PROGRESS OF THE REALIZATION OF
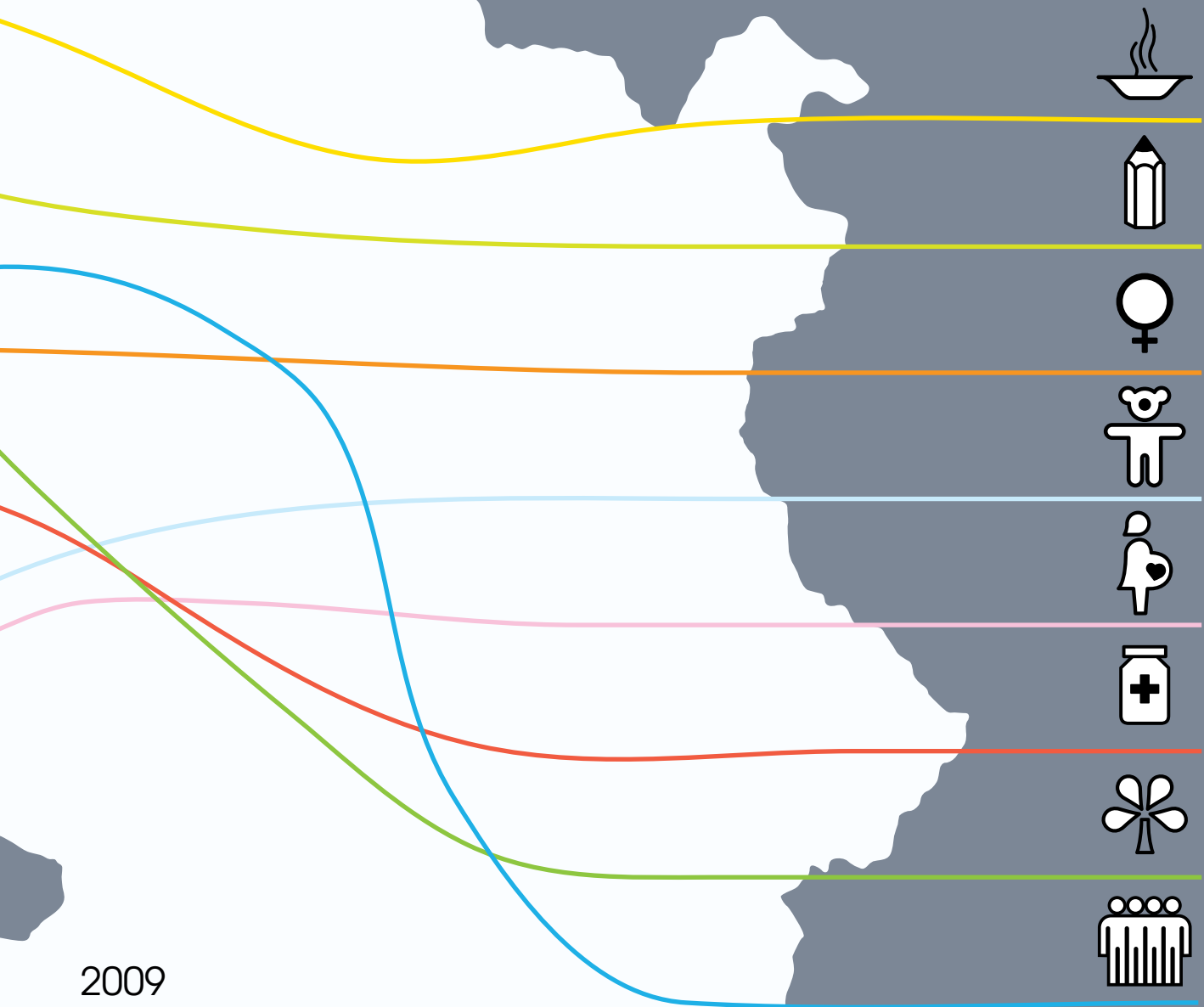# **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
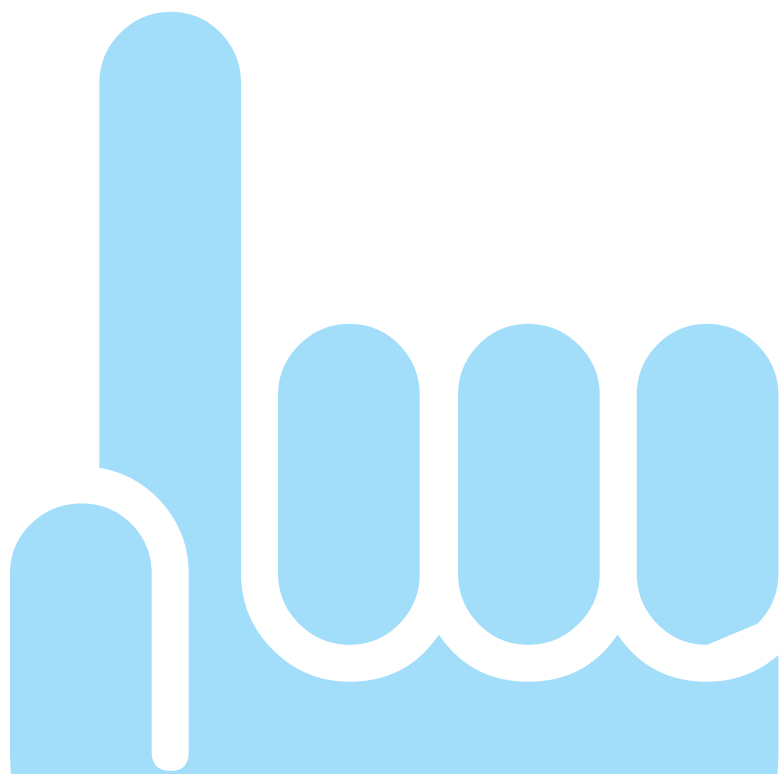# **IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

