

# Assessing Progress and Pitfalls of the Millennium Development Goals in Zimbabwe: A Critical Analysis

MUTANGABENDE, S. | SHAVA, E.

## Abstract

Zimbabwe adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at their inception in 2000 and it has trends of its progress in its attempt to attain these MDGs as indicated in progress reports since 2004, 2010, 2012 and 2015. In these reports optimistic trends are chiefly found in MDG2 on universal primary education which is Zimbabwe's pride in Africa, MDG3 regarding gender parity in schools and MDG6 on HIV and AIDS. The country continues to face its biggest challenges in attaining MDG1 which is eliminating extreme poverty and hunger and MDG5 which is increase nurturing mortality, whereas all the objectives under these goals are dubious that would be attained at the cut-off date. It was unfortunate that, the inception of the MDGs coincided with the deepening of socioeconomic, political and environmental crisis in the country which made it very difficult for

Zimbabwe to accomplish all of its MDGs. The focal motive of this study was to check the progress, policies, programmes and strategies which were in place to promote the attainment of the MDGs from 2000-2015 and other strategies or policies in place to attain the SDGs 2016-2030. This paper recommended that there is need for institutionalisation of SDGs that is aligning them with Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation (Zim-Asset) cluster; for instance, value accumulation and beneficiation, nourishment security, poverty extermination, social services and strengthening partnership with all stakeholders. The research uses intensive secondary data analysis from various sources including government gazette, journal articles, e-books, and government website, reports, published and unpublished books.

**Keywords:** Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Introduction and Background**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a "set of time-bound targets agreed on by heads of state in 2000 after having a unified, galvanised and expanded efforts to help the world's poorest people", (McArthur 2013:1). After the Beijing Declaration and Millennium Summit, Zimbabwe adopted the MDGs at their inception in 2000 and it has trends of its progress in its attempt to attain these MDGs as indicated in progress reports since 2004, 2010, 2012 and 2015. In these reports progressive inclinations are chiefly seen in MDG2 on universal primary education which is Zimbabwe's pride in Africa, but the collapse of the economy during the years 2007-2008 heavily disrupted the effort to achieve these MDGs. The country continues to face its biggest challenges in attaining MDG1 which is eliminating extreme poverty and hunger and MDG5 which is advancing maternal health among others.

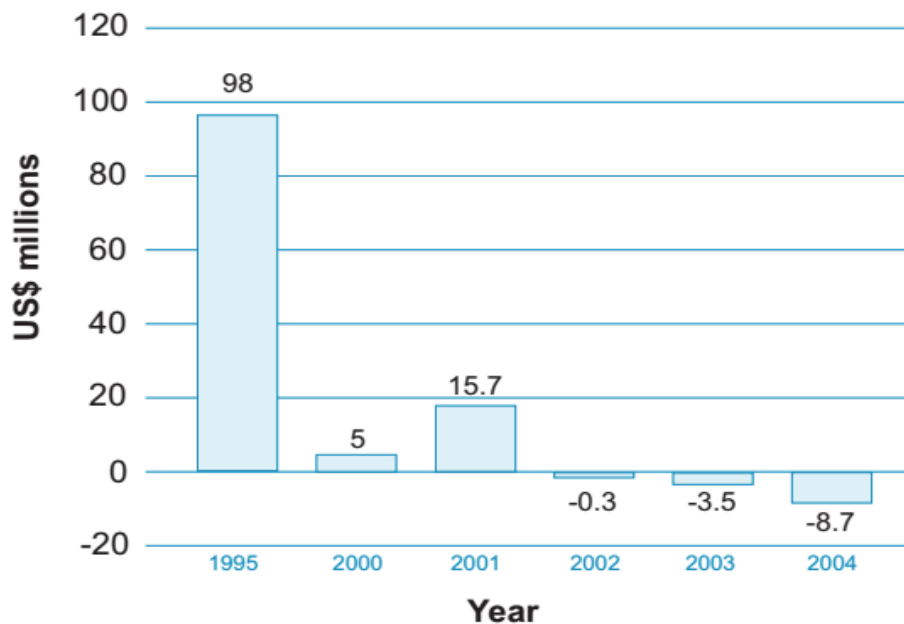
It was however doubtful that all the targets under these goals would be achieved by the cut-off date of 2015. For Zimbabwe, it was unfortunate that the inception of the MDGs coincided with the deepening of socioeconomic and political crisis in the country, which made the accomplishment of the MDGs rather difficult. The hangover from 2000 to 2015 MDGs is continuing in the 2016 to 2030 SDGs as some of the challenges which led to the failure to the attainment of MDGs are still prevailing in this phase for instance, worsening of economic hardships and not respect for the rule of law which is very essential on attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The relic can also be traced back to the 1980s and 90s when Zimbabwe adopted the Growth with Equity Strategy and Zimbabwe Transitional National Development Plan (ZTNDP) between 1982 and 1985 then the National Development Plan in 1986 to 1990. All these programmes were aimed at reducing poverty and prioritising government expenditure on expansion of rural infrastructure, primary health care and education as well as socio-economic disparity among rural and urban population. These policies helped Zimbabwe to realise universal primary education as signalled by 86% enrolment rate (Kamyongo 2005:8).

Nevertheless, the period 1990 to 1995 witnessed a misfortune of economic turnaround perpetuated by floods and droughts which gave rise to poverty and inequality. This coincided with the failure to attain the fruits of Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) of 1987 when the government was encouraged to cut expenditure on social welfare such as subsidising primary health care and education as the real GDP

growth was 1.5% and this was insufficient for creating more employment and reduce poverty, (UNDP Zimbabwe 2004:12). In an attempt to rectify the effects of ESAP, Zimbabwe came up with a home grown strategy the Zimbabwe Programme for Economic and Social Transformation (ZIMPREST) in 1998, which also did not yield any fruits as the economy continues dwindling. The situation was worsened by printing a lot of money to give war veterans and soldiers that had been deployed to Democratic Republic of Congo in 1997 and this fuelled inflation which later took its toll in 2008.

In 2001 the government propelled the Millennium Economic Recovery Programme (MERP) as another attempt to mend the economy which continued to decline and it was aggravated by the land reform programme which was not bearing fruits to address poverty. This programme suffered a still birth mainly because there were no funds to implement it as international donors has withdrawn their support after Zimbabwe defaulted on payment of external arrears, decrease in FID and assets freeze (McArthur 2013).

**Figure 1: The 1995- 2004 Net FDI**



**Source:** Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe 2005

*Figure 2: 2000 to 2009 Key Development Indicators (KDI)*

	2000	2002	2003	2008	2009
<b>Real GDP Growth %</b>	-8.2	-14.5	-13.9	-8.2	5.4
<b>Per capita Real GDP growth %</b>	-7.7	-14.7	-14.1		
<b>Inflation</b>	55.9	133.2	525.8	500 billion	Introduction of multicurrency
<b>HIV/AIDS prevalence age (15-45 years) %</b>	25	34	34		

