

**Assessing human development in SADC:
1990-2008**

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INTRODUCTION

This paper assesses the state of progress in human development across selected key development indicators in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This is a largely descriptive exercise based on a review and presentation of data accessible from various sources at the time of writing. The period roughly covers the 1990's up to the mid 2000's. In the policy sectors where SADC countries have shown a less than satisfactory performance in terms of human development, this paper will serve as a measure of the challenges to be overcome in those social sectors across the 14 SADC member states. The indicators¹ covered include:

This paper assesses the state of progress in human development across selected key development indicators in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region

- demographic trends (annual population growth rate, population size, and the rate of urbanisation)
- access to social services (sanitation, water, electricity)
- indicators of inequality (HIV prevalence, infant mortality, Gini Index and safety and security)
- gender advancement.

The conclusion drawn is that many SADC countries are performing poorly, though some progress has been made but that the scale of human developmental challenges facing the majority of the SADC countries across many of the indicators remains extremely daunting.

THE COMPOSITE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

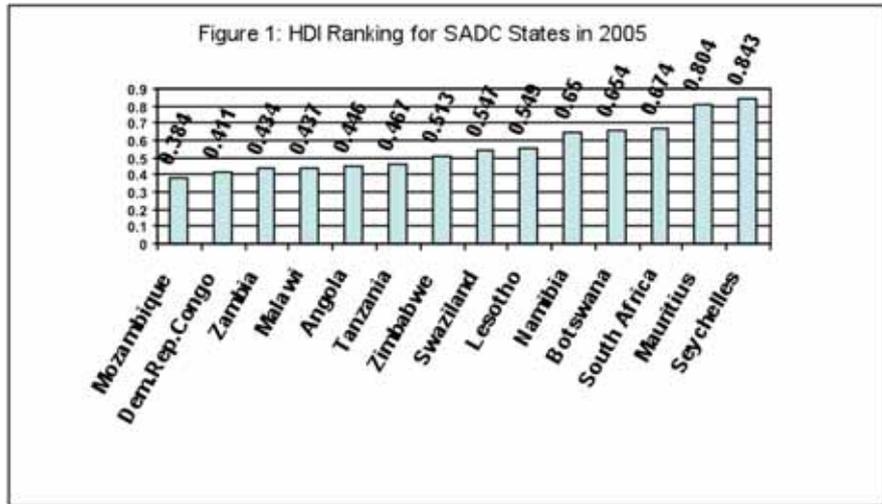
The HDI aggregates different components of human development into a composite measure. The specific indicators making up the composite HDI are life expectancy at birth, knowledge (comprising adult literacy and gross enrolment ratios combined for primary, secondary and tertiary educational levels), and standard of living (proxied by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita and Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)².

The HDI is calculated at five-yearly intervals. The HDI scores range from 0 to 1. Values closest to 1 indicate the highest HDI status whereas scores closest to 0, the lowest. The United Nations Development Programme classifies countries

¹ Most of the indicators are extracted from the Human Development Report 2007/2008. Fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world. United Nations Development Programme, 2007.

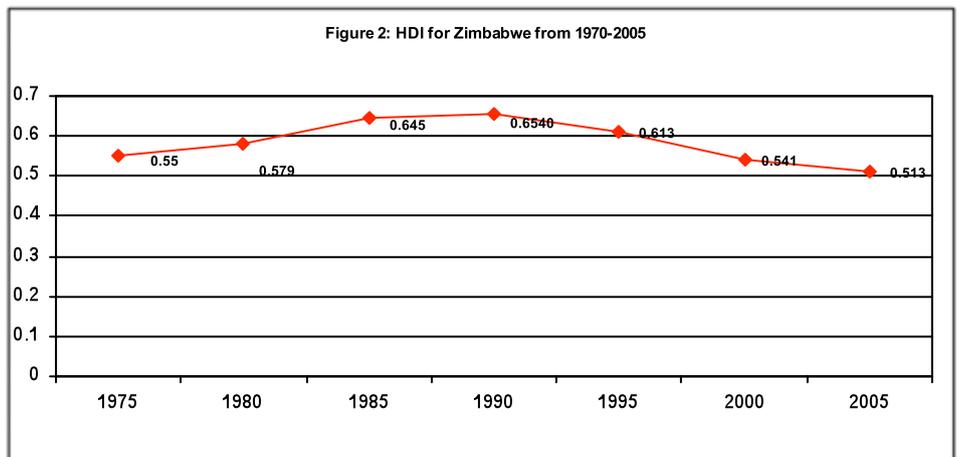
² Ibid, p 356.

according to this index into High, Medium and Low Human Development. Countries classified as having Low Human Development (with values ranging from 0.499-0.336) are Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Malawi, Angola and Tanzania. Those with a Middle HDI status (with values ranging from 0.798-0.502) are Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. Only Mauritius and the Seychelles have a High HDI status (with values ranging between 0.968 and 0.800).



