

Goal 1

Eradiate Extreme Poverty

Target: Reduce by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

Indicator: Reduce by half the proportion of the population below the national poverty line of E71 per month.

STATUS AT A GLANCE

Will the Goal/Target be Met

Potentially **Unlikely** Insufficient Data

Elements of monitoring environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical analysis capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanism	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak
Table 2 Distribution Of Poverty	Strong	Fair	Weak

State of Supportive Environment

Strong Fair Weak but improving Weak

Region	Population Share%	Share of Core Poor	Share of Poor
Urban	21	21.63	34.33
Rural	79	78.37	65.67
National	100	100	100

Source: SHIES 1995

poor (approximately 84 percent) than they have of the total population (approximately 79 percent). Given the high levels of inequality in ownership of physical assets, the major asset available to the poor is their labour power. Unemployment is widespread. It is currently estimated at 22 percent. The rural areas are the most affected. It is estimated that 40 percent of the core poor are unemployed (extract of the Priority Action on Poverty Reduction, March 2002).

It is estimated that Swaziland's economy (which grew by 2% in 2000) needs to grow by 9 percent to reach the 50 percent poverty reduction target by 2015. This goal, however, can be achieved with a lower growth rate if a significant improvement is made towards reducing the skewed income distribution.

According to the Prioritised Action Programme on Poverty Reduction document, produced by MEPD in March 2002, Approximately 66 percent of the Swazi population lives below the poverty line of E71 per month. Rural areas have a greater share of the

Incomes are highly skewed in Swaziland. An analysis of the 1994-95 Swaziland Household Income and Expenditure Survey (SHIES) suggests that the richest 10 percent of the population control almost 40 percent of total earned income. In contrast, the poorest 40 percent of the population control 14 percent of total earned income. Economic inequality is found to be high in both the rural and urban areas of Swaziland.

Major Challenges

◆ Gender Inequality

Gender inequality is at the center of Swaziland's poverty problem, as suggested by the fact that the majority of poor households are those headed by women. An increase in female-headed households stems from various factors, including male worker migration, higher death for men and divorce rates.

◆ Strengthening NGOs

NGOs must be strengthened through government subvention. The government must also effectively utilize the NGOs close proximity to the poor and their relative efficiency in service delivery. An NGO policy must be developed.

◆ Agricultural Productivity

Challenges include: lack of credit facilities for SNL farmers; poor infrastructure; limited opportunities for product marketing; out-of-date technology; inadequate extension services, reoccurring drought and the absence of a policy on Agriculture.

◆ Domestic resource mobilization

The success of the PRS depends in large part on its ability to mobilize mass support and participation of the poor, as these people understand the nature, causes and possible solutions to socio-economic challenges that their communities face.

◆ Policy Coordination and Implementation

Limited institutional arrangements, poor capacity building, and weak information dissemination and monitoring inhibit effective policy coordination in Swaziland. There is a need to strengthen the PPCU.

Supportive Environment

- ◆ The NDS places poverty reduction at the center of the country's development effort.
- ◆ As demonstrated in the PRS, Acknowledges the requirement for a policy shift towards pro-poor spending.
- ◆ The government acknowledges that meaningful improvement in the lives of rural Swazi people lies in their ability to access and make optimum use of land as their major productive resource. There is a draft land policy that was approved by cabinet and is awaiting approval from other government structures. Furthermore, a draft copy of the Resettlement Policy, which will serve to guide land use for optimum gain, has been promulgated but not ratified.
- ◆ Part of government's broad policy objective has been to increase efforts to attract FDI, which has been declining in the past decade. Tangible efforts in this area were seen in the establishment of SIPA.

Priorities For Development Assistance

- ◆ The expected ratification of the 2003 Draft Constitution may address issues relating to the millennium development poverty reduction goal, including resource allocation and adoption of pro-poor government expenditure patterns.
- ◆ Support is required for agricultural and rural development in terms of improved water supply for irrigation and generally support to the PPCU for improved policy formulation.
- ◆ The government's efforts at reducing poverty have revolved around the creation of micro-projects in the form of credit schemes, that are geared towards entrepreneurship, and income generation for the poor and the establishment of an SME unit within the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment.

