

**THE PROGRESSIVE REALISATION OF  
CONSTITUTIONALLY MANDATED BASIC  
SERVICE AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

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# INTRODUCTION

- The concept of progressive realisation is embodied in the Constitution, specifically in the Bill of Rights
- Equitable redress of the historical deprivation and access to basic services by the majority of the population
- It seeks to make government responsible and accountable for meeting the basic needs of its citizens
- Is an important pillar in the fight to eradicate poverty
- It recognises that government faces resource limitations
- Provides citizens with recourse through the courts should government fail to meet its obligations



# KEY ELEMENTS OF PROGRESSIVE REALISATION

- Government to move as expeditiously and effectively as possible toward the goal of progressive realisation
- Take steps that are deliberate, concrete, and targeted as clearly as possible towards the full realisation of rights,
- Refrain from taking regressive steps unless fully justified by a reference to the totality of the rights in the Constitution
- Use all appropriate means attain full realisation, including but not limited to: judicial, financial, administrative, educational and social measures



# KEY ELEMENTS OF PROGRESSIVE REALISATION

- Guarantee that steps can produce the desired result of moving toward progressive realisation
- Report progress
- Prioritise disadvantaged persons who would not otherwise have access to basic resources, opportunities and services
- Fully use all available resources



# SERVICES TO WHICH PROGRESSIVE REALISATION APPLIES

Sections 26(2) and 27(2) of the Constitution

- Housing
- Healthcare
- Food
- Water
- Social security
- Higher education to be made  
“progressively available and accessible”



# THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF POVERTY

- It is a multi-faceted phenomenon and manifests itself in a variety of ways, (e.g. income poverty, social exclusion)
- There is an important link between poverty and lack of access to basic services such as education, health, housing, water and sanitation, and safety and security
- A variety of indexes have been developed to capture social, economic and political well-being of societies hone in various aspects that impact on poverty and its multi-faceted nature



# PROGRESSIVE REALISATION AND POVERTY ERADICATION: KEY ISSUES

- Creation of an enabling policy, regulatory and legal environment
- Poverty targeting
- Setting of norms and standards for the provision of basic services at an adequate level
- Effective and efficient implementation of policies and programs
- Monitoring and evaluation of performance



# CREATION OF AN ENABLING POLICY, REGULATORY AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

- White Paper on Reconstruction and Development (1996)
- Growth Employment and Redistribution Policy
- Sectoral policies, and programs pertaining to all services relating to progressive realisation

**Observation: an enabling policy and regulatory environment has largely been created over the past ten years**



# TARGETING

- Means test (income, living conditions, asset ownership): pensions, child grants, housing subsidies, free basic services
- Categorical targeting: free primary health care services for children under six, pre and post natal care for women, setting targets for delivery of services to women and persons with disabilities
- Community based-targeting: aspects of the disability grant
- Geographic targeting: school financing proposals which target schools in low income areas
- Self-selection: community based public works programs, working for water etc.

# TARGETING

## Observations:

- Recognition within government for the need to target programs to reach the poorest segments of society
- Need to improve policy outcome indicators and they should be consistent over time in order to assess the effectiveness of the targeting
- Time frames for the impact of service delivery on the designated policy outcomes need to be set
- Assessment of the benefit incidence of government programs, including the quality of the level of the service needs to be done
- Improved data collection that is aligned to policy targets and outcomes is required



# EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION

- Institutional capacity
- Human resources
- Financial resources
- Feed-back mechanisms need to be encouraged, monitored and utilised effectively by government and citizens
  - Voice (e.g. imbizo, IDP processes)
  - Exit (migration)
  - Legal recourse



# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Definition of outputs and outcomes
- Indicators for the measurement of systemic performance, outcomes analysis and fiscal efficiency
- Data collection
- Analysis and evaluation
- Regular reporting



# KEY ELEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE IGFR SYSTEM

- Allocation of powers and functions
- Clear definition of the basket of goods that meet CMBS to be progressively realised by each sphere of government, particularly provincial and local spheres
- Effective match between powers and functions and the IGFR grants system and own revenue raising powers
- An IGFR system that enhances accountability and greater efficiency in the allocation and utilisation of resources