2009

Government
of the Republic
of Serbia

United Nations

PROGRESS OF THE REALIZATION
OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

December 2009

Contents

Introduction

Present experience in the preparation of MDGs and the purpose of this report

In the year 2000, along with 189 member states of the United Nations, Serbia adopted the Millennium Declaration that stated the basic values which should be used as a foundation for international relations in the 21st century: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect of nature and sharing responsibilities. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that came out of this Declaration are the following:

1. eradication of extreme poverty and hunger;
2. accomplishment of universal primary schooling;
3. promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women;
4. reduction of child mortality;
5. improvement of maternal health care;
6. combat against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases;
7. protection and improvement of the environment; and
8. development of global partnerships for growth.

These Millennium Development Goals were incorporated into the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, which was adopted in 2003. Three years later, the Government of the Republic of Serbia has adopted a report called "National Millennium Development Goals," in which the global MDGs and indicators were adapted for national development priorities and harmonized with the existing national development strategies and regulations.

Given that the Republic of Serbia is in the middle of the 15-year period since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 and three years since the adoption of the last national MDG Report, the Government of the Republic of Serbia, supported by UNDP, has initiated the drafting of this MDG Mid-term Report. Within the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for EU Integration, a national MDG coordinator was

appointed and working groups were established with members from line ministries, in order to ensure complete national ownership of the report drafting process. These working groups were expanded with representatives from the National Statistical Office, the PRS Implementation Focal Point, the NGO sector, experts from various research institutions, and the UN agencies in the Republic of Serbia. The activities of the working groups were related to the harmonization of national objectives and indicators, as well as the harmonization of the contents of this report. In this way, a full collaboration between the independent experts and the representatives from state institutions was built, with the purpose of harmonizing the conclusions and recommendations of this report. In August and September 2009, consultative meetings of the working groups were held in relation to specific MDGs.

The basic purpose of this report is to monitor the progress of realization of the national MDGs as well as the indicators used to measure the achievement of these goals, from the last MDG Report to today, i.e. in the period between 2005 and 2008. The report also provides conclusions and recommendations on what should be done in order to achieve the set Millennium Goals. In addition, the recommendations refer to the need to monitor new indicators that can be calculated based on the existing data, as well as to the need to implement additional research in order to have a better way of monitoring the progress of MDGs realization.

Data and methodology

This report is based on official data from the National Statistical Office, the National Bank of Serbia and the line ministries, as well as on data obtained from various research papers from international and domestic organizations and institutions. In addition to this, analyses and conclusions from various documents of the Government of the Republic of Serbia were used (for example, Memorandum on Economic Policy of the Republic of Serbia), as well as sector development strategies.

