

CITIES, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

NOVEMBER 2011

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Urban Africa: A Fragmented Landscape



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Urban Africa: A Fragmented Landscape

Edgar Pieterse | African Centre for Cities | 18 November 2011

Maybe Kinshasa shouldn't even try to follow the West. We could not catch up with it even if we tried. We would do better to follow the last one in the race, the hungry one, and follow the rhythm of his footsteps, the time of that hungry one. Of course, hunger signifies a lack of freedom. Somehow we have lost the equilibrium between the physical question and the beyond that creates the freedom. Ready to accept and eat about anything, hunger reduces one to mere survival. But beyond that hunger lies something else...

Kinshasa is not only stomach. We have the capacity to open up to that something else, but we haven't yet managed to surpass the problem of hunger, of death, of illness, of suffering. We haven't yet overcome the rupture.

And then, hunger and death do not only signify closure, they also enable the creation of an opening, if not physically then at least mentally...

- Vincent Lombume Kalimase, Artist from Kinshasa, DRC

Urbanization 2050:

1.2 billion

61% of Pop

Urbanization 2030:

800 million

50% of Pop

Urbanization 2010:

380 million

39% of Pop

Urbanization 1990:

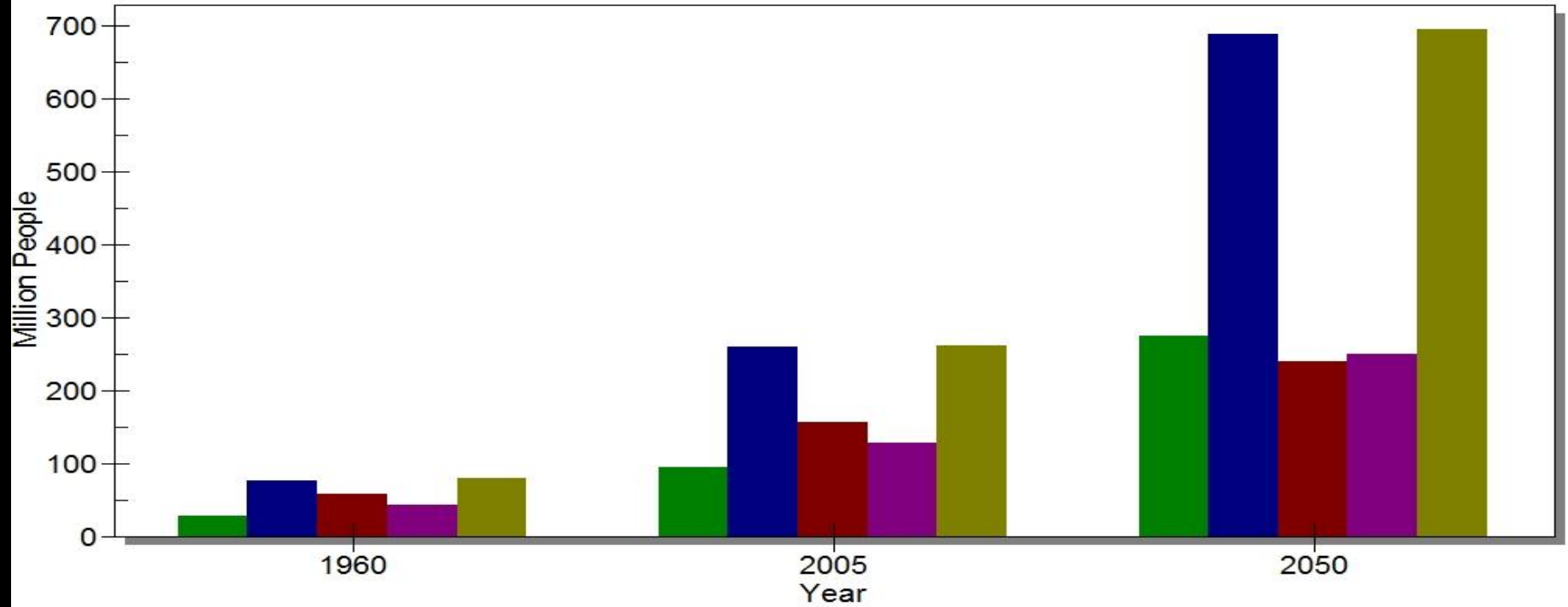
199 million

31% of Pop



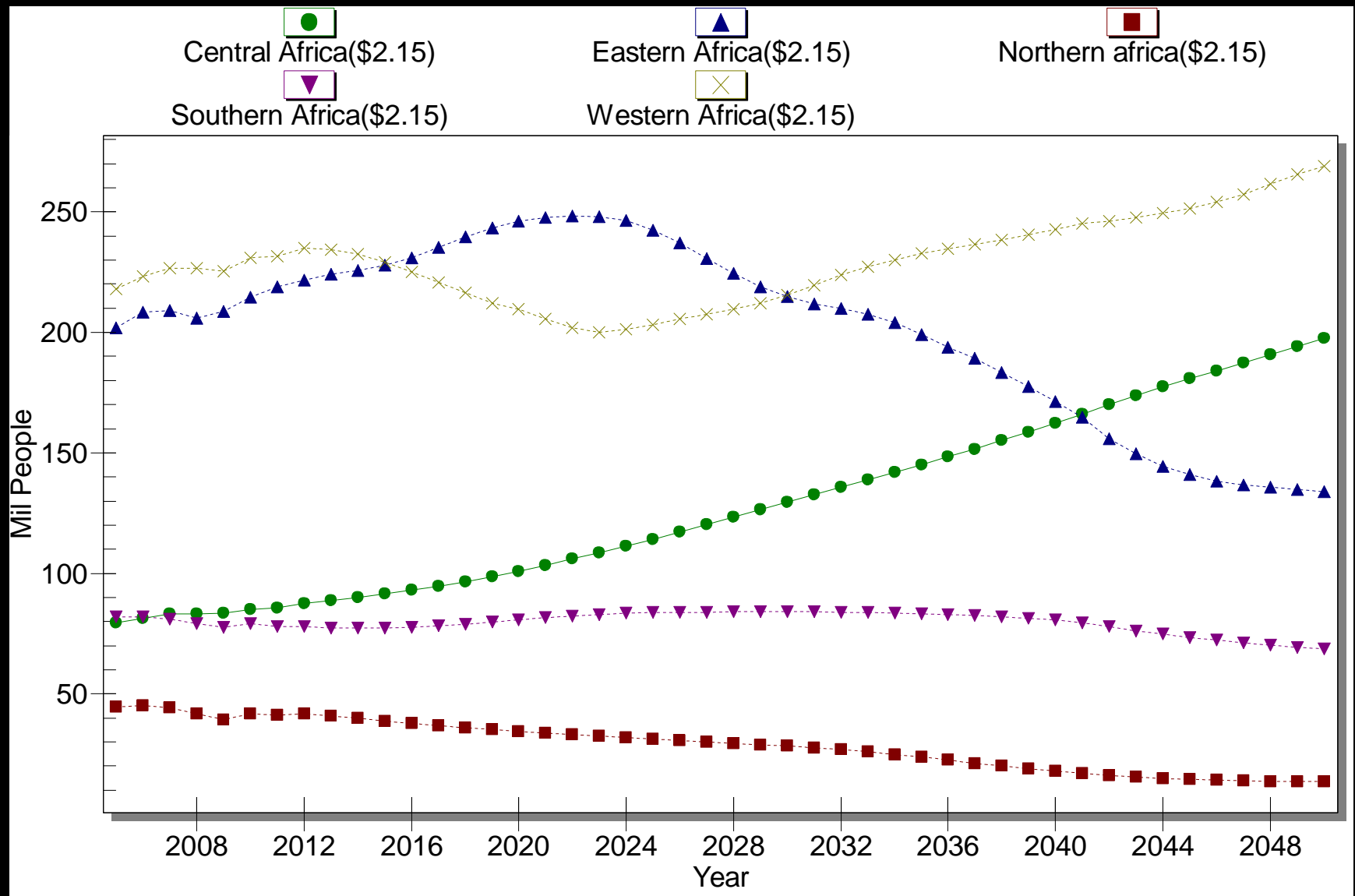
Population

AFP Central Africa
AFP Eastern Africa
AFP Southern Africa
AFP Western Africa
AFP Northern Africa



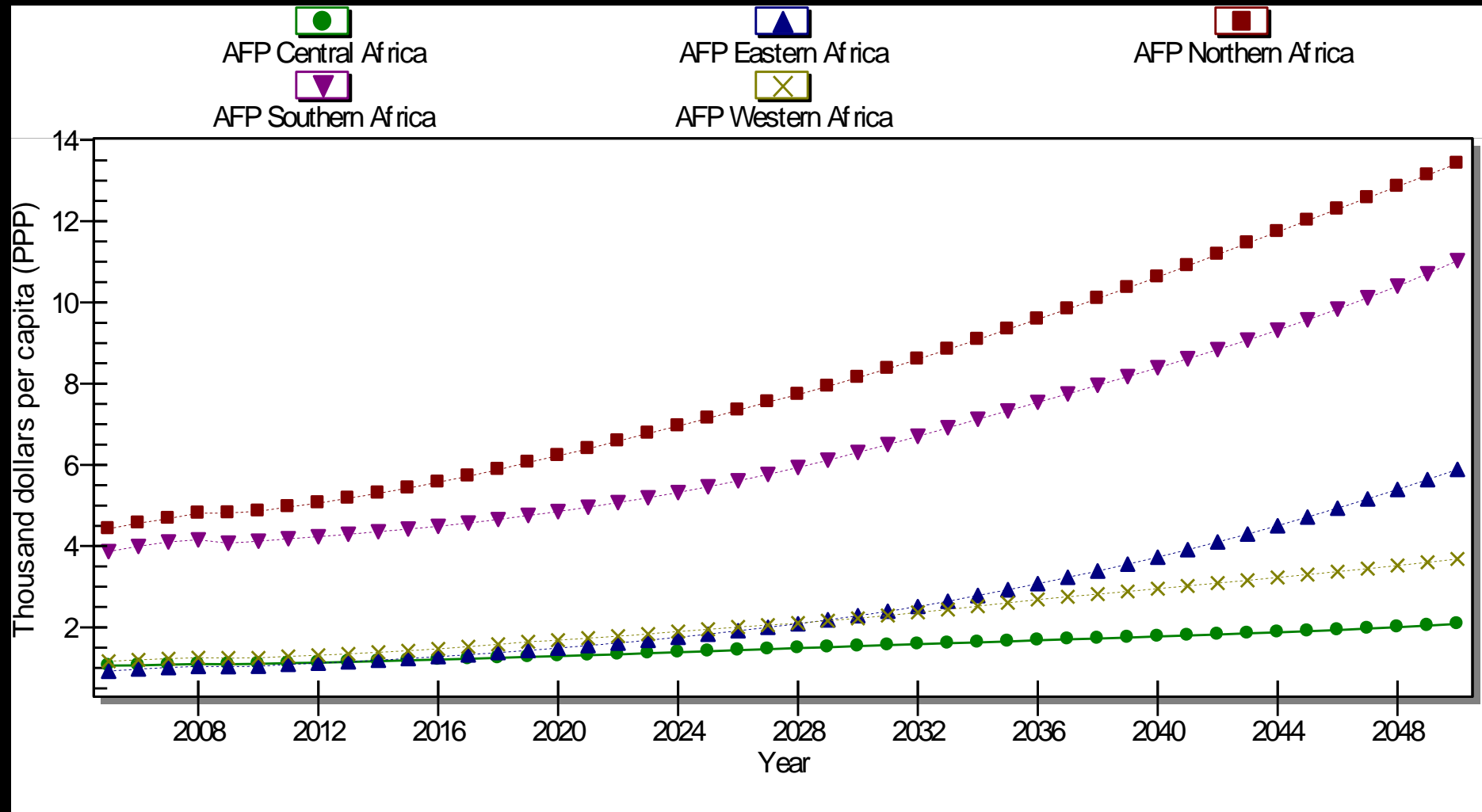
Source: Pardee Centre & Institute for Security Studies, 2011