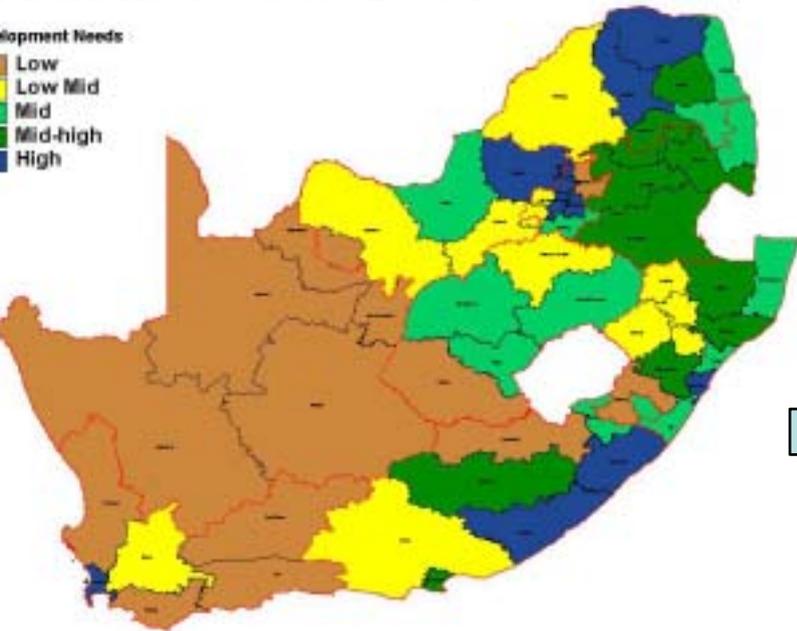
# KEY ELEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE IGFR SYSTEM

- A solid IGFR foundation has been established, however many challenges remain
  - Improved means of assessing failures arising from asymmetrical capacity to deliver and implementing the necessary interventions
  - Better resources allocation e.g. through a costed norms type of approach
  - Developing an effective system of monitoring and evaluating performance within the system both vertically and horizontally

96 Distribution of Low income earners

Development Needs

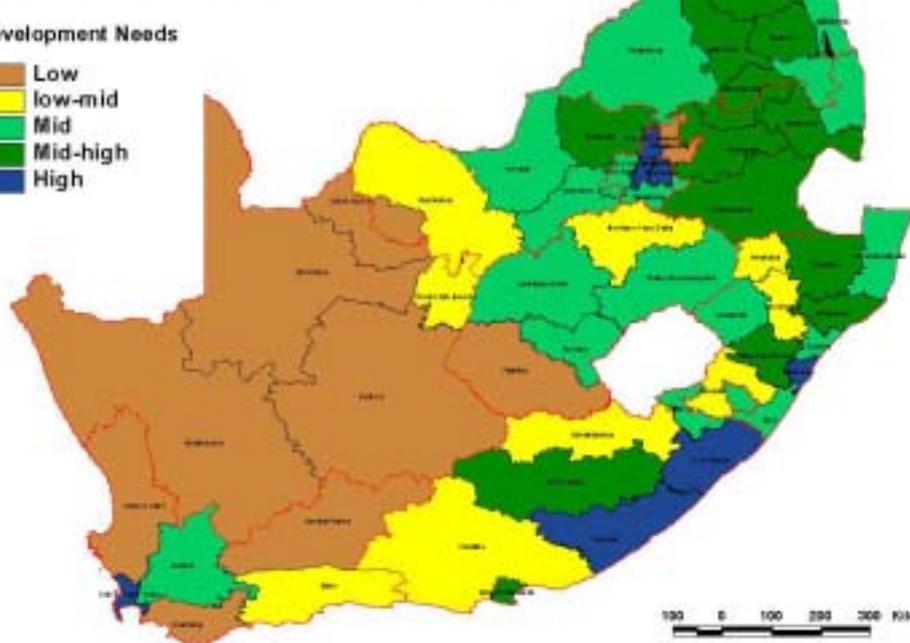
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- Mid-high
- High



