

**ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AS A MEANS OF ALLEVIATING  
POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**By**

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## **DEDICATION**

This dissertation is dedicated to my mother Thulie Vinah Ngozo and my brother Vusi Khumalo.

## DECLARATION

I, Mandla Lindsay Khumalo, declare that 'Analysis of the effectiveness of social protections as means of alleviating poverty in South Africa' is my own work and all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

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## ABSTRACT

This research was conducted at Tsakane, Kwa-Thema, and Duduza, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng Province in South Africa. The objective of the study was to determine the effectiveness of social protection as a way of alleviating poverty in the study areas. The study was expected to contribute to the body of knowledge in social protection services as a way of alleviating poverty in the study areas. The study attempted to contribute to answers to the following research questions: (i) What are the socio-economic characteristics of the recipients of social protection measures in the three areas of study? (ii) What are the perceptions of the respondents about the South African government's social protection in their areas? (iii) What are the factors that influence the effectiveness of social protection? Stratified random sampling with a proportional representation method was employed to select 200 respondents. The data collection tool used was simple closed-ended questionnaires. Interviews were conducted face-to-face with respondents. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 of 2012 was used to analyse the data. Both descriptive statistics and binary logistic regression were employed. The results of the analysis revealed that the significant variables that had an effect on social protection were: the location of the respondents; their gender; their level of education; the type of dwelling of the respondents; and their income outside farming. The study recommends that the significant variables that had an effect on social protection be considered when measures of social protection measures are implemented.

**Keywords:** Poverty alleviation, social protection, binary logistic regression analysis.

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## ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BAN	Basel Action Network
CAC	Corporate Affairs Commission
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CWACs	Community Welfare Association Committees
EC	European Commission
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GDARD	Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
IES	Income and Expenditure Surveys
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
NDA	National Development Agency
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
RC	Rights of the Child
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SEWA	Self-Employed Women's Association
SPII	Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute
SPSS	Statistical Package of Social Sciences
SRC	Social Research Centre
TUP	Targeting the Ultra Poor

UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIFEM	United Nation Development Fund for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WIEGO	Women in Informal Economy Globalising and Organising
YES	Youth Employment Scheme

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Social protection has attracted considerable research interest in the entire world. According to Norton *et al.* (2001) social protection is a tool to enhance social justice. It is crucial in ensuring an acceptable livelihood standard for poor communities. Norton *et al.* (2001), in their study, viewed social protection to be an important tool to advance security and welfare of vulnerable communities. Addressing the same issue of social protection, UNICEF (2014) revealed that social protection is constantly evolving in the whole world. A report by IZA (2010) confirmed that a consistent increase in unemployment puts a strain on social interventions. This is mainly because the more people are unemployed, the bigger the increase in the number of vulnerable communities. This greatly increases poverty and has a negative effect on the economy (IZA, 2010). According to Oduro (2010) the poor should both contribute to the growth process and benefit from it.

Access to social protection services has been hindered by barriers such a shortage of information and awareness on the part of beneficiaries regarding their entitlement to the services (Ekben, 2014). Kubicek and Hagen (2000) agreed with Ekben (2014) in their study, suggesting that in order to minimize the barriers to access to social services, information and awareness should be addressed at the same time. They argued that even if a beneficiary is informed on a specific available service, a costly procedure can hinder the exercise if the individual is not aware of a simple procedure to access the benefit. There is a need for information transparency (Kubicek and Hagen, 2000), and their study tried to address the socio-economic characteristics of social protection, perceptions and factors influencing the effectiveness of social protection.

South Africa is one country that is still battling with the issue of poverty although there are minute indicators of a decline in monetary poverty (State of the Nation Address, 2005). According to Somavia (1999), when poverty is on the rise, discomfort and self-centeredness increase greatly. Mbeki (2004) highlighted in the state-of-the-nation address that poverty is widespread in South Africa and continues

to disfigure the face of South Africa. Mbeki (2004) also stated that the struggle to eradicate poverty had been a cornerstone of the national effort to strengthen the new South Africa.

South Africa is committed to reducing poverty and there have been several research projects carried out to address ways of curbing poverty. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) agreed (IFPRI, 2012) that South Africa was committed to reducing inequality and to a redistribution of wealth through taxes and cash transfers. One of the ways poverty can be addressed is through social protection. Social grants play an important role in minimizing money-metric poverty (Brockerhoff, 2013).

Neves *et al.* (2009) stated that social relief in the form of distress grants was part of social assistance. The grants are aimed at people who find themselves in unforeseen dire situations, and are unable to provide either for themselves or their dependents. It was this type of grant that prompted their research. The study tried to address the concepts of social protection as an essential tool on the journey to curb poverty. It mainly focused on the effectiveness of social assistance, and Neves *et al.* (2009) further related this to social assistance and called it in-kind programmes. These services are vital in the programme to minimize poverty.

According to Barrientos *et al.* (2010), social protection is a policy framework used to analyse and vulnerability in developing countries. It is instrumental in developing policy and as such there was rapid expansion and coverage of social protection policies and programmes used in developing countries. With policies in place, implementation becomes easier. However, nations must take heed not to promote laziness and promote violence in the form of strikes while establishing policies. Once people know they are entitled to free assistance they may become lazy and devoted to unnecessary violence instead of improving themselves in terms of education or establishing their own businesses. Tylor's report (2002) raised concerns about a comprehensive social protection approach. He argued that it suitable for development purposes and would ensure the increasing awareness of social and economic rights of the excluded individuals from benefiting from economic and social development. He addressed some of the factors why an industrialized approach to social policies will not work in countries like South Africa. Some of the critical issues he mentioned were unemployment, education and skills shortage. These issues pose a major concern in human survival. Social protection is a joint venture. It is not only the government that has to help but NGOs also play a crucial role. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2014) seemed to agree with this notion. The UN stated that

social protection schemes are implemented by the government with assistance from development partners and NGOs. Social protection is widely becoming a strong tool in the battle to curb poverty. Jacobs (2010) viewed social protection as a useful tool to reduce the cost of living for the poor. He argued that an agreement about how social benefits ought to be disseminated had not been reached. Social benefits differ worldwide. Policies on social protection, which are implemented in different countries in the world, also differ. In most African countries social schemes are implemented by the government, in collaboration with NGOs and development partners (UNDP, 2014). The UNDP (2014) further indicated that activities of governments and development partners focused on the formulation and implementation of social frameworks. According to Odigie (2007), if social protection is limited to short-term measures to address temporary shocks and setbacks, this largely represents a lean view of social protection. The programme is broad and should not be misrepresented.

## **1.2 Problem statement**

The areas of Tsakane, Kwa-Thema and Duduza were observed to be hard hit by poverty. The notion of this research developed after the present researcher observed that people in the identified townships were struggling to make ends meet. Some people lived in quite unacceptable conditions such as shacks without electricity and clean water. Some did not even have proper sanitation, and therefore they had to erect temporal toilet structures. They were mostly unemployed. In winter times, life was unbearable. They had to go scrape coal crumbs in order to cook and have some sort of heating mechanism. The unemployed ones could not afford to buy coal or firewood.

Social protection initiatives such as grant assistance, old-age assistance, reduction of exposure to risks, provision of housing, municipal services and food security programmes, were not noticeable among the three communities as a way of alleviating the condition of the people that were living in poverty in the study areas. Adding to already existing poverty, the tornado in Duduza that took place on the 4th of October 2011 wrecked people's lives. Charity organizations initiated vast assistance to the residents after the tornado. Local aid organisations pledged monetary assistance to the residents of Duduza (Organisations reach out to tornado victims – World News, 2011). They erected United Nations standard tents and rebuilt houses for the people. They also distributed food, clothing and

blankets as a way of assisting. Churches offered prayers and some clothing and cash to the fund that was established to also assist. Even though such assistance was offered it was a temporary measure that would not remove the residents of the study area from poverty. For this reason the present researcher became interested in studying the effectiveness of the South African government's social protection programme as a way of alleviating poverty in the proposed research areas.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The main objective of the study was to determine the effectiveness of social protection in alleviating poverty in the study areas of Tsakane, Duduza and Kwa-Thema in the Gauteng Province.

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- analyse the socio-economic characteristics of the recipients of social protection in the study area; to
- assess the perceptions of the recipients of social protection about the effectiveness of the social protection programmes in respect of the amount received monthly, access to funding, and communication.; and to
- analyse factors that influence the effectiveness of social protection programmes.

### **1.4 Research questions**

The study attempted to contribute answers to the following research questions.

- What are the social-economic characteristics of the recipients of social protection measures in the three areas of study?
- What are the perceptions of the respondents about the South African government's social protection services in their areas?
- What are the factors that influence the effectiveness of social protection?



## **1.5 Significance of the study**

This study attempted to contribute to the body of knowledge on social protection services, and presented further debating material for researchers about whether social protection is an effective tool or not in alleviating poverty. It is anticipated that the results will assist the government of South Africa and other developing countries in their understanding of factors that influence the effectiveness of social protection in alleviating poverty. The findings of the study are hopefully going to assist in the implementation of useful policies and amendments where necessary. Through sets of questions as guidelines the study is expected to highlight the situation of the poor in the study areas, and how they can be assisted with the social protection services. This study could therefore be used within townships with similar situations to strategize the improvement of social protection interventions.

