

Achieving MDG targets by addressing reproductive health inequalities the OBA way ¹Mumah, Solomon J., ²Kundu, Francis W., and ³Muga, Richard O.

Presented at the 5th African Population Conference, Organized by the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS 2007) to be held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Arusha, Tanzania. December 10th – 14th, 2007

Abstract

The Millennium Development Goals are a set of eight important, time-bound goals that represent a blueprint for global development agreed to by member states of the United Nations and international development institutions. These goals range from eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in developing countries by half (goal 1) to developing a global partnership for development (goal 8). However, good as they may appear, achieving these goals by the target date of 2015 is proving a major challenge in many developing countries of which Kenya is a part. Consequently, in a bid to address reproductive health inequalities and thereby contribute toward the achieving of the UN's MDGs, the government of Kenya, based on a financing agreement with the German government is embarking on a performance-based reproductive health program (Output-based Aid – OBA) that links the government's goal of improving reproductive health with incentives to reward service delivery and thereby achieving the MDG targets. This paper, based on a three-year Output-Based Aid program in four districts in Kenya, analyses how MGD targets can be achieved by addressing reproductive health inequalities using the OBA approach. In the final analysis, we argue the case for OBA, since, as it were, input based assistance, that have long been used, do not improve efficiency and quality of service delivery. In many cases they have failed to easily respond to changes in needs, entail high overhead costs and may not necessarily influence behaviors of targeted beneficiaries. Here is a call to action.