

WHY DO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS MATTER?

From the Secretary-General's
2003 Report on Implementation of
the United Nations Millennium Declaration



United Nations

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

TARGET FOR 2015: Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.



ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

TARGET FOR 2015: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school.



PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

TARGETS FOR 2005 AND 2015: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015.



REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

TARGET FOR 2015: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.



IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

TARGET FOR 2015: Reduce by three quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth.



COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

TARGET FOR 2015: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.



ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.
- By 2020, achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.



DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction — nationally and internationally.
- Address the least developed countries' special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states.
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems.
- Develop decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies — especially information and communications technologies.



why do the millennium development goals matter?

Emanating from the Millennium Declaration, the eight Millennium Development Goals bind countries to do more and join forces in the fight against poverty, illiteracy, hunger, lack of education, gender inequality, child and maternal mortality, disease and environmental degradation. The eighth goal, reaffirmed in Monterrey and Johannesburg, calls on rich countries to relieve debt, increase aid and give poor countries fair access to their markets and their technology. The Millennium Development Goals are a test of political will to build stronger partnerships. Developing countries have the responsibility to undertake policy reforms and strengthen governance to liberate the creative energies of their people. But they cannot reach the Goals on their own without new aid commitments, equitable trading rules and debt relief. The Goals offer the world a means to accelerate the pace of development and to measure results.

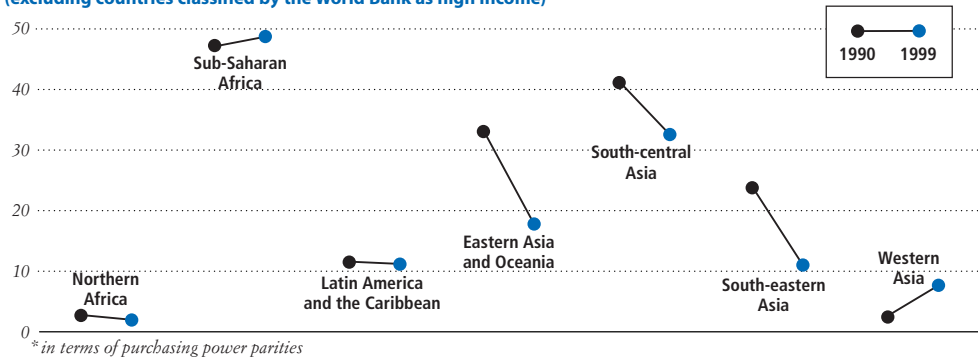
where does the world stand in meeting the millennium development goals?

GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

THE TARGET: Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger by 2015. **THE CHALLENGE:** Today in the developing world an estimated 1.2 billion people survive on less than \$1 a day, 800 million are undernourished and 153 million children under age five are underweight. In sub-Saharan Africa half the population lives in poverty. **PROGRESS/REVERSAL:** In sub-Saharan Africa and western Asia the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has actually increased since 1990, while in Latin America and the Caribbean it is unchanged. Eastern and south-eastern Asia are on pace to meet the income poverty goal and south-central Asia is making good progress. Two thirds of those who live on less than \$1 a day live in Asia.

POVERTY

Percentage of the population living below \$1 a day* (excluding countries classified by the World Bank as high income)