Eradicate Hunger: Food Security

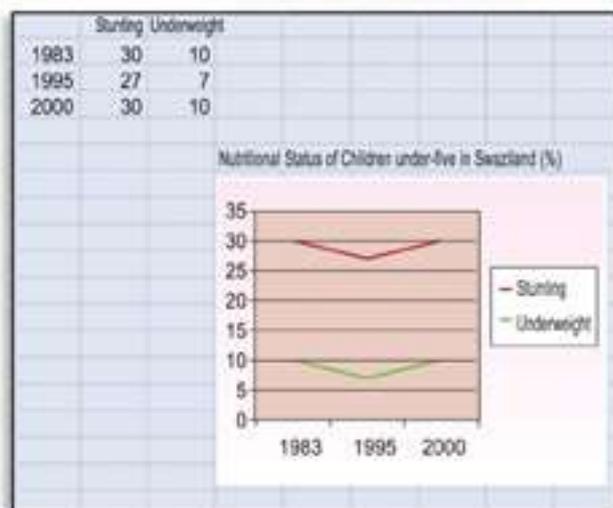
Will the Goal/Target be Met

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State of Supportive Environment

Strong Fair Weak but improving Weak

Chart 1 Nutrients Status of Children Under 5



Status and Trends

A survey undertaken by the CSO, Swaziland, in 2000, indicate that 10 percent of children under the age of five are underweight. 2 percent are classified as severely underweight. The same survey suggests that 30 percent of children are stunted, (indicating a worsening of the situation compared to the 27 percent rate found by the 1995 SHIES), and that 3 percent were thin for their height. In 1997, an estimated 46 percent of the population experienced Vitamin A deficiency.

Table 3 U5 Underweight Children

U5 UNDERWEIGHT CHILDREN	
Status in Figures:	2000
U5 underweight Children (%)	10%

The 1994-95 SHIES demonstrated that household food production, as a proportion of total food consumption, for rural people was 30 percent. This implies that a significant portion of the rural populations livelihood is derived from elsewhere, possibly from payments from relatives working in urban areas in Swaziland or abroad. Households that do not have this alternative source of income face deprivation and hunger when crops fail.

In 1995, 48 percent of the population fell below the food datum line. Maize production recorded a decline of 18.3 percent to 118,000 tons in 1998-99, increased again to 124,000 in 1999-2000 before declining in 2000 to 86,000 tones.

During the year 2002, crop production was 18 percent lower than the previous year's harvest and 33 percent below the five-year average, precipitating a food crisis that has not subsided. The WFP estimates that at the peak of the food crisis, 265,000 people will need food aid. This peak figure represents 24 percent of the population. The dramatic increase in food prices over the past six months has pushed even more people below the poverty line.

According to the CSO, in 1996, SNL contributed only 1 percent of the GDP. A large proportion of the Swazi population, about 90,000 households, is still engaged in small-scale agriculture.

At the household level, food security is threatened by HIV/AIDS, as women are drawn into home-based caring for ill relatives, thereby affecting domestic food production.

There has been a recent policy shift to incorporate food security, owing to the failure of an earlier policy to guarantee against hunger and malnutrition. The main thrust of the policy is to attain food security through employment and income generation from agricultural sources, raising agricultural productivity on SNL as well as attaining food security from a combination of home grown food, proper food storage and cash generated from other activities.

Government, in its pursuit of food security, initiated plans for agricultural diversification into small stock farming, including fish, pigs, chicken, goats and other small livestock.

Major Challenges

- ◆ The main challenge is for government to find innovative ways to change rigid inhibiting attitudes towards alternative drought-resistant crops.
- ◆ Change the land tenure system which currently prevents individuals from using SNL as collateral for securing loans.
- ◆ Provide access to irrigation water for SNL smallholders.
- ◆ Disaster preparedness - improve the functioning of the national disaster task force.
- ◆ Unaffordability of agricultural inputs, lack of savings, unemployment, limited capacity building for SNL farmers leading to a vicious circle of food insecurity.

Supportive Environment

- ◆ The NDS recognizes the need for making the attainment of food security a central objective of government policy.
- ◆ The government's policy on food production/agriculture aims to achieve food security in the rural sector through a combination of homegrown food, proper food storage and cash generated from other activities.
- ◆ If the government's bill to create 99-year land leases on SNL is approved, this may encourage the poor to invest in the land, preserve it, and use it as security for obtaining credit for food production.

Priorities For Development Assistance

- ◆ More financial assistance is required to address the multi-faceted nature of the problem of poverty and food security.
- ◆ In view of the drought-prone situation, the government needs up-scaled financial and technical support towards intensifying the campaign for diversification to drought-resistant food crops and seed multiplication. Research and training institutions must be strengthened and deepened.
- ◆ Promotion of high value crops for exports.
- ◆ Support for diversification into animal farming for small-scale farmers, such as rearing fish, chickens, pigs, goats, etc, for income generation. Investigate and implement other innovative approaches to agriculture.