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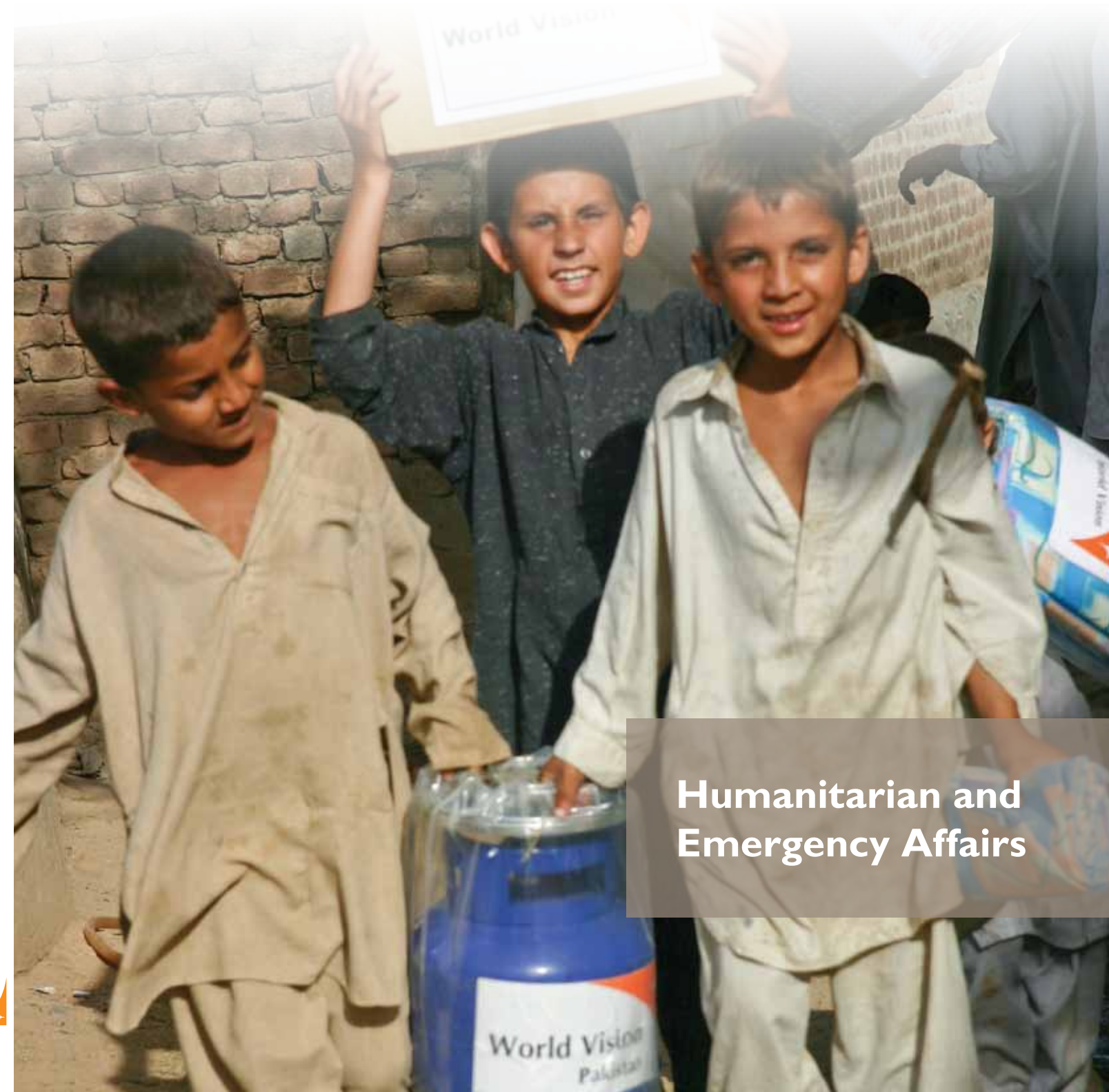
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General Humanitarian Statistics 2009



Humanitarian and
Emergency Affairs





General Humanitarian Statistics 2009

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Dear Colleagues,

The humanitarian community is facing a rapidly changing world in which we rely evermore on accurate and updated information to guide our strategy and operations. Accessing the valuable research our colleagues produce is crucial as we seek to work effectively in the complex field of relief and development.

In an effort to provide up-to-date statistics to World Vision staff and our partners in ministry, Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) has compiled the latest humanitarian facts and figures. Drawing on various resources within the humanitarian sector, this publication presents new statistics, links to humanitarian reports, and tables and graphs to illustrate the data. The General Humanitarian Statistics 2009 edition is complimentary to previous editions of General Humanitarian Statistics (2005-2008), providing an update to statistical information that has changed in the past year. If the information you are looking for cannot be found in this publication, please refer to the previous publications for additional recent data.

For your reference, the statistics and graphics found in this publication can also be found on the Relief Forum Database or [WVCentral](#). If you would like to request additional copies of the book, or if you have questions or comments about their contents, please contact heainfo@wvi.org.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a horizontal line.

Lars Gustavsson
Senior Executive Officer and Vice President,
Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs, Collaboration and Business Innovation

Armed Conflict

General Statistics¹

- 31 armed conflicts were recorded in 2008 and 30 of them remained active at the end of the year.
- The majority of armed conflicts happened in Asia (14) and Africa (9), while the remainder took place in Europe (4), the Middle East (3), and America (1).
- The most serious armed conflicts took place in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, Iraq, Israel–Palestine, DR Congo (east), Pakistan (north-west), Somalia, Sri Lanka (north-west) and Sudan (Darfur).
- Approximately two out of every three conflicts concerned identity-related aspirations or demands for greater self-government.

Global Peace²

- According to the Global Peace Index, the ten most at peace countries in the world, in descending order, are New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Austria, Sweden, Japan, Canada, Finland, and Slovenia.
- The ten least at peace countries, in descending order, are Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Israel, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Pakistan, Russia, and Zimbabwe.

Multilateral Peace Operations³

- In 2008, as in 2007, 60 multilateral peace operations were conducted, and a record 187,586 personnel were deployed, an 11 percent increase over 2007. Of these, 166,146 were military and 21,440 civilian, including police.
- Of the 60 multilateral peace operations, the UN conducted 23 of them with a total of 98,614 personnel deployed.
- The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan continued to be the largest peace operation, with 51,356 troops. This is an increase of around 9,600 over the 2007 figure. MONUC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UNAMID in Darfur, Sudan, were the second and third largest missions.
- Among the regions, Africa and Europe are both home to 19 peace operations, while Asia and the Middle East have 10 each.
- As of the end of December 2008, a total of 137 countries contributed uniformed personnel to peace operations.
- The top ten contributors of military personnel, in descending order, are the USA, France, Pakistan, the UK, Bangladesh, India, Italy, Germany, Nigeria, and Rwanda.⁴

¹ School for a Culture of Peace: Alert 2009, January 2009.

² Institute for Economics & Peace: Global Peace Index 2009.

³ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: SIPRI Yearbook 2009.

⁴ See Appendix B: Graphics for charts and tables.

Children in Emergencies

General Statistics

- Globally, just over 1 billion children under the age of 18 live in countries or territories affected by armed conflict – almost one sixth of the total world population. Of these, approximately 300 million are under the age of five.⁵
- According to UNICEF, an estimated 300 million children worldwide are subjected to violence, exploitation and abuse.⁶
- In the last decade, more than 2 million children have died, at least 6 million children have been permanently disabled or seriously injured, and more than 1 million children have been orphaned or separated from their families as a direct result of armed conflict.
- Between 8,000 and 10,000 children are killed or maimed by landmines every year.
- In developing countries, one in six children 5 to 14 years old, about 16 percent of all children in this age group, is involved in child labour. In the least developed countries, 30 percent of all children are engaged in child labour.⁷
- It is estimated that there are between 100 million and 150 million street children in the world, and this number is growing. Of those, some 5-10 percent have run away from home or been abandoned by their families.⁸
- An estimated 20 million children are currently displaced by armed conflict or human rights violations. Two-thirds are internally displaced within their own national borders.⁹
- According to UNICEF, as many as 2 million children are subjected to prostitution in the global commercial sex trade.

⁵ UNICEF: State of the World's Children 2008.

⁶ Unless otherwise noted, all information taken from: <http://www.unicef.org/protection/>.

⁷ <http://www.childinfo.org/labour.html>.

⁸ <http://www.amnesty.org/en/children>.

⁹ http://www.unicef.org/emerg/index_displacedchildren.html.

