



# Decisive action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals: *The challenge to the Southern African Development Community*

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Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery

Social science that makes a difference



# Summary points on progress

- Debate about MDG and Africa
- Alternative approaches possible
- “Strong” approach to MDG
- Methodological challenges
- Results by sector and country
- What to make of results?
- What relation between measuring indicators and achieving impact?
- Recommendations: What prospects for regional collective action through SADC?

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- Civil society networks in each of the countries;
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# Progress or failure?

- As the target year of 2015 comes in sight there is increasing concern that African countries can meet these minimum targets for social progress.
- Wide range of opinion about the application of MDG to the African context.
  - While some feel Africa is “being set up for failure” as the MDG targets are too ambitious,
  - Others feel that more progress is being made than anticipated (eg maternal mortality) and targets are too modest.
- Governments find it difficult to acknowledge complications in progress towards the targets.
- Differing views beg a common approach and methodology rather than more intense debate. .

# Debate about criteria to apply

- Wide range of opinion about the application of MDG to the African context but not among Governments and policy-makers;
- “Technical”: The starting point is arbitrary and could decide the outcomes and the selection of 1990 as the starting date was not a good choice;
- “Overambitious”: The design of goals and targets disadvantage Africa as they are over-ambitious’
- “High expectations of progress”: Anticipate greater progress than was historically achieved in developed countries;
- “Impossible”: Most African countries will miss the MDG by a large margin whatever they do, as the targets place African countries in line for “near-certain failure” ;
- “Unfair” The MDG are unfair to Africa and present a negative picture of the continent of failure and disappointment which leads to material results in the demoralisation of leaders and discouragement of investment; and
- “Encourage aid dependency”: The emphasis on increased overseas development aid in MDG 8 is misplaced.

# “Strong” approach to MDG

- Not time to answer all criticisms, but study shows fairly wide range of results not uniform disappointment.
- “Strong” approach adopted involves
  - Acceptance of MDG as basic levels to be reached;
  - Numerical targets calculated, robust measurement;
  - Trends identified and projection towards targets;
- Widen levels of assessment between “success” or “failure” – identify trends and assess progress;
- Targets measured and clustered in Sectoral Groups – numerical targets set and data measured and projected;
- MDG study linked to studies of service delivery grouped around Water + Sanitation, Health and Education;
- Country data preferred;
- Simple statistical modeling of trends;
- Simple unweighted reporting of targets by sector.

# Challenges in data + analysis I

- Complex undertaking, even with simplification: 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 technical indicators to measure progress;
- Some definitions hard to measure e.g. “safe drinking water”;
- In services “higher” or “lower” standards may be adopted e.g. sanitation;
- Not all indicators measured or reported;
- Statistical reporting often out of date.

# Challenges in data + analysis II

- Unexplained fluctuations in fundamental stats e.g. SA Net Enrolment Rate,
- “Data deficits” in malaria;
- Trends difficult to establish, some indicators have few data points e.g. malaria, maternal mortality;
- Projections: choice of points may differ by indicators;
- How to assess “halting” and “reversing” disease such as HIV/AIDS.



# Methodology adopted

- Research coordination between research partners in Malawi, Tanzania, Botswana and HSRC;
- MDG study linked to MSD studies of service delivery grouped around Water + Sanitation, Health and Education;
- Targets measured and clustered in Sectoral Groups;
- Country data preferred;
- Simple statistical modeling of trends;
- Reports by country and sector (4 x 4);
- Additional Southern African report reviewing the MDGs, targets, challenges, and progress.

## Sector

## Target or indicator

Water

Target 7c: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Sanitation

Target 7c: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Health

Target 4a: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

Target 4.2 Infant mortality rate reduce by two thirds

Target 5a: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

Target 5.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel

Target 6a: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Target 6c: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Target 6.9 Tuberculosis prevalence rate

Education

Target 2a: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicator 2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education


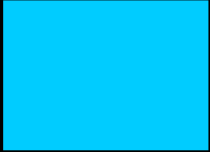

Indicator 2.3 Literacy rate (male and female) 15 and above

Indicator 3.1 Gender Parity Index

# MSD research outputs

- Based on original research, datasets compiled from Stats Agencies, and analysis;
- 4 Water Reports and projections;
- 4 Sanitation Reports and projections;
- 4 Education Sector Reports and projections on key indicators;
- 4 Health Sector Reports and projections on key indicators;
- 4 Country reports reviewing 4 sectors;\
- “Taking MDG in Africa seriously”; Southern Africa Review.

# Range of assessment by sector

Key	
	<b>Targets will be met in 2015</b>
	<b>Progress, some targets met</b>
	<b>Some progress but will not meet MDG targets</b>
	<b>Very little or little progress overall</b>
	<b>No Progress in meeting targets</b>

# Summary points on progress

	<i>South Africa</i>	<i>Malawi</i>	<i>Botswana</i>	<i>Tanzania</i>
<b>1. Water</b>				
<b>2. Sanitation</b>				
<b>3. Education</b>				
<b>3. Health</b>				

# Progress in targets by country

	<i>No progress</i>	<i>Some progress</i>	<i>MDG on target</i>	<i>No data</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>
South Africa	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
Malawi	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
Botswana	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
Tanzania	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>56</b>

# Governments becoming responsive

- Botswana, 2004 and further study commissioned.
- Tanzania, MDG Report Midway Evaluation 2000-2008.
- Malawi, 3 reports; latest 2007.
- South Africa, 2 reports; latest MDG Country Report 2010, UNDP, 2010.
- Increasing methodological rigour;
- Challenge now is identification of policy implications of challenges.

