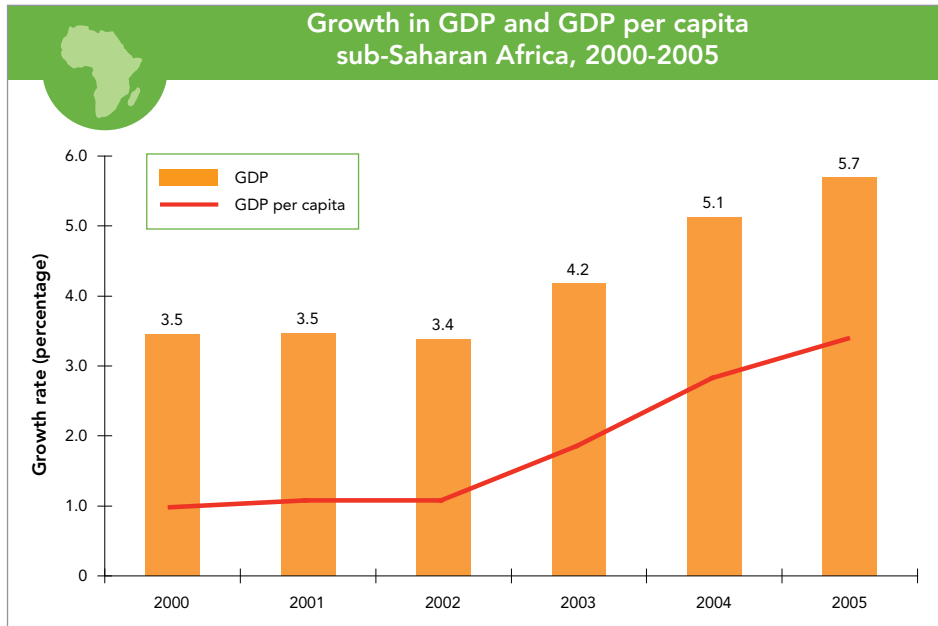


INTRODUCTION: GENERAL TRENDS



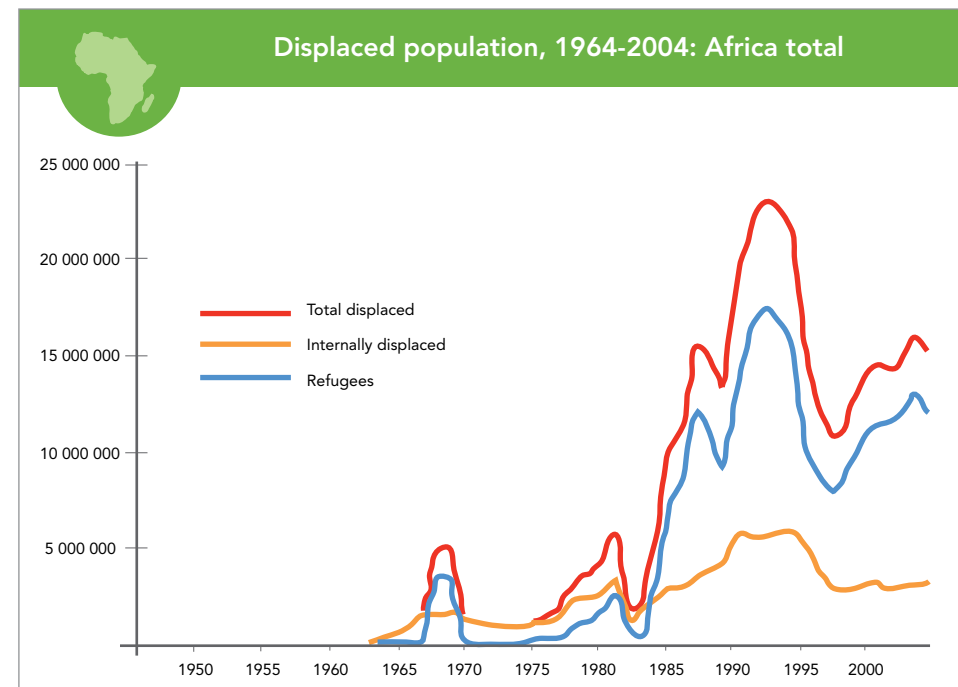
Source: World Development Indicators 2007.