## **1.6 Limitations of the study**

While carrying out the study some challenges were encountered that were limiting it. Some of the respondents were not willing to provide information regarding their incomes. In order to counteract such a limitation the researcher together with his research assistants was able to persuade the respondents by explaining to them the importance of social protection and how research can assist in establishing new strategies of benefit to them. Another limitation was that the study covered only a small section of Ekurhuleni, and thus the results may not reflect the situation in the whole delimitation. The analysis could also be skewed due to the small sub-samples. In order to counteract such a limitation, both qualitative and quantitative research design were used. Descriptive and econometric techniques were applied to analyze the resulting data. The model of analysis was adequate in addressing the factors influencing the effectiveness of social protection. The research could therefore be repeated by making use of a larger sample of each of the subsamples. However, the analysis was sufficient in addressing the objectives of this research.

## 1.7 Chapter layout

**Chapter 1** highlights the background of the study. It further provides the motivation, limitations and the research objectives.

**Chapter 2** explores and critically analyses past literature and ideas regarding poverty and social protection.

**Chapter 3** deals with research design and methodology. Description of decision on samples and measurements is addressed in this chapter.

**Chapter 4** reflects a detailed analysis of the data obtain in this data.

**Chapter 5** is about the discussion and recommendations of the study.

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter explores various literature references on the topic of poverty and social protection. It provides various definitions of social protection and justifies the need for social protection. It reviews research on the extent of poverty in South Africa which calls for social protection. Social protection and its programmes as a tool for poverty alleviation are discussed. Differing perceptions by researchers on the concept of social protection are also discussed. Gender-related risks as well as strategies to deal with social protection are covered in the literature review. Social protection in South Africa is highlighted. The extent to which it goes beyond cash transfers in helping small-scale farmers is discussed, together with its effectiveness.

#### 2.2 Poverty economics in South Africa

Poverty has a major impact on human and economic development. According to Barrientos (2008) poverty is multidimensional and seems to be continuous across generations; and it is a difficult predicament to completely eradicate. Poverty at different levels affects and diminishes the capacity and capability to gain and live a life of well-being. Its continuity and time frame is a threat to national stability and global peace (Odigie, 2007). There are many factors that contribute to poverty. This was confirmed by the World Summit for social development in Copenhagen (1995) which stipulated that there are various ways in which poverty manifests. However, economists still argue whether a high level of economic growth is vital to reduce poverty (Bhorat and Westhuizen, 2012). According to Bhorat and Westhuizen (2012), an increase in economic growth results in poverty levels being reduced. The type of economy a society embraces and the extent of poverty it is willing to endure, must take a central place in the discussion of strategies to mitigate poverty in South Africa (World Summit, 1995). The unstable economy and slow productivity growth in South Africa have been linked to a shortage of competitive pressure in its domestic input and production markets. In order for South Africa to improve its competitiveness internationally, input costs for major services used by companies must be lowered (World Bank, 2016). The report by the World Bank (2016) on promoting domestic competition among

firms brought out the importance of competition in international business. It argued that competition can bring about a faster poverty alleviation mechanism. However, more research still needs to be carried out on that notion.

Ravallion (2001) assessed the impact of economic growth on poverty, and he seems to conclude that when there is an increase in income, it is more likely that the distribution of that income will be positively affected. The study argued that an increase of income had a positive effect on a person's well-being. It brings the desire to migrate to a better location which may be more expensive. This could be as a result of peer pressure. It also has an effect on the type of food consumption and the type of assets acquired. Although an increase in income could bring about positive results and reduce the level of poverty, it could also have some negative effects. The more people earn the more they tend to incur debt in the form of loans for assets which they cannot afford to purchase in cash. Prinsloo (2002) also seemed to agree with the idea that an increase in income could bring about negative effects. He argued that an increase in income had a way to entice consumers to purchase goods or services immediately instead of postponing for the future. This could lead to purchasing decisions that might be regretted in the future.

### **2.2.1 Extent of poverty in South Africa**

According to a study carried out by the National Development Agency (NDA) (2014), the economic indicators of poverty include amongst others illiteracy, lack of health-care, and inadequate housing. NDA (2014) stated that the extent of poverty is high and it is concentrated in the rural areas of South Africa. Table 2.1 shows the indices of poverty disaggregated by gender across all provinces of South Africa at the R577 poverty line. In all the provinces poverty is more severe among females than among males. Female-headed households seemed to be more affected by poverty than male-headed households (NDA, 2014).

**Table 2.1: Poverty and inequality by province and gender**

Province	Gini	Poverty								
		Incidence			Intensity			Severity		
	Gini	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
National	0.63	0.21	0.17	0.28	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.03	0.03	0.05
Western Cape	0.57	0.10	0.08	0.12	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01
Eastern Cape	0.61	0.32	0.28	0.37	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.06	0.05	0.06
Northern Cape	0.59	0.25	0.21	0.31	0.08	0.07	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.04
Free State	0.56	0.19	0.16	0.24	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.03
Kwa Zulu-Natal	0.63	0.29	0.21	0.38	0.10	0.07	0.13	0.05	0.03	0.06
North West	0.63	0.25	0.21	0.31	0.08	0.07	0.10	0.04	0.04	0.05
Gauteng	0.60	0.09	0.08	0.12	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02
Mpumalanga	0.60	0.24	0.19	0.32	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.03	0.02	0.05
Limpopo	0.56	0.35	0.32	0.37	0.13	0.12	0.14	0.06	0.06	0.07

Source: HSRC, 2014.

The results of the study by the NDA in collaboration with the HSRC (2014) revealed that whites had low poverty rates when compared to the other racial groupings. Table 2.2 presents the poverty incidence by age group in South Africa at the R577 poverty line. The table revealed that poverty is more prevalent in the Northern Cape Province. With 35% poverty the age group (15-24) dominates all the other provinces (NDA, 2014).

**Table 2.2: Poverty incidence by age group in South Africa**

Province	Age groups (years)						
	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Western Cape		0.09	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.11	0.10
Eastern Cape	0.50	0.30	0.22	0.23	0.30	0.29	0.35
Northern Cape		0.35	0.20	0.20	0.30	0.26	0.27
Free State		0.14	0.15	0.19	0.23	0.22	0.21
KwaZulu Natal	0.00	0.22	0.17	0.27	0.33	0.34	0.35
North West	0.00	0.20	0.19	0.24	0.28	0.24	0.33
Gauteng		0.11	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.14	0.12
Mpumalanga		0.19	0.17	0.21	0.23	0.31	0.29
Limpopo	0.00	0.29	0.24	0.30	0.33	0.34	0.36

Source: HSRC, 2014.

## **2.2.2 The economy and socio-economic rights in South Africa**

The Bill of Rights (2008) of South Africa promised socio-economic rights to the South African citizens. In fact, everywhere on earth, people are entitled to some kind of rights. There are always basic human rights which encompass food, shelter and housing. South Africa has broadened the scope of rights that it offers to its people. Among the rights, health care, water, social assistance and on-going education have been prioritized.

According to the Bill of Rights (2008), the country is responsible for implementing legislative measures in order for citizens to realize their socio-economic rights. The Bill of Rights (2008) further revealed some of the resources which included budget priorities and the structures of the economy. Availability of these structures is determined by the government. It is however essential while addressing all the rights to ensure that the rights should not promote other barriers or predicaments. The childcare grant in South Africa is great, but has to be controlled. It is essential that it should not promote teen pregnancies and HIV while providing child support. More attention needs to be paid to the way policies are structured in South Africa. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), agreed with the Bill of Rights of (2008) about the right to access to social assistance for people who are unable to take care of themselves and the people under their care. Help is essential, but abuse of help should be discouraged.

## **2.3 Social protection**

Neves *et al.* (2009) highlighted the predicament of poverty that trapped many as a result of low income levels. Their study pointed out that South Africa was a middle-income country and thus understood that the nature of poverty and vulnerability necessitated social protection. Odigie (2007) seemed to agree with Lund and Srinivas (2000) when they indicated that vulnerabilities affected the informal economy and its workers. According to the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII, 2004) it is essential to measure poverty. The study highlighted that even though the existence of poverty might be apparent, measurement is a crucial role in the design of policies and government interventions.

Clear definition of poverty could contribute to effective poverty reduction (SPII, 2004). They highlighted a need for social protection to control poverty.

The study conducted by Hodges (2013) indicated monetary poverty as one of the characteristics that determined the level of social protection initiatives. The results of the study revealed that poverty was not concentrated on a marginalised population. This had a huge impact on the design of social protection programmes. The study conducted by Hodges (2013) also indicated that social protection designs varied from nation to nation. Krech & Bichmann (2007) pointed out that military conflict, economics recession, natural disasters, and personal tragedies had a huge bearing on the design of social protection programmes. Social protection is thus an essential tool to try and address the constraints faced by people (Barrientos & Hulme, 2005). Establishment of sustainable social protection interventions to eradicate poverty requires a clear understanding of its manifestations in any country (Armstrong *et al.*, 2008).

De Ferranti *et al.* (2000) defined social protection as a set of public interventions that support the society's poor and vulnerable individuals and assist communities. The International Confederation of Free Trade unions (ICFTU) (2000) pointed out that social insurance formed the basis for social solidarity. The study indicated that social protection played a crucial role in the transfer of money made from the employed to the unemployed and retired group. The combination of social insurance and social assistance could provide individual security for all and provide even universal coverage. With the growth of informal and unprotected employment, individuals are often unprotected. If there are any means of protection, they will usually be in the form of social assistance (ICFTU, 2000).

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) (2010) emphasized the effectiveness of social protection as a coverage for all vulnerable groups. ILO (2010) defined social protection as the total of public and private measures that society sets up for its members. The ILO (2010) viewed social protection as a human rights issue that must be provided, promoted and secured. It pointed to the government as the main player in establishing and promoting social coverage. The ILO (2010) further identified cost-effective and equitable ways of distributing social protection. Raynaud (2006) indicated the need for state intervention where a large section of a developing country's population is working in the informal economy. Shrestha (2004) highlighted some of the systems that could be employed in social protection. He agreed with the ILO (2010) on government being the key facilitator of social protection.

