



SLF News Update –

By Beth Mackay –

Welcome to the SLF Summer newsletter – the last edition for 2015. It has been a busy and productive last few months of the year with current projects continuing, funding secured for exciting new projects and a successful exhibition taking place.

The Informality in Perspective exhibition in Delft South was one of SLF’s highlights of the year. It attracted a diverse group of individuals and the positive response emphasised its success. Further, it is not over, as an opportunity to display this exhibition at the UCT Graduate School of Business will take place in 2016. Other informality news includes new FIME work that has begun at sites in Welkom.

The Health Participation component of SLF received a Wellcome Trust International Engagement Award. This support will be used for an exciting new project, the Heart of the Matter, focused on cardiovascular disease within South Africa. SLF has also joined the Making All Voices Count initiative as well as a new collaboration project focussing on the Sustainable Development Goals and the issue of safety in the township.

Further, a new project lead by Andrew Hartnack and partnered with the Rural Education Access Programme (REAP) will be concentrating on workplace barriers faced by rural graduates.

With all these new projects and opportunities we are certain that 2016 will be as busy and fruitful as 2015.



Our congratulations to the South African Fistball team, the Mighty Galjoens (above) on their participation in the International Fistball World Championships in Argentina recently. The team represented in Argentina consisted of three SLF members: Leif Petersen, Nabeel Petersen, and Rory Liedeman.

Inside this Issue

Informality Exhibition.....	2
Heart of the Matter.....	3
SLF safer cities and SDGs....	3
Making All Voices Count... ..	4
Barriers for rural graduates... ..	5
New FIME site: Welkom.....	6

Contact

Address: 35 Ebor Road, Wynberg,
7800
Tel: +27 762 5177
www.livelihoods.org.za

Watch our storytelling & facilitation expert, Joanna Wheeler, share her experiences on the power of stories on the TED stage [here](#).
Read her blog on violence [here](#).

Find us here:



Informality in Perspective Exhibition

By Nava Derakshani -

In the summer heat of early November, members of SLF's FIME team guided a group of academics, government officials, and civil society through a section of the high street of Delft South.

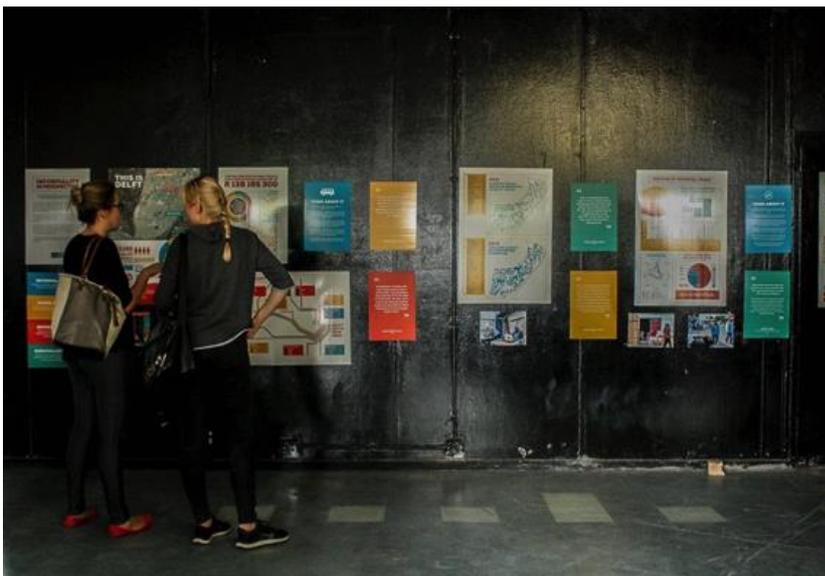
This high street is bustling with activity and SLF wanted to expose the participants to the complex and diverse informal micro-enterprises that thrive in this space.

The walk ended at the exhibition venue which was set up with a vibrant display. Through graphics, geospatial mapping, photographs and first-person quotations, the exhibition hoped to show the texture of the broader research findings. These findings include the complex factors that have accounted for micro-enterprise growth, success and demise. It further hoped to address a range of informal economy realities, including the effects of policy (or lack thereof), crime, taxi transport, grey market goods and others.

The event concluded with a short methodology video and talks by members of the FIME team. The ensuing Q&A session showed the interest of the attendants in the subjects brought up through the exhibition. Furthermore, in the following weeks after the event, much encouraging correspondence have reinforced its success.



Andrew Hartnack informing participants during the walk (Photo: Nava).



Participants enjoying the exhibition display (Photo: Nava)

The exhibition will be moving to the **UCT Graduate School of Business in 2016.**

Allowing for the individuals who missed the event to be afforded another chance to engage with this work.

Keep a look out for further details in the coming year.

The Heart Of The Matter

By Gill Black –

SLF has recently become the proud winner of a Wellcome Trust International Engagement Award. The Trust provides these awards for innovative public or community engagement projects that explore biomedical research or health in Africa and Asia. This support will enable SLF to implement a brand new project - *The Heart Of The Matter* – that responds to the growing challenge of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in South Africa.

The risk of CVD is heightened when social, cultural and economic challenges intersect and influence the emergence of unhealthy diets. *The Heart Of The Matter* works on the rationale that CVD research could benefit from a grounded understanding about what ‘healthy eating’ means to people facing the day-to-day pressures of urban township life, and the multiple drivers that inform food choices.

