

# The Challenge of Livelihoods in Informal Settlements in Durban/ eThekweni Municipality

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# Introduction

- Importance of livelihoods
  - Vital economic, social and political asset
  - Critical and expanding research focus
- Contextualizing livelihoods in relation to informal settlements

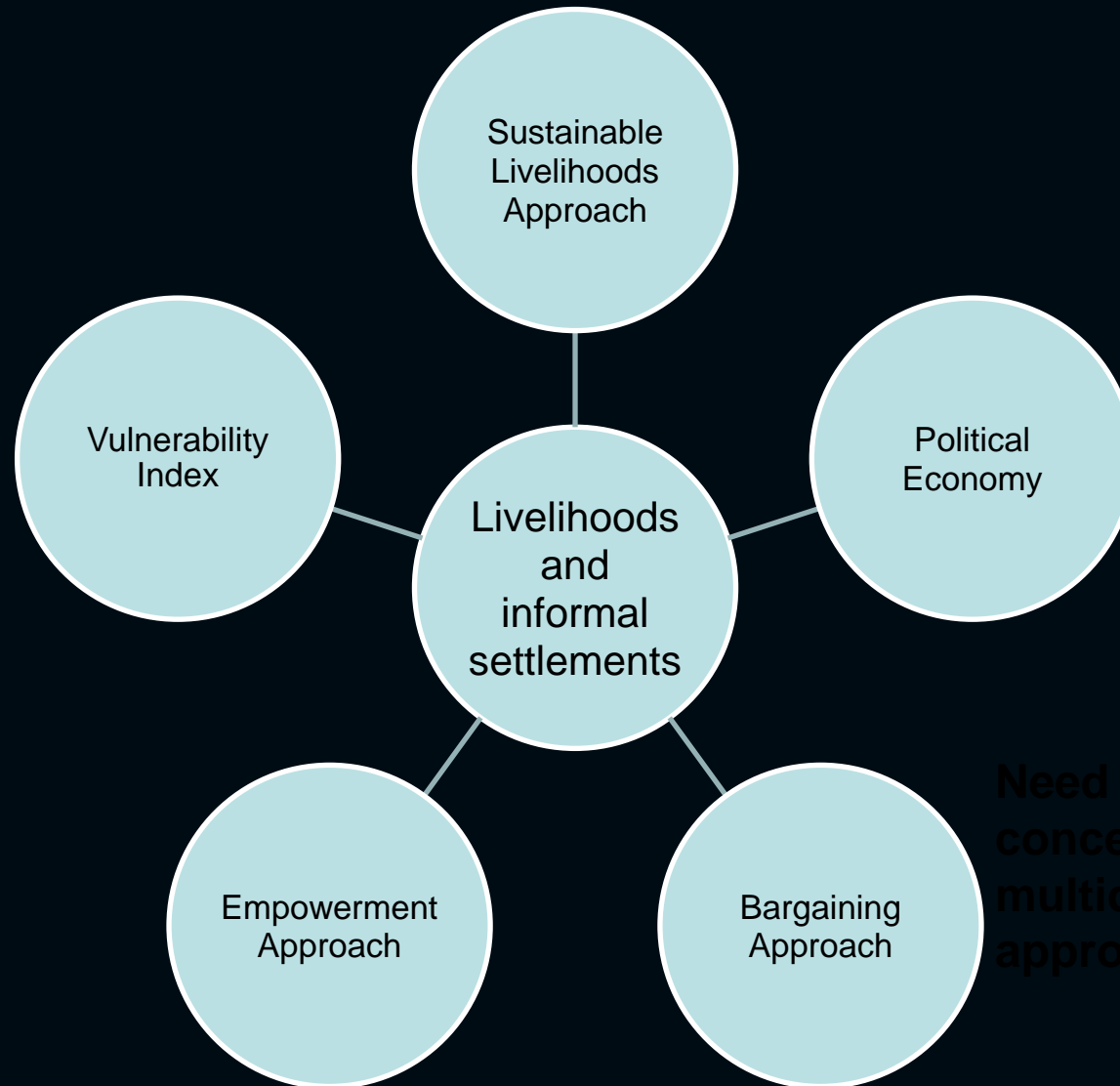
# **Problematic assumption that livelihoods equate to income generating opportunities**

- Overwhelming evidence that lives in informal settlements are linked to income generating and non-income generating activities
- Reliance on:
  - The natural resource base
  - Social Networks

