

EDITORIAL

ACHIEVING THE GLOBAL GOALS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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In the year 2000, world leaders at the United World Nations leaders at World United Nations decided on a broad vision to fight poverty in all its dimensions setting 2015 as a target. This vision was coded as The Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).^[1,2] The MDGs targeted key issues such as poverty, hunger, primary education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, disease, environmental sustainability, and global partnership. The achievement made towards to the MDGs even though substantial did not sufficiently address the Global problems. Critical among them is the elimination of poverty. ^[3] The failure of governments and states to achieve the MDG set to end in 2015 necessitated the move to advocate for a more sustainable and achievable long-term plan.

On 25th September, 2015, when the MDGs were coming to a close, one hundred and ninety-three UN Member States met and promulgated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals for 2030 in a summit held in New York ^[4]. The SDGs comprise of 17 goals which are the blueprint aimed at ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and tackling climate change on a broad sense for the world's development.^[3] ^[4] Specifically the goals aim to end poverty, end hunger, promote good health and well-being, promote quality education, improve gender equality, make available clean water and sanitation, promote access and affordability of clean energy, ensure sustainability of decent work and economic growth, promote building of sustainable infrastructure and industrialization with innovation, reducing inequalities, ensuring safe and sustainable cities and communities, promoting sustainable production and consumption, controlling climate change, promote sustainable use of water resources and land resources, ensuring peace and justice with strong institutions and partnerships for the goals.^[5]

Conflict-plagued sub-Saharan countries have opens doors for injustices and uncertainties which have led food shortages and ultimately to famines in the continent ^[6]. These unrests have curtailed and hindered the development in the sub-region ^[7] in making major progress in achieving the MDGs. Sub-Saharan African countries must therefore ensure an enabling political environment devoid of war and political turbulences so that education, agriculture, and other developmental projects can thrive to facilitate the realization of the Global Goals. Political stability can be achieved if leaders of African countries adopt and uphold the system of democracy and the rule of law.

Education plays a vital role in pragmatically eradicating poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. This can be attributed to the fact that education provides varied avenues for decent employments with decent emoluments. In so doing, it will help to improve the standard of living of households and eventually propel their extrication from poverty. Thus, education provides the financial security which guard families against falling back

into poverty ^[8]. For every US\$1 spent on education, according to The Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report asserts that for every

US\$1 spent on education, a commensurate US\$10 and US\$15 economic growth is reaped. ^[9] Therefore ensuring all children in low- income countries possess basic reading skills could slash 12% of world poverty. Increasing access to education should be marched with equitable learning for all to achieve shared national prosperity.

The world today is faced with climate change which poses an enormous challenge stifling environmental sustainability. All facets of the development plan from poverty annihilation to health care are affected by climate change. This menace also has a negative impact on Economic growth as well as disaster risk diminution. Many people especially the poor and vulnerable around the globe are most probable to be affected if countries do not make significant and conscious efforts to create developmental models that could alleviate the adverse impact of climate change. ^[10]. Globally, countries especially Africa through sustainable consumption and production can protect the planet from land, air and water pollution and help to achieve potable water and good sanitation, affordable and clean energy. This, in the long run will help to bring the rate of climate change and its associated consequences to a decline, and make the world a safer place for both present and future generations as the Global Goals seek to address.

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