

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of the research was to explore the impact of the IFNP in the local municipality of Kungwini, situated on the border between Gauteng and Mpumalanga. The research investigated whether the IFNP was effective to reduce poverty in Kungwini. The researcher sought to gain a perspective of the IFNP's implementation processes, which were key components to achieving the programme's objectives.

The IFNP aimed to increase household food production and income-generating initiatives to assist impoverished households. This research was guided by theory and a research question concerning the presumed relationship between the IFNP and poverty alleviation in Kungwini.

Chapter 1 included the planning of the research process, incorporating a preliminary literature review regarding poverty issues and establishing the research goal and objectives. The research question was clearly defined. The research included the qualitative approach to assess the impact of the IFNP on impoverished households. The quantitative approach was chosen to assess the expectations of public service delivery personnel to reduce poverty in Kungwini.

Chapter 2 presented the literature study on global and national poverty, the impact of poverty in Africa and South Africa, the impact of climate change on poverty, the impact of HIV/AIDS on the poor, the socio-economic impact of poverty, the impact of the Millennium Development Goals, poverty projections and social justice, and addressing poverty effectively in South Africa.

Chapter 3 presented the literature study on the historical perspective on public policy development, public policy development in South Africa, a review of service delivery models, policy challenges, and the value of collaborative partnerships.

Chapter 4 included the qualitative and quantitative research designs, research methodology, the research population, sample and sampling method, ethical aspects, definition of key concepts, the pilot study, qualitative and quantitative data collection, and the qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

Chapter 5 discussed the research setting for the qualitative study, beneficiary profile, phases of the qualitative data collecting, focus group interviews, extended household interviews and the qualitative data analysis. The data was gathered through a semi-structured interview schedule and the themes and sub-themes were compared with the literature study in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3.

Chapter 6 discussed the research setting, phases of the quantitative data collecting, the quantitative measuring instrument, the quantitative data collecting, quantitative data analysis and the quantitative data conclusions.

Chapter 7 outlines the contents of Chapters 1 to 6, how the goal and objectives of this study were achieved, and how the research question provided the framework for the formulation of the recommendations to improve service delivery to poor clients. The conclusions and recommendations for this study, based on the data analysis of the qualitative and quantitative studies, informed the recommendations to improve service delivery to poor clients.

An overview of Chapters 1-6 follows in terms of chapter summary, chapter conclusions and appropriate recommendations based on these conclusions.

7.2 CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 outlined the preliminary literature review, the goal and objectives of the research and the research approach, summarised as follows:

7.2.1 Summary

7.2.1.1 Historical plight of the poor

The historical plight of the poor in South Africa goes back over several centuries and prevented the indigenous population to acquire a better standard of living. Post 1994, following the establishment of a democratic government in South Africa, attention was paid to the dire plight of the poor who live in difficult circumstances marked by high levels of unemployment. The huge gap between the rich and the poor in South Africa entrenched their marginalisation.

7.2.1.2 Problems with measuring poverty

In addition to government's efforts to address poverty, social researchers grapple with measuring poverty as a social phenomenon, as it includes complex socio-cultural and political aspects that have negative consequences for the poor. The Orshanksy poverty index measures absolute poverty, based on a family's basic food needs. This provides a statistical measure, which falls either above or below the poverty line to evaluate the impact of public poverty programmes. The Orshanksy Poverty Index gave rise to two concepts used globally to define poverty, namely, income poverty which describes absolute poverty (complete lack of basic necessities) and relative poverty (standard of living significantly lower than that of the majority of the population) and the Human Poverty Index, based on malnutrition, illiteracy, access to health care, and safe water.

The spatial distribution of poverty commonly used by comparative researchers include case poverty (inability to satisfy basic needs), collective poverty (inability of large groups to meet their basic needs), widespread poverty (25% of the population experience poverty), concentrated poverty (neighbourhoods entrenched in poverty), rural poverty (isolation from urban centres) and urban poverty (income poverty in cities). Although the spatial distribution of poverty assists comparative researchers to assess poverty levels to a certain degree, a holistic South African index to assess income, cultural, and political aspects of poverty is not available.

7.2.1.3 Accelerating services to the poor

Poverty programmes should be based on policy frameworks that include long-term planning and adequate resources. Following the development of the White Paper for Social Development (1997), the policy framework for social welfare, the government hosted the second World Summit for Social Development in 2002, which followed the first World Summit in Brazil in 1992. At both summits, employment creation was the focus of public policies and strategies globally.

This research is based on the above commitment by South Africa, through the evaluation of the IFNP in the local municipality of Kungwini, a rural area in the Metsweding Municipal District, situated on the border between Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

7.2.2 Research goal and objectives

7.2.2.1 Research goal

The research goal is to bring change in a problematic social situation, and to seek solutions to improve service delivery through appropriate alternative policy strategies. The research goal for this research was to assess the manner in which the IFNP utilised its policy framework to reduce poverty in Kungwini. The goal of this research is stated as follows: To evaluate the impact of the IFNP on the poor in Kungwini. The study aimed to identify the challenges experienced by impoverished households in Kungwini and to provide recommendations to solve policy problems relating to the IFNP in order to strengthen public service delivery.

7.2.2.2 Research objectives

The research objectives focused on policy problems and policy performance relating to the IFNP. To pursue these objectives, the researcher undertook measurable steps to evaluate the impact of the IFNP on impoverished households in Kungwini. To ensure that the objectives formed the axis of the research investigation, the researcher developed steps to gain new knowledge regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini. This included formulating the research question to search for answers regarding the impact of the IFNP and choosing the research design, namely the combined qualitative and quantitative approach to gather appropriate research data.

