

# The Millennium Development Goals Report



UNITED NATIONS

2005



This report is based on a master set of data that has been compiled by an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in response to the wishes of the General Assembly for periodic assessment of progress towards the MDGs. The Group comprises representatives of the international organizations whose activities include the preparation of one or more of the series of statistical indicators that were identified as appropriate for monitoring progress towards the MDGs, as reflected in the list below. A number of national statisticians and outside expert advisers also contributed.

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, 2005



# Foreword

THE ADOPTION OF THE Millennium Development Goals, drawn from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, was a seminal event in the history of the United Nations. It constituted an unprecedented promise by world leaders to address, as a single package, peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms. As I said in my March 2005 report entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”, to which the present report is a complement: “We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed.”

The eight Millennium Development Goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education — all by the target date of 2015. They form a blueprint agreed by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions — a set of simple but powerful objectives that every man and woman in the street, from New York to Nairobi to New Delhi, can easily support and understand. Since their adoption, the Goals have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest.

Why are the Millennium Development Goals so different? There are four reasons.

*First*, the Millennium Development Goals are people-centred, time-bound and measurable.

*Second*, they are based on a global partnership, stressing the responsibilities of developing countries for getting their own house in order, and of developed countries for supporting those efforts.

*Third*, they have unprecedented political support, embraced at the highest levels by developed and developing countries, civil society and major development institutions alike.

*Fourth*, they are achievable.

The year 2005 is crucial in our work to achieve the Goals. In September — 5 years after they adopted the Millennium Declaration and 10 years before the

Goals fall due — world leaders will meet at the United Nations in New York to assess how far their pledges have been fulfilled, and to decide on what further steps are needed. In many ways, the task this year will be much tougher than it was in 2000. Instead of setting targets, this time leaders must decide how to achieve them.

THIS PROGRESS REPORT IS the most comprehensive accounting to date on how far we have come, and how far we have to go, in each of the world’s regions. It reflects a collaborative effort among a large number of agencies and organizations within and outside the United Nations system. All have provided the most up-to-date data possible in their areas of responsibility, helping thereby to achieve clarity and consistency in the report.

Above all, the report shows us how much progress has been made in some areas, and how large an effort is needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals in others. If current trends persist, there is a risk that many of the poorest countries will not be able to meet many of them. Considering how far we have come, such a failure would mark a tragically missed opportunity. This report shows that we *have* the means at hand to ensure that nearly every country can make good on the promises of the Goals. Our challenge is to deploy those means.

As I said in my March report: “Let us be clear about the costs of missing this opportunity: millions of lives that could have been saved will be lost; many freedoms that could have been secured will be denied; and we shall inhabit a more dangerous and unstable world.”

I commend this report as a key resource in preparing for the September summit, which must be a time of decision. The analysis and information contained here can help citizens, civic organizations, Governments, parliaments and international bodies to play their respective roles in making the Millennium Development Goals a reality.



KOFI A. ANNAN  
*Secretary-General*

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## Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger

Global poverty rates are falling, led by Asia. But millions more people have sunk deep into poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, where the poor are getting poorer.

Progress has been made against hunger, but slow growth of agricultural output and expanding populations have led to setbacks in some regions. Since 1990, millions more people are chronically hungry in sub-Saharan Africa and in Southern Asia, where half the children under age 5 are malnourished.

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## Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education

Five developing regions are approaching universal enrolment. But in sub-Saharan Africa, fewer than two thirds of children are enrolled in primary school. Other regions, including Southern Asia and Oceania, also have a long way to go. In these regions and elsewhere, increased enrolment must be accompanied by efforts to ensure that all children remain in school and receive a high-quality education.

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## Goal 3 Promote gender equality & empower women

The gender gap is closing — albeit slowly — in primary school enrolment in the developing world. This is a first step towards easing long-standing inequalities between women and men. In almost all developing regions, women represent a smaller share of wage earners than men and are often relegated to insecure and poorly paid jobs. Though progress is being made, women still lack equal representation at the highest levels of government, holding only 16 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide.

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## Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

Death rates in children under age 5 are dropping. But not fast enough. Eleven million children a year — 30,000 a day — die from preventable or treatable causes. Most of these lives could be saved by expanding existing programmes that promote simple, low-cost solutions.

