

# Research on the Community Work Programme (CWP) in Kagiso *Impact of the CWP on Violence*

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# The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVSR)

- CSVSR is an NGO that works to build reconciliation, democracy and a human rights culture and prevent violence in South Africa and in other countries in Africa. NGO
- Established in 1989.
- Offices in Johannesburg in Cape Town.

# Research in Kagiso - background

- CSVR and Wits Society Work and Development Institute (SWOP) published report the 'The Smoke that Calls' in 2011.
- Report provides seven case studies, 6 dealing with communities affected by collective violence
  - Not just issues of 'service delivery' (root causes).
  - Relationships of patronage a key factor (proximate causes).
- The 7<sup>th</sup> case study deals with a community called Bokfontein in North West - community suffers from 'lack of basic services' but no collective violence.
- Research in Bokfontein finds that the Community Work Programme (CWP) was key in ensuring the communities resilience against violence.

# The Community Work Programme

- Piloted under the Presidency in 2007-2009.
- Became full programme of government in 2010.
  - 2014 - 154 CWP sites with 204 047 participants.
- Unlike EPWP (under Dept of Public Works) CWP under COGTA (Dept of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs).
- CWP participants do 100 days of 'useful work' per year in return for a stipend.
- Community based – participants from community, work for benefit of community, 'reference committee' to include community representatives
- CWP is supposed to be a 'safety net' - 'social assistance' ofr people living in poverty (like grants) rather than 'job creation'.

# CWP (summary)

- The CWP is a form of 'safety-net' for unemployed individuals in the areas where economic alternatives of any kind are limited.
- The CWP is designed to offer 'regular and predictable' access to work on an ongoing basis: two days of work per week, which amount to 100 days per annum.
- CWP work should benefit the community at which site is located.

# Features of the CWP in Bokfontein

- Preceded by intensive community process of internal reflection (Organisation Workshop) – ‘engaged community members in collective introspection ... expanded their consciousness of possibilities and of the role of leadership’
- CWP Held in high regard by community members.
- CWP mobilises community to address key developmental challenges through ‘useful work’.
- CWP also ‘strengthens community solidarity, provide forums for discussion and decision-making, establishes participant leadership, and generate a vibrant sense of community’.

# New CSVR study

- New CSVR study focused on the CWP:
  - How does the CWP work?
  - Does the CWP contribute to the prevention of violence?
  - How can it better contribute to preventing violence?
- Funding for the study comes from the International Development Research Centre's (IDRC) Safe and Inclusive Cities (SAIC) programme.
- Research to be conducted at 6 CWP sites in Gauteng and the Western Cape.
- First site – Kagiso.

# CWP in Kagiso

- Started in 2009.
- In 2013 - 1287 participants of whom 872(68%) are female and 356 (28%) are youth.
- Major decline in youth participation since 2011 when there were over 700 youth participants.
- Main activities: cleaning & recycling (estimated 60% of work), food gardens, home based care, support to schools and others institutions,



# Key issues in Kagiso

- But CWP implemented in a hurry - no proper inception process including community consultation
  - Lack of knowledge about purpose of CWP in community
- No proper reference committee = no proper community leadership and accountability
  - CWP manual: RC should include local government and community stakeholders
- Councillors and ward committees main influence on CWP in each ward - sometimes problems of favouritism and nepotism in recruitment

# Kagiso key issues (contd)

- Pride on the part of many CWP participants about CWP work.
  - Also appreciated by many community members
  - Acknowledged as main reason for cleanliness of Kagiso
- Many community members – lack understanding of CWP and have negative attitudes towards it
  - However many people in community look down on the CWP.
  - Many young people, even if unemployed, often reject idea of working in CWP.
  - Also CWP seen as not suitable for men.

# Recommendations – Building support for the CWP

- Need for communication to improve understanding about, cooperation with, and respect for the CWP
  - What the CWP is
  - What the CWP does
  - CWP is open to all residents who are eligible -  
How to join
  - Support needed for the CWP from the community

# Recommendations – community ownership and governance

- Need for reference committee – membership of which is known in Kagiso
- Clearer processes for consultation around community needs and the role that the CWP can played

# CWP and crime and violence in Kagiso

- CWP has positive impact
  - Work: cleaning, food for those in need, home based care, support to schools.
  - Social cohesion – more networks of support between people in each ward
  - Incomes mean families are better able to raise children.
- But crime and drug abuse remain key concerns in community.
- Strengthen role of CWP by strengthening ‘social crime-prevention’ such as
  - Improving support to ‘Early Childhood Development’, child headed households and young mothers.
  - Supervised recreational activities for children.

# Conclusion

- CWP is playing an important role in Kagiso in providing income and employment to some people who are facing economic hardship including in particular women with young children who do not have alternative economic opportunities.
- However CWP not realising its full potential
  - Need to build community support and understanding of CWP.
  - Need to strengthen community ownership and governance
  - Possibilities for strengthening contribution to prevention of violence and crime
- In Bokfontein CWP was a powerful vehicle for community involvement in development and for building social cohesion. Pride and dignity associated with participation in the CWP.

The end

THANKS YOU