Poverty and inequality in south africa pdf

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Published: 10th May 2022 While the majority of SADC citizens have suffered from the pandemic and its effects, the story is different for the region's wealthiest men in SADC – four in South Africa and one each in Tanzania and Zimbabwe – saw their wealth expand from \$18.1 billion to \$27.7 billion during the two years of the pandemic, a 42 percent increase in real terms. This increase is more than enough to fund a full COVID vaccination program (plus a booster) for everyone in SADC. The richest 10 percent in the other seven, the report finds. This wealth concertation by a small group of people has left a majority struggling to meet their most basic needs, such as guality education, healthcare and decent jobs, "The findings of this analysis are shocking, but they confirm the reality of many countries in this natural resource-rich but poor and unequal region" says Dailes Judge, Oxfam in Southern Africa Programme Director. "The inequalities in most countries in the region are major drivers of reduced economic growth and weakened essential services such as quality healthcare and education". "Sadly, a majority of the people feeling the sting are the poor – those living in vulnerable conditions with little or no assets. Women- headed households represent a distressingly large proportion of those struggling and suffering." In 2021, with COVID-19 infections rising, the critical health, social protection and economic programs put in place by most governments in 2020 were rolled back and replaced with austerity policies, in the context of growing debt burdens and lack of external support for country budgets. Governments have felt pressured by their increasing debt service as there were on health. In 2020-21, debt servicing took 42.2 percent of government revenues on average. The report says that many Southern African Development Community (SADC) member governments are still showing considerable commitment to fighting inequality – but still nowhere near enough to offset the huge inequality produced by the market and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. "The combination of budget cuts, rising debt and a slow recovery due to global vaccine inequity risks raising the SADC inequality crisis to new heights," says Mathew Martin, Development Finance International Director. "Recovering from the pandemic, however, offers SADC governments a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do what their citizens want – to increase taxes on the wealthy and large corporations, to boost public spending especially on healthcare, education and social protection, and to boost workers' rights in order to tackle joblessness and precarious work. With external support, for instance through debt relief and aid, SADC governments could reduce inequality drastically and eliminate extreme poverty by 2030." Notes to editors Southern Africa is the most unequal region in the world and contains the world's three most unequal (Eswatini, Mozambique and Botswana). All SADC member states, except Tanzania and Mauritius, are in the top 50 most unequal countries. The region has low proportions of workers with formal contracts and rights (and therefore access to sick pay, job protection, etc.), with fewer than 40 percent having such rights in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Angola, DRC, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar. Many countries had limited access to essential health services, reaching under 50 percent of the population in seven countries, and forcing 5.4 percent of people to spend catastrophic proportions (i.e. more than 10%) of their income on healthcare across the region. These poor indicators reflected low commitments to healthcare spending, with this accounting for under 10% of government budgets in Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar and Tanzania. ABSTRACTSouth Africa is a paradox; on the one hand, it is one of the most unequal countries in the world. Half of all South Africans continue to live in poverty, economic growth has stagnated and inflation remains high, while the unemployment rate continues to climb towards 30%. On the other hand, it has one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, with a bill of rights that foregrounds expanded socioeconomic rights. We provide an overview of the latest statistics on poverty and inequality in light of overarching economic rights. to meaningfully address the high levels of inequality is due to insufficient attention to the way power reproduces inequality. We present a definition of power that includes social and market power, and emphasise the importance of a theory of power in understanding the reproduction of inequality. Report Sulla, Victor, Zikhali, Precious 2018/03/01 Working Paper 124521 1 1 Southern Africa, Africa, 2022/04/01 Disclosed Overcoming Poverty and Inequality in South Africa: An Assessment of Drivers, Constraints and Opportunities See More English 3S-Southern Africa Programmatic Poverty Assessment And Statistical -- P164927 TF0B0799-Strengthening the capacity of SADC Member States to harmonize and impro Labor Markets, Poverty, Education, Jobs, Unemployment, Education, Inequality, Rural Labor Markets, Inequality, Rural Labor Markets, Inequality, Rural Labor Markets, Inequality, R South Africa is one of the most unequal societies in the world. More than 50% of the population live in poverty levels have remained consistently highest among women, black South Africans, people with disabilities, and those living in rural areas. The government has committed itself to addressing poverty, inequality and social exclusion – understood as disadvantage by gender, race, disability or place. The mandate is laid out in the constitution and in the government's National Development Plan. The plan was adopted in September 2012 as a blueprint for eliminating poverty and significantly reducing inequality by 2030. But do the country's laws, policies and strategy documents show exactly how poverty, inequality and social exclusion will be tackled? To answer this question, researchers at the Centre for Social Development in Africa undertook an extensive review commissioned by the National Development Agency. We explored how policy makers and legislators have faced these systemic challenges in drafting their documents. We reviewed 501 legislative, policy and strategy documents under the Medium Term Strategy of the National Development Plan (2014-2019). The documents cover education, health, safety and security, economic growth and employment, skills, infrastructure, rural development, human settlements, local government, environment, public service, social protection, nation building and social cohesion. We reviewed each document to determine the number of references to poverty, inequality, social exclusion, gender, race, disability, youth unemployment and spatial inequality. Then we analysed whether the references were generic or specific. We considered whether the documents showed an understanding of the issues and looked for solutions. Our findings reveal that there is at least some engagement with poverty, inequality and social exclusion in all governmental sectors. But it's inconsistent. We identified steps that could improve progress. Our findings We found that 10% of legislative documents and more than half of all policy and strategy documents mentioned poverty, inequality, social exclusion, gender, race, disability and spatial disparities at least once. The social protection sector showed the highest average number of references to poverty (58), inequality (70) and social exclusion (116) in its documents. The public service sector showed the lowest number of references in policy and strategy documents than in legislative documents. More references don't mean deeper engagement with these issues. In some cases the issues are not critically analysed. References to poverty, inequality and social exclusion must explain how they affect each law and policy. They should also offer strategic interventions. Some sectors do take this holistic approach to policy-making. In the health sector, for example, we found that some policy and strategy documents examine the connection between poverty, inequality and health outcomes. The Breast Cancer Control Policy, for instance, identifies transport as a constraint to accessing health services. We also found that references to gender and spatial disparities are most common when addressing social exclusion. But references to population groups, disability and youth who are not in education or training are inconsistent across the board. The gap between policy and practice Policies matter and can make a real difference. But on their own they are insufficient. They must be implemented. Change happens through stakeholders and processes. More needs to be done to include poverty, inequality and social exclusion in all policy making. Here are some remedies that arose from our research: Recognition of poverty, inequality and social exclusion cannot be limited to policy and strategy documents. It must be reflected in legislative documents because laws are binding. Policy-making institutions must take ownership of the national mandate. Each government department must develop solutions. They cannot simply rely on the National Development Plan to reduce poverty and inequality. Government departments could develop a toolkit based on shared good practice. This would help to translate documents into action. Documents must be grounded in data, analysis and strategic responses. Drafters must consider trade-offs and holistic approaches. They must also make strategic use of flagship programmes and participatory processes. Finally, we recommend that future Medium Term Strategic use of flagship programmes and indicators. Laws and policies are only one part of making a real difference in people's lives. But they are an important link in the chain of transformation. South Africa's policy sectors and government departments can learn from one another to address poverty and inequality more consistently and effectively.