Distribution to Low Income Earners <R1600

Development Needs

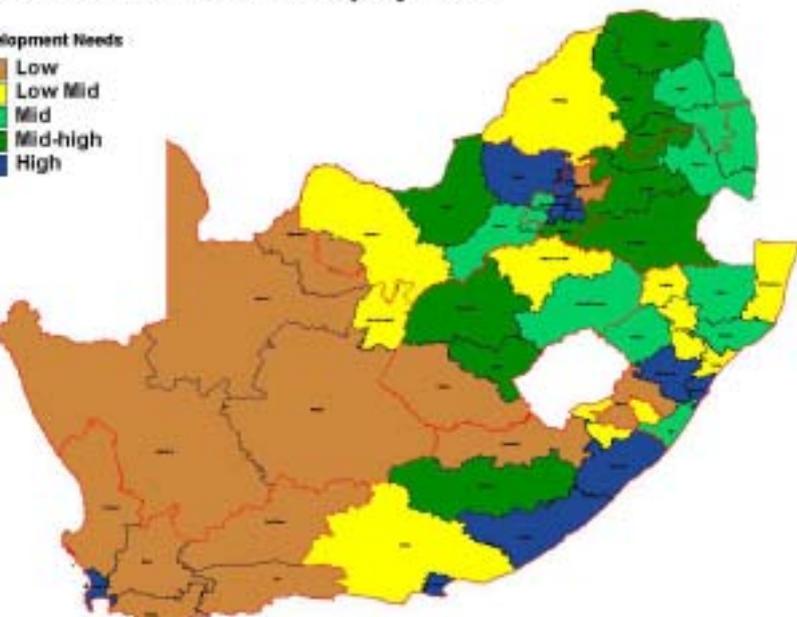
- Low
- low-mid
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96 Distribution of Unemployment

Development Needs

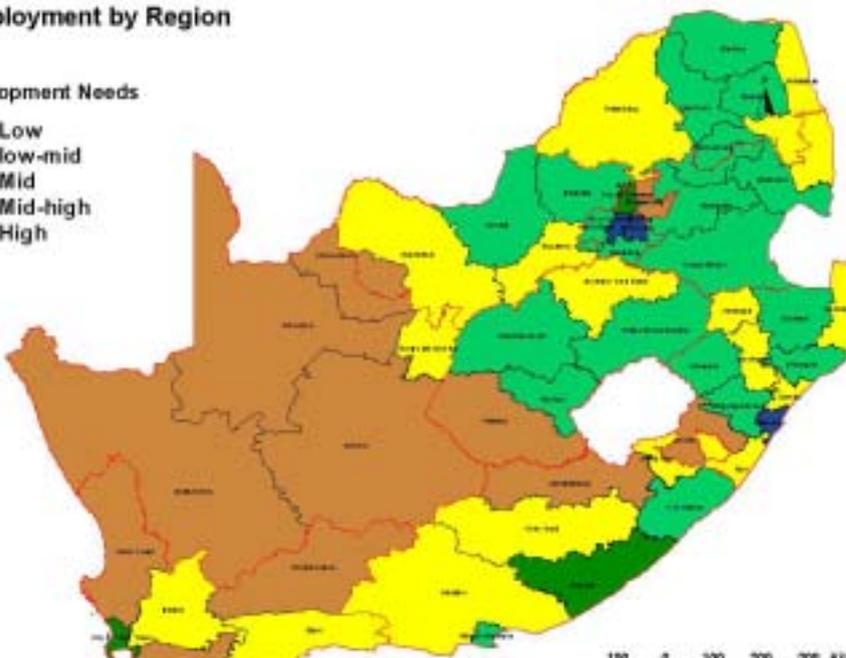
- Low
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- Mid
- Mid-high
- High