African population below \$2.15 per day, per region



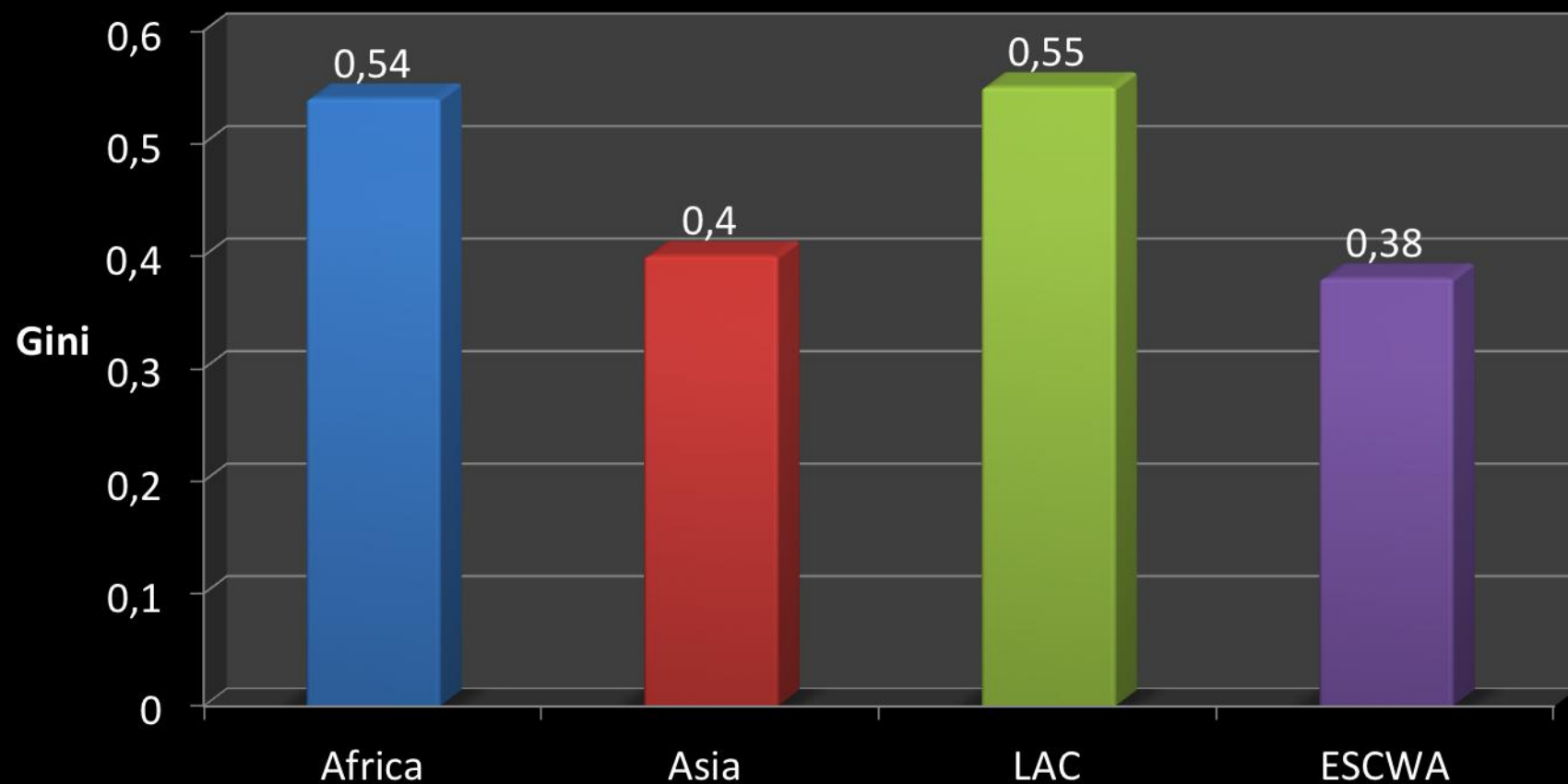
Source: Pardee Centre & Institute for Security Studies