The SADC countries with the highest HDI scores in 2005 are the Seychelles, Mauritius and South Africa

The SADC countries with the highest HDI scores in 2005 (Figure 1) are the Seychelles Mauritius and South Africa. Just under half of the SADC countries show an improvement in their HDI status from 1970 to 2005. There is clear evidence that some slippage was experienced in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi and South Africa, from the early or mid-1990s to 2005³. Zimbabwe is an interesting case, because although it showed a steady increase in its HDI between 1970 and 1990, after 1990 the slippage has been the sharpest of all the countries in the SADC region (Figure 2).



³ Ibid, p 236.

BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

SADC States	Total population 2005 (millions)	Annual population growth rate between 1975 and 2005 (%)
Mauritius	1.2	1.1
Seychelles	0.1	1.1
Lesotho	2.0	1.8
South Africa	47.9	2.1
Botswana	1.8	2.2
Mozambique	20.5	2.2
Swaziland	1.1	2.5
Zimbabwe	13.1	2.5
Namibia	2.0	2.7
Zambia	11.5	2.7
Angola	16.1	2.9
Tanzania	38.5	2.9
Dem. Republic of Congo	58.7	3
Malawi	13.2	3.1

Table 1: Total population and annual growth rate

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has the largest population, followed by South Africa and Tanzania. Countries with the highest annual population growth rates are Malawi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Angola. In 2005 more than half of the populations of South Africa (59.3 per cent), Botswana (57.4 per cent) and Angola (53.3 per cent) were urbanised. Countries with the lowest urban populations in 2005 were Lesotho (18.7 per cent) Swaziland (24.1 per cent), Tanzania (24.2 per cent), the Democratic Republic of Congo (32.1 per cent) and Zimbabwe (35.9 per cent). These countries have large sections of their populations living in rural areas⁴.

EDUCATION

The SADC states with the highest educational enrolment⁵ ratios in 2005 were the Seychelles, South Africa, Mauritius, and Botswana, in that order. Countries with the highest expenditure on education, measured by percentage-spend of their GDP were Lesotho (13.4 per cent), Botswana (10.7 per cent), Namibia (6.9 per cent), Swaziland (6.2 per cent) and the Seychelles (5.4%) and South Africa

⁴ Comparison across countries for rates of urbanisation should be treated with caution because there are different definitions within countries on what constitutes rural and urban. Ibid, p 246.

⁵ Enrolment is measured by the combined gross enrolment for primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Ibid, p 229.

(5.4%). The highest enrolment rate in the tertiary education sector of education⁶ was in Mauritius (26 per cent) Lesotho, Mozambique and Tanzania (at 24 per cent each) and South Africa (20 per cent). Interestingly, in countries such as South Africa, expenditure on education is within the range of 5-6 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP), which is the norm for developed countries⁷. Together with high levels of enrolment, expenditure in education has not translated into impressive increases in a highly skilled workforce. For example, workers in Research and Development in South Africa and Mauritius comprise only 307 and 360 people per million of the population respectively. This is in comparison to a country such as New Zealand, which spends roughly the same percentage share of its GDP on education, but with a lower percentage of enrolment of tertiary students in science, engineering, manufacturing and construction (17 per cent) and yet produced 3 945 skilled workers in the Research and Development fields for the period 1990-2005. The South African government acknowledges the problem and notes that the challenge facing it is to improve the quality of education and curb the high drop-out rates at the tertiary level⁸. According to the Global Competitiveness Report for 2008-2009, the composite Index measuring capacity for innovation⁹ places South Africa in the highest position (36th) relative to other SADC countries in comparing 134 countries. However, Zambia fares the best (64th) of all SADC countries, followed by Lesotho (96th) in respect of the availability of scientists and engineers for research and development¹⁰.

