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Are South Africa’s social, economic and environmental policies complimentary? The case of Working for Water.
Public Employment Programmes fall under the social assistance umbrella and is viewed as an acceptable alternative for the working poor.

How do we optimise the social impacts of programmes in non related sectors?

When the policy underlying a programme is not primarily about social outcomes how can we make it as effective as possible?
A bit about WfW

- Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) creates short term employment (invasive alien plant removal) while providing a public service (increase water supply).

- Inception in 1995, located in the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) (DSD, EPWP, and Department of Correctional Services).

- **Environmental goals**: enhance water supply, preserve SA biodiversity, mitigating wildfires etc.

- **Social goals**: poverty alleviation through creation of short-to medium term jobs for unskilled workers as well as skills development.

- **Economic Goals**: Value to economy of controlling invasive alien plants estimated against *loss to economy* in terms of impact on water supply.
Some Facts and Figures

- Clearance of **25 million hectares** over past 20 years

- In 2013/2014 WfW provides 39 540 **work opportunities**

- In 2013/2014 workers employed on average **78 days** in a year

- Paid on average **ZAR131.36** per day

- ZAR 453 Billion net present value of all control operations
The WfW programme was conceptualised under the premise that “in a post-apartheid SA, environmental sustainability could only be dealt with if social development and efficiency concerns were also addressed.”

Policy (and funding model) informed by the need for job creation, self employment generation and gender equality.

Social, economic and environmental policy needs to be integrated for mutual advantage.

Blueprint for establishing integrated intersectoral programme approaches.
WfW’s environmental, social and economic goals realised?

- Tensions over economic, social and environmental goals. Which takes precedence?
- Lack of systematic M&E of social outcomes.
- Role of DSD?
- WfW unable to bridge divide between formal and informal labour markets.
- Branding WfW as ‘intersectoral’ has ensured its survival and ensures its success.
A comprehensive employment programme?

- Progressive policy blueprint for intersectoral programmes.
- Illustrates the challenges of achieving intersectorality.

What does WfW need to do to adequately optimise its social impacts?

- M+E of social outcomes essential.
- Incorporate expertise on an intrinsic level from social sector (like DSD for monitoring)
If you would like a finalised copy of the paper from which this presentation emanates or if you have any other related queries please contact:

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