Taylor (2012) suggested that social protection is a touchstone of social policy. Social security and social protection are terms that are often used interchangeably. The study revealed that social protection differed from social security in that it carried wider application and can include developmental strategies. The ILO (2005) viewed social protection as a set of institutions, measures, rights, obligations and transfers that guaranteed access to health and social services. This was a mechanism to assist people to cope with risks at various stages of their life cycle. In South Africa the Bill of Rights of South Africa (2008) has documented the rights of the people of South Africa which include rights to social protection and social security. Policies have been established on the crucial rights of the people. Everyone has the right to have access to health, sufficient food and water, social security and no one may be refused emergency medical treatment (Bill of Rights, 2008).

The United Nations (2012) suggested that social protection had a huge effect on the pursuit of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It promotes universal access to core services like education, health care, nutrition and environmental health. According to the BRICS Research Group (2012), MDGs are the world's targets to assist in the eradication of poverty. The study suggested that the international community needs to improve its efforts especially in the area of financial assistance in order to realize its MGDs. Strengthening the international community can have a great positive effect on social protection. A report by the United Nations (2010) agreed with the BRICS Research Group study. The report indicated that a collective effort in attaining MDGs brought about huge changes in most countries. The report further indicated that in most countries the economic growth rate remained strong.

According to UNICEF (2013) the government in South Africa is the main funder of social protection programmes. The government is fighting poverty through numerous and well-resourced social grant programmes. The social protection programme is advanced. NGOs also play a crucial role in assisting poor communities in South Africa. UNICEF (2013) highlighted the involvement of the NGOs in assisting the poor. The study revealed that NGOs are working with the Department of Social Development and the South African Social Security Agency to assist excluded children, especially in the remote ends of the country.



According to Ngcobo *et al.* (2010), South Africa funded social safety nets that encompassed several conditional cash grants. The social protection network had increased since 2002. More grants were added to try and assist the poor. Ngcobo *et al.* (2010) further mentioned some of the cash grants, which included old-age pensions, disability grants and child-support grants. The beneficiaries of social protection are largely poor households with children. Today, the largest numbers of social protection recipients are poor households with children. “Social wage” is one of the essential social protection strategies. The social wage includes education, health and targeted support for human capital accumulation. Social wage could enable people to be fully employed in decent jobs (Mkandawire, 2001).

## **2.4 Social protection policy in South Africa**

Since 1994, the new South Africa has taken a huge turn and changed a lot of policies which embraced all the people of South Africa. Social protection policies were essentially reformed (ILO, 2014). ILO (2014) pointed out that the social grants had been a dynamic social policy. Grants were used to distinguish the deserving poor from non-deserving citizens. ILO (2014) also indicated that the most crucial grants were the old-age grant, the disability grant and the child-support grant. ILO (2014) argued that social racism had been abandoned and social protection policies were diverted from being dependent on racial categories. According to Ngcobo *et al.* (2010), there has been a shift in the options to enhance social protection policies in South Africa. These policies greatly enhanced research and policy interest. Safety nets seemed to be targeted and this was enhanced by the introduction of social grants to assist the poor to make ends meet (Ngcobo *et al.*, 2010). Altman and Boyce (2008) highlighted the options available to leverage social grants. Their study argued that some of the fundamental concepts of social protection were to ensure that the poor had sustainable food and nutrition security and also increased smallholder farmers’ productivity. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (2012), substantial amounts of resources were geared towards education and health; and therefore these services should be made available to the poor.

According to Mkandawire (2001) developmental social policy focused on developing human capabilities through social provision. Mkandawire (2001) emphasized the development of human capabilities through the provision of education and health services. The study argued that the social welfare

expenditure was a crucial component of “social wage”. The social wage could enable beneficiaries to get decent jobs much more easily. With an increase in the number of the employed, the economic efficiency of South Africa could be increased, and thus a positive impact on economic growth would be achieved (Mkandawire, 2001). According to Farrington and Slater (2006) there is now an instrument as required by policymakers, which is low-cost and which does not further load costs on beneficiaries accessing social assistance. The study argued that the instrument must have a high value-added component for local development. Ways to increase the impact of South Africa’s protection policies yielded increased research interest (Jacobs *et al.*, 2010). With more research, massive strategies and policies are yet to be established. A poverty alleviation strategy like social protection will always change with the evolving world. The functionality of the present programmes cannot be trusted to remain effective twenty years down the line. The world is an ever-changing entity.

## **2.5 Social protection perceptions**

There are different opinions regarding the subject of social protection. Different researchers view social protection differently. The Social Protection Strategy Paper from the World Bank (2000) viewed social protection as a social risk management strategy that strengthened economic stability and market development to social protection programmes. Research yields different results on ways to manage risk. Holzmann and Jorgensen (1999) highlighted some of the ways to manage risk. As much different research can yield different results, it is important to implement measures to minimise hazards (Holzmann and Jorgensen, 1999). Reliable risk management mechanisms have to be established because they can be a major barrier to human and economic development (OECD, 2009).

Bertranou *et al.* (2006) understood social protection as arising from rights. The study revealed that social protection was defined by entitlement to benefits that society supplied to households through collective strategies to protect them against challenging living standards. According to World Bank (2000) social protection is a social risk management that boosts macroeconomic stability and financial market development. World Bank (2000) highlighted that social risk management consisted of public interventions that assisted communities in managing their income risk. Risk assumes that being vulnerable to hazards is a substantial constraint on economic and human development. The United Nations (2000) viewed social protection as a set of public and private policies undertaken by societies

to offset the absence of income or substantial reduction of income from work. These interventions are designed to provide assistance to families with children, as well as health care and housing (UN, 2000). Social protection has a transformative angle in that it can assist in social justice and empowerment. It helps in the reduction of poverty, and enhances income and capabilities. Social protection is not only instrumental in improving human dignity, but it is also a tool that can greatly assist communities to manage income risks that cause people to be vulnerable to poverty (Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004).

Social security is a fundamental concept of social protection. The ILO Convention No. 102 on Social Security (Minimum Standards) of 1952 mentioned the branches of social protection as accounted for in the event of sickness, maternity and unemployment. It is however essential to encompass everyone on the benefits, instead of limiting them to a few groups. Most groups benefit from the coffers of social protection. One tends to wonder how the mentally challenged individuals roaming the streets of our nation actually attain their share of social benefit. Insanity is one aspect that one does not consciously choose. It chooses the individual. The insane and disabled should be prioritized. This shows that there is still a need for more research on social protection interventions.

Knowledge about social protection is, undeniably, a social right. Insufficient information greatly affects any positive expected results regarding social protection. According to Luttrell and Moser (2004) the scantiness of knowledge was about gender when social protection assistance is transferred, and the effects thereof. Thakur *et al.* (2009) suggested that it had become necessary to prioritize social assistance to female-headed households. The perception of Odigie (2007) was that measurable gains in gender equity could be attained if gendered forms of vulnerability could be addressed. The study suggested that women were more vulnerable. They were more likely to be kept out of school for domestic chores. The study further addressed the limited opportunities for women. Early marriage and child-bearing further affected their education and thus made them to be less knowledgeable about social protection.

There will always be a debate on whether men and women should be considered equal. Human rights commissions tried to bring the balance, but men still dominate in different structures. It is a situation where the world is looking for ways to find a good balance. One tends to wonder whether the balance can ever be realised. Women are the more vulnerable in most circumstances. Gendered forms of

vulnerability have to be analysed in order to attain gender equity and poverty reduction (Thakur *et al.*, 2009). Thakur *et al.* (2009) further highlighted that the higher levels of vulnerability often affected girls, and thus affected future productivity. With the high levels of teen pregnancies and HIV prevalence, it is the females that suffer the most from social imbalance because they are the ones that take care of the young ones while their male counterparts are more irresponsible.

Barrientos (2008) studied the relationship between gender and social protection. He stated that gender cash transfer beneficiaries made a substantial difference to the effectiveness of social protection. The study suggested that well-designed strategies that included women's work and children could potentially contribute to economic growth. Individual studies indicate that social protection can be instrumental in addressing the imbalances in gender social benefits. Molyneux (2007) portrayed the insufficiency of reliable data on the empowerment effects of social protection. Some studies suggested a mixture of both positive and negative effects. A number of programmes assumed that women were available to carry out the care-related obligations associated with conditional transfers, without consideration of their breadwinning responsibilities (SRC, 2008).

## **2.6 Social protection strategies and policy creation to tackle gender-related risks**

Luttrell and Moser (2004) in their study discovered that the need for social protection strategies differed between men and women. It poses a need for designing vital assistance services to address gender associated risk. Lund & Srinivas (2000) brought to light the element of cash transfers for women and children as measures of assistance. The authors seemed to believe that cash transfers could bring about great change in resources allocation in order to better lives of women and children. According to Thakur *et al.* (2009), a childcare support programme is one type of programme where research is needed. They believe that childcare could promote overall wellbeing of children. School-feeding to school children was considered by Thakur *et al.* (2009), as a programme with several positive impacts on hunger where it causes great discomfort and reduced concentration in the classroom. With the introduction of school feeding schemes, better performance results in schools could be obtained. A further study could be conducted to discover the gender-related effectiveness of feeding schemes on schoolchildren.

