

Choose two or three of the Sustainable Development Goals and discuss, based on observations you've made during your internship and other experience/knowledge, how they interconnect with one another, and how this impacts how the goals should be addressed.

- Goal One: End poverty in all its forms
- Goal Four: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities.
- Goal Eight: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Hearing loud gun shot so near to where I was staying was definitely alarming. I was sitting with my teammates in our small cottages near the university of KwazuluNatal, and we heard what sounded like several gunshots. For a second I felt the spark of insecurity, then all was quiet. The next day I was informed that the sounds were stun guns aimed at protesters. Who were these protesters and why were they protesting? Currently students in the province of KwazuluNatal are facing tuition hikes making post-secondary education unaffordable. There has been mass demonstration during the evenings for almost a week. I know this because as I drive by the university everyday, I can see the aftermath. Garbage and the rubber from tires everywhere on the side of the road.

Slow but steadily there has been growing unrest and protest happening in recent years. This is a symptom of the current government's inability to address the gap between the rich and poor which is the legacy of the apartheid. The government is slowly losing popular support, if this year's election is anything to go by, the African National Congress could be out of a place in parliament. The ANC came into power promising to reform society where everyone has equal access to employment, education and an escape from the cycle of poverty.

The cycle of poverty is a common theme I have seen in South Africa. The poor stay poor and the rich get richer. If you don't have access to quality education, you won't be able to get employment, at least not a job that can turn into a career. This directly correlates to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) ending poverty in all its forms. Poverty is key issues but it crosscuts with so many other factors, it would be unrealistic to only look at poverty. To end poverty, we have to guarantee equitable quality education, and provide opportunities for employment. This is where goal four and goal eight come into play. Goal four is to provide quality education and goal eight is to pair that education with decent work and economic growth for all.

Poverty, unemployment and lack of quality education are all symptoms of long history of Apartheid. That is why it is important to look at goal one, four and eight all together. All of these goals are interconnected because without addressing them all, the solution cannot be sustainable. To address all of the socio-economic inequalities you see in South Africa, you need a multi-dimensional solution. Humanitarian aid from donor countries is neither sustainable or creates independence for South Africa. The only way anything could change is if the current government completely changes the way they have worked for the past 22 years. The SDGs cannot be implemented unless there is a complete political change and I only see that happening through the increasing surge of protest that are happening within South Africa. Only through strong commitment to address the SDGs with a multi-dimensional solution can South Africa come out the country Nelson Mandela envisioned.