

Table 1 cont.

Country	Political status	Threats to democracy
Zimbabwe	Collapse of democracy and rule of law. Steady degeneration to fascism. Independence of judiciary destroyed. Dissident media crushed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Famine and starvation.</li> <li>2. High levels of violent repression, especially in rural areas and opposition strongholds.</li> </ol>

Source: EISA (<http://www.eisa.org.za>) and World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/afr>)

## Economic Context

**Economic activity and development** Despite the relatively small size of the southern African market, the SADC's gross domestic product of US\$226.1 billion in 2001 is more than double that of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and more than half of sub-Saharan Africa's aggregate GDP. Even so, the regional economy continues to reflect a strong dependence on the primary sectors of production, specifically the exporting of agricultural and mining commodities. These account for on average more than half of the GDP (Kritzinger-van Niekerk & Pinto Moreira 2002). With uneven levels of socioeconomic development and the exigency of addressing the pervasive poverty afflicting the region, many member states embarked upon IMF/World Bank-directed stabilisation and adjustment programmes in the early 1990s. The aim of these programmes was to promote macro-economic stability and higher growth alongside improved social service provision (SADC FANR 2003).

While most SADC countries recorded high-growth performance during the 1970s, economic growth in the region slowed down in the 1980s, partly because of deteriorating terms of trade and policy failures. As Table 3 illustrates, a degree of recovery occurred in the 1990s, albeit unevenly.

Table 2: Corruption Perceptions Index, 2002

Country	Score	Rank
Angola	1.7	98
Botswana	6.4	24
DR Congo	..	..
Lesotho	..	..
Malawi	2.9	68
Mozambique	..	..
Namibia	5.7	28
South Africa	4.8	36
Swaziland	..	..
Tanzania	2.7	71
Zambia	2.6	80
Zimbabwe	2.7	71

Source: Lambsdorff (2003)

Note: In terms of the score values, 10 is 'highly clean' and 0 is 'highly corrupt'. As for rank, 102 countries were surveyed, where 1 = least corrupt and 102 = most corrupt. The symbol, '..' indicates that no data is available for that country.

Some of the factors underpinning the recovery were an increase in foreign direct investment, particularly in Angola, South Africa, Mozambique and Botswana; positive political developments; and the introduction of macroeconomic reforms. These have generally served to improve tax collection, liberalise exchange controls, bring inflation under control and reduce budget deficits. However, in spite of this progress, Angola, the DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia remain severely indebted, while Zimbabwe is considered moderately indebted. This debt burden has made many SADC states dependent on official development assistance (ODA) to maintain prudent macroeconomic policies while simultaneously attempting to meet commitments to poverty reduction through public expenditure.

**Trade and investment patterns in SADC** With regard to trade liberalisation, most economies within the SADC region are either moderately or fully open, with foreign trade playing a

salient role for many. Though trade within SADC has intensified since the early 1990s, intraregional trade generally remains low. The share of intraregional imports amounted to 12 per cent of total imports in 1999, while intraregional exports comprised less than nine per cent of total exports. Trade appears to be a more significant contributor to GDP in the smaller regional economies (e.g. Lesotho and Swaziland) than in the larger ones. South Africa predominates in intraregional trade and accounts for more than 70 per cent of the imports of other countries in the region. Irrespective of the low levels of intraregional trade, trade flows increased noticeably during the past decade, with the share of intraregional exports relative to total exports more than doubling between 1990-1999, as shown in Figure 2 (Kritzinger-van Niekerk & Pinto Moreira 2002; SADC FANR 2003).

