

# Regional Meeting of Parliamentary Committees on Health in Eastern Africa (SEAPACOH)

Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda  
September 21, 2009

Country presentation on Achievements and  
Challenges since September 2008

Country: Swaziland

Presenter: Hon. Nonhlanhla Dlamini

# Country profile

■ Total population	929,718
■ Population growth	2.9%
■ Life expectancy at birth	31 yrs
■ Total fertility rate	3.8%
■ Infant mortality rate	85%
■ Maternal mortality rate	0.8%
■ % of births attended by skilled health personnel	74.1%
■ Contraceptive prevalence	48%
■ Unmet need for family planning	32%
■ Enrolment in primary education (boys and girls)	50/50
■ % health budget/Total annual budget	10%

# Implementation of the September 2008 resolutions – activities undertaken by Parliament at:

- **National level:**

1. Capacity building on SRH for members
2. Moved several motions : accessibility of health services, investigations on increase of abortions among young people, investigation on the late increase on maternal mortality rates

- **Community level:**

1. Training of Rural Health motivators
2. Provision of commodities to Home Base Carers

# Implementation of ICPD PoA

- **Institutional changes**
  1. SRH Unit established
  2. ASRH- Youth Friendly Clinics
  3. Integrated SRH Strategic plan 2008-2015
  
- **Empowerment of women and gender issues**
  1. Gender department established in 1996
  2. Gender focal points available in all ministries
  3. National constitution calls for 30% representation of women in Parliament, has increased to 22% has increased to 22%
  4. Appointment of women in decision making positions (Judges, Ministers, DPP, Principal Secretaries etc)

## ICPD PoA continued

- Collaboration with NGOs, etc
  1. They are the majority implementers of HIV/AIDS programmes and SRH services
  2. Family planning
  3. Home based care programmes
  4. Rural Health Motivators

# Maputo plan of Action – Activities undertaken by Parliament

1. Integration of SRH Services
2. SRH services in Public facilities is free
3. SRH services in Private sector subsidised
4. Construction of youth centres in constituencies( 29%)
5. Introduction of free education in primary schools

# Abuja Declaration – activities by parliament

1. Roll back Malaria stands at 94% decrease
2. Community participation on issues of HIV and AIDS (Support groups, OVC carers)
3. Budget increased from 8% to 10%(excluding donor funds)

# Ouagadougou Declaration on PHC – Activities undertaken by Parliament:

- National Health Policy updated
- Parliament approved budget for construction of a new referral hospital in one region
- Approved budget for renovation of main referral hospitals in the country.
- Promotion of public private partnership
- Several campaigns have been undertaken (deworming, N1H1, MDR TB, HIV and AIDS, Malaria etc)
- A new TB Hospital Built



# Challenges

- HIV and AIDS (increased morbidity)
- Increase of Orphans – Child headed homesteads
- Poverty – less power to negotiate for safe sex
- Infrastructure – long trips to health facilities( have not met 8km, poor communication)
- Crime- hijacking of ambulances

# Way forward

- Advocate for an increase of Health Budget to 15% ( government funds)
- Strengthen ASRH services – Using available youth Centres
- Strengthen integration of SRH information in schools and churches.
- Meet with finance committee during budget preparation
- Community education on SRH