**Source:** UNDP Zimbabwe 2004 and Hunda 2016

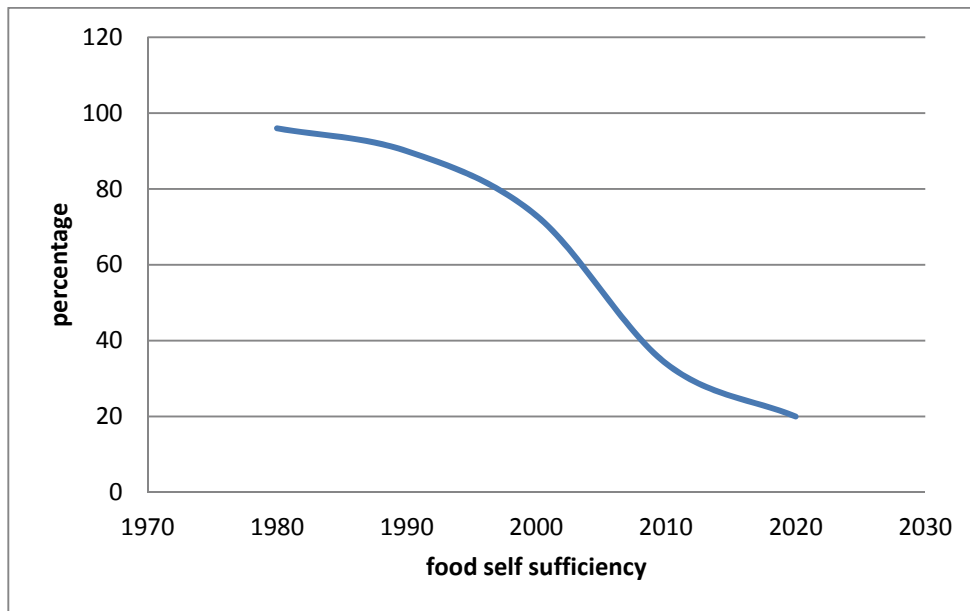
A combination of decline in net FDI as indicated in the 1995-2004 and 2000- 2009 KDI figures above, high level of inflation perpetuated poverty and hunger as it wiped out people's savings and pensions in Zimbabwe. From MERP, there came the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim-Asset) which is running from 2013 to 2018. The Zim-Asset has the purpose of addressing poverty and economic meltdown. It is against this background that Zimbabwe struggled to meet MDGs as the hangover from the period before the MDGs is visible and even in the SDGs.

### **GOAL 1: Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger**

There are two main ministries which are dealing with MDG1 which are: Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with other ministries they were working hand in glove in an attempt to attain this goal. Zimbabwe is an agro-based economy which relies heavily on the cultivation of a variety of crops such maize, wheat, sorghum, nuts, beans, sweet potatoes and yams for food, cotton, tobacco and flowers for commercial purposes. Since the haphazard seizure of white commercial farms during land reform program which happen to coincide with the inception of the MDGs, Zimbabwe has been struggling to feed its population, (United

States Agency for International Development (USAID) 2014). Zimbabwe has changed from being the bread basket to a begging basket, as the country was known and used to be the bread basket of Southern Africa, having sufficient food for its population and surplus to sell to neighbouring countries. This status however become ancient history as Zimbabwe is now begging for food almost every year and depending on aid to feed its population since 2001.

**Figure 3. From bread basket to begging basket**



**Source:** IFAD 2012:8

Zimbabwe set two targets and indicators as well on its quest to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. First target was to halve the proportion of people whose income is below the Total Consumption Poverty Line (TCPL) and the number of people below human poverty as measured by the Human Poverty Index (HPI) from 2002 to 2015. The pointer for this goal was checking the ratio of people under the HCPL and HPI respectively (UNDP Zimbabwe 2004:15). Second target was to lessen the number of children under the age of five years suffering from malnutrition by two-thirds and people who suffer from hunger between 2002 and 2015 by checking the percentage of the under-five children who are

underweight and those who are taking at least three meals per day and simultaneously checking the population under Food Poverty Line (FPL).

Even though Zimbabwe has experienced better economic growth rates in 2009 to 2012, which was an escalation from a GDP of -14.1% around 2001-2008 to 5.4% in 2009 and 9.3% in 2011, then dropped to 2.7% in 2014 and further declined to 1.5% in 2015, this has not translate into creating employment and concurrently reduce poverty. In as much as there is economic growth, on the other hand poverty is not deteriorating proportionally. This is probably due to feeble economic growth relations among different sectors (Hunda 2016). Different reports as of 2011 indicated that 62.6% of the families in Zimbabwe were understood to be underprivileged, while 72.3% of all Zimbabweans as individuals were regarded as underprivileged. The prevalence rate of poverty in rural areas is more with about 76% of rural families regarded as poor as they were struggling to put food on their table when equated to urban areas with about 38.2% (UNDP Zimbabwe 2015).

The decay in proper employment and mass retrenchments led several workers to switch to informal jobs which remunerates very poorly and this has in turn perpetuated hunger and poverty. Poverty increased considerably from 29% in 1995 to 58% in 2003, then to 87% in 2008, then dropped a bit to 73% in 2012 before rising again to 89% as of February 2015. The proportion of population below TCPL rose from 55% in 1995 to 72% in 2003, to 91% in 2008, and then dropped to 82% in 2012, before rising again to 87% in the same period (UNDP Zimbabwe 2015).

In rural households the percentage of food shortage reached its climax between December and March of every year then dropped gradually following the beginning of harvesting period indicating Zimbabwe's dependence on rain-fed agriculture (Kwari 2015:1). The pervasiveness of malnourished children less than five years of age cut down to 10% in 2011 from 11.8% in 2009, though this aggregate might be affected by the anticipated escalation in food shortages in families.

The year 2016 for Zimbabwe is the worst hard hit year by hunger which is induced by El Nino drought that is almost similar to the 1992 drought which left many domestic animals and some people dead. El Nino is a warming sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, which has wilted crops countrywide including some parts of Southern Africa, slowed economic growth and driven food prices higher" (Reuters Foundation 2016:1). More than a decade and half now, Zimbabwe, the once bread-basket of Southern Africa is failing to feed its teeming population. The nation is cap in hand, begging for the crumbs that fall

from the table of the same colonial masters who, at some point, brutalised, oppressed and degraded them during the colonial era. From being a bread-basket to a begging basket...a cause for concern...the outcome of the land reform program. Zimbabwe our mother land, social scientists, economists, politicians, and especially those of us in Public Administration, "must wake up from our slumber and take the bull by its horns by taking the lead in offering and proffering solutions to our problems" of extreme poverty, hunger, corruption and self-aggrandisement (Langa 2014).

### **Challenges**

High rate of unemployment stood at 90% as of March 2016, Low income as of 2011, 94% of employees were getting a salary equivalent to or lower than TCPL and HPI for a household of five on average (Thata 2016). There is lack of accountability and transparency in the manner in which farming inputs are distributed which make ministers to benefit year after year of which they can afford to buy those inputs on their own. There is no audit to show who benefited and who did not benefit for instance, on the presidential input scheme where farmers are given farming inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, chemicals, fuel and most of the inputs are not reaching intended beneficiaries and this continues to hammer food security and some of the people who may happen to get those inputs they are not using them in the right manner.

Most government officials who took farms from whites are underutilising those farms and in some cases they are not even using them at all, they are just lying idle without any production taking place and this escalates food shortage. Majority of farmers are not harvesting water to use it for irrigation purposes, they heavily rely on rain season and this hinders food self-sufficiency as sometimes rain patterns are changing and drought regularly strike Zimbabwe which make it more difficult to grow crops even during rain season. For some farmers who happen to send the grains to Grain Marketing Board (GMB) the government is taking too long to pay them, hence they are failing to buy inputs in preparation for the next rain season (The Zimbabwean 2015). Poor distribution of food aid along political lines especially in rural areas is continuing hammering the poor people.

### **Recommendations**

Land auditing is needed as well as accountability on farming inputs. Zimbabwe should construct a lot of dams to harvest water during raining season and then use that water in dry seasons for crop production such as winter wheat farming, domestic use, and this also

go a long in reducing poverty, returning moisture on the ground and cool the atmosphere. Farmers must be encouraged to cultivate drought tolerant crops such as sorghum, beans and other short grain crops which can be harvest within the two months to improve food security. To those with access to manure must apply it in their fields to boost their yields.