A new growth trend has emerged since the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Reversing previous trends, African economies have performed well over the last six years. Sub-Saharan Africa's growth performance was underpinned by improvement in macroeconomic management in many countries, and strong global demand for key African export commodities, sustaining high export prices, especially for crude oil, metals and minerals.¹

“Together, by stepping up efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals throughout the continent, we can and must make the 21st century the African century.”

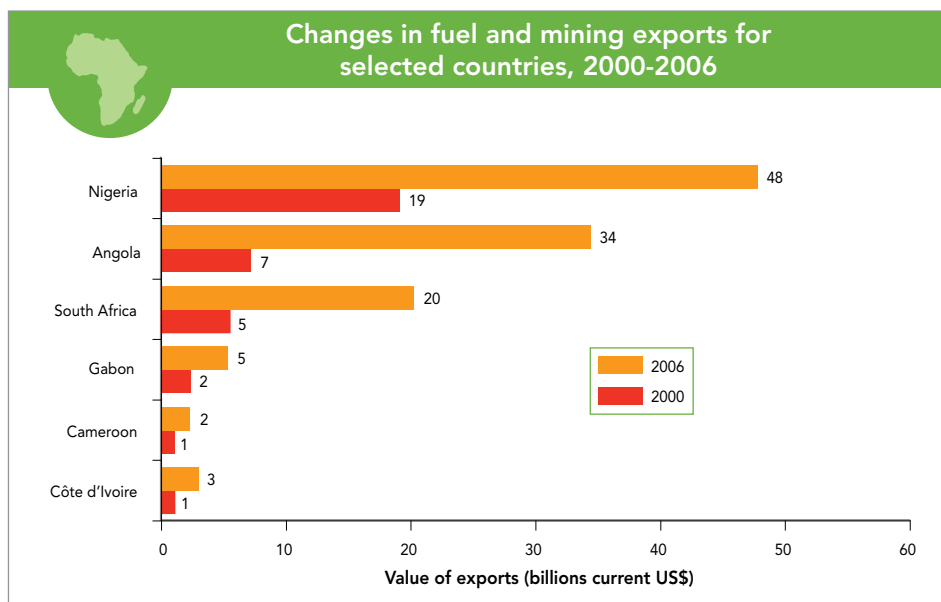
Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary-General



Source: DFID, 2006.

Conflicts have recently exhibited a declining trend.

