

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable socio-economic development is one of the most important challenges of the modern world. Issues of development of developing countries, which also include sub-Saharan Africa, which have virtually no industry, and the standard of living of citizens is very low, is of particular importance. In this paper two parts are distinguished. First, the sustainable development - the concept and the importance of sustainable development. In the second part attempts are made to analyze the Millennium Development Goals in sub-Saharan Africa. Due to the limited volume it is not possible to develop a broad presentation of all aspects of the problems delineated in the title.

KEYWORDS

sustainable development, development objectives, Sub-Saharan Africa

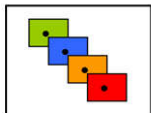
Introduction

Sustainable development is one of the most important contemporary ideas, combining the problems of many different sciences. It is characterized by complexity and multiplicity of processes which it affects. Development in the ordinary sense means a change for the better and so far in terms of civilization is always associated with technological progress and increasing prosperity. Unfortunately, for a long time it has also left side-effects such as environmental degradation, impoverishment of the broad masses of the world's population and social disintegration. Process of sustainable development is taking place to create conditions for stimulation of development processes, so it would threaten the environment and accelerate recovery processes, limit environmental damage, wherever there has been a violation of the natural balance. The implementation of these demands cannot simultaneously reduce the rate of economic growth or widen the margin of poverty, or dredging or the emergence of new social tensions and economic risks. This article is only a single voice in polyphonic discussion on embodying this idea and has no ambition to cover all or even most of the issues related to the topic - which would be impossible. The main aim of this article is to attempt to assess the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for sub-Saharan Africa from 1990 to the present.

1. Sustainable development concept

The concept of sustainable development was introduced for international calls made in the 80s by the German delegation. The definition of sustainable development, different from a purely economic definition of sustainable economic growth, was first given by the Brundtland Report, "Our Common Future" and later in the "Agenda 21" (Agenda 21 1998 p.3- 5). In this report, the term "sustainable development" is defined as a right to satisfy development aspirations of the present generation without limiting the rights of future generations to meet their development needs. This definition indicates that economic development and civilization of the present generation should not be conducted at the expense of non-renewable resource depletion and environmental destruction for the sake of future generations, who will also have the right to their development (<http://www.mos.gov.pl>). In 1987 report by the World Commission for Environment and Development of the United Nations was released, which met under the chairmanship of Gro Harlem Brundtland. The report was named "Our Common Future"; and defined in the previously quoted concept of Sustainable Development (*Le Développement Durable*). This which definition is now in widespread use, also included the vision of the development which takes into account both the human population and the world of animals and plants, ecosystems, Earth's natural resources: water, air, energy resources, and in an integrated manner considers the most important challenges facing the world such as the fight against poverty, gender equality, human rights and security, education for all, health, intercultural dialogue. However, the concept of sustainable development began to shape up much earlier (Z. Wysokińska, J. Witkowska, 2004 p.5).

In 1968, the first Intergovernmental Conference of Scientific Experts of UNESCO debated, dedicated to the interrelation of environment and development, during which there has been emergence of an international, interdisciplinary program "Man and Biosphere". For the first time, the term organization of the International Union for



Conservation of Nature - IUCN appeared on the international forum, now the World Conservation Union- WCU (Holger Rogall, 2010, p.40). In 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro one of the most important documents was developed, related to sustainable development, "**Agenda 21**", which is a comprehensive plan of action for the twenty-first century for the United Nations, governments and community groups in every area in which human being has the impact on the environment. The Earth Summit was attended by representatives of 172 governments, 2,400 NGOs and 10,000 journalists. Agenda 21 defines sustainable development program agreed by the countries participating in UNCED in 1992, but the document was not directly legally binding. The fact that all countries of the world agreed in 1992 to adopt a new development explained by the fact that the concept of sustainability is sufficiently abstract and noncommittal. In 2000, the Millennium Summit of the United Nations defined the Millennium Development Goals, which should be achieved by 2015.

