



## About SARPAN... and Map, Omega and the Compact

### 1. Introducing SARPAN

The Southern African Regional Poverty Network was established earlier this year by the Pretoria-based Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). As presently conceived the process has four major objectives. They are:

- ❑ to strengthen emerging and existing links between policy actors, practitioners, applied researchers and civil society organisations concerned with poverty issues in the sub-continent;
- ❑ to facilitate exchanges of information between these groups and between different sectors in the poverty field;
- ❑ to promote discussion between these actors on pro-poor policy options, particularly within a regional setting; and
- ❑ to work in partnership with already existing networks and institutions.

SARPAN will try to meet these objectives by hosting regular seminars and round table events. Given its commitment to working in partnership with already existing regional focal points, SARPAN will host events in different locations in the region.

But despite the barriers of geography, and associated travel costs for workshops, SARPAN believes that the results of its workshops can be distributed quickly and efficiently by electronic means to specialists in the countries that make up the SADC region. An active web site will also be available for the posting of

papers and items of interest from related networks.

One such example can be referred to: SARPAN has just hosted a conference in Pretoria on the theme of land and poverty issues in Southern Africa. The workshop was designed to facilitate the sharing of perspectives on land issues in several southern African countries and to generate debate about how pro-poor policy processes may be incorporated into land reform and land tenure policy options in the region. These insights will be incorporated into a post-conference document, which SARPAN intends to distribute widely within southern Africa. The next SARPAN newsletter will carry some points raised during the conference.

SARPAN's short life has already well illustrated the contemporary adage that "networks attract fellow networks". Hopefully, research opportunities will also emerge from SARPAN's activities with the potential to link institutions in the region for joint research projects.

Funding has been committed by DFID(SA) to the HSRC for an interim period, expiring later this year. The secretariat is presently involved in a regional scoping exercise, meeting with key institutions, NGOs and policy researchers in various countries in the region. This exercise is being undertaken to inform a proposal for longer term funding and to gauge views on how such a process should be institutionalised and structured. This proposal will be submitted to donors for funding later this year.

### 2. Map...Omega... and Compact

Much recent debate about the alleviation of poverty in Southern Africa, and elsewhere in Africa, has revolved around the contents of the MAP and Omega documents produced by key African leaders. These have been supplemented by the ECA's Compact document. These documents were recently discussed by African Ministers of Finance and of Economic Development and Planning at a meeting convened by the Economic Commission for Africa in Algiers during May.

In line with its objectives of facilitating the sharing of perspectives on poverty and developmental processes, SARPAN is distributing these key documents. A press statement issued by the Ministers after the Algiers meeting is also attached.

The documents are attached in the following order, under the following titles:

- ❑ MAP ( 28 pages )
- ❑ Omega ( 24 pages)
- ❑ Compact (101 pages)
- ❑ An ECA press statement, ECA ( 4 pages).

Other ECA documentation relevant to the Algiers meeting may be accessed at the ECA web site at: <http://www.uneca.org>

### 3. Regional Integration in SADC: new perspectives

Readers might be interested in various new publications dealing with regional integration and regional development in the sub-continent.

The first of these is the **SADC Regional Human Development Report 2000**, subtitled Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Integration. The wide-ranging report, with some 200 pages of analysis and a further 100 pages of statistical appendices, was released during the recent SADC conference in Windhoek.

Its chapters cover the following areas:

- ❑ *Human Development and Regional Integration*. This chapter explains the pre-requisites for deep integration, the challenges of deep integration and the links between regional integration and human development.
- ❑ *Human Development and Regional Integration: achievements and setbacks*. This chapter examines progress towards economic, political and social integration in SADC and introduces a SADC Integration Index to measure such progress.
- ❑ *Challenges of Human Development and Regional Integration*. This chapter examines the challenges of economic development, peace and security, migration, HIV/AIDS and environment.
- ❑ *Regional Integration for Human Development*. This chapter examines why SADC has not taken advantage of enormous opportunities to promote deep integration but suggests ways in which SADC can capitalise on its opportunities.
- ❑ *The future of SADC*. This final chapter summarises the main findings of the report and underscores the policy issues that need attention in order to deep integration and to improve human development in the SADC sub-region.

The report was commissioned by the UNDP. The project was executed by a team led by Dr Ibbo Mandaza from

SARIPS and the SAPES Trust, based in Harare. The report should be available at UNDP offices in SADC countries.

The second publication is entitled **Regional Integration in Southern Africa: comparative international perspectives**. The book, based on a workshop held during June 2000, is divided into three sections. They are Southern Africa and the world: policy-makers perspectives; Southern Africa and the world: analytical perspectives and Comparative International Perspectives. Speakers included Dr Prega Ramsamy, Rob Davies, Pascal Lamy, Pandelani Mathoma and Mark Shaw. The book is edited by Christopher Clapham, Greg Mills, Anna Morner and Elizabeth Sidiropoulos. Further details can be obtained from: 219 [andre@cosmos.wits.ac.za](mailto:andre@cosmos.wits.ac.za)

The third publication is **Strategies for growth and job creation in Southern Africa**. The book is the product of a Gaborone conference in May 2000, organised jointly by the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung and the World Bank. The six key papers are reproduced in the publication with a record of debates and discussion. An extensive summary of the conference is also included. Speakers included Dr Felix Kani of SADC, W.E. Moro of the University of Dar es Salaam, Mohammed El Toukhy of the University of Namibia and Andrew Dabalen, Alan Gelb, Gene Tidrick and Trina Haque of the World Bank. Further details can be obtained from: [fes@info.bw](mailto:fes@info.bw).