Africa GDP Per Capita income trends by region, 2005-2050



Source: Pardee Centre & Institute for Security Studies

Gini-coefficient for Development Regions, 2008



Structural poverty, inequality & limited employment manifest in Slum Living as the norm

Region	% Slums	Moderated (1-2 deficiencies)	Severely (3-4 deficiencies)
Sub-Saharan Africa	62	63	37
LAC	27	82	8
Southern Asia	43	95	5

[1. overcrowding; 2. informal housing; 3. lack of access to water and sanitation; 4. insecure tenure]



STRUCTURAL OBSTACLES:



- Limited state understanding or appetite to address urbanization
- Small & skewed formal economies—limited tax base
- Regulations that penalize informality
- Discrimination re identity politics of affiliation
- Entering global markets with ltd leverage or unified positions
- Costs of large-scale dysfunction paid by voiceless slum dwellers

Built manifestation: extreme splintered urbanism—
slum neglect combined with enclave elite urbanism



Despite the promising economic growth prospects for Africa of late, there is no readily available or acceptable economic and community development model to address the mutually reinforcing drivers of structural exclusion and poverty, at scale.



Illustrative case:

KHAYELITSHA, CAPE TOWN

Khayelitsha, Cape Town



Khayelitsha township was developed from 1983, 35 km outside central Cape Town. The original township layout could accommodate up to 250.000 people. Currently there are 600.000- 800.000 people living in Khayelitsha. The area suffers from the worst levels of violent crime in city.

VPUU Method

Concept

- **Vision:** Build safe and sustainable communities by reducing social, cultural, economic and institutional exclusion.
- **Approach:** Sustainable economic model based on voluntarism, partnerships, accountability, responsibility & community ownership

Strategy: Articulate

- **Social crime prevention:** public health approach of ECD, school aged interventions & employment programmes
- **Institutional crime prevention:** manage public spaces, data, community policing
- **Situational crime prevention:** surgical design interventions to establish a sense of place

