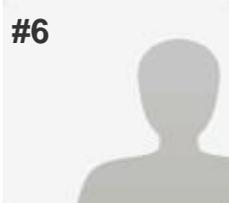


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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, April 25, 2016 4:44:01 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, May 01, 2016 8:52:00 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 196.210.11.205

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| Q1: Project Name | Assessing the impact of state-community collaboration to address urban violence in South Africa |
| Q2: Report Author(s) and Institution | Hugo van der Merwe |
| Q3: Period covered by the report (MM/YY to MM/YY) | 04/13 to 03/16 |

PAGE 2: Findings

Q4: Did you have any unexpected research findings? If yes, please describe them. Describe any unexpected, unusual, or counter-intuitive findings coming out of your research project.

Social cohesion turned out to be a somewhat controversial concept which contained hidden elements of coercion and reinforcement of unequal relationships. The diversity of context explored by the study allowed it to examine situations where very similar interventions resulted in quite different outcomes resulting from pre-existing community networks and entrenched patterns of local cohesion. Where the CWP resources were introduced through actors with inclusive networks and non-political agendas, social cohesion was promoted in a more integrated manner. Other contexts involving strong political control, competitive political processes and gang networks introduced serious challenges for local actors to resist or work alongside these dynamics to introduce and sustain CWP projects.

Q5: Discuss the gender dimensions of your findings. Discuss your project's gender analysis. Describe any findings that incorporate a gender analysis. Describe the implications of your research for different groups of men and women.

All aspects of the research have endeavoured to engage with a gendered understanding of the challenges and policy options. Gender thus features as a key concern in all the community case study reports. In the course of the project, we have also decided to add a particular gender component which will produce a Policy Brief specifically looking at CWP, gender and violence prevention. CSVr is also still planning to turn these insights into a journal article that examines the gender dimensions of the CWP's role in violence prevention.

The preliminary findings from this research suggest:

- 1) Numerous benefits to participating in CWP, especially for women facing higher unemployment rates than men. CWP allows them to work close to their homes and still have time to care for children and other family members. It allows participants with health problems to continue earning an income. The income supplements child support, disability and older persons' grants. The work is also empowering for participants and coordinators, especially for young women participants who can access work experience and basic skills training through the programme.
- 2) CWP strengthens existing social networks and ongoing community work, especially among women. It increases understanding and compassion among participants and other community members of diverse backgrounds. This social cohesion translates into indirect and direct efforts to prevent crime and violence or address their effects. Such efforts range from working with children and youth to reduce 'risk factors,' to providing advice or raising awareness regarding how to cope with different forms of violence, to patrolling schools and streets to prevent crime and address 'risky' behaviour.

- 3) Women play a central role in designing and implementing these initiatives, using their position as care providers and 'mothers of the community' in relation to the young men who usually commit violence.
- 4) Providing targeted training to participants within CWP would increase interest in CWP among young people, as it increases their chances of exiting CWP and finding employment. This is especially important for young women under age 35, who are the most vulnerable in the current labour market.
- 5) There is a need to ensure that participants have access to psychosocial counselling and basic training on working with children and adults who have experienced crime and violence. This is important given CWP's indirect and direct work on violence prevention. It would also help mitigate the effects of violence women participants may face at home, whether from partners, grown children or other family members, especially in cases where the income and empowerment that comes from working with CWP disturbs power balances in their households.

Q6: What areas for further research are emerging from your project? In particular, are there any topics that would be relevant for a future program that builds on SAIC?

The project has led into the submission and funding of a second phase of the project. "Public Employment Programs for Safer Communities in South Africa" was approved for funding and commenced on 15 February 2016. This project involves practical intervention piloting, upscaling and policy implementation and is being implemented with strong CWP endorsement.

On the research side, the next phase has developed detailed plans, firstly to look at more practical intervention lessons related to very targeted intervention strategies (such as engagement with youth, gender violence and ex-offenders) that have very immediate policy and training implications. Secondly the project will look at international applications to explore the feasibility of applying the generic lessons regarding public sector employment contribution to violence prevention in other national contexts. The opportunity for a direct exchange relationship to share lessons with one other country/CSO in Latin America is included (in broad terms) in the plans for this project.