## **GOAL 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education**

Before independence, education in Zimbabwe was being provided in two categories which were: government for mainly white children and missionaries for indigenous people. The colonial masters were not happy with the type and level of education which was provided by missionaries as they saw it as a threat and they treaded in to regulate the type of education blacks were receiving. That is when they decided that black people should be taught and trained in occupations such as building, agricultural, mining, industrial and carpentry related fields to prepare them as labourers and not for white collar jobs (Kanyongo 2005:65). Then after independence it was inevitable to have reforms in the education system of Zimbabwe to make it more inclusive and to carter for those who could not make it for studying before and during the liberation struggle.

The first most vital reforms were the amalgamation of the distinct education system to remove abnormalities and injustice which was created by the white settlers so that education can be accessed by all. To achieve this, the government implemented a socialist approach, "Growth with Equity" so as to reimburse the imbalances in education and health for its citizens. The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Comrade R.G. Mugabe declared education for all both children and adults. The government embarked on building schools in previously disadvantages urban areas, marginalised rural areas, escalating the training of teachers and giving learning material. This went a long way in increasing the enrolment of children in primary schools as well as adults in secondary schools and some in tertiary and vocational training institutions. The community also chipped in by providing labour, bricks and water for the construction of schools. There are two ministries of education in Zimbabwe which were formed in 1988, the Ministry of Education, Sport, Art and Culture which deals with education of the adults, as well as Early Childhood up to the age of 18 and non-formal schooling for all citizens. The other one is the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education which is in charge of college and university education (Marist International Solidarity Foundation 2011:1). This helped in the supply of teachers who are coming from colleges, universities and enhanced the quality of education.



Upon attaining its independence, Zimbabwe inherited the British education system which was dominated by whites in better schools, while few blacks were in poorly funded schools and it maintained well until in the 1990s when the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) which gave birth to a change in the economic structures. The ESAP made government to reduce its expenditure on social services such as education and economic performance dwindled due competition from outside companies since the government was forced to abandon its socialist policy in favour of capitalism, (United Nations Development Program 2003). From 1980 up to 1994 Zimbabwe used to write examinations that were set and marked by the University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate (UCLES) in the United Kingdom then after ESAP, Zimbabwe was forced to cut its cost on education by localising its ordinary level (O' Level) examination and to get them set and marked locally with a local board called Zimbabwe School Examination Council (ZIMSEC) this was finalised in 1994 with first examinations set by ZIMSEC written in 1995. In 2002 ZIMSEC introduced Advanced Level Examinations (A 'Level) which are set and marked locally as well.

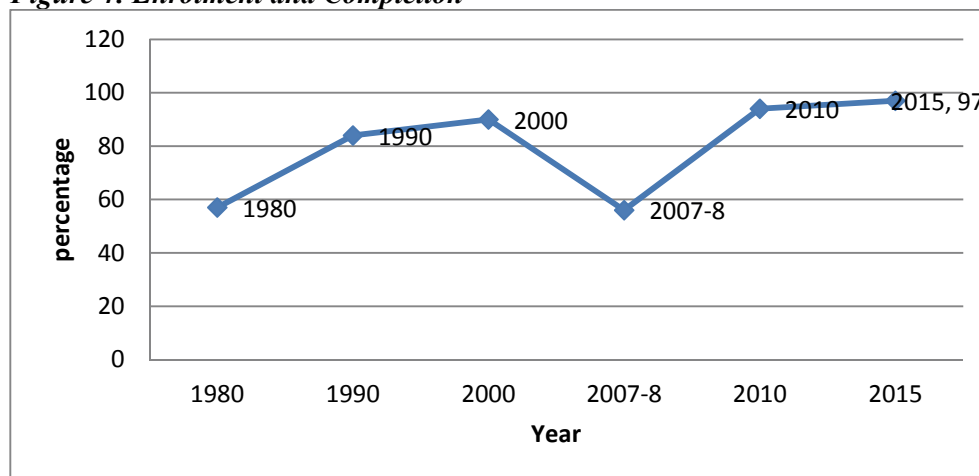
In the light of the afore mentioned, this is the background of the education system of Zimbabwe which is its pride on the African continent with literacy rates escalating from 85% in 1994 to 99% in 2011 among 15-24 years old (Gwaunza 2015). It is against this background that Zimbabwe set a target of ensuring that all children both girls and boys must complete primary education between 2002 and 2015. To achieve this target, four indicators were set which are: literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, net enrolment ration in primary education, completion rate for primary school and teacher pupil ration (UN Zimbabwe 2004:23). Literacy is usually delineated as "the ability to read and write, with understanding, a short, simple statement about one's everyday life" (UN 2008) as cited in (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation 2013:23).

There is high net enrolment in primary schools nonetheless, more determination is desired to increase completion rates and 99% of primary schools had Early Childhood Development as of 2014 (UNDP Zimbabwe 2015). Even though there have been variations in Net Enrolment Ratios (NER), these rates have remained remarkably high. In 2011, NER dropped to 87% from a high of 91% in 2009. There is slight difference found on gender or geographical at primary school level. The rates of completion have not remained as high as NER, even though they have increased from 68% to 82% in 2009 and went up to

92.2% in 2014 (UNDP Zimbabwe 2015). A higher completion rate has been demonstrated by students in urban areas specifically female students unlike those in rural areas.

In 2012 an Accelerated Action Plan (AAP) was developed to focus on addressing precisely the matter of primary school completion rates and quality of education. One of the main issues averting excellence of education is financial restrictions which have remained at the helm of every effort by government for quite some time. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 the education system in Zimbabwe was on its knees as the political and economic turmoil turned upside-down with a lot of qualified teachers leaving the country in pursuit of greener pastures in neighbouring countries and abroad. This left a lot of public schools with less qualified teachers, while private schools maintained their staff but, they were charging exorbitant fees which were beyond the reach of many parents who were already languishing in abject poverty due to worsening economic doldrums.

**Figure 4: Enrolment and Completion**



**Source:** Author's Compilation

To accelerate the MDG2 Zimbabwe with the support from United Nations came up with numerous plans and programmes among them being the AAP, Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), School Feeding Programme (SFP), Second Chance Education (SCE) and School Improvement Grants (SIG) as carefully chosen focal areas of intervention (UNDP 2013:1). More so, in 2009 the then Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Senator David Coltart established the Education Transition Fund (ETF) for donors to be in

charge of their money. This helped the ministry as more donors pumped a lot of funds which were used to buy text books and as of 2012 the ratio of pupils to next book to one as to one which is a huge difference from what was happening in 2007-2008 where in some cases it was one text book as to 8 pupils and in some cases only the teacher had the text book (Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) 2013).

For tertiary studies there is the Zimbabwean Presidential Scholarship which mainly targets disadvantaged potential students to study at universities both locally and abroad, Strive Musiwa Econet's Scholarships and other NGOs who are also offering scholarships for students to study both locally and abroad as well. All this effort has resulted in Zimbabwe making good progress in terms of MDG2.

### **Challenges**

However, limited funding in the form of scholarships and bursaries for tertiary studies has been the greatest debacle for students who finished their Ordinary and Advanced level who have the potential to further their studies. Economic hardships resulted in unemployment, worsening poverty and hunger, loss of experienced teachers and lecturers between 2006 and 2009 as they left the country in search of greener pastures in neighbouring states and abroad. A lot of schools in rural areas do not have electricity which makes it difficult to embrace science and technology, this demotivates teachers to go and work in rural areas as well as denying chance to rural students to exploit technology and other science subjects. There are still marginalised schools in areas such as Binga where learners attend the classes under trees and sitting on stones, some on the ground and with limited textbooks as well.