The following objectives were identified to attain the goal of the research study:

▫ Objective 1

To formulate a conceptual framework through a literature study regarding poverty in South Africa, poverty relief programmes within the context of the policies of the RDP, the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997), GEAR and ASgiSA.

The above objective was achieved through a literature study, presented in Chapters 2 and 3, which respectively describe global and national poverty issues, and policy success and policy constraints.

▫ **Objective 2**

To evaluate the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini

The above objective was achieved through the combined qualitative and quantitative approach (refer Chapters 5 and 6) which provided research data to assess the impact of the IFNP.

▫ **Objective 3**

To draw conclusions and provide recommendations regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini to policy makers at the National and the Gauteng Provincial Departments of Social Development.

The above objective was achieved through an in-depth literature study and the qualitative and quantitative data, which provided research information for the recommendations to the National and Gauteng Departments of Social Development. The researcher will ensure that this research is made available to the above departments and the research participants and respondents.

Where feasible, the researcher will make presentations at senior management meetings of the above departments, as well as the Departments of Health, Education, and Agriculture, including community organisations in Kungwini, which participated in the research.

7.2.3 Research question

This research utilised a research question to search for answers regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini. The research question identified the research process in which the topic should be explored, established the research setting, and directed the research investigation. The research question for this research is stated as follows:

“What is the impact of the IFNP upon the poor in Kungwini?”

The above research question was answered through the empirical investigation utilising focus group and extended household interviews for the qualitative approach, and a questionnaire for the quantitative approach. The focus group and extended household interviews were conducted with the IFNP beneficiaries, who provided rich

sources of information regarding the impact of the programme to reduce poverty in Kungwini.

The questionnaire provided data from personnel from the Departments of Social Development, Health, Education and Agriculture, as well as from members from community organisations who are involved in respective poverty programmes in Kungwini.

The research question can be answered as follows: Chapter 5 outlines the responses from the focus group and extended households regarding the impact of the IFNP from the participants' experiences. Chapter 6 outlines the quantitative data, indicating the impact of the IFNP from the respondents' expectations.

7.2.4 Chapter 1: The research process

The conclusions regarding the research process are as follows:

- The literature overview provides information regarding the problem under review, guides the formulation of the research goal and objectives, assists to state the research question and the selection of the research design to gather empirical data to answer the research question.
- The literature overview assists to define ethical concepts regarding the researcher's conduct towards research subjects and to conceptualise problems into a scientific enquiry, in order to seek solutions to social problems.

7.2.5 Recommendations Chapter 1: the research process

The recommendations with regard to the research process are as follows:

- A preliminary literature study should be utilised to obtain information regarding the presenting problem in order to gain a better perspective on poverty and to guide the formulation of the intervention goal and objectives.
- The preliminary literature should also guide the selection of appropriate research designs to gather empirical data regarding the nature and extent of the problem.

- The preliminary literature study should be used to conceptualise the presenting problem through appropriate concepts that clarify the problems experienced by the poor.
- The preliminary literature study should assist to conduct transparent processes with service delivery recipients and stakeholders.
- The preliminary literature study should assist to plan the foundational groundwork work for intervention and to clarify stakeholder roles.

7.3 CHAPTER 2: GLOBAL AND NATIONAL POVERTY

7.3.1 Summary

7.3.1.1 The economy and poverty levels in South Africa

The United Nations' MDG in 2000 committed various countries to reduce poverty by 50% by 2015. South Africa would not be able to meet this goal due to the slow pace of service delivery. Although the South African Constitution guarantees that the basic needs of the poor are addressed, poverty levels continue to increase.

Socio-economic challenges include the inability of the Growth, Employment, and Redistribution Programme (GEAR) to provide the projected 3-4% economic growth to create 400 000 new jobs each year. The poor continue to become poorer. It is imperative to create an enabling service delivery environment to address fragmented service delivery.

7.3.1.2 Gender discrimination and social marginalisation of vulnerable groups

Poor women lacking appropriate education and work-related skills are excluded from the socio-economic and political spheres. Women generally are subject to gender discrimination in the workplace and lack support for childcare and the elderly. Poverty influences children negatively in terms of their physical and emotional development.

Child poverty is linked to high rates of unemployment and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Youth poverty and low levels of education are interlinked. A large number of youth are not skilled for employment. A lack of adequate health care and negative social

environments entrench youth poverty. There are fewer role models to assist the youth to achieve life goals and career success.

The aged poor are among the most impoverished group in society. The majority do not have basic education or work-related skills. In the absence of biological parents, elderly grandparents care for many young children. The frail elderly do not have access to the necessary care they require. The disabled poor cannot access appropriate skills, employment, or social and health services. Consequently, they are marginalised from the mainstream of society.

7.3.1.3 Adverse environments and poverty

Changing weather patterns have a negative impact on small-scale farmers, who have to contend with poor soil conditions and reduced crops. The future prospects for impoverished households who depend on subsistence farming remain grim.

7.3.1.4 The gap between the informal and formal sectors

There is a huge gap between the informal and formal sectors in South Africa. The informal sector trades mainly for survival needs, while the formal sector is based on sound business and effective marketing strategies.

7.3.1.5 Collaborative partnerships

The collaborative partnership to address poverty includes a range of stakeholders with the necessary expertise in South Africa to ensure public transparency and effective service delivery. It is essential to incorporate community strengths in the collaborative partnership. The participation of the poor in policy processes is vital to ensure programme sustainability and ensures social justice for the poor.

