



Departement van Maatskaplike Dienste en Armoedeverligting
Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation
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**REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF A NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN
RESPECT OF THE VREDENDAL MULTI-PURPOSE CENTRE**

November 2002

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1. INTRODUCTION

A needs assessment was undertaken in respect of the Vredendal multi-purpose centre. The research was conducted in three phases. In the first phase, a workshop was held with community members. This was followed by a survey conducted amongst community members and service representatives. In the third phase, the findings of these processes were compared with previous needs assessments of the area. This report contains the combined findings of these research processes.

2. BACKGROUND

Multi-purpose centres have been identified as a key priority in terms of the Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation's policy framework for integrated service provision.

The process regarding the establishment of a multi-purpose centre in Vredendal was commenced in 1999 by the undertaking of a needs assessment. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this process was not completed. However, attempts have recently been made to restart the process. It was consequently decided to consolidate and update information obtained from previous needs assessments by arranging a workshop for community members and relevant stakeholders.

3. OBJECTIVES OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment had the following objectives:

- To obtain participants' views regarding household and community problems in Vredendal;
- To identify services which could address these problems;
- To establish which services currently exist;

- To prioritise and group solutions according to common themes and categories.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 WORKSHOP

The needs assessment workshop was conducted by facilitators in small group sessions. Three research officers from the Directorate Research and Population in the Department of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation as well as three officials from the Department's district office in Vredendal acted as workshop facilitators. Information regarding needs and services were obtained and recorded by group facilitators. A general feedback session was held after the completion of group sessions.

The workshop was attended by twenty-eight representatives of non-governmental and community organisations, schools, churches, local government and political parties.

Participants were divided into three groups. Two facilitators assisted in each group. Groups appointed a group member to provide feedback during a general discussion session which was held after the completion of the small group discussion. (Although 28 people signed the attendance register, only 26 attended the small group discussion as two people left the meeting early.)

The composition of small groups is presented in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: COMPOSITION OF SMALL GROUPS

GROUP NO	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
GROUP ONE	3	5	8
GROUP TWO	2	6	8
GROUP THREE	6	4	10
TOTAL	11	15	26

4.2 SURVEY

A self-administered questionnaire (Annexure A) designed in three sections was distributed to service providers and community members who were invited to, but were unable to attend the initial workshop. A total of 73 questionnaires were distributed. However, only 7 questionnaires were completed and returned. In view of the low response rate, it was decided not to analyse this data, as findings would be comparatively and statistically insignificant.

4.3 DATA ANALYSIS

Data obtained from workshops were analysed thematically according to the categories in terms of which the questionnaire was constructed.

The findings of a previous needs assessment of the area (Datadesk, 1997) were reviewed and compared with the findings of the current needs assessment.

5. FINDINGS

Problems that were identified and services that could address these problems are presented below in Table 2.

TABLE 2: PROBLEMS AND SERVICES

PROBLEMS	SERVICES
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS	
Poverty	
Unemployment	Job Creation Career counselling
Low Income	
	Income-generation projects
Lack of Skills	Training in business skills Training in construction Computer training Cooking classes First aid training
Low academic qualifications & illiteracy	Educational programmes for school drop-outs Adult education programmes
HEALTH PROBLEMS	
Food Insecurity & Malnutrition	Feeding Schemes Soup Kitchen
HIV/Aids	Home-based & Community Care
	Hospice for HIV/AIDS sufferers
	HIV/AIDS education, information, counselling
Lack of emergency services	
Lack & inadequacy of health services	Specialist health services for different health conditions
SOCIAL PROBLEMS	
Elder Abuse & Neglect	Counselling & support services
Child Abuse	Counselling & place of safety
Domestic Violence	Services for abused women
Rape	
Substance abuse	Counselling services and rehabilitation facilities
Lack of counselling	Lay counsellors to handle social problems
Moral Degradation	Spiritual/religious group events
	Interdenominational collaboration
Problems with Youth such as: - Lack of youth development - Youth crime - Early school leavers - School drop outs - Noisy youth - Gangs	Recreational Facilities & Activities Youth development offices
Crime & Violence	
FACILITIES	
Child-Care	Crèches
	After-care for school going children
Street Children	Shelter
Care of Elderly	Retirement home
Abused women & children	Shelter
	24 hr Trauma centre
Alcohol & drug Abuse	Rehabilitation centre
SERVICES	
Lack of co-ordination of government services – too far from people	Office space for government departments
Lack of information services	Dissemination of information regarding government policy
Lack of Advice centres	
Lack of communication channels	Internet facility
	Media sources
	Telephone facilities
Lack of accommodation for service providers	Create space for the provision of services
Lack of consultation re- decision making in community	
Difficulty accessing pay points	An additional Pay point
SPORT & RECREATION	
Lack of Cultural activities	