Unemployment by Region

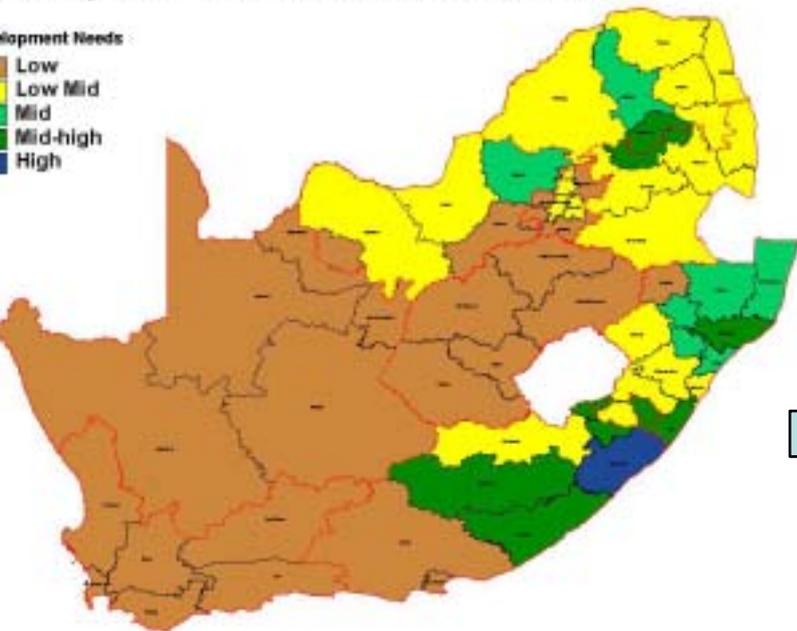
Development Needs

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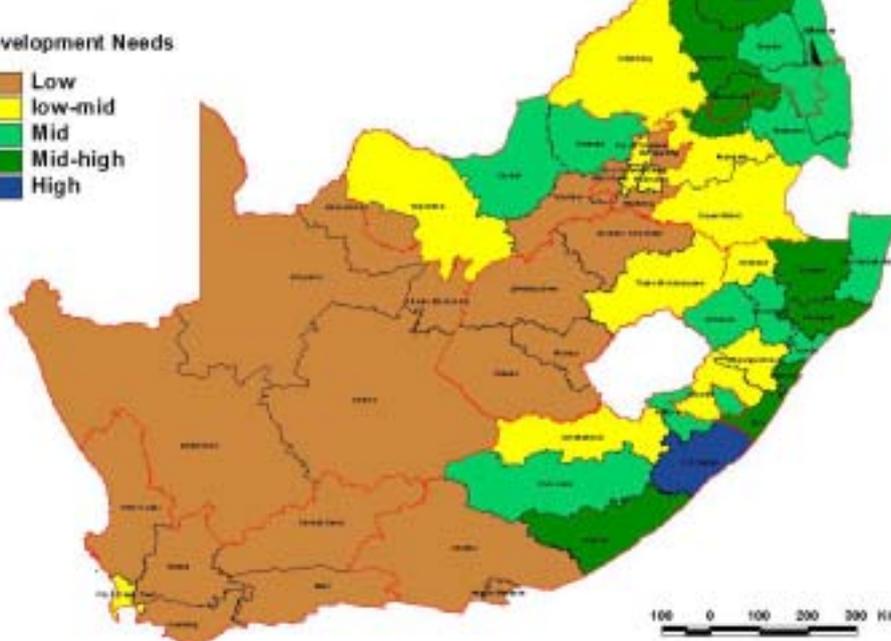


### Population without water Connection

- Development Needs
- Low
  - Low Mid
  - Mid
  - Mid-high
  - High

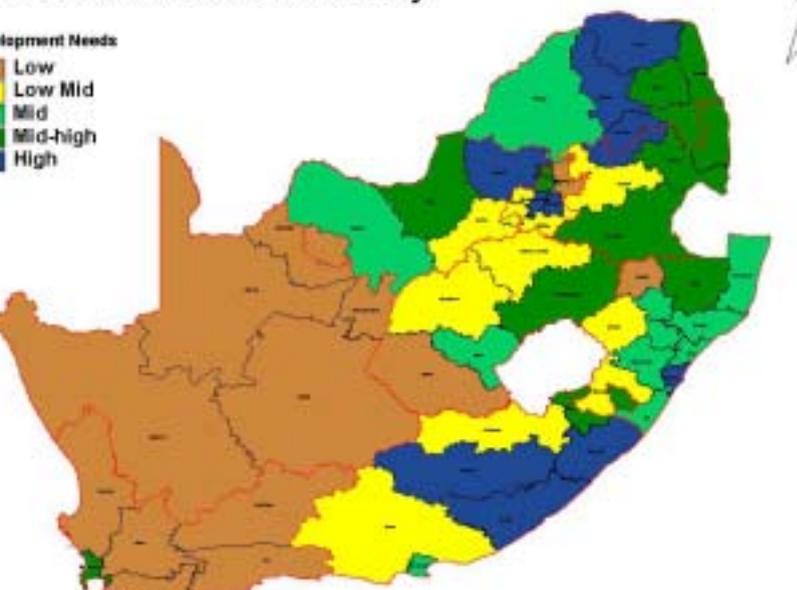


- Development Needs
- Low
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  - High



