

SUSTAINABILITY WATCH NATIONAL REPORT: ZIMBABWE

Environmental Sustainability



Poverty Eradication



**Develop a Global
Partnership for Development**



**Zimbabwe SusWatch Network - Coordinated by ZERO Regional Environment
Organisation**

2005

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARVS	Antiretroviral
CBO	Community Based Organisation
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GCAP	Global Call for Action Against Poverty
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immuno Virus
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MERP	Millennium Economic Recovery Programme
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NERP	National Economic Recovery Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
PAYE	Pay As You Earn
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UNAIDS	United Nations For . . .
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Family and Population Fund
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNIFEM	United Nations Fund for Women
VAT	Value Added Tax
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
ZIMCODD	Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development
ZIMPREST	Zimbabwe Programme for Economic and Social Transformation
ZIMRA	Zimbabwe Revenue Authority

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SusWatch is a global civil society coalition in the South set up to monitor and put to task respective governments to meet the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation commitments. Funded by the Danish 92 Group, a consortium of five Danish NGOs (MS, Ibis, Nepenthes, OVE and WWF Denmark), the project is operational in six subregions, namely Southeast Asia, South America, Central America, East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa.

South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are the three participating countries in Southern Africa.

The main development objective of SusWatch is: “To increase civil society networks advocacy in order to influence and enhance implementation of pro-poor sustainable development agenda.” This will be achieved by building NGOs/CBO networks that will constantly monitor governments’ commitment on pro-poor sustainable development specifically on Goal 1 – Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Goal 7 – Ensuring Environmental Sustainability; and Goal 8 – Developing a Global Partnership for Development.

The Zimbabwe SusWatch Network has a total of 20 members, four of whom sit on the Technical Advisory Committee. Its membership is drawn from all sectors of the development, science and technology, advocacy and lobby groups, UN agencies, community-based organisations, policy and research institutions.

This report highlights an assessment of the current status of MDG implementation in the country focusing on goal 1: Poverty Eradication; Goal 7 Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and Goal 8 Developing a Global Partnership for Development. The report reviews the consultations that were undertaken to launch the MDG development framework. The following issues are addressed by this report:

- General introduction, background and objectives of the Sus Watch Project.
- The current national development context highlighting the current trends in economic development and key challenges.
- Assesses the process in the MDG implementation
- Reviews the first national MDG Report for the country highlighting key shortcomings.
- Presents an overview of the current and potential sources of financing the country’s sustainable development agenda.
- Assesses national implementation barriers encountered by both government and civil society.
- Identifies specific priorities in the implementation of the MDGs by the national Sus Watch Network.
- Gives recommendations to civil society that would ensure the achievement of the set targets and goals.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Zimbabwe is among the 189 countries, which adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit of September 2000. This summit agreed on a development agenda that comprises eight set goals. These goals have become known as the Millennium Development Goals. As part of the strategy of implementing and monitoring progress in achieving the goals, each country is required to produce a benchmark report that will be used as a basis for monitoring progress, in addition to presenting the challenges facing that country in the achievement of the goals. Thus at country level, realigning development planning and programmes to the achievements of the MDGs provides a coherent operational framework.

In order to track progress on the achievement of the goals countries are also required to produce annual progress reports. The implementation and monitoring of the MDGs is expected to be monitored beyond government institutions by civil society. The Sustainability Watch project is one initiative that will monitor progress on three of the eight goals, one, seven and eight.

The goals aim by 2015, to:

1. Halve extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a partnership for development.

While it is the responsibility of governments to produce the Country Reports, other stakeholders, notably business, labour, farmers, bureaucrats, politicians and civil society have a critical role to play in mainstreaming the MDG goals in all their development activities.

It is in this context that in June 2000, approximately 70 NGOs participated in the international Rio+8 Conference in Copenhagen, convened by the Danish 92 Group. This process led to the so-called Rio+10 project or SusWatch.

Thus SusWatch is a global civil society coalition in the South set up to monitor and put to task respective governments to meet the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation commitments. Funded by the Danish 92 Group, a consortium of five Danish NGOs (MS, Ibis, Nepenthes, OVE and WWF Denmark), the project is operational in six subregions, namely Southeast Asia, South America, Central America, East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa.

South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are the three participating countries in Southern Africa.

The main development objective of SusWatch is: “To increase civil society networks advocacy in order to influence and enhance implementation of pro-poor sustainable development agenda.” This will be achieved by building NGOs/CBO networks that will constantly monitor governments’ commitment in terms of pro-poor sustainable development, specifically on Goal 1 – Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Goal 7 – Ensuring Environmental Sustainability; and Goal 8 – Developing a Global Partnership for Development.

The specific purpose of establishing the SusWatch network in Zimbabwe was to provide a mechanism for uniting civil society’s expectations, visions and aspirations with regard to sustainable development. The network provides a unique platform for engaging government and reminding it and other stakeholders on their commitments to sustainable development.

The Zimbabwe SusWatch Network has a total of 20 members, four of whom sit on the Technical Advisory Committee. Its membership is drawn from all sectors of the development, science and technology, advocacy and lobby groups, UN agencies, community-based organisations, policy and research institutions. (see Annex 1 for the list of members).

This report outlines progress made so far in meeting the objectives of the project in addition to making recommendations for the way forward. The report strives to capture the following:

- Current section that covers introduction and background.
- Development context of Zimbabwe, highlighting key achievements and challenges in sustainable development;
- Key processes undertaken so far in implementing the MDGs;
- An assessment of the National MDG Report and its potential or otherwise to meet the targets, particularly in relation to Goals 1, 7 and 8
- Barriers encountered by civil society in the monitoring government’s progress in implementing the MDGs;
- Recommendations on the challenges faced by government and civil society in their respective implementation and monitoring roles with regard to Goals 1, 7 and 8.

The report was produced through an interactive process involving the key stakeholders whilst network members made inputs directly and indirectly through formal and informal consultations. Of particular interest to the SusWatch project were discussions around poverty, education, environmental sustainability and partnership building.