Climate Change

General Statistics¹⁰

- Due to an improved understanding of anthropogenic warming and cooling influences on climate has improved the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report states with very high confidence that the globally averaged net effect of human activities since 1750 has been one of warming, with a radiative forcing of +1.6 [+0.6 to +2.4] Watts per square metre (W/m²).
- Annual average Arctic sea ice extent shrunk by 2.7 per cent per decade. Sea-ice decreases overall in summer by 7.4 per cent.
- Temperatures at the top of permafrost layer have generally increased since the 1980s by up to 3°C.
- The maximum area covered by seasonally frozen ground has decreased by about 7% in the Northern Hemisphere since 1900 — in spring by up to 15 per cent.
- Paleoclimate information supports the interpretation that the warmth of the last half-century is unusual in at least the previous 1300 years. The last time the polar regions were significantly warmer than present for an extended period (about 125,000 years ago), reductions in polar ice volume led to 4 to 6 metres of sea level rise.
- Annual fossil CO₂ emissions increased from an average of 6.4 gigatons of carbon (GtC) per year in the 1990s, to 7.2 GtC per year in 2000-2005.
- CO₂ radiative forcing increased by 20 per cent from 1995 to 2005, the largest in any decade in at least the last 200 years.
- For the next two decades a warming of about 0.2°C per decade is projected for a range of emission scenarios.
- Even if the concentrations of all greenhouse gases and aerosols had been kept constant at year 2000 levels, a further warming of about 0.1°C per decade would be expected.
- Temperatures in excess of 1.9 to 4.6°C warmer than pre-industrial sustained for millennia will lead to eventual melt of the Greenland ice sheet. This would raise sea level by 7 metres — comparable to 125,000 years ago.¹¹

¹⁰ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Fourth Assessment Report, 2007.

¹¹ For the latest regional statistics on climate change, please refer to General Humanitarian Statistics 2008.

Education

General Statistics¹²

- The world literacy rate for adults has risen, increasing from 76% in the period 1985-1994 to 84% in the 2000-2006.
- 774 million adults, or 16% of the world's population, still lack basic literacy skills. 64% of these are women.
- 80% of adult illiterates worldwide live in only twenty countries and half live in Bangladesh, China and India.
- 130 million young people remain illiterate today.
- An estimated 75 million children of primary school age world wide are currently out of school with partial projections suggesting that at least 29 million children will still be missing out on their right to an education in 2015.
- UNESCO predicts that without accelerated efforts in education: 58 of the 86 countries that have not yet reached universal primary enrolment will not achieve it by 2015; 72 out of 101 countries will not succeed in halving their adult illiteracy rates by 2015; only 18 of the 113 countries that missed the gender parity goal at primary and secondary level in 2005 stand a chance of achieving it by 2015.
- While about 63% of countries with data have managed to eliminate gender disparities in primary education, only 37% of countries have done so at secondary level.
- In 2006, some 513 million students worldwide – or 58% of the relevant school-age population – were enrolled in secondary school, an increase of nearly 76 million since 1999.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 75% of secondary-school-age children are not enrolled in secondary school.
- International aid to basic education is stagnating. In 2006, for developing countries, they amounted to US\$5.1 billion.
- Total aid for basic education for low-income countries in 2006 was US\$3.8 billion.¹³

¹² Education for All: Global Monitoring Report 2008.

¹³ For more statistics on education, please refer to General Humanitarian Statistics 2008.

Health

Maternal Health¹⁴

- According to 2005 figures, 536,000 women die a year from maternal deaths. This equates to 1 woman dying every minute from maternal-related causes.
- Another 10 million a year incur injuries, infections and disabilities from a pregnancy related cause.
- Maternal mortality has barely changed since 1990.
- Africa and Asia account for 95 percent of the world's maternal deaths, with particularly high burdens in Sub-Saharan Africa (50 percent of the global total) and South Asia (35 percent).
- Niger has the highest lifetime risk of maternal mortality of any country in the world: 1 in 7.
- The comparable risk in the developed world is 1 in 8,000.
- The leading causes of maternal deaths worldwide include: haemorrhage (25%), infections (15%), complications of abortion (13%), eclampsia or related hypertensive disorders (12%), and obstructed labour (8%).
- In the least developed countries, 1 in 3 women do not receive any antenatal care during pregnancy.
- Only 39% of births in WHO-classified "low-income" countries are attended by a skilled health professional.
- With three quarters of all maternal deaths occurring during childbirth or the immediate post-partum period, having skilled health personnel attend deliveries is pivotal to reducing maternal mortality.

Child Survival

- In 2007, 9.2 million children died before the age of five.
- 3.7 million children die within first 28 days of life.
- Three-quarters of these 3.7 million deaths, or 2.8 million deaths, occur within the early neonatal period, or the first week after birth.
- Africa and Asia account for 92 percent of the world's deaths in children under the age of five, Africa accounted for 51 percent of the global total and Asia accounted for 41 percent.
- Of the top 10 countries with the highest under-five mortality rates (U5MR), nine are in Africa. In descending order, the top ten countries with the worst U5MRs are: Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Burundi.
- The six leading causes of under-five deaths are: neonatal causes (37%), pneumonia (19%), diarrhea (17%), malaria (8%), measles (4%), and AIDS (3%).
- According to a survey in 2000, the six leading causes of neonatal deaths are: premature births (27%), sepsis/pneumonia (26%), asphyxia (23%), tetanus (7%), congenital (7%), and diarrhea (3%).

¹⁴ UNICEF: State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health, 2009.

- Pneumonia kills more children than any other illness – more than AIDS, malaria and measles combined. Around 2 million children under five die from the disease each year – around one in five child deaths globally.

Maternal and Child Nutrition

- In 2007, 148 million children under the age of five in the developing world were underweight for their age.
- Two thirds of these children live in Asia (67%) and approximately one quarter live in Africa (27%). Together, Africa and Asia account for 92 percent of all underweight children under the age of five in the developing world.
- About 178 million children globally are stunted, resulting from not enough food, a vitamin- and mineral-poor diet, and disease.
- Low birth-weight is related to maternal nutrition, is a causal factor in 60-80% of neonatal deaths.
- More than one third of child deaths worldwide are attributed to undernutrition.
- Nearly one third of children under five in the developing world are stunted.
- Stunting rates among children are highest in Africa and Asia; in south-central Asia 41% are affected.
- About 1.5 million children die annually due to wasting.
- About 2 billion people are affected by iodine deficiencies worldwide.
- Vitamin A is associated with more than half a million deaths of under-five children globally each year.

HIV/AIDS

General Statistics¹⁵

- In 2007, there were a total of 33.3 million people living with HIV/AIDS, with 30.8 million adults, 15.5 million women, and 2.0 million children.
- It is estimated that there were 2.7 million people newly infected with HIV in 2007. Of these, 0.37 million were children.
- As many as 6,800 people are newly infected with HIV every day because of poor access to affordable, proven interventions to prevent HIV transmission.
- In 2007, there were an estimated 2.0 million deaths from AIDS in 2007. Of these, 0.27 million were children.
- More than 25 million people have died of AIDS since 1981.
- Africa has 11.6 million AIDS orphans.
- At the end of 2007, women accounted for 50% of all adults living with HIV worldwide, and for 59% in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Young people (under 25 years old) account for half of all new HIV infections worldwide.
- In developing and transitional countries, 9.7 million people are in immediate need of life-saving AIDS drugs; of these, only 2.99 million (31%) are receiving the drugs.¹⁶

¹⁵ UNAIDS: 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, 2008.

¹⁶ For more statistics on HIV/AIDS, please refer to General Humanitarian Statistics 2008.

Human Trafficking

General Statistics¹⁷

- There are at least 12.3 million adults and children in forced labour, bonded labour, and sexual servitude at any given time.
- Women and girls make up 56 percent of all forced labour victims.
- South and Southeast Asia also has a high prevalence of existing forced labour; it is home to 77 percent of the world's forced labour victims.
- The perpetrators of forced labour deny an estimated 8.1 million victims of forced labour more than \$20 billion in wages every year.
- \$8.9 billion of the “stolen” wages are incurred in Asia and the Pacific.
- Migrants in the fishing industry or serving as domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to forced labour.

Laws Against Trafficking¹⁸

- As of November 2008, 63% of the 155 countries and territories included in the UNODC report had passed laws against trafficking in persons addressing the major forms of trafficking.
- Another 16% of countries had passed anti-trafficking laws.
- 54% of responding countries have established a special anti-human trafficking police unit, and more than half have developed a national action plan to deal with this issue.¹⁹

¹⁷ International Labour Organization: The Cost of Coercion, May 2009.

¹⁸ UNODC: Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, February 2009.

¹⁹ See Appendix B: Graphics for charts and tables.

Hunger and Food Security

General Statistics²⁰

- 1.02 billion people go hungry every day; one-sixth of all humanity does not have enough to eat – more than the populations of USA, Canada, and the European Union combined.
- Almost all of the world's undernourished people live in developing countries. An estimated 642 million people are suffering from chronic hunger in Asia and the Pacific; 265 million in Sub-Saharan Africa; 53 million in Latin America and the Caribbean; 42 million in the Near East and North Africa; and 15 million in all of the developed countries combined.
- 25,000 people (adults and children) die every day from hunger and related causes.
- The number of undernourished people in the world increased by 75 million in 2007 and 40 million in 2008 largely due to increasing food prices.
- Asia and the Pacific region is home to over half the world's population and nearly two-thirds of the world's hungry people.
- 60 percent of the world's chronically hungry people are women and girls; 20 percent are children under the age of five.