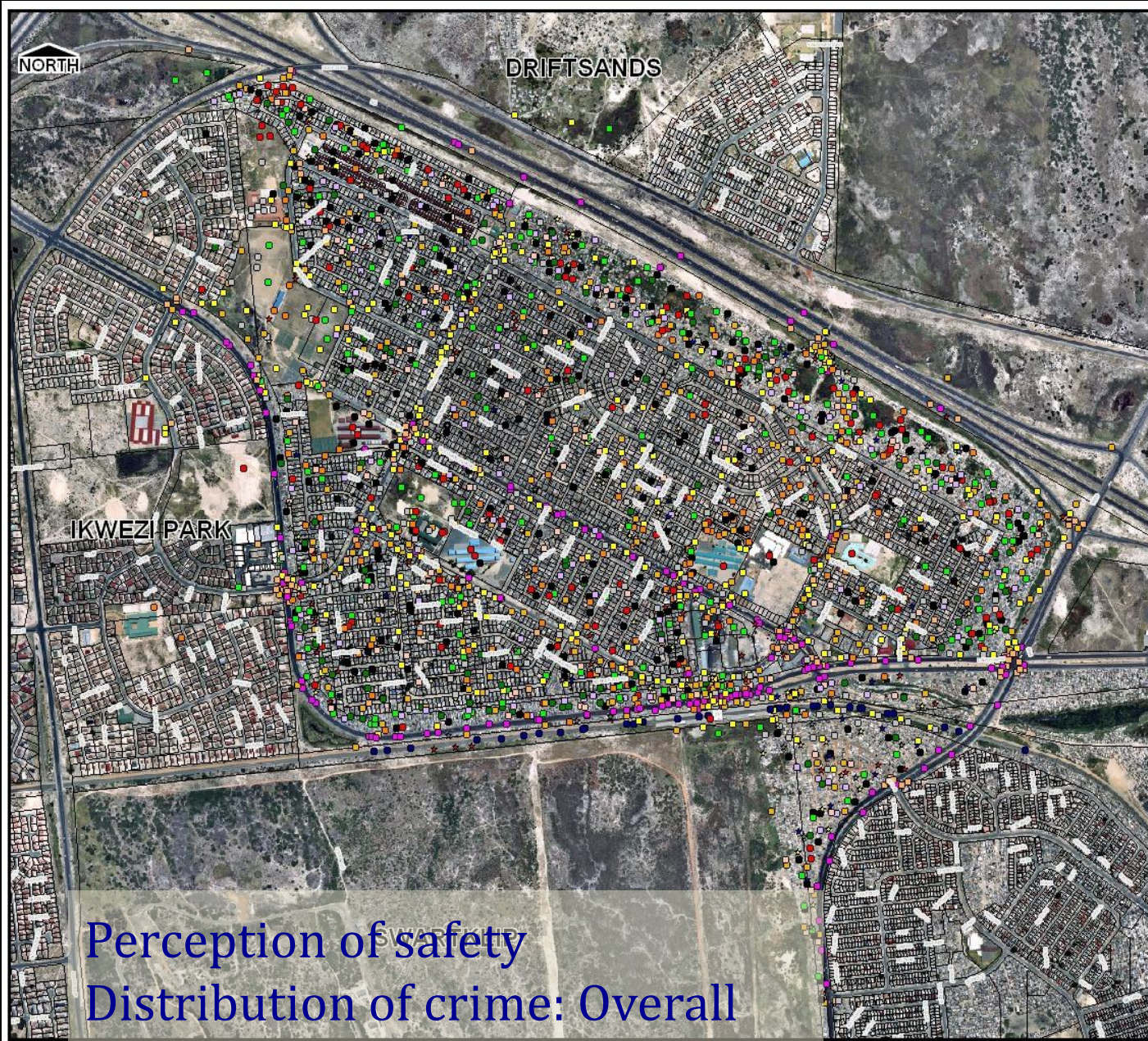
Project Instruments

- **Establish “Safe Node Areas”**
Capital Infrastructure
- **Social Development Fund (SDF)**
Small Infrastructure, Community Projects, Community Cohesion, Gender Equity, Reduce Violence
- **Supporting Measures**
Capacity Building, Operation And Management Concepts
- **Ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation**
Constant Assessment, Review, Improve

Site C

Site C: Nolongile Station Precinct





Legend

● Arson	(126)
■ Car hijack	(138)
■ Child Abuse	(142)
★ Clothes stolen from washline	(77)
□ Domestic violence	(121)
★ Dump-stolen vehicles	(76)
★ Guns	(20)
■ House breaks	(290)
■ Murder	(252)
■ Pedestrian accident	(160)
■ Railway pedestrian accidents	(31)
■ Rape	(210)
■ Robbery	(334)
★ Selling Dagga and Tik	(61)
□ Stabbings	(240)
□ Unlicensed shebeens	(103)
★ Vigilantism	(26)
■ Youth and gangs	(174)

VIOLENCE TYPES (Combined Map)

