IDP planning

and annual IDP community reporting and decision making.

Monitoring is also a very important tool. The National Minimum Wage is due to come in to effect on 1 May 2018. This will mean that no one should earn under R20 per hour, or R3 500 per month for workers who work a 40 hour working week. CSOs should consider how to build responsive monitoring structures that can also educate people about this right and support workers who are not enjoying the protection of this and other laws.

Finally, we believe that certain policies, such as social security policy needs to change to meet the real needs of real people. There are no social grants available for able bodied working age people between the ages of 18 and 59. This requires urgent attention and remedying if we want to address the crippling levels of poverty and destitution that characterise the daily lives of so many millions of people in South Africa.

If we want to ensure radical social and economic transformation in South Africa, we within civil society need to commit to strengthening the capacity of people to claim their own agency in tackling structural poverty such as through the ways mentioned above, and we have a role to play as catalysts for ensuring the necessary dialogues between all stakeholders in South Africa to affirm the social cohesion that should bind us all together in this democratic South Africa of ours. We also look to the NDA to support the sector as we seek to be true to this commitment.

Article by Ms Isobel Frye Director, Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute



## BREAST CANCER AS A DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cancer is caused by an abnormal division of cells inside the body in an uncontrolled way. To date, researchers have identified more than 200 different types of cancer. It is important that the correct diagnosis is made earlier so that treatment could be started before it spreads to other areas of the body. The focus of this article is on breast cancer.

### Breast cancer

Breast cancer can occur in women and rarely in men. The symptoms of breast cancer include a lump in the breast, bloody discharge from the nipple and changes in the shape or texture of the nipple or breast. Treatment depends on the stage of cancer. It may consist of chemotherapy, radiation and surgery.

### Challenges facing South Africa

South Africa has a large rural population as opposed to urban areas. Women who live in rural areas are disadvantaged regarding access to appropriate information and access to services. Socio-economic status and educational levels also play a role in the ability of women to access treatment before the disease progresses.

### Factors affecting interventions that could save lives

» The default community messaging strategy is through material, written in English, which automatically excludes

most women living in rural areas.

- » The limited level of understanding of the disease processes, especially among the rural communities, due to mixed and often poorly understood messages communicated primarily in writing and in the English language, which tends to exclude the already marginalized.
- » Barriers in accessing services: Lack of infrastructure and equipment in many provinces as well as significant disparities and inequitable distribution of services, especially in terms of availability of specialised health care services in South Africa, render such services inaccessible to many.
- » Poor referral systems and problems with transport: In some cases where a woman has access to a primary health care facility for screening, the referral to the next level of care is delayed due to poverty or financial challenges.
- » Health care worker's skills: Inadequately trained health care workers delay diagnosis and referral to the next level of care.
- » Data accuracy: Cancer incidence is largely under-reported due to a lack of population based data/registry. The National Cancer Registry is a pathology based registry only, and is currently not up to date.

### Risk Factors

There are a number and variety of risk factors

that cause the complex multifaceted nature of breast cancer. The prevention strategies for the development of breast cancer includes knowledge of high risk factors including gender, age, family history, endogenous and exogenous hormone exposure, previous benign and malignant breast disease, breast density and lifestyle factors including tobacco use, lack of physical exercise and obesity. High risk – Potential high risk and known high risk includes women who are known to carry a breast cancer susceptibility gene mutation (e.g., BRCA1 or BRCA2) and women who have a strong family history with at least two first degree relatives affected, plus other features. LTR is between 1 in 2 and 1 in 4 (>25%). Covers less than 1 percent of the female population.

Women at moderately increased risk or greater risk should be encouraged to undergo yearly mammography from 40-50 years and yearly or biennial from 50 years onwards. Women should be reminded that most breast cancer is unrelated to a positive family history and any breast changes should be reported and acted on. Young women with a moderately increased risk of breast cancer or greater should have an annual clinical breast examination with a breast-trained healthcare provider from 10 years younger, than the age of onset for the youngest affected family member.



Gender: Females have a higher risk of developing breast cancer than males. The ratio of male to female breast cancers is 1: 1.35. Age: The risk increases with age. From 35 – 65 years there is a 6-fold increase in breast cancer.