Agriculture and the Global Food Crisis

- In 2009, the number of hungry people is expected to grow by about 11 percent, mainly due to the shocks of the economic crisis combined with high national food prices.
- Between May 2007 and May 2008, the food price index rose by 50 percent, making it impossible for some families to afford basic food for their children.²¹
- The steep rise in food prices was not caused by low harvests. In 2007/8 and 2008/9, global grain harvests hit record levels – 2.3 billion tons was produced in 2008/9, a seven percent increase compared to the previous year.
- Yet with both cereal production and hunger at record levels, only 1.5 percent more grain was used to feed human beings than in the previous year. However, the amount used to manufacture agrofuels went up nearly a quarter from the previous year.

Aid to Agriculture

- The G8 countries pledged \$10 billion last year to fight the food crisis through food aid, nutrition interventions, social protection activities, and agricultural output increase.²²
- While 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas in developing countries, a mere 4 percent of official development assistance goes to agriculture. For the poorest people, GDP growth originating in agriculture is about four times

²⁰ Unless otherwise noted, all information taken from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

²¹ International Food Policy Research Institute: Issue Brief 54, IFPRI, October 2008.

²² Action Aid: Let Them Eat Promises: How the G8 are failing the billion hungry, July 2009.

more effective in raising incomes of extremely poor people than GDP growth originating outside the sector

- In Sub-Saharan Africa, a region heavily reliant on agriculture for overall growth, public spending for farming is only 4 percent of total government spending and the sector is still taxed at relatively high levels.²³

²³ See Appendix B: Graphics for charts and tables.

Millennium Development Goals Update

At the mid-point for the Millennium Development Goals, results can be seen from this global effort²⁴:

- The overarching goal of reducing absolute poverty by half is within reach for the world as a whole;
- In all but two regions, primary school enrolment is at least 90 percent;
- The gender parity index in primary education is 95 per cent or higher in six of the 10 regions, including the most populous ones;
- Deaths from measles fell from over 750,000 in 2000 to less than 250,000 in 2006, and about 80 per cent of children in developing countries now receive a measles vaccine;
- The number of deaths from AIDS fell from 2.2 million in 2005 to 2.0 million in 2007, and the number of people newly infected declined from 3.0 million in 2001 to 2.7 million in 2007;
- Malaria prevention is expanding, with widespread increases in insecticide-treated net use among children under five in sub-Saharan Africa: in 16 out of 20 countries, use has at least tripled since around 2000.
- The incidence of tuberculosis is expected to be halted and begin to decline before the target date of 2015;
- Some 1.6 billion people have gained access to safe drinking water since 1990;
- The use of ozone-depleting substances has been almost eliminated and this has contributed to the effort to reduce global warming;
- The share of developing countries' export earnings devoted to servicing external debt fell from 12.5 per cent in 2000 to 6.6 per cent in 2006, allowing them to allocate more resources to reducing poverty;
- The private sector has increased the availability of some critical essential drugs and rapidly spread mobile phone technology throughout the developing world.

Yet at the same time, many of the goals and targets set for 2015 will require much more effort to achieve in the time that is remaining. There are still targets likely to be missed unless urgent action is taken:

- The proportion of people in sub-Saharan Africa living on less than \$1 per day is unlikely to be reduced by the target of one-half;
- About one quarter of all children in developing countries are considered to be underweight and are at risk of having a future blighted by the longterm effects of undernourishment;
- Of the 113 countries that failed to achieve gender parity in both primary and secondary school enrolment by the target date of 2005, only 18 are likely to achieve the goal by 2015;
- Almost two thirds of employed women in the developing world are in vulnerable jobs as own-account or unpaid family workers;

²⁴ United Nations: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009.

- In one third of developing countries, women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians;
- More than 500,000 prospective mothers in developing countries die annually in childbirth or of complications from pregnancy;
- Some 2.5 billion people, almost half the developing world's population, live without improved sanitation;
- More than one third of the growing urban population in developing countries live in slum conditions;
- Carbon dioxide emissions have continued to increase, despite the international timetable for addressing the problem;
- Developed countries' foreign aid expenditures declined for the second consecutive year in 2007 and risk falling short of the commitments made in 2005;
- International trade negotiations are years behind schedule and any outcome seems likely to fall far short of the initial high hopes for a development-oriented outcome.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

While this goal remains within reach, rising food prices are estimated to push more than 100 million people into absolute poverty. Low-paying jobs, job insecurity and high unemployment provide little relief from poverty, particularly to the 'working poor.' Further, conflict also remains a cause of poverty, with more than 42 million people currently displaced by conflict or persecution, within and outside the borders of their own countries.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Even with an overall increase in the number of children in this category, the total number of children of primary school age who were out of school fell from 103 million in 1999 to 73 million in 2006. Most regions saw a net enrolment ratio exceeding 90 percent in 2006. While these successes of high enrolment emphasize what can be accomplished with the political will of governments and the cooperation of partnering organisations, the focus remains on the quality of primary education.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Efforts to boost overall enrolment have been positive for the promotion of girls' education. Girls' primary enrolment increased more than boys' in all developing regions between 2000 and 2006. However, of the 113 countries that failed to achieve gender parity in primary and secondary school enrolment by the target date of 2005, only 18 are likely to achieve the goal by 2015. Girls still account for 55 per cent of the out-of-school population. Additionally, since 2000, the proportion of seats for women in parliaments only increased from 13.5 to 17.9 per cent.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

In 2006, for the first time since mortality data have been gathered, annual deaths among children under five dipped below 10 million, to 9.7 million. This represents a 60 percent drop in the rate of child mortality since 1960. Worldwide, deaths of children under five years of age declined from 93 to 72 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2006. However, between 1990 and 2006, about 27 countries – the large majority in sub-

Saharan Africa – made no progress in reducing childhood deaths.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high across much of the developing world. According to UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and WHO, up to 15 per cent of pregnant women in all population groups experience potentially fatal complications during birth – 20 million women each year. More than 80 percent of maternal deaths worldwide are due to five direct causes: hemorrhage, sepsis, unsafe abortion, obstructed labour and hypertensive disease of pregnancy. In about 21 percent of the 500,000 maternal deaths occurring each year, women die as a result of severe bleeding. The Goal 5 target remains an enormous task; the vast majority of maternal deaths can still be prevented.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Most countries are struggling to meet the Goal 6 targets of achieving universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS and halting the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. Globally, the number of people living with HIV rose from an estimated 29.5 million in 2001 to 33 million in 2007. The vast majority of those living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa, where about 60 percent of adults living with HIV in 2007 were women. Malaria kills over 1 million people annually, 80 percent of whom are children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. There continue to be between 350 million and 500 million cases of malaria worldwide each year. An estimated 250 million anti-malaria insecticide-treated bed nets are required to reach 80 per cent coverage in sub-Saharan Africa. To date, the funds committed will provide only 100 million nets – less than one half of the requirement.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Climate change is intensifying disasters, including extreme weather events, storm surges, floods and droughts. While no area can escape the adverse impact of climate change, the Arctic, small islands, mega-deltas in Asia and Africa, and the African region overall seem to be especially vulnerable because of their high exposure to the effects of climate change, their populations' limited capacity to adapt to the consequences or both. Currently, only 22 per cent of the world's fisheries are sustainable, compared to 40 per cent in 1975. Some 2.4 billion people live without access to modern cooking and heating services, and 1.6 billion have no access to electricity. On a positive note, some 1.6 billion people have gained access to safe drinking water since 1990. At this rate, the world is expected to meet the MDG target on drinking water. But about 1 billion people still do not have access to safe drinking water, and 2.5 billion lack access to basic sanitation services.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

There continues to be a large delivery gap in meeting commitments towards the MDG goals. Official development assistance (ODA) continued to drop from an all-time high of \$107.1 billion in 2005, to \$103.7 billion in 2007. Aid flows need to increase by \$18 billion per year to meet the promise made by the G8 in 2005 of doubling aid by 2010 – an additional \$50 billion annually in global aid, of which \$25 billion would be for Africa.