### **Recommendations**

Primary education should be free to all children so that none would be left out of primary school based on financial constraints. More schools both primary and secondary should be constructed and electrified to embrace science and technology especially in rural areas to avert long distance walking for children and people with disabilities as this at times contribute to school dropouts.

The welfare of teachers should be improved for instance, giving them housing and transport allowances so that they get motivated, work with enthusiasm and this will help them to relate well with pupils. All teachers should be properly trained so as to ensure better quality of education is obtained. Regularly review the curriculum at all levels that is

from primary, secondary and tertiary institutions so as to edify it and add novel relevant material which reflect the needs of the children and the country at large moving with changes in the state-of-the-art technology.

Incentivise innovators who harness resource readily available to come up with something that help the country, for instance that National University of Science and Technology (NUST) student who managed to make use of plastics and other chemicals to come up with diesel, such students must be incentivised so as to motivate them and provide them with necessary equipment. Embrace technology through STEM from primary to tertiary level so as to lay a strong foundation in children and boost the harnessing of technology to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of public good and services towards SDGs.

### **GOAL 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women**

A number of studies have indicated that women constitute the majority of poor people worldwide and about 70% women of world's populace are underprivileged (Noreen 2012) as cited in (Mutanana and Bukaliya 2015:1). In some cases women's attempts to move out of poverty are hindered by exclusion from decision making positions based on cultural identity, gendered social structure especially in rural areas. The empowerment of women is further thwarted by marginalisation and imperilled under patriarch control and this is a worldwide challenge since the mediaeval era. IFAD (2012) pointed out that universally, and with rare exemptions rural women are far inferior that rural men, and urban women and men compared to each MDG pointer for which data are existing.

It is against this background that the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) signed numerous agreements and protocols on gender associated matters, indicating its commitment on women empowerment programmes in its attempt to meet the set targets which are: reduce gender inequality in primary and secondary education by 2005 and at all education echelons by 2015 and escalating women's involvement in parliament by 30%, in civil service positions by 40% in 2005 and a balance of 50-50 by 2015 preferably, (UNDP Zimbabwe 2004:29).

Zimbabwe is involved in several international conventions such as Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1991), the Beijing Declaration on the Platform for Action (1995), the Convention on Civil and Political Rights (CCCPR), the Equal Remuneration Convention and so on. Then at regional level, Zimbabwe

has endorsed the convention to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women, the Solemn Declaration on Gender and Equality in Africa 2004, (Ushewokunze 2012), and the Zimbabwe National Gender Policy of 2004 complimented GoZ's actions and commitment at international human rights framework.

More so, several laws have also been enacted that support women empowerment and participation in active politics at national level. There are a lot of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) against women and girls in Zimbabwe, (Lupick 2014) but so far the empowerment of women has been made through legislative frameworks to tackle this violence in the public and the private scope among them being: the Children's Act, the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, the Criminal Evidence and Procedure Act, the Domestic Violence Act (2007) among others. These pieces of legislation are also supported by the Victim Friendly Unit department which is a section formed within the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) to combat violence against women and children and it is working together with department of Social Services. In 2013 Zimbabwe adopted a new Constitution which is widely accredited for its strong commitment on gender equality issues on socioeconomic and political developments in relation to the Zimbabwe National Gender Policy. The GoZ on top of these legal frameworks, has established plug-ins and approaches, such as the 4Ps (Prevention, Protection, Participation and Programme) operation zero leniency to GBV (2012-2015) and to achieve this there is need for multi-sectorial, effective and coordinated response (UNDP Zimbabwe 2015).

To this end, through the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development which was pioneered by Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri, Zimbabwe has managed to have an average of 25% women representation in public service institutions and 35% in Parliament as of 2013 general elections. This means Zimbabwe met its target 2005 of 30% but dismally failed to meet its 2015 target of 50-50, (USAID 2014). Be that as it may, Zimbabwe has witnessed the ascendance of the then Vice President Dr Joyce Mujuru in 2004 who was the first woman in Zimbabwe to be promoted to the second highest office in the country, other notable female cabinet minister are Muchinguri-Kashiri who is the Minister of Environment, Water, Climate and Wildlife, Dr Olivia Muchena who was the Minister of Higher and Tertiary, Science and Technology Development in 2014, Mrs Sithembise Nyoni who is the Minister for Small to Medium Micro Enterprises and many more who are deputy ministers, judges and assistant commissioners.

The good news for Zimbabwe is that gender equality at primary and secondary school levels has been attained, as well as in tertiary institutions. The enrolment, attendance and completion rates have been attained on gender parity at primary and secondary levels respectively. Gender parity is also on literacy rates which clearly show that there is great improvement in promoting gender parity plus women empowerment (Hunda 2016). Regardless of the progress made to date, admission gender discrepancies remains noticeable at tertiary level, though this is progressively being enhanced, predominantly bearing in mind that associates with gender parity in high schools are going on to the tertiary level. The involvement of women in decision-making positions across sectors requires greater effort to be made. However, further affirmative action to encourage gender egalitarianism in upper positions is essential. In 2011 there were only 21% of women managers in the private sector and the proportion of female Parliamentarians has continued as it was after 2008 elections at 14% and 24% for the Lower House and Upper House of Assembly respectively. The proportion of female in rural and female in urban councillors remained constant at 14% (UNDP Zimbabwe 2015).

The UN Women Zimbabwe supports the GoZ through the Joint Programme for Gender Equity (JPGE) which is being funded by the Government of Sweden to accomplish gender parity and women's empowerment using four pillars which are:

**Pillar 1:** Combating all practices of GBV

**Pillar 2:** Women's political involvement and impact

**Pillar 3:** Women's economic empowerment and working conditions

**Pillar 4:** National accountability on gender equality and women's empowerment.

These four pillars are directed at stimulating a comprehensive women's empowerment and gender equality through underlining how intertwined they are and through tactical interpolations at policy level (ILO 2015). Furthermore, GoZ entered into partnerships with agencies from UNDP, ILO and NGOs with their experience and expertise in the implementation of these pillars positive results are expected.

## **Challenges**

Zimbabwe have good policies on gender and women empowerment but they are mainly on paper than real action this is attributed to the fact that there are still more men at the implementation stage who have a tendency of overlooking some policy aspects which impact negatively on development and empowerment of women.

Too much patriarchal mentality is resulting in men resisting to have women in decision-making and influential positions. Some religious and cultural aspects are causing women to be reluctant to take the lead on gender and women empowerment matters especially in rural areas (USAID 2014).

The political land scape of Zimbabwe was not even for women to be involved in active politics, but it is gradually improving as witnessed by numerous activities and human rights groups comprising of more women. Resources are not distributed fairly because women do not have access and control over resources such land, cattle and other assets which be used as collateral to obtain bank loans. Women are not in decision making positions more especially in rural areas. GBV culture and child marriages are major constraints on women empowerment due to lack of enforcement of most of the pieces of legislation are in place to empower women.

