

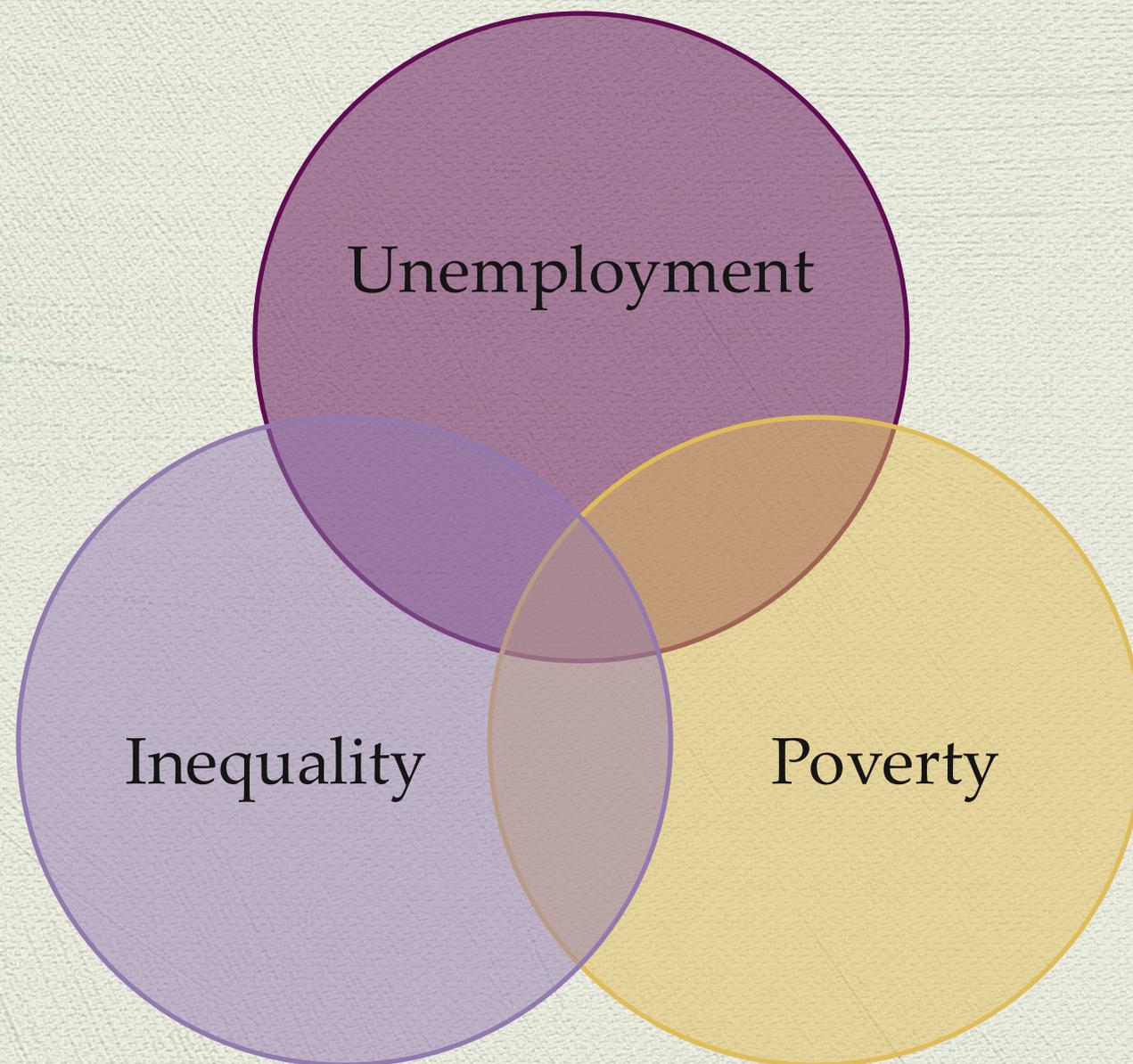
# Universal Basic Income (UBI) Webinar

*Presentation  
by  
Vuyisiwe Mahafu*

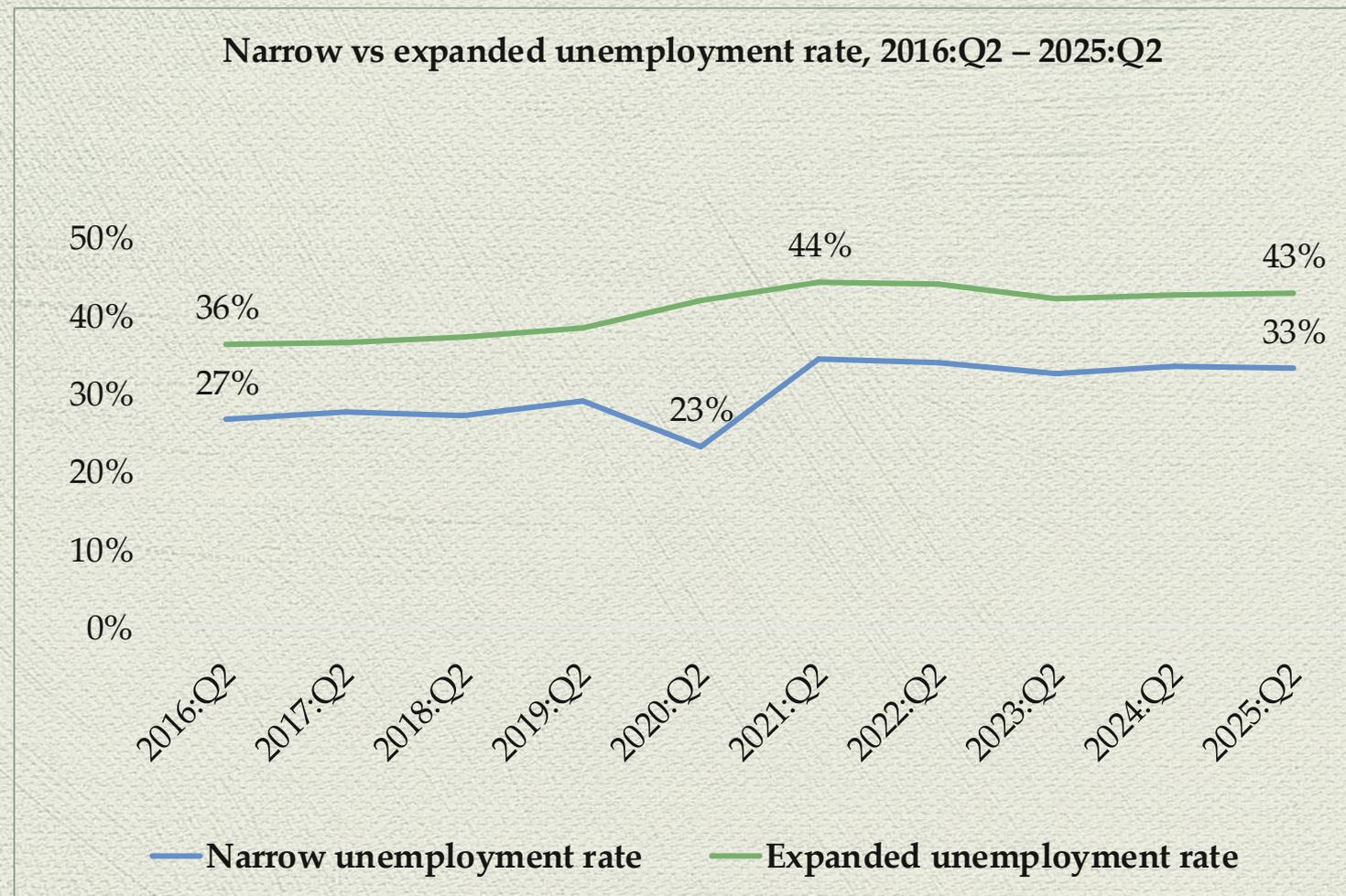
# Presentation outline

- ◆ Context analysis