Natural Disasters

General Statistics²⁵

- In 2008, 354 natural disasters were recorded. As a result, more than 235,000 people were killed, 214 million people were affected and total economic costs were over 190 billion US\$.
- While the number of natural disasters (354) in 2008 was lower than the annual average from 2000-2007 (397), the death toll (235,000) in 2008 was three times higher than the annual average from 2000-2007 (66,813).
- The high death toll in 2008 is mostly attributed to two events: Cyclone Nargis, which killed 138,366 people in Myanmar, and the Sichuan earthquake, which killed 87,476 people in China.
- Financial costs of disasters in 2008 were more than twice the 82 billion US\$ annual average for 2000-2007 and were mainly attributed to the Sichuan earthquake in China (85 billion US\$) and hurricane Ike in the U.S. (30 billion US\$).
- Asia remained the continent most affected by natural disasters. Nine of the top 10 countries with the highest number of disaster-related deaths were in Asia.
- While China, the U.S., the Philippines, and Indonesia reported the largest number of natural disasters, Djibouti, Tajikistan, Somalia, and Eritrea topped the list of the number of victims per 100 000 inhabitants.
- Once again in 2008, large numbers of persons were affected by only a few natural disasters. The earthquake and severe winter conditions in China affected a total of 122 million people. The droughts in Asia and Africa affected 12 million and 14 million people respectively, and severe weather conditions in the U.S. in May and June 2008 affected 11 million people.²⁶

Regional Analysis

- **Africa**, hit by severe droughts that lead to over 14 million victims, accounted for 20% of all global natural disaster occurrence in 2008.
- The **Americas**, where hydrological disasters caused over 80% of victims, accounted for more than 25% of all global natural disaster occurrence.
- 40% of all reported natural disasters occurred in **Asia**, where global economic damage costs due to natural disasters almost doubled from 34% in the period 2000-2007 to 62% in 2008.
- In 2008, **Europe** showed the greatest decline in reported natural disaster occurrence among the five continents, moving from 16% during 2000-2007 to 9% in 2008.
- Hydrological disasters were responsible for over 85% of total reported victims in **Oceania** in 2008 and also caused most economic losses.

²⁵ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters: Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2008, June 2009.

²⁶ See Appendix B: Graphics for charts and tables.

Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar

- In May 2008, Myanmar was struck by cyclone Nargis, the most devastating cyclone to hit Asia since 1991.
- This category 4 cyclone on the Saffir-Simpson scale affected over 2.4 million people, killed 84,530 people, and left 53,836 people missing.
- The economic losses from the cyclone were over 4 billion US\$.

Sichuan Earthquake, China

- On May 12, 2008, the Sichuan Earthquake, measured at a 7.9 magnitude on the Richter scale, hit the Sichuan province of China.
- This earthquake affected over 45.6 million people, killed 68,858 people, and left 18,618 people missing.
- This was the most powerful earthquake in China since 1976.
- The economic losses from the earthquake were over 85 billion US\$.
- More than 26 million buildings were damaged and around 5 million totally collapsed.
- More than 10,000 school buildings in Sichuan were badly damaged.
- Almost 7,000 schools were completely destroyed and many others suffered partial damage.
- At least 9,000 children died under schools that crumbled.

Persons of Concern

General Statistics²⁷

- There were some 42 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2008, including 15.2 million refugees, 827,000 asylum-seekers (pending cases), and 26 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Women and girls constitute 47 percent of refugees and asylum-seekers, and half of all IDPs and returnees.

Refugees/Asylum-Seekers

- Some 604,000 refugees repatriated voluntarily during 2008.
- Forty-four percent of refugees and asylum-seekers are children below 18 years of age.
- Pakistan is host to the largest number of refugees worldwide (1.8 million), followed by the Syrian Arab Republic (1.1 million), and the Islamic Republic of Iran (980,000).
- Pakistan also hosted the largest number of refugees in relation to its economic capacity.
- Afghan and Iraqi refugees account for almost half of all refugees served by UNHCR worldwide. One out of four refugees in the world is from Afghanistan (2.8 million), and Afghans are located in 69 different asylum countries. Iraqis are the second largest refugee group, with 1.9 million having sought refuge mainly in neighbouring countries.
- More than 839,000 people submitted an individual application for asylum or refugee status in 2008. Of these people, 16,300 were unaccompanied and separated children in 68 countries.
- Receiving one-quarter of applications globally, South Africa is the largest recipient of individual applications in the world.
- 16 countries reported the admission of 88,800 resettled refugees during 2008. The United States of America accepted the highest number of resettled refugees, with 60,200 accepted during 2008.
- Developing countries are host to four-fifths of the world's refugees.
- Based on the data available for 8.8 million refugees, it is estimated that half of the world's refugees reside in urban areas and one-third in camps. However, seven out of ten refugees in sub-Saharan Africa reside in camps.
- Some 211,000 asylum-seekers were recognized as refugees (148,200) or given a complementary form of protection (62,700) in the course of 2008.

²⁷ Unless otherwise noted, all information taken from: UNHCR: 2008 Global Trends, June 2009.

Stateless Persons

- While there are 6.6 million known stateless persons in 58 countries, it is estimated that the overall number of stateless persons worldwide was far higher, about 12 million people.

Internally Displaced Persons²⁸

- 26 million people have been internally displaced by conflict or violence.
- Africa has the highest number of IDPs, with 11.6 million people in 19 countries.
- The region of South and South-East Asia has experienced a 13 percent increase in the number of IDPs since the end of 2007.
- 24 countries were host to new or ongoing conflicts or violence that generated internal displacements in 2008.
- At least 35 countries have a significant proportion of their IDPs living in protracted displacement.
- The following countries (in order of scale) had at least 200,000 people newly displaced in 2008: Philippines, Sudan, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Colombia, Sri Lanka, and India.
- The following countries (in order of scale) had at least 80,000 people returning during 2008 (in order of scale): DRC, Uganda, Sudan, Kenya, Philippines, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Georgia, Yemen, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic (CAR), and Timor-Leste.²⁹

²⁸ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2008, April 2009.

²⁹ See Appendix B: Graphics for charts and tables.

Security

Aid Worker Security³⁰

- In 2008, 260 humanitarian aid workers were killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured in violent attacks.
- The fatality rate for international aid workers now exceeds that of UN peacekeeping troops.
- The three most violent contexts for aid work – Sudan (Darfur), Afghanistan and Somalia – accounted for more than 60% of violent incidents and aid worker victims.
- Six aid workers were killed in suicide bombings over the past three years, a tactic that did not affect aid workers before 2003.
- 49% of all incidents against aid workers were politically motivated, increasing from 29% of the known total in 2003.
- Of the reported 380 incidents against aid workers for 2006–2008, 82 resulted in suspension, withdrawal, or relocation of NGO programmes in 15 countries.
- Kidnapping of aid workers has increased by over 350% in the past three years.³¹

³⁰ Overseas Development Institute/Humanitarian Policy Group: Providing Aid in Insecure Environment, April 2009.

³¹ See Appendix B: Graphics for charts and tables.

Women

Women in the Labour Force³²

- Out of the 3.0 billion people that were employed around the world in 2008, 1.2 billion were women.
- Women made up 40.5 percent of the global labour force in 2008, up from 39.9 percent in 1998.
- In the last decade, more than 200 million women have joined the global labour force.
- The gender wage gap stands at a global average of about 17 percent in formal employment.
- The unemployment rate for women was 6.3 percent in 2008, as compared to a rate of 5.9 percent for men.
- Only a small proportion of employed women are working in industry (18.3 percent in 2008, as compared to 26.6 percent of men).
- In 2008, the services sector accounted for 46.3 percent of all female employment, as compared to 41.2 percent of male employment.
- Globally, the share of women employed in agriculture stands at 35.4 percent. In Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia the agricultural sector makes up more than 60 percent of all female employment.

Women in Politics³³

- Today, there are more women in government than ever before. As of 2008, women have reached an average of 18.4 percent of seats in national assemblies; and in 22 countries, women have exceeded 30 percent of representatives in national assemblies.
- The rate of increase of the proportion of women in national assemblies has accelerated over the past decade: from 11.6 percent in 1995 to 18.4 percent as of May 2008. Previously, the rate of increase had been much slower, rising less than one percent from 1975-1995.
- Even at the current rate of increase, the 'parity zone,' where neither sex holds more than 60 percent of seats, will not be reached by developing countries until 2045.
- Out of 176 countries for which data were available in 2007, Proportional Representation (PR) electoral systems had a global average of 20.7 percent of their parliamentary seats held by women, compared to 13.3 percent in non-PR systems.³⁴
- As of 2008, average representation of women was 21.9 percent in countries that used constitutional or electoral law quotas as opposed to 15.3 percent for the rest of countries, regardless of electoral system.

³² International Labour Organization: Global Employment Trends for Women, March 2009.

³³ Unless otherwise noted, all data taken from: UNIFEM: Progress of the World's Women: Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability, 2008.

Women and Childbirth

- Almost a billion episodes of child diarrhoea are treated with lifesaving Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) each year, reducing child deaths from diarrhoeal disease by more than 50 percent since 1990.
- More than 100 million children receive basic immunizations each year, and tens of millions more receive supplemental immunizations against polio, measles, and other deadly diseases.
- More than 75 million infants and children with pneumonia receive treatment from trained health workers annually.
- Malnutrition among children under age 5 has been reduced from one in three to one in four, a 25 percent reduction.
- More than 70 percent of women receive at least some care during pregnancy.³⁵

³⁵ See Appendix B: Graphics for charts and tables.

Appendix A: Publications

Armed Conflict

School for a Culture of Peace: Alert 2009, January 2009.

Institute for Economics & Peace: Global Peace Index 2009.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: SIPRI Yearbook 2009.

Children in Emergencies

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers: Child Soldiers Global Report 2008, 2008.