This project will bring together residents from the township of Delft and members of Professor Hans Strijdom’s CVD research team at Stellenbosch University. Participants will be encouraged to share their perspectives about what it means to eat well, engage in dialogue about the implications of diet on health, and discuss the need for and aims of CVD research. This knowledge exchange process will be fostered through the collective creation of photodiaries, digital stories and a collaborative video. These visual outputs will be widely disseminated to communicate the complex and interconnecting factors that influence eating habits, health, and the approach to CVD research. This exciting new project is due to begin in January 2016.

New SLF collaboration on safer cities and the SDGs

By Joanna Wheeler -

SLF will collaborate with [Participate](#), the [Institute of Development Studies](#), UNICEF and UNDP as part of a new initiative to explore how to develop more participatory approaches to monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In September 2015, the SDGs replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the global framework for development. After a major global consultation and advocacy process to arrive at the goals, the next big question is how the SDGs will be implemented and monitored. In response to lessons learned from the weaknesses of the MDGs, the success of this new framework requires citizens to participate in monitoring how SDGs are implemented in their contexts.

Over the next year, SLF will lead a pilot project in Delft, Cape Town to explore how to improve accountability on the issue of safety in the township. SLF will work with highly marginalised citizens who are committed to working for a safer and more inclusive city. The project will promote dialogue between these groups and representatives of government about how to address violence, insecurity and safety. Through creative and story-based methods, the pilot will generate new insight into how to improve the relationship between citizens and government in the South African context. This action learning case will build on existing SLF relationships within the township, and with various government bodies. In partnership with UNICEF, SLF will also hold a national engagement event to start the conversation about how citizens can help to monitor the SDGs.

Making All Voices Count (MAVC)

By Gill Black -

In November 2015, SLF joined the Making All Voices Count (MAVC) initiative. MAVC is an international programme - coordinated through the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University - that aims to change the relationship between citizens and their governments. Over the next 18 months, our team will be undertaking a multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary exploration of technologically-enabled research and community/policy engagement processes that we have pioneered over the last five years.

In-depth retrospective and real-time action research will incorporate all four key thematic areas of SLF's work, through a series of case studies. We will review our previous partnerships with local activists and policy makers to understand what happened to the proposed and then abandoned National Strategic Plan against sexual and gender based violence.

Facilitated dialogues and a story telling approach will enable bush doctors from informal settlements and conservation officials to share their experiences and opinions on the future use of public space for planting and harvesting traditional medicines. Collective engagement with community health workers and the City Health department will use an array of visual participatory methods to examine intersections between NGO services and government health facilities. An informal economy case study will investigate how in-depth research with township informal business owners can be effectively represented for government planners and policy-makers. Cross-cutting analysis of these diverse case studies will shed light on the conditions necessary for participatory knowledge processes to use technology effectively to increase government responsiveness. We look forward to sharing our learning with you as we move forward over the coming months.



An SLF workshop with local activists against Sexual and Gender based Violence.

MAVC is supported by four donors:

- DFID,
- USAID,
- Sida, and
- The Omidyar Network (ON)

SLF senior associate, Dr Joanna Wheeler, will be leading this flagship project for SLF.

Research on workplace barriers faced by rural graduates

By Andrew Hartnack –

SLF recently partnered with the Rural Education Access Programme (REAP) to conduct research on the experiences of black rural university graduates in the workplace in South Africa. The research is part of REAP’s “Bridging the Gap between Higher Education and the Workplace” project. It aims to provide a clearer picture of what challenges or barriers face previously disadvantaged students from a rural background in gaining access to appropriate employment at a suitable level and building successful careers in their field of study in the longer term. REAP’s over 300-strong alumni association will form the main research cohort, while employers and those who have helped to prepare students for the workplace will also be interviewed over the nine-month research period.

The research results will be shared widely with the public and with all stakeholders working in the higher education sector to assist in identifying ways in which black tertiary graduates might be better prepared and assisted to flourish in their post-study careers. This is an important endeavour as most bursary support programmes have addressed only the “first gap” of getting disadvantaged youth into tertiary studies, but neglected the “second gap” between tertiary studies and the workplace, where many still face significant challenges.

This research will be led by SLF’s Projects Director and Senior Researcher, Dr Andrew Hartnack. Andrew has, over the last five years, conducted a wide range of strategic research on youth development and educational interventions for sector leaders REAP, the DG Murray Trust, Umthombo Youth Development and Columba Leadership. His research has been shared widely in the sector through several Learning Briefs, published by the DG Murray Trust.



Rural youth face many barriers in gaining access to tertiary institutions and securing good career opportunities. More research is needed on how best to break down these barriers

FIME NEW SITE: WELKOM

By Anthony Muteti –

October marked a new chapter for SLF's FIME work when a new site was opened in the Free State's Welkom area. Headed by the spaza specialist Rory and later joined by Leif and Andrew the team included two other staff members and a group of 6 locally recruited assistants. FIME work was undertaken in three Welkom townships of Thabong, Meloding and Kutloanong.

In the two weeks that the team spent in the area, a few interesting observations were noted: the townships in Welkom had a lesser number of shacks, spaza shops were mostly owned by Bangladeshi and Ethiopians, and unlike in other sites shebeens were not easy to find. The other clearly noticeable aspect was the absence of visible street business activities like braaing. The hot weather conditions also created a booming business for frozen products like guava bompies which sold well at road intersections in Thabong. Further, a number of taverns and bottle stores closed or are abandoned due to mine closures. Many that are still operational have down-scaled and are no longer making money as much as the days when mines were fully operational.

We look forward to continuing our research and discovering interesting new findings within Welkom in the coming year.



Street vendors selling bompies at an intersection in Thabong.