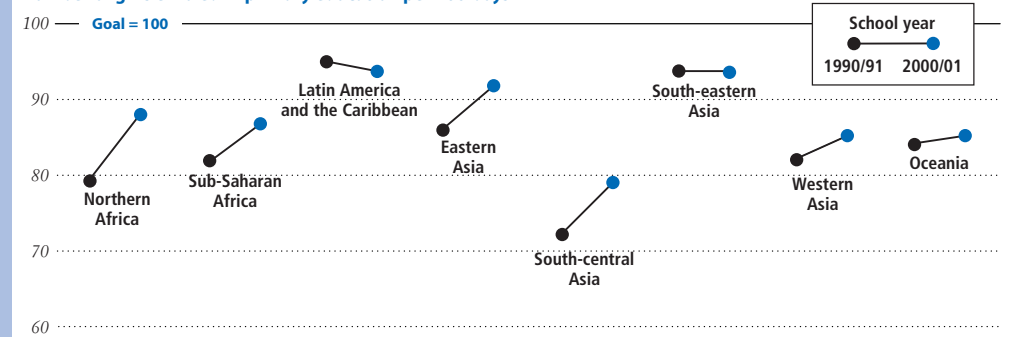


GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

THE TARGET: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. **THE CHALLENGE:** An estimated 63 million primary age girls are still not enrolled in school. And in only 9 countries in the world are 1 in 3 or more seats in parliament held by women. **PROGRESS/REVERSAL:** Progress towards gender equality in education has been made in most regions, but Africa, south-central and western Asia, and Oceania are still well short of the target.

GENDER EQUALITY

Number of girls enrolled in primary education per 100 boys

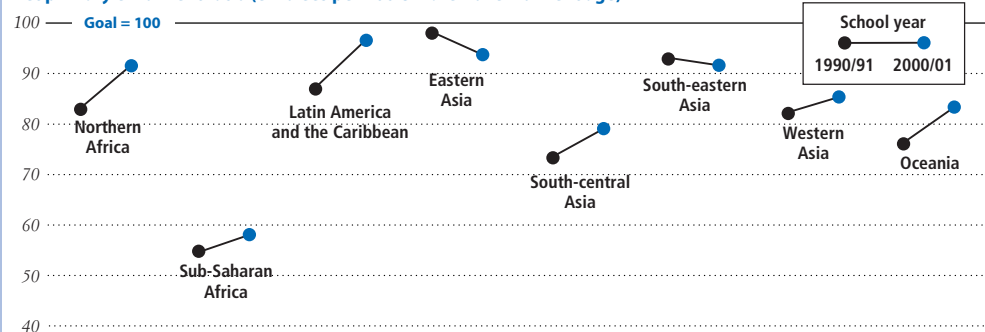


GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

THE TARGET: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school by 2015. **THE CHALLENGE:** An estimated 114 million children of primary age in the world are not enrolled in school, depriving one in every five children of access to even the most basic education. **PROGRESS/REVERSAL:** Sub-Saharan Africa, south-central Asia and western Asia need to greatly accelerate their progress if the goal is to be met.

PRIMARY ENROLMENT

Net primary enrolment ratio (enrolees per 100 children of enrolment age)

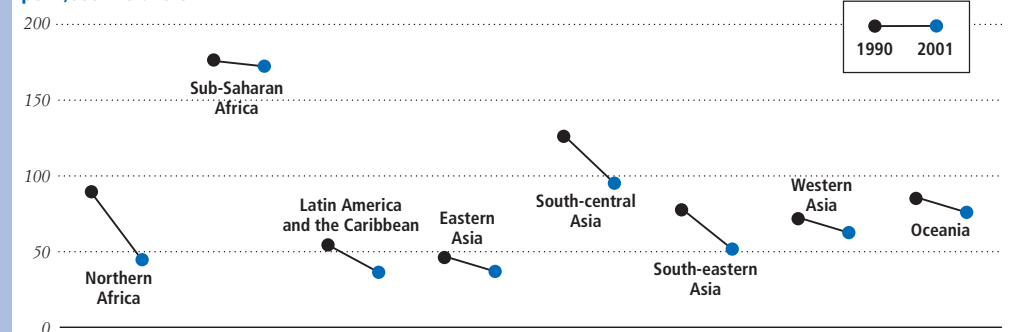


GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

THE TARGET: Reduce by two thirds between 1990 and 2015 the under-five mortality rate. **THE CHALLENGE:** Nearly 11 million children under the age of 5 die in the world every year — well over 1,200 every hour, most from easily preventable or treatable causes. **PROGRESS/REVERSAL:** In some regions there is good progress towards achieving the child mortality target, but in sub-Saharan Africa there has been no significant progress from 1990 to 2001, and in south-central and western Asia, and in Oceania, progress is still too slow.