- ◆ Problem analysis
- ◆ Advocacy goal

# Context analysis



# Unemployment



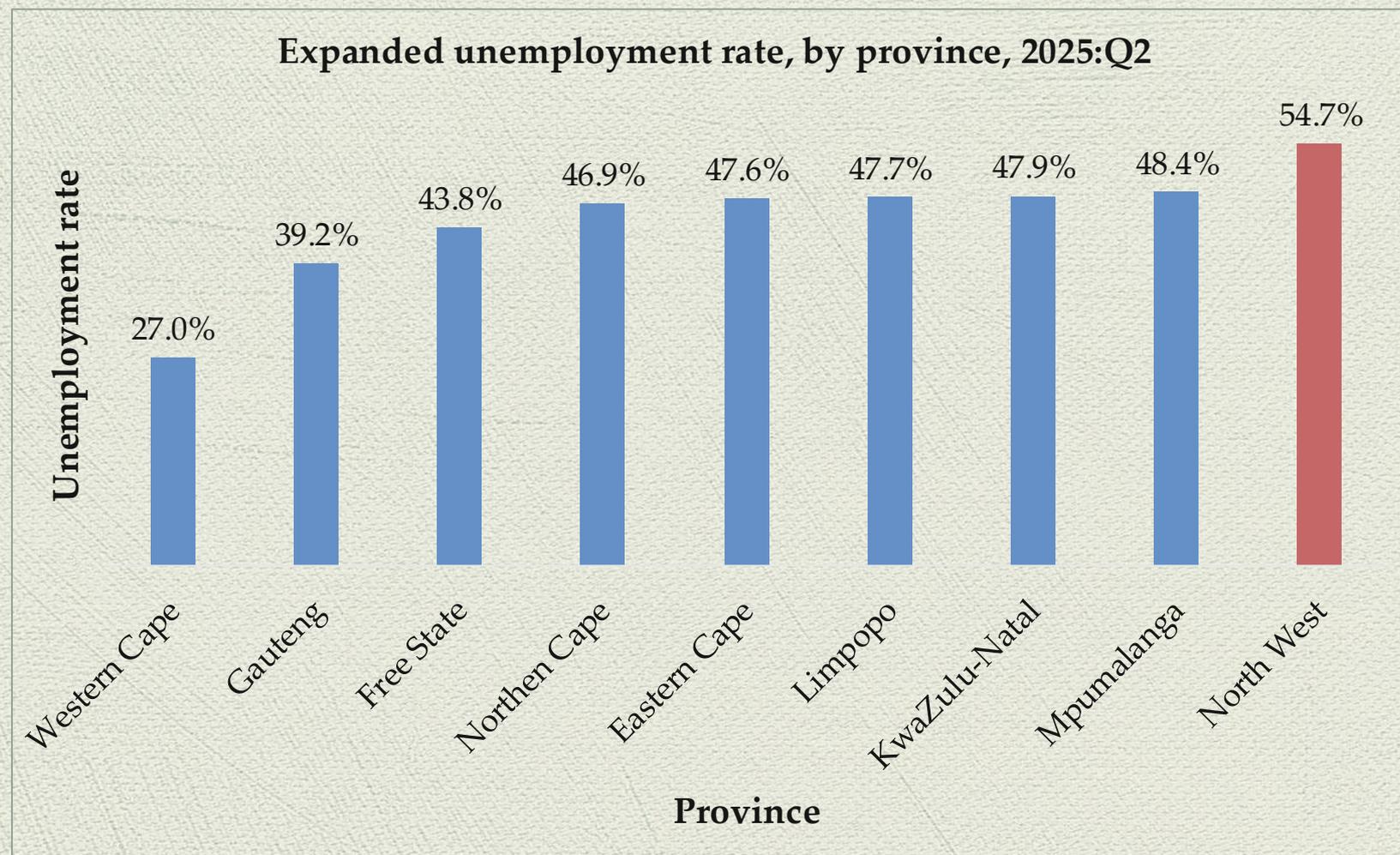
Source: author's own, data from Stats SA QLFS 2025:Q2

## Definitions

**Narrow (official) unemployment rate:** Population aged 15–64 who were not working, looked for work (or planned to start a business) recently, and were ready to work.

