LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

LIMPOPO ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMME 2016

Contents

Acronyms

APS	Anti-Poverty Structures
APP	Annual Performance Plan
CDW	Community Development Worker
DTT	District Task Team
EXCO	Executive Council
ECD	Early Childhood Development
HOD	Head of Department
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
ICT	Information Communication Technology
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LTT	Local Task Team
LED	Local Economic Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEC	Member of the Executive Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PTT	Provincial Task Team
SGB	School Governing Body
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
StatsSA	Statistics South Africa
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMMEs	Small Medium & Micro Enterprises
WTT	Ward Task Team

Limpopo Anti-Poverty Programme

Definitions

Poverty: a "condition of deprivation below a minimum standard of living", a deficiency in individual's socio-economic capabilities.

Absolute poverty: the inability of people to meet basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing and medical care.

Relative poverty: a lack of income in relation to the average standard of living.

Chronic Poverty: prolonged stay in worsening human conditions of deprivation & capability deficiencies.

Dimensions: low or no income earning opportunities, lack of access to basic services, low individual and collective assets, low human development indices, low social development indices, racial and spatial manifestations of poverty.

1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

South Africa has been grappling with anti-poverty measures for a long period of time. Since 1994, the government has built democratic institutions, transformed the public service, extended basic services and stabilised the economy. Despite these successes, too many people are still trapped in poverty and we remain a highly unequal society. It has been proven that high economic growth does not necessarily lead to lower inequality and poverty. In order to achieve the objectives of eliminating poverty and reducing inequality, there is a need for faster progress, more action and more effective implementation.

The Executive Council took a decision that requisite tools and technologies should be procured to support War on Poverty programmes. It was further decided that resources should be made available to support Anti-Poverty initiatives. Since 1994, the Limpopo Provincial Administration has initiated Anti-Poverty initiatives in an effort to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to halve poverty by 2014. The United Nation has also adopted Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations has also adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This is reflected in the policies of the current administration as supported by the Provincial Government spending on social programs. The challenges inherited from the apartheid system are massive. They range from limited enabling socio-economic infrastructure in rural areas to the deliberate denial of basic services, access to infrastructure, assets, education and training to improve human capital, settlement patterns that placed the poor far from economic opportunities that discouraged the establishment of opportunities in those areas.

Much of government work is already aimed at addressing poverty and ensuring a better life for all and significant progress has been made in this regard. Anti-Poverty initiatives have been successfully mainstreamed into the planning and implementation of governmental programmes and in the budgeting process. Moreover, government policy orientation has been targeted to the poorest of the poor. However, there is still much to be done. The fight against poverty cannot be simply the responsibility of central government. It must involve all sectors of society, all spheres of government, and other part of the public sector, businesses, voluntary and community organizations. Success in tackling poverty and social exclusion requires that every sector plays its part; and there is a need to do national mobilization towards a common political and social goal.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LIMPOPO ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMME

The significance of the Limpopo Anti-Poverty Programme is as follows:

- To mobilize the most executive stakeholders in the province as a means to roll out the programme.
- To sell the benefits/rewards as an impact in the roll out programme.
- To support the programme with requisite resources for example, human resources, infrastructure and finances.
- To determine resources for rolling out the programme.
- To revive anti-poverty structures in the province, the district, local and ward level.
- To report monthly to the Office of the Premier on the progress made in the implementation of war on poverty projects and programme.
- To enable government to intervene in service delivery challenges in the most deprived wards.
- To enable government to intervene in households within the most deprived wards.
- To enable government to allocate resources to the vulnerable households of the society.
- To reduce poverty in the Limpopo province.

3. POVERTY MEASURES

There are two schools of thought that have emerged over the years with regards to the measurement of poverty (May, Woolard and Klasen, 2000).

When using money-metric/financial measures, poverty is interpreted in terms of the command over commodities that resources afford people via income and consumption (Lipton & Ravallion, 1995).

Multi-dimensional measurement sees poverty in relation to lack of important 'basic goods' or 'basic capabilities' which cannot be purchased by money as, they are under-provided by the market system. It argues that efforts should be made in measuring well-

being outcomes rather than focusing on one of its imperfect proxies (May, Woolard and Klasen, 2000).

4. CENSUS RESULTS 2011

Census results of 2011 shows a gradual decline in the percentage share of the total population in Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, and Limpopo since 1996. However, Western Cape, North West and Gauteng have recorded increase since 1996; Gauteng shows the largest increase of 1, 7 per cent, from 22, 0% in 2007 to 23,7% in 2011. The Northern Cape has remained constant between 2001 whereas Mpumalanga showed a decrease of 0, 2 per cent between 1996 and 2001; however, it remained constant between 2001 and 2007 at 7, 5%, an increase of 0, 3 per cent is seen in 2011.

In terms of household income, census 2011 reflects an increase, that the effects of inflation as well as the increasing access to jobs and a growing economy became better. The average annual household income increased in all nine provinces quite substantially between 2001 to 2011.

5. INTERNATIONAL POVERTY EXPERIENCE

The Millennium Development Goals Report: 2013 states that the new poverty estimates from the World Bank have confirmed 2012's findings, that the world reached the MDG target five years ahead of the 2015 deadline. In developing regions, the proportion of people living on less than $1.25 a day fell from 47% in 1990 to 22% in 2010. About 700 million fewer people lived in conditions of extreme poverty in 2010 than in 1990.

Extreme poverty rates have fallen in every developing region, with one country, namely China leading the way.

In China, extreme poverty dropped from 60% in 1990 to 16% in 2005 and 12% in 2010. However, poverty remains widespread in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, although progress in the latter region has been substantial. In Southern Asia, poverty rates fell by an average of 1 percentage point annually – from 51% in 1990 to 30% two decades later. In contrast, the poverty rate in sub-Saharan Africa dropped by only 8 percentage points over the same period.

6.   AFRICAN POVERTY EXPERIENCE

Despite this impressive achievement at the global level, 1.2 billion people, across the globe, are still living in extreme poverty.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region that saw the number of people living in extreme poverty rise steadily, from 290 million in 1990 to 414 million in 2010, accounting for more than a third of the people worldwide who are destitute

The figure below shows a rise in the middle class and an increase in poverty.
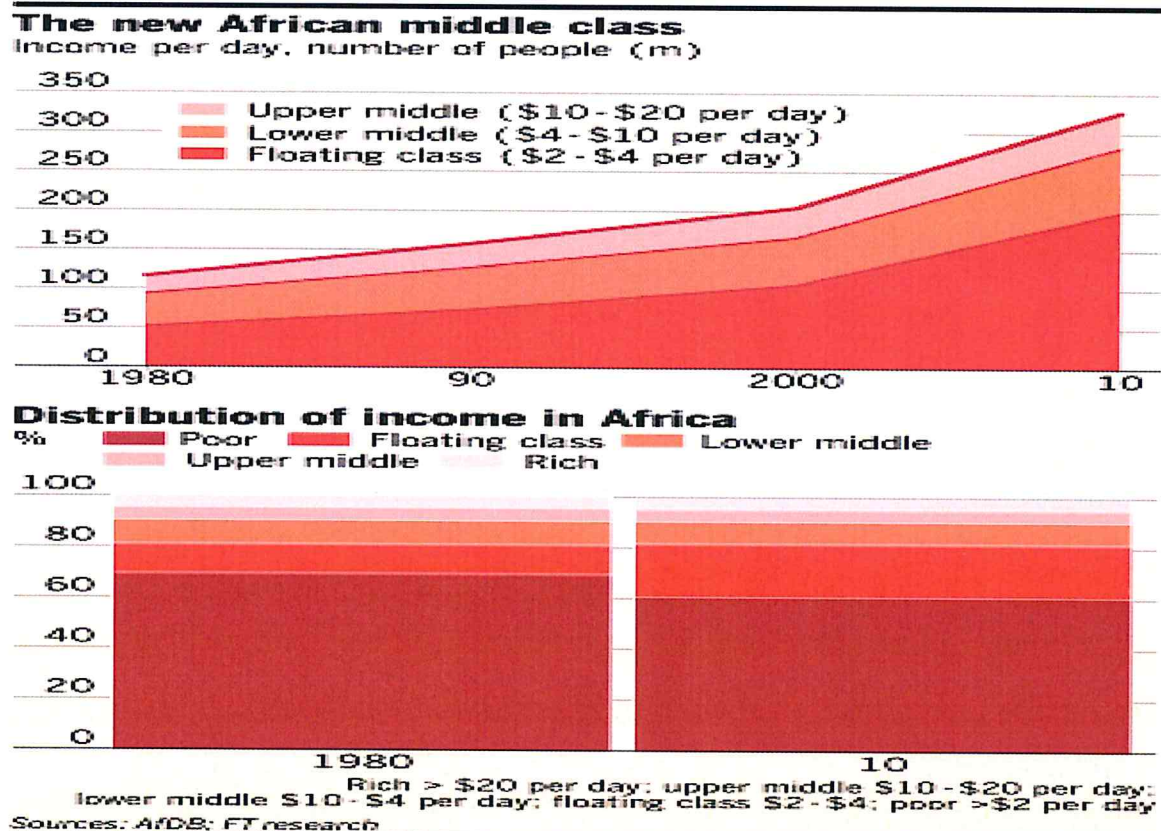
Figure 1: The new African Middle Class
Source: AfDB: FT research: 18 April 2014