UNDER-FIVE DEATHS

per 1,000 live births

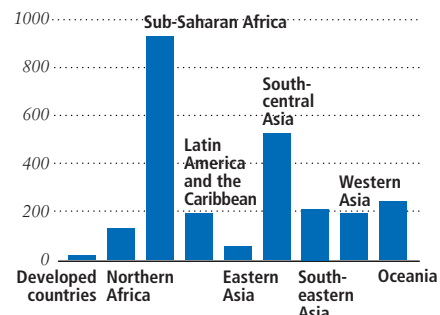


GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

THE TARGET: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio. **THE CHALLENGE:** Globally, some 500,000 women die in pregnancy or childbirth each year, one every minute. Over her lifetime, a woman in sub-Saharan Africa faces a 1-in-16 chance of dying in childbirth, compared with 1-in-160 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 1-in-840 in eastern Asia. In developed countries, the risk is 1-in-2800. **PROGRESS/REVERSAL:** It is not possible with available data to reliably assess trends, but there is little indication at present of progress anywhere in the developing world sufficient to meet the target except in a few countries.

MATERNAL DEATHS

per 100,000 live births

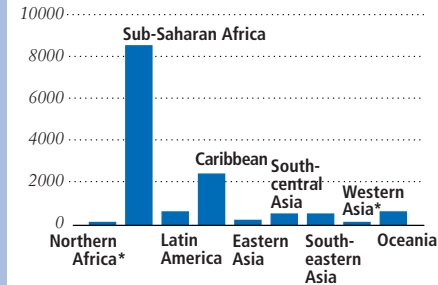


GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

THE TARGET: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. **THE CHALLENGE:** HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa and, worldwide, the fourth killer. Sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected region, but other regions, including South Asia, the CIS and the Caribbean, are experiencing rapid increases in the incidence of HIV/AIDS. **PROGRESS/REVERSAL:** Only two countries have managed to reverse the spread of the epidemic once it reached crisis proportions; some others have succeeded in stopping its spread early. Much better and more open tracking of the epidemic is urgently needed.

ADULTS 15-49 LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

(prevalence per 100,000)



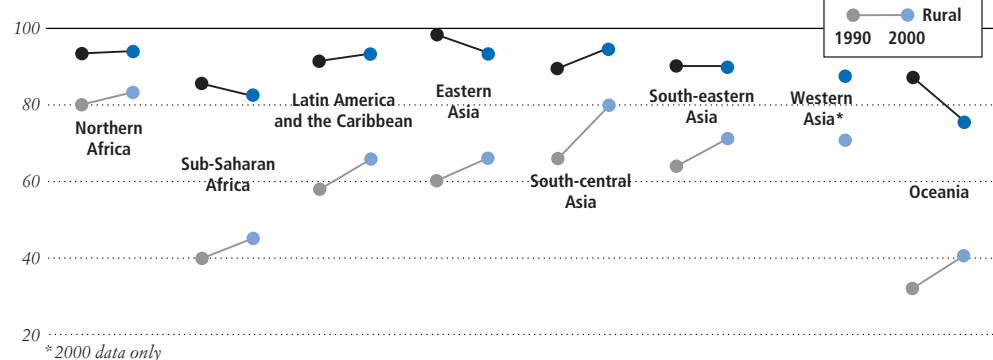
* Note: Current estimated rates in northern Africa and western Asia are below 100.

GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

THE TARGET: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources; by 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water; by 2020 achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. **THE CHALLENGE:** Around 2.4 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation and some 1.2 billion do not have access to an improved source of water. **PROGRESS/REVERSAL:** Progress is being made in access to safe water in rural areas of most regions, but the trend is generally negative in urban areas. In addition, countless countries will face acute water shortages if decisive action is not taken soon.

