



*... Migrants from Mozambique in Gazankulu.*

- Picture by Struan Robertson

# Rural Hu

... In 1980, nine million South Africans living in the black rural areas had incomes below the poverty line. Of these 1.4 million had no measurable income whatsoever.

... 60 percent of urban blacks have incomes below the household subsistence level.

... In the so-called "homelands" the recent drought and then floods have imposed a norm of abject poverty and have brought rural areas to the brink of disaster. Large

numbers of cattle have been lost and crops have not survived on pocket handkerchief plots.

... More than 250 000 have lost their jobs in the maize industry alone and extensive mechanisation in the agricultural industry has meant many jobs have been dispensed with permanently.

Mrs Ina Perlman, Executive Director of Operation Hunger, has published the following Operation Hunger figures. Operation Hunger is not a political organisation and does not make political statements. However, the organisation believes it is imperative that the potential disastrous consequences of negative economic action be made known. Some figures and facts :

## **EASTERN CAPE : Operation Hunger presently feeding 224 876**

Port Elizabeth is a classic disaster area with 47 percent unemployment and 87 000 people fed. This tragedy is directly linked to

*Flood-eroded land that cannot produce food in KwaZulu.*

- Picture by Struan Robertson.

disinvestment. Ford laid off 3000 workers after its amalgamation with Samcor. General Motors became Delta and after the strike that followed 2 000 jobs went permanently. If the tyre companies and Volkswagen opt out, Port Elizabeth will become a ghost town.

## **VENDA : Operation Hunger presently feeding 37 000**

Migrant employment in Venda has dropped by 37 000 in the past five years. Most migrants work on the Reef in secondary industry or in the fruit industry. The former was hit by the recession and the latter is largely dependent of export to Europe. The above figure of 37 000 is expected to double to 74 000.

## **GAZANKULU: Operation Hunger presently feeding 41 900 in Kuruman.**

If the EEC countries impose sanctions, 11 000 will lose their jobs in the Letsitele Valley. A further 99 000 would come into the feeding scheme.

## **BOPHUTATSWANA: Operation Hunger presently feeding 41 900 in Kuruman.**

This figure represents an increase of 9 900 people since 1987 -- the figure is due to a combination of the lessened demand for asbestos and manganese and trade embargoes. 20 of the 46 mines in the area have closed down. Sanctions will cause this figure to escalate even further. There is already 70 percent unemployment in villages like Padstowe, Deerham and Slough. If platinum is not classified as a strategic mineral, the Khayakulu area between Rustenburg and Swartruggens will be maximally affected as the drought in the Western Transvaal has led to a massive layoff by farmers and the mines and their fringe industries are the major source of rural in-

**O**peration Hunger is already feeding 1.3 million people. Only eight percent of rural people in South Africa are subsistence farmers in the real sense of the word. The average rural family of five needs at least R95 a month in hard cash to maintain a minimum survival level.

...The average rural family income today is **R39 a month.**

... Surveys show that 70 percent of urban blacks send at least 17 percent of their incomes to rural dependants. Disinvestment will cut off this supplement to rural incomes.

... 55 percent of all deaths in the African community are children under five years of age.

... 65 percent of South Africa's total population is functionally illiterate. The majority of these are in the rural areas.



# er and Sanctions



come. If, as is possible, 2 000 people lose their jobs a further 18 000 could go hungry and be at survival risk. In the Brits area Operation Hunger feeding is directly related to the closure of the Alfa-Romeo plant.

#### **NATAL/KWAZULU :** **Operation Hunger presently feeding 176 568**

In January 1986 the Danish coal embargo became effective and two mines closed down. 2 000 men were laid off. In March 1986 the Bishop of Dundee asked Operation Hunger for urgent assistance for 22 000 people directly affected by the closure of the mines. In September 1986 Operation Hunger had to implement feeding for 8 000 people in the Pongola estuary due to re-

trenchment by the coal mines and the hotel industry - the major employers.

#### **WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE :** Operation Hunger presently feeding 11 000

Sanctions and the export of minerals are burning questions if you live in Namaqualand and the Northern Cape. The world slump in copper retrenched 3 000 men in 1983. The only large scale employers are the diamond, zinc and copper mines. Feeding numbers here are expected to double to 22 000.

#### **KANGWANE :** Operation Hunger presently feeding 76 231

Coal mine and steel industry lay-offs have

doubled here in one year. A total coal embargo will send this area plunging into the disaster pit. A 1987 survey done in Kangwane and published in Indicator puts the average family income at just over R200 a year.

#### **BORDER AND CISKEI :** Operation Hunger presently feeding 127 038

East London is as bad if not worse than Port Elizabeth. The last major employers are Mercedes-Benz, Rowntrees and Johnson & Johnson - all foreign companies. In the hinterland the so-called "border industries" which were mainly textile have retrenched with US sanctions already imposed.