

CHAPTER 7: THE IMPACT OF THE AIDS EPIDEMIC ON DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Introduction

The concepts *development* and *sustainable development* are not easy to define. The words are used every day in a political, cultural and economic way with many different meanings. *Development* and *sustainable development* have different meanings for different groups and different countries, even different continents. *Development* is often used in the context of poor, developing nations in contrast to the rich, developed countries, where the poor, disadvantaged countries should be westernised or modernised (or developed). The United Nations Development Programme uses the Human Development Index to report on development in terms of social, economic, environmental and human rights terms.

The importance of sustainable development in Africa, and particularly sub-Saharan Africa, cannot be over-emphasised. This chapter explores the concepts of *development* and *sustainable development*, its origins and objectives, as well as its global legislative framework. A short history of the major milestones of sustainable development and the international reporting mechanisms is included to demonstrate the globalisation of the development arena. The relationship between developing countries and sustainable development in the light of the HIV/AIDS epidemic will show how many gains in human development have been reversed due to the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS as a development issue will be explored with special emphasis on the AIDS epidemic's impact on population growth and structure, the health sector, subsistence farming, security and social and economic impact.

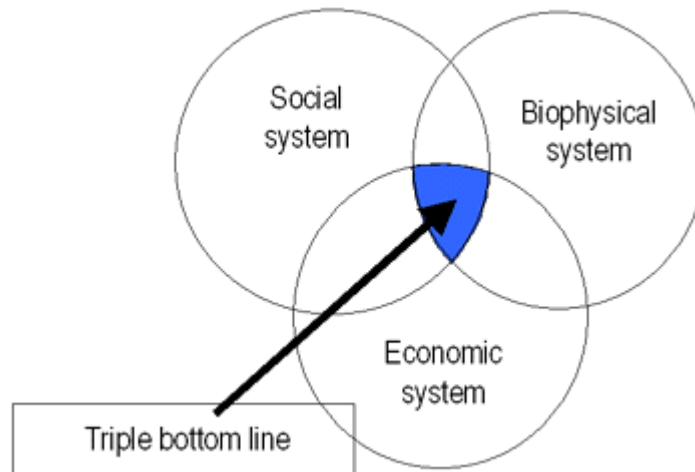
7.2 Development

For the purposes of this thesis, the concept of *development* will be used in terms of developing nations. Development is often used in terms of economic development (wealth), social and environmental development. Development promises a better life with more money, social welfare and environmental sustainability, overall seen as a high standard of living. Governments in the developing countries have goals and projects expressed in their national development plans and usually set development targets such as education, health, housing and transport (Barnett & Whiteside, 2006:290).

7.3 Origins and objectives of sustainable development

It is more and more acknowledged that environmental interests are closely linked to the way development theory and practice are conceived and implemented. For society to continue developing in the way it has done in the past, more attention needed to be paid to the environment. A concept has emerged that has attempted to harmonise the development of mankind with the protection of nature. This is the concept of *sustainable development*. The most acknowledged definition of *sustainable development* is from the Brundtland Report: “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (United Nations, General Assembly, 1987). Sustainable development is about the environment, society and the economy. In order to embark upon environmental problems, it is necessary to consider their relationship to the economic situation and the well-being of society. In fact, the environment, the economy and society taken together, include everything that people need to consider for a healthy, prosperous and stable life (Hanley & Buchdahl, 2000:29). Therefore, the three systems that are basic to development are the economic system, the social system and the biophysical system. Real sustainable development happens when these three systems interact at the ‘triple bottom line’ (Figure 7.1) on an equal basis (Sustainable Settlement in Southern Africa, 2002).

Figure 7.1 *The spheres of sustainable development*



Source: Sustainable Settlement in Southern Africa. 2002. *Principles of sustainable development*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.sustainablesettlement.co.za/issues/susdev.html> [Accessed: 16 May 2007].

To attain a congruent relationship between these three spheres, certain development principles need to be adhered to. These principles have been agreed on through international consensus and have been adapted by individual countries to suit their specific needs.