Another key platform used in compiling this report was the multi-stakeholder National MDG Task Force. Civil society, including the network members, has been participating actively in this taskforce. Nevertheless, producing this report had its fair share of problems, notably:

- Weak participation by the network members in SusWatch activities;
- Limited budget to engage effectively with network members countrywide;
- Late official launch of the first MDG National Report;
- Absence of collaborative mechanisms between government, civil service and UN agencies.

- Absence of a strong monitoring and evaluation system with a quick response mechanism.

The central Millennium Development Goals as they relate to the SusWatch project are summarized in the table below. Also included are the MDG Plus targets from the Johannesburg Summit.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS 1, 7 & 8
<p>1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER Target 1: Halve the proportion of people with less than US\$1 a day Target 2: Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.</p> <p>7. ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY Target 9: Integrate sustainable development into country policies and reverse loss of environmental resources. Target 10: Halve the proportion of people without access to portable water. Indicator 25: Proportion of land area covered by forest Indicator 26: Land area protected to maintain biological diversity. Indicator 27: GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency).</p> <p>MDG Plus: Reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2010 MDG+: Increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy supply, and provide 35% of African households with modern energy within 20 years.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phase out by 2020, production and use of chemicals that harm health and the environment. Maintain or restore depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield by 2015. ▪ Establish a representative network of marine protected areas by 2012. <p>8. DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target 12: Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction --- nationally and internationally. ▪ Target 13: Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (tariffs, HIPC, ODA). ▪ Indicator 32: Net ODA as percentage of DAC donors' NGI (targets of 0,7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs). ▪ Indicators 37-40: Improve market access to developed countries.
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This report will attempt to assess the country's achievements in the three identified goals in addition to recommending the way forward.

CHAPTER 2

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

At independence the Government of Zimbabwe introduced a policy of Growth with Equity. This policy brought about major developments in the area of social development, health delivery, education and housing. These developments did not, however, tackle the underlying problems of poverty in the country, i.e. resource inequalities and entitlements. These inequalities were exacerbated by a dual economic system, characterized by a modern and technologically advanced urban sector and largely poor rural sector.

During the first decade of independence, priority was given to poverty reduction, as reflected in government spending which was biased towards the social sectors. As such, both primary and secondary education were expanded while agricultural programmes were reoriented to address the needs of the previously marginalized communal farmers. In addition, an ambitious land resettlement programme was set in motion in 1981, in an attempt to address the skewed land ownership structures. By the end of the 1990s, social indicators for Zimbabwe had improved significantly, especially in the education and health sectors.

Since the 1990s Zimbabwe's development has been slowed down by a number of constraints, notably stagnation in economic growth accompanied by negative GDP growth, growing unemployment, deteriorating health delivery services, hyperinflation, declining agricultural productivity and the debilitating impacts of HIV/AIDS.

Between 1991 and 1995, real GDP growth averaged 1.5% per annum. Considering population growth, this economic growth rate was insufficient for meaningful poverty reduction or employment creation. In consequence, extreme poverty increased significantly during the 1990s, with an estimated 35% of households living below the poverty line in 1995.

Attempts to turn around the economy through an Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) did not yield the desired results, prompting the government to launch a "home-grown" reform package: the Zimbabwe Programme for Economic and Social Transformation (ZIMPREST) in April 1998. The successful implementation was compromised by the lack of resources.

Since then a number of economic blueprints have been initiated in a bid to jumpstart the economy. These include the Millennium Economic Recovery Programme (MERP), National Economic Revival Programme (NERP) and the Macroeconomic Policy Framework (2005-2006). The success of these programmes has, however, been undermined by the combined negative impacts of recurrent droughts and cyclone-induced floods, international isolation and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The economic decline is illustrated by a significant contraction of the economy by -11% in 2002, -9.3% in 2003 and -5% in 2004. Current projections to December 2005 are not encouraging. In 2003 the largest sectoral decline occurred in transport and

communications at -13.5%, followed by manufacturing and hotels at -12.5% each, mining and quarrying at -9.8%, construction at -9.5% and agriculture at -8.0%.

Both Overseas Development Assistance and Foreign Direct Investment have gone down dramatically in the last five years, exacerbating the current decline.

Inflation remains Zimbabwe's number one enemy, according to the country's monetary authorities. In January 2004, inflation was estimated to be 623%, and in October stands at above 400% mark. Price increases of food commodities have worsened the plight of the poor both in rural and urban areas. The situation has been worsened by the rising levels of unemployment both in the formal and informal sectors.

In the area of environmental management, key challenges include waste management, water and sanitation, deforestation and desertification, and uncontrolled pollution. The recent adoption of the Environmental Management Act and the New Environmental Policy offer the best hope for a supportive environment to mitigate these challenges.

Although the results of the Poverty Assessment Study 2003 are still to be announced, preliminary indications are that poverty is on the increase in both urban and rural areas, with some estimates putting the figure at 60%.

CHAPTER 3

ASSESSMENT OF PROCESS FOR THE MDG COUNTRY REPORT

Millennium Development Goals Process in Zimbabwe

In September 2002, the Government of Zimbabwe invited over 200 people from all sectors of the country to participate in the national launch of the MDG reporting process. At the launch the government outlined the mechanics of producing Zimbabwe's first MDG Report as agreed to at the Millennium Summit two years earlier. The report was to be produced in a participatory and transparent manner, involving all stakeholders (government, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector) represented through a national taskforce.

To support the production process, the Government of Zimbabwe, in close collaboration with UNDP, prepared a budget to facilitate the MDG Report's preparation, production and dissemination. The report preparation was to be funded through a UNDP-supported project under the then Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The process was to be led by the following key ministries:

- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture
- Ministry of Youth, Gender and Employment Creation
- Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism

In turn, the ministries were to be supported by representatives of civil society groups working in the areas of social services, health, environment and development advocacy.