Available at: <http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/>

Plan International with World Vision International: Children on the Frontline: Children and Young People in Disaster Risk Reduction, 2009.

UNICEF: State of the World's Children 2008.

UNICEF: Machel Study 10-Year Strategic Review: Children and Conflict in a Changing World, April 2009.

Education

Education for All: Global Monitoring Report 2008.

Health

UNICEF: State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health, 2009.

UNICEF: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Annual Report 2008, 2008. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/wash/files/UNICEF_WASH_2008_Annual_Report_Final_27_05_2009.pdf

HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS: 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic, 2008.

UNICEF, UNAIDS & WHO: Children and AIDS: Second Stocktaking Report, 2008.

Available at:

http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/ChildrenAIDS_SecondStocktakingReport.pdf

Human Trafficking

International Labour Organization: The Cost of Coercion, May 2009.

UNODC: Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, February 2009.

Hunger and Food Security

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. International Food Policy Research Institute: Issue Brief 54, IFPRI, October 2008.

Action Aid: Let Them Eat Promises: How the G8 are failing the billion hungry, July 2009.

FAO (2008): The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008. Available at:
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0291e/i0291e01.pdf>

The World Bank: World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development, 2007.

UNEP: The Environmental Food Crisis: The Environment's Role in Averting Future Food Crises.

Millennium Development Goals Update

United Nations: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009.

Natural Disasters

Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters: Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2008, June 2009.

Aon Benfield & Impact Forecasting: Annual Global Climate and Catastrophe Report 2008, 2009. Available at: http://www.aon.com/about-aon/intellectual-capital/attachments/reinsurance/Annual_Global_Climate_Catastrophe_Report_Jan09.pdf

Persons of Concern

UNHCR: 2008 Global Trends, June 2009, available at:
<http://www.unhcr.org/4a375c426.html>.

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2008, April 2009, available at:
<http://www.internal-displacement.org>.

Security

ECP: Alert 2009!: Report on Conflicts, Human Rights, and Peacebuilding, January 2009.

Overseas Development Institute/Humanitarian Policy Group: Providing Aid in Insecure Environment, April 2009

Women

UNIFEM: Annual Report 2008-2009, 2009. Available at:
http://www.unifem.org/attachments/products/AnnualReport_2008_2009.pdf.

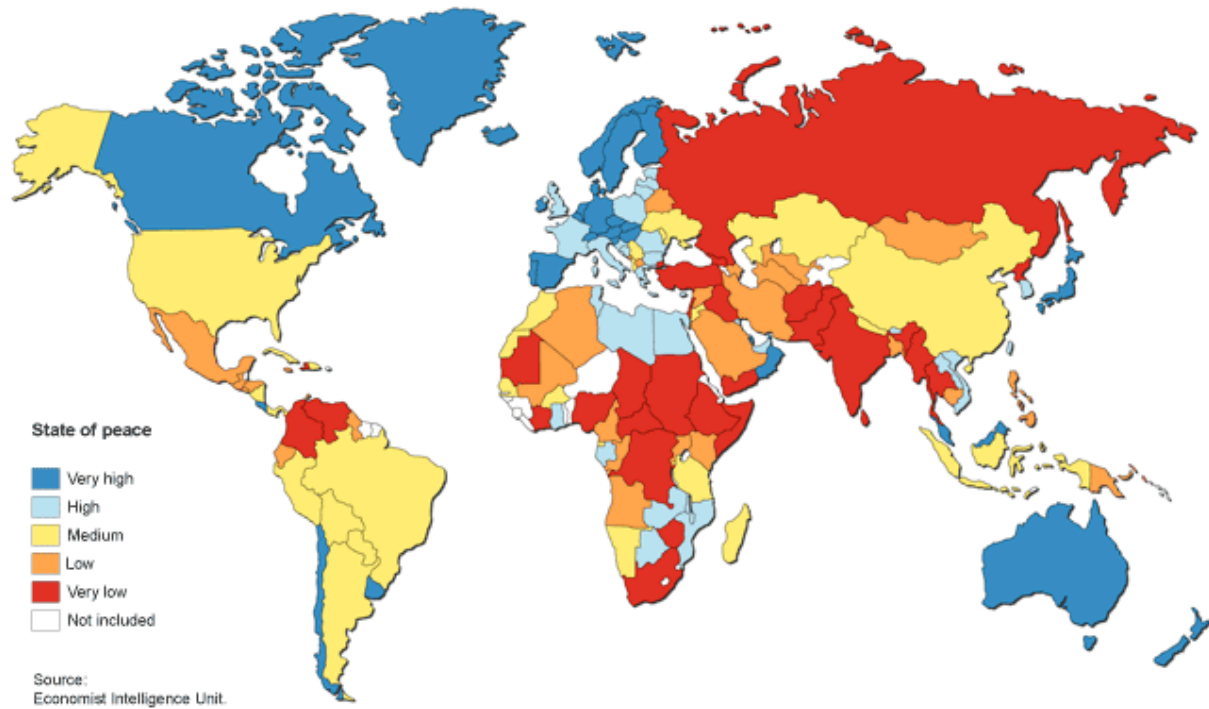
UNIFEM: Progress of the World's Women: Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability, 2008. Available at: <http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008>.

International Labour Organization: Global Employment Trends for Women, March 2009, available at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/global.htm>.

Appendix B: Graphics

Armed Conflict

Global Peace Index – World Map



Human Trafficking



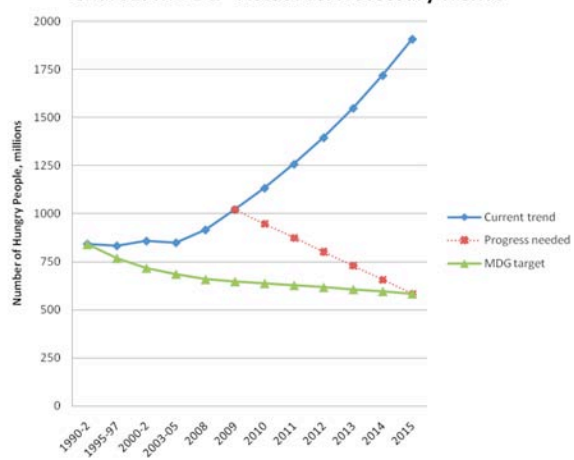
Cover most/all forms: Countries where the specific offence of trafficking in persons is in force, criminalizing at a minimum sexual exploitation and forced labour, with no restrictions concerning the profile of the victim.

Partial: Countries where the specific offence of trafficking in persons is in force, but legislation does not criminalize all or most forms listed in Article 3 of the UN Trafficking Protocol or does not define trafficking in persons.

No specific offence: Countries where forms of trafficking in persons are criminalized through other offences due to the absence of a specific trafficking in persons offence.

Hunger and Food Security

Chart 1: MDG 1 - Actual vs. Necessary Trends



Sources: UN Population Division (population projections to 2015), FAO (data on global prevalence of hunger by 2015, hunger up to 2009). Data points on the blue trend line reflect actual hunger levels 1990-2009, and levels 2009-2015 if hunger were to continue to increase at current (2008-9) rates. The red line shows the rate of decrease required 2010-2015 in order to achieve the MDG target of reducing hunger to 8% (half its 1990 level) by 2015.

Chart 2: G7 anti-hunger commitments, actual vs. target

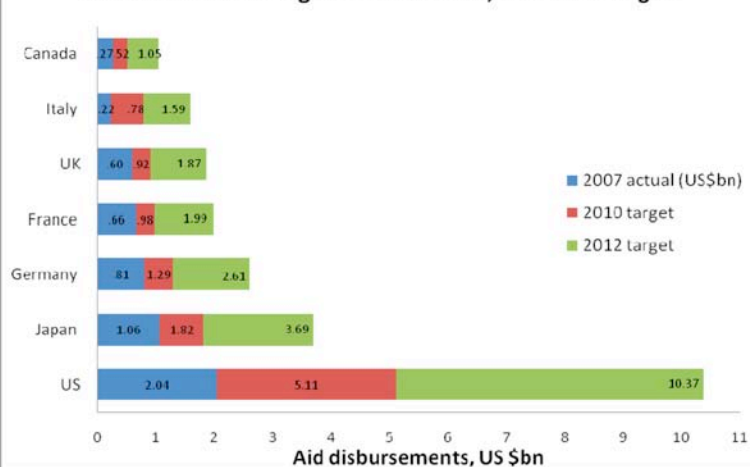
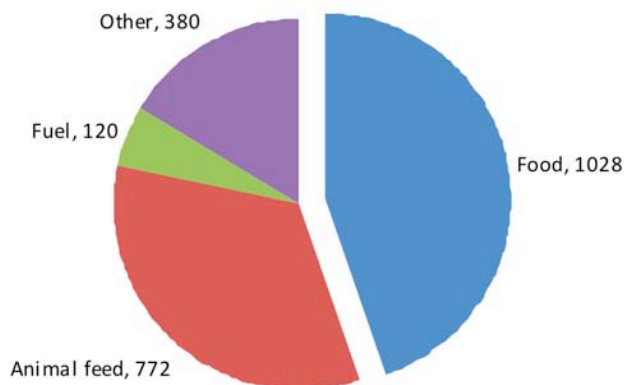


