

Is Swaziland on track with the 2015 millennium development goals?

A Sathiya Susuman

Abstract

According to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreement, each participating country has to periodically provide a report that will show the progress on their achievement towards the goals. This article's aim is to evaluate Swaziland's prospects of achieving eight MDGs by 2015. This article is an analysis of the current situation of Swaziland, and the aim of this analysis is to look beyond the statistical values to see if the achievements (including lifetime achievements) are on track and whether what is yet to be achieved can really be achieved. Secondary information was collected from various sources. Several countries and organizations have committed themselves to the following eight development goals: (1) eradicate extreme poverty; (2) achieve universal primary education; (3) promote gender equality and empower women; (4) reduce child mortality; (5) improve maternal health; (6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (7) ensure environmental sustainability; and (8) develop a global partnership for development. National development is dependent on many factors; therefore, different countries across the world have adopted the MDGs as means of alleviating many of the social ills hindering progress and development. Based on different sources, Swaziland is on track with its MDGs, and there is no doubt that Swaziland will continue to work hard to these ends. It has been argued that there has been progress made that has resulted in significant changes to people's lives, but the question that has to be asked is how long these achievements can realistically last. A reduction of the rate of child mortality, maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS in Swaziland are needed.

Introduction

Fifteen years have passed since the establishment of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Several countries and organizations have committed themselves to the following eight development goals: (1) eradicate extreme poverty; (2) achieve universal primary education; (3) promote gender equality and empower women; (4) reduce child mortality; (5) improve maternal health; (6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (7) ensure environmental sustainability; and (8) develop a global partnership for development (United Nations, 2012). National development is dependent on many factors; therefore, different countries across the world have adopted the MDGs as a means of alleviating many of the social problems that hinder progress and development. For most developing countries, some of these goals are far from being achieved, and this presents

References

- Central Statistical Office and Macro International Inc. (2008). *Swaziland Demographic and Health Survey 2006–07*. Mbabane, Swaziland: Central Statistical Office and Macro International Inc.
- Swaziland Millennium Development Goals and Progress Report. (2012). *Improving The Lives of the Present and Future Generations*. Ministry Of Economic Planning And Development, Swaziland Government, pp. 1–156.
- Tsawe M, Moto A, Netshivhera T, et al. (2015) Factors influencing the use of maternal healthcare services and childhood immunization in Swaziland. *International Journal for Equity in Health* 14(1): 32.
- UNICEF (2012) *UNICEF Annual Report 2012*, pp. 1–42, ISBN:978-92-806-4693-1.
- UNICEF (2013) *UNICEF Annual Report 2013*, pp. 1–48, ISBN:978-92-806-4755-6.
- United Nations (2012) *The Millennium development Goals Report 2012, We Can End Poverty 2015 Millennium Development Goals*. New York: United Nations, pp 1–72.
- United Nations (2012) *The Millennium Development Goals Report*. New York: United Nations.
- World Health Organization (2010) *Swaziland: Factsheets of Health Statistics*. Geneva: WHO Regional Office for Africa.
- World Health Organization (2013) *World Malaria Report*. Geneva: WHO.
- World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNFPA and The World Bank (2012) *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2010. WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and The World Bank Estimates*. Geneva: World Health Organization Press.

Author biography

A Sathiya Susuman is associate professor at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Statistics and Population Studies, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. His research interests include technical demography, fertility, mortality, gender, reproductive health, vulnerable diseases, HIV/AIDS, health policy and public health. He has published several international accredited journal articles in *BMC Reproductive Health*, *BMC Research Note*, the *International Journal of Equity in Health*, the *Journal of Public Health*, *SAHARA J: Journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance*, the *Journal of Social Science Research*, the *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, *Plos One*, *Clinical Case Report*, the *Iranian Journal of Public Health* and in other journals and edited volumes.