

Millennium Development Goals in post-apartheid South Africa

Vusi Gumede, Associate Professor,
Development Studies, University of
Johannesburg

Content

South Africa at glance

'Pressure points' & policy responses

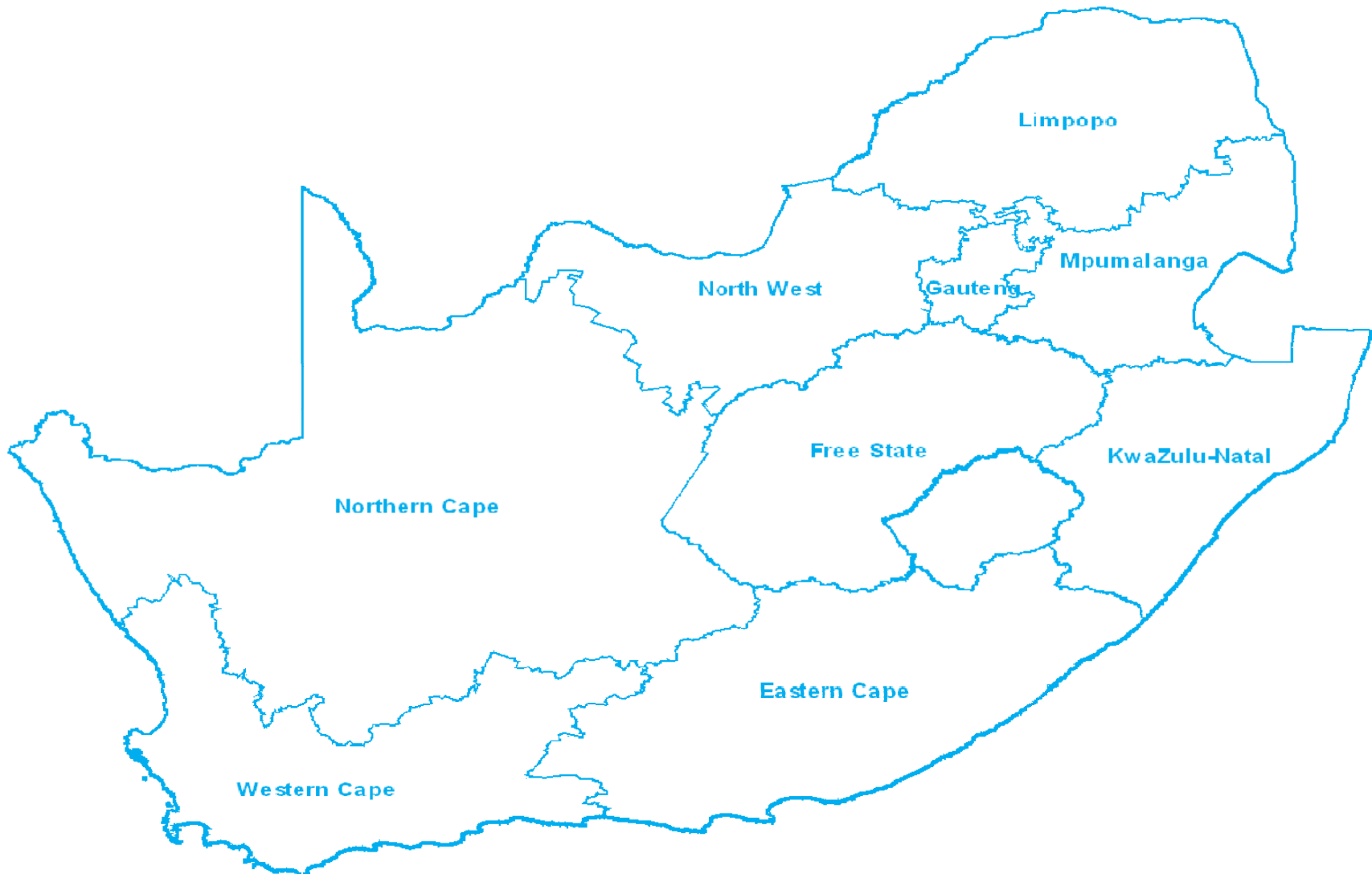
MDGs in policy/programme formulation

MDGs: factsheet

Aspects of human
development

Concluding
remarks

South Africa



“Pressure points”

