

# The Millennium Development Goals Report

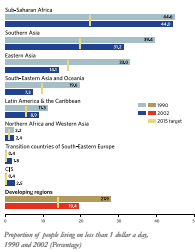


UNITED NATIONS

2006

## 1 Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger

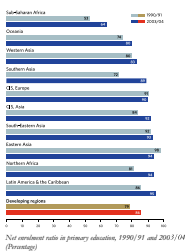
Asia leads the decline in global poverty, but hunger remains stubbornly high



Since 1990, poverty rates have declined, led by Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, the poverty rate declined marginally, but the number of people living in extreme poverty increased by 140 million. However, many sub-Saharan countries are now showing potential for long-term growth that could raise standards of living. The proportion of people in the developing world suffering from chronic hunger has declined, with even the worst-hit regions showing improvement. However, progress overall is inadequate and the number of people going hungry has increased, notably in parts of Asia.

## 2 Achieve universal primary education

Universal primary education is in sight, but sub-Saharan Africa lags behind

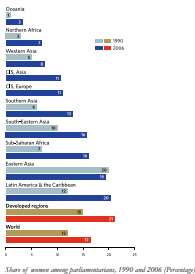


Southern Asia has made great strides towards universal primary education, especially over the period 1999-2004, largely as a result of progress in India. In contrast, sub-Saharan Africa, despite significant progress, will need to accelerate its improvement to achieve the goal. Oceania and Western Asia also have a long way to go.



## 3 Promote gender equality & empower women

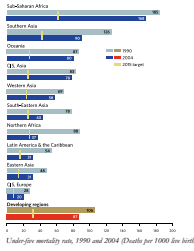
Women's political power is growing, though men still dominate



Women's political participation has grown to reach almost 17 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide. Women's share of the world's labor force also continues to increase, although women's economic advancement is limited by wage differentials, occupational segregation, higher unemployment rates and their disproportionate representation in the informal and subsistence sectors. In education, the gender gap is narrowing but girls still lag behind boys in school enrollment, particularly at higher levels and most notably in Oceania, Western Asia and Southern Asia.

## 4 Reduce child mortality

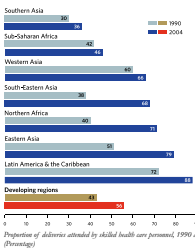
More children are surviving their first years of life



Child survival has improved in most regions of the developing world, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, South-Eastern and Eastern Asia and Northern Africa. However, more efforts are required in sub-Saharan Africa where deaths of young children account for half of the global total. Education for mothers would contribute to saving the lives of their children, as would expanding such simple, low-cost measures as immunization against measles; measles still kills close to half a million children each year.

## 5 Improve maternal health

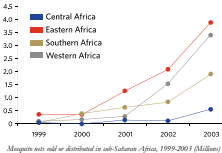
More mothers are receiving skilled assistance in childbirth



Dramatic gains in deliveries attended by skilled personnel have been reported in South-Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Eastern Asia, but progress is still slow in other regions, like Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where maternal mortality remains unacceptably high. Poor and rural women are far less likely to receive skilled care during childbirth.

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

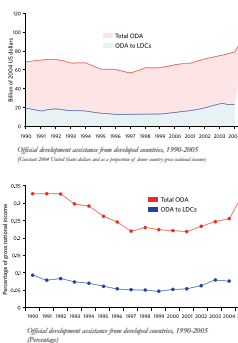
Progress against life-threatening diseases is mixed



The concerted effort to fight malaria has resulted in a significant increase of preventive measures, such as the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets in Africa, one of the regions at most risk. HIV prevention efforts are proving successful in some places, but deaths and new infections continue to increase. Similarly, the number of new tuberculosis cases is growing, with the fastest increases in sub-Saharan Africa; tuberculosis still kills 1.7 million people a year.

## 8 Develop a global partnership for development

Development aid continues to increase, but still falls short of targets



Developed countries have confirmed their commitment to the MDGs through increased development assistance and debt relief, but several developed countries still fall short of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income. Moreover, neither debt relief nor the increased flows of emergency and disaster relief necessarily provide the financial support needed for development and long-term poverty reduction. Continued efforts are required to increase aid flows and produce results.

There continues to be a vast digital divide between the developed and the developing countries and between most developing countries and the least developed countries. Nevertheless, the dissemination of information and communications technologies in developing countries has been unprecedentedly rapid and provides various opportunities for accelerating development.

## 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

World targets for safe drinking water are in sight, but coverage remains spotty in rural areas



More people are obtaining their drinking water from improved sources, but large disparities remain between rural and urban areas. Half the population of developing countries still lacks basic sanitation and this target is unlikely to be achieved. On the other hand, drastic reductions in consumption of ozone-depleting substances and a slowing in the net loss of forest area have contributed to enhancing global environmental sustainability.

Proportion of rural population using improved drinking water sources, 2004 (Percentage)



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MDG Info 2006 is a database on development indicators. The database contains indicators by geographic areas, time periods and for specific sub-groups of the population. It also contains data sources and metadata for each of the indicators. MDG Info 2006 is an adaptation of DevInfo database technology. For more, visit [www.devinfo.org](http://www.devinfo.org).