7.   SOUTH AFRICAN POVERTY EXPERIENCE

In general, the majority of studies provide a convincing case that distortions and dynamics introduced by the apartheid regime produced poverty and perpetuated inequality. Distorted economic markets and social institutions are a major cause of poverty in South Africa. The poverty traps set by the apartheid system remain an important explanation of persistence of poverty in South Africa.

The Development Policy Research Unit study used per capita expenditure data to show a reduction in both absolute and relative poverty between 1995 and 2010. Evidence indicates that there has been progress in reducing poverty since 1994, whether using money-metric or multidimensional measurement. Despite gains in overall poverty reduction, women, children and people with disabilities remain especially vulnerable to poverty.

The South African government has initiated and implemented numerous policies and programmes to address the scourge of poverty and inequality. The proposal for an urgent War on Poverty programme was adopted by Cabinet as part of the government's priorities by the President. The South African Cabinet also took a decision to establish anti- poverty war rooms in all nine provinces.

Poverty line type	Value	Remark
Food poverty line	R305 per person per month	March, 2009 figures
Lower Bound poverty line	R416 per person per month	March, 2009 figures
Upper Bound poverty line	R577 per person per month	March, 2009 figures
International poverty line	$1.25 (R4.81) /person/day (or 146.3 per month)	Adjusted for PPP
International poverty line	$2.50 (R9.63) /person/day (or 292 per month)	Adjusted for PPP
Relative poverty line	20th percentile (538.1 per month)	
Relative poverty line	40th percentile (914.5 per month)	

Table 1: Poverty lines
Source: NDA 2014, State of poverty and its manifestation in the nine provinces of South Africa

Only three provinces have poverty incidences below the national average for all the poverty lines. These provinces are Gauteng, Western Cape and Free State respectively in order of increasing poverty incidences. The poorest provinces are Limpopo, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, respectively in order of decreasing poverty incidences.
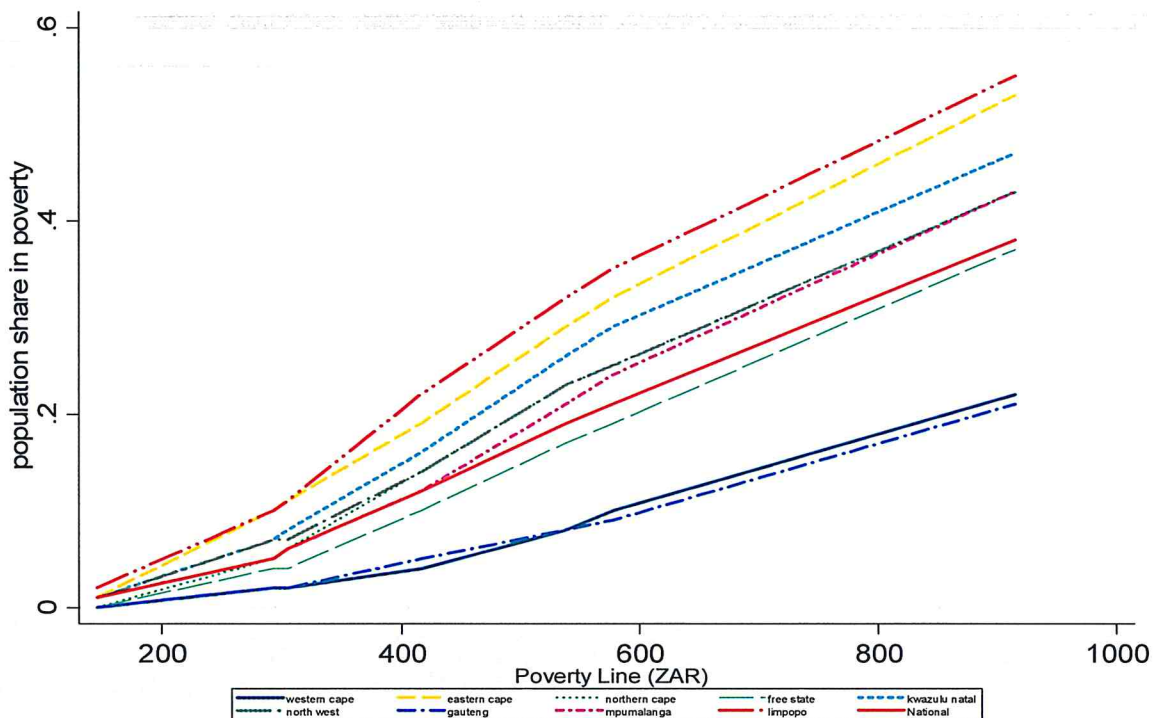
Figure 2: Poverty incidence sensitivity to poverty lines in 2010 data

The figure above compares provincial inequality (Gini coefficients) and poverty severity according to levels of poverty incidence. Poverty severity has a measure of inequality in it, but focuses only on the poor. It measures how unequal the poorest are from the poor. Therefore it is more appropriate to select other provinces based on the poverty severity rather than Gini coefficient.

8. LIMPOPO POVERTY EXPERIENCE

Limpopo has a population of 5.4 million and it is the fifth largest province in population size in South Africa (StatsSA, 2011). The largest district municipality with close to 1.3 million people is Vhembe which is located in the northern most part of Limpopo. It is closely followed by Capricorn, with 1 261 463 people. The district with the lowest population is Waterberg, with a population of 679 336. The wards with the highest poverty levels in the province are located in the Sekhukhune and Mopani District Municipalities.

Poverty Levels in 2010

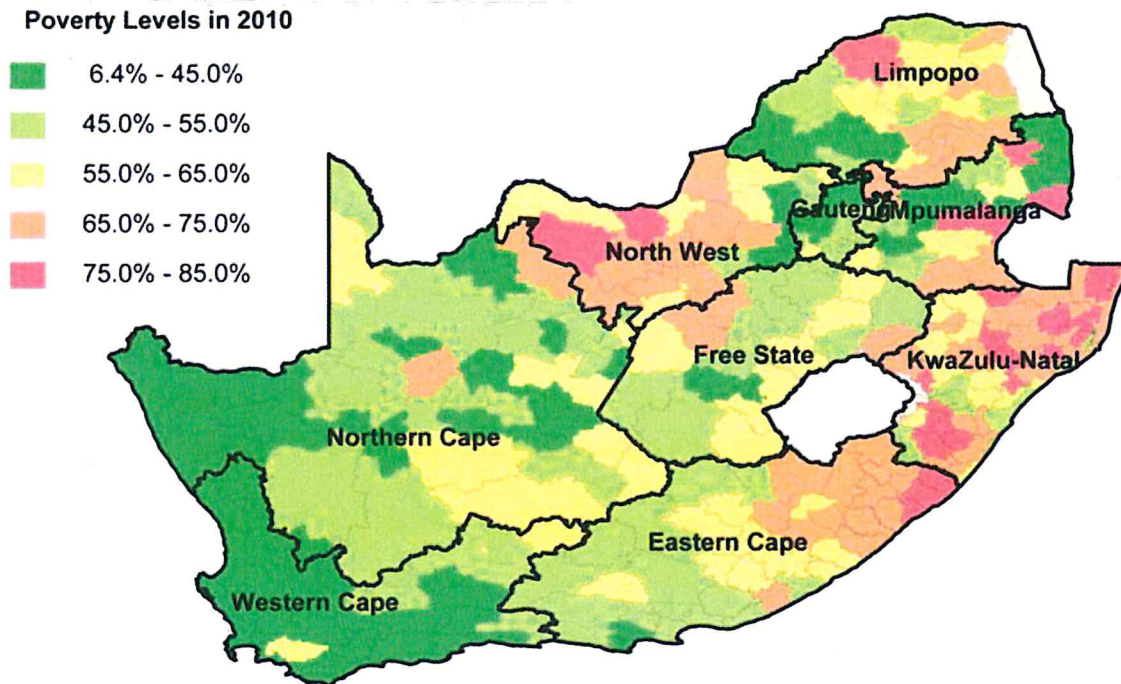|	
■ (dark green)	6.4% - 45.0%
■ (light green)	45.0% - 55.0%
■ (yellow)	55.0% - 65.0%
■ (orange)	65.0% - 75.0%
■ (pink/red)	75.0% - 85.0%