Recreational programs	Dance Classes Story telling Drama Music Museum
Lack of arts	Arts and Craft
Lack of indoor sports	Gym Aerobics Karate Boxing Volley ball Table tennis
GENERAL	
Lack of capacity building in community	Community meetings with government officials Assertiveness & self esteem workshops
Lack of racial integration	Nation Building exercises
Stray Dogs	SPCA

Services as prioritized in terms of service categories are presented in Table 3 below in numerical order of importance.

TABLE 3: PRIORITISATION OF SERVICES

1. SERVICES	Office space for government departments Provision of information re- government services Provision of advice and guidance
2. CHILD-CARE FACILITIES	Crèche After- school facility
3. SPORT & RECREATION	Arts & craft Dance Hall Music Museum Drama Youth development programs Indoor sports – aerobics, volleyball, boxing, table tennis
4. HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS information, training Home- based care Facility to care for HIV positive people
5. ECONOMIC	Learning centre Computer training Business training ABET Skills development Job creation Development of farm worker
6. FACILITIES	Shelter for abused women Shelter for street children Alcohol and drug rehabilitation & counselling Trauma centre open to all for psychological trauma Retirement facility
7. HEALTH CARE	Separate service points for different medical conditions
	Nutrition program
8. OTHER SERVICES	All pay payout

6. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Data obtained during the community workshop, highlighted wide-ranging problems and needs in the Vredendal area. Many of these were related to the lack of space to accommodate services and a need for specific facilities and services. Consideration should be given to the development of service infrastructure for specific groups such as care facilities for the elderly, a trauma centre and shelter for abused women and children. While multi-purpose centres do not usually provide accommodation, attention should be given to addressing these needs, possibly by establishing facilities that provide short-term accommodation or through satellite multi-purpose centres.

A comparison of these findings with the earlier needs assessment of the area (Datadesk, 1997) was difficult as the methodology and objectives of these surveys differed considerably. However, both needs assessments highlighted the need for improved service provision, sport and recreational facilities and economic development in relation to issues such as unemployment.

7. LIMITATIONS

The main limitation of the workshop is that participants were representatives of services and organisations rather than individual community members. While all community members were invited to the workshop through invitations published in the local press, mainly service representatives responded. Participants however provided valuable information based on their experience and knowledge of working in the Vredendal area.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the findings of the needs assessment process be used for the development of an accommodation list for the Vredendal multi-purpose centre.

9. REFERENCE

Datadesk (1997). Vredendal-Noord: Gemeenskapsprofiel en –behoeftes.

ANNEXURE A

1. HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY HOUSEHOLDS AND PEOPLE LIVING IN VREDENDAL

Which of the following categories of socio-economic and health problems presently creates difficulties for households and people living in Vredendal?

		Indicate the difficulties, if any, you experience by ticking the appropriate box.		
		Creates Extreme Difficulty	Creates Difficulty	Does not create Difficulty
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS				
1.	Unemployment			
2.	Low Income			
3.	Lack of skills (such as illiteracy, poor training and education)			
OTHER				
HEALTH PROBLEMS				
4.	Food Insecurity			
5.	Malnutrition			
6.	Chronic Illness (such as TB and HIV/AIDS)			
OTHER				
SOCIAL PROBLEMS				
7.	Child-Care			
8.	Child abuse and neglect			
9.	Care of elderly			
10.	Relationships between household members			
11.	Domestic Violence			
12.	Substance abuse (such as alcoholism and drug dependence)			
13.	Teenage Pregnancy			
14.	Problems with Youth			
15.	Crime & Violence			
OTHER				
INFRASTRUCTURE				
16.	Inadequate Housing			
17.	Poor Road Conditions			
18.	Lack of facilities (such as child care, retirement homes, recreation)			
19.	Transport			
OTHER				
SERVICES				
20.	Accessibility of Health Services			
21.	Accessibility of Social Services			
OTHER				
OTHER				

2. PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY HOUSEHOLDS AND PEOPLE LIVING IN VREDENDAL

Which of the following solutions would you propose to address the problems experienced by households and people living in Vredendal?