## **2.7 Social protection programmes in South Africa**

South Africa has a broad social protection programme which encompasses conditional cash transfers to a number of South African citizens (Jacobs *et al.*, 2010). There are different grant recipients who fall under different categories. The study by Thakur *et al.* (2009) revealed that pension schemes proved to be a vital programme. Although grants are vital, they tend to be misused. The grant that is meant to assist in the growth of children tends to be diverted to other activities. Recipients receiving pension grants tend to spend more on alcohol instead of essentials (Jacobs *et al.*, 2008).

Social protection programmes in South Africa go beyond just cash transfers; they also encompass assistance related to small-scale farming. The Department of Agriculture together with NGOs helps assist recipients of grants both in townships and in the rural communities to establish small-scale farming entities. They encourage recipients that have access to land to establish backyard gardens, and they supply them with inputs and agricultural training through extension officers (Ngcobo *et al.*, 2010). Aliber (2009) also alluded to the importance of social assistance in the sector of small-scale farming. His study revealed that there is a substantial number of small-scale farmers in South Africa who generally supplement their food supply with social protection initiatives. Aliber (2009) further mentioned that some of the social expenditure was aimed at the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, although large amounts of measures and policies have been established to enhance the smallholder farming sector, there has been no paramount amount of success (Jacobs *et al.*, 2008).

## **2.8 Chapter summary**

In this chapter a literature study was carried out which revealed an increase in the recognition of social protection as a vital instrument that can be used to minimize poverty. Evidence has been documented on the role of social protection in fighting poverty and thus supporting economic growth and strengthening the effectiveness of growth strategies. The literature also explored several types of social protection mechanisms and revealed the different forms. Some are the same though. Different countries formulate different strategies of social protection in order to fight different levels of poverty.

## **CHAPTER 3**

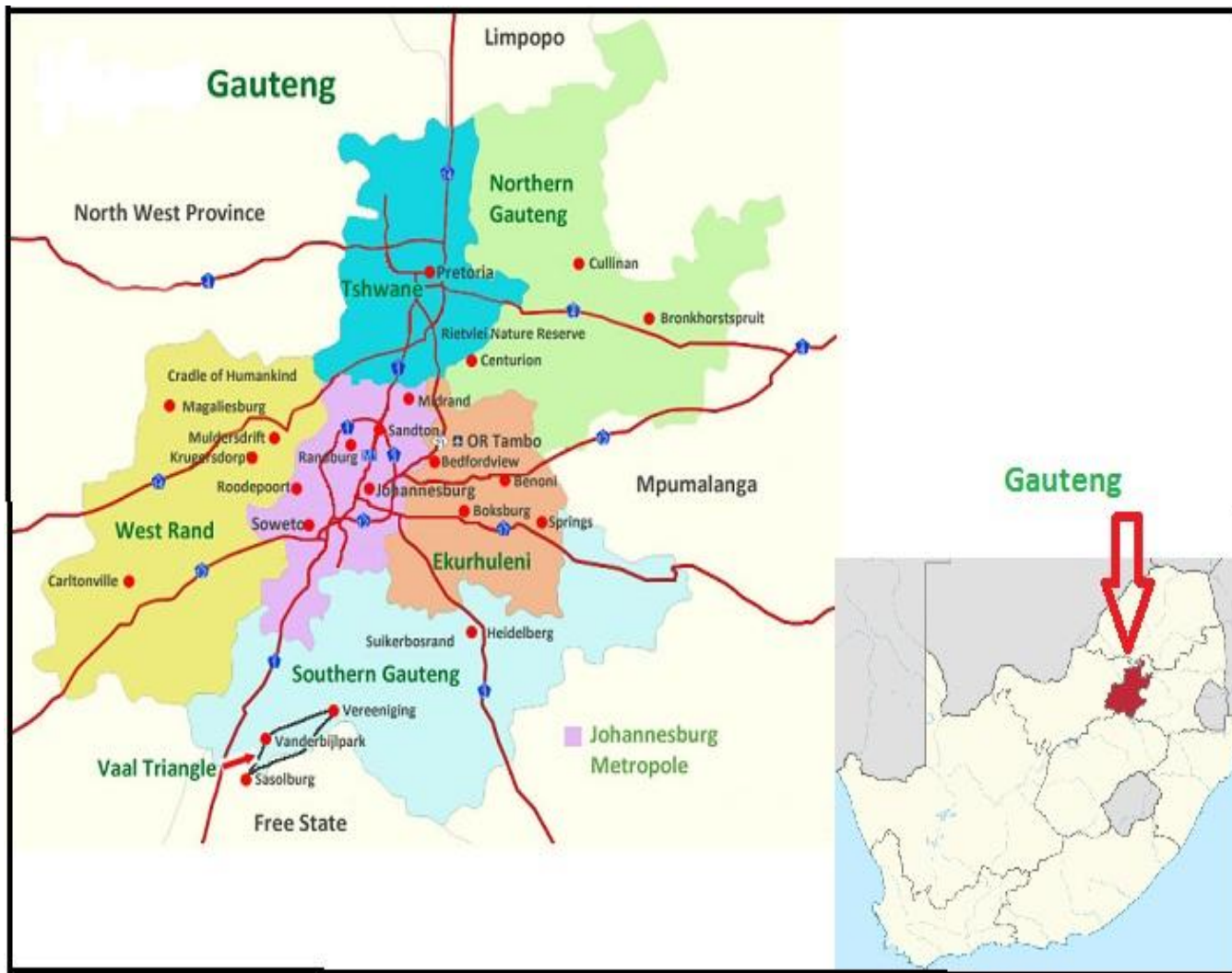
### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the area where the study was carried out and locates the sites of the study. It covers the study area and where it is situated on the map of South Africa in Figure 3.2. The three townships selected for the study are explained, together with activities that are prominent in those areas. This chapter further covers sample selection methods and the way in which data was collected. The methods used to analyse the data are descriptive statistics and binary logistics regression analysis (BLR). The BLR was employed in order to predict a dependent variable, based on the independent variables identified.

#### **3.2 Study area**

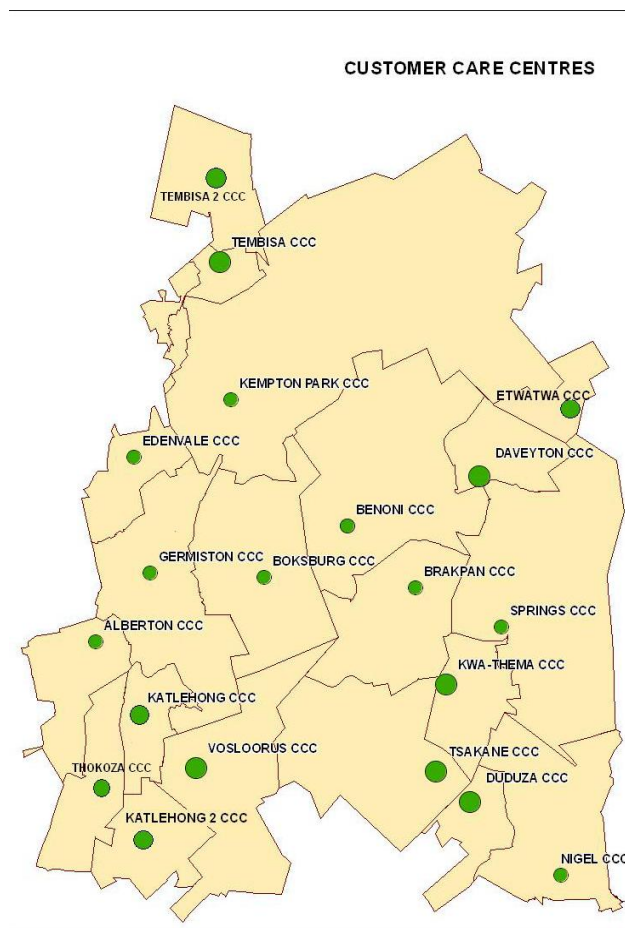
The study was carried out in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality which is situated in the Gauteng province of South Africa as indicated by Figure 3.1. The province has a total area of 16 548 km<sup>2</sup>. Gauteng province is the country's smallest province, with the highest population density (around 675 people per square kilometer).



**Figure 3.1:** South African map location of Gauteng Province.

**Source:** South-africa-tours-and-travel.com (2005-2015).

The people of Gauteng have the highest income level in the country (South Africa Info, 2015). The province has different cultures, different colours skins, and third world traditions in a mix, and quite a number of foreign influences. The province has the most advanced educational and health centres in the country. There is a lot of research and development in the Gauteng Province, which embraces a number of core biotechnology companies. It also has leading research institutions such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Agricultural Research Council and the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (South Africa Info, 2015).



**Figure 3.2:** Ekurhuleni Metropolitan municipality in Gauteng province.

**Source:** Municipal Demarcation Board (2011).

The present study was specifically carried out in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng Province as indicated by Figure 3.2. Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (the sampling unit for the study) is one of the five districts in Gauteng, which include the City of Tshwane Metropolitan municipality, the West Rand District municipality, the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan municipality, and the Sedibeng district municipality.



### **3.2.1 Climate of Gauteng province**

Gauteng province is a summer-rainfall area with hot summers, and cold winters accompanied by frost. The climate is consistent, with Pretoria some two degrees warmer than Johannesburg. The province renders fair climatic conditions with summer being warm without winds. Winters can become cold especially at night, while during the day the skies are clear. Mild climate in Gauteng is never humid and not uncomfortably hot either. Summer months average a minimum temperature of 17°C and a maximum of approximately 28°C. Hail can be expected during summer when there is a thunderstorm. During mid-winter, the months of July and August have the coldest weather. Winter days have been known to reach temperatures of 25°C but generally the winter months average a low of 5°C and a maximum of 19°C. Pretoria has more or less the same weather conditions as Johannesburg, but is well known as a rainfall region. Both Johannesburg and Pretoria experience summer thunderstorms in the late afternoons. These thunderstorms are accompanied by thunder and lightning, but are very brief. Hail is usually experienced during these thundershowers, and snow is almost never found within this area. Summer in this region runs from October to March (<http://www.southafrica.com/gauteng/climate>, 2012).