The economic aspects of sustainable development refer to the management of the limited natural resources to improve the people's quality of life. The environment includes everything that one relies on during one's lifetime such as air, water, metals and soil, in other words all the natural resources. The social aspects of sustainable development are those that impact on people directly, and will either help or hamper the process of improving quality of life. In the context of sustainable development, *society* can be taken to mean the collective of humans all over the world. Since transport and electronic communication have revolutionised the way people in different parts of the world communicate and interact, the term *global society* has taken on a real meaning. In order for society to maintain a reasonable standard of living, basic requirements such as affection and love, recreation and entertainment, education, freedom and security, shelter, culture, democracy, and health are essential.

7.3.1 Sustainable development

Securing economic development, social equity and justice, and environmental protection is the goal of sustainable development. Although these three factors can work in harmony, they are often found to be in conflict with one another. During the latter half of the 20th century, economic development for a better standard of living was instrumental in damaging the environment. People all over the world are consuming more resources than ever, and polluting the earth with waste products. After World War 2 the rich, developed countries came to realise that they cannot live in a healthy society or economy with so much poverty and environmental degradation in the developing countries. Economic growth will remain the basis for human development, but it must change and become less environmentally destructive. The challenge of sustainable development is to put this understanding into practice, changing the people's unsustainable ways into more sustainable ones.

Although the term *sustainable development* is relatively new, sustainable development has been practised by many people during the past ages. With an escalation in population growth during the last hundred years, it became clear that something needed to be done to ensure that the earth sustains the people living on it. Modern sustainable development started in the 1960s with a movement against pesticides. The movement escalated from the 1960s and grew into a global movement (Table 7.1) with most of the world's nations participating in the international sustainable development arena.



Table 7.1: A chronological presentation of the history of sustainable development

Date	Event	What happened
1962	Silent Spring	Rachel Carson assembled research to suggest that agricultural pesticides are building up to catastrophic levels.
1967	Environmental Defence Fund	Formed to pursue legal avenues to environmental damage.
1968	Biosphere	The use of the biosphere was discussed at a conference.
1969	Friends of the Earth	An advocacy group formed to guard against environmental degradation.
	National Environmental Policy Act	US established a legislative framework to protect the environment.
	Partners in Development	Report of the Commission on International development. Considers a new approach to development.
1970	First Earth Day	Held with the aim to teach on the environment. Peaceful demonstrations in the US.
1971	Greenpeace	Greenpeace started in Canada, aiming to stop environmental damage through civil protests and non-violent interference.
1972	UN Conference on Human Environment	Held in Stockholm, focusing on pollution and acid rain.
1975	CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora.
1980	World Conservation Strategy	Mentions sustainable development and its main agents of destruction.
1981	Global Strategy for Health for All	World Health Assembly adopts strategy.
1985	Antarctic ozone hole	Discovered by British and American scientists.
1986	Chernobyl accident	Accident at the nuclear station generates a toxic radioactive explosion.
1986	Our Common Future	The Brundtland Report popularised the term <i>sustainable development</i>
	Development Advisory Committee	OECD DAC develops guidelines for development and environment in official donor assistance.
1992	Earth Summit	Held in Rio de Janeiro. Agreements reached on action plan, Agenda 21
1995	World Trade Organization	WTO established with formal recognition of trade, environment and development linkages.
	World Summit for Social Development	Held in Copenhagen and focused on absolute poverty eradication.
2000	UN Millennium Summit	Largest gathering of world leaders agreed to millennium development goals.
2002	World Summit on Sustainable Development	Held in Johannesburg. In climate of frustration and lack of government progress, summit promotes partnerships approach to sustainability.
2004	HIV/AIDS Pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa	With only 10% of world's population region has 60% of world's HIV infections.
2005	Kyoto Protocol	Protocol comes into effect to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: Adapted from International Institute for Sustainable Development. 2006. *The sustainable development timeline*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.iisd.org/briefcase/timeline2006.asp> [Accessed: 15 May 2007].

The aim of sustainable development is to balance economic, environmental and social needs, allowing prosperity for now and future generations. Sustainable development consists of a long-term, integrated approach to developing and achieving a healthy community by jointly dealing with economic, environmental, and social issues, while avoiding the overconsumption of key natural resources (Hanley & Buchdahl, 2000:31).

Sustainable development emphasises the need for:

- Concern for equity and fairness - ensuring the rights of the poor and of future generations;
- Long-term view - applying the precautionary principle; and
- Systems thinking - understanding the interconnections between the environment, economy and society (International Institute for Sustainable Development 2005b).