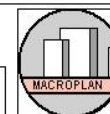
VIOLENCE PREVENTION THROUGH
URBAN UPGRADING IN
KHAYELITSHA



AHT GROUP AG
Management & Engineering

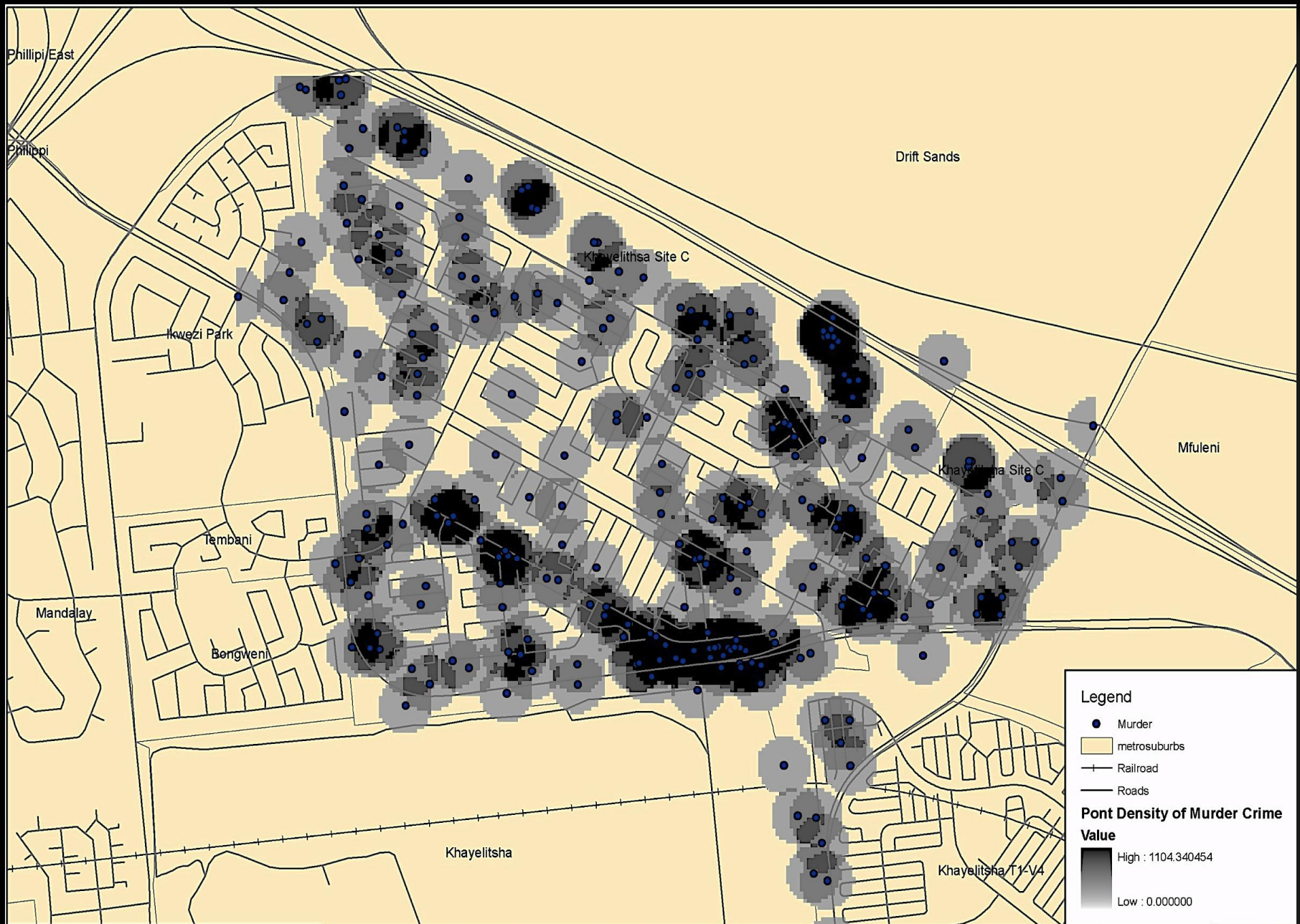
Date : November 2007

MAP 10