### **3.3 Social protection in Ekurhuleni**

In the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan municipality the different forms of social protection services include care and protection of vulnerable groups. This refers to childcare and protection, which involves an early childhood development (ECD) programme for providing support to chronic illness and other special needs. It also involves alternative care if the child has been placed in foster care, in the care of a Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) following an order of a court in terms of Children's Act or Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, as well as temporary safety care. Social protection services also involve the protection of persons with disabilities, as well as of older persons. These services take the form of residential and community-based care and support programmes in partnership with the NPOs in order to care, support and nurture family members.

Social crime prevention and victim empowerment are further forms of social protection; they provide comprehensive social-work services to persons in conflict with the law, and promote social crime

prevention and development of restorative justice. Victim empowerment aims to restore the loss or damage caused by criminal acts and their consequences, through a variety of actions intended to empower the victim to deal with the consequences of the event, to leave it behind and suffer no further loss or damage.

Another aspect of social protection is substance abuse prevention, which involves early intervention to prevent serious harm to individuals who have become addicted to substances but do not yet require institutionalization, by treatment which involves a series of interventions and support programmes that enable individuals to make healthier decisions about their lives. It also involves assisting people with substance abuse problems who have undergone treatment, to follow a lifestyle of abstinence and avoid drugs. Social protection services also include HIV and AIDS social protection which provides psycho-social care and support to children and families infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Social relief of distress is a form of social protection that temporarily provides assistance to persons in desperate material need and who are unable to meet their or their families' most basic needs. Social relief of distress is paid temporarily for 3 months to South African citizens or permanent residents, who have insufficient means while awaiting payment of an approved social grant. Qualifying persons are also those that are medically unfit to undertake remunerative work for a period of less than 6 months and have no maintenance from parent, child or spouse. It also applies to persons that have been affected by a disaster.

### **3.2.2 Socio-economic aspects of Gauteng Province**

Life expectancy in the Gauteng province is better than in the other provinces of the country. According to Socio-Economic Review and Outlook (2015), life expectancy in the province has increased remarkably between the years 2001 and 2016. It is also expected to increase between 2011 and 2016. For the province, life expectancy increased from an average of 58, 2 years between 2001 and 2006 to an average of about 60,5 years between 2006 and 2011. According to studies by Socio-Economic Review and Outlook (2015), life expectancy will increase further to an average of 64, 7 years between

2011 and 2016. Factors contributing to increased life expectancy include improved health care and the overall improvement in the quality of life in the province (Socio-Economic Review and Outlook, 2015).

### 3.4 Study population and sampling procedure

Three townships were selected from Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The elements included in the sampling unit were beneficiaries of social protection programmes. The selection was based on the assumption that the population in the areas of study was stricken by poverty. An example is one of the townships that suffered from a tornado which wrecked dwellings, and where the residents had to be assisted by the United Nations in October 2011. The sampling population consisted of households (household heads) of Tsakane, kwa-Thema and Duduza townships for the period 2012 to 2014. The number of households of Tsakane, kwa-Thema and Duduza for the years 2012 to 2014 was obtained from Statistics SA (2011), (Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Population size of the Tsakane, Kwa-Thema and Duduza townships**

Township	Total population
Tsakane	135 994
Kwa-Thema	99 517
Duduza	73 295

**Source:** Statistics SA (2011).

### 3.5 Sampling method

As part of the study, 200 respondents were selected from the 3 townships (Tsakane, kwa-Thema and Duduza) of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. A stratified sampling with proportional representation method was employed to select the respondents covering the three townships. From the sampling procedure 88 households from Tsakane, 64 households from kwa-Thema and 48 from Duduza were identified to be interviewed, as indicated in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2: Sample size per township**

<b>Name of township</b>	<b>Sample size</b>
Tsakane	88
Kwa-Thema	64
Duduza	48
Total	200

**Source:** Author's compilation.

### **3.6 Data collection procedure**

Before visit the study area, the researcher notified the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) concerning the intention to conduct a survey in the identified areas. The procedure to be followed was explained. Assistance was granted by GDARD towards the intended collection of data. The researcher made arrangements with GDARD to administer two hundred (200) questionnaires to the selected respondents. The 200 respondents covered participants from local study areas. Structured questionnaires written in English were used a research instruments to collect data. The research tools were made simple by use of closed-ended questions. Local concepts were used to avoid ambiguity. Questionnaires were arranged in blocks of topics in a logical flow of questions.

Suitable times for interviews were arranged with respondents and permission was solicited from the Ekurhuleni Local municipality. The present researcher, together with extension officers from the GDARD, conducted the interviews. Extension officers also assisted in the collection of because they had a better understanding of the area. The interview assistants explained the purpose of the survey and how important their participation and co-operation during interviews was. Interviews were conducted face-to-face with household heads (either male heads or female heads) in their homes or in the absence of household heads, with an adult that was at home. The researcher together with the local extension officers translated the questions in local language of the area, while conducting the interviews.

### 3.7 Data analysis

Statistical Package for Social Sciences, Version 21 (SPSS) of 2012, was used to analyse the data. The variables used in the analysis are defined in Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3: Definition of variables used in the analysis**

Variable	Explanation	Expected response
X <sub>1</sub>	Do you think social protection has had any effect on your living standards?	Yes =1; No = 2; Don't know = 3
X <sub>2</sub>	Is social protection instrumental to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?	Yes=1; No=2
X <sub>3</sub>	Has the assistance made any difference in your living standards?	Yes=1; No=2
X <sub>4</sub>	Is the government committed enough to improve social protection?	Yes, social protection coverage and systems are satisfactory = 1; Partially, but the social protection coverage and systems need to be improved = 2; No, it lacks political will = 3; Don't know = 4
X <sub>5</sub>	Do you think that social protection information is adequately disseminated in your municipality?	Yes, the information both easily accessible and understandable=1; The information is well disseminated but hard to understand=2; The information is easy to understand but does not reach everybody=3; No, potential beneficiaries are not adequately informed=4
X <sub>6</sub>	Who do you think is responsible to disseminate information on social protection services?	Local government = 1; NGO,S = 2; Community leaders = 3
X <sub>7</sub>	Which social protection measures are the most effective?	Social grants = 1; Community-driven schemes = 2; Public works = 3

**Source:** Author's compilation.

### 3.7.1 The model

Further statistical analysis was conducted using binary logistic regression (BLR) model to determine factors which influenced effectiveness of the social protection programmes. In analysing the data, variables that were the most representative of the study were selected. BLR was considered useful for the study in which the prediction of the effectiveness or absence of social protection was based on values of a set of socio-economic predictor variables (Norusis, 2004). The binary logistic regression is similar to a linear regression model but is suited to models where the dependent variable is dichotomous as in this study. Binary logistic regression coefficients were used to estimate odds ratios for each of the independent variables in the model. In the Binary logistic regression model, the relationship between the dependent variable Z, and the probability of the event of interest is described by the following link function (Norusis, 2004):

$$\pi_i = \frac{e^{z_i}}{1 + e^{z_i}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z_i}} \dots\dots\dots\text{equation 1}$$

or

$$Z_i = \log\left(\frac{\pi_i}{1 - \pi_i}\right) \dots\dots\dots\text{equation 2}$$

where:  $\pi_i$  =probability of the  $i$ th case;  $Z_i$  = value of the independent variable for the  $i$ th case. The model assumes that Z is linearly related to the predictors. Thus:

$$Z_i = b_0 + b_1 X_{i1} + b_2 X_{i2} + \dots + b_p X_{ip} \dots\dots\dots\text{equation 3}$$

where  $X_{ij}$ = predictor for the  $j$  th case;  $b_j$ = $j$  th coefficient and  $p$ =number of predictors. Since Z is unobservable, the predictors are related to the probability of interest by substituting Z in equation 1.

$$\pi_i = \frac{e^{z_i}}{1 + e^{z_i}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z_i}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(b_0 + b_1 X_{i1} + \dots + b_p X_{ip})}} \dots\dots\dots\text{equation 4}$$

The regression coefficients in the above expression were estimated through an iterative maximum likelihood method using SPSS V.21 (Hosmer and Lemeshow, 2000). In the study, the dependent variable “Do you think social protection benefits had any improvement on your living standard?” was dichotomous. The expected response was either yes=1 or otherwise = 0. Independent variables used in the binary logistic regression analysis are indicated in Table 3.4.

**Table 3.4: Independent variables used in the binary logistic regression analysis**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description of variable</b>	<b>Expected sign</b>
Location	Social protection recipients' location from point of social protection services. Tsakane=1; Duduza=2; Kwa-Thema=3	-ve
Gender	Male =1; Female =0	+ve
Age group	Age of social protection recipients in years	+ve
Education level	Level of education of social protection recipients. No formal education=1; Primary completed=2; Secondary school completed=3; Post-secondary=4; Certificate=5; Degree=6	+ve
Type of dwelling	Type of dwelling from shack to a standard house. Bricks under tiles=1; Bricks under corrugated sheets=2; Bricks under thatched roof=3; Own shack=4; Rented shack=5; Own RDP house=6; Rented RDP house=7; Own house not RDP=8; Other=9	+ve
Employment	Whether social protection recipients have some form of employment. Employed=1; Unemployed=2; Self-employed=3; Pensioner=4; Student=5; Other=6	-ve
Income	Whether social protection recipients have any source of income. R100 to R1 000=1; R2 000 to 4 000=2; R5 000 to R10 000=3; R10 000 and above=4	-ve

**Source:** Author's compilation

### **3.8 Ethical considerations**

Before administering the research instrument (questionnaire), permission was requested from relevant stakeholders and departments of agencies for the sampling to be carried out. This was to avoid

unauthorised acquisition of data and rights infringement. The researcher avoided to ask for the names of respondents, as these did not enter into the analysis.

