

FAST FACTS



United Nations Development Programme

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNDP and the Millennium Development Goals in Africa



Africa boasts a mixed record on the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDG), the eight internationally-agreed targets which aim to reduce poverty, hunger, maternal and child deaths, disease, inadequate shelter, gender inequality and environmental degradation by 2015.

While progress has been made on a number of goals and targets such as primary education, gender parity and the fight against HIV/AIDS, other targets will likely not be met in 2015. These include reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, reducing the loss of biodiversity and achieving full and productive employment. Other targets, such as access to safe drinking water and reducing hunger, will only be partially met if efforts are not stepped up:

- *Goal 1:* The proportion of Africans (excluding those in North Africa) living on less than US\$ 1.25 a day marginally decreased from 56.5 percent in 1990 to 47.5 percent in 2008. Vulnerable employment accounts for 70 percent of employment growth.
- *Goal 2:* Net primary enrolment in most African countries shows tremendous gains, with ratios exceeding 90 per cent in several countries. Completion rates, however, have seen little progress, and are as low as 33 per cent in some countries.
- *Goal 3:* The ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary school continues to improve in many African countries. Of 42 countries with comparable data

MATTERS OF FACT

- **Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana and Senegal** are among the countries that have made important gains in the past decade toward reducing absolute poverty.
- The abolition of school fees at the primary level in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger and Tanzania**, contributed to surges of enrolment in those countries.
- **Rwanda** attained 56 percent of women in the national parliament, while in South Africa, that figure stood at 45 percent.
- **The Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali and Zimbabwe** saw rapid progress and likely achievement of the HIV and AIDS target, driven by a mix of leadership, awareness-raising and the introduction of voluntary testing and free antiretroviral therapy.
- **Botswana, Comoros, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa** achieved over 90 percent coverage for access to safe drinking water in 2008.

between 1990/91 and 2009, 29 scored higher than 0.9 (90 girls compared with 100 boys).

- *Goal 4:* Africa (excluding North Africa) doubled its average rate of reduction in child mortality from 1.2 per cent a year in 1990–2000 to 2.4 per cent in 2000–2010.
- *Goal 5:* Many African countries recorded large declines in maternal mortality during 1990–2008 but significant disparities remain on a case-by-case basis.
- *Goal 6:* In Africa, the number of people dying of AIDS-related causes fell to 1.9 million in 2010, down from a peak of 2.2 million in the mid-2000s. Annual new HIV infections fell by 21 per cent between 1997 and 2010.
- *Goal 7:* Africa is suffering from environmental degradation and the effects of climate change. At the same time, there have been increased efforts to protect biodiversity. It is unlikely that the target on access to safe drinking water will be met in spite of the progress made.
- *Goal 8:* Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) from OECD/DAC to Africa reached \$29.3 billion in 2010, an increase in real terms of 3.6 per cent from 2009. Net ODA from all donors to Africa reached

\$47.9 billion in 2010.

Although there has been commendable progress on a large number of individual targets, Africa's vulnerability to internal and external shocks (food price volatility, uncertain recovery from the global economic crisis, climate change and population growth) will continue to threaten the region's ability to achieve the Goals.

UNDP in action

Country-level monitoring: In order to support the capacity of national statistical institutions, UNDP has been helping African countries to collect MDG-related data, before documenting key drivers of growth on the MDGs. For instance, the organization has been helping African countries to produce national MDG reports which provide deeper analyses on why certain countries are making progress on the MDGs while others are not. The reports detail the actions needed to achieve them in the time that remains.

With UNDP support, MDG needs assessments were conducted in 39 of the 45 countries covered under the Africa region and the results were used to formulate poverty reduction strategies that are consistent with the MDGs.

Knowledge sharing and advocacy: UNDP has formulated an [International Assessment](#) which provides an eight-point action agenda to accelerate and sustain development progress over the next five years, focusing on: supporting nationally-owned and participatory development; inclusive growth; investing in social services; expanding opportunities for women and girls; access to low carbon energy; domestic resource mobilization; and delivery on Official Development Assistance commitments.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, UNDP also co-authored with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa an annual report entitled [Assessing Progress in Africa Toward the Millennium Development Goals](#), highlighting policy innovations and social protection initiatives that have facilitated progress.

Scaling up MDG implementation: UNDP has developed the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF): a fresh approach to tackling off-track Millennium Development Goals at the country level. The framework provides a systematic way for countries to identify bottlenecks and develop their own action plans to pursue their MDG priorities. **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Tanzania and Togo** have embarked on the MAF with a focus on food security. **Ghana** and **Uganda**

are focusing on maternal health. **Ghana** has also decided to use the framework to tackle issues relating to access to sanitation.

MDG-related interventions: In unison with civil society, the private sector, government partners and international institutions, UNDP's programmes and initiatives on the ground aim to tackle the Millennium Development Goals by helping countries to achieve transformative results.

- With technical and financial support from UNDP and Britain's Department for International Development (DFID), **Ethiopia** embarked on a plan that aims to boost the country's development over the next twenty years while keeping its greenhouse emissions to current levels. While contributing to global emission mitigation efforts, the initiative is expected to have a broad and immediate impact on human development in Ethiopia.
- In collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNDP established a regional programme of access to energy in **West Africa** that is providing a range of energy services for 3.5 million rural dwellers. The programme uses diesel and biofuel engines to relieve women and communities of the most difficult household tasks, such as: generating electricity for lighting, pumping water from wells, de-husking crops and charging phone batteries
- In **Liberia**, UNDP-led programme has provided the Ministry of Health with the expertise required to take over as the principal recipient of a multi-million dollar grant by the Global Fund to Fight HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. By the end of 2010, more than 150,000 people received counselling and treatment for HIV and AIDS at 114 new centres, tens of thousands of pregnant women were tested for HIV and the Ministry of Health now directly receives and manages its Global Fund money.
- In **Tanzania**, with over USD five million from the GEF and UNDP, the organization helped build government capacity to manage the extensive Eastern Arc Mountains, which serve as a water source for the largest city in the country, Dar es Salaam, and other urban areas.

To learn more about UNDP in Africa, please visit www.undp.org/africa



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.