7.3.1.6 Developing effective policies

Policy success depends on adequate human and financial resources. Policy considerations for the future include addressing the present challenges experienced by the poor to ensure a changed environment for their well-being.

7.3.2 Conclusions Chapter 2: Global and national poverty

The following conclusions are based on the literature study in Chapter 2:

- The South African economy is not conducive to reduce poverty, as inflation has not risen over the past several years to ensure wealth distribution to the poor.
- There is a huge gap between the informal and formal sectors, and the two economies operate independently from each other.
- The informal sector does not have the necessary skills to compete with the formal sector. The formal sector is based on sound business practices and participates in global markets.
- Changing weather patterns influence farming produce, especially for subsistence farmers who depend on agriculture produce for their livelihood. Future weather predictions indicate increased difficulties for subsistence farmers in South Africa
- Poor women, children, the youth, the aged, and the disabled comprise the vulnerable groups which continue to be marginalised from policy processes and poverty programmes.
- A working youth group is able to support the elderly and children through taxation. The youth in South Africa however, form a large component of the unemployed. This places a huge burden on social security for the elderly and vulnerable children. This situation will persist over the next few decades if the prevailing conditions are not addressed urgently.
- The poor are not actively involved in policy processes that affect their wellbeing.
- Collaborative partnerships are essential to ensure effective service delivery to the poor. Poverty includes complex social, cultural, and political issues that cannot be addressed by a specific department and requires related expertise to ensure programme success.
- Successful policy implementation is based on the above collaborative partnerships that provide various perspectives to policy problems.
- Policy development and policy implementation processes should be ongoing and constantly reviewed to address policy constraints.

7.3.3 Recommendations Chapter 2: Global and national poverty

The recommendations based on the research are as follows:

- Despite the South African economy not being conducive to reduce poverty to significant levels, it is important to equip the poor who are able to work with the necessary skills for the job market. This serves to address their sense of helplessness.
- Prospective unemployed women, the youth, the aged and the disabled should be identified, who could be trained with relevant skills for the job market, or to develop their own business.
- Youth mentoring should be ongoing at educational institutions or appropriate community organisations to enable the youth to pursue future goals and to avoid negative social situations.
- Skills training for women should include appropriate support services that assist with family responsibilities.
- Small-scale farmers should be trained with improved farming methods to deal with poor crop production.
- Access to financial institutions and trading markets would improve the economic circumstances of the informal sector.
- Involving the poor in policy development and policy implementation processes would ensure transparent policy procedures to reduce poverty levels.
- Developing collaborative partnerships with a range of stakeholders would ensure effective service delivery through shared responsibilities.
- Addressing poverty issues through stakeholder partnerships would ensure a measurable impact on poverty and prevent fragmented service delivery.
- Reviewing policy implementation processes through regular programme monitoring and evaluation would address policy constraints timeously.
- Programme monitoring and evaluation should be introduced at the inception of a poverty programme.
- Service delivery should be based on achievable goals and effective communication strategies.

7.4 CHAPTER 3: PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY ANALYSIS

7.4.1 Summary

7.4.1.1 Importance of policy development and policy analysis

Policy development and policy analysis are two key concepts to address social needs. Specific policy skills include continual process investigations, effective communication, institutional capacity for change, and the experience of change by the beneficiaries. Various stakeholders have different policy expectations. Their role in policy however, is crucial. Historically, women were excluded from public policy processes, especially in the economic spheres.

The public sector is accountable for policy processes, including funding, service delivery and monitoring and evaluating programmes. There are however, many constraints regarding transparent processes and efficient resource utilisation.

7.4.1.2 Public policy development constraints in South Africa

Socio-economic policies focus on the formal sector, excluding the large numbers of informal traders and the increasing needs of the poor who require sustainable services. The public sector is not fully geared to deliver appropriate services to reduce poverty in South Africa. Related policy implementation problems include vested group interests, institutional agendas and lack of concrete implementation plans.

Policy implementation is crucial to the policy development process. The lack of knowledge regarding local economies is a further barrier to align the economy to poverty programmes. Policy constraints in South Africa include the lack of co-ordination between public sectors and role clarification between national, provincial and local spheres of government. Inadequate human and monetary resources are added constraints. Further constraints include policy makers' lack of comprehensive policy development knowledge and policy implementation skills.

7.4.1.3 Effective public policy development and policy analysis

Effective public policy development and policy analysis include public participation, communication, transparency and stakeholder involvement. The linear mode of policymaking excludes the above aspects.

Historically, women have been excluded in policy issues. Gender participation includes addressing employment, education, non-discrimination in the workplace, property rights and protection from violence.

Policy analysis and policy advocacy enable policy makers to conceptualise policy problems to address the social needs of diverse interest groups. Institutions that are corruption free provide the right environment to address poverty through appropriate policies. A well-planned policy identifies effective public institutions and key stakeholders to implement allocated funding for socio-economic change.

7.4.1.4 Importance of collaborative partnerships

The collaborative partnership enhances services delivery to the poor. Long-term collaborative partnerships have a positive impact on poor communities. The collaborative partnership includes multi-disciplinary team initiatives, civil society participation and community networking. Interactive knowledge includes technology and research contributions.

Community involvement in policy processes includes broad multi-sectoral involvement that critically examines the presenting problems. Policy processes without stakeholder participation have a detrimental impact on service delivery. Validated research based policies provide the best options for policy decisions and ensures stakeholder participation for policy success.