WATER

Percentage of urban and rural populations with access to an improved source of drinking water



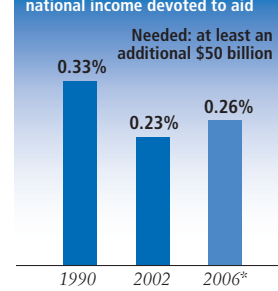
* 2000 data only

what needs to be done for the millennium development goals to be met

GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

AID – WHAT'S NEEDED, WHAT'S GIVEN

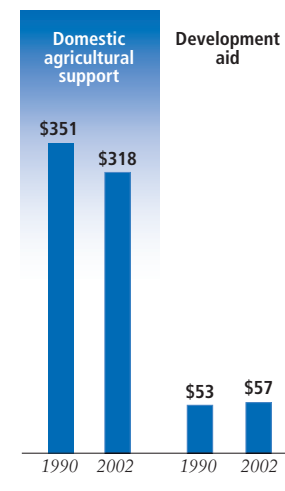
Percentage of donor country gross national income devoted to aid



* projection based on current commitments

OECD AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT DWARFS AID

(\$US billion)

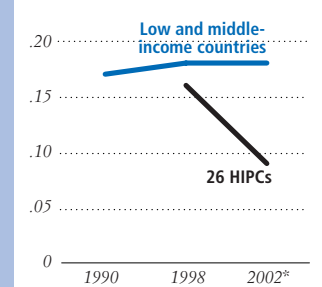


THE TARGET: Rich countries are responsible for establishing equitable access to their markets and technology and for creating a favourable financial environment. Good governance and a focus on social needs and human capital are essential for developing countries to achieve the Goals within their own territories.

THE CHALLENGE: Pledges to increase development assistance should be honoured and progress on relieving the debt burdens of poor nations needs to be stepped up. The promise of the Doha round of international trade negotiations should be fulfilled, including the reduction of agricultural subsidies, which disadvantage farmers of developing countries in the world market. **PROGRESS/REVERSAL:** New commitments promise an additional \$16 billion by 2006, compared with 2002. Twenty-six heavily indebted poor countries have started to receive debt relief and many low-income countries are benefiting from duty

26 HEAVILY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES REDUCE DEBT THROUGH IMF PROGRAMME, 16 ARE PENDING

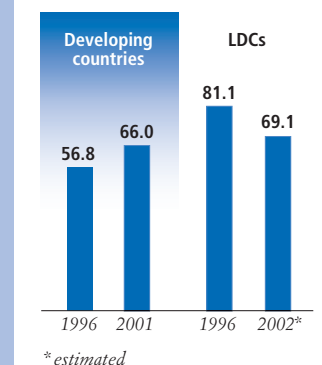
Ratio of debt service to exports



* estimated

DUTY FREE EXPORTS PROVIDE INCOMES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BUT LEAVE THE LEAST DEVELOPED BEHIND

Percentage of duty free imports into developed countries from developing countries (excluding arms and oil)



* estimated

free exports to markets in developed countries. However, much more action in the areas of aid, trade and debt is needed to provide adequate support for achieving the MDGs by 2015.

the UN secretary-general's report

The United Nations Secretary-General reports annually on progress in meeting the global objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration for attaining peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. The Declaration was agreed on by all UN Member States at the Millennium Summit, held in September 2000. In his 2003 report, Secretary-General Kofi Annan makes the following points in relation to the Declaration's eight Millennium Development Goals:

- Rapid advances in some areas indicate that the Goals, while ambitious, are definitely achievable for nearly every country in the world.
- Growing political and financial support for priority development areas — such as the fight against HIV/AIDS — demonstrate the potential for rapid mobilization of resources to meet global challenges.
- But some current trends indicate that significant parts of the world risk falling far short of meeting many of the Goals.
- There is an urgent need for renewed commitment by political leaders to open trade and increase aid and debt relief, to give developing countries a fair chance to reduce extreme poverty within their borders.

For the full report, see www.un.org/millenniumgoals



United Nations Department of Public Information
Room S-1040, United Nations
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: (1-212) 963-6877
E-mail: inquiries@un.org
Media: mediainfo@un.org
www.un.org/millenniumgoals



United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: (1-212) 906 5103
www.undp.org/mdg

Published by the UN Development Programme
and the UN Department of Public Information
DPI/2321-September 2003-25M