*Table 3: Average annual real GDP growth rates in the SADC region, 1980–2000*

Country	Average annual real growth rate (%)	
	1980–1990	1991–2000
Angola	1.5	-0.3
Botswana	10.5	5.5
DRC	1.1	-6.0
Lesotho	4.0	3.8
Malawi	2.0	3.8
Mozambique	-1.8	5.9
Namibia	0.8	4.5
South Africa	1.9	1.5
Swaziland	6.2	2.9
Tanzania	3.4	2.6
Zambia	1.3	0.2
Zimbabwe	5.4	3.0
Africa	2.5	2.3

Source: Pillay (2002)

Approximately 80 per cent of to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to developing countries is directed to East Asian and Latin American regions, a share that remained fairly constant during the 1990s. By contrast, sub-Saharan Africa has tended to be marginalised, receiving a mere three to five per cent of total developing country FDI over the period. For SADC countries, the estimated share of total FDI fluctuated between two to three per cent between 1995 and 1999. The experience of SADC countries in attracting long-term capital flows has been varied. Although, in US dollar terms, the FDI received by SADC countries is generally small, the small size of many of these economies means that, in actuality, these inflows as a percentage of GDP have been high relative to other developing economies. These inflows are often explained by a relatively small number of large transactions and tend to occur in countries where there are unexploited natural resources.

Figure 2: Intra-SADC trade (% of total exports)



Source: AISA and HSRC (2003)

As Table 4 shows, direct investment inflows into the SADC region were in the latter 1990s directed at Angola and South Africa. In Angola, FDI was mainly into the oil and natural gas

sectors, whereas South Africa attracted foreign investment across a broad number of sectors. South Africa is the dominant investment destination in the region as it offers a considerably larger market than neighbouring countries (accounting for more than 70 per cent of SADC's total GDP) and a more developed business infrastructure. It is, however, important to note that despite the relative regional significance, these FDI inflows into South Africa constitute a minute share of the country's GDP (rarely exceeding one per cent).

*Table 4: Foreign direct investment: net inflows, in US\$ millions (nominal)*

<b>Country</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
SADC	5 530	3 320	5 304	2 956	8 805
Angola	412	1 114	2 471	879	1 119
Botswana	100	96	37	57	56
DRC	1	1	1	23	32
Lesotho	269	262	136	119	118
Malawi	22	70	60	45	58
Mozambique	64	213	382	139	255
Namibia	84	77	111	153	99
South Africa	3 817	561	1 502	888	6 653
Swaziland	-48	165	90	-18	69
Tanzania	158	172	183	193	224
Zambia	207	198	163	122	72
Zimbabwe	135	444	59	23	5

*Source: AISA and HSRC (2003)*

The relatively high levels of investment in Mozambique and Lesotho in the late 1990s were partially the result of mega-infrastructure projects such as the Mozal aluminum smelter and Maputo Corridor in Mozambique, and the Lesotho Highlands water project. Economic reform and the privatisation of state-owned enterprises has been another important source of FDI in SADC, although this has been politically and administratively difficult for most countries to implement. Inflows of direct investment through this means have occurred

in Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, South Africa and Lesotho. For a country such as Botswana, which has not had a large-scale privatisation programme and few mega-infrastructure projects over the past decade, FDI has tended to be relatively low. Similarly, countries beset with political uncertainty and economic instability, such as Zimbabwe, are unlikely to attract substantial new inflows of foreign capital in the near future (Jenkins & Thomas 2002).

**Labour trends and unemployment patterns** From available empirical evidence, the rate of formal sector wage employment within the region is low and below the average rate of growth of the labour force. This jobless growth has been ascribed to factors such as the low absorptive capacity of energy, transport, communications and certain industrial activities, and declining employment in the South African coal and gold mines (SADC FANR 2000). This slow growth of

Table 5: Labour force by sector (percentage in)

Country	Agriculture		Industry		Services	
	1980	1996	1980	1996	1980	1996
Angola	74	68	10	11	17	21
Botswana	70	42	13	41	17	17
DRC	71	60	13	17	16	23
Lesotho	86	81	4	6	10	13
Malawi	83	70	7	17	9	13
Mozambique	84	81	7	10	8	9
Namibia	43	40	22	37	36	23
South Africa	17	..	35	..	48	..
Swaziland	74	64	9	13	17	23
Tanzania	86	79	5	7	10	14
Zambia	73	68	10	12	17	20
Zimbabwe	73	66	10	14	17	20
Africa	70	62	11	15	19	23

Source: Pillay (2002)

Note: The symbol '..' indicates that no data is available for that country.

formal sector employment has meant that new labour market entrants have had to be absorbed into agriculture or informal sector activities. Table 5 shows the distribution of the labour force by sector for each of the SADC member states between 1980 and 1996. It clearly points to the pre-eminence of the agricultural sector as a source of employment for most SADC countries over the period, with Botswana, Namibia and South Africa being the main exceptions.