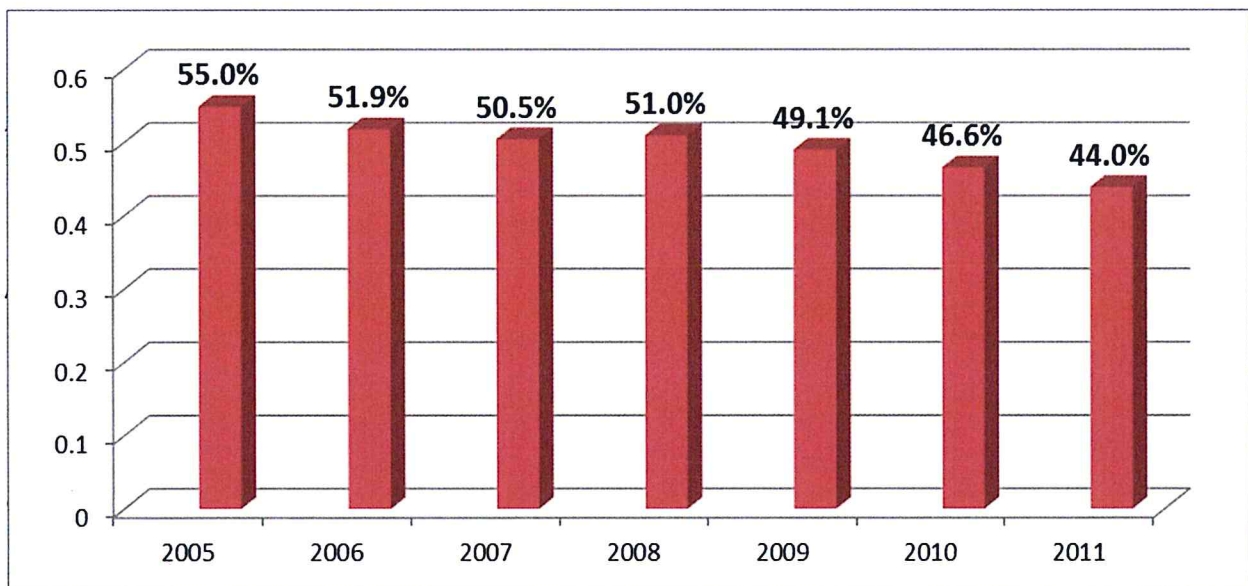**Figure 3: Incidence of poverty in Limpopo Province**

Figure 4: Percentage of people living in poverty in Limpopo (Source: IHS Global Insight Regional eXplorer version 658)

The graph above shows that the percentage of people living in poverty in the province has declined from 55% in 2005 to 44% in 2011.

9. MOST DEPRIVED WARDS AND MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

According to Statistics South Africa Indicators of Multiple Deprivation for Limpopo Province (2013) the following five domains were considered when most deprived wards in South Africa were identified:

Income and material deprivation

Employment deprivation

Education deprivation

Living environment deprivation

This serves to guide government on the prevalence of poverty in the province.
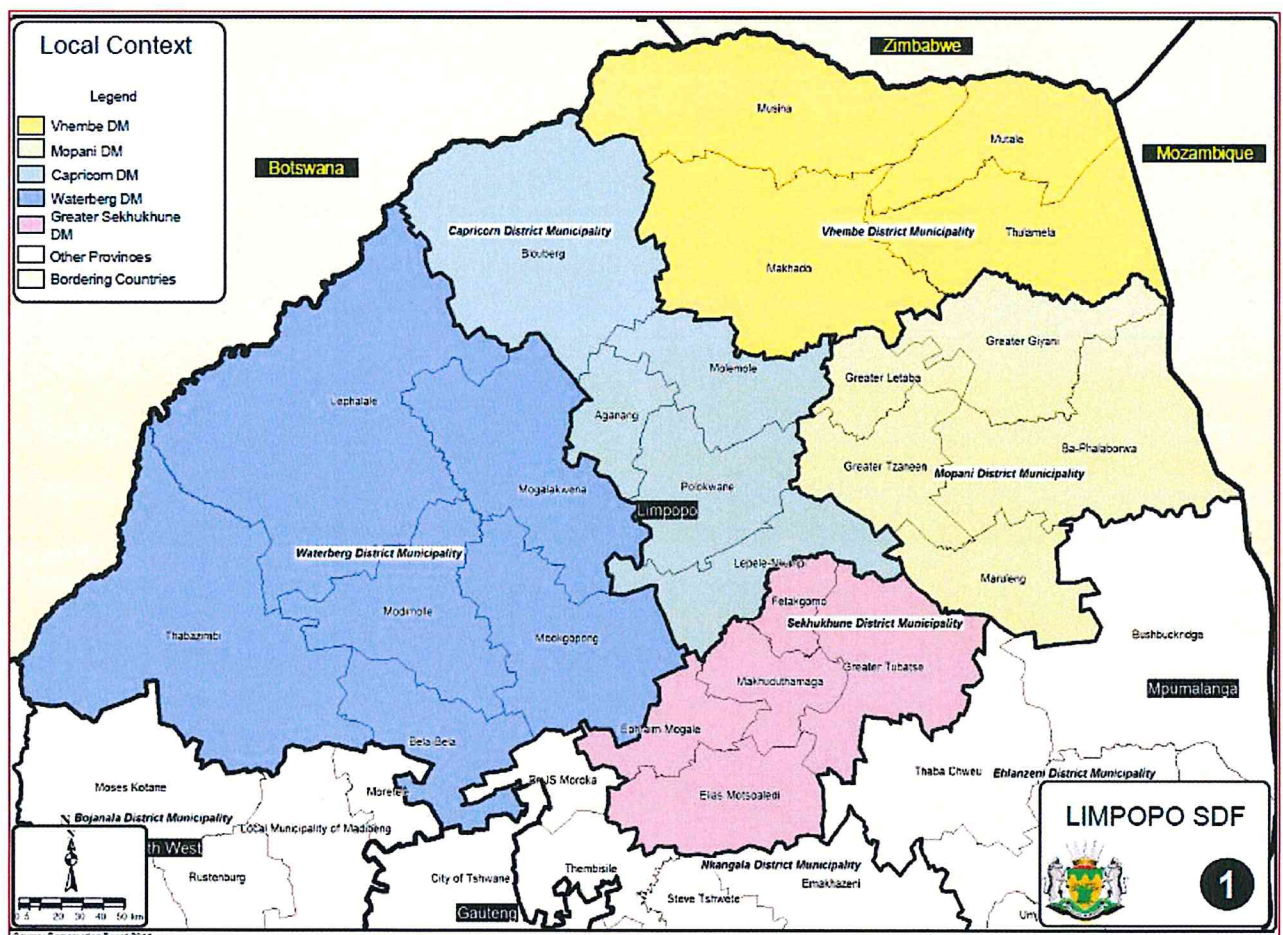

Figure 5: Limpopo Map

According to Statistics South Africa Community Survey 2016 final draft, poverty intensified in Waterberg by 42.7% followed by Vhembe and Sekhukhune District

Municipalities by 42.4% then Mopani at 42.1% and finally Capricorn at 41.8%. These are wards deprived in all 4 domains. The map above shows the 5 districts in Limpopo

Wards outside the most deprived wards should also be considered for support. The list will be used for prioritizing the establishment of local Anti-Poverty Structures and service delivery initiatives.

10. LESSONS LEARNT FROM PILOT SITES

Anti-poverty initiatives should be coordinated from one central point. The central point in Limpopo should be the Office of the Premier because it has the mandate to coordinate departments.