7.4.1.5 Policy success

Policy success includes institutional reforms based on sound economic principles, efficient service delivery, adequate human and financial resources and effective monitoring and evaluation strategies. Institutional reforms include good governance based on networking with strategic partners and allocating resources to meet set targets. Corporate governance combines business and network models. Innovative technology and improved human capital address economic

growth and social reforms. Rigid forms of governance influences policy processes negatively.

7.4.1.6 Policy challenges

Various interest groups may hinder public policy processes. Pressure groups, however, influence policies on behalf of the poor. Utilizing resources in a cost-effective manner is a further challenge. Effective policy co-ordination requires effective networking between the three tiers of government and assisting the informal economy to access economic opportunities and financial resources.

Globalisation challenges include the pursuit of global trading for the formal sector. The informal sector, however, cannot compete with the formal sector. Government sought to increase job creation to meet globalisation challenges through the labour Relations Act, the Skills Development Act, the Employment Act and the Employment and Equity Act, which had little impact to align the informal and formal sectors. The high rates of unemployment in South Africa entrench poverty.

Added economic problems include food security over the next fifty years, which will continue into the future due to low crop yields, scarcity of water and increased population growth. Meeting the MDG to reduce poverty by 50% by 2015 will require reducing the number of people who experience hunger, exacerbated by prolonged heavy rainfall and droughts, which affect crop and livestock farming.

Trade reforms and economic growth are two key factors to address the high rates of unemployment in South Africa. The poor are mostly in rural areas, where 60% of the employed are either in low-skilled employment or subsistence farming. Trade reforms increase production, but do not necessarily raise employment levels. Appropriate policies address economic benefits for the poor through skills training.

7.4.1.7 Informal sector challenges

Informal sector challenges include accessing credit facilities and trading markets, as well as the importation of cheaper goods, which affect local manufacturers negatively. The Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASgiSA) to address the economic plight of the poor, including women's access to

micro-economic activities, was not achieved as the informal and formal sectors did not merge as ASgiSA had intended.

Further challenges include the financial instability of the informal sector that hinders their access to group health insurance. Unemployment rates in rural areas in South Africa are amongst the highest in the developing world, where the working poor have to support a large number of unemployed family members living in one household.

7.4.2 Conclusions Chapter 3: The research process

The conclusions in respect of the research process are as follows:

- A lack of concrete implementation plans hinder effective services to the poor.
- Specific policy skills include maintaining effective stakeholder communication.
- Policy constraints include a lack of policy development knowledge and policy implementation skills.
- Stakeholder participation and transparency remain two important components of policy processes.
- The integrated model includes broad multi-sectoral participation.
- Lack of transparent processes and efficient resource utilisation hinder service delivery.
- Scarcity of water and population growth affects global food security.
- Skills training equip the poor to participate in economic spheres.

7.4.3 Recommendations Chapter 3: The research process

With regard to the research process, the following is recommended:

- Public policy developers require effective communication skills and the ability to transform negative service environments to ensure effective service delivery.
- Public policy developers require adequate policy development knowledge and policy implementation skills to ensure cost-effective policy processes.

- Public policy developers should utilise resources efficiently in order to maximise benefits to the poor.
- Gender issues should be included in policy processes in terms of skills training and employment.
- Monitoring and evaluation strategies should form a key component of the policy process to track policy achievements.
- Adequate human and financial resources are required for effective policy implementation.
- Informal sector challenges should be addressed through stakeholder partnerships.
- An Integrated Policy Model should be developed to maintain stakeholder partnerships and ensure policy success.
- Research expertise should be utilised to strengthen policy decisions.

7.5 CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

7.5.1 Summary

Chapter 4 outlines the research design and methodology and includes the qualitative design, the quantitative design, the literature study, the pilot study, data collecting, and data analysis. The following aspects of the research were described in detail:

The research utilised the combined qualitative and quantitative approach to assess the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini. The qualitative method utilised the researcher's insider perspective to describe and understand, rather than explain or predict human behaviour to provide enriched explanations of the research problem. The quantitative method measured the properties of the phenomenon under investigation.

The qualitative method included gathering multiple sources of information through focus groups, extended household interviews and participant observations. This allowed the gathering of in-depth information regarding poverty issues in Kungwini. The qualitative method utilised relevant questions pertaining to the IFNP, which provided systematic data collecting and analysis.

The data collection was guided by a literature study and an empirical study. The literature study provided information regarding the research problem and the research question. The literature study enabled the researcher to draw conclusions regarding the research investigation.

Data-collecting methods included a semi-structured interview schedule for the qualitative method and a questionnaire for the quantitative method. The pilot study orientated the researcher to the research process and assisted to formulate the research problem and the framework for the research. Exposing a few cases that were similar to those that would be used for the main investigation assisted to modify the measuring instruments for both the qualitative and quantitative methods. The pilot study served as a dress rehearsal for the main investigation.

7.5.2 Conclusions Chapter 4: The research process

The conclusions regarding the research process are as follows:

- The qualitative and quantitative methods enabled the researcher to gather data on the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini.
- The qualitative method provided data on the experiences of beneficiaries regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini.
- The quantitative method provided the expectations of service providers regarding the impact of the IFNP to reduce poverty in Kungwini.
- The combined qualitative and quantitative approach provided guidance to establish the required changes needed for effective service delivery.
- The literature study provided valuable information regarding poverty and related issues, as well as the non-verbal observation cues that presented further sources of valuable information.
- The pilot study served as a dress rehearsal for the main investigation and assessed the suitability of the measuring tools. The necessary changes were then affected accordingly.