This comparative lesson sharing would require an initial exploration of what employment programmes in Latin America share similar characteristics that would allow comparative analysis or lesson sharing. Do the contexts in SA and LA share similar challenges in relation to social cohesion? Do public employment programmes (or other similar income generating opportunities) provide the same opportunities and challenges in these contexts? Are there key principles that would characterise effective programmes in both contexts (in relation to addressing both basic needs and contributing to social and civic cohesion, and violence prevention)?

PAGE 3: Influence, Outcomes, Impact, and Contributions to Change

Q7: Has your project or research contributed to/influenced any policy or practice changes? If yes, describe the change and how your research contributed to it.

The project findings and recommendations were surprisingly welcomed by key government officials and political leaders. While some of the findings were very critical of local implementation experiences of the government initiative, the reports focus mainly on the positive elements and indicate how these can be institutionalised and built upon. While there has not been any shifts in policy, through participating in various forums and meetings, the government officials have both sent a clear message regarding supporting the violence prevention opportunities offered by CWP and endorsed the measures suggested by CSVr to strengthen these initiatives (in terms of governance, participation and intervention strategies). A shift in practice is however difficult to observe at this point, and it is expected that only through more serious engagement (through the training and policy implementation assistance anticipated in the next phase), will this endorsement translate into specific policies and institutional practices.

The contribution of the research was mainly to highlight the opportunities and showcase the value that could be gained through more effective state engagement. Building trust and a sense of collaboration with key state officials and drawing in political support from national Ministers also provided momentum to these efforts.

Q8: Are there any upcoming opportunities to influence policy or practice, such as a parliamentary debate, an international conference, a UN report, etc? Describe how you expect your research to contribute to that process and how you plan to engage with it.

CSVr will participate through IDRC sponsorship in the upcoming events in Geneva:

- An academic workshop co-hosted with the Centre on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding, July 4 or 5,

- A meeting of the Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice, July 6.
- A conference entitled, "Reviewing the State of Safety in World Cities: Urban Solutions for Crime, Conflict and Insecurity" on July 7 and 8. At the conference, IDRC will organize a parallel session focused on Safe and Inclusive Cities research findings and policy recommendations. The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, UN-Habitat, and the United Nations Office in Geneva are co-hosting the conference. These events are expected to feed into the UN's upcoming Habitat III conference.

Q9: Capacity development: Provide final cumulative details on how many women and men have developed skills or learned from your project. (NB: This will include those previously reported.) Example: Over the entire project, 55 field workers (40 women, 15 men) were trained. 5 Fieldwork supervisors (3 women, 2 men) were trained. 212 undergraduate students (127 women, 85 men) were exposed to research and methodologies developed in the project. 6 graduate students (2 women, 4 men) participated in the project as research assistants.

Over the entire project:

6 Researchers (3 men and 3 women) were trained and coached

3 Graduate student interns (3 women) were exposed to research and were professionally developed

63 Professionals from government and civil society (30 men and 33 women) were involved in a one day workshop to share experiences and develop intervention strategies

49 CWP officials and community members (36 women and 13 men) in capacity building workshops in Orange Farm and Ivory Park with CWP staff, and participants to build understanding of dynamics of violence and intervention options

Q10: Has your project leveraged any new funds to support current or new work that builds on SAIC? If yes, provide details on the work being supported, the funder and the amount of funding. Example: The Embassy of the Netherlands provided \$10,000 to produce three additional policy briefs on the research.

One of the key events of the project, a national policy workshop was co-hosted by CSVr, the Dept of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and GIZ. This collaboration involved COGTA sponsoring the travel and accommodation costs of all the government representatives attending the meeting (about \$5000) and GIZ covering the venue and meals for the meeting (\$4000). COGTA has also taken responsibility for disseminating copies of the policy briefs produced by the project to all its regional offices (about \$1000) although confirmation of this is still required. In the next phase of the project, CSVr is developing a MOU with GIZ and COGTA which will see a substantial expansion of this collaboration and an anticipated contribution to joint activities that will amount to over \$100 000.

Q11: Describe your engagement with other SAIC researchers and any associated activities or outputs not previously reported. Is SAIC working as a network for you? In what ways?

