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# An Introduction to the Regional Hunger & Vulnerability Programme & its work with stakeholders

**“Investing in Social Protection in Africa”  
Africa Union  
Regional Experts meeting on Social Protection  
Cairo / 13-14 May 2008**

## What is RHVP?

- **R**egional **H**unger & **V**ulnerability **P**rogramme
- Programme of support to improve effectiveness of policies & programmes tackling **chronic** hunger & vulnerability.
- Southern Africa – 6 food insecure / aid dependent countries
- Funding: DFID & AusAID
- Timeframe: July 2005 – July 2008

## Where is RHVP?



- Mozambique
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Swaziland
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

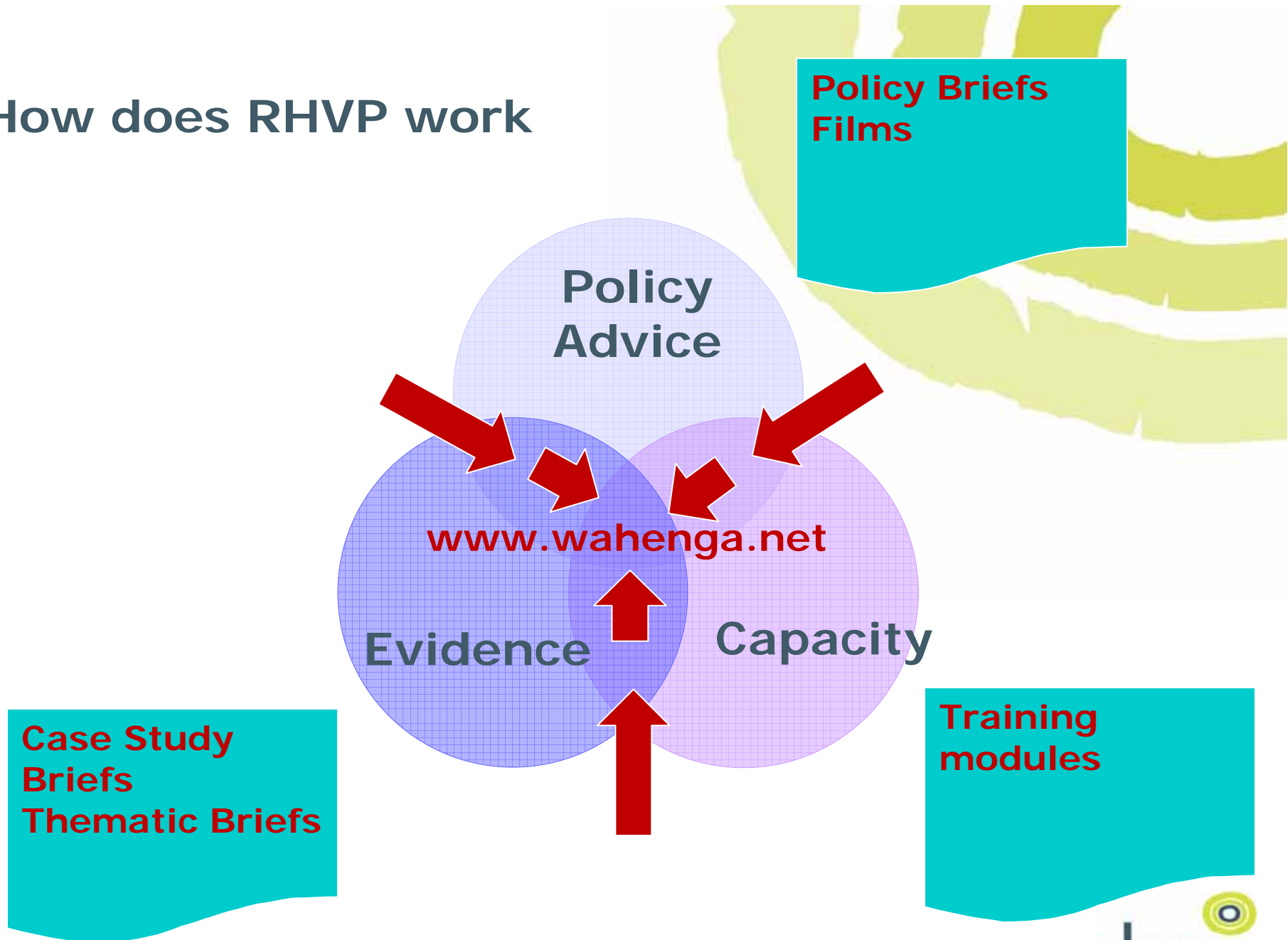
## Why was RHVP conceived?

- **Growing caseload** of chronically vulnerable
- Problems with **data and analysis**
- Reliance on **short term responses**
- **Unpredictable resources**

## Why a regional approach?

- Common concern
- Shared experiences – causes/impacts/responses
- Interdependency and spillover
- Opportunities for lesson learning & best practices
- Economies of scale – skills & methodology development

# How does RHVP work



## Working with stakeholders:

- **National**
  - Governments
  - Parliamentarians
  - Civil Society
  - **Mosques**
- **Regional**
  - Africa Union (Livingstone 1 & 2)
  - SADC
  - NEPAD (CAADP)
  - Research & training institutions (EPRI, Centre of Excellence, etc)
- **International**
  - Donors
  - International Agencies
  - International NGOs

## Some messages for stakeholder from the southern Africa experience:

- **Political will** is the key to many doors but doesn't depend of empirical evidence alone.
- Social protection is popular; it's a **vote winner**
- When it's time to implement, **home grown** instruments usually work better than external initiative
- Need for **open national debate** and broad based engagement
- From piloting to **on-budget** national programmes
- From constituency based to **comprehensive** coverage
- Danger of **over selling** – not a substitute for development
- Is it time to review the role of external agencies and for an **Africa-centric approach?**



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