

Ekari V. Mbvundula. Investigating the Relationship between Household and State Responses to Flooding in Sweet Home Farm. (Honours thesis in Disaster Risk Science, 2009)

The following honours thesis project examines the relationship between the flood response strategies of residents of Sweet Home Farm, an informal settlement located in the City of Cape Town, Philippi, and Cape Town Municipality's Disaster Risk Management. The goal of the research is to apply the human aspect to flood events in order to ascertain the effect that the actions of these two groups have on their ultimate ability to cope. The particular type of flooding in focus is slow rising floods, a common phenomenon in the Cape Flats, which occur seasonally during the winter storms. Applying qualitative means of data collection, food security is used as a lens through which to review the impact on livelihoods of rising floods at the household level. Compounded into this examination is the coping and adaptive mechanisms used by the residents on a day-to-day basis, as well as their positive or negative implications. The perspective from the City of Cape Town's Disaster Management Department will be investigated to reveal any coordination between them and the residents. The information gathered by this project can be used to further study the priorities of the households contrasted with the priorities of municipalities during disaster events and whether they ultimately improve or worsen vulnerabilities.