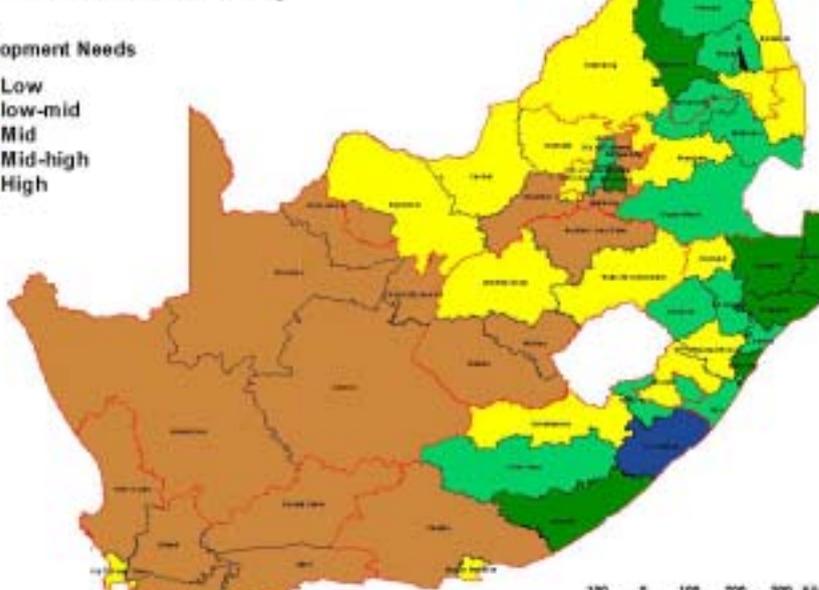
### 96 Lack of Access to Electricity

- Development Needs
- Low
  - Low Mid
  - Mid
  - Mid-high
  - High



### Population without Electricity

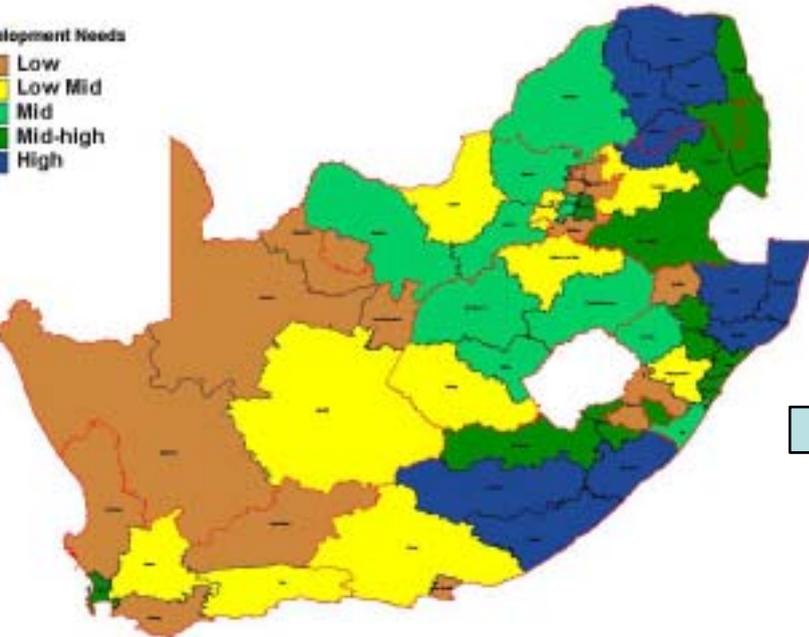
- Development Needs
- Low
  - low-mid
  - Mid
  - Mid-high
  - High