A United Nations Country Team MDG Taskforce was established to provide technical backstopping to the national taskforce. The UNCT was comprised of UN agencies with offices in the country under the overall coordination of UNDP. These included FAO, IMF, ILO, UNAIDS, UNIC, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNDP SURF, WHO and the World Bank. This further consolidated the already existing good working relationship between government and the UN system. In addition, the creation of a National MDG Task Force helped bridge the gap between government and civil society.

The setting up of thematic groups was critical in terms of gathering information and facilitating a consultative process. Apart from creating a platform for focused discussions on key issues, the thematic framework enabled the various government departments and the specialized UN agencies to share information and strategies. For the first time in Zimbabwe's history a potent institutional collaborative mechanism between the government and the UN agencies was in the making.

At the UN level, the establishment of the United Nations Country Team on MDGs was also a commendable achievement which ensured a cost effective UN resource utilization. This

process also created space for direct input by UN Agencies to the country's development challenges.

The tables below illustrate the structures that facilitated the coordination mechanism.

MDG National Taskforce

Sector Ministry	Thematic Group and Goals
Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare	Chair of the National MDG Taskforce
Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (Department of Social Services) and Ministry of Agriculture	Social Development and Agriculture (Goal 1)
Ministry of Health and Child Welfare	Health (Goals 4 and 5) HIV/AIDS (Goal 6)
Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture	Education (Goal 2)
Ministry of Youth, Gender and Employment Creation	Gender (Goal 3)
Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Environment (Goal 7)
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	Global Partnerships (Goal 8)
Civil Society Groups	All goals
UN Agencies	All goals

Technical Backstopping by UN Agencies

UN Agency	Thematic Group and Goals
UNDP	Overall backstopping of the MDG process
UNDP Country Office & UNDP- SURF	All thematic groups (Goals 1-8)
UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, ILO, FAO, UNIDO, WB, IMF	Social Development and Agriculture (Goal 1)
UNESCO, UNICEF	Education (Goal 2)
UNIFEM, WHO	Gender (Goal 3)
WHO, UNFPA, UNFPA, CST, UNICEF	Health (Goals 4 and 5)
UNAIDS, WHO	HIV and AIDS (Goal 6)
UNDP	Environment (Goal 7)
UNDP, UNIDO/SURF, WB, IMF	Global Partnerships (Goal 8)
UNIC and UNDP	MDG Advocacy Campaign preparation

The MDG consultative process was vested in the thematic groups whose composition was inclusive of civil society and the private sector. It was the responsibility of the thematic groups to prepare a schedule of meetings to provide a platform for their inputs into the MDG Report. Compared to other national processes, the MDG national reporting process was consultative in all respects. A noticeable shortcoming however was the slow progress that led to the final production of the report. It took close to two years to produce a final report for adoption by the government. This long process derailed the translation and localization of the MDG process into actionable activities.

Some of the assumptions made during the consultative process, lacked empirical data and verifiable indicators. Information on levels of unemployment, income poverty, access to water and sanitation were based on extrapolation from previous surveys and could not be scientifically ascertained. Other shortcomings of the consultation process were a result of the absence of key civil society organisations working in the area of trade, aid and debt

issues. Overallly the whole MDG consultation process, was participative resulting in the production of a balanced first MDG national report.

At the workshop, the chairs of the various thematic groups were identified while the Guidance Note on Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals at Country Level was disseminated. Also in attendance were the two local consultants recruited to lead the drafting process.

CHAPTER 4

ASSESSMENT OF THE OFFICIAL MDG COUNTRY REPORT

In general, the first MDG Report makes a commendable effort to present the status of MDG implementation as objectively as possible. It gives an elaborate development context of the country and articulates the various goals by outlining goal status and trends, challenges, supportive environment and priorities for development assistance. In addition, the report attempts to cost the goals in order to provide an estimate of the country's financial requirements if it is to achieve the set targets for each goal.

Despite the government's determination to finance the MDGs from its resources, there is no doubt the country is faced with daunting development challenges. The report recognizes that the challenges need to be addressed in the context of a long-term broad-based macro-economic growth and development. The report also acknowledges that the nation's development context exposes the interrelatedness of the MDG goals and poverty.

The clear linkage of the various goals is emphasized in a foreword to the report by President Mugabe "By recognizing the strong link between poverty, gender and the HIV and AIDS epidemic, the Report draws attention to Goals 1 (poverty), 3 (empowerment of women) and 6 (HIV and AIDS), as the national priority goals, which underlie the achievement of MDGs in Zimbabwe."

While the report seems to adequately articulate the current challenges under each goal, it falls short of drawing up clear strategies on how to respond to these challenges. Admittedly, in the absence of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, it is not possible to make accurate, long-term forecasts

The report must be commended for making an attempt to cost some of the goals. However, the methodology used is open to question, considering the linkages between all eight goals. For example, investment in education can have a profound impact on maternal health and child mortality. Therefore, costing education separately from its health impacts gives a distorted picture of the actual costs and benefits.

In addition, costing the MDGs on the basis of previous budgets has its own problems especially under conditions of runaway inflation and an unstable economic environment and strained international relations.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation, the report appears to play down the lack of capacity to capture, analyze and track data. This is evidenced by the fact that although the MDG reporting process itself was initiated in 2002, it was only finalized in 2005 three years later. Other examples include the population census which was undertaken in 2002. The results of this census were only published in 2005. The same can be said about the second National Poverty Assessment Study undertaken in 2003, to date November 2005 the report has not been made public. This creates concerns about the usefulness and timeliness of the collected data.

The data used in compiling the report is also somewhat outdated, rendering some of its assumptions and conclusions suspect. This is further compounded by the fact that the findings of the Poverty Assessment of 2003 are still to be made public. As if that was not enough, the 2002 Population Census results were announced only a week before the official launch of the MDG Report.

Data on environmental issues is also weak, making it difficult to give an objective assessment of the status of the environment. The last State of the Environment Report was produced in 1998, creating a data vacuum of astronomic proportions.