### **3.9 Chapter summary**

This chapter provided important information about the study area. It covered analytical framework, sampling procedure and methods followed in identifying relevant respondents. Ethical considerations were also important in the study. This was followed by data collection procedure, data capturing, and analysis. During data analysis descriptive statistics was presented, followed by binary logistic regression analysis to make a meaningful interpretation of results from descriptive statistics and from the primary data collected from the study areas. Results of the study are interpreted, presented and discussed in Chapter 4.



## CHAPTER 4

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The objective of this chapter is to present the results of the study. It summarises the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. It also assesses variables that had a significant effect on social protection as a way of alleviating poverty, by use of inferential statistics. The use of inferential statistics is justified because over thirty respondents were interviewed in each township, as demanded for scientific analysis of quantitative data (Kitchin and Tate, 2000).

#### 4.2 Socio-economic characteristics of social protection beneficiaries

Table 4.1 displays socio-economic characteristics of respondents who were recipients of social protection during the period of study. The results showed that most (40%) of the social protection beneficiaries interviewed were from Tsakane Township. The lowest number of social protection beneficiaries interviewed was in Duduza Township at 27, 5%. The remaining 32, 5% interviewed were from Kwa-Thema Township. From the results, 41, 5% of the respondents were males. Thus, there were more females (58, 5%) interviewed than males. The results also indicated that 22% of the respondents were in the age group of 16 to 24. Most of the respondents (36, 5%) were between 25 and 34 years of age. A total of 29, 5% of the respondents interviewed were between 35 and 49 years of age. Only 6, 5% of the respondents interviewed were between 50 and 64 years of age. The lowest number, 5, 5% of the respondents, were in the group of 60 years and above. In terms of education, 59, 5% of the respondents had secondary education while 16% of the respondents had no formal education and another 16% indicated they had completed their primary school, and only 8, 5% indicated they had certificates. As for the type of dwelling the respondents used, the results indicated that 6, 5% of the respondents rented shacks, 25, 5% of the respondents lived in their own shacks, 3% rented RDP houses, 34% of the respondents lived in houses under corrugated iron sheets, a small number - 9% of the respondents - lived in brick houses under tiles and 22% of the respondents owned RDP houses.

**Table 4.1: Socio-economic characteristics of social protection beneficiaries**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Location</b>		
Tsakane	80	40
Duduza	55	27.5
Khwa-Thema	65	32.5
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	83	41.5
Female	117	58.5
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Age</b>		
16-24	44	22.0
25-34	73	36.5
35-49	59	29.5
50-64	13	6.5
+65	11	5.5
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Education level</b>		
No formal schooling	32	16.0
Primary completed	32	16.0
Secondary school completed	119	59.5
Certificate	17	8.5
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Type of dwelling</b>		
Rented shack	13	6.5
Own shack	51	25.5
Rented RDP house	6	3.0
Bricks under corrugated iron	68	34.0
Bricks under tiles	18	9.0
Own RDP house	44	22.0
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Employment information</b>		
Unemployed	98	49.0
Student	19	9.5
Self-employed	56	28.0
Employed	27	13.5
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Income</b>		
No income	84	42.0
R100-R1000	70	35.0
R1001-R4000	33	16.5
R4001-R10000	13	6.5
TOTAL	200	100

**Source:** Author's compilation

The results also revealed that the largest section of the respondents interviewed (49%) were unemployed, 9, 5% were students, 28% were self-employed and only 13, 5% of the respondents were employed. With reference to income, most of the respondents (i.e. 42%) had no income, 35% earned between R100 and R1 000, 16, 5% earned between R1 001 and R4 000, and only 6, 5% earned between R4001 and R10 000 per month.

### 4.3 Perceptions of social protection beneficiaries about social protection in their study areas

Descriptive statistics were performed on the variables related to the perceptions of the social protection beneficiaries about social protection in their study areas. Percentages were worked out to indicate positions with measures of central tendencies and measures of dispersions as indicated in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2: Descriptive statistics of the perceptions of social protection beneficiaries about social protection**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Is government committed enough to improve social protection?</b>		
Yes, social protection coverage and systems are satisfactory	42	21.0
Partially, the social protection coverage and systems need to be improved	66	33.0
No, because it lacks political will	40	20.0
Don't know	52	26.0
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Is social protection instrumental in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?</b>		
Yes	134	67.0
No	66	33.0
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Has the assistance made any difference in your welfare?</b>		
Yes	123	61.5
No	77	38.5
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Do you think social protection improved your living standards?</b>		
Yes	41	20.5
No	22	11.0
Hard to tell	137	68.5
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Do you think that social protection information is adequately disseminated in your municipality?</b>		
Yes, the information is both easily accessible and understandable	63	31.5
The information is well disseminated but hard to understand	1	0.5
The information is easy to understand but does not reach everybody	52	26.0
No, potential beneficiaries are not adequately informed	84	42.0
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Who do you think is responsible to disseminate information on social protection services?</b>		
Local government	99	49.5
NGOs	11	5.5
Community leaders	90	45.0
TOTAL	200	100
<b>Which social protection measures are the most effective?</b>		
Social grants	178	89.0
Community- driven schemes	2	1.0
Public works	20	10.0
TOTAL	200	100

**Source:** Author's compilation

Table 4.2 indicates perceptions of beneficiaries about the social protection programme in the study areas. The results indicate that only 21% of the respondents perceived the government as committed enough to improve social protection, and 33% perceived government as partially committed. A total of 20% of the respondents thought that the government was not committed enough and 26% did not know whether the government was committed to improve social protection. According to the results 67% of the respondents thought that social protection was instrumental in achieving Millennium Development Goals and 33% did not. Also the results revealed that 61, 5% of the respondents thought that government assistance made a difference in their welfare, and 38, 5% thought otherwise.

Again, 20,5% of the respondents interviewed thought that social protection had an effect on their living standards, 11% thought it had no effect and 68, 5% indicated that it was hard to tell. Additionally, 31, 5% of the respondents indicated that information about social protection was adequately disseminated, 0, 5% suggested that the information was hard to read although it was accessible. While 26% suggested that the information was easy to access, they indicated that social protection information was hard to understand. A total of 42% of the beneficiaries suggested that they were not well informed. Respondents were also asked who they thought was responsible for disseminating information, and 49, 5% of the people indicated that local government was responsible for disseminating information to the beneficiaries. Only 5, 5% suggested that NGOs should be responsible for disseminating information, while 45% of the respondents pointed out that it is local government that should be responsible for information dissemination to social protection beneficiaries. Again the results revealed that 89% of the respondents thought that social grants were the most effective measure of social protection, only 1% thought community-driven schemes, and 10% relied on the government's Department of Public Works.

#### **4.4 Factors that influenced the effectiveness of social protection among beneficiaries**

Table 4.3 presents the results of the estimated binary logistic regression model. The estimated model indicated an overall classification rate of 56%. This result indicated the degree of accuracy of the model and the reliability of the resulting estimated coefficients with their accompanying statistics. From the results the dependent variable would explain between 45, 7% and 61, 2% of the variation in results as indicated by the diagnostics.

The location of the social protection beneficiaries had a negative, statistically significant ( $P < 1\%$ ) effect on their standard of living. Thus, an increase in the location spread of beneficiaries reduced the effectiveness of social protection programmes. The plausible reason is that as beneficiaries stayed further from the receiving points of social protection, more expenditure was incurred on transport, thus reducing the net benefit of social protection. Information and other sources of social protection would not reach them effectively.

The results of the analysis also suggested that gender had a negative but statistically significant ( $P < 1\%$ ) effect on the standard of living of social protection beneficiaries. The gender variable was entered as a dummy variable where male respondents were recorded as 1 and females as 0. This result therefore implies that an increase in males resulted in less effectiveness of the social protection programmes, other factors being held constant. On the other hand it means that an increase in women increased the effectiveness of the social protection programmes. The programme thus improves welfare, i.e. standard of living, with an increase in the number of women recipients. The findings of the present study seem to differ from the findings of Kabeer (2008) who pointed out that challenges faced by men differed from those faced by women. Some of these barriers could be gender based and others could be escalated by inequalities and discrimination. That researcher argued that such findings suggested that women were disproportionately represented among the poor. This did not only limited women's access to labour market, but also often confined employed women to poor remuneration, and more unstable forms of wages and self-employment, particularly in the informal economy, without access to social protection. The study pointed out that women were more susceptible to human rights violations, spreading poverty and insecurity that often characterized their fragile states. Such factors emphasized the need for further understanding about the rationale, policy and programme effects of a gendered approach to social protection. Barrientos (2008) pointed out the difference made by gender of social protection on the effectiveness with which it increases investment and promotes more efficient resource allocation within households.