Together with high levels of enrolment, expenditure in education has not translated into impressive increases in a highly skilled workforce

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

This section looks at the main trends in access to basic services between 1994 and 2004¹¹. Between 1994 and 2004, most SADC countries showed improvements in access to the basic amenities that improve quality of life and standard of living. Countries that have shown the most substantial gains in the improvement of sanitation are Malawi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia.

⁶ In the fields of science, engineering, manufacturing and construction.

⁷ Towards a Fifteen Year Review. The Presidency, 2008. p 24.

http://www.info.gov.za/otherdocs/2008/toward_15year_review.pdf

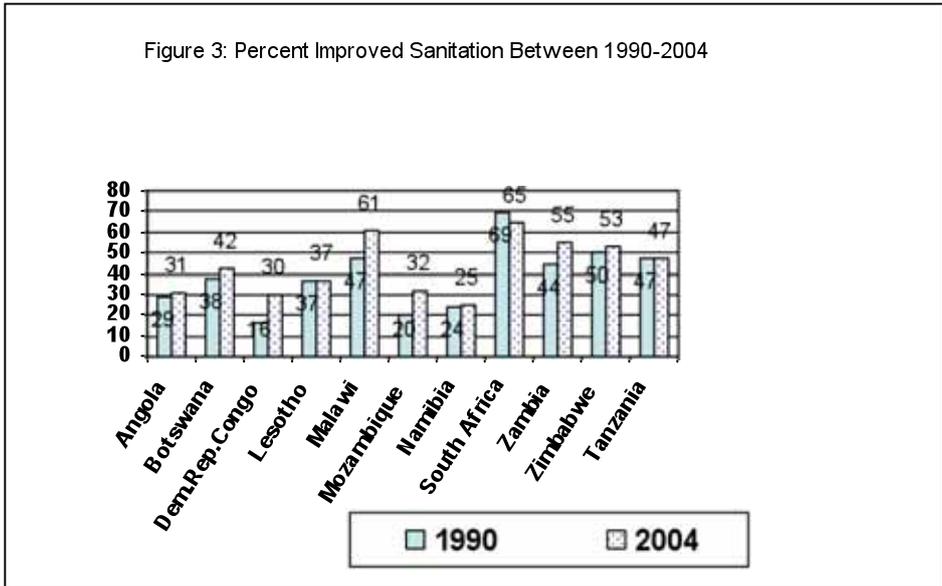
⁸ Ibid, p 22.

⁹ A country and its companies' ability to obtain technology is used as a proxy to measure innovation. Innovation capacity is measured on a seven-point scale, ranging from 1=technology is obtained exclusively from licensing or imitating foreign companies to 7= technology is internally driven by conducting formal research and pioneering of own new products and processes. The Global Competitiveness Report 2008-2009. World Economic Forum. <http://www.weforum.org/documents/GCR0809/index.html>. p 486

¹⁰ The availability of scientists and engineers is measured on a seven-point scale, with 1=scientists and engineers being non-existent or rare, and 7= these skilled personnel being widely available. Ibid, p 491.

¹¹ Figures 3 and 4 include only those SADC states where data for the two time periods was reported.

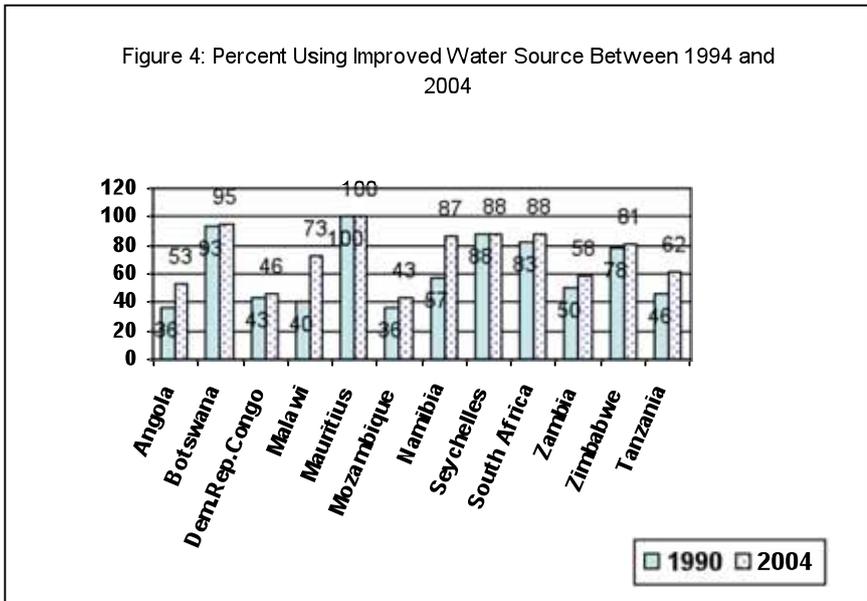
Figure 3: Percent Improved Sanitation Between 1990-2004



