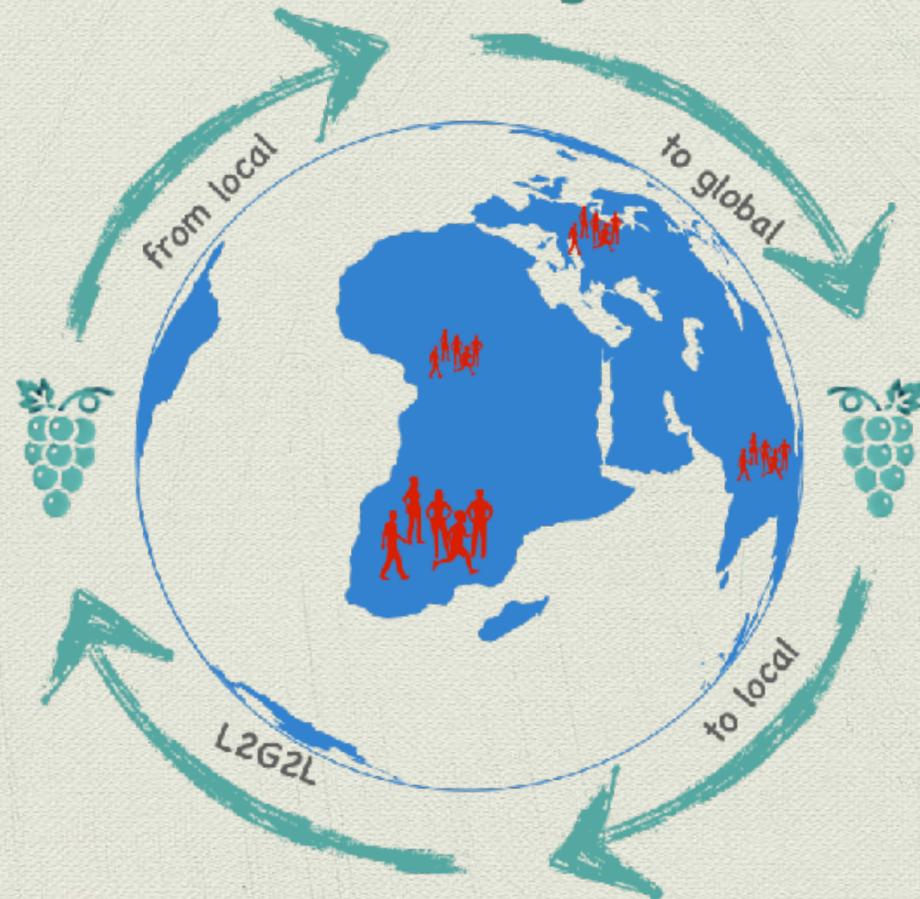


Churches advocating for justice!



GRAPE

Global Reformed Advocacy Platforms for Engagement

UBI - Lessons from the Global South

GRAPE SA Webinar 1/3 - 30th October 2025

Rev Dr Claudia & Rev Dr Dirk Haarmann

Presentation aim

1. Basic Income Pilot Project in Namibia
2. Debunking common myths
3. UBI and the economy

Basic Income Campaigns in South Africa & Namibia

◆ SOUTH AFRICA

- ◆ COSATU (1997/98) / Job Summit
- ◆ Taylor Commission (1999)
- ◆ BIG Coalition (2000)
- ◆ 2020 Covid grant —> demand for BIG
- ◆ Current: UBIC Coalition & GRAPE platform

◆ NAMIBIA

- ◆ NAMTAX (2002)
- ◆ BIG Coalition (since 2005)
- ◆ Pilot Project Otjivero (2008-2009)
- ◆ 2020 Covid grant —> demand for BIG
- ◆ Current: Young activists based BIG Coalition

BIG Pilot Otjivero (2008-2009)



BIG Pilot in Otjivero / Namibia

- ◆ 2 years (2008 – 2009)
- ◆ N\$100 per person per month
- ◆ Universal (0-59 year - universal old age pension)
- ◆ No additional interventions (no conditions, no training etc.)
- ◆ Registration whole settlement 1,000 people
- ◆ Comprehensive research
- ◆ International reference group