- Poorly performing economy, relative to its potential
- Poverty disturbingly high
- Inequality unacceptably high
- Declining human development
- Unemployment too high:
 - at about 24% (using the “official definition”)
 - about 70% of those unemployed are below age 30
 - youth employment ratio for 15 – 24 year olds: 13.2%; compared to 40% in comparator countries (Asia & Latin America)
 - 86% of the unemployed youth have not gone beyond Grade 12 and two-thirds have never worked

Broader interventions

- Reconstruction & Development Programme (1994)
- Constitution of South Africa (1996)
- Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy (1996)
- Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (2006)
- Strategy & Tactics (2007)
- New Growth Path (2010)

Specific policy/legislative interventions

- Social Assistance Act (1996, as amended 2010)
- Employment Equity Act (1996)
- Labour Relations Act (1998)
- Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (2000)
- National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality (2000)
- National Policy for the Advancement and Coordination of Children's Rights in South Africa (2003)
- Black Economic Empowerment Act (2006)
- Children's Act (2005, as amended in 2008)
- National Youth Development Act (2008)
- Etc

Role of MDGs in policy/programme formulation in South Africa

- Aspects of MDGs find elaborate pride of place in the various Election Manifestos of the African National Congress (ANC)
- Social and economic transformation programmes/policies were broadly more ambitious than MDG targets – South Africa aimed at halving poverty & unemployment by 2014
- The *Development Indicators* took into account MDGs and other ‘quality of life’ indicators
- The National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) – a statutory institution where formal negotiations between various sectors occur – played a role in aligning policies with MDGs
- The Human Rights Commission’s Social & Economic Rights reports, among other reports, influenced thinking on MDGs
- Pressure from non-governmental organizations ensured that reporting-back on MDGs was a country-wide process
- Overall, MDGs were seen as ‘minimalistic’

MDGs vs South African policies

“The South African basket of socio-economic development interventions can be commended in that it is more comprehensive than the minimum standard suggested by the United Nation’s Millennium Developmental Goals”

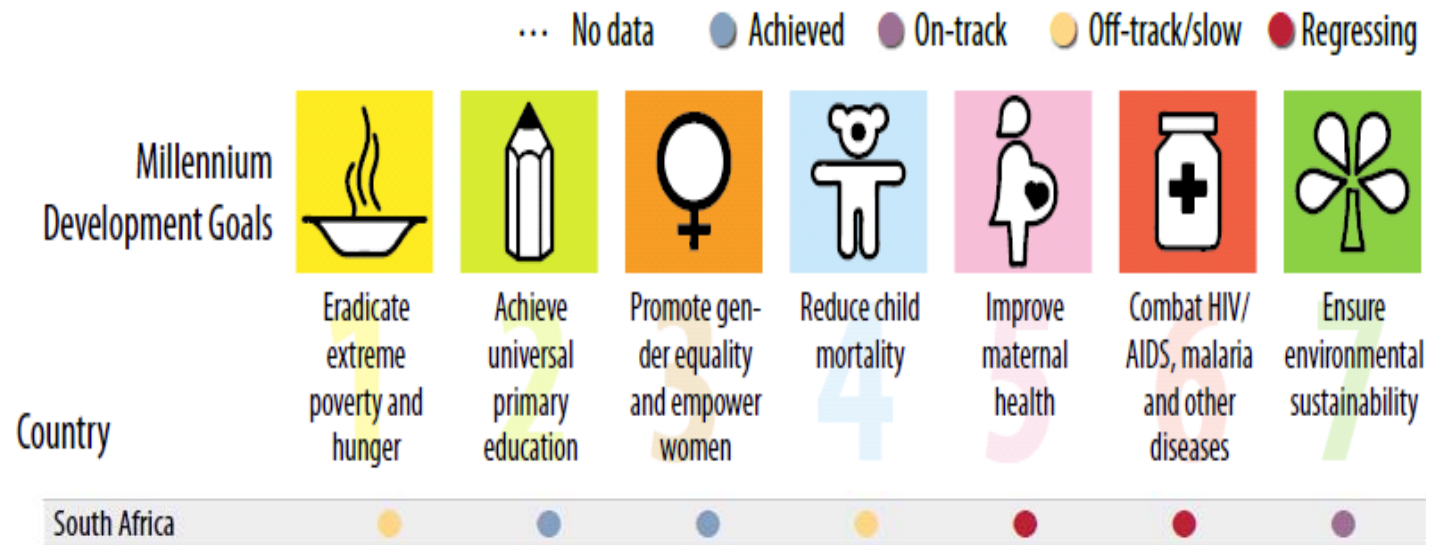
South African Women in Dialogue (2003)