Efforts should be made to include anti-poverty initiatives in the departmental APPs and municipal IDPs.

National and provincial departments should not plan and implement anti-poverty initiatives without thorough consultation with the district and local municipalities for sustainability and coordination.

Necessary capacity must be created to manage and support anti-poverty initiatives.

The targeting of households should be central in the fight against poverty.

Anti-poverty initiatives should also target youth.

All departments, municipalities and stakeholders should have a designated officer who will be responsible for poverty matters.

The process of identifying the households and projects for anti-poverty initiatives should be credible.

Existing and new information should be utilised to achieve the above in terms of targeting. Necessary attention should be given to economic and social enabling infrastructure.

11. LIMPOPO ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

11.1 Legal Framework

Limpopo Anti-Poverty programme is embedded within a complex relationship of national, provincial and local government poverty reduction initiatives. This programme is guided by the following:

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1998 (Act 108 of 1998)
- The National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP)
- New Growth Path
- National Development Plan (vision 2030)
- Limpopo Development Plan (2015-2019)
- Social Assistance Act 2004
- Local Government: Municipal System Act
- White Paper for Social Welfare (2007)
- Millennium Development Goals
- Limpopo Executive Council decisions

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

Fundamental human rights are entrenched in Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 1998. The Bill of Rights is the part of the Constitution that has had the greatest impact on everyday life since 1994. Section 27(1) (b) states that everyone has the right to sufficient food and water. In order for this to be fulfilled, people must have access to food and this will be done through food gardens.

National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP)

The NSDP is an important guiding strategy regarding spatial planning for development. In essence, it advocates a focus on areas with development potential and urges local authorities in localities of low development potential to demonstrate their comparative advantages in order to receive support from other spheres of government.

The NSDP proposes normative principles to be used as a guide by all spheres of government in order to achieve the objectives of national government, namely economic growth, employment creation, sustainable service delivery, poverty alleviation and the eradication of historic inequities.

New Growth Path

The New Growth Path aims to create 5 million jobs by 2020. It seeks to do so by providing a supporting environment for growth and development, while promoting a more labour-absorptive economy. Its proposal is intended to lower the cost of living for poor households and for business through targeted micro-economic reforms, especially in transport, telecommunications and food. Lowering the cost of living is a necessary adjunct to raising the standard of living and encouraging investment.

National Development Plan (Vision 2030)

National Development Plan 2030 has been adopted by the national government as one of the crucial guiding documents for policy development in South Africa. This plan is the direct response to the development challenges set out in the vision 2014. The National Development Plan seeks to achieve the following:

- eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030 by drawing on the energies of the country's people, growing an inclusive economy, enhancing the capacity of the state, and promoting leadership and partnership throughout society. The plan focuses on the elimination of poverty – reducing the proportion of households with a monthly income below R419 per person from 39% to zero – and reduction of inequality in South Africa.

Limpopo Development Plan (2015-2019)

The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) provides the Limpopo Provincial Government with a clear strategic framework for accelerated and shared economic growth through a thorough developmental intervention in Limpopo in favour of all its residents, particularly the poor, while restoring the ecosystems and resources essential to sustain shared economic growth within a coherent spatial development framework.

Social Assistance Act (Act 13 of 2004)

The Social Assistance Act provides for the administration of social assistance and payment of social grants to those eligible and in need in the country.

Local Government: Municipal Systems Act

Section 4(2)(j) states that the council of a municipality, within the municipality's financial and administrative capacity and having regard to practical considerations, has the duty to

contribute, together with other organs of state, to the progressive realization of the fundamental rights contained in section 27 of the Constitution.

White Paper for Social Welfare (2007)

The White Paper for Social Welfare provides that social security covers a wide variety of public and private measures that provide cash or in kind benefits or both. The provision of these measures takes place, first, in the event of an individual's earning power permanently ceasing, being interrupted, never developing or being exercised only at unacceptable cost and such person being unable to avoid poverty.

Millennium Development Goals

The most relevant of the 8 Millennium Development Goals is the first, which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Limpopo Executive Council Decisions

The Limpopo Executive Council took a decision **(No. 71/2008)**, in-concurrence with the decision taken by South African Cabinet, that the Anti-Poverty War Room be established as proposed to manage processes towards the Anti-Poverty National Strategy and Campaign as part of the government's Apex priorities.

The Executive Council of Limpopo Province also took a decision **(No.62/2009)** that the roll out programme to other most deprived wards in the province should be supported, and that the creation of requisite capacity and the establishment of the permanent structure should be supported and that the Provincial Government should make requisite resources available for the roll out programme.

Executive Council Decision No. **89/2010** - The Executive Council decided that there is need to strengthen the coordination of the War on poverty to consolidate efforts of all the stakeholders.

The Executive Council also decided that Municipalities should identify rural poverty sites and develop programmes for intervention.

11.2 Mandate
• Clearly define the poverty matrix of the Limpopo Province;

- Identify poor urban and rural wards in the Limpopo province;
- Develop a database of households living in poverty;
- Develop a referral system for government and its partners
- Identify and implement specific interventions relevant to these households;
- Monitor households progress in graduating out of poverty;
- Address all the indigents, especially the high numbers of women affected;
- Co-ordinate & align anti-poverty programmes to maximise impact and avoid wastage and duplication;
- Engage public representatives; and
- Promote the joint effort of all stakeholders in Limpopo to promote social cohesion and human solidarity

11.3 Who is poor?

Poverty may affect a wide range of people in different circumstances, the most vulnerable groups are:

- **Older people** – despite the broad coverage and reach of state old pension, income at old age is still limited. In many households, the state old pension support is eroded by dependency of the unemployed able bodied members of the households. Inadequate income and declining health status means they are predisposed to poverty.
- **The unemployed** – the major cause of poverty for the majority is lack of earned income due to unemployment. The poverty of groups such as women (single parents), the youth and other people with disabilities stem directly from lack of employment. Lack of employment is in turn a result of low levels of education and skill (or lack thereof) for most.
- **Low wage earners** – although they have employment hence income, low wage earners tend to be vulnerable to poverty. Their employment is precarious as they move in and out of marginal, informal and low paid work. Also low wage earners tend to be members of large family units.
- **Women** – particularly single parents are vulnerable to poverty especially when they have young children because the responsibility for young children makes it difficult to obtain work.
- **People with disability** – disability is associated with difficulties of physical access, high living costs, low incomes and problems of social exclusion. It has major effects on employability.

- **People living in poor areas** – rural areas, townships, etc. - Poverty still reflect apartheid settlement patterns. Virtually all poor households are found in the former Bantustan regions, informal settlements and historically black townships.
- **Unskilled and illiterate**
- **Youth**

11.4 Approach
The approach will unfold as follows:
- Household as the basic unit of analysis and practice;
- Most deprived wards;
- Most poor households in the most deprived wards;
- Most vulnerable people;
- Annual Performance Plans;
- Municipality as the sphere of planning and executive level; and
- Integrated Development Plans as the single window of integrated government and social partners' service delivery

11.5 Implementation Framework

IDP's Poverty Profiling
- Municipality
- Ward
- Households

Quality Assurance
- Data capture
- Data storage
- Data processing

START
- Obtain political endorsement
- Buy-in & participation
- Establish Anti-Poverty Structures
- Select poor wards
- Change agents
- Train field staff

Integrated Service Delivery
- Non-negotiable services
- Short-term (90 days)
- Medium (91-180 days)
- Long (>6 months)