### 96 Population without Access Waterborne Sanitation

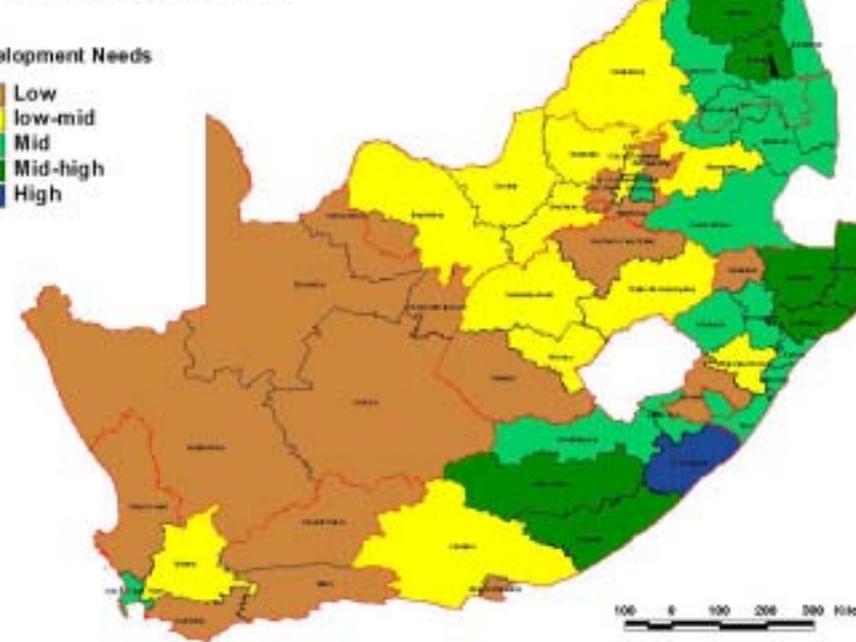
Development Needs

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Development Needs

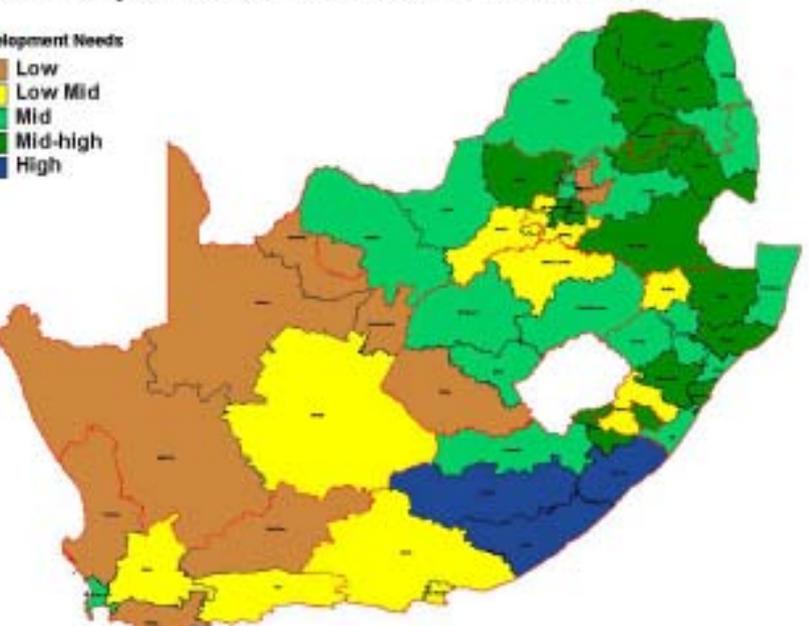
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### 96 Composite social and Service Needs Index

Development Needs

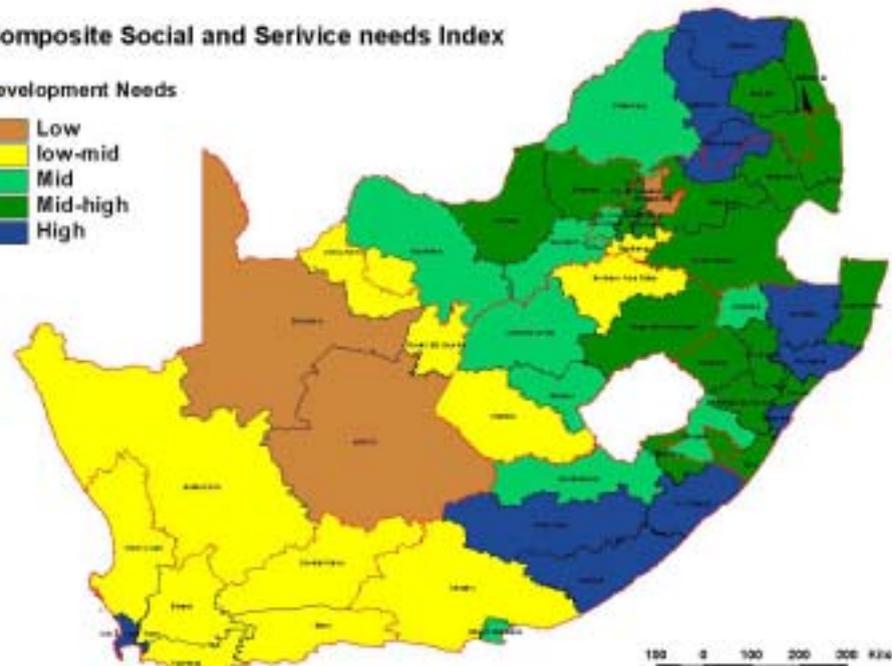
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Composite Social and Service needs Index

Development Needs

- Low
- low-mid
- Mid
- Mid-high
- High



# CONCLUSION

- Progressive realisation is an essential goal which focuses government on key elements aimed at eradicating poverty
- It needs to be given substance through effective delivery and performance monitoring
- There is a need for more nuanced targeting and prioritisation of service delivery
- The challenges of a cooperative system of governance which is supported by an IGFR system presents additional challenges that must be taken fully account of in the delivery and performance management and monitoring processes.