In Table 6, country-level indicators of labour force participation are provided for the 1980–99 period. A declining participation rate can be observed in Angola, the DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia. In Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia the rates remained virtually unchanged. Improvements were observed only in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, though the gains in the latter will have reversed latterly. The table also provides gender-disaggregated statistics. The gender inequalities evident in the regional

*Table 6: Labour force participation rate (percentage of population of all ages in labour force)*

Country	Total		Female		Male	
	1980	1999	1980	1999	1980	1999
Angola	49.5	45.9	45.7	42	53.3	49.9
Botswana	43.6	44.0	41.8	39.4	45.5	48.8
DRC	44.4	41.1	38.8	35.4	50.4	47.0
Lesotho	42.0	41.8	30.9	30.5	53.8	53.6
Malawi	50.3	47.6	49.3	46.0	51.4	49.3
Mozambique	55.3	51.8	53.3	49.5	57.3	54.1
Namibia	43.3	41.3	34.4	33.5	52.7	49.0
South Africa	38.3	40.9	26.8	30.7	50.0	51.5
Swaziland	35.7	35.7	23.5	25.8	48.0	46.2
Tanzania	51.2	51.1	50.2	49.9	52.2	52.4
Zambia	41.8	41.8	37.2	37.1	46.7	46.5
Zimbabwe	44.9	47.8	39.5	42.2	50.4	53.6
Africa	42.9	43.3	34.2	35	51.7	51.6

Source: Pillay (2002)

labour market in 1980 have persisted over time, which suggests that gender concerns have not been adequately mainstreamed into policy formulation and programme implementation. In South Africa, labour force participation increased more for women (3.9 per cent) than for men (1.5 per cent), while in Swaziland female participation increased 2.3 per cent and male participation actually fell by 1.8 per cent.

Unemployment rates within the SADC region are high and show a firm upward trend, with estimates increasing markedly from 18.6 million in 1986 to 50.9 million in 2000, or from 31 to 59 per cent. From a sectoral perspective, it is estimated that employment in the subregion declined by 16.2 per cent between 1986 and 1998, with the decline of 18.7 per cent in the agricultural sector exceeding that in the industrial sector, while the decline in the services sector was only 6.6 per cent. Employment in the agricultural sector dipped significantly after 1992, when a severe drought hit the SADC area, stabilising only four or five years later (Kritzinger-van Niekerk & Pinto Moreira 2002).

**Public sector expenditure** Those governments in the region recording a decrease in debt service as a percentage of GDP between 1990 and 2000 (Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Tanzania) have not consistently used their debt savings to increase social spending, such as in the education or health sectors. Botswana and Malawi are the two SADC countries that show a clear negative association (as one goes down the other goes up) between debt service and social spending in these sectors, with a corresponding positive relationship (both exhibiting trends in the same direction, e.g. both declining) between debt service and military expenditure. In the case of Mozambique, declining debt service did not translate into gains in education even with a sizeable decrease in military spending. In the case of Swaziland, there was a nominal increase in education expenditure and a moderate gain in health spending. However, the military vote also showed a nominal increase. Finally, in Tanzania, there



was a decrease in health spending despite declining debt service over the decade, coupled with reduced military expenditure. Unfortunately, we do not have figures for education expenditure to determine whether this sector experienced disproportionate gains.