Progress in the realization of MDGs was monitored on the basis of two figures: the initial value of the indicators taken from the previous report, and the current value, i.e. the last available figure. In the case of certain indicators, there has been a change of methodology and/or a change of the data source in the mean time, from 2006 to today. If it is the methodology that changes, the initial value from the previous report was corrected with the data that provides a comparable time series of data from the perspective of methodology (for example, data on poverty). If the data source has changed, then the only indicator value that is shown is based on the last available data source (data for disabled persons, Roma, etc.).

Certain indicators from the previous report on national MDGs are left out, given that they were not necessary to view the progress of the realization of the corresponding MDG (for example, a detailed list of indicators related to education was left out, and only the most important indicators for monitoring the Second MDG were kept). Also, certain indicators were replaced by other, more adequate indicators.

In the previous report, most indicators had projected target values to be reached in 2015. At the meeting between the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the members of the Working Group for poverty reduction and development, it was decided not to show these target values of indicators. The following reasons for this were stated: 1) The Government stopped using the projections that were given in the previous MDG Report, which were based on the Strategy of Economic Development of the Republic of Serbia and other strategic documents which the Government had adopted, given that it considers them inappropriate in the current circumstances, bearing in mind the effects of the global economic crisis on the Serbian economy; 2) At the moment, the Government does not have a new detailed projection of economic development and sector strategies with the appropriate projections up to 2015, which could be used as target values of indicators.

The report is divided into chapters that refer to individual MDGs, while the last chapter is dedicated to conclusions and recommendations. The Appendix consists of a table with national MDGs, objectives and indicators.

1.
FIRST MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:
HALVE THE POVERTY RATE AND ERADICATE HUNGER

Objectives	Indicators
1. By 2015, reduce the unemployment rate by at least 50%	• Total unemployment rate (15-64 yrs) • Youth unemployment rate (15-24 yrs) • Ratio of long-term unemployed in the total number of unemployed (15-64 yrs) • Unemployment rate of disabled persons (15-64 yrs) • Unemployment rate of Roma (15-64 yrs) • Unemployment rate of refugees (15-64 yrs) • Unemployment rate of IDPs (15-64 yrs)
2. By 2015, halve the poverty rate of the entire population and eradicate hunger	• Poverty rate of the entire population • Poverty rate of urban areas • Poverty rate of rural areas • Poverty rate of Roma • Poverty rate of refugees • Poverty rate of IDPs • Poverty rate of the entire population, based on the relative line of poverty (60% of income median) • Children up to the age of five whose body weight in relation to height deviates more than minus two standard deviations from the median of the referent population • Portion of state expenditures for social protection in % of GDP

1.1. Trends and features of unemployment

Given that the labor income of poor households and those households that are near the poverty line is the basic determinant of their living standard, the position in the labor market is highly correlated to poverty. Research on poverty rates in the Republic of Serbia has shown that unemployment and inactivity are the basic causes of poverty and social exclusion in Serbia (Krstić, 2007, 2008). The unemployed are facing the highest risk of poverty, but also the deepest and harshest form of poverty in comparison to other participants in the labor market. Households in which the heads of household were unemployed had lower consumption an average of 24% in urban areas and 22% in rural areas, in comparison to households with employed heads of household.

Therefore, in order to meet the First Millennium Development Goal, it is especially important to view the basic tendencies and features of unemployment in the Republic of Serbia in the period between 2005 and 2009, i.e. since the last MDG Report up through today.

The negative trends of drops in employment and growth of unemployment since the 1990s have continued during the largest part of this decade, even in the years of the greatest economic growth. Benefits of the economic growth were transferred through growth in wages, not through growth in employment. Expansion of the private sector outside of agriculture could not absorb the labor force that had been laid off from public and state enterprises in the process of restructuring and privatization, nor generate enough jobs in the labor market for other unemployed people. Unemployment was partially alleviated by employment in the informal economy, which constitutes more than one third of total employment increasingly absorbing the unqualified and uneducated labor force. The processes of transition and privatization, labor legislation and labor market institutions, as well as regressive taxation of wages, are stated to be the crucial reasons for the deterioration of the Serbian labor market (Arandarenko et al, 2009).