It is well known that the earth is a closed system with finite resources. Natural resources are limited and should not be consumed faster than they can be renewed. The Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy adopted a set of principles for sustainable development of which integration of environmental and economic decisions, shared responsibility, prevention, conservation waste, and minimisation were the most important (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2005a).

7.3.2 International Legislative framework for sustainable development

In June 1992, the nations of the world came together in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to try and reach an agreement on the best way to stop and reverse environmental degradation. Sustainable development was the main idea of the conference and issues such as the link between the environment and development and the practical implementation of development were high on the agenda (Fox & Van Rooyen, 2004:25). The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(UNCED), called the Earth Summit, was the product of decades of research into and discussion of environmental issues. This discussion began at Stockholm in 1972 at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, and was the first conference to draw worldwide attention to the earth's environmental problems. However, it was the World Commission on Environment and Development which, for the first time in 1987, developed the concept of sustainable development with the publication of the Brundtland Report. The Brundtland Report was produced by an international group of politicians, civil servants and experts on environment and development to provide a key statement on *sustainable development*, defining it as: *Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs* (Hanley & Buchdahl, 2000:32).

Five years after the Brundtland Report, the UN General Assembly convened the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The objectives of the conference were to build upon the goals and achievements of the Brundtland Report to solve urgent global environmental problems and to agree on major treaties on biodiversity, climate change and forest management. For the first time in world history, a major environmental conference adopted a nature-centred approach towards environmental problems. The biggest arguments at the Earth Summit concerned finance, consumption rates and population growth. The developed countries called for environmental sustainability, but the developing nations demanded a chance to allow their economies to catch up with the developed world.

The Earth Summit produced a number of outcomes, including the following (Fox & Van Rooyen, 2004:24):

- ❑ The Convention on Biological Diversity;
- ❑ The Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- ❑ Principles of Forest Management;
- ❑ The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; and
- ❑ Agenda 21.

Together these outcomes covered every aspect of sustainable development. Legislation was passed and many agreements made, committing nations, including

most developing nations, to become more sustainable. The Conventions, Principles and Declarations of the Earth Summit provide guidelines to deal with the development problems of poverty, hunger, resource consumption and the deterioration of ecosystems. Agenda 21 provides a framework for sustainable development, detailing an action plan and setting targets for actions that combine economic development and environmental protection.

Agenda 21:

- is the blueprint for sustainability in the 21st century;
- provides options for combating the deterioration of land, air and water, while conserving habitats and their diversity;
- deals with poverty, overconsumption, health and education;
- promotes roles for all. Everyone – governments, business, trade unions, scientists, teachers, indigenous people and youth – have roles to play in achieving sustainable development and should be involved in the decision-making processes; and
- encourages the reduction of environmentally and socially detrimental processes, but within a framework which allows economic success.

Presently, a nation's wealth is gauged by its financial standing, and the more money the better. Agenda 21 promotes the attitude that a nation's wealth should also account for the full value of its natural resources. Costs of environmental degradation should also be considered. In addition, to reduce the risk of damage, environmental assessments should be carried out and where degradation does occur, those responsible should bear the costs. Agenda 21 highlights the need to eradicate poverty. One of the major problems facing poorer nations is their lack of resources and ability to live sustainably. Developed nations have taken on the responsibilities of assisting poorer nations to reduce their environmental impacts and achieve sustainable development.

7.3.3 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg

The WSSD focused on turning the plans of Agenda 21 into action. The biggest success was getting the world to turn the UN Millennium Declaration into a concrete set of programmes and mobilise funds for these programmes. The WSSD focused on the most marginalised sectors of society, such as women, youth, indigenous people and people with disabilities.

The implementation plan includes programmes to deliver water, energy, healthcare, agricultural development, a better environment for the world's poor, and targets for the reduction of poverty and protection of the environment. New targets set at the summit are expected to have a massive impact on the developing world.

The WSSD concentrated on the following key areas:

- ❑ economic growth and equity;
- ❑ conserving natural resources and the environment; and
- ❑ social development.

