

# FAST FACTS

## The Millennium Development Goals



The Millennium Development Goals are eight time-bound and quantified objectives that provide a framework for the world to significantly reduce extreme poverty by 2015. In many areas there has been unprecedented success; in other areas, greater effort is required. Here is a snapshot of facts from the *UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2008*:

### GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

- » **Target:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.
- » **Progress:** Globally, this target is within reach due largely to the extraordinary economic success in most of Asia. In contrast, estimates suggest that sub-Saharan Africa is unlikely to meet the target at the present rate of progress.
  
- » **Target:** Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.
- » **Progress:** The proportion of the global workforce that earned a living through vulnerable employment has decreased slowly, but almost 1.5 billion workers remain in unstable, insecure jobs. Vulnerable employment is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where it accounts for three quarters of all jobs.
  
- » **Target:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
- » **Progress:** The proportion of undernourished children under five declined from 33% to 26% between 1990 and 2006, but the number of underweight children in developing countries still exceeded 140 million in 2006. The majority of countries making the least progress in reducing child malnutrition are in sub-Saharan Africa.

### GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

- » **Target:** Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
- » **Progress:** In almost all regions, the net enrolment ratio in 2006 exceeded 90%, and many countries were close to achieving universal primary enrolment. In sub-Saharan Africa, however, the net enrolment ratio has only recently reached 71% - around 38 million children of primary school age are still out of school.

### GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

- » **Target:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.
- » **Progress:** Girls' primary enrolment increased more than boys' in all developing regions between 2000 and 2006. As a result, two out of three countries have achieved gender parity at the primary level. However, girls still account for 55% of the out-of-school population. Oceania, sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia have the largest gaps in primary enrolment.

### GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

- » **Target:** Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.
- » **Progress:** In 2006, for the first time since mortality data have been gathered, annual deaths among children under five fell below 10 million. However, between 1990 and 2006, about 27 countries made no progress in reducing childhood deaths. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for about half of the deaths of children under five in the developing world.

Updated: January 2009

Source: *United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report 2008*

### GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

- » **Target:** Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.
- » **Progress:** At the global level, maternal mortality decreased by less than 1% between 1990 and 2005 – far below the 5.5% annual improvement needed to meet the target. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest level of maternal mortality.
  
- » **Target:** Achieve by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.
- » **Progress:** In almost all developing regions, adolescent fertility dropped between 1990 and 2000, then stagnated or slightly increased between 2000 and 2005. Adolescent fertility is especially high in sub-Saharan Africa, where fertility remains high among all women of childbearing age.

### GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

- » **Target:** Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- » **Progress:** The number of people newly infected with HIV declined from 3 million in 2001 to 2.7 million in 2007. The vast majority of people living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa.
  
- » **Target:** Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it
- » **Progress:** The number of people living with HIV who received antiretroviral therapy increased by about 950,000 in 2007. With the expansion of antiretroviral treatment, the number of people who die from AIDS has started to decline, from 2.2 million in 2005 to 2.0 million in 2007.
  
- » **Target:** Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
- » **Progress:** The number of insecticide-treated mosquito nets produced worldwide increased from 30 million in 2004 to 95 million in 2007, leading to a rise in net distribution to prevent malaria. For tuberculosis, the incidence rate for developing countries fell by 0.7% between 2005 and 2006. If this trend is sustained, the target will be achieved well before 2015.

### GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- » **Target:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- » **Progress:** Over 96% of all ozone-depleting substances have been phased out. However, carbon dioxide emissions, which are responsible for more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions, increased by 30% from 1990 to 2005.
  
- » **Target:** Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.
- » **Progress:** About 21 million square kilometers of land and sea were put under protection by 2007. More forests are designated for biodiversity conservation, with an estimated increase of 96 million hectares since 1990. However, the number of species threatened with extinction is rising rapidly.
  
- » **Target:** Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

## FAST FACTS

# The Millennium Development Goals



» **Progress:** Since 1990, 1.6 billion people have gained access to safe water and the number of people using improved sanitation facilities has increased by 1.1 billion. Still, nearly one billion people today lack safe sources of drinking water and some 2.5 billion people – a half billion in sub-Saharan Africa – remain without improved sanitation.

» **Target:** By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

» **Progress:** In 2005, slightly more than one third of the urban population in developing regions lived in slum conditions. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion was over 60%, with half of the slum households suffering from two or more shelter deprivations (a lack of access to improved water, improved sanitation, durable housing or sufficient living area).

### GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

» **Target:** Address the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states.

» **Progress:** Since 2000, official development assistance (ODA) to the least developed countries has grown faster than developed countries' gross national income, but still misses the target of 0.15-0.20% of GNI by 2010. Preliminary data show that bilateral ODA to Africa rose by 9% in 2007 (excluding debt relief), however a more rapid rise in aid is necessary to reach the Gleneagles projection to double aid to the region by 2010.

» **Target:** Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

» **Progress:** Excluding arms and oil, the proportion of developing countries' exports that have duty-free access to developed countries' markets has remained largely unchanged since 2004. Additionally, in 2006 developed countries support to their own domestic agricultural sectors remained more than three times higher than ODA.

» **Target:** Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt.

» **Progress:** By the end of June 2008, 33 of 41 eligible countries had qualified for debt relief and 23 had reached their completion point. For the average developing country, the burden of servicing external debt fell from almost 13% of export earnings in 2000 to 7% in 2006.

» **Target:** In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.

» **Progress:** Surveys in about 30 developing countries indicate that availability of selected drugs was only 35% in the public sector and 63% in the private sector. Additionally, less than three quarters of developing countries have generic drug substitution policies that would allow people to purchase drugs that are less expensive than brand-named medicines.

» **Target:** In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

» **Progress:** In Africa, over 60 million new mobile subscribers were added in 2006 and 22% of Africa's population had a mobile phone. In developed countries, 58% of the population was using the Internet in 2006, compared to 11% in developing countries and only 1% in the least developed countries.

Updated: January 2009

Source: *United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report 2008*