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## Goal 5 Improve maternal health

More than half a million women die each year during pregnancy or childbirth. Twenty times that number suffer serious injury or disability. Some progress has been made in reducing maternal deaths in developing regions, but not in the countries where giving birth is most risky.

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## Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases

AIDS has become the leading cause of premature death in sub-Saharan Africa and the fourth largest killer worldwide. In the European countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and parts of Asia, HIV is spreading at an alarming rate. Though new drug treatments prolong life, there is no cure for AIDS, and prevention efforts must be intensified in every region of the world if the target is to be reached.

Malaria and tuberculosis together kill nearly as many people each year as AIDS, and represent a severe drain on national economies. Ninety per cent of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where prevention and treatment efforts are being scaled up. Tuberculosis is on the rise, partly as a result of HIV/AIDS, though a new international protocol to detect and treat the disease is showing promise.

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## Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

Most countries have committed to the principles of sustainable development. But this has not resulted in sufficient progress to reverse the loss of the world's environmental resources. Achieving the goal will require greater attention to the plight of the poor, whose day-to-day subsistence is often directly linked to the natural resources around them, and an unprecedented level of global cooperation. Action to prevent further deterioration of the ozone layer shows that progress is possible.

Access to safe drinking water has increased, but half the developing world still lack toilets or other forms of basic sanitation. Nearly 1 billion people live in urban slums because the growth of the urban population is outpacing improvements in housing and the availability of productive jobs.

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## Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

The United Nations Millennium Declaration represents a global social compact: developing countries will do more to ensure their own development, and developed countries will support them through aid, debt relief and better opportunities for trade. Progress in each of these areas has already begun to yield results. But developed countries have fallen short of targets they have set for themselves. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, increased aid and debt relief must be accompanied by further opening of trade, accelerated transfer of technology and improved employment opportunities for the growing ranks of young people in the developing world.

# Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger

Extreme poverty remains a daily reality for more than 1 billion people who subsist on less than \$1 a day. Hunger and malnutrition are almost equally pervasive: more than 800 million people have too little to eat to meet their daily energy needs. For young children, the lack of food can be perilous since it retards their physical and mental development and threatens their very survival. More than a quarter of children under age 5 in developing countries are malnourished.

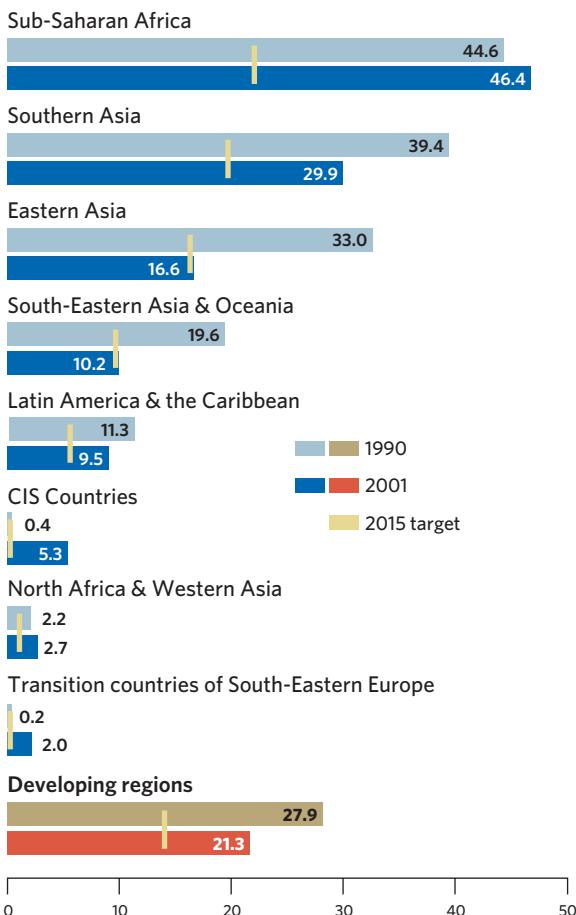
Overcoming poverty and hunger is possible. In Asia, reductions in poverty were dramatic. The number of people living on less than \$1 a day dropped by nearly a quarter of a billion from 1990 to 2001 — a period of rapid economic growth. In more than 30 countries, hunger was reduced by at least 25 per cent

## TARGET

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day

### Asia leads the way in reducing poverty rates

Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day, 1990 and 2001 (Percentage)



During the 1990s, extreme poverty dropped in much of Asia, fell slowly in

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