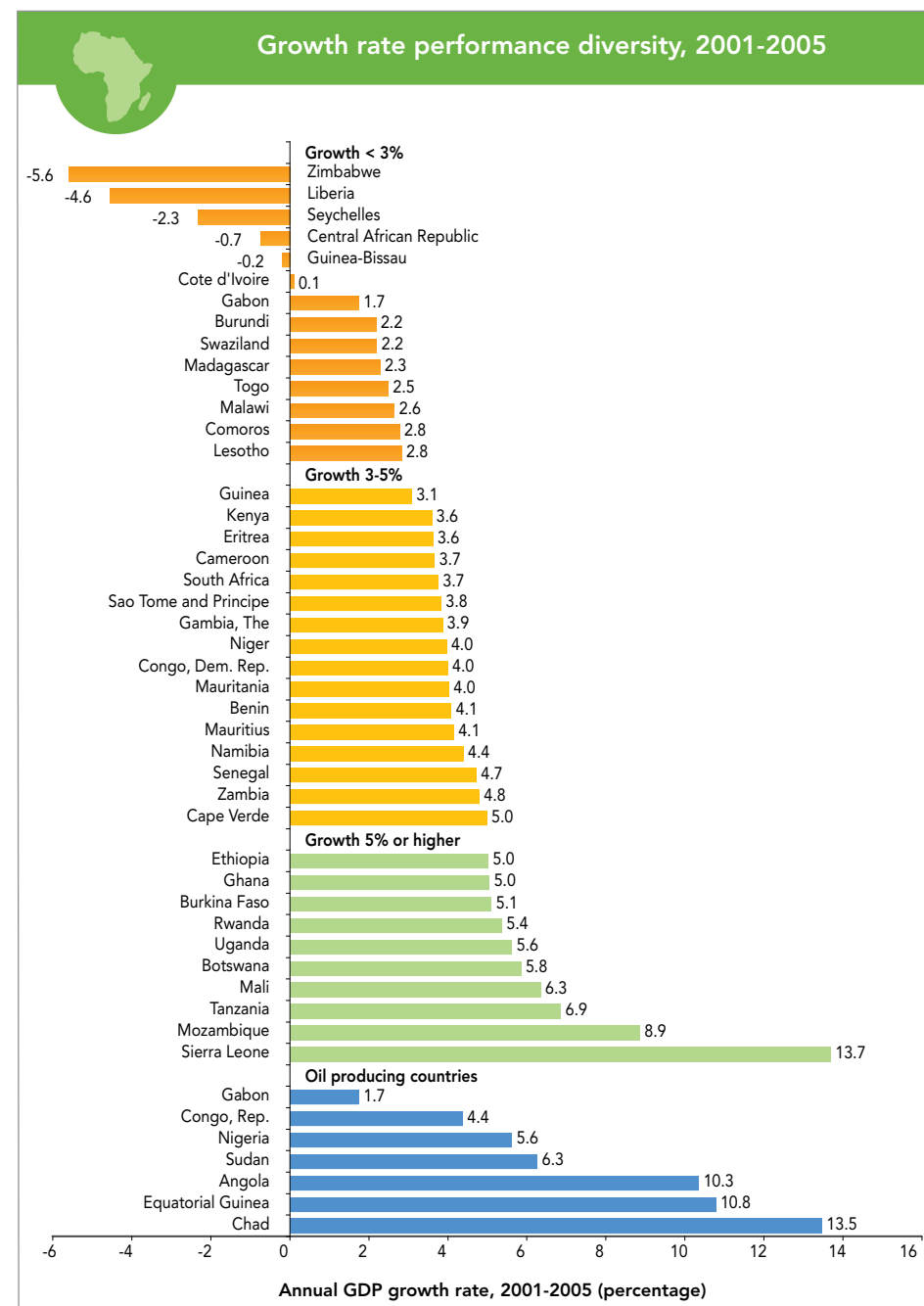
Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced numerous violent conflicts in the last 50 years. Conflicts have shown a decreasing trend in recent years. The number of displaced persons has also declined from a peak in the early 1990s.



