



## Chapter 1

# Status of Achievement of MDGs

Over the last decade since 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have assumed the role of a compass in development practice globally. Although the international community has made some strides towards the achievement of the MDGs, it is called upon to make further efforts for the achievement of all the goals by all countries and regions by 2015.

Every year since 2005, the United Nations (UN) compiles an annual report on the status of progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. According to the report issued in June 2010, the progress is uneven and varies by area and region.

In some areas the relevant targets will be met by 2015. For example, the developing world as a whole is on track to achieve the target of halving extreme poverty. The underlying driver is the largely robust economic growth of developing regions. In particular, China and India, which accounted for approximately 60% of the world's poor as of 1990, have shown remarkable development. The world will also achieve the target of halving the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water, mainly as a result of the expanded access to improved sources of drinking water in rural areas.

Although such progress has been made, it will be difficult to achieve the targets of some areas by 2015. Progress has been the slowest in the area of health, which accounts for three of the eight MDGs. The under-five mortality rate, the reduction of which is a target of goal 4 of the MDGs “Reduce child mortality”, has dropped by 28% from 100 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 72 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2008. Despite this achievement, developing regions are far from meeting the target to reduce the under-five mortality rate to one-third the 1990 level by 2015. Regarding the maternal mortality ratio, whose reduction is one of the targets of goal 5 “Improve maternal health”, latest data estimate that the ratio declined by 34% from 400 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 260 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008 ([Note 1](#)). Although there has been progress to some extent, further efforts are needed to meet the target to reduce the maternal mortality ratio to one-fourth the

**Note 1** Source: World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and The World Bank, *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2008* (September 2010).

1990 level by 2015. Regarding goal 6 “Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases”, while efforts of the international community have been relatively fruitful, the situation still requires a continuation and expansion of assistance. Also in the area of sanitation, which is largely connected to health, the proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation facilities has hardly increased.

In the area of education, even as the enrollment ratio is improving in the poorest countries, 72 million children are still out of school. Furthermore, regarding the original target to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, while the disparity continues to narrow, the target has not been met as of 2010.

By region, East Asia has made relatively steady

advances towards the achievement of the MDGs, whereas sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia as a whole are falling short. Disparities are also found within the same region and country.

Progress towards the achievement of the MDGs is affected not only by the policies of the developing countries themselves and the assistance of the international community, but also largely influenced by world economic trends. Food supply and employment in developing countries suffered significant setbacks due to the 2007–2008 rising food and energy prices and the global financial and economic crises which began in 2008. Various changes associated with climate change as well as emergency situations such as natural disasters are also factors which slow down the progress towards meeting the MDGs.

## Keyword

# 1

## Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — Objectives and Background —

Momentum for the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was created by the United Nations (UN) Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000. Representatives from 189 countries, including 147 heads of state and government, attended the Summit and adopted the UN Millennium Declaration as a goal of the international community in the 21st century. The UN Millennium Declaration sets out challenges such as “peace and security”, “development and poverty eradication”, “environment”, “human rights and good governance”, and “special needs of Africa”, and presents a vision of the role the UN should play in the 21st century.









The MDGs are a single, common framework, which integrate the UN Millennium Declaration and the international development goals adopted at major international conferences held in the 1990s. The MDGs list eight goals which should be achieved by 2015, including “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger”, “achieve universal primary education”, “reduce child mortality”, “improve maternal health”, and “ensure environmental sustainability”. More specific targets and indicators for measuring their achievement are established under each goal.

The international community has, on various occasions, confirmed the importance of the MDGs and renewed its efforts for achieving the goals.

In 2005, a UN summit was held to follow-up on the UN Millennium Declaration, where world leaders confirmed that greater efforts will be made by all countries to achieve the MDGs. In 2008, half way towards the target year of 2015, the High-level Event on the MDGs was held at the UN, and roundtable sessions took place on the three themes of particular importance: “poverty and hunger”; “education and health”; and “environmental sustainability”. And in 2010, five years from the MDGs deadline, leaders and ministers from around the world gathered for various meetings and discussed achievements and challenges to date towards meeting the MDGs as well as the specific approach which should be taken moving forward, as described in Section 1 of Chapter 2.