7.3.4 The 2005 World Summit

The 2005 World Summit held in New York on 14-16 September was one of the most comprehensive monitoring tools for development yet. The reports that fed into the preparation of the summit were compiled by multilateral, bilateral, non-governmental organisations and governments. The four principles that were discussed were: freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom to live in dignity and strengthen the United Nations (United Nations General Assembly, 2005). The World Summit Outcome document refers to the commitment and promises made during the Gleneagles Summit regarding the Millennium Development Goals in supporting initiatives on health and education (Whiteside, 2006:333). One of the most important steps taken for development was the adoption of a national development strategy by 2006 for each developing country with extreme poverty.

7.3.5 United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report

According to the Global Monitoring Report (2005), there has been some success with achieving the Millennium Development Goals, but it also stresses that bold actions are urgently needed if the development agenda that was envisaged is to be realised (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development & the World Bank, 2005:xvii). The report recommends a five-point agenda for building momentum towards progress:

- Secure efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals in country-led development strategies;
- Improve the environment for stronger, private sector-led economic growth;
- Scale up human development services;
- Dismantle barriers to trade; and
- Substantially increase the level and effectiveness of aid.

The Millennium Development Goals Report (United Nations 2005a) is comprehensive and shows the gains that have been made, but also points out the lagging behind of many regions, especially sub-Saharan Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, which already had the world's highest poverty rate, the situation deteriorated further instead of getting better (Table 7.2). The poorest region has fallen far behind in the goal to halve the proportion of people living on less than US \$1 per day, in fact the very poor are getting poorer (United Nations, 2005a:7). Conflict, disease and disasters exacerbate poverty and hunger in the region further.

Table 7.2: Measurement of the Millennium Development Goals in sub-Saharan Africa in 2005

Goal		Target	2005 Report for sub-Saharan Africa
Goal 1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	The number of people rose from 227 million in 1990 to 271 million in 1996 to 131 million in 2001
		Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Number of hungry people in the region has grown with tens of millions from 1990 to present
Goal 2	Achieve universal primary education	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	The region has made some progress, but still have one-third of its children out of school
Goal 3	Promote gender equality and empower women	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	There is still an alarming gender gap in primary education, with the effects of HIV/AIDS in the region exacerbating the situation
Goal 4	Reduce child mortality	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Sharp increases in infant and child mortality rates
Goal 5	Improve maternal health	Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	The region has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world
Goal 6	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	The region has the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world, 25.8 million out of 38.6 million
		Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis increasing because of high HIV-positive rates <input type="checkbox"/> TB multidrug resistance increases <input type="checkbox"/> Drug resistance created a market for mosquito nets
Goal 7	Ensure environmental sustainability	Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	There have been some gains, but the region still lags behind
Goal 8	Develop a global partnership for development	Upliftment of poorest countries	Aid was increased, but the region still needs external financing to attain its development goals

Source: United Nations. 2005a. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005*. New York: United Nations Department of Public Information.

Education is not only a vehicle that gives people more choices in life, it is also a way for women to be empowered and uplifted. Children out of school are mostly from poor households, where the mothers often have no formal education. In a region such as sub-Saharan Africa, where poverty and disease rates, especially HIV prevalence, are high, girl children are taken out of school to help with the caring of sick parents or younger siblings. There is also a serious concern about the gender gap in primary and secondary school enrolment in the region. Overall, women have the smaller share of paying jobs than men, they are being paid less and have more low-status jobs.

Sub-Saharan Africa has almost lost all the gains it made in the 1980s on infant and child mortality due to the out-of-control HIV/AIDS epidemic. Some countries in the region are back to the rates they recorded in the 1950s and 1960s. The region will require drastic action to reduce these rates. The risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth is 1 in 3 800 in the developed world and 1 in 16 in sub-Saharan Africa. HIV/AIDS, poverty, lack of education, infectious diseases and the status of women in the region are all contributing factors to this tragic situation. More than a quarter of the adult population in the region are HIV-positive. The consequences of the epidemic are many with the cost to human life the worst and the saddest. Other diseases like tuberculosis and malaria are also increasing because of the AIDS epidemic.

It is evident from the report that much more needed to be done in the development arena to support sub-Saharan Africa to break free from poverty and disease. Foreign aid, although very necessary, was not the only ingredient that was needed for sustainable development for the region. A new way of doing things, different ways where the developed and developing worlds are both responsible and accountable needed to be found. The Rome Declaration and later the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness signalled a dramatic change in the official development assistance field.