Countries recording the most substantial improvements in access to water sources between 1994 and 2004 were Angola, Malawi, Namibia and Tanzania

Countries recording the most substantial improvements in access to water sources between 1994 and 2004 were Angola, Malawi, Namibia and Tanzania. Where the electrification rate is concerned¹², countries that have made the most substantial progress are Mauritius and South Africa. Electrification rates are considerably lower for the other SADC states. Namibia and Zimbabwe have the next highest electrification rates at 34 per cent each.

Figure 4: Percent Using Improved Water Source Between 1994 and 2004



¹² The electrification rate refers to the period 2000-2005. Data refers to the most recent statistics available in this period. Ibid, p 305.

SADC States	% Electrified
Mauritius	94
South Africa	70
Botswana	39
Namibia	34
Zimbabwe	34
Zambia	19
Angola	15
Lesotho	11
Tanzania	11
Malawi	7
Democratic Republic of Congo	6
Mozambique	6
Seychelles	-
Swaziland	-

Table 2: Electrification rate 2000-2005

SADC countries with the highest rates of inequality are Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

The following indicators of poverty and inequality are covered in this section: the measure of inequality (the Gini coefficient), unemployment, HIV prevalence, infant mortality and the incidence of crime. The Gini Index¹³ is a measure of inequality. Societies with a score of 0 have perfect equality, while those with a score of 100 have absolute inequality. Table 3 shows that the SADC countries with the highest rates of inequality are Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa.

SADC States	Index
Namibia	74.3
Lesotho	63.2
Botswana	60.5
South Africa	57.8
Zambia	50.8
Swaziland	50.4
Zimbabwe	50.1
Mozambique	47.3
Malawi	39
Tanzania	34.6
Angola	-
Democratic Republic of Congo	-
Mauritius	-
Seychelles	-

Table 3: Gini scores for SADC states

¹³ The household surveys upon which the Gini Index was calculated for the different countries differ in the method of data collection and therefore a comparison of the Gini Index across SADC countries is not appropriate. Ibid, p 284.

UNEMPLOYMENT¹⁴

Unemployment figures are based on the percentage share of the labour force (the working population). Countries in SADC with the highest unemployment rates between 1996 and 2005 were Lesotho (39.3 per cent); Namibia (33.8 per cent) and South Africa¹⁵ (26.6 per cent).

Countries with the highest HIV infection rates were Swaziland, Botswana; Lesotho and Zimbabwe

PREVALENCE OF HIV

The percentage of HIV-infected people between the ages of 15 and 49 in 2005 ranged from a low of 3.7 per cent for Angola to a high of 33.4 per cent for Swaziland. Countries with the highest infection rates were Swaziland, Botswana (24.1 per cent); Lesotho (23.2 per cent) and Zimbabwe (20.1 per cent).

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality is highest¹⁶ in Mozambique (143), the Democratic Republic of Congo (132), Malawi (132), and lowest in Namibia (36), South Africa (62) and Zimbabwe (59).

SAFETY AND SECURITY

A good indicator of poverty, inequality and development is the incidence of crime in a country. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance¹⁷ has created an Index of Safety and Security. Countries with scores closest to 100 are the most safe and secure. The index incorporates two broad sets of indices (National Security and Public Safety¹⁸) into a composite index to measure safety and security. Table 4 shows that the safest countries appear to be Mauritius, Malawi and Mozambique, whilst the least safe countries are the Democratic Republic of

¹⁴ The definition of unemployment used in this paper is based on the ILO definition which classifies the unemployed as those people who are without work (were not in paid employment or self-employment); who are currently available for work and who are actively seeking work (within a specified reference period).
<http://laborsta.ilo.org/applv8/data/c3e.html>

¹⁵ The unemployment rate in South Africa has since improved to 23 per cent according to the strict definition, ie people who have not been employed in the last two weeks, but have not taken active steps to look for work. Statistics South Africa. Labour Force survey 2007.