The network has been particularly useful in facilitating the sharing of ideas among South African partners working on similar themes. The fact that two SA partners focused on social cohesion while approaching in quite different ways created useful spaces for critical and productive discussions. To have two organisations engaging with public entities on these issues and promoting similar policy positions was also useful in building public momentum regarding the need to prioritise concerns relating to social cohesion and violence prevention.

The international network provided a useful exposure to leading edge research questions and recent research findings regarding economic development, political developments and violence. This provided both key insights as well as an awareness of the international policy context shaping these debates.

The exposure to a range of research methods used by other partners did not directly influence our project approach, but was also a very useful learning experience and have shaped our approach to other research projects presently being developed. As an independent NGO that is not affiliated to an academic institution, this exposure to other scientific research that faces similar contextual challenges to us, was of particular value.

CSVr convened a meeting of IDRC funded projects in regional conference 'Urban Frontiers' in Johannesburg on 8-9 March 2016.

During the three years period April 2013 to March 2016 seven research teams in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Kenya have carried out research on the links between poverty, inequalities and violence within the context of the

and Kenya have carried out research on the links between poverty, inequalities and violence within the context of the city and mass urbanization, and on how development or other strategies respond to these issues.

Of the seven projects, six form part of the Safe and Inclusive Cities (SAIC) program, a global research program funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and British Department for Foreign Development (DFID). The seventh project, based in the Mukuru Slum in Nairobi, is also funded by the IDRC.

Key themes explored at the conference included:

Urban areas ... slums/informal settlements ... townships

Some of the seven projects are more focused on informal settlement or slum type areas with others on 'township' areas attached to major cities. The initiative in which the Kenyan participants are involved is focused on one of the major Nairobi slums, the Mukuru slum. 'Perhaps most striking about the Mukuru settlements is that 92 percent of all inhabitants are tenants who pay rent to absentee landlords who often own the structures but not the land underneath. Because the Mukuru settlements are built on privately held lands, they have not benefited from slum-upgrading programs in the same way that, for example, the Kibera and Korogocho settlements, located on public lands, have.' Initially one of the key focuses of the intervention was a court action intended to address people's need to be protected against forcible eviction. The court order, in 2012, secured a moratorium on evictions for Mukuru residents.

Comparable issues to do with the multifaceted forms of adversity that people face in urban areas – and the related complexity of analysing and trying to address the challenges that they face – were highlighted in the presentation by the University of Zimbabwe. The project that they were reporting on looked at the experience of women in 3 urban areas. The research identified a range of factors which contribute to women's exclusion – and reinforce their vulnerability to physical violence such as. These include factors such as:

- Overcrowded living conditions
- Limited access to housing (availability and affordability)
- Inadequate services
- Corruption

The Zimbabwean presentation resonated with the words of the Jane Weru of the Akiba Mashinani Trust, one of the role players in the Mukuru project that 'access to land is a proxy for other rights'. According to the University of Zimbabwe project factors such as overcrowded conditions, limited access to housing and corruption reinforce women's vulnerability to physical violence. In women's experience of exclusion there is an intersectionality of gender, poverty, inequality and violence, Nohlanhlanhla Sibanda, one of the discussants at the event, said.

The social content of relationships within the urban context – social cohesion, masculinity

Questions of social cohesion were highlighted in the HSRC research which has concluded that 'relationships of social solidarity' are already an ingrained feature of Khayelitsha community with mutual connections appearing to be intrinsic to many people's sense of self-identity. At the same time that networks are needed to survive poverty and (notably in the past) repression and are channels for friendship and support, they can serve as mechanisms for excluding others, and for perpetrating violence.

Another key dimension of identities that are directly related to questions of violence in cities in Southern Africa are gender identities. The Universidade Eduardo Mondlane SAIC project focuses on the relationship between masculinities and social exclusion in Maputo. In terms of prevailing norms men are seen as the head of the family and responsible for resolving problems that the family faces. Both men and women can be breadwinners but the man is still seen as the ultimate authority within the family. However high rates of unemployment undermine the ability of men to act as breadwinners with money and poverty often contributing to conflict within families. However it is not only current circumstances that contribute to violence. Though it is now more than two decades since the end of Mozambique's civil war, the war also continues to impact on peoples live. One manifestation of this is that 'Men with extreme war-related violent experiences, significantly use more often intimate partner violence'.