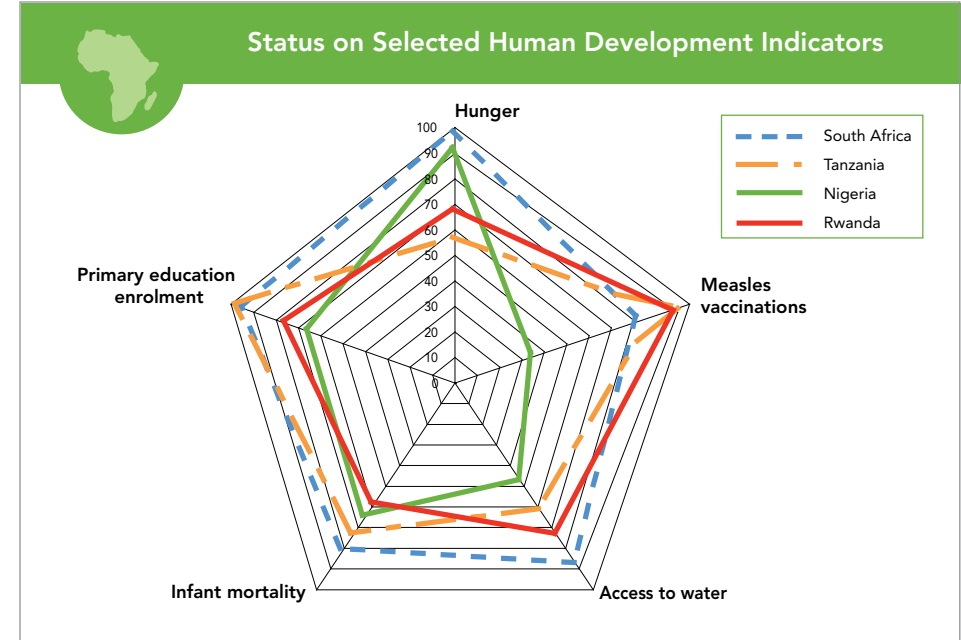
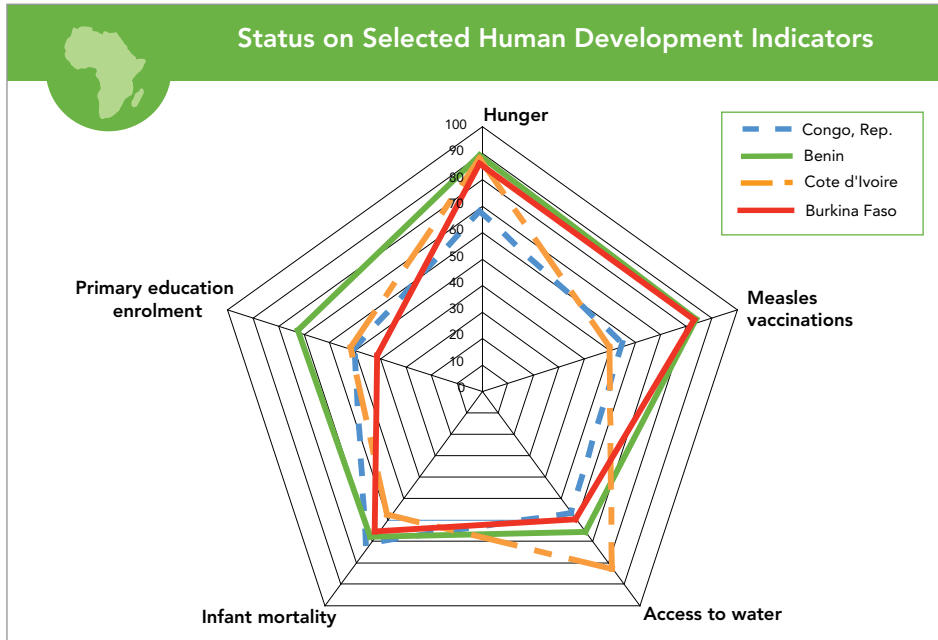
Source: WTO Statistics Database, 2008.

Sub-Saharan Africa's growth has been increasingly diverse.

Sub-Saharan Africa's recent growth has been boosted by sustained high prices of natural resources such as oil, gas and minerals, as well as a concomitant increase in a number of agricultural commodity prices. Oil and gas producers have benefited from massive inflows of revenues. The growth performance of non-oil-producing countries as a whole has also been strong over the past decade.² From 2001 to 2005, 10 non-oil producers, including agricultural countries like Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, have registered annual GDP growth rates above 5 per cent.



Source: World Development Indicators 2007.



Achieving the Millennium Development Goals remains a challenge.

At the midway point between their adoption in 2000 and the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), sub-Saharan Africa is not on track to achieve any of the Goals.³ Individual countries' performances on specific targets have been highly variable.

Note: Indicators for the five dimensions represented on the graphs have been constructed so as to range from 0 (worst case) to 100 (best case), as follows:

