DEMOGRAPHY AND COVID-19 IN AFRICA - EVIDENCE AND POLICY RESPONSES TO SAFEGUARD THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

# Addressing COVID-19 in South Africa

To understand the impact of COVID-19, demography and epidemiology must be taken into account.

Variation by geography too, shouldn't be understated.



**Deaths by Provinces** Western Cape 25.9% Gauteng 25.4% Eastern Cape 19.3% KwaZulu Natal 15.6% Free State 5.3% Mpumalanga 3.1% Limpopo 2.2% North West 2.0% Northern Cape 1.2%

Source: NICD (data from March to August, 2020)

## Innovations to estimate and respond to COVID-19



- Civil registration data to estimate excess mortality. (SAMRC) 0
- Demographic and health surveillance sites to monitor utilization of health services and long-term impacts.
  - Collection and disaggregation of demographic and health surveillance data to monitor short and long-term impacts. (SAPRIN)
- Mobile technology to conduct the National Income Dynamics Study 3 Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM)
- Developing the South Africa COVID-19 Vulnerability Index (Stats SA) 4

### Socio-economic Impacts of the Pandemic



**EMPLOYMENT** Unemployed increased by 2.8 million rising from



**EDUCATION 40%** of school days lost for most children in 2020. Increasing



HUNGER Higher in July/August 2020, adult hunger was at **16%**, child



MENTAL HEALTH Depressive symptoms doubled between 2017 and June 2020



43% to 53% between Feb-Apr 2020 inequality as wealthy children twice likely to attend school

hunger at 11% & 37% of households had no money for food

from 12% to 24% of individuals

**5** of **11.3 million** applicants received the special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant that has brought millions of previously unreached individuals

### Source: Wave 2 National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (CRAM)

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#### Government responses to mitigate the impact of the pandemic

- Social grants
- Social insurance
- Food parcel distribution
- Shelters for the homeless
- Infrastructure grants for schools to resume teaching and learning Support for Early Childhood Development programmes
- Measures to safeguard against gender-based violence and femicide

(NIDS-CRAM Wave 2)

into the system

More details and resources on - https://bit.ly/37i4Pyh















Development Policy