Civil society, in particular, is disturbed by government's failure or reluctance to spell out its position on debt payment, ODA and FDI. Another cause for civil society concern is the hazy picture on Zimbabwe's position on global partnerships. While the country is a member of the UN, African Union, African Development Bank, SADC, COMESA, Group of 77 developing countries, etc, it has severed ties with the Commonwealth and its continued membership of the IMF is still subject to review. It has also been ambivalent to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which it believes is subject to manipulation by the continent's former colonizers.

On goal eight on global partnership, the report recognizes that the country is facing serious socio-economic and development challenges. The report contends that these challenges have been compounded by general international isolation and changing political landscapes. It recognizes that rekindling relations with the international community is important in addressing the issues of finance, trade investment, debt and aid flows which are critical for economic revival.

The report however falls short in suggesting the possible options to be taken to normalize its relations with the international community. At the national level the whole concept of partnership between public and private is still weak. Relations between the government and certain sections of the civil society remain strained resulting in delayed cooperation in the area of development.

In an attempt to give an assessment of the capacity to monitor the MDG implementation the report presents an assessment summary that gives a positive picture of the country's capacity to monitor the goals. This assessment does not seem to be supported by evidence on the ground. The absence of updated data on key indicators on poverty, environment and health are of major concern. Even in those areas where data was collected capacity to analyse and timely produce reports is very weak. To date no civil society organisations have raised these issues except within the context of the Sus Watch Project.

Attempts by civil society to produce a shadow report based on the national report are at an advanced stage. Current observations indicate that with all structured and functional civil society monitoring MDGs, the production of periodic reports could be easily facilitated. In this direction thematic leads focusing on a particular goal would be the most appropriate structure for easy monitoring and reporting.

CHAPTER 5

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As alluded to elsewhere in this report, Zimbabwe is yet to develop a National Sustainable Development Plan and a Poverty Reduction Strategy. It is therefore difficult to give an accurate assessment of the financial resources required to implement a national sustainable development agenda. An attempt was, however, made to estimate the resources required to meet certain MDG targets.

But this attempt leaves many questions unanswered. For example, what are the short and long-term benefits of the country's Look East policy?

On financing, the report says: "The Government is committed to meeting its Millennium Development Goals, first and foremost, from its own resources." But is quick to add: "However, should international relations improve, external inflow of resources (grants and external borrowing) will go a long way to soften pressures on domestic resources."

The report also notes that "assuming that population grows by 1.1% per annum, a GDP growth rate of 6.6% is needed". However, this can only be achieved if inflation is brought down to single digits to attract foreign investment and boost the level of savings in the economy. But this was unlikely to happen before 2008, even by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's own usually optimistic estimates.

Currently, the country is experiencing challenges in its economic growth, with the past three years recording negative growth rates, -1.3% in 1995, -7.7% in 2000, -14.7 in 2002, and -14.1% in 2003 and ---- in 2004. Projections are that the country will again record negative growth in 2005 (see table below).

1995	2000	2003	2004	2005
-7.7%	-14.7	-14.1	-	-

It is projected that for the country to achieve its set targets of halving poverty by 2015 and eradicating hunger, GDP growth rate should exceed 7%. However, the current negative growth rates pose a huge obstacle to the achievement of Goal 1 or any of the other seven goals.

Zimbabwe plans to use both domestic and foreign sources to finance its sustainable development goals. The main sources of government revenue are taxes, which account for nearly 95% of the fiscus. These include PAYE, VAT, company tax, carbon tax, customs duty, excise, capital gains tax, withholding tax and presumptive tax, among a host of other lesser taxes.

For the record, during the six months to June 30 2005, ZIMRA collected Z\$8,44 trillion against a target of Z\$8,99 trillion, representing a 6% shortfall. (The Herald, 6 August, 2005). Government must, however, strike a balance between raising additional revenue by hiking taxes (e.g. PAYE, VAT) and condemning the average worker into abject poverty, thus undermining the achievement of Goal 1.

Yet despite government's commendable attempts to cushion the worker against the rising cost of living by, for example, relaxing income tax bands, the tax burden remains unbearable. This is amply illustrated by the 2005 Mid-Term Fiscal Policy Review Statement unveiled in August. The government slashed the supplementary budget from Z\$32 trillion to just Z\$6 trillion. But this did not stop the Minister of Finance from hiking VAT in addition to imposing a raft of other taxes on cellphone airtime, commuter omnibuses, taxi cabs, small-scale miners, etc.

ZIMRA's target for the 2005 fiscal year is pegged at Z\$23,2 trillion. But this could be difficult to achieve against the background of a shrinking economy, job losses, low salary adjustments, company closures and the slump in the informal sector cross-border trade.

In the last three years, the revenue of GDP ratio has averaged around 28% (MDG Report 2004). If high positive GDP growth rates can be achieved with appropriate macroeconomic policies and sector revival measures, then revenue generation could be greatly enhanced. Such revenue will form a significant part of the financing request for achieving the MDG goals.

The situation is no better with regard to ODA and FDI. In the last five years, Zimbabwe has witnessed dramatic drops in the flow of both. For instance, ODA flows fell sharply by 67% from a peak of US\$400 million in 1995 to just US\$132 million in 2001, while net FDI experienced a 95% decline from about US\$598 million in 1995 to US\$5 million in 2001.

Gross capital formation (total investment) went down significantly from 24,9% of GDP in 1995 to just 8.8% of GDP in 2002. Much of the decline in capital formation is attributable to a slump in private investments, which fell from 18.8% of GDP to 8.3% of GDP between 1995 and 2002. This is in sharp contrast to public sector investments which experienced a modest drop from 6.2% of GDP in 1995 to 3.5% of GDP in 2002.

The decline in public investment can be partly explained by recurring droughts and periodic floods in the region, whose net effect has been to divert resources towards drought relief. On the one hand, the steep decline in private investment is linked to an unstable macroeconomic environment. Capital formation has been a victim of the depreciation of the local currency, which has resulted in resources being channeled largely to consumption spending rather than investment.