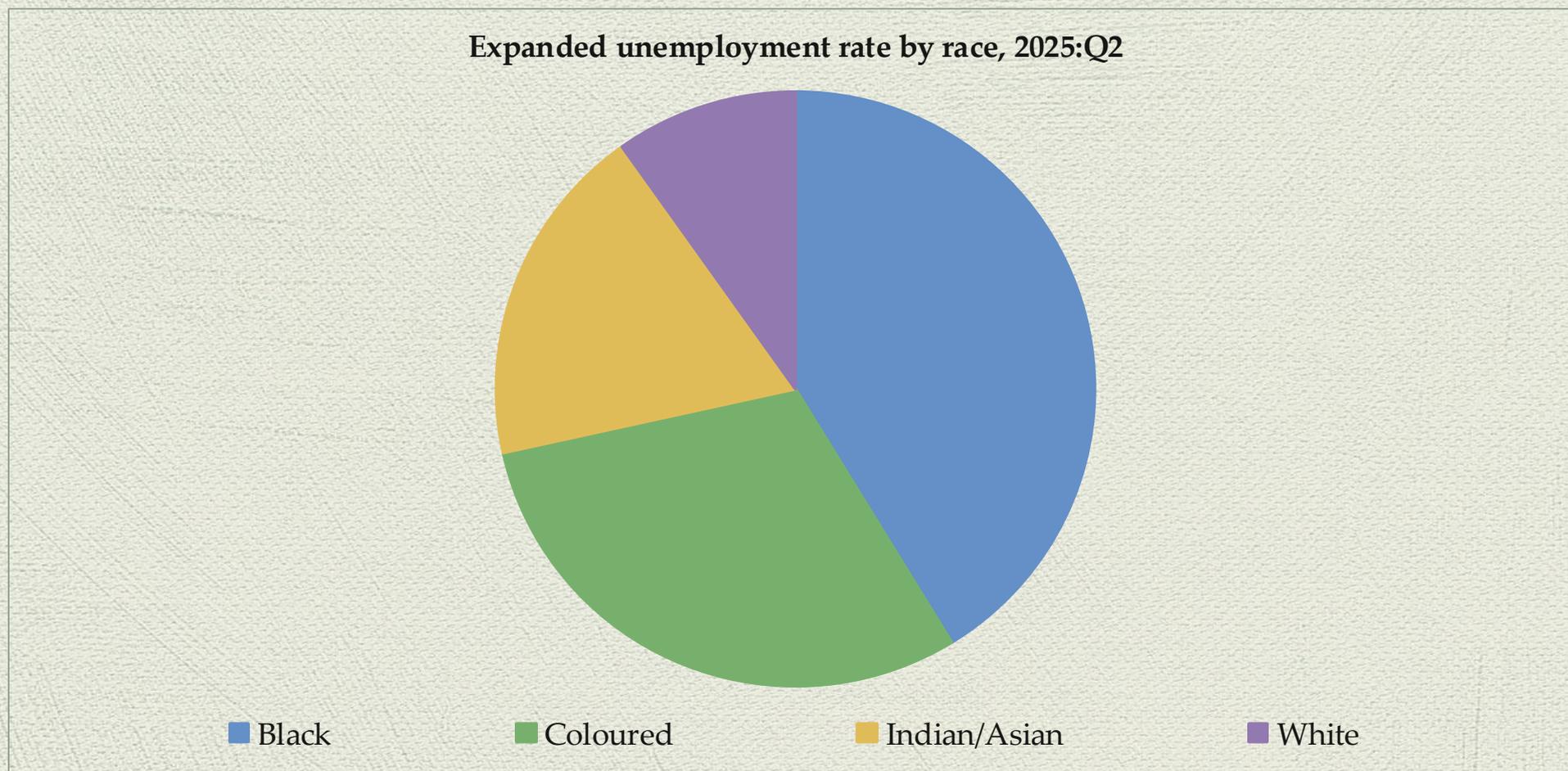
**Expanded unemployment rate:** Includes narrow unemployed plus those who were ready to work but stopped looking, such as discouraged job seekers.