Unemployment is the biggest economic and social problem that the Republic of Serbia has to face, given that the unemployment rate for persons of age eligible for work (15–64) in 2009, according to the Labor Force Survey of the Republic Statistics Bureau

stands at 16.4%, and the registered unemployment, according to data from the National Employment Service, numbered 763,000 persons in April 2009. In the period between 2005 and 2009, the unemployment rate (15–64) decreased by 5.4 percentage points, from 21.8% to 16.4%. The first signs of improvement in the labor market were noticed in 2007, when the employment rate started growing for the first time after a long period of decline, albeit slight (0.3%), while unemployment was reduced by 2.8 percentage points. However, it should be mentioned that a substantial part of this improvement was certainly caused by a change in the methodology of defining an employed person. Namely, since 2008, the vulnerable groups of employed persons were included (self-employed and helping household members), which consequently reduced the number of unemployed. Although it is possible to calculate the indicators for 2008 and 2009 in line with the old methodology and thus create a comparable data series,[1] we consider that it is much better to show these indicators according to the new methodology, which will be used in the following period of time, and to interpret the figures, bearing in mind the methodological changes that were introduced.

In 2009, according to data from April, there has been a new deterioration of indicators in the labor market, which did not come as a surprise given that the consequences of the global economic crisis have been felt in the Republic of Serbia since the last quarter of 2008. The unemployment rate grew from 14.7% in 2008 to 16.4% in 2009. In the next period, it is possible to expect that the unemployment rate will increase due to two reasons: first, those already employed will become unemployed, even if this particular effect might be alleviated through flexibility of wages (drop in real wages); and second, possibilities of employing the unemployed will be limited.

Some population groups are facing a high risk of being excluded from the labor market. Women – especially young women – are much more likely to be unemployed than men, in spite of their higher education level, and the same applies to low-educated inhabitants of the territory of central Serbia and rural areas (Arandarenko and Krstić, 2008). The gender aspect of unemployment will be analyzed in detail in Part 3. Bearing in mind the effects of the global economic crisis, the population groups that might be particularly endangered in the next period of time are young workers, but also all others that seek employment for the first time, and unemployed persons from especially vulnerable groups that were endangered even in normal conditions, such as unemployed Roma, refugees and IDPs, as well as disabled persons.

Unemployment in the Republic of Serbia has a long-term nature. Many employed persons, once they lose their job, remain unemployed for a rather long period of time, which may lead to permanent exclusion from the labor market and a high risk of poverty. The rate of long-term unemployment is extremely high, standing at as much as

[1] Calculated in line with the old methodology, the unemployment rate in 2008 would be 17.5% instead of 14.4% (average in 2008).

79% in 2005. In the period from 2005 to 2009, this rate was reduced to 61.8%. However, just as in the case of total unemployment rate, it should be emphasized that a substantial part of this decrease was caused by a change in methodology when it comes to defining the employed, i.e. unemployed persons, in the Labor Force Survey.

The long-term nature of unemployment in the Republic of Serbia can have deep implications, since these people might turn inactive, which is a loss of human resources and an additional burden for social funds. Unemployed persons with a low education profile, especially those with long-term unemployment, are faced a lack of low-skilled jobs, which decreases the probability of their exit from unemployment. International experience shows that the probability of finding a job is decreased in proportion to the length of unemployment, which may lead to permanent exclusion from the labor market and an increase in the risk of poverty.

In spite of a decline in the youth population, young people face a harsh transition from school to working. The unemployment rate among the youth (15-24 yrs) was 47.7% in 2005. In the period from 2005 to 2009, there was a mild decrease of the youth unemployment rate to 40.7%. Just like in the case of the two previous indicators, a substantial part of this decrease can be attributed to methodological changes (see the part on the unemployment of the entire population). In comparison with adults, the position of youth in the labor market deteriorated even more, since the gap between the youth unemployment rate and the average unemployment rate has increased in the given period. The youth are also more likely to have part-time jobs or temporary jobs, most often in the informal economy, which means that the quality of their employment is worse than the quality of employment of other age groups.

The rate of long-term unemployment for youth is lower than for other age categories, which is explained by a substantial inflow of new unemployed persons seeking jobs in the labor market for the first time. A factor that has had an impact on the youth labor market's indicators, which could explain the differences between the unemployment rate of youth and adults, is certainly the belated restructuring of public enterprises. However, the economy's inability to create new jobs, at least in the formal sector, has had the greatest influence on youth unemployment.

The unemployment of other especially vulnerable groups (disabled persons, Roma, refugees, IDPs) will be analyzed with the use of data from the Living Standard Measurement Survey, since the Labor Force Survey does not include these population categories (except for Roma).