**Patient Navigation**

Social support, whether tangible, informational or emotional, is necessary for women to adjust to life with breast cancer. Research has indicated that women who receive quality support have improved physical and emotional outcomes. This may be done via breast care nurses, NPOs or groups such as Hospice or local NGOs. For counselling assistance women in the

rural areas can contact FAMSA (Families SA) national office on 011 975-7106/7 to be directed to their nearby satellite office to get counselling.

While the global burden of cancer among women is substantial, there is also significant potential to reduce suffering and loss of life, as well as to alleviate the economic burden to individuals, families, and societies. Addressing this burden is particularly important not only for the potential for health impact, but also to confront gender inequalities and recognize the role of women as societal and economic participants as well as caretakers who influence the health of the whole family. With Acknowledgements to the Breast

Cancer Prevention and Control Policy of the national Department of Health, South Africa, 2017.

To get help in the form of counselling please contact CANSA on their Toll-free number: 0800 22 6622.

Phakamisa is a patient navigation process in place for breast cancer patients, for more information please contact your local cancer care Centre.

Article written by Lindi Xaji with assistance from Lorraine Govender (National Advocacy Co-Ordinator) from Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA).

**Rewarding ECD excellence to improve early learning in South Africa**

The National Development Agency (NDA) on Friday, 01 September 2017, announced the opening of applications for the South African Early Childhood Development (SA ECD) Awards 2017 which are open to practitioners, programmes and registered centres and organisations that demonstrate excellence and commitment to the development of young children and into the ECD sector across the country. The application phase of the awards ran until 31 October 2017.

The NDA, an agency of the Department of Social Development, will champion the awards for the fourth time this year after taking over the hosting of the awards from ABSA. The awards are hosted in partnership with the Department of Social Development, SASSA, Department of Basic Education, Department of Health, the South African Congress for ECD and UNICEF. The awards are hosted in two phases, the first being the provincial phase and second phase is the national awards.

The annual competition, now in its 14th year, presents monetary prizes, networking and training opportunities for provincial and national winners, calls for entries in the following categories:

- » Best ECD Centre of the year

- » Best ECD Practitioner of the year
- » Best ECD Publication of the year
- » Best ECD Trainer of the year
- » Best ECD Non-centre Based Programme of the year
- » Best ECD Programme supporting babies and young children with disabilities of the year
- » Best ECD Nutrition Programme of the year

The awards seek to develop and empower the ECD sector by recognizing excellence, innovation, best practice, dedication and participation throughout South Africa. The awards aim to promote the ECD sector and emphasize the importance of investing in early learning. The NDA also encompasses its capacity building programme through the awards. This is part of ensuring that ECDs as part of Civil Society Organisations are strengthened and empowered to respond to the needs of their communities.

“The NDA has embarked on an extensive programme to improve access and the quality of ECD for all children, particularly those in remote and rural areas. While we have made notable progress in this regard, much more still needs to be done. The NDA further made remarkable contributions towards ECD infrastructure, training of practitioners and in other capacity building interventions that lead to organisational strengthening. We aim to achieve more in the ECD sector through these awards and we are happy with the impact we have already made,” Mrs Thamo Mzobe, NDA CEO. With the call by government to

make ECD a public good, these awards play a critical role in accelerating the implementation of a comprehensive ECD programme. The ECD phase covering the period from the conception of the child to formal school going age. These awards also highlight the need for both civil society and the private sectors to recognise the importance of ECD programmes.

The awards are open to ECD practitioners, programmes and registered centres and organisations across the country to enter the awards by collecting entry forms at NDA offices.

The forms are received and adjudicated at provincial level for the provincial categories which are “Best ECD Centre and Best ECD Practitioner.” The provincial winners then progress to the National awards to represent their respective provinces and all the national categories are also adjudicated. The provincial custodians of the awards are the MECs responsible for the departments of Social Development in the respective provinces. The Minister of national Department of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini is the national custodian of the SA ECD awards. The SA ECD Awards continue to grow and have a great impact on the development of the ECD sector in South Africa. Through the awards and various NDA programmes targeted at the advancement of the ECD sector, the NDA is confident that improvements will be made in this sector to further accelerate efforts to improve the state of education in the country.



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