There is also no consistent trend for those countries in the region recording an increase in debt service as a percentage of GDP between 1990 and 2000 (Lesotho, Namibia and Zambia). For Lesotho, there was increased social spending and declining military expenditure alongside rising debt service. In Zambia, increasing debt service was accompanied by a declining education vote, increasing health vote and substantially reduced military spending. For Namibia, there was a reduction in health and military spending; we do not have trend data for the education sector. Nonetheless, education

Table 7: Priorities in public spending, 1985–1997

Country	Public expenditure (% of GDP)						Total debt service (% of GDP)	
	Education		Health		Military		1990	2000
	1985 –87	1995 –97	1985 –87	1995 –97	1985 –87	1995 –97		
Angola	6.2	..	1.4	..	5.8	21.2	3.2	13.6
Botswana	7.3	8.6	1.7	2.5	4.1	3.7	2.8	1.3
DRC	1.0	..	..	..	..	..	3.7	0.3
Lesotho	4.1	8.4	2.6	..	3.9	3.1	3.8	7.3
Malawi	3.5	5.4	..	2.8	1.3	0.8	7.1	3.5
Mozambique	2.1	..	3.6	2.8	10.1	2.5	3.2	2.3
Namibia	..	9.1	3.7	3.3	5.7	3.3	..	..
South Africa	6.1	7.6	3.1	3.3	3.8	1.5	..	10.0
Swaziland	5.6	5.7	1.9	2.5	1.5	1.6	5.6	1.6
Tanzania	..	..	1.6	1.3	2.0	1.3	4.2	2.4
Zambia	3.1	2.2	2.6	3.6	3.7	0.6	6.2	6.4
Zimbabwe	7.7	7.1	3.2	3.0	4.5	4.8	5.4	6.4

Source: UNDP (2002)

Note: The symbol '..' indicates that no data is available for that country.

spending in the 1995 to 1997 period was the highest of the SADC countries listed.

South Africa showed improvements in education and health expenditure, as well as a declining military vote. Unfortunately, we do not have trend data for debt service, so we are unable to classify the country according to whether it produced debt savings over the decade or not. Given the transitional state of Angola and the DRC, and the political instability in Zimbabwe at present, it is difficult to make meaningful assessments of the trends reported for these countries in Table 7.

**Trends in human development** The combined population of the SADC region is almost 200 million and is unevenly distributed between the member states (Table 8). In 2000, the population of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was 26 per cent of the SADC total, followed by South Africa (21.9 per cent) and Tanzania (16.1 per cent). Taken together, these three countries account for 64 per cent of the region's population, with the remaining third distributed among the other member countries. Four countries' populations are less than 10 million and, of the 12 countries, the three least populous (Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia) account for a mere 2.8 per cent of the regional total.

Most of the SADC countries have experienced high growth rates. During the 1975 to 2000 period, the South African growth rate was estimated at 2.1 per cent. The estimated percentage growth rate for the DRC during the same period was 3.2 per cent (UNDP 2002). It is, however, anticipated that the process of development coupled with AIDS will result in lower growth rates in most of the member states in the future. The exceptions are Angola and the DRC, which are projected to maintain annual growth rates higher than three per cent between 2000 and 2015. Moreover, despite projected decreases in population growth, it is estimated that Malawi and Tanzania will still have annual growth rates exceeding two per cent between 2000 and 2015 (UNDP 2002).

