

POVERTY ERADICATION IN ZIMBABWE

Meeting the millennium development goals (MDGs)
through home-grown business approaches

In this essential book, Dr. Jessica Hamadziripi proposes a framework for poverty eradication in one of the world's poor nations : Zimbabwe. She demonstrates the need of development for home-sourced finance, parallel to a « framework for Indigenization and Empowerment » capable of generating incomes at personal and household level sufficient to meet the daily necessities of life.

Dr. Hamadziripi stresses that these home-grown approaches might fail if citizens are not empowered at the local level.

Furthermore, from her standpoint as a Zimbabwean, she also points out some critical voids in the Millennium Development Goals. For example, agriculture is not specifically mentioned in the MDG, even though the majority of Africa's - and Zimbabwe's - poor families are, actually, rural farmers. With their focus on primary education, enrollment and completion, the Millennium Development Goals have left aside agriculture and finance, which have strategic implications on economic growth.

Dr. Hamadziripi's research suggests that a 'one size fits all model' will not sufficiently respond to the profile of Zimbabwe; however, her study does find a set of similar constraints in meeting MDGI, such as the lack of health care absorptive capacity, poor access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, a weak educational system, human resource limitations, and others. The measures she suggests include political, organizational, and functional improvements, and the need to nurture local organizations.

Jessica Hamadziripi spent her formative years in a rural area of Zimbabwe and she continues to have strong contact with members of her family that reside in the rural regions of her country. She has worked with disadvantaged people as a volunteer to assist the poor in Zimbabwe, Kinshasa in DRC and Maputo in Mozambique. The experiences she acquired not only gave her insight as to why people continue to live in poverty, but also gave her the motivation to search for solutions to remove the worst forms of this scourge from society.

Her strong desire to see people live with dignity persuaded her to research on how best to eradicate poverty. Although there are many actors involved in eradicating poverty, her research points to the primary and leading role of each sovereign state in this effort.

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*The future lies in strategically empowering nations
to take charge of their own development,
including human development*