

Editorial: Perspectives towards the health-related millennium goals

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In this Special Edition, authors have presented studies on health issues that hinged on the health-related millennium goals. The paper from *Prof Madiba* explores the issue of collaboration between traditional health practitioners and health care providers of modern medicine. This timely paper clarifies the views of traditional health practitioners on their willingness to learn biomedical skills and share knowledge on traditional healing with modern health care providers. In another paper co-authored by *Prof Madiba* and *Dr. Patrick Manye*, the two authors tackle the issue of communication between health care providers and with children suffering from HIV acquired perinatally in Botswana. Moreover, *Dr. Paul Chelule* and *Ms Chihope* report on the issue of feeding of children younger than 5 years old from the same country. In this paper, they discuss the perspectives of risk factors of malnutrition in children. They show that poverty is still a catalyst of malnutrition is elaborated; as such it should be addressed as we contemplate the deadline of millennium goals in 2015. *Prof Kebogile Mokwena* expands on eating patterns among older children and adolescents. At this critical phase of their growth, an understanding of how these specific groups eat will help to shape interventions for behaviour modification. Adolescents are also affected by issues and consequences related to unplanned pregnancies; hence, *Dr. Mokgatle* and *Mr. Motuma* have reported on the level of awareness and knowledge about contraception among Ethiopian pupils. In South Africa, the youth is grappling with the issue of substance abuse of which Nyaope is a recent introduction that is devastating the lives of several young people. In this paper, *Prof Mokwena* and *Mrs Fernandes* report the youth's self-efficacy and control in addressing their addiction to Nyaope. Furthermore, a paper co-authored by *Mr. Nlotoo* and *Prof Sartorius* describe the views and practices of health care providers about adverse reactions' reporting. Similarly, *Prof Malangu* and *Dr. Modinat* discuss the factors influencing tuberculosis treatment outcomes in patients from South Africa. Given the need to scale up the coverage of both HIV and tuberculosis treatments, these two papers contribute to our understanding of issues that should be considered in order to expand treatment initiatives. Finally, *Mr. Mogale* and co-authors elaborate on the occupational hazards affecting health care workers. Overall, pertinent health issues affecting populations from Botswana, Ethiopia and South Africa have been discussed at this critical juncture as the level of achievement with regard to the millennium goals is contemplated for a review.

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