7.5.3 Recommendations Chapter 4: The research process

The recommendations from the research process are as follows:

- A qualitative research study should be undertaken to gather information regarding the beneficiaries' experience of a specific poverty programme, to indicate whether the programme has achieved its objectives to reduce poverty.
- A quantitative research study should be undertaken to gather information regarding the programme managers' expectations concerning a specific poverty programme to indicate whether the programme has achieved its objectives to reduce poverty.
- A literature study should be undertaken to gain an understanding of the presenting problem, guide the qualitative and quantitative processes, and develop the respective measuring instruments.
- The literature study should be utilised to guide the policy development and policy implementation processes.
- A pilot study is necessary to determine the suitability of the measuring tools that would be utilised in the qualitative and quantitative methods.

7.6 CHAPTER 5: QUALITATIVE EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

7.6.1 Summary

The data for the qualitative method was gathered through focus groups and extended household interviews. The researcher utilised questions based on the interview schedule and participant observation to gather rich sources of information for the qualitative data. The following information was collated regarding the impact of the IFNP:

- The food packages distributed through the IFNP was appreciated, but did not meet the participants' daily household requirements.
- High rates of unemployment are experienced in Kungwini. Consequently, impoverished households cannot take adequate care of their families.
- Impoverished households were not assisted to establish community food gardens, or to form community organisations. There was a need for

appropriate skills training to obtain employment that did not relate to household or community gardens.

- Many impoverished households earned an income from low paid jobs, when work was available.
- Some impoverished households in Kungwini cannot access the child support grant or the disability grant, due to a lack of appropriate documentation.
- The community was not informed of any awareness or educational programmes regarding the IFNP.

7.6.2 Conclusions Chapter 5: The research process

The conclusions regarding the research process are as follows:

- The qualitative method detailed the participants' personal experience regarding the IFNP. They were not aware that the food packages were for a specific period only.
- Unemployment in Kungwini is a constant feature for the poor. The participants were not familiar with the IFNP to reduce poverty in Kungwini.
- The participants were not aware that the IFNP was aligned to the broader goal to establish community organisations and food gardens.
- There was a need for appropriate skills training to obtain employment, unrelated to household or community gardens.
- There are high rates of unemployment in Kungwini. Many impoverished households earned an income from low-paid jobs, when work was available.
- Some families could not access the child support grant or the disability grant due to the lack of appropriate documentation.
- There was no awareness or educational programmes regarding the IFNP.
- The above conclusions answer the research question: What is the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini?
- The above conclusions indicate that the IFNP required interactive participation to reduce poverty in Kungwini.

7.6.3 Recommendations Chapter 5: The research process

The recommendations regarding the research process are as follows:

- A consultation process with the intended beneficiaries should be established before the distribution of material aid to ascertain their specific needs.
- Appropriate targeting mechanisms should be developed to ensure the intended beneficiary group is included in a poverty programme.
- Beneficiary targeting should be based on specific criteria to ensure cost-effective distribution of resources.
- Material aid should be linked with long-term skills development and related socio-economic interventions.
- Effective communication strategies should be established that provide information regarding the goal and objectives of a specific programme and networking between relevant departments and organisations.
- Awareness programmes should be established to enable beneficiaries to access specific poverty programmes.
- Sound management skills should be developed to ensure effective programme planning, goal setting and achieving programme objectives.
- Alternative policy options should be developed to address policy constraints and to ensure policy goals and objectives are on track.

7.7 CHAPTER 6: QUANTITATIVE EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

7.7.1 Summary

Chapter 6 outlined the quantitative empirical research as follows:

The quantitative method utilised statistical data measurements to determine the impact of the IFNP. The quantitative method provided the presumptions and the answers based on an overview of facts regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini.

A questionnaire (the measuring instrument) was utilised to gather data. The questionnaire was pre-tested with two managers who were involved in the IFNP in Kungwini. The questionnaire was based on the IFNP policy framework that guided programme implementation, which is in line with the MDG to reduce hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by 50% by 2015.

The objectives of the IFNP were to develop household food gardens to improve the daily nutritional needs of impoverished households. The programme would then expand to community food gardens. Surplus produce would be sold to increase family income. Aligned to the above aspects, the IFNP beneficiaries would be referred to appropriate poverty alleviation programmes in Kungwini. The key focus of the IFNP was firstly, to reduce the number of households that did not have adequate food and secondly, to establish income-generating initiatives through surplus garden produce.

The sampling frame included participants chosen purposively from the Departments of Social Development, Health, Education, and Agriculture and included members of community based organisations. The participants from the above departments and community organisations were chosen as they had established independent poverty programmes in Kungwini.

The questionnaire was divided into two broad categories, namely, to achieve the objectives and sub-objectives of the IFNP. The objectives included increasing household food production, improving safety nets, increasing community income and job opportunities and improving information and communication.

The sub-objectives included establishing household food gardens, establishing safety nets, supporting community income and job opportunities and establishing integrated stakeholder involvement.

