



SOUTHERN  
AFRICA  
TRUST

Reflections on POVERTY &  
INEQUALITY post COVID

Presented by AD Kanengoni  
(SAT CEO)

# 1. WHO WE ARE



- \_ An independent African non-profit and regrating organization
- Established in 2005, we work primarily with civil society formations to broker partnerships that shift power towards pro-poor policies, programs, and practices.
- \_ We partner with others in policy processes that support community, national and regional networks to strengthen and amplify the voice and agency of marginalized people across the region.
- \_ We promote regional integration and champion a regional agenda for southern Africa.

## OUR VISION

An integrated southern Africa where all people live empowered and fulfilled lives.

## OUR MISSION

To amplify the voice and agency of impoverished and excluded people in southern Africa by supporting them to access their full rights.

## OUR MANDATE

To pursue change, working with those who live in poverty resulting from inequalities and exclusion. We partner with others to amplify voices and strengthen agency of the marginalised and disadvantaged.



## 2. OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

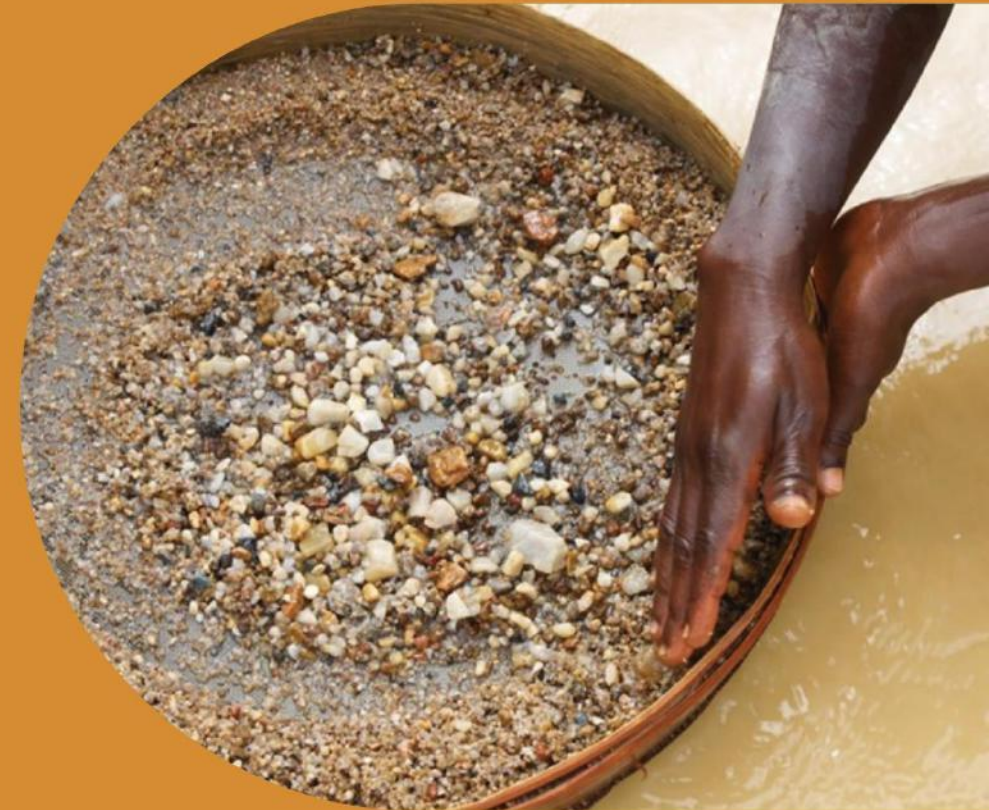
---

- We are uniquely positioned as an African grant-maker that also implements direct interventions
- We re-grant as well as manage strategic grants (fiscal sponsor) to and for a wide range of formations in Africa.
- We lead advocacy interventions and also partner to collaborate with others to champion systems and structural change through innovative approaches.
- We collaborate with a diverse range of partners – from nascent community-based organisations and foundations to apex bodies
- We produce strategic knowledge resources on key thematic areas that relate to the contemporary challenges in the intersection between poverty and inequalities
- We promote African philanthropy initiatives and support the sustainability of those working to end poverty and inequality.
- We have robust, long-standing alliances and partnerships with diverse interest groups and role-players across civil society, academia, governments, intergovernmental institutions, the private sector and businesses across the SADC region.