Generate service **referrals** to departments

Service delivery verification

END: Reassessment: - households, communities and wards
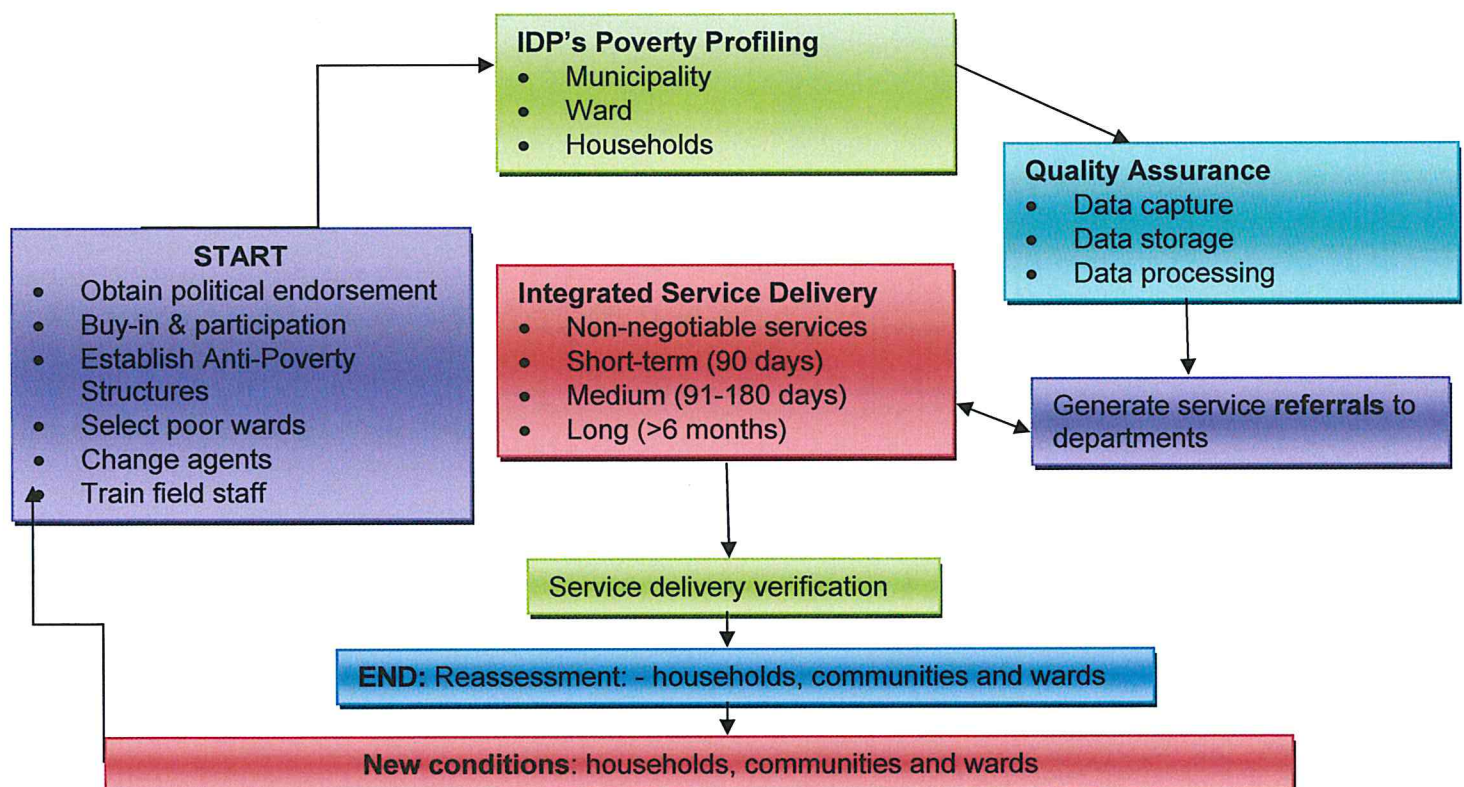
New conditions: households, communities and wards

Figure 5: Anti-Poverty Programme implementation framework

The following measures need to be done as a means of reducing poverty:

- Identification of poverty stricken communities.
- Estimation of required resources for collective information within identified communities, e.g. Sekhukhune and Mopani districts are identified as the most poverty stricken districts. There is therefore a need to prioritise the districts as identified.

Social mobilisation

There is also a need to embark on the awareness campaign for the mobilisation of community structures as a means of waging war against poverty.

The following stakeholders are a cornerstone of success towards poverty reduction:

- Political office bearers;
- Traditional leaders;
- Provincial offices;
- District offices; and
- Executive, district, local mayors, ward councillors and church leaders..

Baseline Measures

Data collection of household and community profiling needs to be done. Data collection by municipalities; e.g. indigent register can also be used for this purpose. This includes the data collected by the Community Development Workers (CDWs). Available resources have not yet been explored e.g. minerals need to be identified by communities. Communities will therefore report to the authorities on available resources and be assisted in the implementation and establishment of mining programmes.

Household and Community Needs

There is a need to zoom into households and identify change agents in order to reduce poverty. Profiling will be conducted through which we will identify educational needs, bursary needs, critical documents needs (identity documents), grants needs, and livestock needs. The needs of the communities will be identified and prioritised for possible intervention. Examples are the following; roads, electricity, water, sanitation, bridges and community halls.
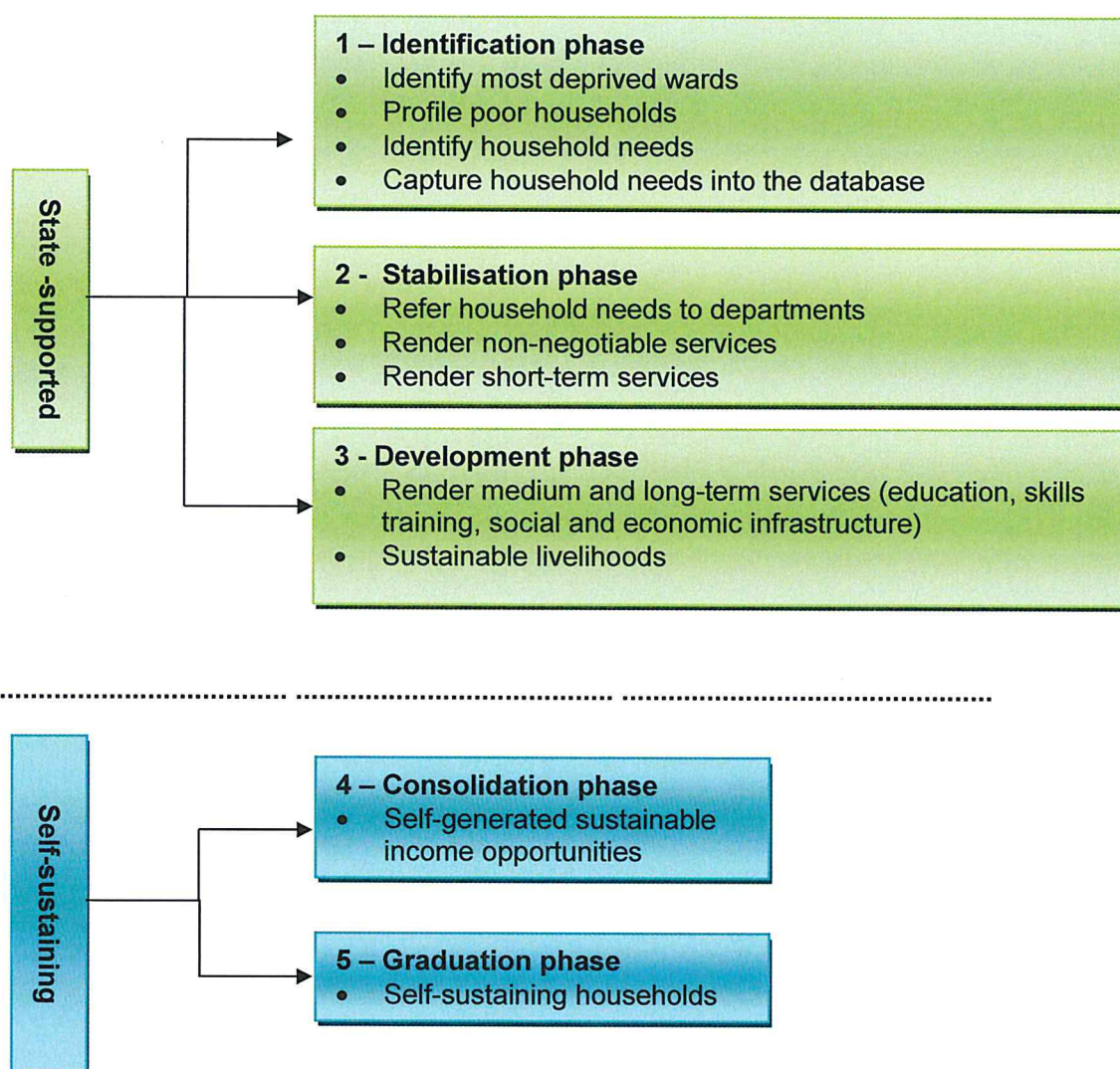
Intervention and phasing processes

State -supported

1 – Identification phase
- Identify most deprived wards
- Profile poor households
- Identify household needs
- Capture household needs into the database

2 - Stabilisation phase
- Refer household needs to departments
- Render non-negotiable services
- Render short-term services

3 - Development phase
- Render medium and long-term services (education, skills training, social and economic infrastructure)
- Sustainable livelihoods

Self-sustaining

4 – Consolidation phase
- Self-generated sustainable income opportunities

5 – Graduation phase
- Self-sustaining households

Figure 6: Intervention and phasing processes

11.6 Principle Components of the Limpopo Anti-Poverty Programme

Ideally, all solutions to deal with poverty need to focus on fixing the economic markets, spatial development, redistribution of assets and income, institutional reforms and linking growth and human development.