7.7.2 Quantitative data analysis

The quantitative data analysis indicated the following regarding the impact of the IFNP in Kungwini:

7.7.2.1 Involvement in the IFNP

Fifty percent of the respondents indicated that they were not fully involved to increase food production. Conversely, 22% indicated they were involved in food production, 21% to improve household nutrition, 14% to improve safety nets, 22% to increase community income, 8% to improve food markets and 15% to improve information and communication. The high figure of 50% who indicated that they were not fully involved indicates that the respondents were not a part of the IFNP process to increase food

production as they were supposed to be, which further indicates a lack of inter-departmental planning and co-ordination, resulting in fragmented services.

The Departments of Social Development, Health, Education and Agriculture, as well as community organisations in Kungwini have independent poverty alleviation programmes, targeting the same clients. Although their service focus differs, it is important that the above departments and community organisations work together on common programmes to reduce poverty levels to ensure cost-effective and sustainable service delivery.

7.7.2.2 Achieving the objectives of the IFNP

▫ Increasing household food production

Thirty-five percent indicated that increasing household food production was not achieved at all and 19% indicated that it was hardly achieved. Conversely, 15% indicated that it was satisfactorily achieved.

The poor in rural areas have to contend with food insecurity and related constraints. The focus on addressing food insecurity apart from related issues that negatively affect the poor will not reduce poverty significantly. A holistic approach is required to address poverty that focuses on various aspects that impact negatively on impoverished households. This includes family stresses and the lack of adequate household income to take care of family needs.

Increasing household food production is related to subsistence farming and food security. Subsistence farming does not provide food security, as appropriate skills are required by subsistence farmers to provide adequate household food and to participate in broader agricultural markets.

▫ Improving safety nets and food emergency systems

The high figures of 36% and 19% indicate that improving safety nets and food emergency systems was not achieved at all or hardly achieved. Conversely, 2% and the 19% indicate that it was fully or satisfactorily achieved.

Inadequate monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the IFNP processes and programme constraints were further obstacles to measure the IFNP's impact to improve safety nets and food emergency systems.

There are gaps in the social security and food emergency systems that need to be addressed to ensure the constitutional rights of the poor to social pensions and food assistance. In many impoverished households, the social grants are the only source of income. There are many poor families in Kungwini who are not able to access the various grants due to a lack of appropriate documentation (refer Chapter 5).

▫ **Increasing community income and job opportunities**

The high figures of 40% indicate that community income and job opportunities were not achieved at all, while the 26% indicating it was hardly achieved is contrary to the 5% and 14%, which indicate that it was fully or satisfactorily achieved.

Skills training is necessary to enable the poor to seek work opportunities. The informal sector operates for survival purposes and requires skills to tap into broader marketing enterprises. The current state of the economy hinders the distribution of wealth to enable the poor, including the informal sector to surmount their adverse circumstances.

The informal sector is saturated with various business initiatives, where the poor are desperate to earn a living. As dependence on a depressed economy to distribute wealth is currently futile, the informal sector requires appropriate skills training to improve their operations through financial and open market access.

▫ **Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of food markets**

The high figure of 46% indicates that improving the effectiveness and efficiency of food markets was not achieved at all and the 26% indicating it was hardly achieved, are contrary to the 2% and 9% that indicate it was fully or satisfactorily achieved.

This corresponds with the above question regarding skills training to successfully develop household food gardens and enable the informal sector to participate in the formal sector. It is important to address the helplessness of the poor in Kungwini

through an assessment of their living conditions and daily struggles. When there has been a measure of improvement in their living conditions, then their economic plight can be addressed.

▫ **Improving information and communication management systems**

The high figures of 36% indicating that information and communication management systems were not achieved at all, and the 21% indicating that it was hardly achieved are contrary to the 6% and 17% indicating that it was fully or satisfactorily achieved. The figures of 21% and 36% indicate a large number of participants who were not involved in a key component of policy implementation processes.

Communication is vital to inform impoverished clients regarding specific services that are available to assist them to surmount their poverty circumstances. Information rendered by specific departments is important to enable the poor to make informed decisions to access relevant services. Effective communication links services from various departments, ensuring collaborative partnerships.

7.7.2.3 Achieving the sub-objectives of the IFNP

The sub-objectives included a number of related aspects, as indicated below:

- **Establishing functioning household food gardens; food garden trading; school feeding programmes; empowering beneficiaries to understand their nutritional needs; and formulating a basic food basket for different household compositions:**

The high figures of 36% and 19% indicate that establishing functioning household food gardens was not achieved at all or hardly achieved; while 36% and 23% indicate that establishing household food garden trade was not achieved at all or hardly achieved; and 34% and 16% indicate that establishing school feeding programmes was not achieved at all or hardly achieved.

Thirty-six percent and 23% indicated that empowering beneficiaries to understand their nutritional needs had not been achieved at all or hardly achieved; and 34% and 31% indicated that formulating a basic food basket for different household compositions had not been achieved at all or hardly achieved.

It was important to address the social exclusion of impoverished households in Kungwini before attempting to establish household food gardens and trading. This would have provided a holistic understanding of the desperate circumstances of the poor.

The high figures above indicate that the status of school feeding schemes should have been established before the implementation of the IFNP in Kungwini, in order to develop a collaborative partnership to address these issues effectively. As the children from impoverished households stated that they were always hungry during the extended household visits (refer Chapter 5) it was essential to strengthen existing poverty programmes in Kungwini. The involvement of the Departments of Education, Agriculture, and Health was crucial.

▫ **Undertaking awareness campaigns; establishing supplementary nutrition programmes; and creating food safety information systems:**

Thirty-six percent indicated that undertaking awareness campaigns was not achieved at all, while 20% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Thirty-six percent indicated that establishing supplementary nutritional programmes was not achieved at all, while 18% indicated it was hardly achieved. Forty percent indicated that creating food and safety information systems was not achieved at all, while 26% indicated it was hardly achieved.

