



# **A Study of the Eight Millennium Development Goals in the CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries)**

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**Translation from Portuguese by Maria de Lourdes Jesus**

The Mozambican researcher, Tomás Vieira Mário, of the Association for Sustainable Development, has written a report on a study conducted to understand and measure progress towards the MDGs in the CPLP. The report assesses progress made towards goals 1 to 7, excluding goal 8. The results of the study in the CPLP, which were presented to statesmen in these countries, are not encouraging.

According to the researcher, Angola and Mozambique could potentially achieve a substantial number of the MDGs, but they are behind on the most important ones: the reduction of poverty and child and maternal mortality.

According to the researcher, another problem lies in the fact that Mozambique does not possess the data or tools to allow it to achieve two important goals: the first, involving reducing poverty and ensuring full employment for all, and the seventh, involving ensuring environmental sustainability (especially in terms of reversing biodiversity loss). These are two areas to which governments should devote special attention.

According to the recommendations of the Association for Sustainable Development, the statesmen of the CPLP must be prepared to make difficult choices. As a result of significant climatic changes and a lack of human resources and funding, politicians will have to choose between a complete failure to achieve any of the goals on time, and achieving only the goals that are considered to be of greatest importance to long-term development. Researchers also suggest that investment policies consider, first and foremost, the most vulnerable in society: women and children. In concrete terms, it is essential to reduce inequality in access to primary and secondary schools for girls and boys, and to reduce the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015.

Mário concludes on a particular note: the fact that only two countries in the CPLP will achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals. The first, Brazil, is a country with abundant natural resources and nearly 200 million citizens, while the second is the archipelago of Cape Verde, with around 500,000 inhabitants and a single resource: its human resources, in other words, its inhabitants.



The other CPLP countries are experiencing delays that are effectively irreversible, with indices of absolute poverty extending to more than half of their population, which will be impossible to halve by 2015, as envisioned by the United Nations.

**Source:** <http://opais.sapo.mz/index.php/component/content/article/45-sociedade/21544-os-governos-deverao-estar-preparados-para-realizar-escolhas-dificeis.html>