

African Centre for Disaster Studies Newsletter

June 2008

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1. Fezile Dabi District Disaster Risk Assessment

In March and April 2008 the ACDS conducted fieldwork towards a Disaster Risk Assessment (DRA) in the Fezile Dabi District Municipality (FDDM) in the North of the Free State Province of South Africa.



Fieldworkers conducting a disaster risk assessment

The fieldwork represented a trial run for a methodology currently developed by the ACDS, consisting of both Qualitative and Quantitative measures. In total 3647 surveys were completed in addition to rapid appraisals of local communities. The assessment also included a capacity building component whereby selected local participants were given disaster management training. For more information contact Dr. Dewald van Niekerk

[\(dewald.vanniekerk@nwu.ac.za\)](mailto:dewald.vanniekerk@nwu.ac.za)

2. New research projects

In the April 2008 the ACDS was commissioned the South African National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), to conduct five mini-research projects. The projects will be conducted between June and November 2008 and will entail cooperation with various academics and practitioners. The

topics and contact persons for each project is listed below:

- A funding model for the disaster management function of municipalities (Dr. Dewald van Niekerk, ACDS);
- The location of the disaster management function at local and provincial government level (Mr. Gideon van Riet, ACDS);
- The link between development planning and disaster risk management in selected municipalities (Dr. Dewald van Niekerk, ACDS);
- In search of evidence of possible epidemiological conditions in the Delmas area, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa (1987-2007) (Prof. Johan Tempelhoff, School for Basic Sciences, Vaal Triangle Campus, North-West University);
- The effects of climate change in two flood and drought stricken areas in South Africa (Prof. Johan Tempelhoff, School for Basic Sciences, Vaal Triangle

Campus, North-West University).

3. G.R.R.L. Project Update

The G.I.R.R.L. Project (*Girls in Risk Reduction Leadership*), undertaken by Kylah Forbes-Biggs, an ACDS research fellow commenced its training phase this month with four (4) sessions being held (to date) at the Boitshoko High School in Ikageng. The project focuses on the social vulnerability of adolescent girls in Ikageng, South Africa.



A Team building exercises with girls (May 28, 2008)

Seventeen participating girls from Sonderwater settlement are participating in the interactive education programme with emphasis on critical areas (i.e. problem solving, team building, personal and public health, first aid, fire safety, sexual health, community based disaster planning) for the purpose of empowerment through knowledge

and assistance in effective decision making.

4. Recent publications and conference papers

Two peer-reviewed journal articles were published by ACDS staff members, within the last month. One conference paper was also presented. For more information see:

- Reid, P. and Van Niekerk, D. 2008. A model for multi-agency response management system (MARMS) from South Africa in *Disaster Prevention and Management*. Vol. 17 No. 2, pp. 244-255.
- Van Niekerk, D. 2008. The challenges for higher education and research in disaster risk reduction. Paper presented at the Disaster Risk Reduction Conference. University of the Free State. 20-22 May 2008.
- Van Riet, G. 2007. Analysing Southern African food security; assessing the New Variant Famine hypothesis in *Koers* Vol. 72 No. 2, pp. 283-302.

4. Call for papers

The ACDS will publish two editions of its e-journal, *Jàmbá*, in 2008. Papers

on any theme in DRR are welcomed. All interested academics, practitioners and students are invited to contribute papers. For information contact Gideon van Riet Gideon.Vanriet@nwu.ac.za or visit our website at www.acds.co.za.

5. Training offered

PLEASE NOTE: You are kindly requested **not to** contact the ACDS with queries on specific training activities displayed here. Please make use of the contact details provided under each advertisement.

South Africa

North-West University

North-West University's Potchefstroom Campus offers a master's degree in Sustainable Social Development. In this programme students can elect Disaster Studies as a focus. Students can also choose other focuses, while still following electives in Disaster Risk Reduction and/or Disaster Risk Management.

For more information contact the programme administrator: Ms. Suna Meyer at

suna.meyer@nwu.ac.za or +27 (0)18 299 1620 or visit the ACDS website.

Southern Business School

SBS is registered with the Department of Education as a private higher distance education institution under the South African Higher Education Act, 1997. SBS offers the following registered programmes in Disaster Risk Reduction/Risk Management:

- Certificate in Management - Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Diploma in Management - Disaster Risk Reduction;
- A brand new Bachelor of Business Administration - Disaster Risk Management/Reduction;
- Advanced Diploma in Management - Disaster Risk Reduction;

- A range of short courses in DRR.

For more information contact: Jenny Coles at jenny@sbsonline.co.za or on +27 (0)82 889 7773.

6. Contribute to this newsletter

The ACDS Newsletter aims to provide relevant information to various stakeholders in the field of disaster risk management on the continent. This might for example include information on training opportunities, conferences and funding opportunities for research. If you have any relevant information you would like us to include in this newsletter, please forward it to Suna Meyer at suna.meyer@nwu.ac.za. Please include contact details (e-mail, telephone numbers and internet links), but **keep details brief (no more than 120 words)**. The ACDS reserves the right to edit submissions.

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR DISASTER STUDIES

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