### **Recommendations**

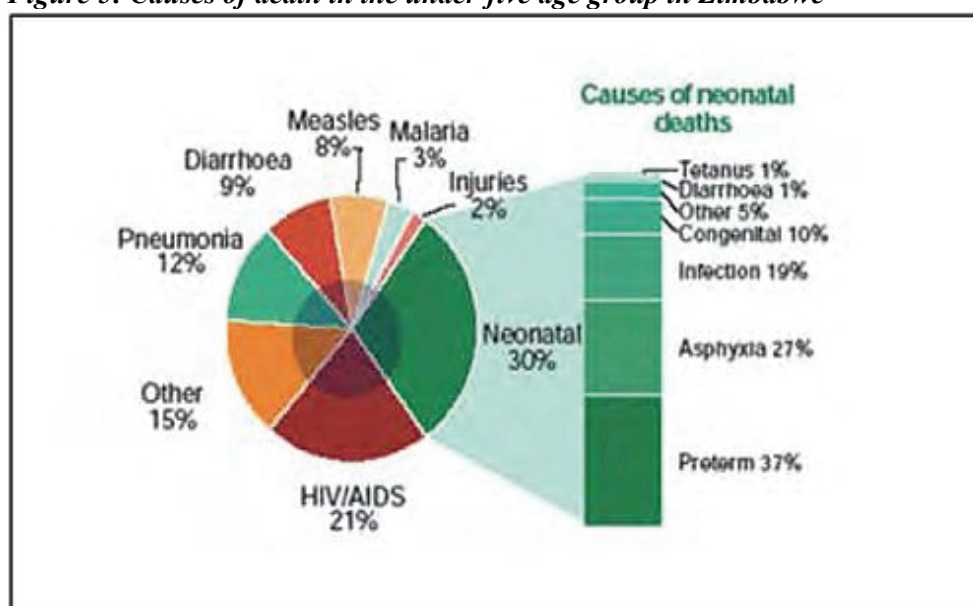
There is need for active participation of both men and women on gender issues and the empowerment of women. Women empowerment must not be seen as a zero-sum where gains for women spontaneously entail setback for men, but rather it should be seen as transformational process which leads to sustainable socioeconomic development programmes and projects as well as viewing women as equal partners. Awareness campaigns are needed to encourage women and men to participate in programmes and projects that empower them. The study highly recommends men to give permission to women to participate in all spheres of government including politics, businesses and social cohesion so that they will be in decision making positions, they can have equitable access and control over resources. There is need for funding of women empowerment programmes, then do monitoring and evaluation to check success in the implementation of such programmes.

### **GOAL 4: Reduce Child Mortality**

Through the Ministry of Health and Child Care, the MDGs 4, 5 and 6, Zimbabwe has embarked on a number of plug-ins that have witnessed the immunisation of children against numerous ailments as well as the setting up of neonatal care and maternal fees has been removed. Some of the causes of neonatal deaths on infants include: measles, malaria, diarrhoea, HIV/AIDS, pneumonia, injuries among others. From the figure below, HIV/AIDS is the leading infant killer as it is transferred from mother to child during

"pregnancy, childbirth and or breastfeeding" (WHO 2014) and it is not curable once it's in the child's body unlike other diseases which can be totally treated. The target is to lessen the under-five death ratio by two-thirds between 2000 and 2015 using pointers of deaths per 1000 live births as well as the proportion of malnourished and children immunised against measles (UNDP Zimbabwe 2004).

**Figure 5: Causes of death in the under-five age group in Zimbabwe**



**Source: WHO and UNICEF 2010**

Even though infant and child mortality rates have progressively dropped, better-quality sanitation and water plug-ins are fundamental to accomplishing the essential theatrical drops. The mortality rates for under-five and infants are gradually improving. The under-five death rate has fallen from '120 deaths per 1000 live births in 1999 to 84 for every 1000 in 2010-2011 and to 80 per 1000" according to 2012 progress report, and then to 75 deaths in 2014 according to UNDP Zimbabwe (2015). The new-born death rate dropped from 65 deaths per 1000 live births in 1999 to 57 deaths per 1000 live births in 2010-2011 and to 52 as of 2014 (Gwaunza 2015:1). This fall was insufficient to attain the target for MDG 4 on reducing under-five deaths by two-thirds by 2015. A higher mortality rate is more pronounced in rural children compared to their urban counterparts; outcomes point



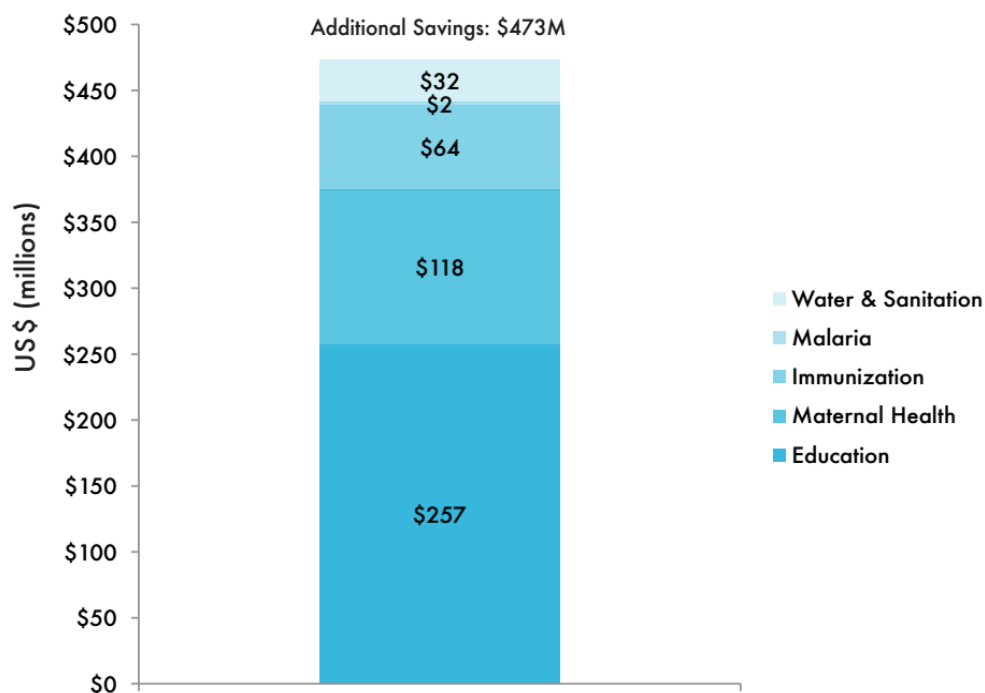
out that the education level and socioeconomic status of the mother results in lesser death rates for children. Generally there is improvement on Immunisation coverage of all six child killer diseases, but the obtaining of treatment is very costly and the limited access to safe consumable water and improved hygiene are the chief hindrances to lessen under-five and new-born death rates (United Nations Zimbabwe 2012:9).

### **Challenges**

Due to further financial constraints the budget apportionment to the health segment dropped from 8% in 2000 to 4.2% in 2005, to 3% in 2008, then rose to 10% in 2013 before dropping again to 8% in 2014 (Kwari 2015:1). This contributed to a failure by Zimbabwe to attain the MDG 3 by 2015 though there are some significant improvements made. Some religious and traditional beliefs are a stumbling block for attaining MGD4 as they do not permit their children to be immunised with modern drugs.

### **Recommendations**

The figure below is a jack of all trades in the sense that, it encourages gender equality and empower women which is MDG 3, escalating the accessibility of Family Planning (FP) services to women can meaningfully decrease the expenses of meeting about five MDGs in Zimbabwe which are: MDG 2- MDG 4- MDG 5- MDG 6- MDG 7. The cost of attaining MDG 2 which is universal primary education is determined by the amount of children who need education each year for instance. So investing in the provision of FP and will in turn reduces unmet need and this assist couples and women in Zimbabwe to meet their reproductive purposes and decrease unplanned babies. This will have a direct impact of reducing, yearly costs for attaining universal primary education objectives. The same applies to the demand for other sectors of MDGs, illuminating cost savings in maternal health, water and sanitation, education, immunisation and malaria goals and simultaneously this goes on to reduce child mortality and enhancing maternal health which are MDGs 4 and 5 accordingly.

