

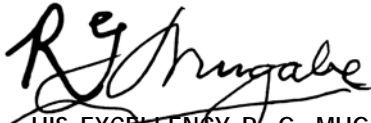
Foreword

The Government of Zimbabwe is proud to be one of the successful implementers of the Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government at the Fifty-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000. This first Zimbabwe Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report seeks to re-affirm our commitment to social development and poverty eradication so that no man, woman or child in our country will be subjected to abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.

This 2004 Zimbabwe MDG Progress Report is our endeavour to adapt the eight MDGs adopted by the Fifty-Fifth Session of the UN General Assembly to the capacities, values and aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe. The Report provides an analytical summary of the development progress made so far, the key challenges, priority areas for intervention by both ourselves and our development partners and how much these will cost in order to achieve the set national targets by 2015. The social development challenges before our Nation require quantum investments in the social sectors in order to reinforce our leading role as a social development model in Africa, especially in the areas of education, health and social safety nets.

As we continue to consolidate our political and economic independence, the poverty reduction objective has now acquired a central position in our development policies. The MDG targets we have set for ourselves as a Nation, will now serve as social development benchmarks for all our development policies and interventions. As such, our national economic and social development plans, will henceforth seek to achieve the poverty reduction goals and targets outlined in this Report. 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.

I would like to challenge and urge the whole Nation - business, labour, farmers, bureaucrats, politicians and the civil society - to mainstream these nationally set MDG targets into all their development activities. Through this unity of purpose, and with the necessary support from our development partners, our people will enjoy better living standards in the new millennium. The Government of Zimbabwe remains committed to supporting a broad-based economic recovery process as one of the key pillars to meeting our nationally set 2015 MDG targets. In meeting this challenging development endeavour, the Government and People of Zimbabwe will continue to welcome international support.


HIS EXCELLENCY R. G. MUGABE
President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