Table 8: Population size, density and urbanisation

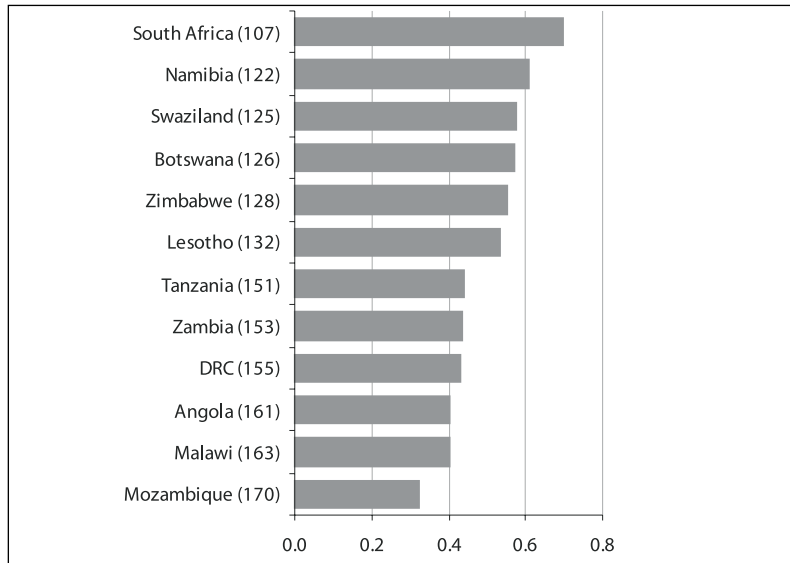
Country	Land area km <sup>2</sup>	Population (million)			Population density			Urban population as % of total population		
		1970	1980	2000	1970	1980	1999	1970	1980	2000
Angola	1 246 700	5.59	7.02	12.72	4.5	5.6	9.9	15.0	21.0	34.2
Botswana	566 730	0.64	0.91	1.6	1.1	1.6	2.8	8.4	15.1	50.3
Lesotho	30 350	1.06	1.35	2.15	35	44.3	69.3	8.6	13.4	28.0
DRC	2 267 050	20.27	27.01	51.39	8.9	11.9	21.9	30.3	28.7	30.3
Malawi	94 080	4.52	6.18	11.04	48.0	65.7	114.7	6.0	9.1	24.9
Mozambique	784 090	9.4	12.1	17.58	11.9	15.4	22.0	5.7	13.1	40.2
Namibia	823 290	0.79	1.03	1.74	0.96	1.25	2.1	18.6	22.8	30.9
South Africa	1 221 040	22.09	27.58	42.8	18.1	22.6	34.5	47.8	48.1	50.4
Swaziland	17 200	0.42	0.57	1.05	24.4	32.8	59.2	9.7	17.8	26.4
Tanzania	883 590	13.69	18.58	33.7	15.5	21	37.3	6.7	14.8	32.9
Zambia	743 390	4.19	5.74	10.09	5.6	7.7	13.3	30.2	39.8	39.6
Zimbabwe	386 850	5.26	7.01	12.11	13.6	18.1	30.8	16.9	22.3	35.3
SADC	9 066 840	88.8	116.1	199.2	9.8	12.8	21.5	24.9	27.8	36.8

Source: Kritzinger-van Niekerk & Pinto Moreira (2002)

SADC member states also display a wide variance in population density. In 1999, the number of people per sq. km in Botswana was estimated at 2.8 and in Namibia at 2.1. Population density varied between 20 and 70 people per sq. km in the DRC, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho (Kritzinger-van Niekerk & Pinto Moreira 2002). The majority of the region's population is rurally based, with 11 of the 14 countries having urban populations constituting less than 50 per cent of their total populations. The only exceptions are South Africa (50.4 per cent), Botswana (50.3 per cent) and the Seychelles (63.8 per cent). Despite this, the rate of urbanisation in most of the countries over the past two decades has been fairly rapid for all countries except South Africa, Zambia and the DRC, where levels have remained fairly consistent.

*Human Development Index* Comparative rates of growth within SADC member states are highly uneven (Kritzinger-van Niekerk & Pinto Moreira 2002). According to the *2000 SADC*

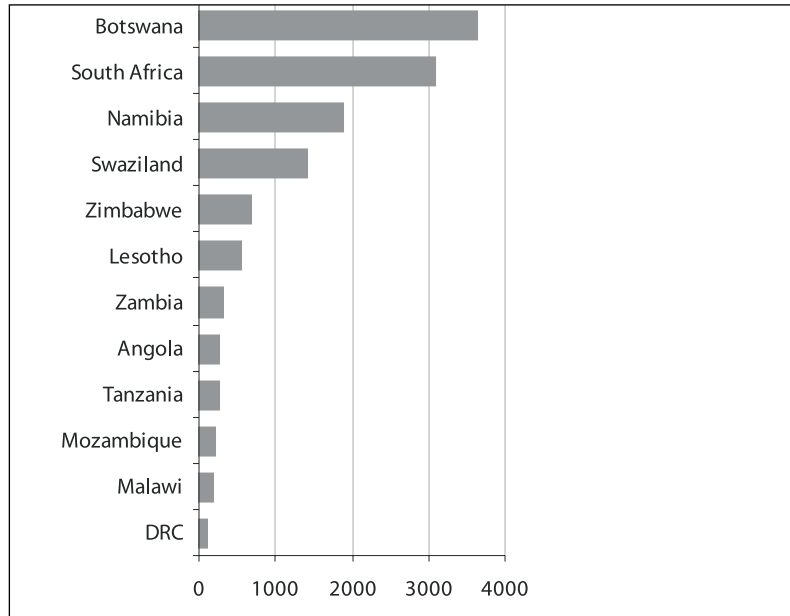
Figure 3: Human Development Index (2000: Country's world ranking in brackets)