*Figure 6: Social Sector Savings in Zimbabwe, 2014-2030*

**Source:** Lupick 2014:3

### **GOAL 5: Improve Maternal Health**

Decreasing the maternal mortality percentage by three-quarters was the set target by 2015 and the indicator was checking the percentage of births attended by expert health workers. As a result of lesser rates of attended births and exorbitant prices of health care together with economic hardships there has been a rise to loss of lives by mothers even now. There was a reduction of maternal mortality rate of 960 deaths per 100 000 live births in 1999 which was reduced to 612 deaths per 100 00 live births as documented in 2005-2006 and to 526 in 2012 to 498 in 2014 (UNICEF and UNFPA 2015). Again Zimbabwe missed the target by far 240 per 100 000 live births. There is an increase in the amount of births attended by expert health workers, particularly in rural areas from 69% in 1999 to 72.5% in 2005-2006 to 79% in 2009 and then 80.8% in 2014. There was a reduction in home

deliveries from 41% to 22% respectively during the same period as indicated in UNDP Zimbabwe 2015 report.

It was expected that this status quo could be significantly enhanced by 2015, due to the fact that the Zimbabwe government, Sweden, UNICEF, UNFPA and the well-wishers have accumulated a health transition account targeted at enhancing maternal, infant and nutrition, to accelerate the accessibility of medical products, vaccines and expertise, multiplying human resources for health, refining health strategy, organising and bankrolling nationwide, (Ronnas 2016).

### **Challenges**

Some religious and traditional beliefs are a hindrance to the achievement of MGD5. Due to these beliefs some husbands do not permit their wives to use birth control mechanisms as well as to give birth in clinics and hospital with modern drugs, for instance Johan Marange religious sect do not allow their women to take Family Planning (FP) contraceptives and force children of around 9-13 to get married and most of these children will be still doing their primary studies. Budget constraints as indicated in MDG4. This is a setback as some women cannot afford to pay maternal bills, lessened turnout of expectant mothers at antenatal clinics because of related charges or distance to clinics and the failure by some women to choose health reproductive concerns. This affected adversely the health sector which covers child mortality, maternal health and as well as fighting HIV/AIDS, (Amal and Fernandez 2010). Despite efforts from various aids coming from donors, deepening of economic hardships and liquidity crunch is a biggest barrier especially in 2014 and 2015.

### **Recommendations**

There is need for awareness campaigning for such traditions and religious beliefs for them to permit their women to use birth control mechanisms as well as to give birth in clinics and hospitals with modern drugs so as to improve maternal health. By improving maternal health it will ultimately result in reducing child mortality which in turn leads to fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and additional ailments and the attainment of universal primary education, it is imperative to deal with maternal health which is the cornerstone in achievement of MDGs 4, 5 and 6.

## **GOAL 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases**

One of the most serious public health problems is HIV/AIDS, but good progress has been made by Zimbabwe in the battle against this pandemic and this has been justified by declining rates of infection, children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and frequency among 15-24 year old pregnant women which were the targets as well as lessening the incidence of diarrhoeal, TB and malaria (UNDP Zimbabwe 2004:45). There are pieces of legislation which were enacted with regard to HIV/AIDS these are: "National HIV and AIDS Policy of 2000 and the Statutory Instrument (SI 202) of 1998 which prohibits HIV screening for the purpose of employment and the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act 23 of 2004 which makes it a crime for a person who knows that he or she has HIV to infect another, even between wife and husband" (Kerina, Babill and Muller, 2013:9). The National AIDS Trust Fund (also called AIDS Levy) which entails collection of 3% of all taxable individuals and corporates incomes to fund HIV/AIDS programmes, such Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) and other HIV/AIDS related campaigns.

The Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey (ZDHS) (2011), states that 15% of Zimbabwean grown-ups aged 15-49 years are infected with HIV, which is a three-point drop from 18% in 2007 (Cholewka 2008). HIV/AIDS is viewed as a feminised endemic in Zimbabwe mainly because the HIV pervasiveness amongst women is at 18% while for men its 12%. More so, for 15-24 year olds the prevalence rate is 5.5% as of 2011, once more much greater in women at 7.8% compared to men (3.6%) of the same age group (World Fit for Children 2010). In broad-spectrum, people with better socioeconomic and education prominence have lesser HIV prevalence, this can be attributed to the fact that those who are poor may not have even received the basic education on HIV and they are vulnerable to the extent of resorting to prostitution as a way of earning a living.

The HIV prevalence rate has some geographical heterogeneity in it for instance, as of 2011 it was rural areas 15% and urban areas at 17%. Approximately there were 1, 214, 126 people as well as 162, 889 children, who had HIV/AIDS in 2011. By end of 2011 a projected population of 476, 321 and 40, 140 children included were registered for Antiretroviral Therapy (ARV), of which 60% of them are females. Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) programme targeting 15-49 years in 2013 it achieved 7, 947, 109 people against a target of 5, 480, 000 people as well as 1, 456 health care facilities are providing integrated services through Antenatal Clinic (ANC), TB clinics and STI clinics, (Zimbabwe AIDS Response Progress Report 2014). This helped to mitigate the stigma and

fatalism associated with HIV/AIDS infection thereby enhancing uptake of VCT. The prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) coverage is at 86%, with 14% of children presently being infected (UNDP Zimbabwe 2015).

Out of 34 African countries, Zimbabwe is one the countries that has managed to make a reduction of 49% in new cases on the spread of HIV/AIDS, particularly amongst young people (Kerina, Babill and Muller, 2013:45). Furthermore, blood transfusions are currently 100% nontoxic, there is 60.9% accurate condom use at last high-risk sex, the frequency of numerous sexual associates has diminished, fewer young people are involved in sexual activity prior age 15 years plus 33% of the population are aware of their HIV status (Mutanana and Bukaliya 2015). The county's robust partnerships and fruitful utilisation of domestic resource through the AIDS levy stay undisturbed. The AIDS levy on its own has generated \$26 million for the duration of 2011 (UN Zimbabwe 2012:9).

In 2009 malaria was a foremost reason of hospital admission nevertheless, 2010 figures shows that frequencies of this syndrome dropped by 64%, grounded on 2000 levels. The figure of informed cases of tuberculosis has likewise dwindled, "dropping from a peak of 782 per 100, 000 people in 2007 to 633 per 100, 000 people in 2010" (UNDP Zimbabwe 2015:17). Cases of Cholera outbreak were reported in 2008 and it claimed 4 282 lives and this was the first time since the annual report in 1998, but it was controlled with some interventions from World Health Organisation (WHO), (Ahmed, Bardham, Iqbal and Mazumder 2011). Another disease which threatened Zimbabwe was the outbreak of typhoid in 2010 which was the first to happen for over 40 years, two additional outbursts happened in 2011 as well as 2012, though they were minor cases. Averting these and other diarrhoeal ailments needs acquaintance to personal hygiene practices, sound sanitation and safe drinking water.

## **Challenges**

The deepening of economic hardships is the major stumbling block to attain this MDG6 as some people mainly the youth who are supposed to be at school are mainly found in danger of HIV/AIDS especially women as they try to find their ends means by engaging into prostitution thereby escalating the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate. The quest of fighting HIV and AIDS precisely has been "bitter-sweet" as witnessed by an escalation instead of a decline in the amount of new HIV infections in other areas within Zimbabwe (Dube, 2014). Small towns with mining activities are the most areas that are experiencing an escalation

of HIV/AIDS for instance around Great Zimbabwe University where illegal gold panning is taking place and the miners easily mingle with university students who are desperate for money. Another example is Zvishavane where one of the biggest mining companies such as Shabanie has shutdown leaving thousands unemployed people who embark on illegal mining thereby creating a suitable environment for young girls to venture into prostitution for them to earn a living and some prostitutes come from Bulawayo targeting those illegal miners. The general accessibility of essential medicines at public health hospitals and clinics has improved meaningfully between 2010 and 2014; nevertheless, availability of vital medicines on a sustainable foundation continues to be a challenge due to poor performance of the economy and the country depend profoundly on supplies from donors (Hunda 2016). The uptake of voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) is being hindered by stigmatisation of those who are HIV/AIDS positive (Kerina, Babill and Muller, 2013).