# Unemployment



Source: author's own, data from Stats SA QLFS 2025:Q2

# Unemployment



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# Poverty

- Poverty: measured by Food Poverty Lines
  - Food Poverty Line (FPL) – R796.00
  - Lower-Bound Poverty Line (LBPL) – R1109.00
  - Upper-Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) – R1634.00
- 25.2% of the population lives below the FPL
- More than half of the population lives below the UBPL
- 64.2% of Black South Africans live below the UBPL.

## 1. SEPTEMBER 2025 Summary Data Reference Sheet

### Summary of Household Affordability Data

National Minimum Wage September 2025 (21 working days)	
General workers at R28,79/hr	<b>R4 836,72</b>
General workers at 10% exemption at R25,91/hr	R4 353,05
Minimum underspend on food in Sep 2025	<b>-46,5%</b>

Cost of Household Food Basket in September 2025	
Cost of Joburg Household Food Basket	R5 554,41
Cost of Durban Household Food Basket	R5 229,11
Cost of Cape Town Household Food Basket	R5 364,04
Cost of Springbok Household Food Basket	R5 701,90
Cost of Maritzburg Household Food Basket	R5 159,93
Cost of Mtubatuba Household Food Basket	R5 323,02
<b>Average cost of Household Food Basket (all areas).</b>	<b>R5 379,42</b>
Month-on-month change	-R1,20      0,0%
Year-on-year change	R123,74      2,4%

### Cost of foods prioritised & bought first in Household Food Basket: year-on-year September 2024 to September 2025

Core foods	Sep_2024	Sep_2025
	cost	cost
Maize meal (30kg)	R 318,80	R 331,79
Rice (10kg)	R 174,12	R 145,78
Cake Flour (10kg)	R 126,48	R 123,76
White sugar (10kg)	R 211,44	R 218,42
Sugar beans (5kg)	R 229,11	R 220,88
Samp (5kg)	R 66,29	R 72,96
Cooking oil (5L)	R 152,37	R 157,74
Salt (1kg)	R 15,25	R 15,53
Potatoes (10kg)	R 116,97	R 74,99
Onions (10kg)	R 100,78	R 103,70
Frozen chicken pieces (10kg)	R 381,42	R 407,95
Curry powder (200g)	R 38,24	R 39,86
Stock cubes (24 cubes x2)	R 46,66	R 50,70
Soup (400g x2)	R 48,55	R 53,02
Tea (250g)	R 30,35	R 31,27
White bread (25 loaves)	R 412,13	R 421,09
Brown bread (25 loaves)	R 391,89	R 395,66
<b>Subtotal of core foods</b>	<b>R2 860,84</b>	<b>R 2 865,08</b>

<b>VAT on household food basket in September 2025</b>	<b>R342,42</b>
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### Cost of a basic nutritious diet for a family per month, Sep'25

Household size with 4 members	R3 689,64
Household size with 5 members	R4 661,22
Household size with 7 members	<b>R6 440,26</b>

### Average cost of a basic nutritious diet for a child per month in September 2025

Small child aged 3-9 years	R825,93
Small child aged 10-13 years	R898,76
Girl child aged 14-18 years	R953,10
Boy child aged 14-18 years	R1 084,67
<b>Average for all children</b>	<b>R940,62</b>

In September 2025, the Child Support Grant (R560) is **30%** below the food poverty line (R796) & **40%** below the average cost to secure a basic nutritious diet for a child (R940,62).