¹⁶ Data reported is for the poorest 20 per cent of the population in each country and per 1 000 live births. Ibid, p 255.

¹⁷ Ibrahim Index of African Governance. Mo Ibrahim Foundation.
<http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index-2008/scores.asp>

¹⁸ The National Security Score is derived from various datasets. The composite score is compiled from data from a range of indicators including: the number of armed conflicts in which a government is involved during a year; intensity of violent conflicts in that country over a year; the number of asylum seekers; the number of internally displaced persons, and the ease of access to small arms and light weapons among others. The Public Safety Score is based on the level of violent crime (homicide rates); data are based on the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operation of the Criminal Justice Systems and on estimates from the Economist Intelligence Unit

<http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/index-2008/bycategory/safety.asp>

Congo, South Africa and Swaziland. Between the period 2000 and 2006, countries that have shown the biggest improvement in their safety and security are Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The other countries have shown relatively stable scores for the two periods specified.

The safest countries appear to be Mauritius, Malawi and Mozambique, whilst the least safe countries are the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Swaziland

SADC States	2006	2000
Mauritius	91.7	91.7
Malawi	86.1	86.1
Mozambique	86.1	86.1
Namibia	83.3	79.5
Tanzania	83.3	83.3
Seychelles	83.2	83.3
Angola	82	57.7
Zambia	77.8	77.8
Zimbabwe	75.1	75.9
Botswana	75	75
Lesotho	75	75
Swaziland	69.4	64.4
South Africa	61.1	61.1
Democratic Republic of Congo	52.8	39.3

Table 4: SADC Safety and Security Index 2000-2006

GENDER DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations HDIs also focus attention on the inequalities between men and women. An index to measure this, called the GDI (Gender Development Index) is compiled with the same indicators as the HDI, but is adjusted by a formula to account for male and female differences in each of the sub-indicators making up the GDI. Countries with scores closest to 1 indicate most progress with gender development and least inequality between the sexes, while those closest to 0 are the worst off in respect of gender equality. Mauritius (ranked 63) and South Africa (ranked 107) have the highest scores in the GDI among SADC states and show the least inequality between the sexes. Despite this high ranking relative to other SADC states, in South Africa, for example, more than half of the households considered as poor are headed by females¹⁹.

CONCLUSION

This paper primarily uses the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) latest HDIs (2005) to report on the state of development in the 14 SADC states. To a lesser extent it also draws on other indexes, such as the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance as well as the Global Competitive Report (2008). Indexes of development can be misleading if the socio-political and economic contexts

¹⁹ Towards a Fifteen Year Review. The Presidency, 2008. p 24.
http://www.info.gov.za/otherdocs/2008/toward_15year_review.pdf. p73

of the state of development of countries are not understood. The purpose of this paper is not to investigate the development contexts of the 14 SADC states or to discuss in detail why some countries are ranked higher or lower on the indexes. The paper rather serves to reflect on where the countries are placed in respect of the development indicators reported and provides a yardstick (or tracking tool) against which to assess the progress of SADC states in their development paths in the future.

Overall, the Seychelles and Mauritius are the best-performing countries in terms of many of the development indicators described

Overall, the Seychelles and Mauritius are the best-performing countries in terms of many of the development indicators described (including education, access to improved water sources, electrification, and safety and security issues). These two countries are ranked the most developed on the HDI index in 2005 and globally appear in the top half of the HDI league table, placed 50th and 65th respectively out of 177 countries. It should be noted that these two countries are among the least populated in SADC and therefore development challenges are perhaps proportionally smaller than in some of the other SADC states.

Generally, SADC countries do not fare well on the UNDP league-table assessing the state of human development in the 177 country HDI index. With the exception of the Seychelles and Mauritius, all the other 12 member states of SADC fall in the bottom third of the HDI. Mozambique is the worst off of all states, featuring as the 6th poorest country globally in 2005. When the next index is released in 2010, it will be interesting to assess which countries have benefited from the development policies they have implemented since 2005, and which have slid back as a result of political, economic and other challenges that may have affected them over this period.

Finally, while it is clear that SADC countries are not performing that well relative to the other countries in the world, there are encouraging signs that many SADC states are making progress and have improved their socio-economic and developmental position during the last decade and half.