

UN 2009 MDG Review Report

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July 30, 2009



Dear Friends,

The 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals has passed the half-way point and with it any realistic hope of achieving them if we were to go by the UN's 2009 MDG progress report, the most comprehensive global MDG assessment to date. The UN's official 2009 MDG Review, launched by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, in Geneva, reveals that major advances in the fight against poverty and hunger between 1990 and 2005 have begun to slow down or even reverse and, in some regions, run the risk of being lost. The global economic and food crises are attributed as main causes for this trend.

In the foreword to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2009, the UN Secretary General said that "We cannot allow an unfavourable economic climate to prevent us from realizing the commitments made in 2000." Further, he added that "The global community cannot turn its back on the poor and the vulnerable ... Now is the time to accelerate progress towards the MDGs. The goals are within reach, and even in the very poor countries, with strong political commitment and sufficient and sustained funding."

The following information is to give you a fleeting look at the highlights of the MDG report. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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Globally, A Mixed Picture

- Gains in the eradication of hunger since the early 1990s—when the proportion of hungry people decreased from 20 per cent in 1990-92 to 16 per cent in 2004-06—were reversed in 2008, largely due to higher food prices. A decrease in international food prices in the second half of 2008 has since failed to translate into more affordable food for most people around the world.
- In the period 1990 to 2005, the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day decreased from 1.8 billion to 1.4 billion (prior to the economic crisis and higher food prices). But major gains in the fight against extreme poverty are likely to stall, indicators show, although data are not yet available to reveal the full impact of the recent economic downturn. In 2009, an estimated 55 million to 90 million more people will be living in extreme poverty than anticipated before the crisis.
- More than one-quarter of children in developing regions are underweight for their age, and the meagre progress on child nutrition from 1990 to 2007 is insufficient to meet the 2015 target. This will likely be eroded further by high food prices and economic turmoil.
- Global unemployment in 2009 could reach 6.1 to 7.0 per cent for men and 6.5 to 7.4 per cent for women, many of whom remain trapped in insecure - often unpaid-jobs, holding back progress towards gender equality. Furthermore, the report suggests that many global gains were due to a dramatic fall in poverty rates in East Asia. Elsewhere, progress has been slower. Sub-Saharan Africa counted 100 million more extremely poor people in 2005 than in 1990, and the poverty rate remained above 50 per cent.
- Despite the undeniable contribution of MDG 5 to improve maternal and child health, this Goal, according to the MDG Report 2009, made the least progress and there has been a major reduction in donor funding to developing countries to make significant progress in achieving this goal.

Source: Newton Kanhema, UN Department of Public Information

Significant Advances Prior to Global Economic Crisis

- In the developing world, enrolment in primary education reached 88 per cent in 2007, up from 83 per cent in 2000. In sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, enrolment increased by 15 percentage points and 11 percentage points, respectively, from 2000 to 2007.
- Deaths in children under five declined steadily worldwide – to around 9 million in 2007, down from 12.6 million in 1990, despite population growth. Although child mortality rates remain highest in sub-Saharan Africa, there have been remarkable improvements in key interventions, including the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets to reduce the toll of malaria - a major killer of children. As a result of 'second chance' immunizations, dramatic progress is also being made in the fight against measles.
- Worldwide, the number of people newly infected with HIV peaked in 1996 and has since declined, to 2.7 million in 2007. The estimated number of AIDS deaths also appears to have peaked, in 2005, at 2.2 million, and has since declined to 2 million in 2007, partly due to increased access to antiretroviral drugs in poorer countries. Still, the number of people living with HIV worldwide - estimated at 33 million in 2007 - continues to grow, largely because people infected with the virus are surviving longer.

Source: UN Department of Public Information

Challenges

- The report calls on governments and all stakeholders to revitalize efforts to provide productive and decent employment for all, including women and young people. It points out that employment opportunities for women in Southern Asia, Northern Africa and Western Asia remain extremely low.
- The target of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 has already been missed. The report urges governments to intensify efforts to get all children into school, especially those living in rural communities, and eliminate inequalities in education based on gender and ethnicity.

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- Greater political will must be mustered to reduce maternal mortality, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, according to the report.
- Rapid acceleration of progress is needed to bring improved sanitation - toilets or latrines - to the 1.4 billion people still lacking, or the 2015 sanitation target will be missed.
- And slum improvements are barely keeping pace with the rapid growth of developing country cities.

South Asia

Advances

- 11% gain in Primary School Enrolment between 2000 and 2007
- Girls Enrolment moved from 84 per 100 boys in 1999 enrolment to 95 girls per 100 boys in 2007
- Drop in tuberculosis prevalence from 543 cases per 100,000 people in 1990 to 268 cases in 2007.
- Countries in Southern Asia have largely escaped the increase in hunger rates seen in other parts of the world since 2007
- India has even made inroads against hunger in the face of rising prices.
- Southern Asia has achieved its MDG target of cutting in half the proportion of people in 1990 without access to water.

"Progress on extreme poverty grinding to a halt in South Asia". But gains reported in key health and education goals

Challenges

- Southern Asia is second only to sub-Saharan Africa in the proportion of people who are undernourished (21 per cent in 2008), and ranks the worst in proportion of under-five-year-olds who are underweight (48 per cent in 2007).
- 580 million people still without access to safe sanitation.
- Contractions in economic growth in most Southern Asian countries outside of India are expected to have devastating effects on jobs and incomes. The percentage of

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productively engaged people classified as being employed in vulnerable sectors may be as high as 84 per cent for women and 74 per cent for men, according ILO projections for 2008.






- In 1999 to 2005 the region recorded only a meagre 3 percentage point drop in extreme poverty rates, from 42 to 39 per cent.
- Despite gains for girls in grade school enrolment, Southern Asian women remain at a huge disadvantage in job opportunities. Only 19 per cent of paid jobs in the region, outside of agricultural employment, are held by women.
- Moreover, maternal health conditions remain dismal. Scant reductions in maternal mortality still leave an estimated rate of 490 deaths per 100,000 live births. Southern Asia by itself accounts for one third of the world's maternal deaths, and it suffers the lowest level of antenatal care coverage among all developing regions, with only 36 per cent of women receiving the recommended four visits during their pregnancy.

Sources: UN Information Centre, New Delhi / UN Department of Public Information, New York



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Millennium Development Goals

 <p>1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</p>	<p>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDGs are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The eight MDGs break down into 21 quantifiable targets that are measured by 60 indicators.</p>
 <p>2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</p>	<p>Achieve universal primary education</p>	
 <p>3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</p>	<p>Promote gender equality and empower women</p>	
 <p>4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</p>	<p>Reduce child mortality</p>	
 <p>5 IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</p>	<p>Improve maternal health</p>	
 <p>6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES</p>	<p>Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & Other Diseases</p>	
 <p>7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</p>	<p>Ensure environmental sustainability</p>	
 <p>8 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Develop a Global Partnership for Development</p>	

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Source: The Symbols in the First Column taken from UN Website

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