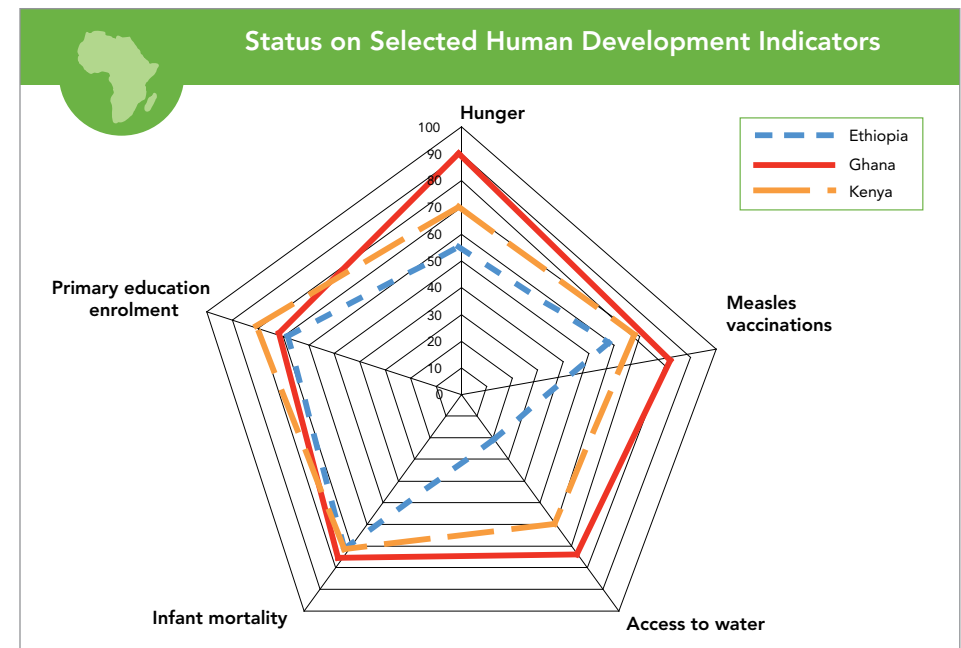
Hunger: Defined as 100 minus percentage of undernourished people. Source: World Development Indicators 2007.

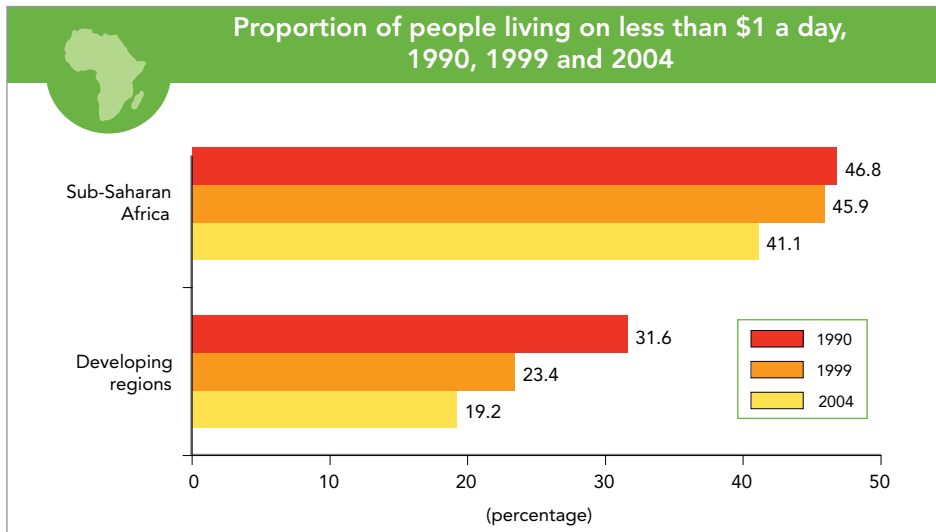
Infant mortality: Index equal to (mortality rate in worst performing country minus mortality rate in country considered)/(mortality rate in worst performing country minus mortality rate in best performing country). Source: UN-MDG website.

Education: Net enrolment rate in primary education, girls. Source: UN-MDG website.

Water access: Proportion of population with access to an improved source of water, urban and rural, 2004. Source: Joint Monitoring Programme.

Measles vaccination: Percentage of children one-year-old immunized against measles, 2006. Source: UN-MDG website.





Source: United Nations, 2007.

Poverty has been reduced but remains widespread, in spite of successes during the last decade.

The proportion of people living on less than US\$1 per day has been decreasing, but less rapidly than in other developing regions. For sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, it remains at 41.1 per cent of the population, more than twice the level prevalent in the developing world.⁴ Another indicator of poverty used to monitor the MDGs, the poverty gap, is also twice higher for sub-Saharan Africa than for developing regions as a whole. Although it has decreased slightly since 1990, the difference with other developing regions has increased. On current trends, the MDG1 target of halving dollar-a-day poverty will not be achieved in sub-Saharan Africa.



“ Nous n’héritons pas de la terre de nos parents, nous l’empruntons à nos enfants. ”

Léopold Sédar Senghor
Former Senegal President