Source: UNDP (2002)

*Regional Human Development Report*, the average value of the Human Development Index (HDI)<sup>3</sup> for the SADC region as a whole was 0.538 in 1998 compared with 0.568 in 1995 (UNDP 2000)<sup>4</sup>. This translates into an average decline in human development in the region of 5.3 per cent over the period. Disaggregating the index into its constituent components, it can be observed that the decline in SADC during the late 1990s was attributable to a downturn in each of the key variables, most especially real per capital income and life expectancy at birth (SADC FANR 2003). The reduction in life expectancy is largely due to the increasing impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, whilst the slow economic growth has left many in poverty. Moreover, in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, armed conflict was instrumental in the deterioration in human development.

Figure 4: GNP per capita (nominal 2000) US\$



Source: UNDP (2002)

As Table 9 shows, throughout the late 1990s six SADC member states consistently fell within the medium human development category (an index value of 0.500–0.799), whilst the other six were in the low human development category (an index value below 0.500). Human development deteriorated in most SADC countries between 1995 and 1998. Yet, despite the overall declining trend in human development in the region, some member states experienced positive changes in the three key variables other than life expectancy. For instance, South Africa recorded an estimated 17 per cent growth in gross enrolment, while adult literacy increased by between six per cent and 15 per cent in Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana, Tanzania and Lesotho. Similarly, real per capita income grew by about between six per cent to 14 per cent in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mauritius and Lesotho (SADC FANR 2003).

Table 9: Human Development Index trends (1995–2000)

Country	1995	1997	1998	2000
South Africa	0.758	0.715	0.718	0.695
Namibia	0.672	0.657	0.651	0.610
Swaziland	0.666	0.661	0.672	0.577
Botswana	0.627	0.630	0.613	0.572
Zimbabwe	0.593	0.574	0.570	0.551
Lesotho	0.565	0.596	0.583	0.535
Tanzania	0.422	0.429	0.422	0.440
Zambia	0.450	0.442	0.429	0.433
DRC	0.505	0.489	0.440	0.431
Angola	0.448	0.410	0.419	0.403
Malawi	0.394	0.409	0.393	0.400
Mozambique	0.348	0.351	0.350	0.322

Source: UNDP (2000, 2002)

*Income poverty and inequality* In the face of relatively low levels of income and high levels of human deprivation, poverty may be considered one of the principal development challenges confronting the SADC region. The average GNP per capita for the region (in nominal dollars), including Mauritius and the Seychelles, was US\$932 in 2000. As with the Human Development Index, there is a significant degree of variance between member states, illustrated by the fact that the highest ranked country (Botswana) has a GNP per capita 33 times larger than the lowest ranked country (DRC) (Figure 3). Three fairly distinct groupings emerge: South Africa and Botswana fall in the highest grouping, with real GNP per capita exceeding US\$3 000 in 2000; Swaziland and Namibia form a second grouping, with GNP per capita of US\$1 000 to 2 000; the remaining eight countries are in a third grouping, with GNP per capita of less than US\$1 000. The average annual GDP growth rate for the SADC region declined from 3.1 per cent in 2000 to 1.95 per cent in 2001, meaning that the region lags behind sub-Saharan Africa and that, in order to attain the millennium development goal of halving extreme poverty by

2015, the minimum required growth rate would need to be between six and seven per cent per annum (SAIIA 2003).