## 3. OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

We firmly believe that:

1. solutions to inequality and the resultant poverty need to be led by those most affected because they are the experts of their own lived experiences of impoverishment and exclusion.
2. every intervention we make and all support we give others strengthen a cycle of empowerment, where people's agency and voice positively influences the actions and policies of decision-makers, which in turn, continues to strengthen the voices of those who are affected by poverty and inequality at community, national, regional, continental and global levels to demand change and accountability





## 4. OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

- **Gender Justice**
- **Climate Justice & Natural Resources Management**
- **Economic Recovery and Social Protection**
- **Youth Engagement**



## 5. OUR WORK APPROACHES



Centering gender justice and youth engagement, using feminist lenses

We prioritize **Two strategic pathways**

1. **Supporting the field** towards sustained efforts to influence policies, practices and realities in the region
2. **Challenging systems, institutions and practices** that cause and perpetuate poverty and inequality

## 6. OUR TOOLS

We undertake our mission **directly** and **indirectly**, using a diverse set of tools including:

- Grant-Making
- Partnership-brokering
- Capacity-enhancement
- Research, knowledge generation and evidence based advocacy
- Convening platforms and fostering partnerships and collaborations
- Facilitating policy dialogues
- Learning as a core strategic and political practice





# Current Context: Major Trends

- Global and regional moments and contemporary multiple challenges
- Clawing back on democracy and rights
- Resurgence of conflicts in parts of the region
- Decline in economic opportunities across the region
- Scramble for critical minerals
- Unemployment crisis, especially among the youth
- Non-responsive states and other duty bearers

# Commentary: Conceptualisation of poverty and inequality

- Understanding of poverty and Inequality in SA resonates with patterns in the Southern Africa region
- Multidimensional conceptualisation of poverty is important
- Formality and the mask of GDP as a measure of poverty and inequality
- Income wealth: The Informalized economic lives of women in SA and the region (not necessarily captured in GDP calculations)

**SAT:** the 'informality' of women's economic lives and experiences is a critical concern, given the patterns and realities of economies in the region



**Commentary:**  
The Targeted  
Constituencies  
are critical

1.Youth inequality

2.Gender Inequality

- The Southern Africa Trust centres these 2 key constituencies in all our efforts to end poverty and inequality in the region

# Commentary: Youth Inequality

**1. Youth inequality: Out of school, out of work, out of opportunities...  
closed out of political processes and out of hope...!!**

- Politics of space and participation And the “Youth Dividend” narrative
- Youth Unemployment crisis

**SAT:** How to truly realize the ‘dividend’ from the ‘Youth dividend’: from rhetoric to practice  
**Shifting our response strategies from ‘youth empowerment’ to ‘youth engagement’**



# Commentary: Gender Inequality

**Gender inequality:** the most entrenched form of inequality in the region

- all dimensions of poverty covered in the research change in form, scale, scope and size on account of gendered lenses
- **SAT: A case for prioritising interventions on CARE WORK and Social Protection**
  - Distinguishing between ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ care work (both of which are anchored by women and girls on the continent and elsewhere)
  - Need for a more expansive definition of CARE WORK in our region and the continent; **And in our response strategies**

# Commentary: Overall Observations

- 1. “Entrenched inequalities require targeted interventions”

**YES!!** The targeted interventions necessarily have to be **systemic** and **structural...**

- 2. “Women and Youth are key populations to target the interventions” **YES, YES, and YES!** And **Feminist** and **intersectional lenses** are imperative in this targeting...

- 3. “Quality health coverage and education from universal access to early learning programs are foundational equality tools to lever” **YES**, and these account for most of the ‘formalized’ care work in the region and elsewhere

# Commentary: Opportunities for Effective Response Strategies

1. Youthful populations vs aging populations elsewhere
2. Potential of the region to play a transformative role on the continent and globally
3. Current momentum and demands by the key constituencies (ie women and youth) for participation and engagement
4. Developments in technologies and opportunities for organising, mobilizing and new ways of advocating for social justice
5. Shifts in the funding landscape: possibilities for new ways of partnering
6. **The Strategic role of CSOs** for amplifying demands for Accountability and transparency as crises continue to unfold unabated





SOUTHERN  
AFRICA  
TRUST



45 Kyalami Business Park  
Kyalami, 1684, South Africa  
Postnet Suite 379, Private Bag X121



[www.southernafricatrust.org](http://www.southernafricatrust.org)



+27 11 318 1012



[info@southernafricatrust.org](mailto:info@southernafricatrust.org)