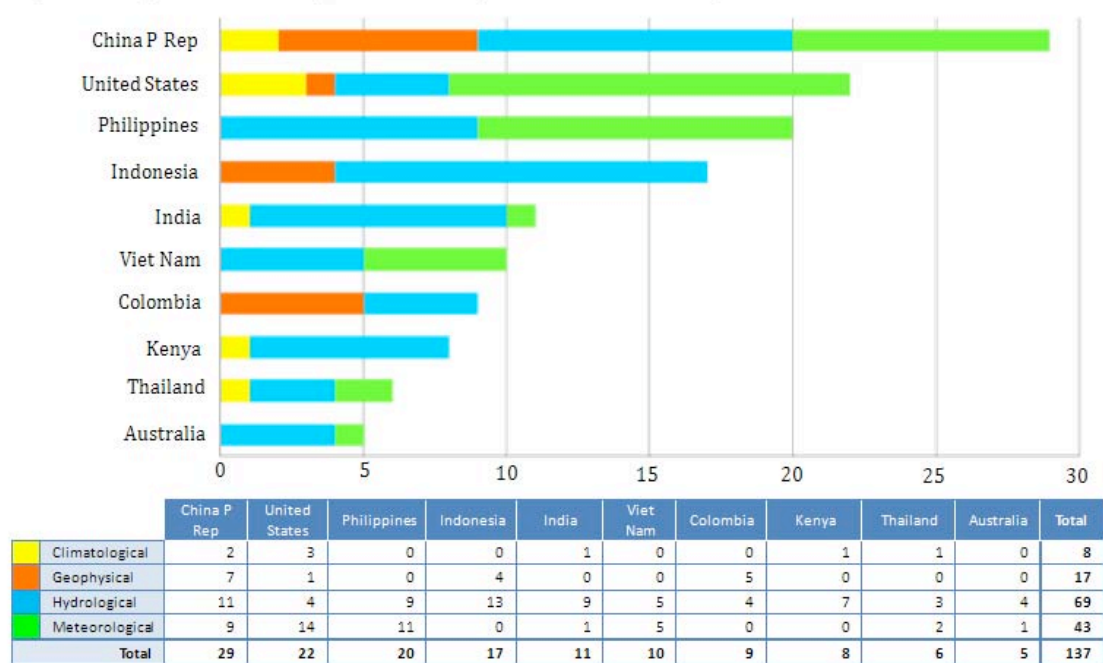
Chart 3: Where did all the food go?

Allocation of 2008/9 harvest, bn. tonnes



Natural Disasters

Figure 3 – Top 10 countries by number of reported events in 2008



Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database
www.emdat.be - Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium"

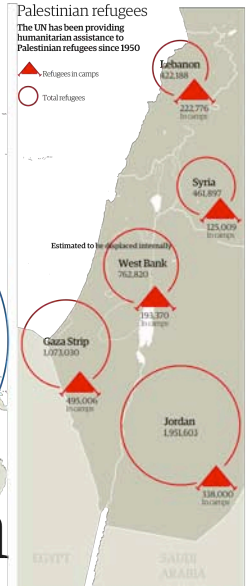
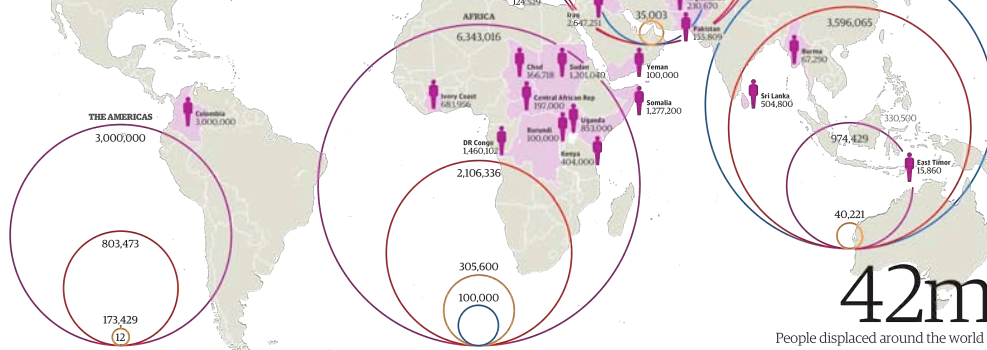
Persons of Concern

Global human displacement

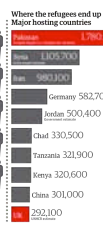
Spiralling global conflicts and worldwide instability have forced millions of people to leave their homes and seek refuge either abroad or in their own countries. The latest figures do not include the wars in Sri Lanka and Pakistan's Svat valley which have displaced thousands more.

Who's who?

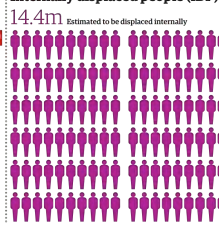
- Asylum seekers** are lawfully in their country and seek protection in another. In the UK, a person who has made an official claim for asylum and is waiting for a decision on their claim.
- Refugee** are registered under the 1951 UN Convention on the Refugee Status Convention. They are people who have been forced to leave their own country and to reside in another.
- Internally displaced persons (IDPs)** are people who have been forced to leave their homes because of internal conflict, violence, or natural disasters. They have not crossed an international border.
- Stateless persons** are people who, under national laws, do not have the nationality of any country.



Refugee estimates



Internally displaced people (IDP)



