



PRIORITY AREAS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA

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Outline

- ▶ Reflections on social Development in Africa along the following 4 pillars:
 - ❑ Growth and poverty reduction (employment, inequalities)
 - ❑ Social sector progress (health and education)
 - ❑ progress in Governance, peace and security (Human security)
 - ❑ Resilience building and sustainable development

SSA's Quick facts

- ❑ **Six of the world's fastest growing economies (2015) in SSA** – Ethiopia, Angola, Ghana, Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria
- ❑ **DRC, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania** constitute almost 50% of the Africa's poor
- ❑ **Countries with high inequalities** (Gini coefficients above 0.55) – **Angola, CAR, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia, Comoros and South Africa**
- ❑ Rising inequalities in **Cote d'Ivoire, South Africa and Uganda**
- ❑ **Southern Africa** followed by **North, Central, East and West Africa** – have the highest unemployment rates
- ❑ SSA accounted for **69% (HIV+)** and **70% HIV related deaths** (2011)
- ❑ High rate of deaths from the **Ebola Virus**, 40% (2015)
- ❑ Great progress in primary school enrollment rates, SSA has 38% of its adult population lacking basic education skills (60% for women), in 2010.

Progress in Social Development

1. Poverty reduction

- ▶ **Growth and Poverty:** positive growth rates since 2005 (averaging 5% per year), necessary but not sufficient
- ▶ SSA only managed to reduce poverty levels by just under 10% (from 56% in 1990, to 48% in 2014).
- ▶ SSA lags behind all regions. Global target met in 2010.
- ▶ Poverty reduced in at least 24 countries, notable ones **Gambia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Swaziland, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi**
- ▶ Increases in **CAR, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Zambia, Madagascar, sierra Leone**

Social Development Progress

- ▶ **Positive growth** has helped, however, **not sufficient**
- ▶ **Africa's growth – a few sources of growth**, largely extractive industries which has not been transformational enough.
- ▶ So far, Africa's transformation, **has bypassed industrialization** – moved from **agriculture** to **services**, mostly informal;
- ▶ Growth has not managed to respond to challenges posed by **shocks**, **lack of decent jobs**, **rapid urbanisation** and **rising inequalities**.

2. Social Sector progress

- ▶ **Human Development:** progress in education (primary) due to targeted investments (Universal primary education)
- ▶ Challenges remain in provision of quality of education and maintaining transition between levels.
- ▶ **Health:** some advancement in terms of achieving some health targets such as reducing the incidences of and spreading HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB.
- ▶ Challenges remain in the provision of quality health care and affecting **maternal and child health.**
- ▶ **Formal and informal** institutions have played a critical role in the two areas
- ▶ **Transforming institutions** – in education, health, informal institutions to respond to social development, an imperative.
- ▶ **(HIV/AIDS/Ebola/educational interventions)** – a mix of formal and informal institutional responses played a critical role.

3. Human Security

- ▶ Improvements in human security in Africa, from initial conditions – however, challenges remain.
- ▶ At least **28 SSA countries** experienced conflict since 1990, down to **6** to-date;
- ▶ Protracted conflicts in **CAR, South Sudan, Somalia, DRC, Mali** – contributing to fragility in Africa.
- ▶ **Growing radicalization** – Nigeria (Boko Haram), Kenya (Al Shabab)
- ▶ Unrest caused by moving populations (migration i.e. xenophobic attacks in SA, migrant deaths at sea); lack of jobs or high inflation
- ▶ Rising inequalities
- ▶ Vulnerabilities to shocks, disasters etc.
- ▶ All have the potential to reverse social progress

4. Building resilience

- ▶ Some progress, however path towards sustainable development for Africa remains fraught with risk and uncertainty
- ▶ E.g. impact of HIV/AIDS, Ebola, conflicts, commodity price declines – direct negative effects on social development
- ▶ Africa ill prepared to deal with natural disasters and climate change effects.
- ▶ Key issues 1-3 would help build resilience
- ▶ Also DRR policies and strategies that are in place at national and regional levels, including early warning systems

Policy Instruments/new thinking

- ▶ Poverty challenge: need for structural transformation and economic transformation (inclusive growth)
- ▶ Human capital development – investments in quality healthcare, education and social protection
- ▶ Building effective institutions, including informal ones – as an enabler to development
- ▶ Regional strategies to deal with trans-national/trans-border issues (Sahel, the Horn Africa, Central Africa peace and security initiatives)
- ▶ Development of early warning systems for disasters, conflicts etc. for DRR

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