2. Sub-Saharan Africa - Millennium Development Goals - MDGs)

In September 2000, world leaders met at the Millennium Summit in New York and took a series of ambitious targets to achieve measurable progress in reducing poverty and improving living conditions in the world. On this occasion the special needs of Africa were stressed, the poorest continent on the planet, which fell behind in almost all development indicators. The international community was increasingly concerned that despite some modest progress in a limited number of African countries it will not be able to get closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals within 2015 without the mobilization efforts and more energy resources on the continent and the international community. Below is an overview of trends in sub-Saharan Africa for a number of key objectives, from 1990 to the present. Data analysis of this part comes from MDGs report and other international organizations

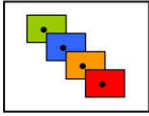
2.1. Reduction of extreme poverty and hunger by half

Extreme poverty has declined significantly over the last two decades. Globally, the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015. Most progress has been occurring since 2000, while the proportion of undernourished people in the developing regions has decreased by almost half since 1990, from 23.3 percent in 1990–1992 to 12.9 percent in 2014–2016. (MDGs Report 2015 pp.3-4) Significant progress has been recorded on the reduction of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. From 58 percent in 1999 it declined to 50 percent in 2005. Among the 48 countries for which data was available, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania and Senegal noted, next to the North African countries, the best results and any chance to achieve the intended purpose. Likewise, Benin, Guinea, Uganda, Republic of Congo and Swaziland were on track to achieve the goal, despite the poverty rates above the average. In contrast, more than half of African countries either had insufficient progress causing chronological decline, or sustained increase in the rate of poverty. Mainly in West African countries and South Africa. Due to the economic and political situation none of these countries achieved its goal. The situation is all the more alarming that some of them have a poverty rate much higher than the average and they risk to completely marginalize in relation to other countries. Contrary to good economic developments and improved political climate, growth was not sufficient to speed up poverty reduction. The existence of strong initial inequality as well as population growth causes the development not reach sufficiently the poorest sections of the population. While the rate of poor communities in developing countries fell from 27.9% in 1990 to 21.3% in 2001, it has increased in sub-Saharan Africa. As well as increased the number of poor Africans, which increased from 227 to 313 million in the same period.

In sub-Saharan Africa the proportion of the population undernourished decreased, going from 32 percent in 1990 to 28 percent in 2005 but efforts were slow and did not guarantee the achievement of this goal by 2015. In sub-Saharan Africa one third of the population concentrated in Central Africa and Eastern is suffering from hunger. Angola, Djibouti, Ghana, Mozambique and Chad recorded a significant improvement. In contrast, the phenomenon of hunger deteriorated in Burundi, the Comoros, Guinea - Bissau, Liberia and Democratic Republic of Congo, and to a lesser extent in Botswana, Gambia, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Tanzania. Finally, in the countries of North Africa and South Africa, Mali, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe progress has been modest.

2.2. Providing primary education for all

According to the MDGs Report, The primary school enrolment rate in the developing regions has reached 91 percent in 2015, up from 83 per cent in 2000. Sub-Saharan Africa has had the best record of improvement in primary education of any region since the MDGs were established. The region achieved a 20 percent increase in the enrolment rate from 2000 to 2015, compared to a gain of 8 percent between 1990 and 2000. (MDGs Report 2015 p. 4) In sub-Saharan Africa in 2006 23 million children were covered by the school education, while in 1999 there were 16 million. An increase in enrollment at the primary level by 14 points between 1999 and 2006 was reported; increased from 56 to 70%. However, a large increase in the number of school children at the primary level will require increased efforts. Despite these advances, only 49% of countries (18) achieved or were on track to achieve that goal by 2015. South Africa,



Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Tanzania join the countries of North Africa, which have already reached this goal. In sub-Saharan Africa more than 30% of children under school education do not end this cycle (compared with 10% in North Africa). Meanwhile, net enrollment ratios are approaching 100% in North Africa and exceed 85% in eleven countries in sub-Saharan Africa, they are particularly weak in Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Nigeria and the Republic of Congo. In view of literacy among adults to less than 50%, the governments of many African countries still have difficulty in implementing the measures necessary to improve the level of education. (D. Czajkowska-Ziobrowska, A. Zduniak 2008,p.p17-22). In fact, as explained by UNESCO in report on literacy and non-formal education in Senegal, in most African countries literacy is allocated to only 1% of the budget for education (UNESCO in 2000, p.19).Continent should find a solution for paying more attention to the problem by increasing the share of funds in the budget. It should also establish partnerships with international management organizations on projects and initiatives to promote literacy. Given the fact that human capital is estimated on the basis of competence, experience and knowledge, it is extremely important to Sub-Saharan Africa to stimulate its internal growth to reduce unemployment, which has reached a very high level on this continent.