Countries and actors around the world are, in the pursuit of the common goals of the international community — the MDGs, discussing their visions for the world and the responsibilities of each and every country, and furthermore, taking action.

**Chart I-1 Progress Chart of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (from UN MDGs)**

Goal	Goals and targets Indicator written in parenthesis	All developing countries		North Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa
		Calendar year	Progress chart		
 <b>Goal 1</b> Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	1. Reduce extreme poverty by half (Proportion of people living below \$1 per day [percentage])	1990	45.7	4.5	57.5
		1999	33.0	4.4	58.3
		2005	26.6	2.6	50.9
	2. Productive employment and decent employment (Employment-to-population ratio)	1991	64.2	43.9	63.5
		2000	62.9	43.4	64.1
		2009	61.7	46.0	64.9
	3. Reduce hunger by half (Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption [percentage])	1990-92	20	Less than 5	31
		2000-02	16	Less than 5	30
		2005-07	16	Less than 5	26
 <b>Goal 2</b> Achieve universal primary education	4. Universal primary schooling (Net enrolment ratio in primary education [percentage])	1991	79.9	80.2	53.4
		2000	82.6	88.0	60.3
		2008	88.8	94.4	76.4
 <b>Goal 3</b> Promote gender equality and empower women	5. Equal girls' enrollment in primary school (Ratio of girls to boys in primary education [percentage])	1991	0.87	0.82	0.84
		2000	0.91	0.91	0.85
		2008	0.96	0.94	0.91
	6. Women's share of paid employment (Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector [percentage])	1990	31.2	19.3	23.5
		2000	33.8	19.0	28.2
		2005	34.7	18.7	30.5
		2008	35.5	19.2	32.4
	7. Women's equal representation in national parliaments (Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament [percentage]) *As of January 31, 2010	1990	10.4	2.6	7.2
		2000	10.8	2.1	9.1
		2005	13.9	5.4	14.2
		2010	17.6	9.0	18.4
 <b>Goal 4</b> Reduce child mortality	8. Reduce mortality of under-five-year-olds by two-thirds (Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births [number of children])	1990	100	80	184
		2000	86	46	166
		2008	72	29	144
 <b>Goal 5</b> Improve maternal health	9. Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters (Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)	1990	480	250	920
		2005	450	160	900
	10. Access to reproductive health (Antenatal care coverage [percentage]) *Women aged 15-49 who have had at least one visit	1990	64	46	67
		2008	80	78	76
 <b>Goal 6</b> Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	11. Halt and reverse spread of HIV/AIDS (HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 [percentage])	1990	0.3	Less than 0.1	1.9
		2002	0.9	Less than 0.1	5.3
		2008	0.8	0.1	4.7
	12. Halt and reverse spread of tuberculosis (Number of new cases per 100,000 population [excluding HIV infected])	1990	150	59	180
		2000	160	48	320
		2008	160	43	350
 <b>Goal 7</b> Ensure environmental sustainability	13. Reverse loss of forests (Proportion of land area covered by forest [percentage])	1990	30.8	1.4	31.2
		2000	29.5	1.4	29.5
		2010	28.8	1.4	28.1
	14. Halve proportion without improved drinking water (Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source [percentage])	1990	71	86	49
		2008	84	92	60
	15. Halve proportion without sanitation (Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility [percentage])	1990	41	72	28
		2008	52	89	31
	16. Improve the lives of slum-dwellers (Proportion of urban population living in slums [percentage])	1990	46.1	34.4	70.0
		2000	39.3	20.3	65.0
		2010	32.7	13.3	61.7
 <b>Goal 8</b> Develop a global partnership for development	17. Internet users (Number of internet users per 100 population)	1995	0.1	Less than 0.1	0.1
		2000	2.0	0.7	0.5
		2008	15.1	19.1	6.0

\*1 The eight MDG logos above are created as part of a campaign dubbed Hottokenai Sekai no Mazushisa (Don't let it be — World Poverty).