### Summary of Statistics South Africa's (and other) Economic and Social Data

All South Africans	
Population size 2025	63,101 million
Unemployment rate	33,2%
Expanded unemployment rate	<b>42,9%</b>
Numbers of people unemployed	12,648 million
Numbers of people employed	16,807 million
Number of people one wage supports	<b>3,8</b>
Maximum NMW September 2025	<b>R4 836,72</b>
NMW shared in a family, per person	<b>R1 272,82</b>

Black South Africans	
Population size 2025	51,604 million
Unemployment rate	37,1%
Expanded unemployment rate	<b>47,0%</b>
Numbers of people unemployed	11,397 million
Numbers of people employed	12,848 million
Number of people one wage supports	<b>4</b>
Maximum NMW September 2025	<b>R4 836,72</b>
NMW shared in a family, per person	<b>R1 209,18</b>

White South Africans	
Population size 2025	4,497 million
Unemployment rate	8,2%
Expanded unemployment rate	<b>11,2%</b>
Numbers of people unemployed	221 000
Numbers of people employed	1,748 million
Number of people one wage supports	<b>2,6</b>
Maximum NMW September 2025	<b>R4 836,72</b>
NMW shared in a family, per person	<b>R1 860,28</b>

The maximum value of the National Minimum Wage [NMW] per hour	R28,79
Level of NMW at 10% exemption	R25,91
The value of the Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD)	R370,00
The value of the Child Support Grant [CSG]	R560,00
The value of the Old-age Grant [OAG]	R2 320,00
The number of children receiving a CSG	13,0 million
The number of pensioners receiving an OAG	4,2 million
The upper-bound poverty line [UBPL]	R1 634,00
The lower-bound poverty line [LBPL]	R1 109,00
The food poverty line [FPL]	R796,00

% of people living below the UBPL (30,4m)	55,5%
% of people living below the FPL (13,8m)	25,2%
% of Black South Africans living below the UBPL (±29,9m)	64,2%

Stunting levels in boy children under 5 years	30%
Stunting levels in girl children under 5 years	25%

Estimated overall HIV prevalence rate among population in 2025 (±8,15 million)	12,9%
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Any errors in data entry or calculations are our own. See reference page 18 for data references. All efforts are made to source the latest available data.

# Inequality

- ◆ South Africa - the most unequal society in the world, with race and spatial segregation playing determining factors.
- ◆ Only 10% South Africans own more than 80% of the wealth.
- ◆ Access to quality public services:
  - Education
  - Healthcare services
  - Water and Sanitation
  - Housing
- ◆ Unequal access continues to perpetuate poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

