

## **Risk assessment of backyard dwellers in Klapmuts**

In response to the need identified by Stellenbosch Municipality for an informed understanding of the living conditions among growing numbers of backyard dwellers in Klapmuts, Disaster Risk Studies post-graduate students from the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies at Stellenbosch University undertook a research project between 29 March and 8 April 2016. Working in collaboration with the Klapmuts community and Stellenbosch Municipality, students were tasked to determine the risk and vulnerability context of backyard dwellers. This involved a qualitative risk assessment of backyard dwellings in a designated survey area consisting of all subsidy housing constructed between 1997 and 2009, but excluding other subsequent housing developments built after 2012. A sample of 150 backyard households were interviewed, while the spatial extent of all houses accommodating backyard dwellings was recorded.

The findings were intended as a barometer of the social needs of the Klapmuts community and the project outputs included: maps illustrating the spatial extent of backyards in the area; quantitative and qualitative information detailing backyard living conditions; and a detailed risk profile of the backyard population of Klapmuts. The key developmental issues and recommendations for policy and practise are found in the full report.