7.4 The relationship between developing countries and sustainable development

The budgetary allocations that a government makes to respond to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially to HIV/AIDS are measurements of its commitment to poverty alleviation and dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. These budgetary allocations have a direct effect on a state's ability to effectively plan, coordinate and implement plans. Increasing donor aid to developing countries has put the focus on governments' ability to absorb and spend the additional funding in a sustainable way.

The government, and specifically in a developing country, is the major producer,

employer, and provider of social and welfare services. The AIDS pandemic will probably affect governments of poor countries' ability to deliver services and goods, as well as its efficiency. Governments of countries that have a significant HIV prevalence face challenges such as greater calls on their resources, and a disease that reduces its financial and personnel capacity. Whether a government win or lose the battle against HIV/AIDS is decided mainly within the domain of politics and the successes of AIDS interventions are determined by political will and action. The Millennium Declaration of 2000 led to the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and in 2004, the adoption of Resolution 50/225 on Public Administration and Development in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The resolution on public administration emphasised the critical role of partnership of the public sector with the private sector and civil society as agent for sustainable development and growth. The Committee of Experts on Public Administration made it clear that without strong and effective institutional structures and partnerships the MDGs would probably not be achieved. The committee also discussed issues such as good governance, capacity building, transparency and accountability at institutional level. The critical role that public administration plays in the achievement of the MDGs and all the features surrounding it, such as donor funding, the international fiscal environment, poverty, growth and sustainable development, cannot be underestimated. While partnerships for resource mobilisation at international level are important and should continue, national governments should apply themselves to look at options that would strengthen their own resources at domestic level.

The 2005 report on the millennium development goals clearly shows that most of the development goals of sub-Saharan Africa will not be met because of the negative influence of the AIDS epidemic in the region. For 25 years, since AIDS and the modes of transmission of HIV became known, governments in the developing countries have struggled to come to grips with the epidemic. The UNAIDS report of 2006 on the AIDS epidemic shows a steady increase in the epidemic, with the largest increase in sub-Saharan Africa.

7.5 HIV/AIDS as a development issue

Many African governments and international agencies have tried to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic with limited results. According to the UNDP, there are three main reasons for this limited success. Firstly, many of the prevention initiatives ignored the social and economic circumstances of individuals and groups that are more vulnerable to HIV infection than others (Van Donk, 2005:5). The second reason is that successful interventions were not sufficiently studied and replicated elsewhere. Lastly, most of the countries' responses were too little and not sufficiently comprehensive. For a country to launch a comprehensive and on-scale response to the epidemic, there is a need for a better understanding of the relationship between HIV/AIDS and development and the determinants of the spread of the epidemic. There is also a need to create appropriate frameworks, tools and methods for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into development programmes (Van Donk, 2005:5).

7.5.1 The reason why sub-Saharan Africa is badly affected

Initially governments were slow to respond to the AIDS epidemic, and when they started to respond it was not comprehensive enough or on scale. The AIDS epidemic is exacerbated by poverty, illiteracy, weak educational and public health systems, the low status of women and the prevalence of other serious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis in the region (Ainsworth & Over, 1997). Africa's income levels have fallen behind the rest of the world and the impact of the AIDS epidemic, if not arrested, will push the people of Africa further into marginalisation and poverty (Barnett & Whiteside, 2006:139). Barnett and Whiteside call the situation in Africa 'an abnormal normality' where for the past 100 years the continent has been subjected to colonialism, then freedom and becoming nations. The legacy of the last 50 years of the continent's history of disorder, inequality, exploitation and poverty served as a fertile foundation in which the AIDS epidemic could grow and thrive (Barnett & Whiteside, 2006:143).

7.5.2 AIDS as a development crisis

Very early in the history of the epidemic it became clear that this is more than just a health issue. The adverse effects that the AIDS epidemic had on development institutions and their programmes in Africa forced the health and non-health development agencies alike to approach the problem from a different angle. The epidemic's language was adopted to suit the new developments and terminologies such as multisectoral, cross-sectoral, integrated approach, multifaceted, mainstreaming and cross-cutting were used to describe the new approach. The fact that the AIDS epidemic's impact is widespread and severe on the individual, communities, the workplace, governments globally elevated the epidemic to a development crisis. The epidemic has a direct impact on six of the eight Millennium Development Goals and prevention and mitigation efforts need to be intensified in the region if the targets are to be reached.