Asylum seekers



58

Total Palestinian refugee camps

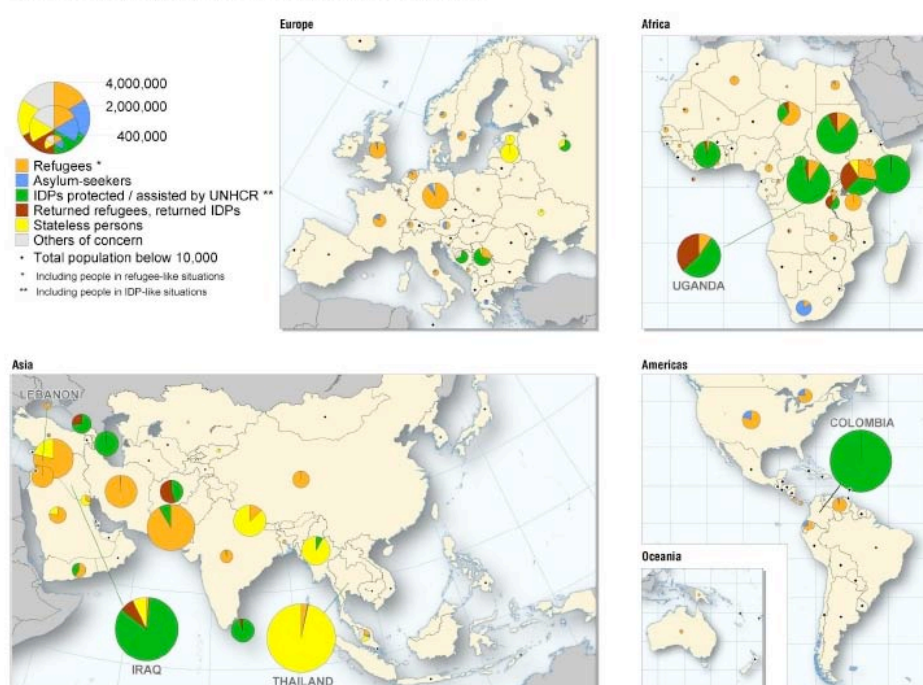
1,373,732

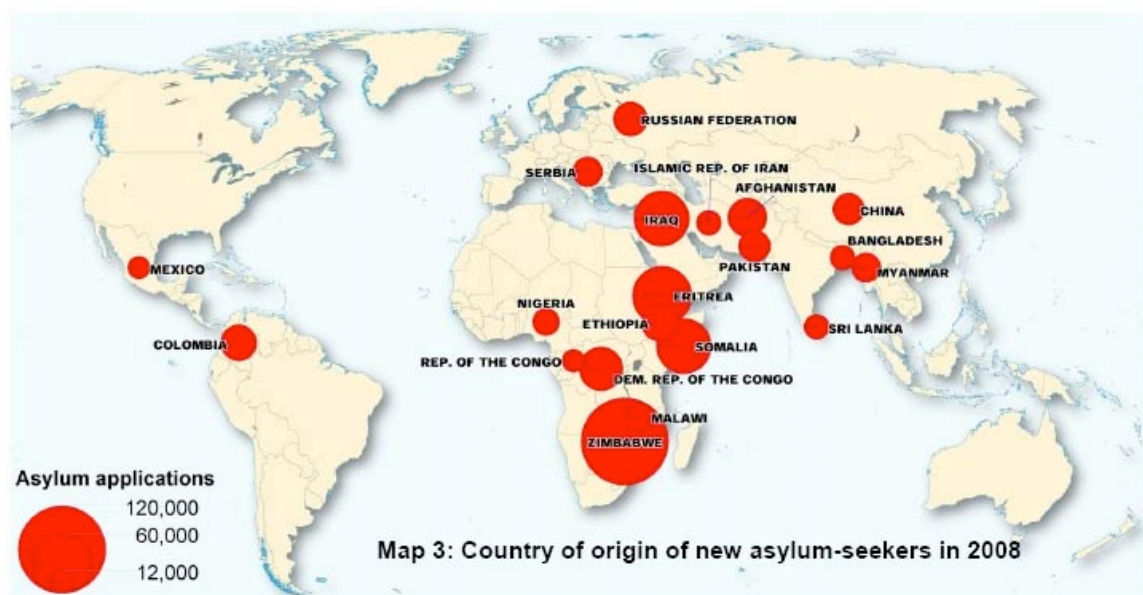
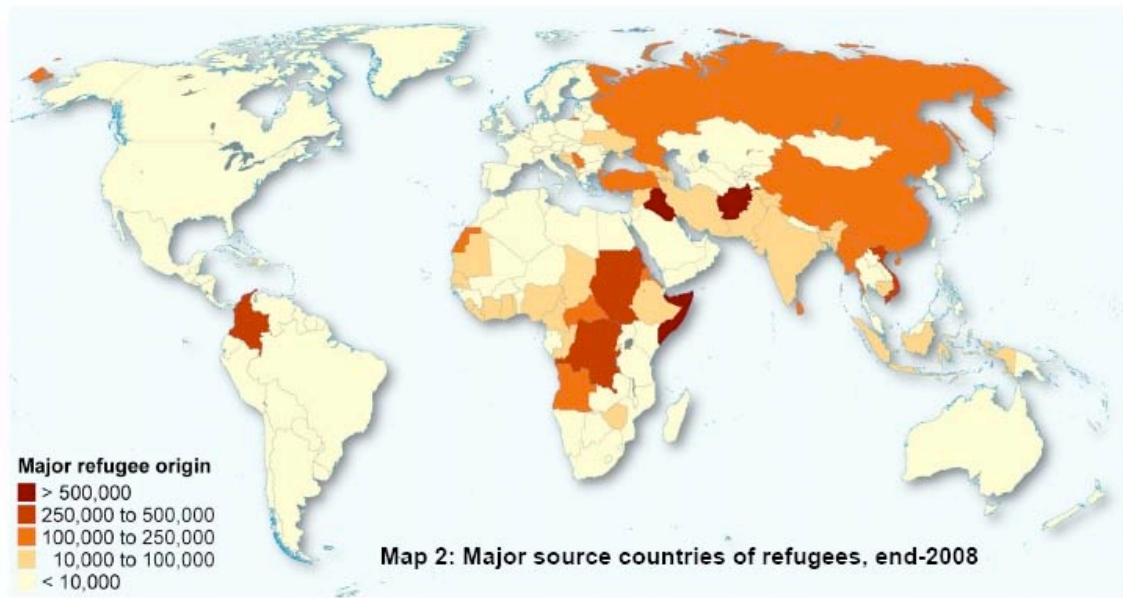
Palestinian refugees in camps

4,671,811

Total Palestinian refugees

Map 1: Total population by category, end-2008





Note: The country of origin is shown if the total number of asylum applications lodged by its citizens exceeded 10,000 during 2008.

Figure 7: Methods and tactics of violence against aid workers 2006–2008

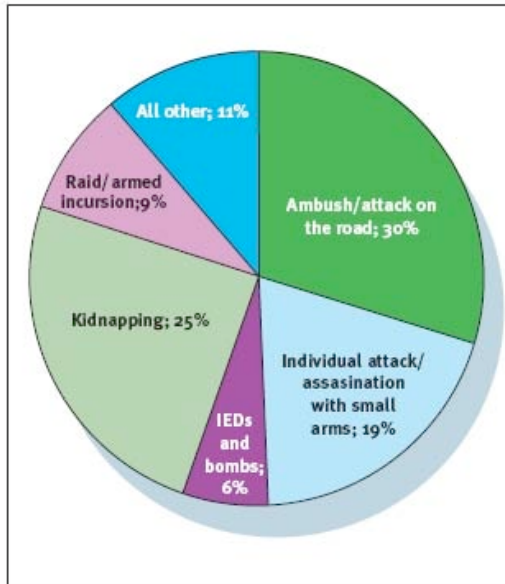


Figure 8: Motives behind attacks

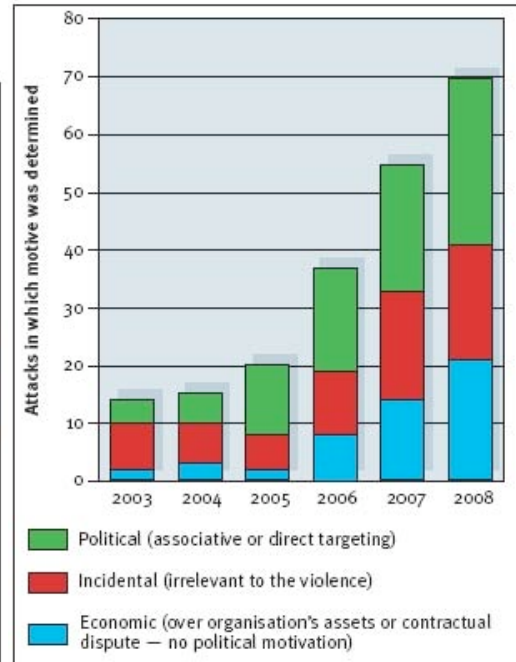
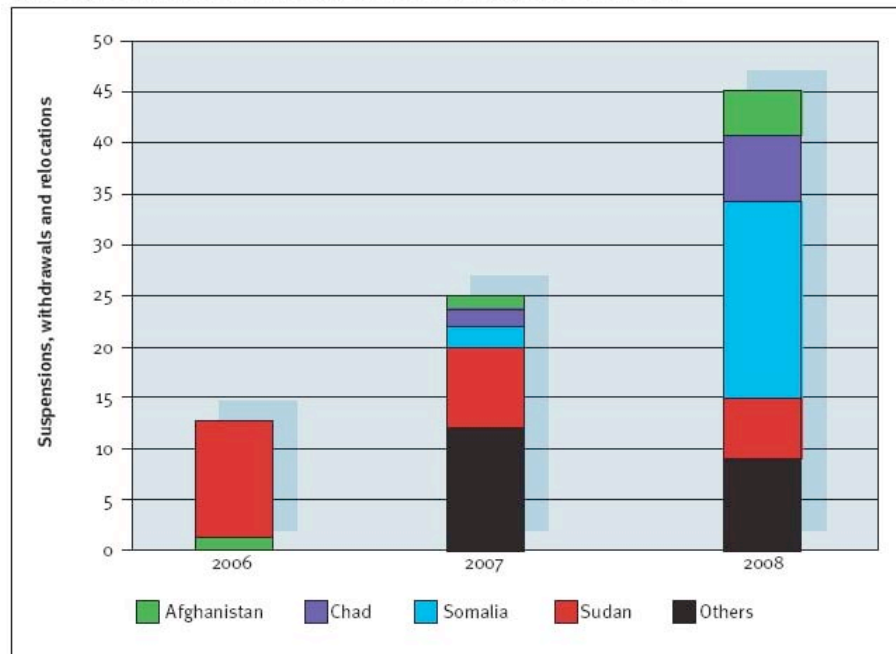
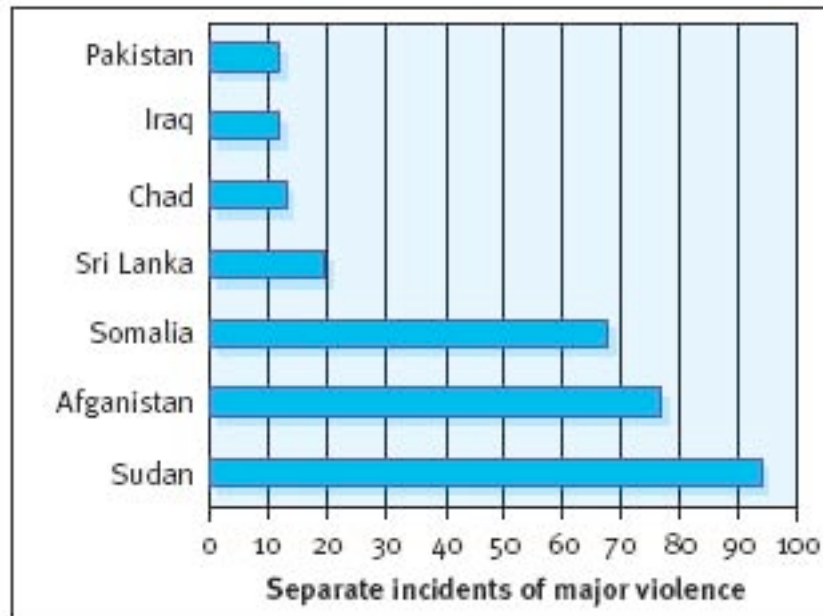


Figure 9: Contraction of aid activity/access following violent incidents



³⁶ All figures are from: Humanitarian Policy Group: Providing aid in insecure environments, 2009 Update.

