

Poverty Rates in a Rural District of Zimbabwe: A Case Study of the Guruve District

Thomas Mupetesi¹, Joseph Francis^{1*} and Richard Gomo²

*¹Institute for Rural Development, University of Venda, Private Bag X5050,
Thohoyandou 0950, South Africa*

²Number 4- 45th Haig Avenue, Mabelreign, Harare, Zimbabwe

KEYWORDS Food. Income. Human Development Index (HDI). Human Poverty Index (HPI). Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

ABSTRACT Over the past 20 years, poverty rates in Zimbabwe have worsened. However, the absence of official up-to-date statistics makes it difficult to measure accurately the current status of poverty in the country. The objective of this paper was to provide empirical estimates of this phenomenon in Guruve, a predominantly rural district located in the Mashonaland Central Province. Income Poverty, Human Development Index (HDI) and Human Poverty Index (HPI) were adopted as measures of poverty following the Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) approach used in the 2003 Poverty Assessment Study Survey (PASS). Compared to the 2003 study, respective improvements in the District's Income Poverty, HPI and HDI did not result in reduced poverty rates. The high poverty rates observed in this paper implied that the chances of Guruve District meeting the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty rates by 2015 were almost negligible.