

**CHANGING CLASSES**  
TOWARDS A NEW SOCIAL ORDER IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA  
The Editors: ...

**Emerging Voices** A Report on Education in South African World Communities

**BABA** The lives and experiences of older people in South Africa

**4 in South Africa** ...

## The socio-economic context of older persons in South Africa

A paper presented Workshop on "Promoting the socio-economic rights of older persons", 22 February 2011

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## Basic relevant Background

- Older person constitute 7.2% will reach 14.2% in the next 40 years
- Low sex ratio among older persons
- Youth bulge
- Drastic increase in the number of orphans taken care by grand parents.

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## The Eastern Cape Example

The increasing burden on older persons

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## Deprivation Index by Municipality Districts of the Eastern Cape

District	Deprivation Index
OR Tambo	4.5
Alfred Nzo	4.2
Chris Hani	3.8
Amathole	3.8
Ukhahlamba	3.5
Cacadu	2.2
Nelson Mandela	2.0

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## The proportion of older persons who are heads of households in various municipal areas of the Eastern Cape

Municipal Area	Proportion (%)
Alfred Nzo	67.8
Amathole	62.2
Cacadu	47.1
Chris Hani	59.4
Ukhahlamba	51.1
OR Tambo	61.1
Ukhahlamba	62.7
OR Tambo	60.9
Alfred Nzo	61.5
Ukhahlamba	62.7
OR Tambo	64.1
Ukhahlamba	26.1
Alfred Nzo	22.2
Ukhahlamba	61.3

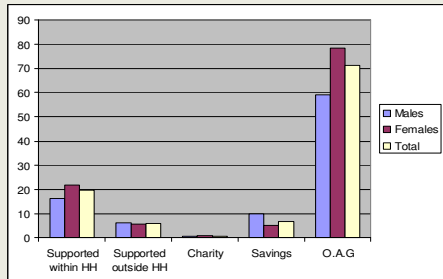
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## Average household size in district municipalities, 2001-2007

District Municipality	2001	2007
Alfred Nzo	4.2	4.7
Amathole	3.8	3.6
Cacadu	3.7	3.5
Chris Hani	4.2	3.9
Nelson Mandela	3.8	3.7
OR Tambo	4.9	5.2
Ukhahlamba	4.1	3.4

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### Economic resources of older persons in South Africa, by Gender, 2007



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### Who is likely to leave childhood HH?

- **Co-residing adult children (21-35)** are likely to be financially dependent (68.3%) and never married (94.3%). On the other hand,
- **Adult children who left** 36.5% remain financially dependent, and 63.7% are neither married nor cohabiting.

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### Economic flow models

Two models found:

- *The economic stable model*
  - The wealth flows from parent to children when children are young, a long period of lull; then a windfall when wealth finally flow from parents to children in the form of inheritances

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### Economic Flow Models (contd.)

- *Economically vulnerable model*
  - Wealth flow from parents when they are young
  - Children expected to send remittances to parents
  - Parents assist children during economic and social crisis

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### Issues for reconsideration

- Social grant system and the role older persons play in society
- Remittances
- The role played by older persons in society

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### Some policy implications of our study

- Restructuring of the basic social services and financial support for older people.
- Support for voluntary and flexible economic and social participation.

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Thank you

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