On the other hand, negative perceptions by the international community with reference to the country's political, economic, human rights and governance issues have seen aid flows drying up.

Debt-wise, the country is heavily borrowed in excess of US\$4 billion. Recently, Zimbabwe managed to reduce its arrears with the IMF by paying a lump sum of US\$120 million and intends to clear the outstanding arrears by the end of February 2006. A normalization of international relations will give the country the opportunity to negotiate debt relief as witnessed by recent moves by the Group of Eight developed countries to cancel some of the heavily indebted developing countries' debts.

Regarding the participation of the private sector in financing sustainable development, it is critical that a supportive macroeconomic environment is put in place to promote sustainable economic growth.

While the government's determination to finance its MGDs internally have been applauded by civil society, questions have been asked about its commitment to doing so. This comes in the wake of research findings by Oxfam that Zimbabwe is among 12 developing countries that spend more on the military than either health or education (Oxfam, June 2004).

The study observes, rather ominously: "In the medium to long term, military spending can distort the economies of developing countries, directing scarce resources and trained personnel from projects that could create wealth and benefit the poor." Its conclusion is quite blunt: "The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed by all 189 UN member states will not be achieved if resources are diverted from this vital task by inappropriate arms transfers."

At the time of compiling this report, Zimbabwe was reportedly negotiating for a US\$500 million from South Africa to pay for grain and fuel imports and settle some its debts with the multilateral lending agencies.

CHAPTER 6

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION BARRIERS, INCLUDING CAPACITY

Since the beginning of the 21st century negative impacts of recurring droughts and floods, international isolation and HIV/AIDS epidemic have given rise to severe macro-economic difficulties. This has coincided with the international launch of the Millennium Development Goals in September 2000. The unstable macroeconomic environment and a series of national political events (National Referendum on the Constitution 2000, June 2000 Parliamentary Elections, 2002 Presidential Elections, 2005 Parliamentary Elections) partly removed attention of government from focusing on development issues to more relief and political issues.

Several factors have been cited for this unfortunate state of affairs. These include: low priority accorded to sustainable development issues, weak government and civil society frameworks to articulate and implement the sustainable development agenda, economic decline and negative economic growth, low level of public awareness on sustainable development issues, increasing levels of poverty, HIV/AIDS, international isolation, political polarization at home.

Low priority accorded to sustainable development agenda

Although Zimbabwe is a signatory to the Rio Declaration which puts the sustainable development agenda at the centre of the country's development strategy, the current institutional framework still underplays the integrated approach called for under Agenda 21.

Briefly, Agenda 21 proposals cover a wide range of issues from population, health care, education, environment and consumption patterns. To be able to integrate these issues into a common development strategy it is critical that a national institutional framework be put in place. This could take the form of a national sustainable development committee.

Fifteen years after Rio, the focal point for sustainable development still lies in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. There is need to orientate and mainstream the focus towards influential public institutions, such as the twin Ministries of Finance and Economic Development. This will take on board key ministries such as Agriculture, Energy, Local Government, etc.

By confining the sustainable development agenda to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism significant influence on resource allocation is undermined. Currently, the sustainable development agenda remains a nebulous concept which has not been translated into operational programmes. Even though key ministries like Agriculture, Energy, Local Government and Health have played a major role in developing the MDG National Report, it is time a legal and permanent institution was established to cater for an integrated development approach.

Weak Civil Society Capacity

The capacity of government and civil society organizations to articulate and implement the MDG goals remains weak and fragmented. Although civil society has hosted several

meetings and workshops around the MDGs implementation, attempts to develop joint programmes and activities have not materialized due to absence of a civil society institutional framework. Another constraint is the limited funding for civil society advocacy activities. Regrettably, when funding was available, it is channeled mostly towards relief and rehabilitation work.

Financial Constraints

Government institutions are in the same predicament when it comes to financing their programmes as their “shoestring” budgets are often exhausted long before year end. Worse still, some ministries do not have operational budgets making it difficult to pursue the Millennium Development Goals. This applies in particular to those ministries created after the March 2005 parliamentary elections, notably Interactive Affairs, Rural Housing and Amenities, etc.

The economic downturn has created yawning gaps in terms of development financing. The sluggish economic growth in the last four years has seen real GDP growth averaging a negative –6% per annum. The net effect is a deficit in resources that could have gone towards meeting some of the priority MDGs as defined by the government or SusWatch.

Weak Coordination Mechanisms

Traditionally, ministries are used to working sectorally without an effective collaborative mechanism. In the absence of a supervisory institution to ensure coordination, it is difficult to foster a sustained collaborated programme between the public sector and civil society. MDG implementation by nature would require a well coordinated institutional framework that recognizes the linkages between poverty, education, gender, health and environment.

HIV/AIDS

The impacts of HIV/AIDS on the fiscus cannot be ignored. Significant resources are lost each year due to HIV and AIDS-related illnesses. This translates into a heavy drain on the country’s meager resources and a burden on the already overstretched health staff.

Supportive Environment for Sustainable Development

A major challenge facing the country in ensuring environmental sustainability is the full, effective and timely implementation of the Environmental Management Act. The Act addresses the main challenges in key areas of environmental management, that is, land degradation, gold panning, overexploitation of natural resources (fish, wildlife, forests and water), urban environmental planning, management and planning. In addition, the Act provides for the establishment of appropriate institutions and resources required to respond to such problems.

Lack of Poverty Reduction Strategy

A number of countries have developed Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). This has given them a powerful weapon in implementing sustainable development. Zimbabwe is still to develop the Poverty Reduction Strategy, making it difficult to clearly articulate a pro-poor sustainable development agenda. Thus, without a clear national poverty reduction agenda, it is difficult to put in place a sustainable development programme.