Even though there are no records of persons with disabilities, it is estimated that more than 500,000 persons with different forms of disability live in the Republic of Serbia, but only 23,202 of them were registered in the National Employment Service in 2007. According to data from the Living Standard Measurement Survey, the un-employment rate of disabled persons stood at 13.3% in 2007,[2] and it was similar to the level of the average unemployment rate stated in this survey (13.9%). The essen-tial reason for such a low unemployment rate of disabled persons is their high rate of inactivity, standing at 69%. This can be explained by the fact that most of them do not believe that they will ever find a job, which is why they are not looking for one. This is also implied by the rather small number of disabled persons registered in the National Employment Service. The basic reason for this lack of will of disabled persons to look for a job is related to employers' prejudice when it comes to hiring such persons, and to the lack of employers' will to adapt the working environment to persons with disabilities. In addition to this, disabled persons are often afraid that they will lose their social protection benefits if they get employed. The active meas-ures from the Program for New Employment of Persons with Disabilities (subsidies for equipping working environments, subsidies for wages and social insurance con-tributions) included 779 disabled persons in 2007.

A large inflow of refugees and IDPs from former Yugoslav republics and Kosovo and Metohia had an impact on the overall population growth in the Republic of Serbia, however, the birthrate remained negative. This immigration led to a great change in the ethnic structure of the population (Vujić, 2007). According to UNHCR data from August 2009, there are 86,336 refugees and 205,835 IDPs in the Republic of Serbia. The refugees' unemployment rate was decreased from 22% in 2002 to 18.1% in 2007. Although this is a significant decrease, the unemployment rate of refugees is still considerably higher than the population's average (13.9% according to LSMS data).[3]

The position of IDPs in the labor market is substantially less favorable in comparison to refugees, given that their unemployment rate stood at 36% in 2007, according to data from the Living Standard Measurement Survey implemented by UNHCR. There are significant differences in labor market indicators between IDPs and the general population, as well as within IDPs themselves – between Roma and other IDPs. IDPs had a higher unemployment rate in comparison to the general population. With-in IDPs, the Roma are less likely to be unemployed than the rest of the population (30.1% in comparison to 36.7%). Improvement of Roma's position in the labor market is essential for bettering their social inclusion.

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[2] There is no comparable data for 2002 since LSMS did not include all the questions needed to identify a disabled person.

[3]   According to a study implemented by NGO Group 484, the unemployment rate of refugees in 2006 stood at 30.6% (Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2007).

The Roma have a very unfavorable position in the labor market, given that their unemployment rate in 2007 stood at 31.6%, according to the Living Standard Measurement Survey. We cannot follow the changes in their position in the labor market, given that the Living Standard Measurement Survey did not contain a question on ethnicity in 2002. According to data from the Labor Force Survey in 2009, the unemployment rate of Roma stood at 28%. Both surveys imply that in the labor market, Roma have a much more difficult position than the rest of the population, but nevertheless, this difference is much higher according to the Labor Force Survey (28% in comparison to 16.4%). One should bear in mind that both surveys include only those Roma integrated in the general population, while the Roma living in their own settlements, who are certainly much more vulnerable, were not included. Incidentally, according to the last population census from 2002, Roma constituted only 1.4% of the total population, but estimations of NGOs and international organizations claim that there are between 300,000 and 460,000 Roma, i.e. between 4% and 6% of the total population in the Republic of Serbia.

1.2. Trends and features of poverty

The greatest progress in the realization of MDGs has certainly been accomplished in the area of poverty, given that the poverty rate in 2007 was literally halved in comparison to 2002. In 2002, 14%, or around one million people, were poor, while in 2007 this figure stood at 6.6%, or around 490,000 people. Thus, the total number of the poor has been reduced by more than 500,000 people. Details on poverty measurement methodology are presented in Box 1.1. The basic goal set by the Government of Serbia in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2003), to halve poverty in the Republic of Serbia by 2010, was achieved by 2007. Within the first MDG, National Objective 2 that was set in the previous MDG Report – to halve the poverty rate by 2015 and to eradicate hunger – has also been achieved. Extreme poverty did not exist in this period since there were almost no persons whose consumption was under the food line. However, it should be emphasized that the picture of poverty is somewhat worse than what we have just stated, bearing in

mind that these figures do not fully cover refugees, IDPs and Roma (nor about 8,200 people in collective centers), especially given that these population categories are certainly more vulnerable in comparison to the general population of the Republic of Serbia.