It is crucial that education and awareness campaigns be undertaken to enlighten impoverished households regarding nutrition and health as well as food safety, especially as the children in the extended household interviews indicated that they did not have adequate nutrition (refer Chapter 5). Supplementary nutrition programmes would assist impoverished households taking care of children and the elderly who are prone to various illnesses. The above aspects relate to policies based on collaborative partnerships including community involvement to address poverty issues.

▫ **Establishing safety nets and food emergency programmes; pension and disability support; monetary savings from trade; community food gardens; and food emergency support:**

Thirty-six percent indicated establishing safety nets and food emergency programmes were not achieved at all, while 19% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Thirty-six percent indicated that establishing pension support was not achieved at all, while 13% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Thirty-four percent indicated establishing disability support was not achieved at all, while 17% indicated it was hardly achieved. Forty-three percent indicated that establishing monetary savings from household food gardens was not achieved at all, while 24% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Forty-two percent indicated that establishing community food gardens was not achieved at all, while 19% indicated it was hardly achieved. Forty-five percent indicated that establishing food emergency support was not achieved at all, while 22% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Social assistance remains a key income initiative for impoverished households to meet their basic food needs and emergencies. It enables children to attend school regularly and avoid negative social situations. A vast number of people are unemployed in Kungwini and many impoverished households do not have regular income, apart from the child support grant, and the old age and disability pensions.

The above grants may be the only source of income in many impoverished households. Monetary savings, which the IFNP presumed would develop from surplus food garden trading, was in contrast to the focus group and extended household interviews, where beneficiaries indicated that they were not keen to establish household or community food gardens (refer Chapter 5).

The poor in Kungwini require access to appropriate documentation to access the child support grant and the old age and disability pension. Food emergency support requires the involvement of relevant collaborative partnerships including grassroots involvement.

▫ **Identifying land for community farming; establishing grain reserves; and increasing community food markets:**

Forty-seven percent of the participants indicated that identifying land for community farming was not achieved at all, while 23% indicated it was hardly achieved. Forty-seven percent indicated that establishing grain reserves was not achieved at all, while 22% indicated it was hardly achieved. Forty-eight percent

indicated that increasing community food markets was not achieved at all, while 22% indicated it was hardly achieved.

The poor remain a marginalised group in society, especially in the socio-economic spheres. The informal sector has to compete with a thriving formal sector and cannot access finances to establish or expand trading or to partake in wider open markets. The poor do not have adequate skills to generate household income.

The above aspects do not correlate with the IFNP's objectives to develop community farming, to establish grain reserves, or to increase community food markets. The gap between the community's short-term needs clashes with the bigger goal of community farming, which can only be taken forward in the long term with the collaborative partnership developed during the initial phases of programme intervention. In addition, community farming involves the agriculture sector, which is a key partner to provide the expertise to address poor soil conditions and crop disease.

▫ **Promoting non-farming income generating activities; and comprehensive support for agriculture development:**

Forty-five percent of the participants indicated that promoting non-farming income generating activities was not achieved at all, while 27,1% indicated it was hardly achieved. Thirty-five point seven percent indicated that comprehensive support for agriculture development was not achieved at all, while 27,9% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Poverty in poor communities is marked by inequality. The focus group and extended household interviews indicate that the poor were not assisted to develop income-generating initiatives (refer Chapter 5). As a policy strategy to reduce poverty in Kungwini, the IFNP did not include the poor in the policy planning and implementation processes. This resulted in fragmented service delivery based on a lack of adequate targeting, where some beneficiaries received food parcels and others did not.

- **Establishing food security and information mapping; and establishing an early warning food emergency system.**

Forty-four point two percent indicated that establishing food security and information mapping was not achieved at all, while 27,9% indicated it was hardly achieved. Forty-six point five percent indicated that establishing an early warning food emergency system was not achieved at all, while 22,5% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Policy implementation remains problematic for most public service delivery initiatives. Establishing and maintaining communication systems between stakeholders is essential. Food security information mapping requires a needs analysis and beneficiary targeting. In addition, monitoring and evaluation systems are crucial indicators of policy processes, keeping track of intervention constraints and achievements. Apart from the essential role of continual monitoring and evaluation, it is difficult to achieve the above objectives in the absence of the collaborative partnership.

- **Establishing integrated planning and implementation, community based partnerships, clear stakeholder roles and short-, medium-, and long-term interventions:**

Forty-six point five percent (46,5%) of the participants indicated that establishing integrated planning and implementation was not achieved at all, while 15,5% indicated it was hardly achieved. Thirty-eight percent indicated that establishing community-based partnerships was not achieved at all and 18,6% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Forty-three point four percent indicated that establishing clear stakeholder roles was not achieved at all and 19,4% indicated it was hardly achieved. Forty-one point nine percent indicated that establishing short-, medium- and long-term interventions were not achieved at all and 19,4% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Roles and linkages with relevant stakeholders are crucial to achieve policy goals and objectives. The collaborative partnership begins with short-term engagement and continues for the long term to accomplish specific policy aims and objectives.

The collaborative partnership would have ensured that the IFNP was based on sound planning and policy implementation processes that included monitoring and evaluation strategies from the outset of policy development.

The IFNP could not be fully affective without the collaborative partnership. Poverty alleviation efforts require the full involvement of a range of stakeholders combining their expertise.

