

Social exclusion and vulnerability in the context of access to adequate housing

Cameron Brisbane

Built Environment Support Group

August 2007

Social Exclusion

“Social exclusion is a group rather than an individual phenomenon. When we talk about social exclusion, we are distinguishing those who belong to groups which enjoy access to resources and respect and those who do not.”

N. Kabeer, “Social Exclusion, Poverty and Discrimination,” *IDS Bulletin*, Vol.31, No.4, 2000, pg.89

Bases of social exclusion

- Gender (women, men)
- Race (Africans, Coloureds)
- Health status (PWAs, lepers)
- Culture (minorities)
- Religion
- Age (children, youth, elderly)
- Employment status (unemployed, low-income earners)
- Educational status (literacy)
- Nationality (refugees)
- Location (urban/rural)
- Marital status (single people)
- Level of poverty ('poorest of the poor')
- Language (non-English speakers)
- Disability (physically/mentally disabled)

Vulnerability

“Vulnerability refers to the **risk** of a particular individual or group falling into **poverty** or in situations that compromise their human **well-being**. Certain individuals or groups, due to their position in society, are more vulnerable than others to the negative consequences of economic, political and social trends, cyclical changes or ‘**shocks**’. Generally women, children, the unemployed, households and communities with limited assets are least able to cope with the effects of. . . a negative change in basic service provision or access to remittances.”

Report of the Committee of Enquiry into a Comprehensive System of Social Security for South Africa, May 2002, pg. 18

Group task

- Identify 2 “socially excluded” groups infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS
- What are the attributes of these socially excluded groups that may make them vulnerable to lack of access to adequate housing?

Group attributes  reasons for vulnerability?

- What can be done to reduce this vulnerability?