South Africa and the MDGs

Linkage between South Africa's national development planning and the MDGs		
MTSF STRATEGIC ELEMENTS		RELEVANT MDGS
1.	Strategic Priority 1: Speeding up growth and transforming the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods	MDG 1, MDG 2, MDG 3, MDG 8
2.	Strategic Priority 2: Massive programme to build economic and social infrastructure	MDG 1, MDG 3, MDG 8
3.	Strategic Priority 3: Comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security	MDG 1, MDG 2, MDG 7
4.	Strategic Priority 4: Strengthen the skills and human resource base	MDG 2
5.	Strategic Priority 5: Improve the health profile of all South Africans	MDG 4, MDG 5, MDG 6
6.	Strategic Priority 6: Intensify the fight against crime and corruption	MDG 2, MDG 3
7.	Strategic Priority 7: Build cohesive, caring and sustainable communities	MDG 2, MDG 3, MDG 7
8.	Strategic Priority 8: Pursuing African advancement and enhanced international cooperation	MDG 8
9.	Strategic Priority 9: Sustainable resource management and use	MDG 2, MDG 3, MDG 7
10.	Strategic Priority 10: Building a developmental state, including improvement of public services and strengthening democratic institutions	MDG 1, MDG 2, MDG 3, MDG 8

MDG Scorecard for South Africa

MDG SCORECARD



Aspects of human development

	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT				LITERACY RATE			NUTRITION
	Primary education enrolment rate	Secondary education enrolment rate	Tertiary education enrolment rate	Total enrolment rates	Adult literacy rates (%)	Adult illiteracy rates (%)	N	Share of under-5 who are underweight [%]
TOTAL	125	113	9	87	90.6	9.4	18630	8.2
Male	138	113	7	91	91.9	8.1	8124	4.7
Female	113	115	10	83	89.4	10.6	10506	11.5
Black	123	118	8	88	88.8	11.2	13988	7.7
Coloured	132	79	5	79	92.6	7.4	3048	13.5
India	115	106	19	82	93.8	6.2	366	10
White	100	101	18	72	99.7	0.3	1228	6.7
WC	126	82	7	76	95.7	4.3	2657	8.8
EC	126	98	5	85	87.1	12.9	2287	9.4
NC	119	106	7	86	87.6	12.4	1317	12.6
FS	115	109	12	84	93.4	6.6	1141	6.8
KZN	127	109	6	88	85.6	14.4	4861	4.9
NW	93	126	12	79	87.3	12.7	1556	9.4
GP	143	127	15	91	96.5	3.5	1928	9
MP	111	128	10	87	90.9	9.1	1234	12.5
LIM	118	134	12	94	85.5	14.5	1649	8.5
Poorest 20%	128	104	2	86	86.9	13.1	3273	9.3
20-40% poorest	120	102	6	85	86	14	4059	9.1
40-60% poorest	113	110	8	81	87.6	12.4	4310	7.1
20-40% richest	111	123	11	80	91.2	8.8	4073	8.3
20% richest	119	125	25	88	98.5	1.5	2915	5.2

Concluding remarks

- SA not doing well regarding MDGs (and the various aspects of human development)
- Inequality remains the biggest challenge, together with unemployment and poverty: why is economic inequality declining in, say, Brazil but increasing in South Africa, when it would seem SA is implementing policies/programmes similar to Brazilian ones?
- Policy reforms are critical for addressing inequality, poverty, unemployment, etc
- The global partnership for development should be shaped by a better socio-economic development model anchored on effective social policies and a sound philosophical framework