



# A Call For Your Help to Shape South Africa

**N.i.D.S.**  
NATIONAL INCOME DYNAMICS STUDY



## HELLO

Hello from the NIDS team at the University of Cape Town. You are receiving this leaflet in the hope that you will join other South Africans in the first national survey to track the same people over time to get a really good picture of how people live in South Africa. Its purpose is to hear your life story over time and learn what helps some people get ahead and what may be holding others back. This information is used by researchers to influence those in power for the betterment of all.

## WHY WAS I SELECTED?

This study has been running since 2008. While most people are keen to have their stories heard, we have lost some people over the years as people leave the country, die or stop responding. So this year we want to add more people with similar backgrounds to yourself to make sure that you are represented properly. Your household was randomly selected using statistical sampling techniques. In this way researchers and policymakers know that the information represents all South Africans and not just particular groups. We hope to interview you and over 30,000 others in the survey every two years.

## WHO IS CONDUCTING THIS SURVEY?

We are from the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit based at the University



of Cape Town. We gather the information, analyse the research and make suggestions to people in power. We don't personally profit from your answers. Fieldworkers from GeoSpace will be doing the fieldwork on our behalf.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

A representative will visit to arrange an interview appointment at your convenience. We would like to interview a knowledgeable resident about the household and each resident individually. You are not forced to participate in the survey. However, your participation is very important. To keep the survey representative, we cannot just replace your household. Your story represents many others like you to piece together an accurate national picture.

## IS THE INFORMATION I GIVE KEPT PRIVATE?

Yes. We are gathering information from thousands of people like you so that we can understand more clearly what is working and what is not working in the country. Before any research results are presented, the details and the answers that you give will be grouped together with the responses from other participants such that no one will be able to identify you and your responses. Any information linked to you is kept completely confidential.

## WHAT IF MY ANSWERS ARE NOT CORRECT?

There are no right or wrong answers. We need to get an accurate picture of what South African households look like, how they change over time, what problems they face and how they cope with them. The key thing is that you report as accurately as possible about your situation. If, for example, you make up a story about how much you earn we won't get the right picture about income in the country.

## WHO ELSE IS PARTICIPATING?

We make sure that we interview men and women and people from all race and language groups living in South Africa. We also make sure that we interview people in both cities and rural areas.

## WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED RECENTLY?

We have learned very interesting things about South Africans, some encouraging, some less so. For example, nearly all people who were employed in 2012 continued to be employed in 2015. Yet, unskilled youth struggle to find employment and those who do, often earn less than their parents despite having more education. Also, less than half of those unemployed in 2012 found jobs by 2015. Why is this? NIDS highlights a number of factors that policy makers can address to improve the circumstances of South Africans

## HOW LONG WILL THE INTERVIEW LAST?

The household interview takes around 40 minutes and the individual interviews range from 15 to 45 minutes. Besides asking you questions, the interviewer will take your health measurements (such as blood pressure, weight, waist and height). To speed up the interview process our fieldworkers use computer tablets. We can schedule the interviews around your availability and come back at different times if that is more convenient.



## WHAT DO I GET OUT OF THIS?

We do not pay people for participating in the survey. However, you will receive a small gift to show our appreciation for your participation. The purpose of the study is to provide evidence to support policy for a better South Africa and the organisation does not make a profit. We will leave you with a record of your measurements along with advice on what to do if your blood pressure is high.

## DO I HAVE TO GIVE THIS INFORMATION IN FRONT OF OTHERS WHO LIVE WITH ME?

No. You can speak to the fieldworker privately. If you realise you've made a mistake in the interview, you can call the NIDS Office on our toll free number to inform us about it.

## WILL YOU BE COMING BACK AGAIN?

We would like to come back every two years to see how your circumstances have changed or remained the same. Because we would like to interview you even if you move, it is very helpful if you provide us with enough information for us to locate you in the future.

## REMIND ME AGAIN, WHY SHOULD I BE DOING THIS?

You will be part of history. This is South Africa's first national survey to track the same people over time to get a good picture of how people are benefitting or suffering. The same kinds of surveys are done overseas in places like Australia, Malaysia, Mexico and the United Kingdom. South Africa really needs this kind of data to help make better policy for all South Africans.

# Thank You

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**For more information about NIDS go to  
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