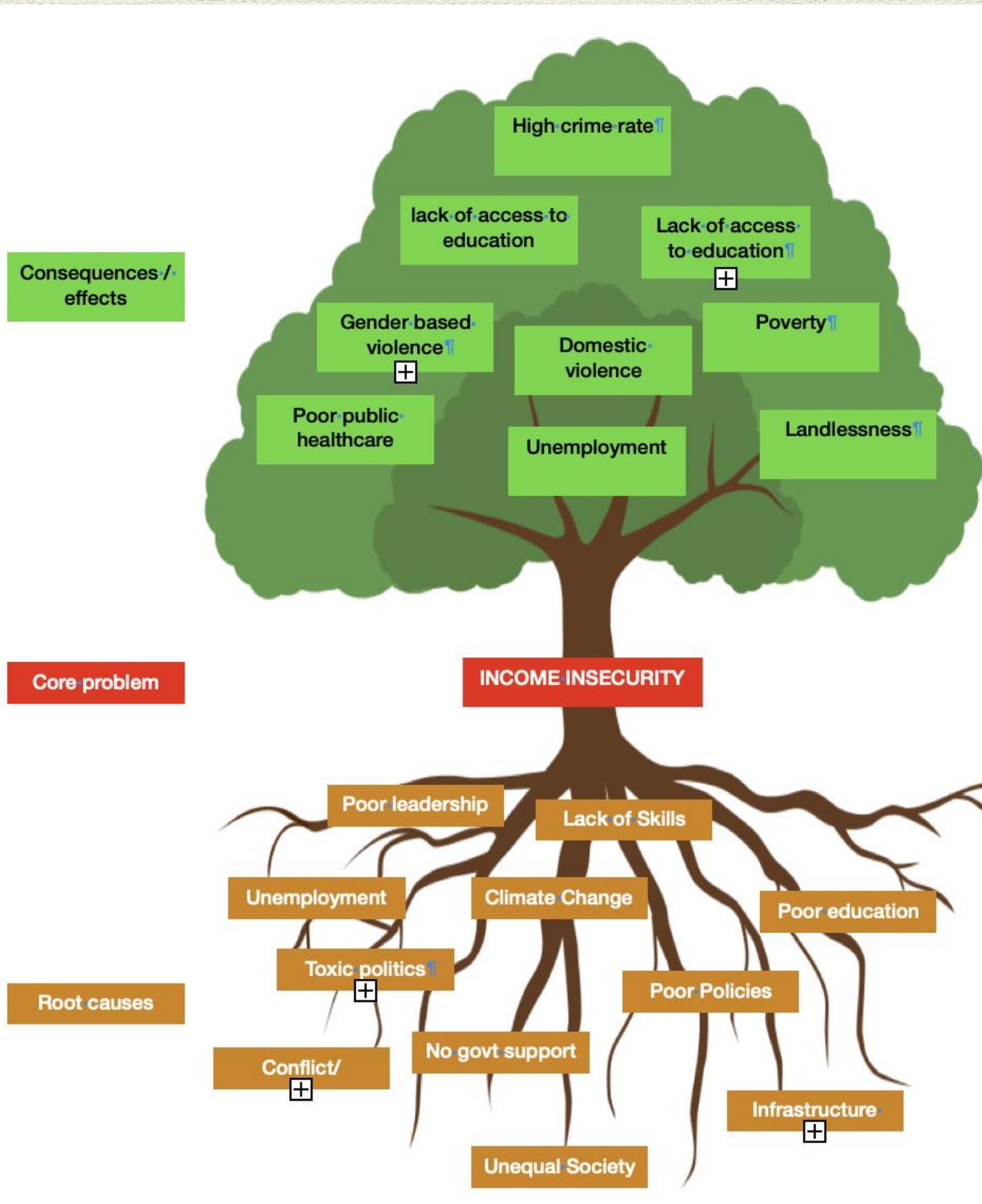


- ◆ “Everyone has the right to have access to (a) healthcare services, including reproductive health, (b) sufficient food and water, and (c) social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance.”

*Section 27(1) of the South African Constitution*

# Problem analysis

- ◆ Widespread poverty and inequality: millions of South Africans continue to live in poverty. Even those who are employed often earn too little to meet their basic needs
- ◆ Gaps in the current social protection system
- ◆ A deepening crisis:
  - 25.5% of South Africans live below the FPL
  - 64.2% of Black South Africans live below the UBPL
  - The expanded unemployment rate stands at 42.9%, with little sign of improvement.
  - Poverty, hunger, and inequality continue to grow



# A case for Universal Basic Income (UBI)

- ◆ UBI needed as an immediate response to hunger, deprivation, and income insecurity.
- ◆ It would provide a guaranteed monthly income floor, ensuring that everyone can meet their most basic needs and participate meaningfully in society
- ◆ Desired goal: an introduction of a permanent UBI in South Africa, providing at least R796 per person per month (aligned with the current FPL)

# Defining UBI

- ♦ A basic income support refers to “an income paid by the state to each full member or accredited resident of a society, regardless of whatever he or she wishes to engage in paid employment, or is rich or poor or, in other words, independently of any other sources of income that person might have, and irrespective of cohabitation arrangements in the domestic sphere” (Raventos, 2007, p.8).

# UBI Characteristics

- ◆ **Universal** – should be open to all
- ◆ **Individuality** – should be designed to cater to individuals
- ◆ **Unconditionality** – should be unqualified, no special requirements, no means testing, no prerequisites, no special demands, or no stipulations
- ◆ **Basic** – foundational income floor
- ◆ **Income** – monthly income ensured as a right

• *“Social security is not just another government spending programme. It is a promise from generation to generation.”*

HANK JOHNSON