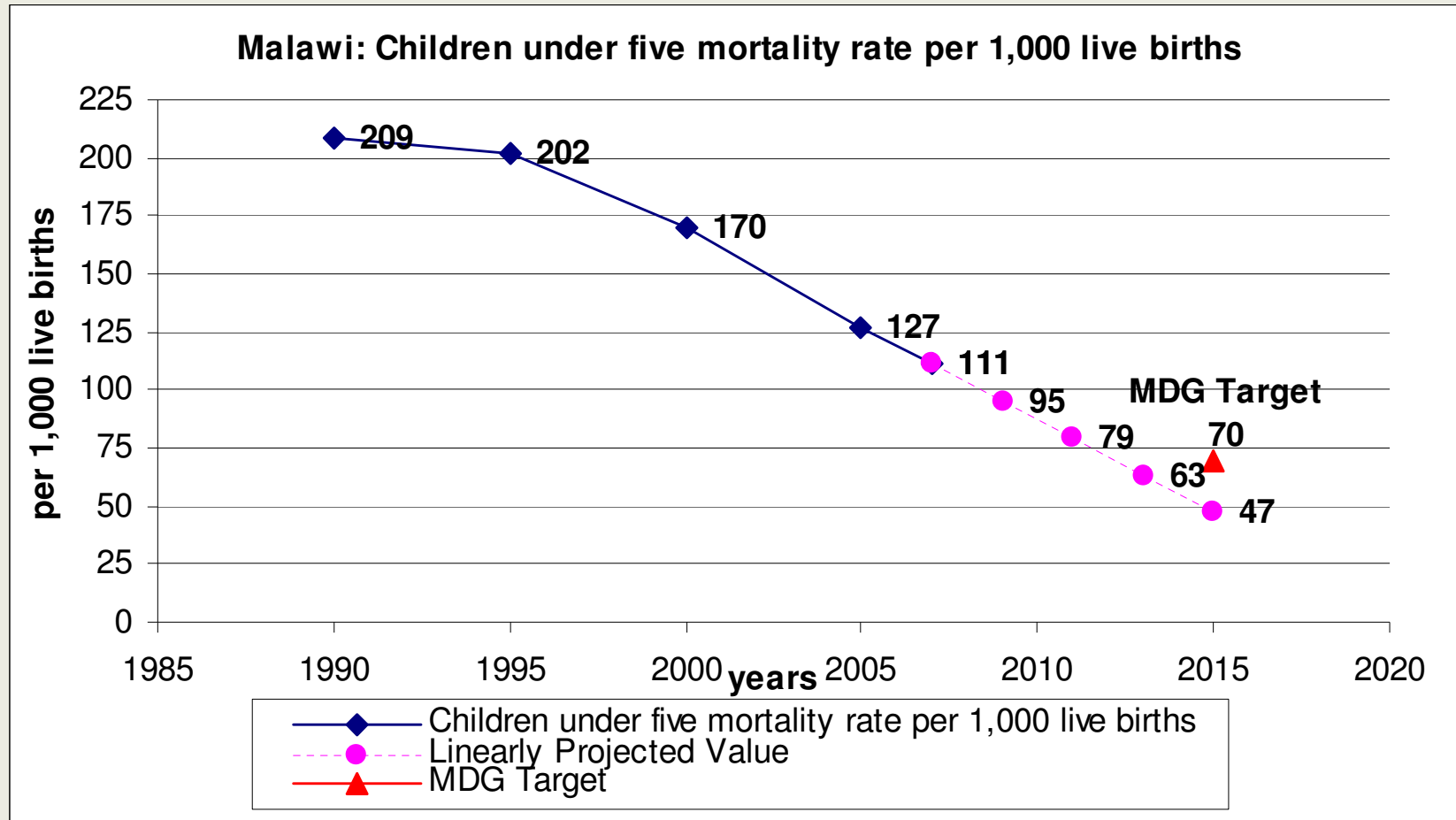
# Two contrasts I: South Africa

<b>South Africa</b>	<b>1994 Baseline (or closest year)</b>	<b>Current Status 2010 (or nearest year)</b>	<b>2015 Target</b>
Under-five mortality rate	59 (1998)	104 (2007)	20

South Africa MDG Report, 2010



# Two contrasts II: Malawi



# Some conclusions

- Taken by sector progress is being made especially in water sector;
- Health sector most challenged, followed by education;
- Education sector raises most Quality issues e.g. declining completion rates and levels attained;
- Reviews generally don't highlight key challenges and interventions needed eg under five mortality, SA Country Report;
- Response not to criticize MDG targets but to use results to focus on specific interventions to make a difference.

# Recommendations

- Focus on using results to identify specific recommendations to make a difference rather than to criticize MDG targets.
- More active joint engagement between researchers, civil society and government eg Sector Working Groups;
- Rigorous assessment of progress should lead to more directed interventions eg under five mortality rate;
- Research and review progress at sectoral level to raise effectiveness;
- Cross-country learning; Regional coordination between governments under aegis of SADC Regional Indicative Sustainable Development Plan (RISDP).