2.3. Promoted gender equality and Women Empowerment

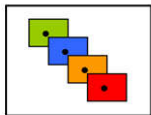
Between 1991 and 2015, the proportion of women in vulnerable employment as a share of total female employment has declined by 13 percent. In contrast, vulnerable employment among men fell by 9 percent (MDGs Report 2015, p.3-4). In sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of primary school enrollment of girls has increased, compared to boys, from 83% to 86% in 1990-1991 and 2001-2002; the aim was to achieve 100% in primary schools, preferably before the end of 2005 and in secondary schools and universities by 2015. (MDGs Report 2014, p 5.) The progress made in eliminating disparities in access to universal education are the most significant. The best results in this area receives East Africa, followed by South Africa and North Africa. South Africa is lagging. Although the elimination of disparities (gender) as it is, was a major goal of development, it is still needed for women to have easy access to the labor market and participate in political decision-making. The progress achieved in this area is moderate. And so reduction of the gap between genders to participate in the labor market is insignificant. The share of women in the political sphere, although weak, is constantly increasing. And this share in non-agricultural activities increased from 32% to 36% between 1990 and 2003, the proportion of women in national parliaments in the region doubled from 7% in 1990 to 14% in 2005. Furthermore, in twelve countries the percentage of seats occupied by women in national parliaments more than doubled between 1990 and 2007. Rwanda recorded the best result with the rate 56% in 2008, is followed by Mozambique (38.4%) and South Africa (32.8%). In contrast, differences already significant, persist in São Tomé and Príncipe, and deepen even further in Mali and Chad.

2.4. Reducing by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the mortality rate of children under five years of age

The whole Africa recorded a decrease of 12.85% in mortality rate among children under five years of age between 1992 and 2007 - while eight percent regression coefficient would be needed yearly to achieve the target before the scheduled date. Keeping a child alive is a real challenge for the region. But this trend hides disparities between regions and countries. While this ratio decreases by 55% in North Africa, the opposite trend manifested itself in Central Africa with an increase of 13% of child mortality. Only 32,7% of countries achieved or were on track to reach the target by 2015. Apart from the average trend, the size of the challenge of maintaining the child alive, vary depending on the country. Significant achievements realized in some countries, even poor (Eritrea, Malawi and Namibia) suggests that progress is possible with political will and sufficient resources as well as targeted strategies. In sub-Saharan Africa, the annual rate of reduction of mortality among children under five years of age was over five times faster during years 2005–2013 than it was during 1990–1995. While the global mortality rate of this group has declined by more than half, dropping from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2015. (MDGs Report 2015 pp.4-5.)

2.5. Improving maternal health

Since 1990, the maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45 percent worldwide, and most of the reduction has occurred since 2000. In Southern Asia, the maternal mortality ratio declined by 64 percent between 1990 and 2013, and in sub-Saharan Africa by 49 percent. In Northern Africa, the proportion of pregnant women who received four or more antenatal visits increased from 50 percent to 89 percent between 1990 and 2014.(MDGs Report 2015) The maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa is a factor that needs urgent action with regard to achieving the objective. According to a study of the World Health Organization (2008), almost 265 000 maternal deaths, or half of the world's maternal deaths, have been reported in sub-Saharan Africa. Number of maternal deaths per 100 000 births ranges from 2 100 in Sierra Leone to 23 in Mauritius, and eight countries recorded rates in excess of 1000 (*Organisation Mondiale de la santé* 2008). With the reduction of less than 1% between 1990 and 2007, the road to overcome, in order to achieve the goal is still very long. In addition to East Africa, where there has been a reduction of 49%, starting from the relatively high initial factors, other regions exhibit stagnation or deterioration in the health of mothers.



The situation is particularly alarming in Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Malawi and the Republic of Congo, where rates are now close to a critical threshold of 1000, as well as in Angola and Sierra Leone, where the prospect of 1000 seems increasingly recede. The causes of maternal mortality are related to complications arising from pregnancy and childbirth. The main reasons recorded in descending order are: hemorrhage, sepsis and infections (including HIV), hypertension, complications associated with miscarriage and abnormal birth. Although growing awareness of the suffering that experienced in the African continent, world opinion still does not see its scale. Every week on the African continent is people are dying of AIDS comparable to the number of the victims of September 11, 2001. Group of patients. Within only one year 150 000 mothers, or two-thirds of the victims of the Asian tsunami of 26 December 2004 dies giving life to children. (E Ambukita, 2015, p.119)

2.6. Cure HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Over 6.2 million malaria deaths have been averted between 2000 and 2015, primarily of children under five years of age in sub-Saharan Africa. The global malaria incidence rate has fallen by an estimated 37 percent and the mortality rate by 58 percent.(MDGs 2015)

A goal to halt the spread of AIDS was beyond Africa before 2015. In 2007, 22 million adults in sub-Saharan Africa were living with HIV, and 1.5 million deaths was a result of AIDS. Although the incidence of HIV is stabilizing in some countries, the rate increased from 2.1% in 1990 to 4.9% in 2007 across the continent.

