

# Southern African Development Cooperation and Human Security

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# Outline of Presentation

- Framing Human Security in Southern Africa
- The State of Human Security in the Region
- Reflections on the Human Security Discourse in the region
- Conclusion

# Framing Human Security in Southern Africa

- SADC embraces the UN understanding of human security contained in the HDR (1994) ie. *Freedom from fear and freedom from want*.
- It also upholds AU's expansive definition of human security as
  - the security of the individual with respect to the satisfaction of the basic needs of life ... creation of the social, political, economic, military, environmental and cultural conditions necessary for the survival, livelihood and dignity of the individual, including the protection of fundamental freedoms, the respect of human rights, good governance, access to education, health care and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfil his/her own potential (AU, 2004)

# Human Security in Southern Africa (Cont'd)

- The region's most serious insecurities emanate from non-traditional security sources.
- However, SADC conceives State security and human security as being complementary to each other
- The philosophy posits that it is possible to achieve human security without necessarily frustrating the absolute sovereignty of the state.
- Hence human security should transform rather than replace national security.
- **Implication:** State sovereignty remains a crucial factor in the crafting of a human security agenda of the region, since challenges of human insecurity are directly related to the state.

# State of the Region – 2010 (HSI v 2)

Country	GDP (2010) \$	GDP Rank	HDI Rank	HSI Rank	HSI-HDI
Seychelles	19,536	63	90	97	7
Botswana	13,624	90	162	106	-56
South Africa	10,078	109	177	168	-9
Angola	6,254	135	198	207	9
Namibia	6,181	137	175	134	-41
Swaziland	4,994	145	195	175	-20
Lesotho	1,588	201	202	169	-33
Zambia	1,450	203	212	216	4
Tanzania	1,338	208	205	183	-18
Zimbabwe	1,000	218	203	227	24
Madagascar	972	221	195	211	16
Mozambique	863	223	221	198	-23
Malawi	824	225	213	206	-7
DR Congo	305	232	222	230	8

# Reflections on the Human Security Discourse in Southern Africa

- Operationalization and measurement of the concept - how to measure insecurity (while ‘want’ can be measurable in some cases, ‘fear’ and ‘dignity’ are very elusive’)
- Narratives of (in)security: Who defines security and insecurity of the people in SADC?
- Interrogating power relationships in the human security framework
- Properly locate citizenship responsibilities in the discourse

# Reflections on the Human Security Discourse in Southern Africa (Cont'd)

- Realign policy frameworks and address state-centric security hangovers that impede on a holistic response to development and security challenges.
- (**RISDP and SIPO** – competing rather than complementary)
- Consider the role/place of gender in human security

# Conclusion

- Southern Africa's security and development path clearly reflects some shortfalls in the approaches adopted by governments to address insecurities of their people.
- The state of human security remains disappointing even in areas where there is no violent conflict.
- The onus is on the individual countries to begin to address insecurity with a deep sense of responsibility and commitment.



Thank You