Poverty is widespread in the SADC region, with an estimated 70 per cent of the population living below the international poverty line of US\$2 a day, and 40 per cent or 76 million people living in extreme poverty (less than US\$1 a day). Table 10 provides available country-level data on the incidence of income poverty and inequality. It starkly illustrates that, for most SADC states, a high level of poverty is juxtaposed with equally high inequality in income distribution (SADC 2000). A number of SADC countries have Gini coefficients that place them amongst the world's most unequal societies.

*Table 10: Income poverty and inequality*

Country	Percentage of population below income poverty line		Gini coefficient 1991–95
	US\$1 a day (1993 PPP\$) 1989–98	National poverty line 1987–97	
South Africa	11.5	..	0.59
Tanzania	19.9	51.1	0.38
Botswana	33.3	47.0	0.55
Namibia	34.9	..	0.70
Zimbabwe	36.0	25.5	0.63
Mozambique	37.9	..	0.40
Malawi	42.1	54.0	0.60
Lesotho	43.1	49.2	0.56
Zambia	72.6	86.0	0.46
Swaziland	..	66.0	0.61
DRC	..	..	..
Angola	..	..	..

*Source: Pillay (2002); SADC (1998, 2000); UNDP (2000)*

*Note: The symbol '..' indicates that no data is available for that country.*

The high incidence of poverty in the majority of countries in the region has been ascribed to a combination of factors, including the following:

- The adverse impact of structural adjustment measures implemented by some countries;
- Limited economic opportunities and high unemployment rates;
- Limited access to productive resources, such as land and capital, which adversely affects rural women;
- Unequal distribution of economic and political power, rendering the poor voiceless and powerless;
- External factors, such as unfavourable terms of trade for most of the region's exports on the international market and the attendant debt-servicing obligations, leading to limited resources to devote to poverty programmes in a number of countries;
- Population pressures and unsustainable agricultural practices resulting in the cultivation of marginal lands, soil erosion and degradation, water pollution and scarcity, and the depletion of forests and other natural resources;
- Persistent droughts, floods and natural disasters; and
- Morbidity, violence and crime (SADC 2000, 2003).

Other, more micro- or household-level determinants of income poverty include the size of the household; the gender, age, educational attainment and occupation of the household head; access to productive assets; and distance from major services (SADC 2000). The relatively high levels of income and resource inequality in the region have been attributed to factors such as the impact of a colonial legacy (Zimbabwe, Namibia and Malawi), apartheid policies (South Africa), reform programmes (Zambia), as well as the absence of redistributive policies (Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland) (SADC 2000).

*Human Poverty Index* The 2000/01 World Development Report entitled *Attacking Poverty* has assisted in promoting an awareness of the multidimensionality of poverty. In discussing poverty in the SADC region, it is important to look beyond the traditional money-metric approach to poverty and examine deprivation in various other domains. One useful measure in



this regard is the Human Poverty Index (HPI), which was developed by the UNDP in 1997 and attempts to operationalise Sen's capability concept by focusing on groups whose choices and opportunities are heavily constrained in relation to longevity, educational attainment and standard of living (Gordon & Spicker 1999). The HPI consists of five weighted components, namely:

- The percentage of people expected to die before age 40;
- The percentage of adults who are illiterate;
- The percentage of people with access to health services;
- The percentage of people with access to safe water; and
- The percentage of children under five who are malnourished.

Figure 5 and Table 11 provide an indication of the extent of human poverty amongst the SADC member states, both in terms of the aggregate index and its components. The levels range from the highest figure of about 50.7 per cent of the population affected by human poverty in Mozambique to the lowest index of 20.2 per cent in South Africa. Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia are worst affected, since their HPI values exceed that of the region as a whole (31.5 per cent). Nonetheless, a number of other member states have an index only marginally below the regional average. While the regional levels of human poverty decreased from 39.9 to 31.5 per cent in 1995, human poverty is on the increase in some member states, including Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The greatest deprivation is mainly in the area of economic provisioning, particularly low access to *safe drinking water* and *child malnutrition*, with a number of member states falling below the regional average on these two components of human poverty. In respect of access to safe water, the most adversely affected countries are Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Swaziland. As for child malnutrition, nearly all the aforementioned countries (except Lesotho and Swaziland), including Tanzania and Namibia,