Political Polarization

Zimbabwe is a member of several international organisations, such as the United Nations, African Union, SADC, COMESA, but voluntarily withdrew from the Commonwealth. Its voting rights in the IMF are currently suspended while its membership is hanging by a thread. At present the country is cut off from bilateral or multilateral support which is critical for meeting the MDG targets.

Nationally, the strong contestation between the ruling party and the opposition party has negatively affected development programmes resulting in limited debate that focuses on development but rather is driven by the need to occupy political space in the country. Significant resources are therefore lost to political bickering.

CHAPTER 7

BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED BY CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As a key player in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, civil society is faced by a number of barriers.

Firstly, governments in the developing world do not want to be watched, let alone held accountable, by "outsiders" and that includes civil society. In some cases, civil society organisations are lumped together in the same camp as the "opposition", putting the two on a potential collision course. The drafting of the ill-fated NGO Bill in Zimbabwe gives credence to this perception.

Secondly, there is a disturbing lack of capacity among some civil society organisations to contextualize what the MDGs are or are not. A number of civil society representatives perceive the MDGs as a "programme" with its own budget located within a particular ministry or the UN system.

This misconception is bound to create problems for participating civil society groups, as it removes the leadership responsibilities from them. Instead of looking for opportunities to advance the objectives of the MDGs civil society continues to be reactive to government initiatives in an uncoordinated and ad hoc fashion.

Little wonder, no common strategy has been formulated by civil society on MDG implementation except outside the SusWatch and GCAP initiatives. Isolated initiatives by individual organisations have not yielded the desired national impact.

Thirdly, the difficult economic climate has also impacted negatively on civil society's capacity to engage in such broadly defined issues as the MDGs. Most civil society groups are facing serious limitations in terms of human and financial resources, leading to deterioration in their organizational and advocacy capacity.

Fourthly, a number of CSO networks that have the potential to influence MDGs are concentrated in the capital and do not have the capacity to decentralize their activities into the smaller towns or rural areas. Equally disturbing is that activities undertaken by civic networks are most visible around the capital city and do not cascade to the more remote areas, where the poorest of the poor live.

Fifthly, the localization of the MDG process has been very slow. The non-participation of key players, notably parliamentarians and local authorities, has not helped matters either. It is trite but true to say that any development initiatives that do not involve policy and decision-makers are bound to miss their set objectives.

Furthermore, failure to recognize the linkages between poverty, health, education, environment, gender and partnerships has the effect of limiting the effective collaborative among civil society organizations. The old-fashioned tradition of addressing development

issues using a sectoral approach is still predominant. It is clearly time to discard this approach in favour of a more strategic sector-wide development partnerships.

The lack of capacity and standard tools among civil society to monitor progress on the MDGs is another key barrier. Civil society organizations do not have the benchmark data on key MDG indicators. They still rely heavily on statistics released by national government surveys or the Central Statistical Office.

A further challenge is that such data is normally aggregated at national level, and is of little or no relevance to local level processes. It needs to be emphasized here that civic groups would score more goals in the MDG monitoring process if they addressed critical policy issues not only at national level but also at the local level.

The question that begs an answer is: How then can civil society fulfil its watchdog role in such a hostile environment? One of the key challenges to reducing poverty in Zimbabwe is closing the gap between the rich and the poor. Civil society organisations are expected to expose these injustices in all the sectors of the economy. Any development or policy that makes the "rich richer and the poor poorer" is a recipe for social, economic and political instability.

Civil society organizations should be able to monitor the inequality factor and advocate for a pro-poor development strategy. The participation of civic groups in the ongoing land reform process in the country is one area that needs urgent attention as it has a direct relevance to issues of equity, access to natural resources and poverty reduction.

In the absence or limited funding of bilateral and multilateral aid, the Government of Zimbabwe faces a challenge of raising resources from domestic sources with a negative economic growth and limited foreign direct investment meeting the challenge of financing the goals will remain a major concern.

A budget that does not focus on the development of social sectors usually fails to address the key challenges of poverty. Lack of strategic influence on how the budget is formulated and allocated weakens the role of civic groups. Civil society should therefore be empowered to lobby and advocate for a pro-poor budget. At the time of compiling this report, the Ministry of Finance had started holding consultations with key stakeholders ahead of the 2006 National Budget due for presentation on December 1.

In this regard, this report proposes that civil society organizations be an integral part of the National Budget formulation process. Apart from making inputs into the Budget-making process, civil society must be able to track or monitor how the relevant ministries spent their allocations. This calls for civil society to work closely with parliamentarians and their portfolio committees. Budget tracking is therefore a key weapon in holding government accountable to its MDG commitments.

But this tracking should not be confined to the National Budget alone. It should also be extended to the Mid-Term Fiscal Policy Review or mini-Budget presented in July/August every year. The same applies to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's quarterly monetary policy reviews, whose highlights include inflation targets, financing mechanisms for agriculture, foreign currency inflows and outflows.

The power of the media should not be underestimated when it comes to monitoring progress on the MDGs implementation. Civil society should therefore strive to cultivate a cordial working relationship with the media. However, for this to happen the media and civil society should be able to communicate and share information for mutual benefit.

For its part, the media should be able to package information in such a way that it caters for the different readers, be they primary schoolchildren, Cabinet ministers or company chief executives. The information should be able to trigger action by the relevant sectors of the population.

Examples of the role of the media in monitoring the MDG include:

- Alerts on the outbreaks of life-threatening epidemics, due to environmental mismanagement, i.e. water-borne diseases.
- Localized cases of hunger or poor sanitation which are likely to be swept under the kept if not reported on, e.g. hardships spawned by Operation Murambatsvina.
- Incidences of corruption that are likely to impact negatively on national development or the achievement of the MDG goals.

Another challenge for civil society is to reconcile the SusWatch project priority goals 1, 7 and 8 with Zimbabwe government's own priorities which revolve around goals 1, 3 and 6. The government's position is that non-achievement of Goals 1, 3 and 6 would undermine the attainment of the rest of the goals.