11.7 Key products and Services

The Limpopo Anti-Poverty Programme is expected to deliver the following products and services:

- **Economic opportunities**
  - Alignment of Local Economic Development (LED) related policies from national, provincial and local spheres of government.
  - There is a need for LED grants to be increased.
  - There is a need for government to prioritize developing quality enabling infrastructure across the province.
  - Cooperatives need to be established at local level to strengthen LED.
  - Improve the performance of Public Private Partnerships.
  - Creation of markets for commercial and subsistence farming.
  - There is a need for skills development initiatives at the local level.
  - Government needs to utilise skilled labour at the local level to strengthen the local economy.
  - Revitalisation of industrial parks.
  - Strengthening of cooperatives through the establishment of a cooperative development programme.
  - Promotion of entrepreneurship development and training in various skills (growing entrepreneurial capacity).
  - Improved coordination of sector specific training provision.
  - Small Medium & Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to be empowered by local LED units.
  - Transformation of the financial sector to ensure better access to services.
  - Promotion of agro-processing.
  - Development of tourism sites
  - Ensure access to economic infrastructure – roads, water, electricity and markets.
  - Link agricultural cooperatives and farmers to food processing companies.
  - Review district agricultural sows and markets
  - Development of agri parks in all districts in the province.
- **Social protection**
- **Basic services**
  - Bulk water supply schemes should be maintained in order to supply communities with sufficient water.
  - There is a need for government to investigate and stop the abuse of social grants.

- There is need for full participation of people in their societies.
- Communities need to be empowered to actively participate in local government issues.
- The indigent policy needs to be implemented in full.
- Water reticulation from Nandoni needs to be finalised as soon as possible.
- Municipalities and the Department of Water and Sanitation need to mitigate the challenges of poor quality water in the province.
- Contractors need to capacitate sub-contracted service providers to ensure improved delivery and quality of services.
- Government needs to maintain infrastructure.
- There is a need for the mining sector to take responsibility of contaminated water in their respective area of operation.
- Government needs to update communities regarding water challenges.
- Dry sanitation needs to be used to prevent contamination of underground water.
- The implementation and establishment of integrated settlements by the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement & Traditional Affairs needs to be made real.
- Rehabilitation and regular maintenance of boreholes.
- Infrastructure to be added to suit the demand for water (reservoirs, pipes, household reticulation).
- Establishment of water forums by different stakeholders.
- Water usage education is needed to ensure that water is not wasted by communities.
- Provision of rain water harvesting tanks – water for irrigation.
- Graders and other relevant equipment to be augmented at local level.
- Speed humps, where necessary, are to be constructed at the same time as the road.
- Alternative forms (solar) of energy to be explored to improve the delivery of electricity to communities.
- Improved communication between Eskom and relevant stakeholders can help people to get electricity faster.
- Post connection policy to be reviewed so as to include newly established settlements.
- Strengthen the monitoring of sanitation projects by municipalities.
- There need to be transparency in terms of project specification so that all service providers deliver the same product.

- Communities (at ward level) are to be consulted before housing is delivered, for better prioritisation.
- Strengthen the monitoring of RDP projects.
- Contractors should be held accountable for poor workmanship.

- **Health care**
  - Immigration policy to be reviewed to reduce substance abuse.
  - Strengthen campaigns for communicable diseases (TB, diabetes, hypertension).
  - Workshops for traditional healers – to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS.
  - Provision of gloves and razor blades for traditional healers.
  - Provision of mobile clinics to services communities which are far from clinics and hospitals.
  - Encourage expectant mothers to visit the clinic in the early months of pregnancy.
  - Campaigns on healthy eating and lifestyle to be strengthened.
  - The unavailability of medicines needs to be attended to as a matter of urgency. Primary health care needs to be implemented in full.
  - There is a need for government to increase patient's participation in the health system and the dignity afforded to them.
  - There is a need for patients to care for themselves.
  - There is a need to reduce the underlying causes of illness, injury and disabilities.
  - Government needs to introduce a system that avoids errors in health care services.
  - There is a need to strengthen the interventions aimed at health care professionals.
  - There is a need for continuous reduction of maternal deaths and infant mortality rate.

- **Social capital**
  - Encourage life skills programmes.

- **Environmental sustainability**
  - The introduction of recycling projects in each ward will assist in ensuring that the environment is clean.

- **Assets accumulation**
  - Creation of jobs.

- **Good governance**
  - Ward Councillors to convene community meetings on a monthly basis, and not quarterly.
  - Continuous strengthening of the relations between Ward Councillors, Community Development Workers and Ward Committees.
  - Establishment of community based forums to deal with service delivery issues.
  - Office of the Speaker to strengthen their oversight role on Ward Councillors.
  - Payment certificates, for projects, should not be issued without the Ward Councillor's signature and physical verification of deliverables.
  - Educate communities on municipal budgeting processes.

- **Education**
  - The introduction of a stipend for attending a School Governing Body (SGB) meeting should be introduced to ensure the active participation of SGB members.
  - Improvement of safety and security in schools.
  - Government need to invest more in Early Childhood Development (ECD) for quality education.
  - ECD as an apex priority of government need to be given necessary attention.
  - Vacancies in ECD need to be filled.
  - There is a need for monitoring of the National School Nutrition Programme.
  - There is a need for quality ECD practitioners.
  - There is a need for adherence to policies and code of conduct by both educators and learners.
  - Maths and Science need to be demystified by motivating learners and educators.
  - MASTEC programme need to be capacitated and increased.
  - There is a need for the provision of proper class rooms, e-learning and Information Communication Technology (ICT) facilities, libraries, laboratories and recreational facilities.
  - Multi-grade teaching needs to be introduced as part of curricula in institutions of higher learning.
  - There is a need for synergy between curricula and new trends in the job market.
  - Career guidance to be introduced from Grade 6.
  - Equip existing libraries.
  - Sekhukhune College of Education to be a fully fledged FET.
  - Tompi Seleka to be a fully fledged agricultural college.
  - Strengthen the monitoring of school construction.

- Scholar transport system to be strengthened.
- Monitoring of Adult Basic Education and Training the Kharikude programme.
- South African Police Service to conduct spot searches at schools – to reduce the use of drugs and carrying of weapons.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Early childhood is the most and rapid period of development in a human life. The years from conception through birth to eight years of age are critical to the complete and healthy cognitive, emotional and physical growth of children.

The rapid development of children's brains begins in the parental stage and continues after birth. Although cell formation is virtually complete before birth – a new born baby has about 100 billion brains cells – brain maturation and important neural pathways and connections are progressively developed after birth in early childhood. Therefore early childhood is a period in development where environment actually has an important impact on determining how the brain and central nervous system grows and develops. Environment affects not only the number of brain cells and the number of connections among them but also the way these connections are "wired". The process of eliminating excess neurons and synapses from the dense, immature brain, which continues well into adolescence, is most dramatic in the early years of life, and it is guided to a large extent by the child's sensory experience of the outside world. Scientific evidence suggests that if the brain does not receive the appropriate stimulation during this critical window, it is very difficult for the brain to rewire itself at a later time.

Inadequate nutrition before birth and in the first years of life can seriously interfere with brain development and led to such neurological and behavioural disorders as learning disabilities and mental retardation. There is considerable evidence showing that infants exposed to good nutrition an adequate psychosocial stimulation had measurable better brain function at twelve years of age than those raised in a less stimulating environment.

Early stress can affect brain function, learning and memory adversely and permanently. New research provides a scientific basis for the obvious fact that children who experience extreme stress in their earliest years are at greater risk for developing a variety of cognitive, behavioural and emotional difficulties later in life.