Table 11: Human poverty in the SADC region (1998)

Country	Human Poverty Index HPI-1 (1998)		People not expected to survive to age 40 (%) 1998	Adult illiteracy rate (% age 15 and above) 1998	Percentage population without access to:			Underweight children under age 5 (%) 1990-98
	Rank	Value (%)			Safe water 1990-98	Health services 1990-98	Sanitation 1990-98	
South Africa	33	20.2	25.9	15.4	13	..	13	9
Lesotho	40	23.3	26.0	17.6	38	20	62	16
Namibia	44	26.6	33.5	19.2	17	..	38	26
Swaziland	45	27.4	20.2	21.7	50	45	41	10
Botswana	48	28.3	37.1	24.4	10	14	45	17
Tanzania	50	29.2	35.4	26.4	34	7	14	27
Zimbabwe	52	30.0	41.0	12.8	21	29	48	15
Zambia	64	37.9	46.2	23.7	62	25	29	24
Malawi	69	41.9	47.5	41.8	53	20	97	30
Mozambique	79	50.7	41.9	57.7	54	70	66	26
DRC	..	..	31.7	41.1	32	0	..	..
Angola	..	..	37.7	..	69	76	60	42
SADC		31.5	35.3	29.0	35.4	31.3	..	22

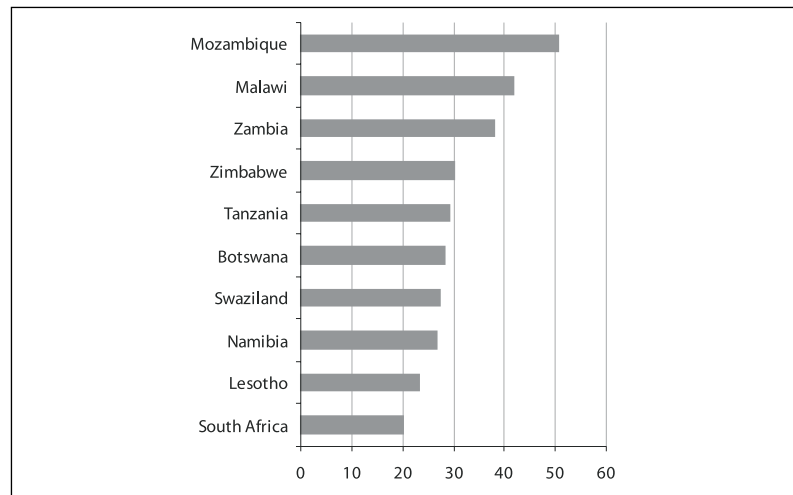
Source: Pillay (2002); UNDP (2000)

Note: The symbol '..' indicates that no data is available for that country.

have more than 26 per cent of children under five years of age affected by malnutrition (SADC 2003). The problem of poverty as reflected in poor access to water and malnutrition has been further aggravated by the drought situation that has hit the region as manifested in the current humanitarian crisis.

Approximately a third of the member states are deprived in terms of knowledge, given that adult illiteracy is higher than the regional average.<sup>5</sup> In eight of the member states, more than a third of the population has a life expectancy of 40 years of age.

Figure 5: Human Poverty Index (%) (1998)



Source: UNDP (2000)

## Challenges to Social Development

**Food security** Food insecurity has been a recurrent phenomenon in southern Africa. It has happened in the past, it is here at present and will recur in the future. The region suffered a chronic food and humanitarian crisis in 1992 as a result of drought conditions affecting 18 million people. As Table 12 illustrates, not only is food insecurity a persistent problem in the region, but it is on aggregate an increasingly pervasive problem too. It is therefore not surprising that the issue of food security has featured prominently on the SADC agenda, as indicated by the adoption of a Regional Policy and Strategy for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1992 and the revised 'Food Security Strategy Framework' in 1997. However, despite this policy framework, southern Africa is again facing a serious food and humanitarian crisis, which started in the 2001/02 season and is affecting over 14 million people. Six SADC countries have borne the brunt of the crisis,