Situation before the BIG



Situation before the BIG



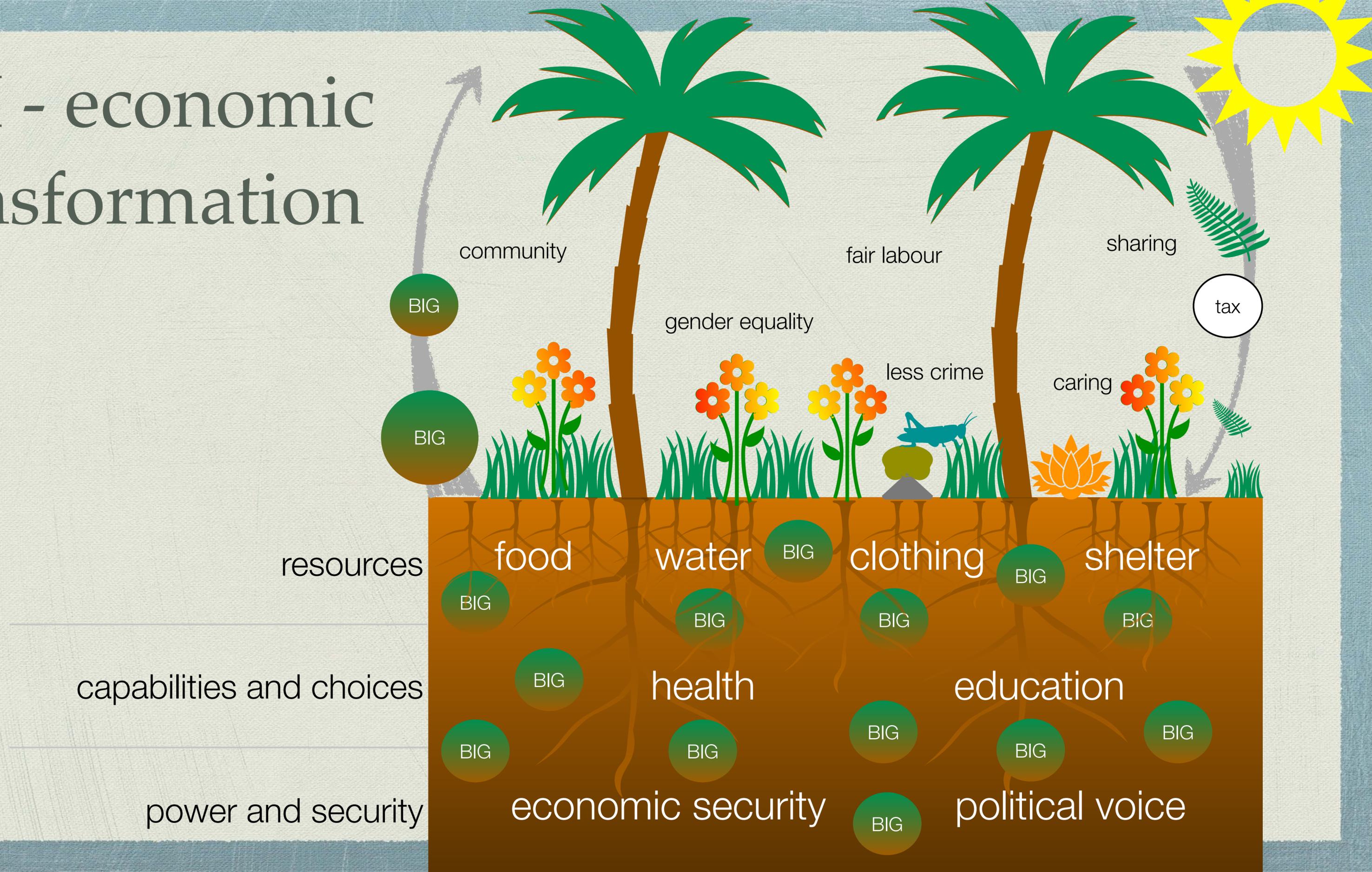
Situation before the BIG



The effects of a UBI

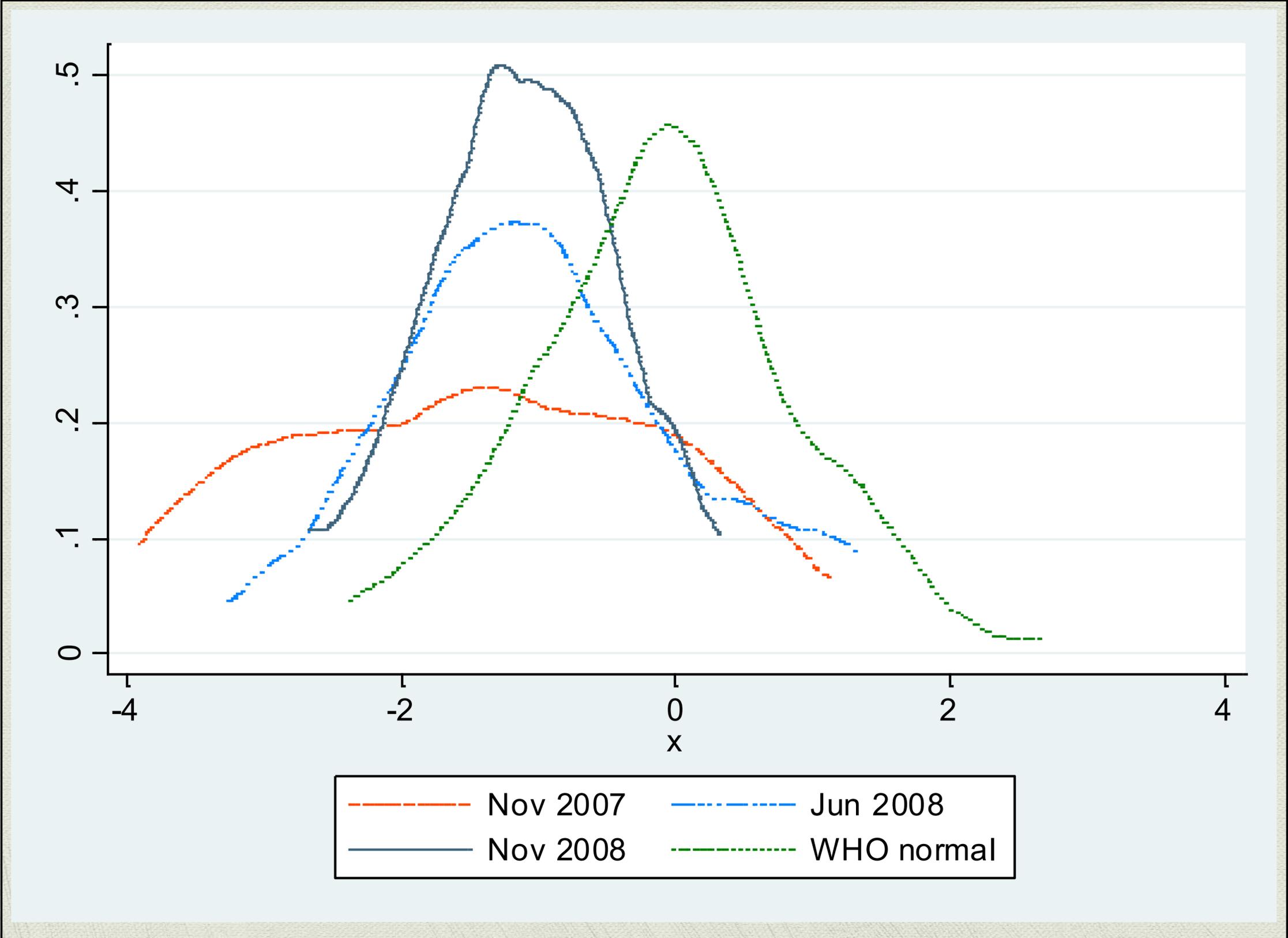


UBI - economic transformation





**POOR PEOPLE WILL
SPEND THE MONEY ON
ALCOHOL AND DO
NOT BUY FOOD FOR
THEIR CHILDREN**



Food



**RATHER INVEST INTO
THE EDUCATION
SYSTEM AND DO NOT
GIVE PEOPLE MONEY -
EDUCATION IS THE REAL
EQUALISER NOT MONEY**



Education (2008)