Formalisation and informality

One of the issues that emerged as a theme across many of the presentations was the issue of 'informality' and its relationship to addressing exclusion and violence. 'Informality' is manifested in many ways in the Southern African cities including in informal settlements or slums and informal trading but also has many other dimensions. One of the discussants observed on the tension between formalisation which often defines urban governance and development strategies and informality which is often more 'organic' in nature. The issue of informality came up in various ways in the

discussion. For instance on the basis of their research the HSRC argued that VPUU should take into account existing networks and relationships and that we need to learn to 'work with informality'.

Questions to do with informality are also a challenge in relation to the liquor trade. In South Africa trading in alcohol is often a critical source of incomes. Notably in poorer areas there are often many unlicensed liquor outlets often located in areas that are not zoned to accommodate them. One of the dilemmas facing governments is how to address the unlicensed trade in liquor which is a significant contributor to violence in vulnerable communities, but also relied on by many people as a survival strategy.

The concept of violence

Another issue that emerged in a number of the presentations where differences in interpretation of the concept of violence itself. For instance UKZN researchers talked about violence as the 'use of physical force or power' which 'results in injury or harm' and referred variously to social, economic, political, institutional and environmental violence.

On the other hand one of the observations of the University of Zimbabwe researchers was that while female respondents spoke about violence from various sources, notably including the police as an official institution, they tended not to identify other aspects of their experiences, such as the lack of access to housing, as forms of violence.

Conclusions of the research are that 'there appears to be a link between the experience of interpersonal (specifically domestic) violence and structural violence' that 'The result of structural violence is that the impact of domestic violence worsens' and that 'Violence is both a result of exclusion and a reaffirmation of exclusion and different forms of power'.

How to intervene

Yet another theme that cut across many presentations and much of the discussion were issues about the factors that made for successful interventions. In discussing developmental initiatives for instance some of the arguments that were made were about the need to 'activate' development by establishing an 'organic link' between communities and development. While some participants at the event argued for instance for 'participation' over 'consultation' others noted the time consuming, and expensive, nature of participatory processes.

An important concern was with the relationship between addressing issues of exclusion and violence in cities and questions of power? The concern was expressed that a 'state-market' nexus has a disproportionate power and influence. Related to this the need to ensure that other voices and interests contribute to shaping the urban agenda was seen as critical. Changing power relations was seen as critical element of addressing violence and exclusion in cities.

Q12: What can IDRC do to maintain the SAIC network after the projects close? What would make the network valuable to you?

IDRC has identified potential partners for the next phase of the project. Rather than loose networking activities, such more targeted partnerships built around very specific opportunities for learning and sharing would be more valuable. While there are numerous common themes and similar challenges faced by the SAIC partners, these are not necessarily region specific. A more detailed understanding of opportunities for sharing is required to identify substantial and more ongoing partnership possibilities.

It would be good to have components identified that link different projects. This could include everything from conceptual collaboration around defining "social cohesion," to methodological challenges relating to measuring reduction/shifts in violent behaviour/attitudes, to collaborating in accessing public spaces for dialogue and policy spaces to engage policy makers.

PAGE 4: Upcoming Activities, Outputs, and Outreach

Q13: Provide details on any outputs (books, journal articles, infographics, videos, etc) or activities from your SAIC project that are not yet completed. Please provide expected completion dates.

All completed

Q14: Discuss any lessons or insights that are relevant to other SAIC projects, the SAIC program, or future work. These could be related to challenges, ethical practice, substantive issues, methods, etc. Responses could focus on substantive and/or administrative issues.

The engagement with IDRC regarding research methodologies and approaches, policy relevance and gender aspects is always a learning experience. The rigour of IDRC in its practices that arise from experienced professional staff (rather than legal and bureaucratic mind sets) is always a great bonus

Q15: Please share any other feedback that you have for IDRC. Summarize recommendations with respect to the administration of the project, its scope, duration, or budget.

The challenges of working with a negative budget for the last few months of the project can be substantial in terms of cash flow and challenge internal financial requirements for budget management. Having some flexibility regarding the 10% final payment is critical.