### **Recommendations**

Sustainable safe drinking water and sanitation is needed to curb all water borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, malaria and bilharzia. More awareness campaigns for combating HIV/AIDS are needed across the country especially in mining areas and institutions of higher learning because that's where young and energetic people are converging and exposed to the pandemic. There is need to discourage traditional ways of remarrying a family member whose partner died due HIV/AIDS or any other disease.

### **GOAL 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

To make sure that environmental sustainability can be tracked three targets were set which are: developing sustainable programmes and policies, reducing the percentage of people deprived of basic sanitation, nontoxic water to drink and enhancing 1,000,000 slum inhabitants, housing conditions in high density and peril urban areas by 2020. Six core indicators were put in place as well check if the country will be driving in the right direction and these are: percentage of land covered by woodland, protected land to preserve biodiversity, amount of persons with justifiable access to better-quality water source, sanitation plus annually check units of houses produced (UNDP Zimbabwe 2004:51). National Policy on Domestic Water Supply and Sanitation was enacted to address safe drinking water for both rural and urban households, with the help of WHO and UNICEF, many boreholes drilled and water treatment plans were constructed. According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) the proportion of rural households with access to safe water

declined from 75.1% in 1999 to 66.5% in 2004, then to 64% in 2009, then to 59% in 2014. Though there was a decline in the percentage of households without safe water, this was not enough to meet the target.

In 2005 the GoZ launched Operation Restore Order (Murambatsvina) which was meant to clean up towns by removing illegal structures and slum dwellers. This operation evoked mixed feelings among different stakeholders: urban planners and city council viewed this as a way to create clean and sustainable towns. Human rights activists viewed this as inhuman and barbaric action for demolishing people's houses. In 2006 there was Operation Garikai/Hlalani kuhle as a way of coming up with sustainable urban settlement with basic sanitation and nontoxic water to drink, though this operation worked, the country was way below the 2010 safe sanitation target of 61% and 73% by 2015 (Mid-Decade Progress Report Zimbabwe 2002-2006). As of 2009 to 2015, Zimbabwe has witnessed uncontrolled mushrooming urban slums all over small towns and big cities through housing cooperatives further putting pressure on the demand for clean water, sanitation and electricity on municipalities. In some cases government responded by bulldozing completed houses in a similar way they did during Operation Restore Order of 2005.

Turning to the environment, through the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate Management, Zimbabwe is failing put in place measures to protect the country's fauna and flora in a sustainable manner. Although Zimbabwe continued to have clear carbon basin and has established vigorous statute, bulk of Zimbabweans still depend on illicitly harness natural resources for instance firewood for household uses, curing tobacco, in so doing escalating the destruction of fauna and flora. Improvement on ecological sustainability in Zimbabwe has remained inconsistent (Langa 2014). Progressive results consist of phasing out ozone-depleting elements, lessening carbon dioxide emissions as well as steady progresses towards the right to use nontoxic sources of water, rising from 61% of 2009 to 79% by 2010. Nevertheless, there are symptoms that Zimbabwe's water situation has deteriorated because there is no harvesting of water during raining season through the construction of dams.

Deforestation is still a big challenge especially in rural areas as most of Zimbabweans are continuing to reap natural resources like wood without the implementation of any restrictive rules (Dube, 2014). This point to the fact that poverty result in individuals depend on resources like firewood to earn a living is closely linked with environmental unsustainability. A lot of firewood is being used for curing tobacco by farmers, but they

are just cutting trees without replacing any resulting in severe deforestation across the country (United Nations Zimbabwe, 2012:10).

More so, Zimbabwe is failing to conserve its wildlife as witnessed by the killing of over 1, 342 rhinos between 2008 and 2015 alone and the killing of 300 elephants in 2013 alone, 62 more in 2015 through poisoning with cyanide by poachers in Hwange, Gonarezou National Parks and Save Valley conservancy respectively (African Arguments.org 2016). These poachers are getting cyanide from illegal gold miners as well as rifles from government's secrete and soldiers as witnessed by the implication of several government officials in these poaching deals. The Save Valley conservancy was further ruined in 2011 when 25 senior ZANU-PF were granted leases on this park in the name of "wildlife-based land reform" measures to empower indigenous black Zimbabweans and they started killing wild animals uncontrollable crippling the once heralded as one of the world's most notable conservation success stories (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime. 2016). The situation is getting by day as the economy and unemployment is worsening.

### **Challenges**

Lack of policy consistence has ruined the effort to preserve the environment for instance, there are exemptions which allow companies to pollute while others are restricted and such conflicting pieces of legislation make it difficult to implement environmental regulation policies. Conflicting interests among cabinet ministries for example, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, the Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality and the Ministry of Agricultural, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, the Ministry of Energy and Power, the Ministry of Just, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, all these ministries' interpretations of the some sections of the Constitution and other policies boggles people's minds and often result in bad blood among government officials who are supposed to work together harmoniously to build Zimbabwe (UNDP 2012). Slum dwellers and illegal structures are increasing due to uncontrolled urban expansion as a result of rural-urban migration.

### **Recommendations**

There is need for clearly defined stringent policies which regulate all activities whether mining, farming, hunting or any land use and then be consistence in the implementation and enforcement of these policies and to root out corruption which is fuelling poaching other environmental degradation activities which are detrimental to fauna and flora.



## **GOAL 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development**

To attain a global partnership for development Zimbabwe has six targets to meet which are: to come up with a non-discriminatory financial and trading system which is predictable, landlocked status needs special attention, debt problems to be comprehensively dealt with, productive work for everyone, strategic partnership, develop and execute strategies cooperatively with pharmaceutical companies for affordable essential drugs and lastly, make existing fruits of novel information and communication and technologies through partnership with private sector (UNDP 2004:57).

The inception of MDGs coincided with Zimbabwe's worsening affairs with the global community on the grounds of human rights abuse, rule of law, and default on its external debts, land reform which led to the shift from look Western to look East policy and political instability which took its toll in 2008. In as much as Zimbabwe's Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is working tirelessly to mend relations with the international community and has made progress in addressing the debt outcropping projected at US\$7.1 billion unsettled to bilateral and multilateral allies which is crucial for opening growth aid, political tensions and unpredictability of government policies remains a stumbling block as the much needed FDIs adopted a wait and see approach from a distance of which it is high time to engaging meritoriously with donor community so as to improve the yield of investment and assistance (Hunda 2015).

The usage of internet in Zimbabwe is progressing and presently projected at 90%, up from 68% in 2011. Internet dissemination rate was 15% in 2011, and is currently 64%, exceeding the average of 23% for the region (UN Zimbabwe 2014:11).

## **Challenges**

Zimbabwe continues to be excluded on the globe especially with sour relations amongst USA, EU and Harare. For instance, the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) deal which was signed between EU and African nations which included most of SADC countries like South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho and Mozambique and this deal provides better access to European markets with free duty, free quota as they trade in minerals and metals, while Europe does the same in engineering, automotive and chemical products (Shabangu 2016). Policy inconsistency and lack of predictability is making FDIs to shun away with the much needed green back (USD) and this made some of government programmes and

projects to suffer a still birth for instance, the much touted Zim-Asset has not yet yielded any fruitful results since 2013.

