

Millennium Development Goals: Progress Since 2000

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) started in 2000, with a target date for achieving the goals by 2015. The year 2010 was the two-thirds mark for work on reducing global poverty, and improving the lives of people around the world, under the MDGs. The following outlines some of the progress so far...

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target: Reduce by half the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 a day by 2015.

In 2010, it was assessed that overall global progress on Goal 1 was on track for meeting the target by 2015, although some regions, like sub-Saharan Africa, had not made as much progress. "The proportion of people living in extreme poverty in developing regions dropped from 46 per cent to 27 per cent".

Source: United Nations DPI, Fact Sheet: Goal 1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger, 2010

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target: To enable all children, girls and boys alike, to complete primary schooling.

Some countries have had great success in meeting this goal. In Ethiopia, primary school enrolment increased by 95% between 2000 and 2008. 69 million children world-wide, however, still do not go to school, almost three quarters of these children live in either sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Asia.

Source: United Nations DPI, Fact Sheet: Goal 2 Achieve Universal Primary Education, 2010

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target: To enable girls to attend all levels of schooling in equal numbers to boys.

Globally women are still typically paid less for their work, compared to men. Only one quarter of senior managers, and only 19% of people in government, are women. While the number of girls going to primary and secondary school have increased, there are still far fewer girls going to university, compared to the number of boys.

Source: United Nations DPI, Fact Sheet: Goal 3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, 2010

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target: Reduce by two-thirds the number of children who die before their fifth birthday.

In 1990, the number of children who died before their 5th birthday, globally, was 12.4 million, by 2009 this had been reduced to 8.1 million. Most of these deaths, however, are preventable so there is still work to do in order to achieve the target by 2015.

Source: United Nations, The Millennium Development Goal Report Addendum 1, 2010

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target: Reduce by three quarters the number of women dying in childbirth.

This goal was assessed as not being on-track for achieving the target by 2015. While the number of women dying in childbirth has declined, it was estimated that in 2008 the number of maternal deaths globally was 358,000. Of these deaths, 99 per cent occurred in developing countries.

Source: United Nations, The Millennium Development Goal Report Addendum 2, 2010

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

Target: To halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and malaria by 2015.

The number of new HIV infections, and deaths from AIDS-related illness globally, have reduced. In Botswana, for example, improving access to treatment and making it free has led to a longer life expectancy for people living with HIV and AIDS.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis have also decreased, and control of malaria is improving. Success in specific countries has been due to funding, and the availability of medication, education, and preventative measures. "Global production of mosquito nets rose from 30 million to 150 million annually between 2004 and 2009."

Source: United Nations DPI, Fact Sheet: Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases, 2010

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target: To reduce by half the number of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Globally, the target for providing access to safe drinking water is on track. Some regions, such as South-Eastern Asia, had met the target by 2010. The number of people world-wide without access to safe water has been reduced to 884 million. The majority of these people live in rural areas.

Access to basic sanitation is falling behind, and it has been assessed that the global target is unlikely to be met. Instead the number of people without access is likely to grow to an estimated 2.7 billion by 2015. 69 per cent of people living in sub-Saharan Africa, and 64 per cent living in South Asia do not have access to basic sanitation facilities, like toilets or latrines.

Source: United Nations DPI, Fact Sheet: Goal 7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability, 2010

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Target: To increase development aid, relieve debt and develop fair international trade.

Many countries have had their debt reduced, and the share of world trade for developing nations has increased. However, while the target for official development assistance (ODA), or aid funding, is 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI), only five countries have met this target, and globally ODA is just 0.31 per cent of the combined GNI of developed nations.

Source: United Nations DPI, Fact Sheet: Goal 8 Develop a Global Partnership for Development, 2010