Investing in Early Child Development

The early years of a child are marked by rapid transformations in physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development. Anyone who has observed the growth of a child from newborn to one year of age, for example, can attest to the daily, weekly and monthly changes that accompany this life stage. Brain development is particularly significant in the first three years, with important neural connections being made that lay the foundation for future brain development and activity. Trajectories linked to health, learning and behavior are all established during this period and can last throughout life.

The Center on the Developing Child based at Harvard University has been particularly prolific in publishing research on the behavioral and neuro-scientific aspects of early childhood development (ECD). Based on decades of their research, there are five key aspects of early brain development that present a compelling case for supporting ECD initiatives:

a) Brains are built overtime, from the bottom up –while brains develop over a lifetime, early experiences affect the quality of brain architecture, establishing either a sturdy or fragile foundation. This development includes a proliferation of neural connections as well as a process of pruning. Sensory pathways like those for vision and hearing are the first to develop, followed by early language skills and then higher cognitive functions.

b) Genes and experience interact to shape the developing brain a major factor in this developmental process is what is referred to as the 'serve and return' relationship between children and their parent(s) and other caregivers. Young children naturally reach out for interaction. In the absence of such responses, or if responses are unreliable or in appropriate, the brain's architecture does not form as expected, impacting on learning and behavior.

c) The brain's capacity for change decreases with age – the 'plasticity' (flexibility) of the young brain makes it much easier to influence its development early on, rather than attempting to re-wire parts in adult life.

d) Cognitive, emotional and social capacities are in extricable linked throughout a person's life–thus, for example, emotional well--being and social competence provide a strong foundation for emerging cognitive abilities.

e) Toxic stress damages developing brain architecture which can lead to life--long problems in learning, behavior, and physical and mental health–this kind of stress includes extreme poverty repeated abuse, or severe maternal depression Intervening in the early years of a child's development therefore offers the most promise for setting as society up for success. While steps can be taken at a later stage to remedy the lack of development opportunities, these remedial interventions are costly and represent a significant loss of human potential. American studies have shown that for every dollar spent on preschool, between four to eight dollars is saved in later social service costs to society (Chambers et al, 2010). As an investment in human development, spending money on the first six years of a child's education yields the highest return over the course of a person's life (Heckman & Masterov, 2004, in WCECCE, 2010).

The argument for this investment is significantly more compelling in poor communities where early childhood education and development can help to level the playing field for disadvantaged children, thereby reducing social inequalities that have often been passed on through generations. Research has shown that the test scores of poor and at---risk children participating in early learning programmes can be the same as their more affluent peers attending traditional preschools (WCECCE, 2010).

Actions to be Taken

- The first is that we need **a population-based framework for planning ECD that has clear coverage targets for service delivery.** The current system of provision is blind to the majority of young children who are outside the system. It only 'sees' the children who are in registered ECD facilities. Despite an increase in the number of subsidies to early childhood development (ECD) centres, still only a third of young children are exposed to formal child care or education outside of the home. Among the poorest 40% of our population, that proportion drops to one fifth.

  The starting point in planning for service delivery should be to assess the numbers and educational needs of all the young children in a defined geographical area; and the aim should be to achieve universal coverage of all eligible children, starting with the poorest municipal wards in each province. In

response, programmes should be developed to ensure that the necessary human, physical and financial resources are in place to support and monitor implementation.

- We need to define **a clear-age differentiated strategy for early childhood care and education**. Currently, we are so stuck in the ECD site-linked subsidy model, that we've lost sight of the need for a comprehensive child development strategy that should start during pregnancy and continue through the transition during schooling. The platform for successful education needs to be built bottom up. To use an analogy, you can't build a tower from children's building blocks by starting in the middle. The building blocks need to be stacked up from the floor. Yet, for most children, we start trying to lay down the building blocks from the middle – when they enter Grade R. One point of concern in the Report of the National Planning Commission is the recommendation to extend Grade R downwards, to include a pre-Grade R year. While ultimately it would be good to have every four year old in a pre-Grade R facility, there must be age-appropriate programmes in place for 0-3 year olds as well.

Not every child between the age of 0 and 4 years should be in a child care facility, because parents and caregivers should be at the centre of their child's development. Programmes for 0-2 year olds should focus on the quality of parent-child interaction that promotes cognitive and language development, as well as psychosocial support for parents. Given the vital role of primary caregivers in this age-group, delivery should be principally through home-visiting programmes that dovetail with other community-level programmes. Building on this foundation, programmes for 2-3 year olds should focus on socialisation, achieved largely through group-interactions such as community playgroups. Children aged 3-4 years will benefit from home-visiting and community programmes, but there should be a clear plan to expand access to centre-based programmes. This could be on a part time basis unless full day child care is required.

Our primary interest should not be the mode of service delivery, but the quality of the intervention. In this regard, a minimum package of ECD interventions should be defined for each of the modes of delivery described above. This package should include specific structured interventions related to: nutrition,

parenting and psychosocial support, cognitive and language stimulation, literacy and numeracy development, and access to health and social services. This package needs to be carefully costed so that the State can make informed decisions about resource allocation. Currently, there is no funding formula for non-centre based provision. The means-tested per capita subsidy for learners applies only to children in ECD centers.

- We need to establish **a public funding formula for non-centre-based programmes.** Provision should be made for financing community- and home-based ECD programmes, based on a specified allocation per child per month. To facilitate this, monitoring systems be improved to allow for tracking of individual children, both for financing purposes and to ensure participation. This will require the use of unique identifiers for every child, namely the identity number, supplemented by a substitute number where the ID number is not available. Given that ECD provision is poorest in underserved areas – and that it will take years to extend facility-based provision to all children – it is vital that we develop alternative modes of provision that enable us to treble the number of children exposed to formal ECD provision within the next decade.

But we must also address the current obstacles that, in effect, keep the poorest children out of the system. **We must break the cycle of exclusion of the poorest children.** Ironically, the centre-based subsidy was intended to expand access for poorer children. And to some extent it does. There has however been a significant (76%) increase in the number of learner subsidies over the past six years. This is welcomed. Of the children reported to be in preschool or crèches, about 40% have access to the means-tested learner subsidy.

- We need to support the registered and non-registered ECD's; both public and private.

The delivery of these key products and services will assist in ensuring that households graduate out of poverty, and not fall into the poverty trap again. Municipalities should stick to their IDPs.

11.8 Limpopo Anti-Poverty Programme Coordination Structure

The Limpopo Anti-Poverty Programme is constituted by three main structures, the political structure, the coordinating structure and the oversight structure.

Each of these structures operates at all levels of government, provincial, district, municipality and ward. The coordinating task teams consist of the Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure (PAPCS), the District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure (DAPCS), the Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure (LAPCS) and the Ward Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure (WAPCS) also commonly referred to as the War Room. Each of these task teams reports to both the political and oversight structures as shown in Figure 7. There is high level political support for the Anti-Poverty Programme at the Provincial, District, Local and Ward levels.

The Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure (PAPCS) is supported by two technical oversight committees, the Heads of Department (HoD) Forum and all the Clusters. Support for the programme at this high level increases the visibility and importance thereof. At the political level, the Anti-Poverty Programme is supported by the Premier and the Members of the Executive Committee (MECs). The overall champion for the Anti-Poverty Programme is the Premier.

At the district level, the District Mayor is the political champion. The District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure Chair is elected from amongst the War Room Members. The District War Room is supported by the District Municipal Executive Committee.

At the local level, the Local Mayor is the political champion. The Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure Chair is elected from amongst the Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure Members. The Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is supported by the Municipal Executive Council.

At the ward level, it is championed by the Ward Councillor and the Traditional Leader. The Ward Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure Chair is elected from amongst the Ward Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure. The Ward Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is supported by the Ward Committee.

Political Oversight	Coordinating Structures	Oversight Committees
Premier	Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure	Provincial Executive Clusters
MEC		HOD Forum
District Mayor	District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure	District Municipal Executive committee
Local Mayor	Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure	Municipal Executive Council
Ward Councillor	Ward Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure	Ward Committee

HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES

Figure 7: Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure

18.1 Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure

The Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is located in the Office of the Premier. It is composed of representatives from government departments (national and provincial) and strategic partners (SASSA, StatsSA etc). The Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is chaired by the Office of the Premier, which also plays the secretariat role.