# Livelihoods and informal settlements in Durban

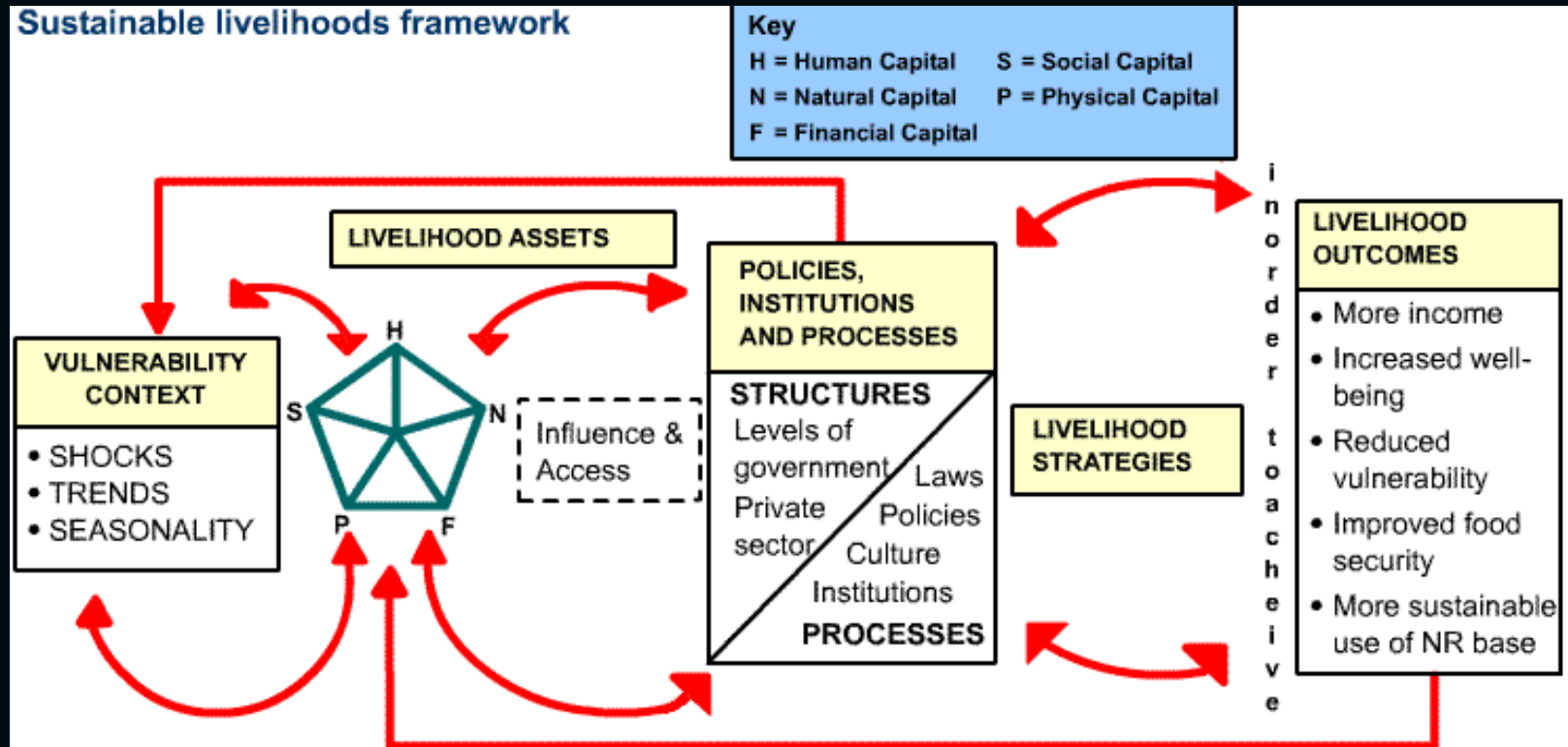
- Sources of information
  - Moodley et al (2008): Health issues in informal settlements
  - Perry et al (2010): Crime and violence in residential areas
  - Other studies