### **Recommendations**

Zimbabwe must embrace state-of-the-art technology and increase its networking with the global world to market itself and enhance ease of access to information and communicate with potential FDIs and global markets as well. Political stability and clear policy consistence are crucial for global partnership and development of the country because no one wants to business and invest their money where there is no rule of law, stability and guarantee for safety of their property.

### **OVERALL CHALLENGES OF MDGs**

The major challenge Zimbabwe is experiencing is eliminating extreme poverty and hunger as it is continuously facing food shortages year in and year out caused by recurring droughts, political instability and economic doldrums (Feeny and Clarke 2009). There is still unbalanced scale at tertiary level where very limited women equated to men are enrolling, eventually resulting in under-representation of women at decision-making points. Lack of involvement of ordinary citizens has resulted in failure to achieve some of the MDGs because MDGs have been extensively communicated at extraordinary summits with actual rare decision-makers alleging to represent major sections of the nation. The MDGs were set in 2000 but execution commenced later due to numerous problems among them being: resources constraints, the need to bring in line local policies with MDGs for strong execution for instance the MERP and MDGs in 2001. Corruption and mismanagement of funds is a major challenge, this was vindicated by Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZMRA) when they said Zimbabwe approximately lost US\$2 billion to corruption only between 2013 and 2015 as well as the disappearance of untraceable US\$15 billion from diamond revenue as point out by President Robert Mugabe recently and no one has been arrested or investigated. There is serious lack of accountability which has crippled all efforts to do better in reviving the economy. All the money could have been used to achieve the MDGs if it was used properly. Over and above all, once again Zimbabwe is seeing the hangover of economic hardships from the late 1990s, 2000s and 2015-16 into the SDGs which makes it more difficult to start tackling SDGs from 2016 to 2030.

## **OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE MDGs-SDGs**

There is need for institutionalisation of SDGs that is aligning them or put them in school curriculums from primary, secondary to tertiary institutions so as to increase their dissemination and comprehensiveness to all citizens. For beginners, there was no grassroots consultation when these goals were set out which made implementation very difficult. Therefore, if people are anticipated to do something concerning execution of targets their voice is important from the onset. A different approach should be adopted when dealing with SDGs that is a change from a marathon way of putting into practice to a stage by stage type, methodically type of execution. Instead of competing with each other in a marathon manner, countries should learn from each other on how each country is progressing and help each other.

Indigenous and specific policies on SDGs are a key for national development, for instance aligning the SDGs with the much touted Zim-Asset 2013-2018 cluster such as value addition on raw materials that Zimbabwe is producing for instance, establishing a diamond polishing plant will create employment and adding value to the diamonds sold outside the country and beneficiation, poverty eradication, food security, nutrition, and social services are crucial at nation level. Therefore, the SDGs for Zimbabwe must be linked with Zim-Asset so as to reinforce determinations being made to date and also continuing with the journey to 2030.

There is need for political will to strengthen partnership with all stakeholders for instance, civil service, businesses, NGO, government, Human Rights groups, donors and so on for the SDGs to be achieved because in as much as the government is at the centre of the journey, the government does not have the resources to stir everything into motion, but through partnerships it will go a long way as some have brilliant ideas, experience, expertise, energy and other resources which are necessary to achieve SDGs by 2030. If there is no political will, it will remain a widening crevasse between the promise and the reality of the Zim-Asset and the attainment of SDGs, which were embraced with so much enthusiasm at the time of their release, such promises merely become guarantees when their authors can be held accountable.

Transparency and accountability is need in the manner in which SDGs are driven. The GoZ have to fight the scourge of corruption at all levels so as to curb maladministration of funds and other resources that are not channelled towards the attainment of the SDGs,

but rather towards personal egocentric motives and self-enrichment by government officials and politicians.

There is need for consistence on policies and their alignment with the new constitutions and respect the rule of law so as to boost investor confidence and other well-wishers who want to help Zimbabwe to achieve its SDGs. There is need for strong monitoring and evaluation system in place to keep track of how projects and programmes are operating.

### **Are there any differences between MDGs and SDGs?**

The reality is that it is just a repetition of aspects but only strategies may call a difference. Poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, water and sanitation, global partnership issues are amongst the repeated concepts. However, SDGs digs deep into climate, energy, human settlements and other as stand-alone issues. SDGs goes up to 17 starting with: "no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace and justice strong institutions and lastly, partnerships for the goals" (Clark 2015). The other notable difference is that SDGs were broken down into small components which may make it easier to institutionalise them into all levels of our societies and some of the SDGs can be developed into modules and in co-operate them into our education system and teach them in schools at all levels.

### **Lesson learnt from the MDGs which can be used to achieve SDGs**

There is need for political stability in the country which promotes a business friendly environment which will in turn attract FDIs to promote economic growth. There is need for strong trade relations with other nations to have access to their markets and they have access to Zimbabwe for economic growth to be realised, not to operate in isolation from the international community. SDGs should be institutionalised from national to provincial to district to constituency and to schools so that all levels of the society are aware of what are SDGs so that they participate whole heartedly in their attainment. Zimbabwe should desist from relying on rainfall for crop cultivation, but should rather invest in harvesting water through the construction of dams and other forms of reserving water for irrigation purpose so as to plough different crops throughout the year so that it can address the issue of extreme poverty. This further breaking down of SDGs makes it easier

to institutionalise them in public and private schools, companies, clinics, hospitals, individual households and so on.

## **CONCLUSION**

In summation, the attainment of MDG1 proved to be big mount to climb for Zimbabwe as it dismally failed to reduce hunger and eradicate extreme. The government is depending on hand to mouth revenue which left it without anything to invest or to cater for social needs that help to reduce poverty. There is need for a political will and take measures to expand irrigation scheme to communal farmers and smallholders targeting youth and women as a way of reducing relying on rain water for agriculture. The government should promote SMEs to create employment and reduce poverty. It is plausible to point out that Zimbabwe made significant progress on MDG2 as witnessed by an increase on NER and literacy level. There is need for government and other partners to intensify efforts to motivate teachers' for professional development, improving the living conditions and to put more resources on programmes such as BEAM, SCE and scholarships to tertiary education targeting girls. Even though there is notable progress on MDG3, the government must enact and implement policies that curd early marriages and also sensitise the religious and traditional leaders regarding GBV and support women empowerment programmes as indicated on the four pillars. For MDGs 4 and 5 there was slow progress and the targets were not met. As the moves on from MDGs to SDGs there is need for improving access to good quality neonatal health services, improving living environments for children and increasing sanitation and water programmes to curb waterborne diseases. More funds should also be channelled towards health education on maternal issues, hygiene, sufficient supplies of medical equipment and dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS related matters especially to the youth. In tackling MDGs 7 and 8, policies inconsistence among different ministries and departments has hinder meaningful progress. So moving forward into the SDGs, there is need for harmonious and rightful application of policies by all stakeholders such as the judiciary, the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Water and Climate Change, Health, Indigenisation and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, as well as the police. For Zimbabwe to meet the SDGs by 2030 there is need for FDIs, address deforestation by promoting renewable energies, leveraging human and sustainable financial resources, continue re-engaging with the international community and donors. Fight the scourge of corruption at all levels so

as to curb maladministration of funds and other resources that are not channelled towards the attainment of the SDGs.

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**AUTHORS' CONTACT:**

**MUTANGABENDE, Shepherd.**

Department of Public Administration  
University of Fort Hare  
Email: 201105355@ufh.ac.za

**SHAVA, Elvin**

Department of Public Management &  
Governance  
School of Basic Sciences  
North West University  
Email: ellyshava@gmail.com