Furthermore, results also showed that level of education had a positive and statistically significant ( $P < 1\%$ ) effect on the standard of living of social protection beneficiaries. Level of education played a major role on social protection; it positively affected social protection as a means of alleviating poverty. This implied that, other factors being equal, beneficiaries with higher education were more likely to use

the benefits of social protection more effectively than their counterparts. A plausible reason could be that beneficiaries with a better level of education were more likely to be better allocators of social protection resources, in contrast to their counterparts who were less educated. The education for all global monitoring report (2010) pointed out that social protection measures were needed to help poor households manage risk to mitigate the negative effects of poverty on education.

The type of dwelling had a negative, statistically significant effect ( $P < 1\%$ ) on the standard of living of social protection beneficiaries. The results indicated that access to social protection decreased with increased access to better types of dwellings of social protection beneficiaries. Thus the beneficiaries living in lower types of dwellings were the ones who were more likely to access social protection. Some literature suggests that providing people with houses, as social protection measure, is an important factor in poverty alleviation. According to a study by Boudreaux (2008), house allocation to beneficiaries can result in the escalation of income through its effect on access to credit. The study pointed out that in the South Africa, studies don't find any evidence of this effect. This could be as a result of the beneficiaries of housing subsidies are cautious of the risk involved in using their property as collateral.

Income had a negative but statistically significant ( $P < 1\%$ ) effect on the living standard of social protection beneficiaries. The results show that, with other factors held constant, an increase in income would decrease one's chance of receiving social protection. This outcome is quite consistent with the objective of social protection policy. Literature has shown that reliance on a capped wage level to promote targeting may represent a rather blunt approach, resulting in somewhat approximate targeting outcomes. A capped income will also reduce the reduction in the poverty gap resulting from programme implementation, with direct negative social protection consequences, and will reduce the likelihood of capital accumulation in the medium term, with negative implications for medium-term transformative outcomes (Appleton and Collier, 1995).

**Table 4.3: Parameter estimates of binary logistic model**

Variable	B	SE	Wald	Df	Sig	Exp (B)
Location	-1.354***	0.385	12.377	1	0.000	0.258
Gender	-1.989***	0.579	11.816	1	0.001	0.137
Age group (yrs)	-0.403	0.303	1.769	1	0.184	0.669
Education level	1.325***	0.391	11.460	1	0.001	3.763
Type of dwelling	-0.863***	0.174	24.536	1	0.000	0.422
Employment	0.211	0.253	0.679	1	0.404	1.235
Income	-0.953***	0.215	19.6700	1	0.000	0.385
Constant	11.584	2.281	25.801	1	0.000	107396.15

**Diagnostics**

Cox and Snell R square = 0.457

**Classification**

Do you think social protection has had any improvement on your living standards? Yes=88; No=112

**Goodness of fit-2** Log likelihood = 152.227    **df** = 1

**Nagelkerke R Square** = 0.612    **Overall** = 56.0%

P-values are for slopes; \*\*\*P<0, 01; \*\* P<0, 05 and \*P<0,10. Significant at 1%, 5% and 10 % probability levels, respectively.

**4.5 Chapter summary**

This chapter examined the effectiveness of social protection in the three selected townships of Ekurhuleni in the Gauteng region of South Africa. A total number of 200 questionnaires collected from the respondents were analysed using descriptive statistics and a binary logistic regression (BLR) model. More people in Tsakane were interviewed compared to Kwa-Thema and Duduza. Duduza had the least number of respondents' interviewed. More females than males were interviewed, and they were mostly between the ages of 25 and 34 years. The results also revealed that few beneficiaries had attended tertiary education, but most of the beneficiaries had at least completed their secondary

school. Additionally, the results showed that a substantial number (34%) of beneficiaries lived in brick houses under corrugated iron sheets, and a fair number again had their own shacks. Looking at percentages of the total for both rented and owned shacks, the results seemed to suggest that the number of shacks in the study areas was fairly high. Most of the beneficiaries in the study areas were unemployed. Only a very few 13, 5% were employed. Finally, the result of the descriptive statistics showed that social protection was highly needed in the study areas, as a high percentage (42%) of the people had no income at all and most of the beneficiaries who did have some income earned only between R100 and R1 000 per month, which showed that the level of poverty was fairly high. Again the results revealed that there was a need to improve the way information was disseminated in the study areas as shown by the high number (42%) of beneficiaries who mentioned that information was not adequately disseminated as indicated in Table 4.2.

The results from the BLR model, which predicted the significance of the variables, showed that 5 out of 10 independent variables had statistically significant impact on the standards of social protection beneficiaries. Location, although significant, did not have a positive impact on living standards of beneficiaries and subsequently, on social protection. The results also indicated that an increase in female beneficiaries increased the standards of living which also implied the effectiveness of social protection programme. Additionally, beneficiaries with better levels of education were better users of social protection programmes than their counterparts. Furthermore, with access to better types of dwellings of the beneficiaries, that did not have a positive effect on the standard of living and therefore did not increase the effectiveness of social protection. Lastly, an increase in incomes of social protection beneficiaries decreased their ability to use social protection effectively.



## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents conclusions and recommendations of the study carried out in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan municipality of Gauteng province in South Africa. The objective of the study was to determine the factors that influenced the effectiveness of social protection, as a way of alleviating poverty in the study areas. To accomplish this, the following research questions were asked:

- What are the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the three areas of study?
- What are the perceptions of the respondents about social protection in their areas?
- What are the factors that determine the effectiveness of social protection?

The sampling method that was followed was a stratified sampling with proportional representation. The method was employed to select respondents covering the three townships. From the sampling procedure, 88 households from Tsakane, 64 households from kwa-Thema and 48 from Duduza were identified to be interviewed. Data were collected in the form of questionnaires by which 200 beneficiaries were interviewed. The 200 respondents covered participants from Tsakane, Duduza and Kwa-Thema townships. The questionnaires were written in English and in certain instances interpreted into the respondent's language as some of the beneficiaries were illiterate. The questionnaire was made simple by the use of closed-ended questions. Data were analysed using descriptive and binary logistic regression analysis.

## **5.2 Results of descriptive statistics**

To accomplish the objectives of the study, descriptive statistics was used. The results revealed the township with the highest number of respondents interviewed. Most of the respondents were from Tsakane.

After the descriptive statistics analysis, it became apparent that the level of education in the study areas was very low. Very few people had tertiary qualifications, but a substantial percentage of the respondents had completed their secondary school. This suggested that these townships fell under the category of poor communities. The results of descriptive statistics revealed that there were a lot of people living in shacks (25, 5%) in the study areas. This finding could cause a health problem to the people living in these townships. Govender *et al.* (2011) seemed to agree with the idea that housing affected health, through a range of factors. Although some of the residents in these townships lived in shacks, the percentage of proper housing with corrugated iron sheet was fairly high at 34%, compared to the other structures. The need for social protection in the study areas was still high, as revealed by the results. Most of the people earned very little. The results suggested that a huge percentage (42%) of the respondents were not getting an income. This suggested that most the respondents in the townships were unemployed. Most of those that were employed earned an amount between R100 and R1000 per month. This amount of income is very little in these hard economic times.

## **5.3 Results of binary logistic regression**

From the binary logistic regression model, the results revealed that location of the respondents, gender, level of education, and type of dwelling all had an effect on social protection. This was an indication that these factors were essential variables and could be used as determinants of social protection. With an overall percentage of 56 the results showed the degree of accuracy of the model and thus the reliability of the resulting estimated coefficients with their accompanying statistics. The dependent variable was explained between 45, 7% and 61, 2% of the variation in results. As indicated by the non-significance of the goodness of fit, the model fitted the data well. The high level of unemployment in South Africa contributes to the level of poverty encountered. Classification rates of 44% for effectiveness of social protect and 56% for non-effectiveness of social protection were

observed. Usman (2009) reckons that poverty is a global and major concern in developing countries. The study highlighted that a huge number of people in the world lived on less than two dollars a day. This greatly affects human dignity. Somavia (1999) agreed with Usman (2009) and labelled poverty and unemployment as an offence to humanity. Barrientos and Hulme (2005) indicated that social protection had a solid focus on poverty reduction and was exerting support to the poor. Social protection emphasis is mainly on income maintenance and supporting living standards (de Haan, 2000). The major emphasis of social protection is on highlighting the causes of poverty and its signs (World Bank, 2001a).

The working class faces minimum risk of being affected by poverty, as indicated by the results of this study. This was indicated by the significance of the levels-of-income variable. This therefore suggests that the unemployed are more likely to be poor than the employed or people getting some sort of income, whether from their own business or from some support by family members or other sources. The level of education also proved to be significant with regard to the effectiveness of social protection. The more educated the respondents were, the less likely they were to be poor, as they got better jobs which they are qualified in. The type of dwelling indicated that the ones that lived in shacks were less likely to be affected by poverty. This is probably because living in a shack indicates not being able to afford to live in a better establishment. They were also the ones who were mostly unemployed.

Gender was also significant in the results. According to Kabeer (2008) the shift on gender equality is viewed as a critical factor in attaining MDGs. Kabeer (2008) further highlighted the difference women and men face which can reduce opportunities for women according to typology. Holmes and Jones (2010) seemed to agree with Kabeer. They suggested that addressing gender forms of vulnerability was important because it attracted gains in gender equity and could help in poverty reduction. High levels of vulnerability faced by women have a negative effect on productivity. Kabeer (2008) addressed the likelihood of girls being kept out of school for domestic chores, rather than boys. Gender cash-transfer beneficiaries can render a massive difference to the effectiveness of social protection (Barrientos, 2008). There are links between various forms of strategies in South Africa. Social protection and economic development are interlinked. The present study focused on the effectiveness of social protection in alleviating poverty in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality of the Gauteng province of South Africa.