# Conceptual/ Theoretical Framework

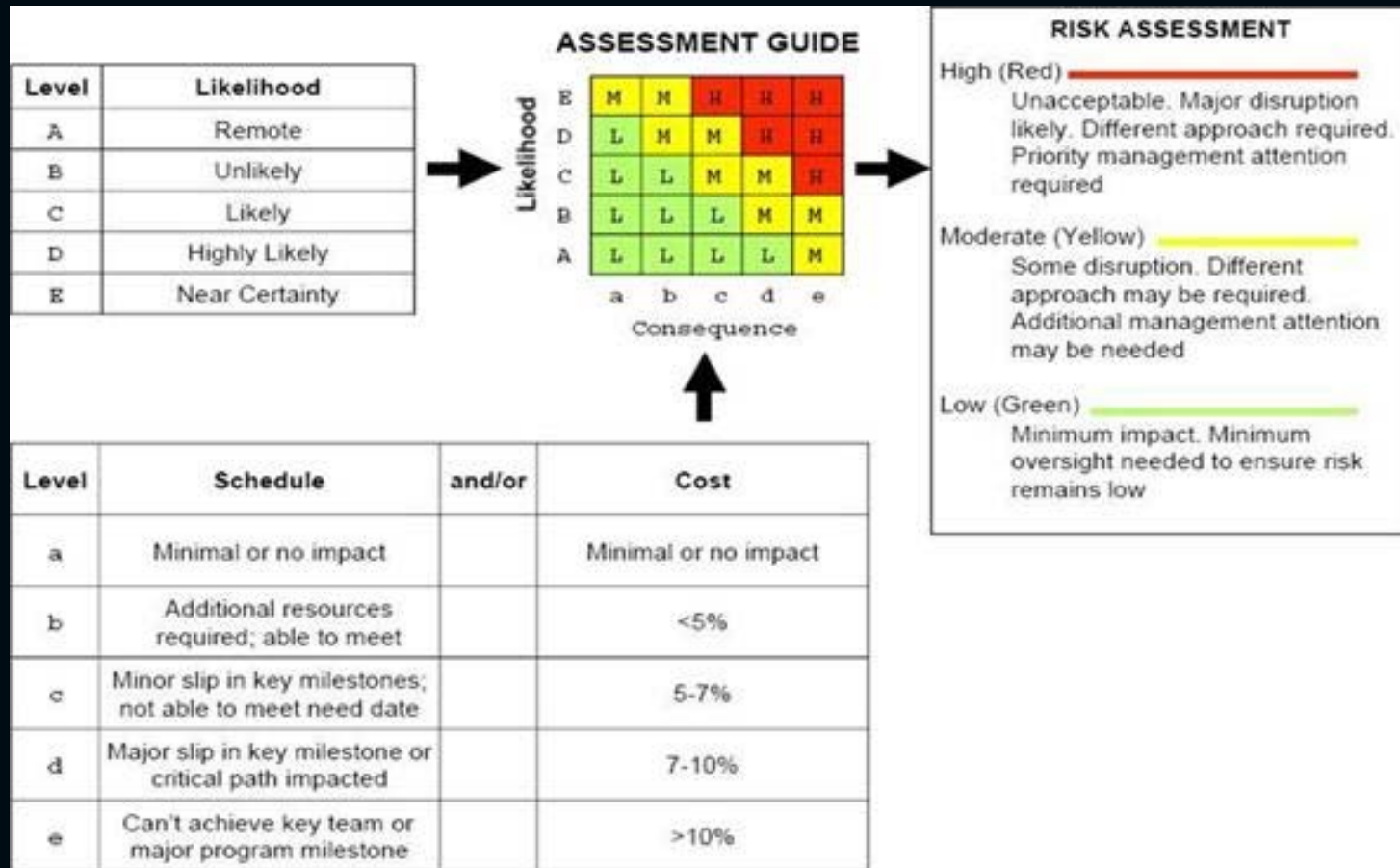


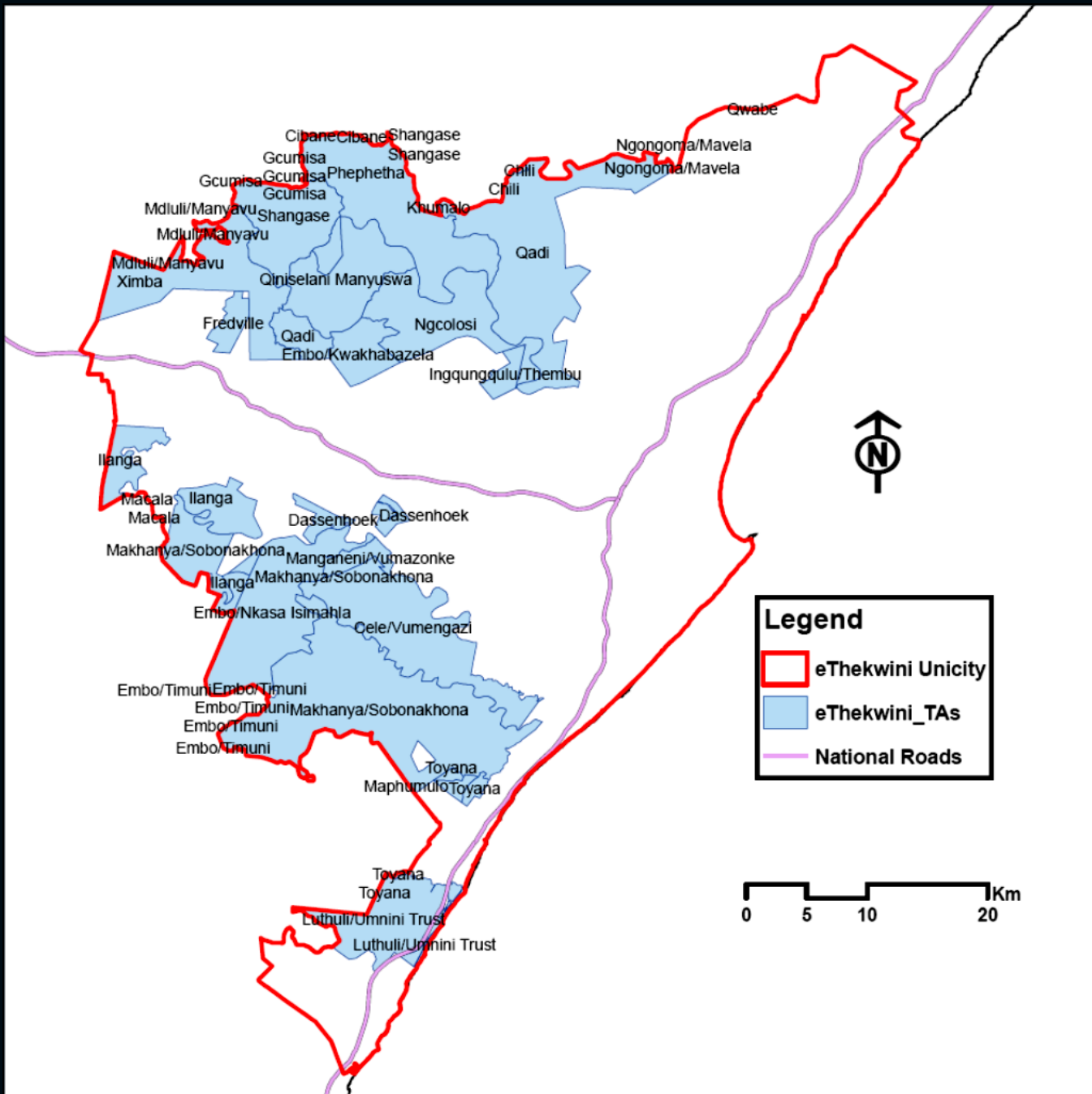
**Need for a multi-conceptual and multidisciplinary approach**

# Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (Scoones, 1998)






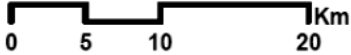
# Example of a Risk Assessment/ Vulnerability MatriX





**Legend**

-  eThekweni Unicity
-  eThekweni\_TAs
-  National Roads





# Key livelihood strategies discernible

- Formal jobs
- Grants
- Informal sector activities
  - Construction
  - Crafts
  - Hairdressing
  - Trading/ spaza shops/ *shebeens* (informal bars)
  - 'Illegal activities'
  - Agricultural production



# Importance of natural resources

- Food security
  - Foraging
  - Role of community gardens
- Grazing
- Access to natural resources including water, fuelwood, medicinal plants, building materials, etc.



# Revisiting the MDGs from a livelihood perspective

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Increases livelihood options and security
Achieve universal primary education	Integrate issues of human rights Increase livelihood options and opportunities in the future
Promote gender equality and empower women	Equality in terms of access, control, ownership and leveraging opportunities and support
Reduce child mortality	Increased development and improved quality of life Enhances livelihoods options
Improve maternal health	
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	
Ensure environmental security	More sustainable livelihood practices
Develop a global partnership for development	Focus on integrating and monitoring objectives <b>Importance of an appropriate model</b>

# Challenges faced

- Limited and poor infrastructure and service provision
- Power dynamics (unpacking social differentiation)
- Lack of support (training, financial, etc.)
- Harassment, intimidation and crime

# Conclusion

- New approaches to understanding livelihoods in the context of informal settlements
- More flexible and context-specific mechanisms (“no one-size-fits-all solutions”)
- Entrepreneurship and innovation
- Assistance and support
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Methodological issues

# Thank You

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