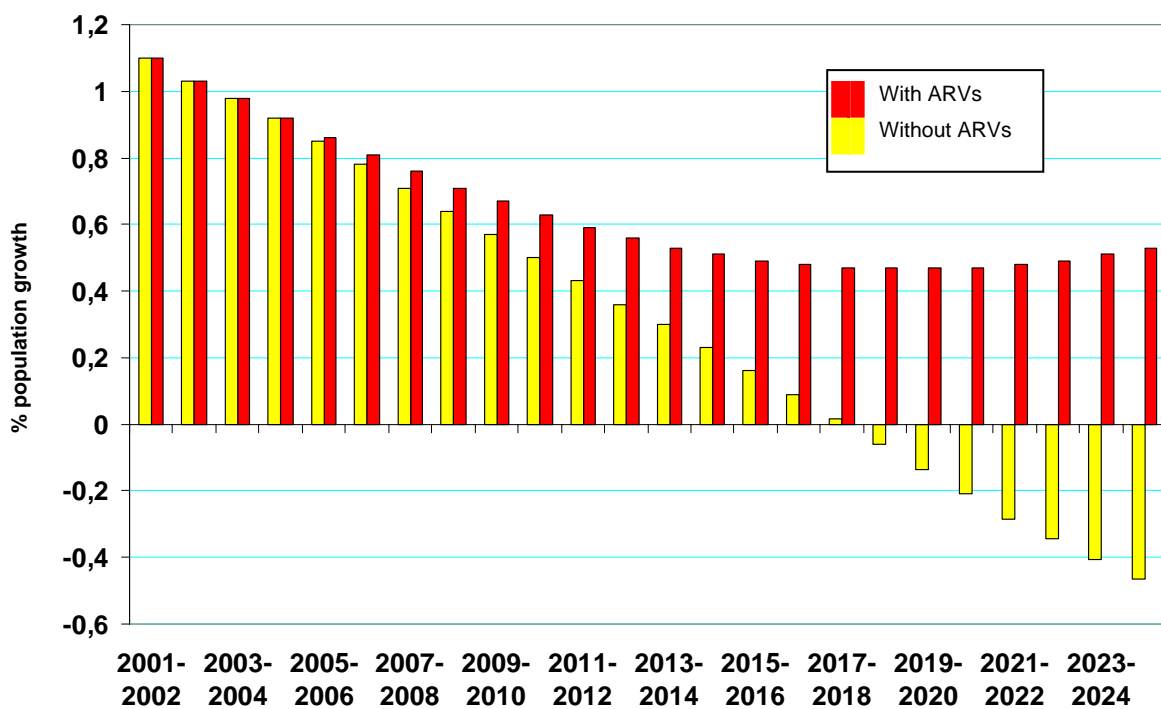
7.5.3 Changes to population structure

One of the most important human development accomplishments since the middle of the last century was to improve average life expectancy from 39 in 1950 to 55 years in 1990 (Ainsworth & Over, 1997). Most of the worst-hit sub-Saharan African countries have reversed this advance and are back to the 1950s figures. Children that are born today in the region will have a life expectancy of more than 20 years less than what it would have been in the absence of the AIDS epidemic (Ainsworth & Over, 1997). The deaths of many social and economically active young people also have an effect on the population structure, where the normal pyramid population structure becomes a chimney shape.

A population growth rate of between 1,1% and 2,3% per year in the absence of AIDS may change to a negative growth rate of between 0,1% to 0,3% per year (Barnett & Whiteside, 2006:194) for the region. This may change with the successful implementation of antiretroviral treatment programmes. A projection of population growth and universal antiretroviral (ARV) treatment for South Africa (Figure 7.2) shows that without ARV treatment, the population growth will go into negative growth.

The graph in Figure 7.2 is drawn on the assumption that all people who are eligible to receive ARV treatment do receive it and that they will continue treatment. Unfortunately, in reality it does not work this way as many people do not access treatment due to various reasons, and many who do enter into treatment programmes stop treatment with possible consequences of illness and death. Most analysts are of the opinion that the AIDS epidemic will not create a negative population growth, but in severe epidemics, a reduced growth (Kelly, Parker & Gelb 2002:77).