SusWatch Network members have also raised questions about the sustainability of the project. The deadline for the MDGs is 2015 while this project runs until 2006. The challenge is to design a monitoring programme that can still be sustained outside donor funding. This will require a well structured mechanism that links civil society to such frameworks as the Central Statistical Office, and the Environmental Information Systems.

The issues outlined in this section need an urgent response strategy if civil society is to play an effective role in MDG implementation and monitoring. A broad-based response strategy by civil society is therefore recommended. The SusWatch project is expected to take a leading role in advocating for this strategy and the proposed new Technical Advisory Committee should take the challenge forward.

CHAPTER 8

COUNTRY ISSUES FOR ZIMBABWE SUSWATCH NETWORKS

The Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and NEPAD have established a framework for multi-stakeholder cooperation in the areas of sustainable development. The common denominator among all these initiatives is poverty eradication. To ensure coordination and cooperation amongst civil society, there is an urgent need to establish a coherent institutional framework that brings the various organizations to a common platform and agenda.

Such a framework opens doors to effective collaboration through:

- sharing of ideas and experiences
- pooling resources and energy together for lobby and advocacy activities; and
- joint programme implementation under set goals and targets.

Not all networks bring tangible gains for their members or lead to practical action or change. But belonging to a network, or making formal links, with like-minded people can significantly strengthen the position of those who are thus inspired and empowered to work for change. A network can therefore serve its members in different ways, under a well articulated vision and strategy. Linking and networking are seen as development strategies than as tools and therefore require investment in terms of time. In addition, networks bring with them unforeseen challenges which need constant and continuous strategic responses.

The SusWatch Zimbabwe National Network focuses on three goals --- Goals 1 (poverty reduction), 7 (environmental sustainability) and 8 (governance, trade and aid) --- as agreed in the project proposal document whilst recognizing the inter-linkages between other MDG goals.

Recognizing that the Zimbabwe SusWatch Network focused on three priority goals the following have been identified as key to achieving sustainable development in Zimbabwe:

- **Advocate for the formulation of a National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper**

Zimbabwe is one of the few countries in Africa that has not formulated a National Poverty Reduction Strategy. Initiated by the World Bank, the PRSP process encourages more transparent and accountable national budgeting to reduce poverty.

At the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the IMF in September 1989, it was agreed that nationally owned participatory poverty reduction strategies provide the basis of all World Bank and IMF concessional lending and for debt relief under the enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. This approach is reflected in the development of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) by country authorities.

As of April 2003, 26 full PRSPs had been finalized while 45 Interim PRSP had been produced. Zimbabwe has done neither.

The absence of a Poverty Reduction Strategy has negatively impacted on civil society's engagement in the MDG process and the whole sustainable development agenda. To compound the situation, Zimbabwe is still to make public the results of the second Poverty Assessment Study carried out in 2003.

A key priority for civil society is to advocate and ensure that a Poverty Reduction Strategy is formulated without any further delay based on an objective assessment of existing levels of poverty in the country.

Due to the hyperinflationary environment, civil society is now advocating for a nationwide rapid assessment of poverty levels with a view to formulating a relief, recovery and reconstruction programme. This proposed relief, recovery and reconstruction initiative should be a precursor to a broad based and long term National Poverty Reduction Strategy.

- **State of the Environment Reports**

One of the key inputs to environmental monitoring is the production of the State of the Environment Reports. A good strategy would be to organize civil society in such a way that a common position on matters related to environmental management is articulated and advocacy work undertaken. The recent adoption by government of the Environmental Policy and Environmental Management Act present a major challenge for national networks to influence implementation processes in terms of lobby and advocacy work.

- **Cementing the Poverty and Environmental Nexus**

The close linkage between poverty and environment should be clearly articulated so that upcoming programmes are able to integrate the linkages and maximize the outcomes. Ignoring the relationship between poverty and environment can result in misallocation of both human and financial resources. By articulating the issues of access to natural resources by the marginalized populations the SusWatch network will be better able to effectively reduce poverty whilst minimizing land degradation. By the same breath, growing concerns about the shocking state of the urban environment are linked to rising poverty levels in Zimbabwe's towns and cities. Advocating for a holistic approval to urban environmental management is a key priority for civil society.

- **Implementation of Multilateral Agreements (MEA)**

The Government of Zimbabwe is signatory to a number of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs). These include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Drought and Desertification (CCD), Climate Change and the Convention of International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES). It is prudent that civil society, through national networks like SusWatch develop systems for monitoring the implementation of MEAs at the local, national and regional and international levels.

- **Global Partnerships**

The contentious issues of trade, aid and debt call for unambiguous articulation and the adoption of an unwavering common position. This should form the basis for developing a solid advocacy programme that is in conformity with the people of Zimbabwe and the progressive sections of the international community.

The establishment of a powerful civil society structure with the ability to articulate issues, draw up strategies and implement programmes on the ground is a major challenge for Zimbabwe. Sadly, little progress has been in this regard as participation in the SusWatch Network has been weak and membership unstable. Admittedly, it is not easy to keep different organizations with different objectives together without any concrete activity on the ground. In other words, joint monitoring of environmental issues without implementation might not be appealing to some members of civil society.

But this is not to say it cannot be done. The need to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development should be powerful enough to motivate different organizations to work together for "our common future".

With reference to Goal 7 it is important to remember the layman's definition of sustainable development: "We do not inherit the earth from our parents; we borrow it from our children."

CHAPTER 9

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The concept of sustainable development is slowly gaining ground and acceptance by the various stakeholders in the country. It is therefore important that the MDG platform is effectively used to further enhance the sustainable development agenda.