Indicate your priority for the service to address the problem.

3 = HIGH PRIORITY,

2 = MEDIUM PRIORITY,

1 = LOW PRIORITY,

0 = NO PRIORITY

PROBLEM	SERVICE	PRIORITY			
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS					
1. Unemployment	Job Creation/Employment Buro	3	2	1	0
2. Low Income	Social Security Info Desk	3	2	1	0
	Income-generation projects	3	2	1	0
3. Lack of Skills	Skills development & training	3	2	1	0
HEALTH PROBLEMS					
4. Food Insecurity & Malnutrition	Feeding Schemes	3	2	1	0
5. Chronic Illness- HIV/Aids	Home-based & Community Care	3	2	1	0
SOCIAL PROBLEMS					
6. Child-Care	Day care facilities such as crèches and after-care for school going children	3	2	1	0
7. Care of elderly	Retirement homes	3	2	1	0
	Home-based care	3	2	1	0
8. Relationships between household members	Counselling services	3	2	1	0
9. Domestic Violence	Services for abused women	3	2	1	0
10. Substance abuse	Educational campaigns	3	2	1	0
	Counselling services and rehabilitation facilities	3	2	1	0
11. Teenage Pregnancy	Educational campaigns	3	2	1	0
	Counselling services	3	2	1	0
12. Problems with Youth	Recreational Facilities & Activities	3	2	1	0
13. Crime & Violence	Improved Policing	3	2	1	0
	Establishment of Neighbourhood Watch	3	2	1	0
INFRASTRUCTURE					
14. Inadequate Housing	Building of homes	3	2	1	0
	Improvement of existing homes	3	2	1	0
15. Poor Road Conditions	Improvement of roads	3	2	1	0
SERVICES					
18. Accessibility of Health Services	Building of new clinics	3	2	1	0
	Extended hours of operation	3	2	1	0
19. Accessibility of Social Services	Establishment of new services	3	2	1	0
	Extended hours of operation	3	2	1	0
20. Education	Building of new schools	3	2	1	0
21. Child Protection	Improved access to criminal justice system (e.g. Children's Courts and Child Protection Units)	3	2	1	0
ARTS & CULTURE					
	Arts and Crafts Training	3	2	1	0
	Speech and Drama Training	3	2	1	0
TOURISM					
	Community based tourism project e.g. area tours, B&B facilities, restaurants	3	2	1	0
	Tourism specific SMME assistance	3	2	1	0

GENERAL					
22. Community development and capacity building	Information dissemination	3	2	1	0
OTHER					

3. PROVISION OF SERVICES WITHIN COMMUNITY

PROBLEM	SERVICE	Is service presently rendered?		If yes, by whom?
		Y	N	
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS				
1. Unemployment	Job Creation/Labour Buro			
2. Low Income	Social Security			
	Income-generation projects			
3. Lack of Skills	Skills development & training			
HEALTH PROBLEMS				
4. Food Insecurity & Malnutrition	Feeding Schemes			
5. Chronic Illness	Home-based & Community Care			
SOCIAL PROBLEMS				
6. Child-Care	Day care facilities such as crèches and after-care for school going children			
7. Care of elderly	Retirement homes			
	Home-based care			
8. Relationships between household members	Counselling services			
9. Domestic Violence	Services for abused women			
10. Substance abuse	Educational campaigns			
	Counselling services and rehabilitation facilities			
11. Teenage Pregnancy	Educational campaigns			
	Counselling services			
12. Problems with Youth	Recreational Facilities & Activities			
13. Crime & Violence	Improved Policing			
	Establishment of Neighbourhood Watch			
INFRASTRUCTURE				
14. Inadequate Housing	Building of homes			
	Improvement of existing homes			
15. Poor Road Conditions	Improvement of roads			
SERVICES				
18. Accessibility of Health Services	Building of new clinics			
	Extended hours of operation			
19. Accessibility of Social Services	Establishment of new services			
	Extended hours of operation			
20. Education	Building of new schools			
21. Child Protection	Improved access to criminal justice system (e.g. Children's Courts and Child Protection Units)			
GENERAL				
22. Community development and capacity building	Information dissemination			

ARTS AND CULTURE	Arts and Crafts Training			
	Speech and Drama Training			
TOURISM	Tourism Help Desk			
	Community Based Tourism Projects			
OTHER				
OTHER				
OTHER				
OTHER				