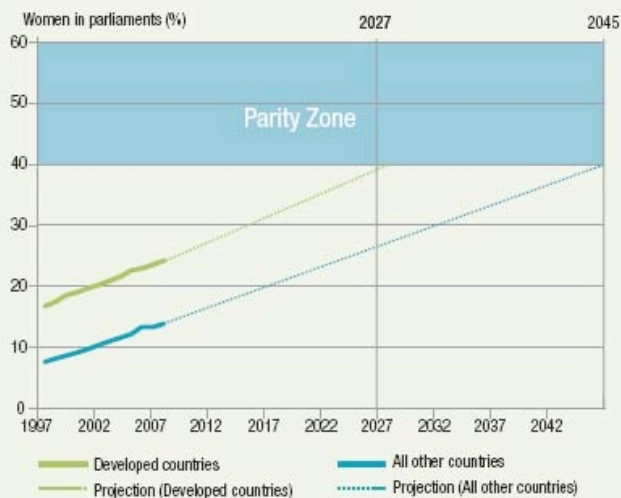
**Figure 5: Highest-incident countries
2006–2008**



Women

FIGURE 2.2 | Parity Zone for Women in Parliaments Is Generations Away

At the current rate of increase, it will take close to 20 years for developed countries and more than 40 years for all other countries to reach the parity zone between 40% and 60%.

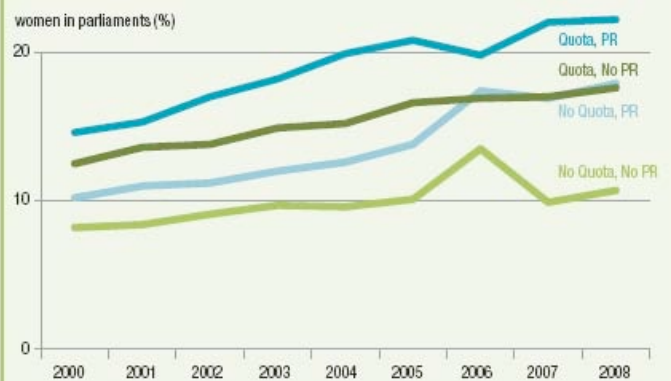


Notes: This calculation is based on women members in the lower or single house of parliament as of 31 May 2008. Projections reflect a simple linear regression using available information from 1997 to 2008. The linear extension of the current trend assumes that the rate of increase during the last decade remains unchanged.

Source: IPU database.

FIGURE 2.3 | Making a Difference: Electoral Systems & Quotas

Countries with a PR system have more women in parliament. Quotas make a difference, regardless of electoral system.

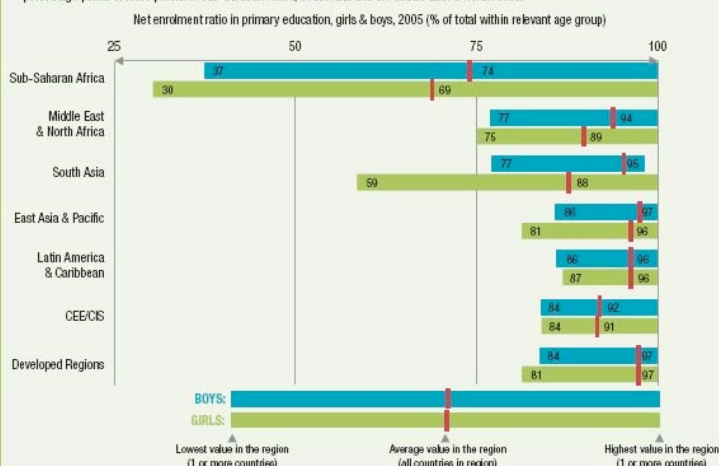


Notes: Unweighted averages. Information regarding electoral systems is based on the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network and verified with IDEA (2005). Where countries had combined systems or where these sources disagreed, IDEA (2005) was used. PR denotes proportional representation. All numbers presented are non-weighted averages corresponding to the lower or single house of parliament as of 31 May 2008.

Sources: IPU database; IDEA Global Database of Quotas for women; IDEA (2005); IDEA website; ACE Electoral Knowledge Network website.

FIGURE 3.4 | The Gender Gap on Primary Education Enrolment

In most countries, enrolment in primary education is greater than 80% for both girls and boys. However, significant gender gaps of 5 percentage points or more persist in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Middle East & North Africa.



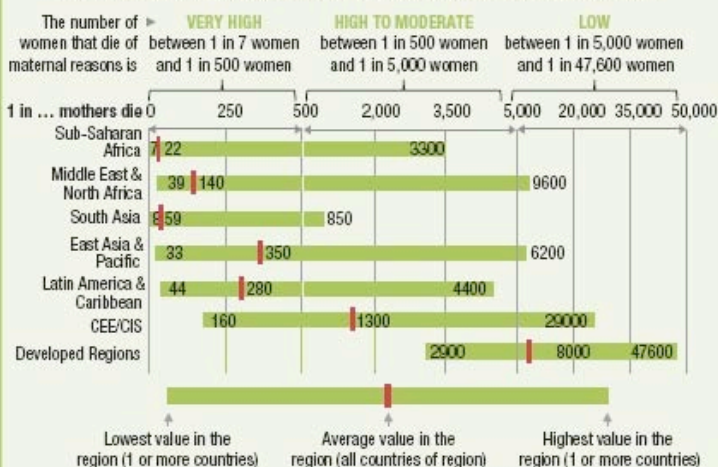
Notes: The total net enrolment ratio in primary education measures the proportion of children (girls/boys) within the relevant age group who are enrolled in school. The graph includes information on the regional range of values (from minimum to maximum) as well as weighted regional averages, using UNIFEM groupings. No information is available for China.

Sources: UNIFEM elaboration based on UN Statistics Division Millennium Indicators database; and UN Statistics Division database.

FIGURE 3.6 | Great Disparities in Risk of Maternal Mortality Across and Within Regions

The lifetime risk of maternal mortality varies greatly across and within regions – evidence of the differences in the status of women around the world.

Lifetime risk of maternal mortality, 2005: probability of dying during pregnancy or child birth



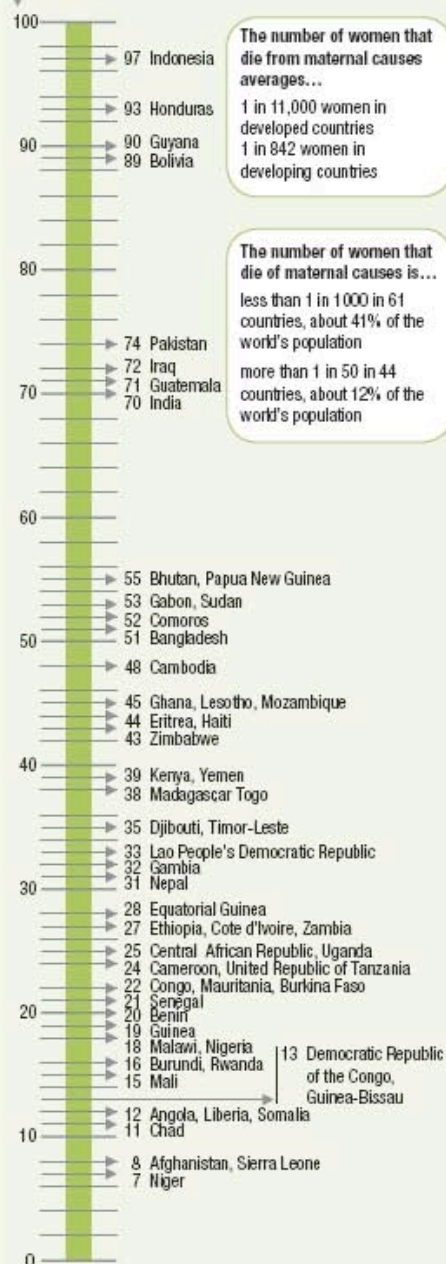
Notes: Lifetime risk of maternal mortality is the probability that a 15 year old female will die eventually from maternal causes. This figure presents estimates using UNICEF regional groupings, which differ from UNFEM groupings.

Source: UNFEM elaboration based on WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank (2007).

FIGURE 3.5 | Maternal Mortality: Disparities in Risk

The lifetime risk of maternal mortality is higher than 1 in 100 women in 59 countries, where more than one third of the world's population lives. In developing regions, women's risk of dying from maternal causes is 13 times higher than in developed countries.

1 in ... women die for maternal causes, 2005



Notes: Lifetime risk of maternal mortality is the probability that a 15-year old female will die eventually from a maternal cause.

Source: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank (2007).