The fourth publication is entitled **An alternative view of the Southern African Development Community**. Published by the International Labour Resource and Information Group (ILRIG), the publication is primarily intended as an introduction to the topic for unionists, community structures, women's organisations and other progressive groupings. The central message of the analysis is that globalisation is not neutral or inevitable. Further details can be obtained from: [ilrig@wn.apc.org](mailto:ilrig@wn.apc.org)

### 4. Poverty and Livelihood in Lesotho, 2000

This report on poverty and livelihoods in Lesotho is based on 12 months of research carried out in 1999 and 2000 on behalf of the Government of Lesotho and various international agencies. As this is the third study of poverty in Lesotho in a decade it has been possible to explore trends over time using a wide range of indicators dealing not only with income but also with human development in its broadest sense. As was the case with previous studies, the report provides a series of detailed maps indicating which parts of the country are the poorest or most deprived of essential services. Unlike earlier reports this one places greater emphasis on the political and macro-economic environments that impact directly on the lives of the poor. Equally important, more detailed consideration has been given to the multiple livelihood strategies of rural and urban households and the ways in which these are used to develop assets and capabilities that enable them to survive in an increasingly difficult environment.

The findings and recommendations are based on extensive consultations using both qualitative and quantitative methods. In the course of a nation-wide survey over 3 200 households were visited in 130 randomly selected villages in the same 60 research areas used in 1991 and 1994.

Particular attention was given to the education sector, with 80 schools being studied as part of a parallel exercise resulting in an additional report. During the fieldwork 500 focus group discussions were held with children, parents, community leaders, health providers and health seekers to provide a rich understanding of issues impacting on the poor. Finally, elected representatives from 18 of the research villages were invited to present their concerns and recommendations to policy makers during two days of "poverty hearings" and high priority has been given to incorporating these into the report.

The findings of the study have been shared with many people, including members of the Government of Lesotho's Technical Working Group mandated to prepare a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Consultations with government officials and international agencies have enriched the process resulting in a report that represents the views not only of the poor themselves but also of stakeholders working to reduce poverty in Lesotho.

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## 5. Measuring poverty in South Africa

Earlier this year Statistics South Africa - the agency dealing with official SA statistics - released a comprehensive report on four different ways in which poverty could be measured in South Africa. As such the report noted that the differing approaches added "to our understanding of poverty as a multi-dimensional phenomenon". Professor Charles Simkins, of the University of the Witwatersrand, concluded his critique of the report with the following observation:

"The achievements and limitations of these studies underscores the complexity of quantitative poverty and inequality analysis. One first has to judge the quality of the available data and possibly undertake some quite complex statistical manoeuvres to construct reasonably reliable indices. Then one has to produce descriptive measures which have interpretative significance. Finally, one has to work out the relationship between positive

analysis and quantitative measures for the guidance of policy. All these challenges are substantial in contemporary South Africa, as the studies usefully show in their attempts to grapple with them".

The contents of the report are:

Chapter One: Introduction

Chapter Two: Combining census and survey data to construct a poverty map of South Africa

Chapter Three: Key baseline statistics for poverty measurement

Chapter Four: Earnings inequality in South Africa, 1995-1998

Chapter Five: Income distribution in South Africa: a social accounting matrix approach

For further details contact: [info@statssa.pwv.gov.za](mailto:info@statssa.pwv.gov.za).  
The www address is: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## 6. A pointer...

Many readers may be interested in a recent thought-provoking analysis by Professor Ravi Kanbur, the erstwhile Editor of the World Development Report, on the poverty debate. The document is entitled "Economic Policy, Distribution and Poverty: the nature of disagreements". It, and other poverty-related articles by Professor Kanbur can be accessed from his personal www site at: <http://www.cornell.edu/pages/sk145>.

## 7. Using SARN as a resource...

The SARN secretariat would like to encourage readers to inform the secretariat of any poverty-related news they would like distributed within the Southern African region. Examples could include forthcoming conferences, recent publications and intended research projects which institutions and policy researchers would like to advertise.

We have been asked to advertise the following conference:

❑ **Fourth International Society of Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) Conference**

Date: 29 November to 1 December 2001

Place: Washington DC, USA

Conference theme: How to measure quality of life in diverse populations

Conference website:

<http://business.wm.edu/isqols/>

❑ **QOL of African countries track:**

Of particular interest to researchers is a new track to showcase quality-of-life studies conducted in Africa. Track convenor: Contact Professor Valerie Møller, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, at [v.moller@ru.ac.za](mailto:v.moller@ru.ac.za) for information on this track and the conference.

## Next issue...

The next issue of the newsletter will have a distinctly rural focus following the recent SARN conference on land reform and poverty in Southern Africa. Besides a conference report, the newsletter will carry additional items about new initiatives with a clear rural poverty focus. If you would like to notify readers of any news from this sector please contact the SARN secretariat and we will be only too willing to help distribute your material.

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