\*2 For details of the statistics data above, please refer to a UN official site Millennium Development Goals Indicators (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>).

## 2010 Progress Chart and other sources)

- ① Target already met or very close to being met. ② Target is expected to be met by 2015 if prevailing trends persist. ③ Target is not expected to be met by 2015. ④ No progress, or a deterioration or reversal. — Insufficient data.

Eastern Asia	South-Eastern Asia	Southern Asia	Western Asia	Oceania	Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States in Europe	Commonwealth of Independent States in Asia
60.1 35.6 15.9	39.2 35.3 18.9	49.5 42.2 38.6	2.2 4.1 5.8	—	11.3 10.9 8.2	1.6 3.0 0.3	6.3 22.3 19.2
74.5 73.1 69.8	68.0 66.5 65.6	57.6 56.0 55.4	48.6 46.4 44.3	65.5 66.3 66.8	56.3 57.9 60.0	58.0 53.6 56.1	57.4 55.7 59.3
18 10 10	24 17 14	21 20 21	5 8 7	—	12 10 9	Less than 5 Less than 5 Less than 5	16 17 9
97.5 94.4 96.0	94.0 93.6 94.7	75.3 80.0 89.7	82.1 83.3 88.0	—	85.8 94.1 94.9	92.5 86.8 93.0	85.9 95.2 94.0
0.92 1.02 1.04	0.97 0.97 0.97	0.76 0.83 0.96	0.87 0.88 0.92	0.90 0.90 0.89	0.98 0.97 0.97	1.00 0.99 1.00	0.99 0.99 0.98
38.1 39.6 40.6 41.2	35.5 37.3 37.1 38.1	13.2 17.2 18.0 19.2	16.5 18.8 19.5 20.1	33.3 35.6 35.1 36.0	36.3 40.3 41.4 42.4	49.6 51.2 52.1 51.8	44.3 44.7 45.5 45.2
20.2 19.9 19.4 19.5	10.4 9.7 15.5 19.3	5.7 6.7 8.8 18.2	4.6 4.7 5.0 9.4	1.2 3.4 3.0 2.5	11.9 14.8 19.0 22.7	7.5 10.5 14.2	7.1 9.9 15.1
45 36 21	73 50 38	121 97 74	66 44 32	76 66 60	52 33 23	26 23 14	78 62 39
95 50	450 300	620 490	190 160	550 430	180 130	58 51	—
80 91	72 93	48 70	53 79	—	79 94	—	90 96
Less than 0.1 0.1 0.1	0.2 0.3 0.4	Less than 0.1 0.3 0.2	Less than 0.1 0.1 0.1	Less than 0.1 0.6 0.9	0.3 0.6 0.6	0.1 0.8 1.0	Less than 0.1 0.1 0.2
120 110 100	240 230 220	170 170 170	58 48 34	200 190 190	90 61 46	91 110 100	120 130 140
16.4 18.0 20.5	56.9 51.3 49.3	14.1 14.1 14.5	2.8 3.0 3.4	67.5 65.1 62.5	52.0 49.6 47.4	48.0 48.1 48.1	3.9 3.9 3.9
69 89	72 86	75 87	86 90	51 50	85 93	94 96	88 88
43 56	46 69	25 36	80 85	55 53	69 80	89 89	91 91
43.7 37.4 28.2	49.5 39.6 31.0	57.2 45.8 35.0	22.5 20.6 24.6	24.1 24.1 24.1	33.7 29.2 23.5	—	—
0.1 3.6 24.6	0.1 2.4 13.9	Less than 0.1 0.5 5.8	0.1 4.0 23.8	Less than 0.1 1.8 6.0	0.1 3.9 28.8	0.1 1.7 27.0	Less than 0.1 0.5 12.3