Figure 7.2: Population growth and antiretroviral treatment in South Africa



Source: Schusler, M. 2006. South African economy: Stronger than you think. Presentation to the Chief Executive Officers of Swedish companies in South Africa. Johannesburg. May 2006.

7.5.4 Social and economic impacts

It has been acknowledged that the most devastating impact of the AIDS epidemic is at individual and household level. The social impact on the household entails an increase in food insecurity, less children going to school, more children having to work harder, changes in the household structure and composition (Kelly *et al.*, 2002:59), increased burden of care for the ill and orphans and social isolation mostly

due to stigma and discrimination. People in rural areas, the elderly, women and children are the most affected in terms of loss of possessions, not getting the right nutrition and decrease in education. The economic consequences of AIDS for the household may include the loss of possessions, loss of income and productivity, increased expenses for healthcare and poverty. The issue of orphans has been discussed in the previous chapter and here the development impact will be explored. Orphans put a strain not only on the immediate family, but on the community, the society and the country. Orphaned children due to 'normal' deaths are assimilated by society, but with the unnatural high number of deaths of both parents, orphan care has become a development crisis. The large number of orphans due to HIV/AIDS has led to child-headed households, therefore children have been cared for by either the elderly or the very young (Kelly *et al.*, 2002:59). This in turn increases poverty, food insecurity and low school enrolment which may lead to street children, poor healthcare, and many other social problems.

Many studies have been done to determine the economic impact of the AIDS epidemic. In the early years of the epidemic alarmists have predicted the collapse of economies across sub-Saharan Africa. This did not happen and it is generally accepted that not enough research has been done on such a complex issue. The economic impact of the AIDS epidemic is more visible at personal and household level and also certain sectors, such as health, education and agriculture.

7.5.5 Health sector impact

Although the initial thrust of the AIDS epidemic's response was focused on prevention, that has changed dramatically over the past five years. Although the impact of HIV/AIDS is not purely a health issue, when people contract HIV and become ill they need medical attention. The health sector is involved in the testing for HIV and tuberculosis (TB); condom procurement, quality control and distribution; treatment of opportunistic infections; programmes to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV; laboratory tests for CD4 counts and viral counts; procurement of medicines; assessment, provision and monitoring of antiretroviral treatment to HIV-positive people; medical and hospital care for ill people; and death certificates.

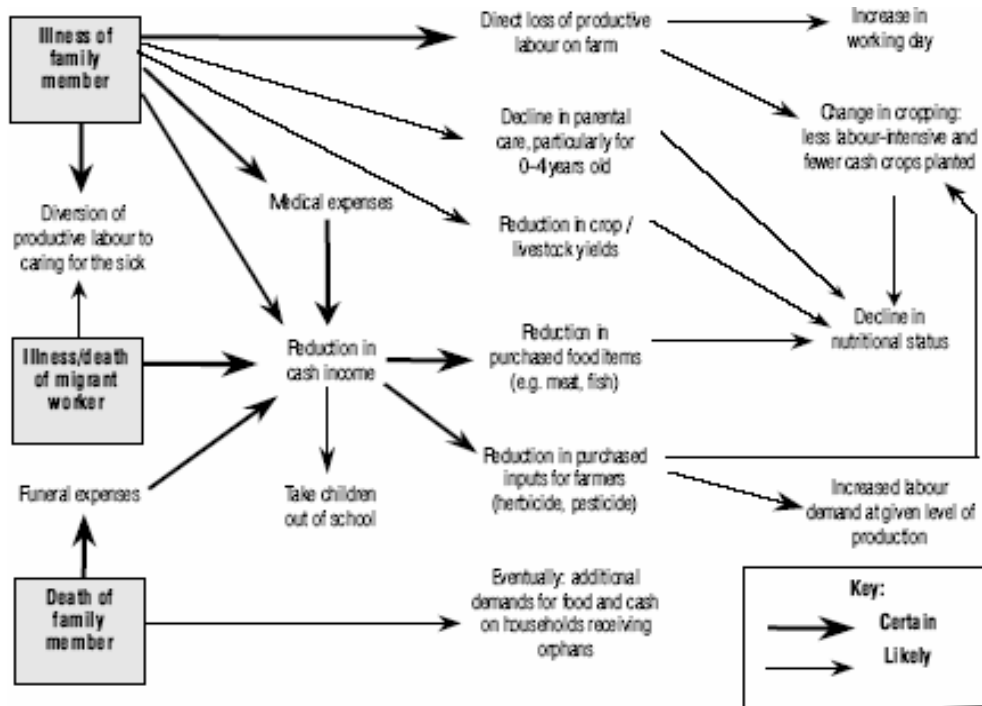
The AIDS epidemic has placed an additional burden on the already strained healthcare systems in the region. A shift in the patterns of illness and disease places a heavy burden on healthcare workers and healthcare facilities to cope with the additional workload due to the twin epidemics of HIV and TB. The increase of expensive medicines, laboratory equipment and tests resulted in the escalation of public sector health costs. The increase in mortality among HIV-negative patients in sub-Saharan Africa was ascribed to the overcrowding because of AIDS patients and the declining of healthcare standards (Colvin, 2005:344). The increase of health costs has implications for the society as a whole and the failing or declining health care will have direct bearing on the targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