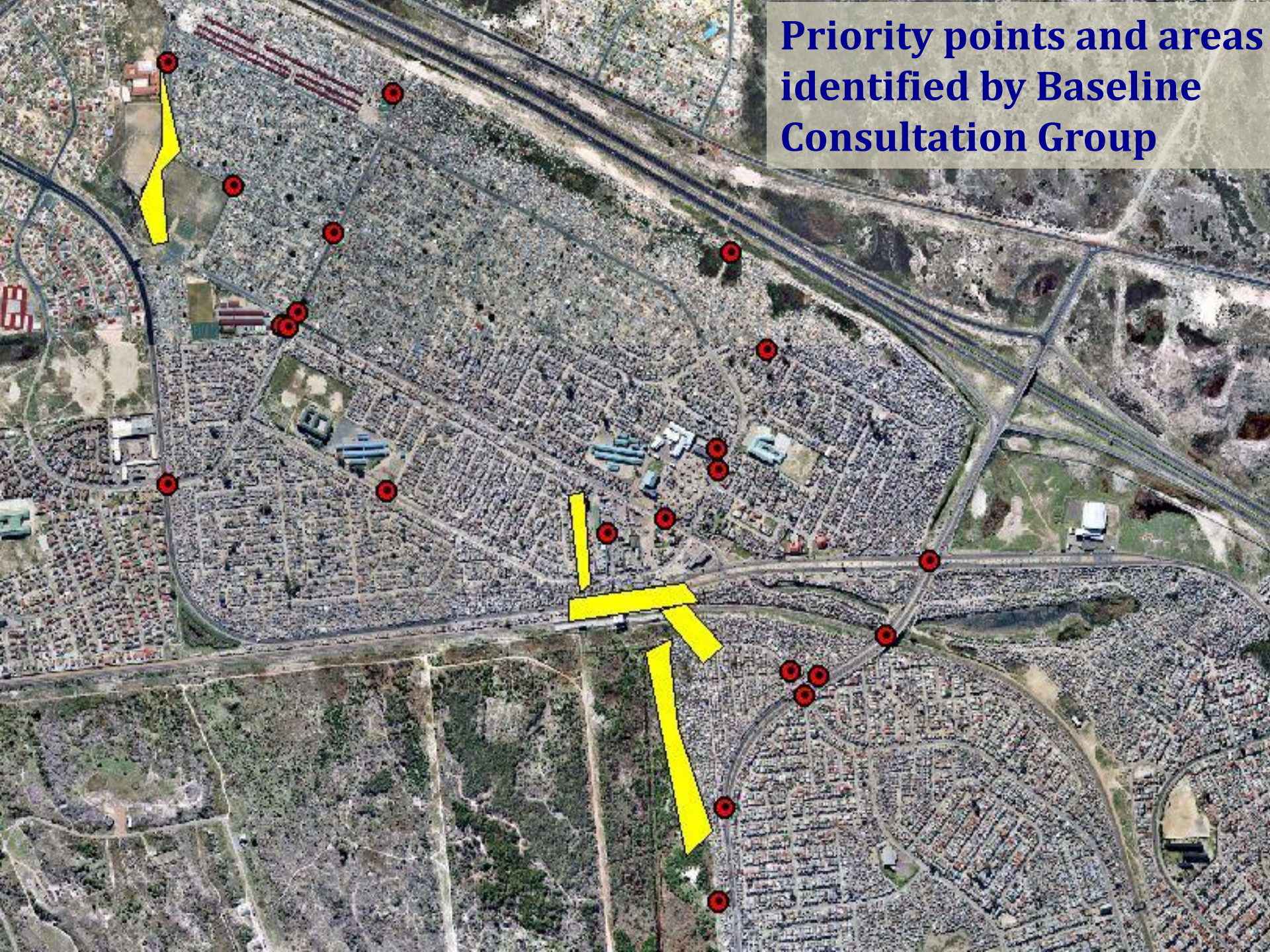


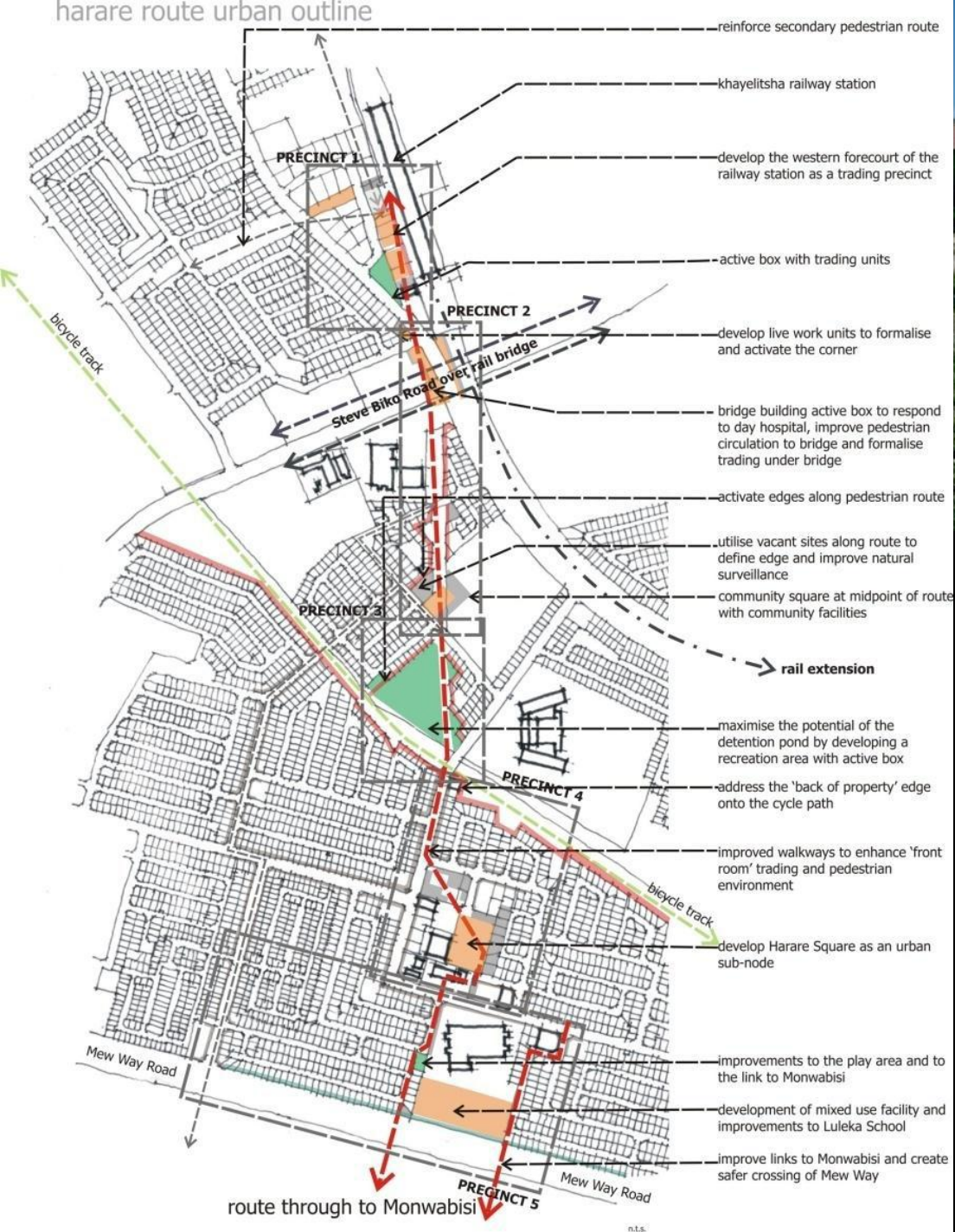






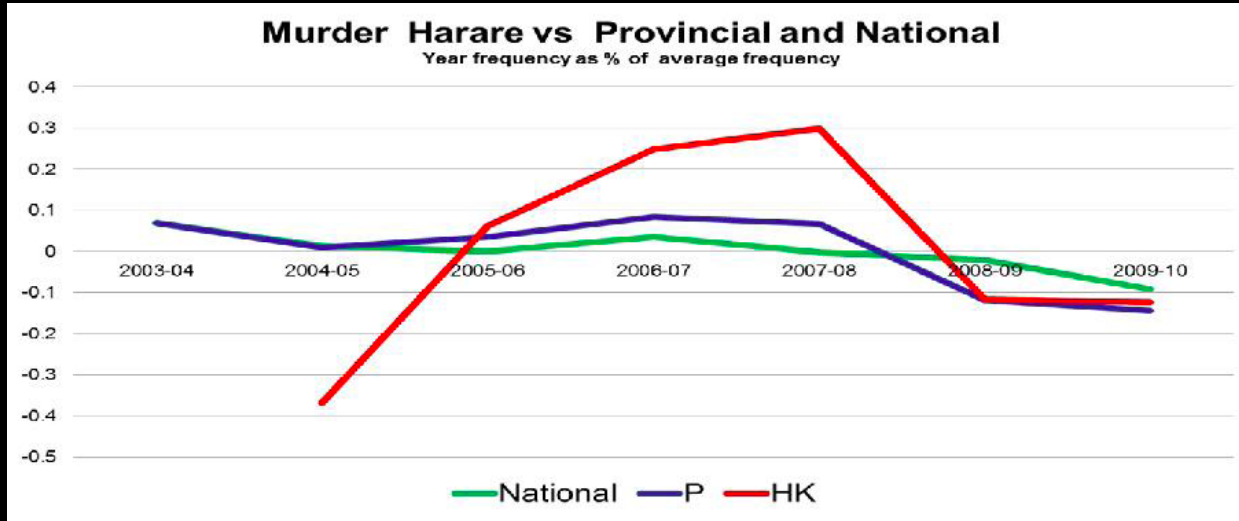
**Priority points and areas
identified by Baseline
Consultation Group**





