

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2004.

**Reflections on Humanitarian Development Assistance: The challenge of using evidence-based analysis to guide interventions in the Southern African region**

Dear Colleague,

**Subject: Invitation to a one-day seminar**

We are pleased to invite you, or a representative, to a one day seminar, entitled: *Reflections on Humanitarian Development Assistance: The Challenge of Using Evidence-Based Analysis to Guide Interventions in the Southern African Region*, co-hosted by Save the Children (UK) and the Southern African Regional Poverty Network on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 8:30 for 9:00 at the Burger's Park Hotel, Pretoria.

With deepening chronic poverty and ongoing food insecurity problems in southern Africa, this seminar will bring together a range of regional and national institutions to analyze and discuss how information and assessments can be used to improve our collective responses to these problems. Its overarching aim is to build awareness, strengthen partnerships and to encourage a debate on the use of evidence based analysis for longer-term economic/livelihood recovery programmes and development initiatives.

The recently published ODI-Humanitarian Practise Network Paper, *Missing the Point --An analysis of Food Security Interventions in the Great Lakes* will be one of the key note presentations. The document can be found on SARP<sup>N</sup>'s webpage at <http://www.sarpn.org.za>

In collaboration with Save the Children (UK), this report analyzes a range of humanitarian interventions in the Great Lakes area and suggests ways that we can learn from those experiences. Following this presentation, we will have several case studies presented from Southern Africa which will build on the Great Lakes Study. The case studies to be presented include: (1) an in-depth poverty study on the Lowveld areas of Swaziland (2) the emerging use of the Malawi VAC information to inform and guide public works and cash transfer programmes and (3) WFP's and FEWSNET's recent publication on Informal Cross Border Food Trade in Southern Africa.

Your contributions and participation in this event would be greatly appreciated. A detailed agenda of the day's events will be sent out shortly. In the meantime, it would be appreciated if you could confirm your attendance by Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> with Ms Riashnee Pather at +27 12 341 1889 or email [rpather@scfuk.org.za](mailto:rpather@scfuk.org.za). We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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