The most affected region is South Africa (by a factor of more than 15 or 20%), while the rates are lower than 10% in West, Central and Northern Africa. It seems that only Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda reached the goal. Likewise, Uganda, which had an initial rate of 13,7%, has made a sufficient effort to reverse this trend. However, in more than 8 countries out of 10 the incidence of HIV has not declined enough, if on the contrary not increased. A significant feature of the epidemic is the speed at which it develops. In South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland ratio increased from less than 1% to in excess of 20%. People affected by HIV are mainly women (59%). Infection factor in pregnant women is very high, which increases the risk of transmission to children. Although the number of HIV cases has stabilized in sub-Saharan Africa in recent years, it remains the highest in the world, seven out of 100 adults are living with the virus. AIDS is the leading cause of premature death in this region. Malaria is also a cause for generalized concern, 90% of the million deaths a year caused by malaria occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

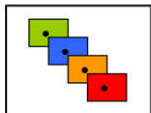
2.7. Ensuring environmental sustainability

The world's water resources problems are the focus of attention of one of the greatest scientific programs of UNESCO - International Hydrological Programme (IHP), which aims, among others, to assess the health of ecosystems and water tanks, as well as distribution and exploitation of drinking water, improving management in areas where there is a shortage of water. Contrary to the growth rate of the population having access to drinking water sources, from 56% in 1990 to 64% in 2006, this progress was not sufficient to reach the target by 2015 by all African countries. Fourteen countries reached a rate of less than 55%; Ethiopia recorded the lowest rate and Mauritius the highest. In addition, access to drinking water is higher in urban than rural areas (85% versus 51%). From the point of view of the progress achieved little more than 60% of countries (32) achieved or was on the way to achieving the objective. Access to drainage services is even more worrying. In this field, Africa does not make progress, moving from coefficient of 33% in 1990 to only 38% in 2006. Coverage is highest in North Africa and weakest in West Africa. However, access to land reclamation is a key element for other areas such as health, environment, education, but also gender equality. (J Ciechanowicz 1999 p.36.).In 2015, 91 percent of the global population is using an improved drinking water source, compared to 76 percent in 1990. Globally, 147 countries have met the drinking water target, 95 countries have met the sanitation target and 77 countries have met both (MDGs Report 2015, pp 4-6)

2.8. Creating a global partnership for development

In order to achieve the first seven Millennium Development Goals, countries-donors will have to provide more help to make the granted debt relief more durable and opt for fairer trade regulations. This entails the creation of an open trading and financial system, adjustable and non-discriminatory, attentive to the special needs of the least developed countries, which fully resolve the debt problems of developing countries and more readily available technologies. the progress has been highly inadequate - with the exception of reducing the external debt.

Official development assistance from developed countries increased by 66 percent in real terms between 2000 and 2014, reaching \$135.2 billion. Internet spread has grown from just over 6 percent of the world's population in 2000 to 43 percent in 2015. As a result, 3.2 billion people are linked to a global network of content and applications. (MDGs 2015)



Conclusion

Although significant achievements have been made on many of the MDG targets worldwide, progress has been uneven across regions and countries, leaving significant gaps. Just 20 days after the deadline set by the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals it is known that with the exception of North Africa, none of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa had a chance to achieve the overall objectives by 2015. However, it can be said that the declarations are not enough. When trying to examine the results achieved during the 15 years since the Millennium Summit, it turns out that they are not optimistic, and the Millennium Development Goals could not be fully implemented within a given period.

The poverty in Africa is growing, exploitation of natural resources and the environment is progressing, and examples of unsustainable production and consumption can be multiplied. The AIDS epidemic has already grown to the size of a pandemic, which could easily determine the rates of infant mortality and life expectancy in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Many African countries adopted democratic reforms introduced stricter macroeconomic policies and applied reforms to accelerate growth. However, the ability of African countries to achieve this objective was threatened by having a rise in the prices of food products and financial turbulence and global economic shocks, which were able to frustrate progress already recorded.

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