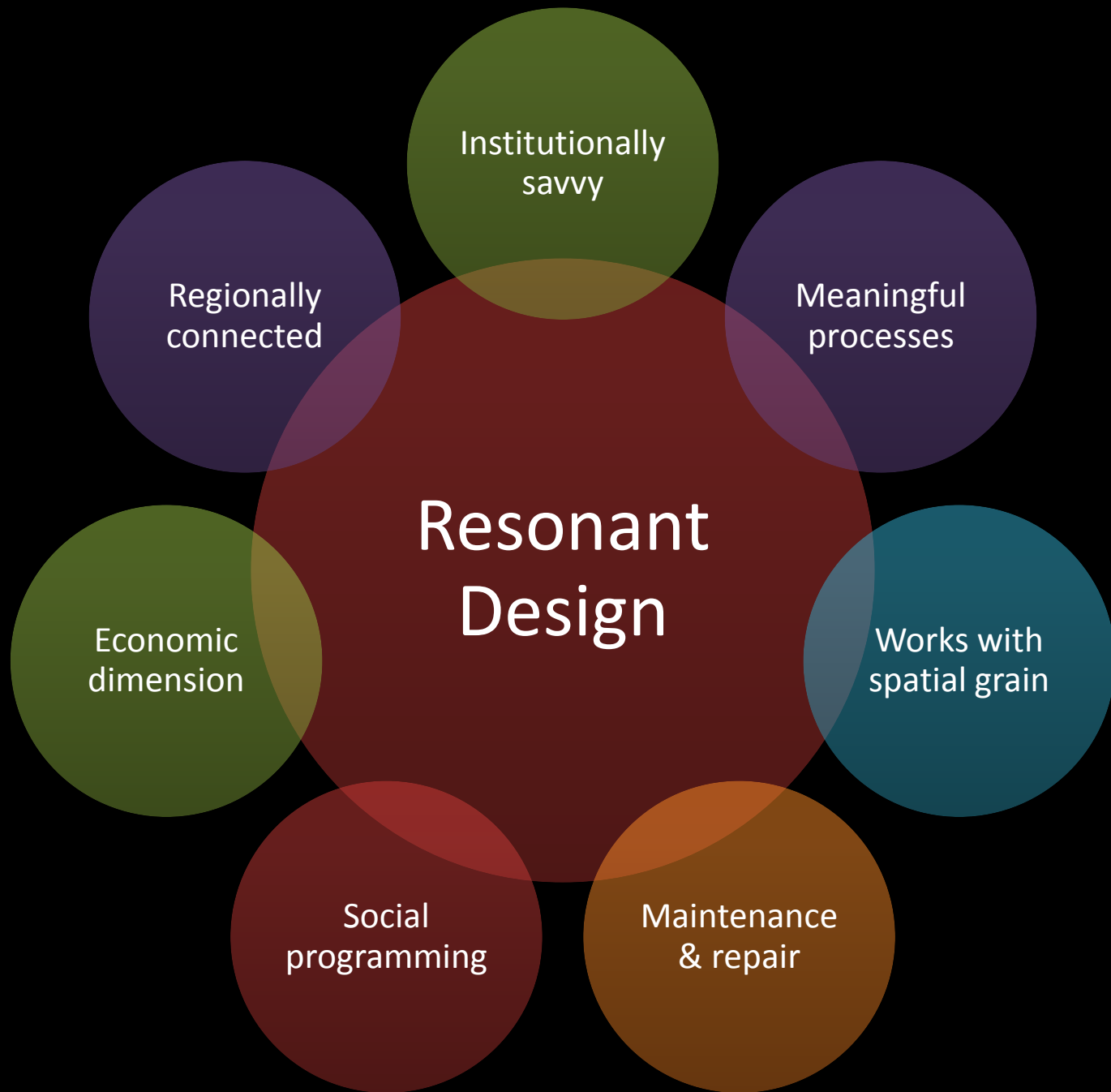
- Activity Box Trading
- Active Box Recreation
- Safe sports fields
- Safe node of multi-use activities
- Civic squares
- House of learning





Murder rate per 100,000:

- 2003/04: 75
- 2009/10: 46
- 39% reduction
- Also, almost no murders in public spaces.



Implications for urban health practice & debates

- Acknowledge and accept the “people-as-infrastructure” perspective
- Accept the need for both government-driven interventions and grassroots activism, with a focus on strategic articulation
- Intermediation is key
- Multi-dimensional health perspectives serve as powerful tools to address both urban poverty and inequality

Improving health outcomes via employment interventions





“There is a hiatus somewhere, a void, and this void needs to be filled. It has to be filled by us, the inhabitants of this city ... The city belongs to all of them. And they all have to constantly reinvent their own myths, their own stories of the street, to keep going and to offer themselves a semblance of direction for this world that keeps slipping through their fingers. *The city is indeed a never ending construction.*”

- V.L. Kalimase



Thank You.

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