▫ **Maintaining representation on the National Steering Committee; and utilising the policy framework for strategic guidance:**

Forty-one point nine percent indicated that maintaining representation on the National Steering Committee was not fully achieved at all and 19,4% indicated it was hardly achieved. Forty point one percent indicated that utilising the policy framework for strategic guidance was not achieved at all and 21,7% indicated it was hardly achieved.

The IFNP policy framework should have been refined before implementation. It was essential to strengthen the IFNP policy makers and implementers with specific policy development and policy analysis skills to address weak institutional structures, develop the collaborative partnership, address policy constraints and ensure policy success.

Additional skills included knowledge regarding economic principles and operations and creating an enabling environment for the poor to access relevant services.

▫ **Beneficiaries assisted to form community organisations, co-operatives and community organisations; and assisted with technical, financial and administrative matters:**

Thirty-nine point five percent indicated that assisting beneficiaries to form community organisations and co-operatives was not achieved at all, while 22,5% indicated it was hardly achieved. Thirty-eight point eight percent indicated that assisting community organisations with technical, financial, and administrative matters was not achieved at all, while 30,2% indicated it was hardly achieved.

Public service delivery generally, is compounded by a lack of transparent processes, co-ordination, efficient utilisations of resources and a lack of human

and financial capital. Inadequate budgets and a lack of monitoring and evaluation systems deter effective service delivery. The IFNP required skilled personnel and policy implementers to drive the process in Kungwini.

The collaborative partnership was essential to the IFNP process. Dealing with partnership conflicts is an essential component of policy processes. This includes understanding and working with different norms and policy procedures and maintaining communication and collaborative relationships.

The above aspects were integral to assisting beneficiaries to form community organisations and providing technical, financial and administrative support.

7.7.3 Conclusions Chapter 6: Empirical research

The conclusions with regard to the empirical research include the following:

- The IFNP sought to increase family income through household food gardens, which would then be expanded into community food gardens, which in turn, would supply wider food markets. The IFNP should have been based on sound policy planning and implementation principles that included the involvement of key stakeholders, including the poor in Kungwini.
- The IFNP process should have been reviewed step-by-step prior to and during implementation. This in itself is a major undertaking that requires collaboration between the Departments of Social Development, Health, Education, Agriculture, as well as community organisations.
- Appropriate skills training was required to enable the poor to form community organisations to take responsibility for the IFNP. It was essential that the IFNP implementation process operated in a favourable environment to reduce poverty in Kungwini.
- Impoverished households in Kungwini were not assisted to develop income-generating activities, or to establish community based organisations or community co-operatives. Community participation remains a crucial process in policy development and policy implementation processes. Without community involvement and stakeholder contributions, service delivery remains fragmented.
- The IFNP sought national, provincial and local involvement, but did not actively pursue this partnership for programme success. There was a need

for interactive knowledge sharing between national, provincial and local government, including relevant stakeholders to address mutual concerns in Kungwini

- Impoverished families should not be exposed to further vulnerability. In this respect, it is imperative to enlist the cooperation of the poor to address poverty. This is in contrast to the linear mode of service delivery, which progresses from policy development to policy implementation without stakeholder participation.
- The lack of adequate monitoring and evaluation strategies impeded the IFNP to provide effective service delivery. Appropriate poverty definitions and resource allocations would have guided the IFNP to achieve its objectives, develop specific interventions, establish stakeholder collaboration and ensure effective programme implementation.
- It was crucial to include the required expertise to ensure programme success, including appropriate research knowledge.
- The research findings were compared to the literature study, which provided guidance to reduce poverty in Kungwini.
- The above conclusions answer the research question: “What is the impact of the IFNP upon the poor in Kungwini?”
- The conclusions from the quantitative data analysis indicate that the IFNP required interactive participation to reduce poverty in Kungwini.

7.7.4 Recommendations Chapter 6: Empirical research

The recommendations regarding the empirical research are as follows:

- Improving the circumstance of the poor in Kungwini requires a comprehensive understanding of the difficulties they experience.
- The lack of basic needs in terms of adequate food and employment should receive attention in appropriate policies and programmes. This includes specific assistance to establish food gardens and trading markets.
- Appropriate skills development should be identified in consultation with the poor.
- Involving the poor in policy development and implementation processes would ensure programme sustainability.

- Transferring responsibility for the continuation of a specific programme to community organisations should include technology and administrative support.
- Efficient communication between relevant departments and community organisations would maintain effective stakeholder partnerships.
- Personnel training should include policy and practical project management skills to ensure transparency and cost-effective service delivery.
- Addressing policy constraints through alternative policy options would ensure that programmes are on track to achieve policy goals and objectives.
- Integrating appropriate poverty programmes would maximise benefits to the poor.
- Evaluating various options to maximise stakeholder participation would achieve policy success.
- Utilising grassroot experience and knowledge enhances the collaborative partnerships.

7.8 CONCLUDING REMARKS

A literature study is essential to gather information regarding the challenges experienced by the poor. The literature study guides the formulation of the research goal and objectives and the selection of the research design to gather empirical data to address poverty. The qualitative and quantitative research methods confirm the impact of a particular poverty programme. Collaborative partnerships are essential to ensure effective service delivery to the poor. The integrated model is more cost effective than the organisational model to reduce poverty as it includes active stakeholder involvement in policy development and policy implementation.

It is vital that policy makers are equipped with adequate policy development skills to maintain stakeholder communication and to transform negative service delivery environments. Policy implementation processes should be regularly reviewed to address policy constraints.