For civil society the launch of the 72-page MDG Report in September 2005 has once more invigorated a spirit of optimism within civil society and the population at large. Now that government and relevant stakeholders have presented the status of the MDG implementation and highlighted the challenges it is crucial that civil society identifies its niche through MDG monitoring and implementation. Civil society lacks preparedness and capacity to effectively engage in the challenges of meeting the poverty targets. The current levels of inequalities that prevail in the country are a major barrier to MDG achievement. Failure to address inequality levels will clearly undermine the achievement of the goals. The current negative macroeconomic climate does not create any conducive supportive environment for MDG implementation.

The current droughts in the country have increased the levels of poverty in both the urban and rural areas. In the rural areas the continuous reliance on rain-fed agriculture militates against improved productivity. In years of drought a number of agro-processing industries are also negatively affected. Superimposed on the drought scenario is the level of unemployment which has now reached unprecedented levels estimated to be above 70%. The problem has been further compounded by the recent government cleanup operation codenamed "Operation Restore Order". This operation resulted in major livelihood losses for the informal sector.

On environmental management, the country is currently facing a major crisis on various urban areas. The main problems relate to water and sanitation and urban waste collection and disposal. Due to shortage of water treatment chemicals and periodic power cuts, a number of local authorities are failing to meet the water demands for their residents. This has also negatively affected the sanitation facilities. Shortage of fuel has grounded the waste collection and disposal facilities in most urban areas. The rapid growth of urban areas has not been matched with a related growth in housing and infrastructure. As a result various illegal settlements have sprouted throughout the country posing a threat to human health.

Addressing the above challenges remains a mammoth task, especially at a time the country is experiencing unprecedented economic decline. The situation has been compounded by frosty relations between the government and some donor partners who have historically participated in the development process. The successful implementation of the MDGs is premised within the context of global cooperation. The need to normalize international cooperation cannot be overemphasized. It is therefore important that efforts are made to normalize relations between the government and its international partners. This normalization is expected to create a conducive environment for sustainable development.

The SusWatch project is expected to contribute in a modest way towards monitoring the progress towards achieving the set goals. The Danish-funded project should thus be viewed as a catalyst to the MDG monitoring especially by civil society. Sectorized and incoherent action by both civil society and government are detrimental to the achievement of the MDG targets.

As one of the most high-profile initiatives in monitoring the implementation of sustainable development using the MDG approach, the SusWatch project deserves the support of national governments in Southern Africa, civil society and international partners.

This report attempts to highlight the current status of MDG implementation as perceived by a civil society but does not in any way claim to be representative of the broad spectrum of civil society. It is also under this understanding that the following recommendations are made:

- Civil society should ensure that a most updated version of poverty studies are published. These assessments will then form the basis for an informed National Poverty Reduction Strategy. In this direction civil society can be proactive and combine forces to undertake an up-to-date poverty assessment study.
- To be more effective in the monitoring and implementation a more coordinated civil society institutional framework is now required. This framework should be able to bring together both local and international representatives of NGOs. The institutional structure should be able to capture representatives from local CBOs, and organisations operating away from the major urban centres.
- The Sus Watch Network should be capacitated to carry effective policy lobby and advocacy work. The advocacy work should clearly make a linkage between poverty, environment and partnerships.
- Sus Watch members are expected to make critical inputs into the periodic state of the environment reports and Poverty Monitoring and where necessary, trigger alarm bells about impending social and economic and environment disasters.
- One of the most effective strategies for monitoring is the use of the media, both print and electronic. Facilitating the formation of a media strategy on MDG is one way of advocating for the speedy and effective implementation of the goals. Constant update on the goal status through the media should be encouraged and more focused training programmes for media personnel is encouraged
- Overall, a broad-based strategy for monitoring the three goals under Sus Watch should be developed as a matter of urgency. Key indicators to be monitored and responsibility charts should be established. Close working relationship between the donors and network members should be encouraged. The role of the MS Denmark in the Sus Watch project should be further enhanced in order to create further opportunities for scaling up best practices in country and outside. A more systematic way of capturing best practices and dissemination should be developed.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of SusWatch Network Members

Annex 2: ZIMBABWE MDG REPORT PRODUCTION PROCESS AND LAUNCH CALENDAR

Year	Month	Major Events
2000	September	Millennium Summit
2002	June	UNDP reminder to GOZ about MDGs commitment
2002	August	GOZ set a National Taskforce on MDGs
2002	September - October	Multi-stakeholder consultative process
2002	September– October	MDG Draft produced by Thematic Groups
2003	January – October	Production of a series of drafts by thematic groups
2003	August	Technical backstopping by Consultant from the Regional Service Centre
2003	December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costing of MDG undertaking with assistance from an international expert Production of comprehensive Draft MDG Report
2004	February	Stakeholder workshop to review draft report
2004	March	Final MDG Report produced
2004	April – May	Presentation of Draft Report to Cabinet Social Services Action Committee
2004	June	Approval of report by Cabinet
2004	July	Report submitted to the Office of the President
2004	November	H.E. The President signs the report
2005	January – August	Preparatory work on the National Launch of the MDG
2005	March	Report officially submitted to UNDP
2005	September	National Launch of the Report

Annex 3: Key Development Indicators

	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population (millions)	10.4	11.8	--		11.65	11.87		
Population growth rate %	2.5	--	2.5		1.1	1.1	1.1	-
HIV/AIDS Prevalence (population aged 15-49 years) %	--	--	25		34	34	24.6	19
Life expectancy at birth, years	61	55	43		43	42	37	
Structural unemployment	--	--	--		>50	>50	>50	
Population with access to safe water (rural) %	65	73	75		--	--		
Real GDP Growth %	7.0	0.2	-8.2		-14.5	-13.9	-2.5	*1.3
Per Capita Real GDP Growth	5.5	-1.3	-7.7		-14.7	-14.1	--	--
Inflation	15.5	22.6	55.9		133.2	622.4	123.7	254
ODA Flows (US\$ Millions)	295.9	347.7	192.6		--	--		
Net Foreign Direct Investment (millions) US\$	-12	98	16	-0.3	22.6	3.5	-8.7	

Source: Ministry of Finance

Annex 4:

Organizational Structure of the Sus Watch Network