Roles and responsibilities

The Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is responsible for:

- Establishing District and Municipal Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structures and ward task teams;

- Identifying poor urban and rural wards;
- Supervising the work of project teams;
- Enlisting the participation of public representatives;
- Mobilising NGOs and private sector to participate;
- Developing a template to profile poor households;
- Identifying households and individuals living in poverty;
- Identifying and training of field workers;
- Developing a referral system for government response;
- Enlisting participation of poor households;
- Providing immediate and available interventions;
- Facilitating medium to long-term interventions;
- Developing a database and monitoring system;
- Aligning and co-ordinating government interventions;
- Providing guidelines for districts on the submission requirements and format of reports to the Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure;
- Monitoring progress of the implementation of the programme at district level;
- Developing a communication strategy; and
- Ensuring that the Limpopo Comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy is developed and implemented.

18.2 District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure

The District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is composed of representatives from government departments (district level), Office of the Premier, district municipality, the house of traditional leaders, civil society, Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure chairpersons and secretariat. The District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is chaired by the Municipal manager. The district municipality officials serve as the Secretariat.

Roles and responsibilities

The District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure responsibilities are to:
- Provide strategic direction of the programme at a local level and develop local Strategic and Implementation plans;
- Ensure that the plans include targets for all activities;
- Ensure that the plans include key performance indicators (KPIs);
- Ensure that activities in the plans are assigned to specific team members;

- Provide strategic direction of the programme at the District level and to develop the appropriate Strategic, Implementation (Operational) plan and ensure that the plan has performance targets;
- Take responsibility for an integrated planning approach with the different stakeholders;
- Responsible for stakeholder management at district level, which includes Traditional Leaders, Municipalities, Business, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community-Based Organisations and any other support organisations;
- Develop a Communication and Advocacy Plan for the Anti-Poverty Programme at District level;
- Implement the Anti-Poverty Programme at the District level
- Implement the Anti-Poverty Programme at a local level and support the establishment of the Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure;
- Identify and address programmatic challenges experienced by all of the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structures from the District, Local and Ward level;
- Identify training needs and facilitate skills development sessions for all task team members;
- Collate information and submit reports to the Provincial Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure; and
- Continuously monitor progress, performance and implementation of the Anti-Poverty Programme and identify the bottlenecks and strategies to resolve them at district level.

The District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is also expected to provide mentorship support to the Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure through the following activities:
- Support the establishment of the Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure;
- Support the development and implementation of the local plans;
- Address challenges experienced by all task teams from the District, Local, levels;
- Take responsibility for recruitment, allocation and training of fieldworkers to conduct Household Profiling;
- Facilitate skills development sessions for Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure members;

- Provide guidelines and training for Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure on the procedural requirements of the Anti-Poverty Programme and format of reports to the District Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure; and
- Monitor progress of the implementation of the programme at Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure level.

18.3 Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure

The Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is composed of representatives from government departments (local level), local municipality, Office of the Premier, the house of traditional leaders, civil society, Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure chairpersons and secretariat. The Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is chaired by the Municipal manager. The local municipality officials serve as the Secretariat.

Roles and responsibilities
The Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure responsibilities are to:

- Provide strategic direction of the programme at a local level and develop local Strategic and Implementation plans;
- Ensure that the plans include targets for all activities;
- Ensure that the plans include key performance indicators (KPIs);
- Ensure that activities in the plans are assigned to specific team members;
- Take responsibility for integrated planning with all relevant stakeholders;
- Actively work with the local Municipality to ensure that the LTT plans are included in the municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP);
- Take responsibility for stakeholder management at local level, which includes Traditional Leaders, Municipalities, Local Business, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), Community-based Organisations and any other support organisations;
- In line with the DTT's plan, develop a Communication and Advocacy Plan for the Anti-Poverty Programme at local level for buy-in and support;
- Identify and address challenges experienced by the Local Task team from a solution-centred approach;
- Provide training in skills development sessions for Local Task Team members;
- Ensure that the Local Task Team chairperson is represented in the local IDP forum workshops, meetings and planning sessions;
- Ensure that reports are submitted in the correct format to the District Task Team; and

- Continuously monitor progress against targets during the implementation of the programme and to identify and resolve bottlenecks in the process.

The Local Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is also charged with the responsibility to provide guidance and mentorship support to Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure through the following activities:

- Support the establishment of Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structures;
- Assist with developing guidelines for the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure's operational activities;
- Support the development and implementation of Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure plans;
- Address challenges experienced by Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structures;
- Mobilise resources for the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structures;
- Facilitate skills development sessions for Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure members;
- Provide guidelines for Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure on the submission requirements and format of reports to the Local Task Team; and
- Monitor progress of the implementation of the programme at Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure level;
- A record of all household profiles in the ward to be documented in a spreadsheet by LTTs.

18.4 Ward Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure

The Ward Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure is composed of representatives from government departments (local level), local municipality, Office of the Premier, the house of traditional leaders, civil society, ward committees, Community Policing Forum, Community Development Workers, Agricultural Officers. The WTT is championed by the ward councilor. Secretariat is played by the Community Development Worker.

Roles and responsibilities

The Ward Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure responsibilities are to:

- Take full responsibility for the efficient management of the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure;

- Ensure that Traditional Leaders, Non-Governmental Organisations, Faith-based and Community-based organisations as well as any other relevant stakeholders are invited to participate at meetings;
- Ensure that the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure has the appropriate resources for optimal functioning;
- Ensure that meetings with the Task Teams are held and that all stakeholders and community members are invited to attend;
- Take responsibility for the allocation of resources and facilitate training and management of fieldworkers;
- Provide guidance, support and mentoring to fieldworkers through training and debriefing sessions;
- Support fieldworkers to investigate and follow-up on households which have been profiled and to provide the appropriate feedback on their issues; and
- Ensure that support is provided to the relevant Government Departments in the process of resolving the issues raised and to assist with the service delivery interventions and programmes at ward level;
- Ensure that Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure Meetings, monthly Extended Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure Meetings and Quarterly Community Feedback Meetings are held; and
- Community Development Workers (CDWs) (1 per Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure) will coordinate all fieldworkers in the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure and form part of the Secretariat of the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structures together.

11.9 Resources, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems will have to become institutionalised and systematic. These systems must be developed as part of the Limpopo Anti-Poverty Programme. Thus monitoring and evaluation protocols will have to emerge to provide relevant and accurate information and analysis. This will ensure that all stakeholders have reliable strategic management information systems when reviewing, changing or adjusting poverty reduction programmes and budgets.

Programme monitoring and evaluation shall be conducted by all sector departments who will be taking part in the implementation of the programme. The Office of the Premier Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Unit should play an oversight role in the

implementation of the programme. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan implementation plan should be developed by both sector departments and Office of the Premier Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, guided by departmental and provincial M&E frameworks.

However, during the implementation of the programme, a mid-term implementation evaluation should be conducted to evaluate operational mechanisms of the programme. A comprehensive impact evaluation of the programme shall be conducted after the completion of the programme. Both evaluations shall be guided by the prescripts of the Provinicial Evaluation Plan (PEP).

11.10 Programme Review

The Limpopo Anti-Poverty Programme should be reviewed every three years.

12. STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION

IDP/APP

- Every IDP and APP must have a section dealing with poverty issues.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that projects be identified and aligned to the government planning cycle. This also apply to household (HH) identified for support.
- The CDW's are central in the collection of data and implementation of the programme.
- The data collected should be processed and shared with the local municipalities, district municipalities, provincial government and national departments.
- The Office of the Premier and Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement & Traditional Affairs through the CDW's are central in all the Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structures.
- The HOD Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement & Traditional Affairs will send referrals to the affected provincial departments and also copy to the Office of the Premier (Anti-Poverty Strategies Unit) which will then write to the affected spheres of government or any other relevant stakeholders. The Office of the Premier should have personnel designated to co-ordinate district activities.

Provincial Development Planning Forum

- Anti-Poverty Coordinating Structure information should be reported to the Provincial Development Planning Forum to ensure that there is integration within the operation of government and stakeholders.
- Anti-poverty infrastructure projects should also be referred to the Infrastructure Planning unit in the Office of the Premier

13. CONCLUSION

Whereas Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) reflects an improvement in the economy, that is growth in number of people been absorbed into the employment force, recent surveys conducted by some other institutions have suggested South Africa as one of the worst in unemployment rate. Limpopo province is one of the poorest in South Africa.

All stakeholders are to be involved in an effort to reduce poverty in Limpopo province and the rest of the country.

Approved / Not Approved

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Acting Director-General

21/09/2016

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Date

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