Healthcare as a sector is labour-intensive and the AIDS epidemic reduces the labour force's effectiveness in several ways. Southern Africa has a dire shortage of trained professional healthcare workers and those who are left are faced with an increased workload. Caring for people who are HIV-infected carry the added risk of infection and together with the emotional burden of working with HIV-infected people, many professionals face emotional burnout (Drysdale, 1999). In countries with high levels of HIV prevalence, absenteeism and death among healthcare workers were also high. The added burden of the parallel epidemic of TB also exacerbates healthcare workers' risk of infection.

7.5.6 Agriculture in crisis

Subsistence agriculture is important to many people in sub-Saharan Africa. With people succumbing to AIDS they may not be able to produce, harvest or sell crops at markets. This has a direct influence on the household's economic status. Factors such as poverty, food security and sustainable livelihoods and empowerment of rural women have direct implications for rural development (Barnett, 2000).

Figure 7.3: The impact of HIV/AIDS on the household domestic-farm labour interface in subsistence communities.



Source: Barnett, T. 2000. *AIDS Briefs for sectoral planners and managers. Subsistence agriculture sector.* Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division. Durban: University of KwaZulu-Natal.

As illustrated in Figure 7.3, the loss of a parent or both parents in a household in subsistence farming have far-reaching impacts for the children, family and community. By exacerbating poverty, it makes populations more vulnerable to the spread of HIV and it turns into a vicious circle.

7.5.7 AIDS and security

In countries where armed conflict occurs people often face displacement, human rights abuses and violence. Many people are left powerless and are plunged into misery and poverty. It is widely accepted that conditions of war, civil unrest and armed conflict provide fertile ground for the spread of HIV (Kelly *et al.*, 2002:24). Infrastructure may be destroyed and services interrupted. Further factors that can contribute to the spread of HIV include creation of refugees, disruption of family life,

breakdown of services, contact between the armed forces and women and children, and sexual exploitation and violence. Soldiers are being considered a high-risk group for HIV infection because of their age, gender, risk-taking behaviour and separation from their families for long periods of time.

7.6 Conclusion

Some of the really positive changes in development came at the turn of the millennium with several meetings which resulted in a global commitment to change approaches to development interventions. Of these, the most important were the Millennium Summit where the Millennium Development Goals were set, the Monterrey Consensus, the Rome Declaration and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. These commitments were made in order to assist with the operationalisation of official development assistance to the developing world to help poor countries to realise the MDGs and improve the lives of its people.

The worrying aspect of all these commitments is that the international development community has not taken AIDS on board. There is little appreciation and understanding what HIV/AIDS mean for the set development targets. Only when the development targets are being revisited with the long-wave impact HIV/AIDS in mind, will the developing world begin to make inroads in the Millennium Development Goals. In Africa, and specifically sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS embodies the most serious challenge to sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals at present.

In the next chapter, the changing face of official development assistance (ODA) will be discussed. The impact of the ever-changing modalities of ODA over the past 50 years and the impact thereof on governments and development in sub-Saharan Africa will be investigated. A history of the drivers of official development assistance and the origins of the new aid architecture will be discussed. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness will be discussed in view of the empirical research that was done.