**GRANTS KEEP PEOPLE
DEPENDENT AND
PREVENT THE
STRUCTURAL
TRANSFORMATION SA
NEEDS**

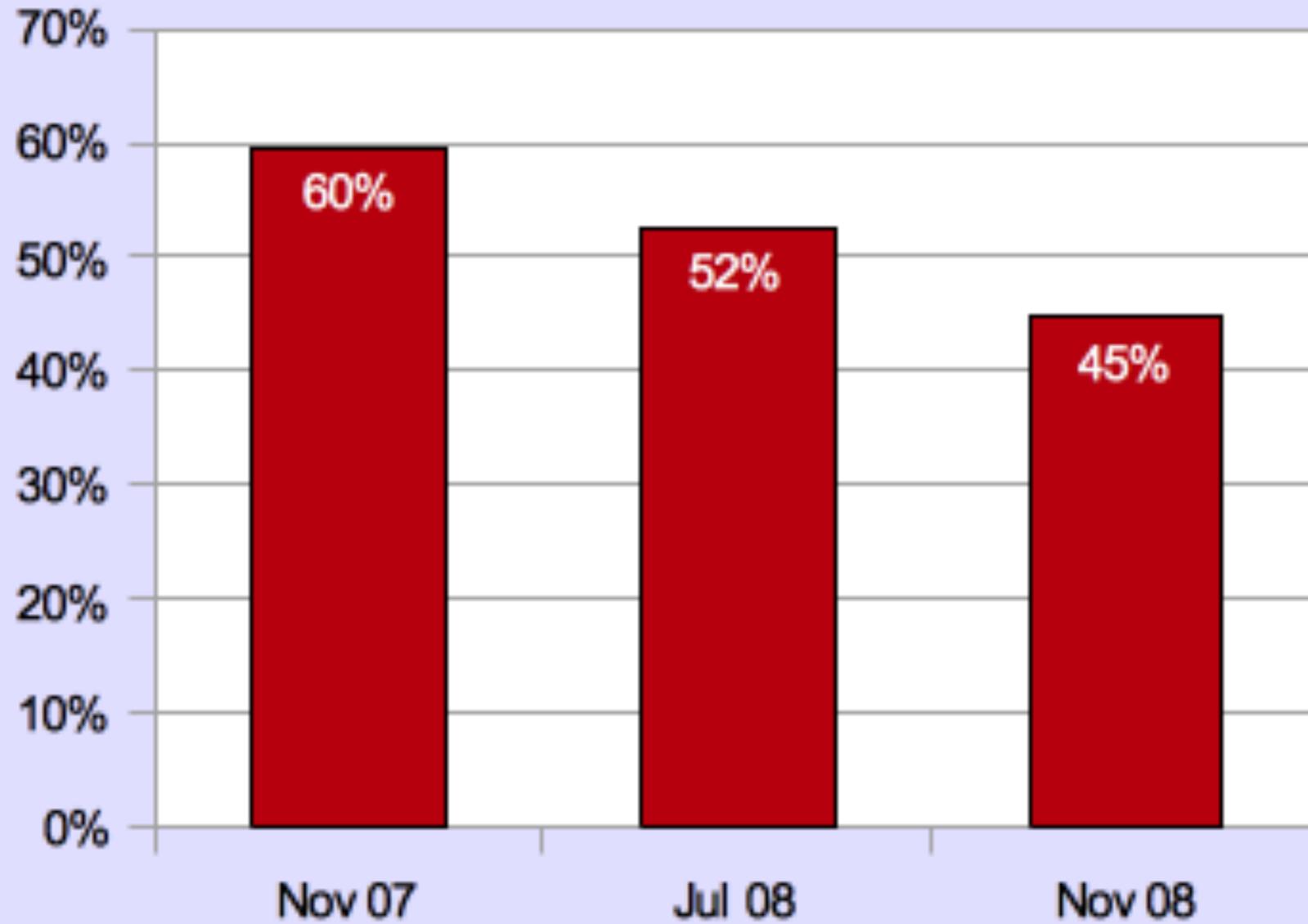


Having a voice

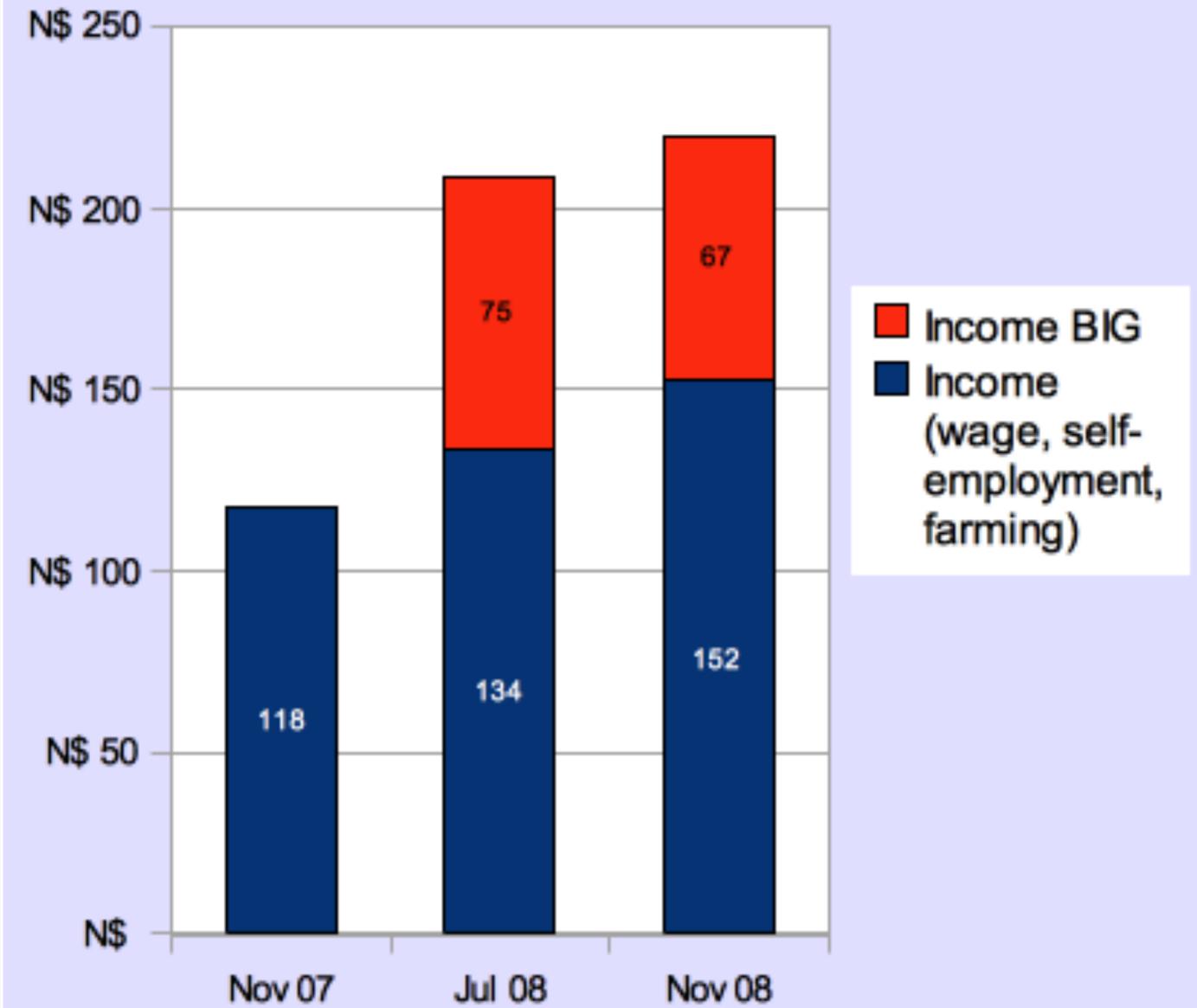


**GRANTS PROMOTE
LAZINESS AND A CULTURE
OF DEPENDENCY &
ENTITLEMENT -
PEOPLE WILL NOT GO AND
LOOK FOR WORK OR OPEN
BUSINESSES**

Unemployment rate (people present throughout panel)



Average monthly per capita income in N\$ (all)



Economic security



Sella and Alfred Nuseb 2008



Sella and Alfred Nuseb (2019)



Josef Ganeb 2008



Frida Nembwaya (2008)



Frida Nembwaya (2019)

Conclusion

- ◆ The Pilot Project has shown:
 - ◆ Invests in human capital
 - ◆ Freeing people out of precarious situations - fighting for daily survival
 - ◆ Cash in circulation important for local economic growth
 - ◆ Window how an economy and society would be transformed with a UBI
- ◆ Don't let yourself be fooled:
 - ◆ Justice does not happen because it is the right thing
 - ◆ Theological imperative to bring about justice
 - ◆ Evidence is important
 - ◆ Justice does not come without a struggle

Break-out groups and reflection on all presentations

- ◆ Guiding question: What lessons can you draw from the presentations for a Universal Basic Income in South Africa?
- ◆ 3 Break-out groups with coordinators and scribes:
 - ◆ Tommy & Claudia
 - ◆ Thandi & Gosiame
 - ◆ Anje & Randow