## **5.4 Conclusions**

In Table 4.3 the binary logistic regression used in this study showed the degree of significance of different variables which had an effect on social protection. This outcome indicated that these variables were important determinants of social protection. From the outcomes, employment seemed to play a crucial role in alleviating poverty. The results suggested that the unemployed in the study areas are more likely to be poor. The level of education also proved to be significant in the area of effectiveness of social protection. The more educated the respondents were, the less likely they were to be poor as they got better jobs for which they were qualified. There is still a need to improve the living conditions in the study areas. This was indicated by the fairly high percentage of people living in informal structures. They were also the ones who were mostly unemployed.

It was established that gender had an effect on social protection. This was indicated by the significance of this variable in the results. An effective social protection system can be fully functional with a framework of solid social and economic environment. There is a high need for more research in the area of social protection in the changing world. This will assist in addressing the ever changing needs of the poor.

## **5.5 Recommendations**

The following recommendations are based on the research findings in relation to the variables that had significance for the effectiveness of social protection in the three townships (Tsakane, Kwa-Thema and Duduza):

### **5.5.1 Location**

The results of this study suggested that the location of the social protection beneficiaries had a negative, but statistically significant ( $P < 1\%$ ) effect on their standard of living. The study recommends that social protection services should be brought more within reach of the beneficiaries in order to increase its effectiveness. The study further recommends that more research be carried out underlying

factors that cause a negative relationship between the location of social protection beneficiaries and the social protection services. The study also recommends factors that can enhance the effectiveness of social protection in cases where social protection services are located far from their intended beneficiaries.

### **5.5.2 Empowerment of women**

The results of the analysis suggested that gender had a negative but statistically significant ( $P < 1\%$ ) effect on the standard of living of social protection beneficiaries. An increase in females caused the social protection initiatives to improve the standard of living in the study areas. The results of the study suggest a focus on women for social protection initiatives, due to the following reasons: Gender inequalities exist among communities whether or not poor, although they tend to be more pronounced among the poor, especially in areas of capabilities and opportunities. With gender inequalities females are liable to be poorer off than their male peers. Over and above, the survival of most households relies on the productive and reproductive contributions of women. Further, an increasing number of poor households, which are usually the targets of social protection initiatives, are headed and/or maintained by women. It is recommended, therefore, that more women empowerment initiatives through social protection be devised.

### **5.5.3 Improvement in levels of education**

The results of the study indicated that the level of education had a positive and statistically significant effect ( $P < 1\%$ ) on the standard of living of social protection beneficiaries. The higher the levels of education of the social protection beneficiaries, the better their access was to social protection services. The study therefore recommends that more research be carried out on ways to keep the youth in the study area motivated to go to school and further their studies in institutions of higher learning.

#### **5.5.4 Type of dwelling**

According to the results of this study, the type of dwelling had a negative but statistically significant effect ( $P < 1\%$ ) on the standard of living of social protection beneficiaries. The results indicated that access to social protection decreased with increased access to better types of dwellings of social protection beneficiaries. Thus the beneficiaries living in lower types of dwellings were the ones who were more likely to access social protection. The study therefore recommends that social protection services be directed at people that live in inferior types of dwelling. The study also recommends further research on other social protection areas of intervention that can assist such communities.

#### **5.5.5 Income-generating social protection strategies**

The study recommends that more research be carried out on income-generating social protection strategies in South Africa. People should be taught how to generate their own income instead of depending on the government all the time. According to the HSRC (2013), the challenges faced by rural and urban communities vary. These challenges include lack of income opportunities, high levels of poverty and inequalities, low education levels and limited access to socio-economic services. The study pointed out that these challenges often cause communities to find alternative ways of getting income. It is essential to empower communities with entrepreneurship skill. These skills can help help communities establish their own businesses and thus find another source of income (HSRC, 2013).

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## ANNEXURE A: QUESTIONNAIRE

### Analysis of effectiveness of social protection as a means of alleviating poverty in South Africa

#### Purpose of the survey

This survey will cover the activities in Tsakane, Duduza and Kwa-Thema townships which fall under the Ekurhuleni part of Gauteng. Its main aim will be to determine the effectiveness of social protection approach in alleviating poverty in the study areas.

Please tick the boxes provided where appropriate and provide any other information on the spaces provided.

#### SECTION 1: GENERAL QUESTIONS

##### 1. PLEASE INDICATE THE LOCATION OF INTERVIEWEE

Tsakane

Duduza

Kwa-Thema

##### 2. Gender

Male

Female

##### 3. Age of respondent

16 – 24	1
25 – 34	2
35 – 49	3
50 – 64	4
+65	5

##### 4. Education level of respondent

No formal schooling	1
Primary completed	2
Secondary school completed	3
Post-secondary	4
Certificate	5
Degree	6

**5. Type of dwelling**

Bricks under tiles	1
Bricks under corrugated sheets	2
Bricks under thatched roof	3
Own shack	4
Rented shack	5
Own RDP House	6
Rented RDP house	7
Own house not RDP	8
Other (please specify)	9

**6. Employment information.**

Employed	1
Unemployed	2
Self employed	3
Pensioner	4
Student	5
Other (please specify)	6

If self-employed what kind of business do you do?.....

If you are a student what are you studying?.....

Who finances your studies?.....

If you a pensioner do you get government grant?

Yes  1                      No     2

**7. Income per month (R)**

100 -1 000	1
2 000 – 4 000	2
5 000 – 10 000	3
+ 10 000	4

**8. How many dependants do you have in the household?**

1 - 2  3 or more

**9. Do you have a backyard garden?**

Yes  No

If yes, what did you plant e.g. spinach, cabbage, carrot, chomolia, etc.

*Please list the planted vegetables*

Name of vegetable	Area planted (m <sup>2</sup> )

**10. Have you received assistance from government with regard to your vegetable garden?**

Yes  No

**11. Have you heard about Household Food security program?**

Yes  No

**12. What kind of assistance do you want?**

Finance  Seedlings  Gardening workshops

If you are not growing your own vegetables, how do you access them? Buy from hawkers, supermarket, fruit and veg city etc.

Hawkers  Supermarkets  Fruit and veg city

**13. What kind of sanitation does your household mainly use?**

Flush toilet inside dwelling	1	GO TO Q 10
Flush toilet outside dwelling	2	
Traditional pit latrine	3	GO TO Q 9
Ventilated improved pit	4	
No access to pit, bush or field	5	
Other	6	

**14. Approximately how many other households have to use the same toilet as well?**

.....

**15. Is your rubbish removed by your local municipality?**

Yes	1
No	2
Sometimes	3
Do not know	4

**16. If not, how do you get rid of your rubbish? Do you:**

Dump it in bins in the yard	1
Dump it in a communal rubbish dump	2
Burn your rubbish	3
Dump the rubbish in the open	4
Other (please specify)	5

**17. What main source of energy do you use for lighting and cooking?**

	Lighting	Cooking
Candles	1	X
Electricity	2	1
Gas	3	2
Paraffin/Primus stove	4	3
Generator/battery	5	4
Solar energy	6	5
Other (Please specify)	7	6

**SECTION 2: SOCIAL SERVICES**

**2.1 VIEWS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**18. In your opinion is the government committed enough to (politically, financially) to improve social protection?**

- 1.  Yes, social protection coverage and systems are satisfactory
  - 2.  Partially, but the social protection coverage and systems need to be improved
  - 3.  No, because it lacks political will
  - 4.  Don't know/not sure.
- 

**19. In your opinion, is social protection instrumental to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?**

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No

If yes, which ones in particular (Please select all that apply in the choices below?)

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

**2.2: SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS IN YOUR MUNICIPALITY**

**20. Do you get any kind of assistance from government?**

- Yes  1                      No  2

**If yes which assistance do you receive?**

Subsidized electricity	1
Subsidized water bills	2
Free water	3
Free housing	4
Free refuse removal	5
Subsidized medical aid	6
Training	7
Finance to establish small businesses	8
Other (please specify)	9
.....	
.....	
.....	

**21. What type of grant do you get from government?**

Old age grant	1
Disability grant	2
Care dependent grant	3
Foster care grant	4
Child support grant	5
Social relief of distress	6

**22. Has assistance made any difference in your welfare?**

Yes  1                      No                       2

**23. Are you aware of any social protection initiatives in your municipality?**

Yes  1                      No                       2

**24. Are they helpful?**

Yes  1                      No                       2

**25. Do you think social protection has had any effect on your living standards?**

1                       2                       3



Yes

No

Hard to tell

**26. Do you think that social protection information is adequately disseminated in your municipality?**

- 1.  Yes, the information is both easily accessible and understandable.
- 2.  The information is well disseminated but hard to understand.
- 3.  The information is easy to understand but doesn't reach everybody.
- 4.  No, potential beneficiaries are not adequately informed.

**27. Who do you think is responsible to disseminate information on social protection services?**

- 1.  Local government
- 2.  NGOs
- 3.  Community leaders
- 4.  Other (please specify).....

**28. How is the community informed about social services initiatives?**

- 1.  Internet
- 2.  Television/Radio
- 3.  Posters/ pamphlets/news papers
- 4.  Face to face by local leaders
- 5.  Other (please specify)  
.....

**29. What kind of information is provided to potential beneficiaries?**

- 1.  The list of benefits they can have access to.
- 2.  The procedure to access these benefits.
- 3.  No information is shared.
- 4.  Don't know.
- 5.  Other (please specify)  
.....

**30. In your opinion, which social protection measures are the most effective?**

- 1.  Social grants
- 2.  Community - driven schemes (e.g. informal networks)
- 3.  Public works
- 4.  Other (please specify).....

**THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.**

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