Benefits of high and continuous economic growth since the year 2000 were transferred through the growth of real wages and other sources of income, not through growth of employment. Stagnation of the number of employees and high unemployment have certainly lessened the impact that the economic growth could have had on poverty reduction, if it were only achieved alongside growth of employment and a drop in unemployment. Growth of real wages, pensions and other social transfers, as well as other income sources, and especially the growth of remittances from abroad have influenced the real growth of consumption, which, with unchanged inequality, led to a substantial drop in poverty in the Republic of Serbia during the period between 2002 and 2007. The poorest have actually had the greatest benefit from economic growth, given that their consumption grew faster than the consumption of the rest of the population. This can be explained by the growth of real wages, pensions and other social transfers in the given period, which constitute the greatest part of income of the poorest inhabitants (Krstić, 2008).

Box 1.1. Poverty measurement

Monitoring the progress of the realization of the First Millennium Goal was made possible through the use of the same data source as in the last report "National Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia," which the Government adopted in 2006. In the period between May and June 2007, the National Statistical Office, financially supported by the World Bank and DFID, carried out the Living Standard Measurement Survey. This allowed us to monitor poverty in the period between 2002 and 2007 on comparable methodological grounds, given that the Living Standard Measurement Survey was carried out both in 2002 and 2007.

The Republic of Serbia has adopted the absolute poverty line as a national standard for poverty measurement. The basic aggregate of welfare that is being used is consumption (instead of income), because it is assumed that consumption is recorded better than income due to the large informal sector and remittances from abroad, and that it is less sensitive to short-term fluctuations.

Consumption is adjusted to size and composition of a given household, using the OECD equivalence scale (1.0/0.7/0.5).

The methodology for poverty measurement used in 2007 was improved, in some elements, in comparison to the one used in the period between 2002 and 2003 and shown in the previous MDG Report. This is mostly related to the poverty line and the equivalence scales.[4] This is why, in order to compare the results from 2007 with the estimations from 2002, it was necessary to recalculate the poverty indicators using the same methodology as in 2007. Therefore, the poverty index in 2002 was changed from 10.6% to 14%.

It is also important to mention that since 2004, the National Statistical Office became formally in charge of monitoring poverty and methodology development, based on the Household Budget Survey which is carried out annually on a regular basis. The data quality in the Household Budget Survey has significantly improved, especially since 2006, so now we have data on poverty for the period between 2006 and 2008.

Even though the poverty rate has been halved, the deterioration of indicators in the labor market in 2009 indicated the possible formation of newly poor persons, as well as extremely poor. It should be noted that the Office of Deputy Prime Minister formed a team for social inclusion and reduction of poverty, which reflects the importance the Government gives to monitoring the status of the most vulnerable groups and the extent of their social inclusion. According to data from Household Budget Survey (HBS) and National Statistical Office (NSO) estimates, in the period between 2006 and 2008, the poverty rate did decline, from 8.8% in 2006 to 7.9% in 2008.[5] However, if we take into consideration the standard error of the poverty index, the difference in the actual poverty rate between 2006 and 2008 is not statistically significant. Even though we monitor the progress of the First MDG on the basis of data from the Living Standard Measurement Survey,[6] we believe that the noted stagnation of the number of poor in the past few years, according to data from the Household Budget Survey, is important. The positive trend of poverty reduction did not continue, mostly due to the high growth of prices of food and fuel which started in mid-2007 and lasted until mid-2008, as well as due to the global economic crisis.

[4] In the poverty assessment for the period between 2002 and 2003, the applied equivalence scale was the one that was assessed on the basis of LSMS data from 2002, with the use of Engel´s method. In 2007, the OECD scale was used (1+0.7*(Adults-1)+0.5*Children013), which is used by many neighboring countries, thus contributing to international comparability. Changes in the poverty line are related to expansion of the referent population group used to define the food line (from the first tenth in 2002 to first three tenths in 2007). For more details on methodological harmonization, see Krstić (2008).

[5] The quality of the Household Budget Survey has been improved since 2006, so it is possible to monitor poverty on the basis of this data only for the period between 2006 and 2008.

[6] We emphasize that indicators related to the First MDG is not based on HBS, given that we can monitor progress of the First MDG realization only on the basis of data from LSMS, whose referent values were given in the previous MDG Report.

Chart 1.1. Percentage of poor by region and type of settlement, Serbia, 2002-2007
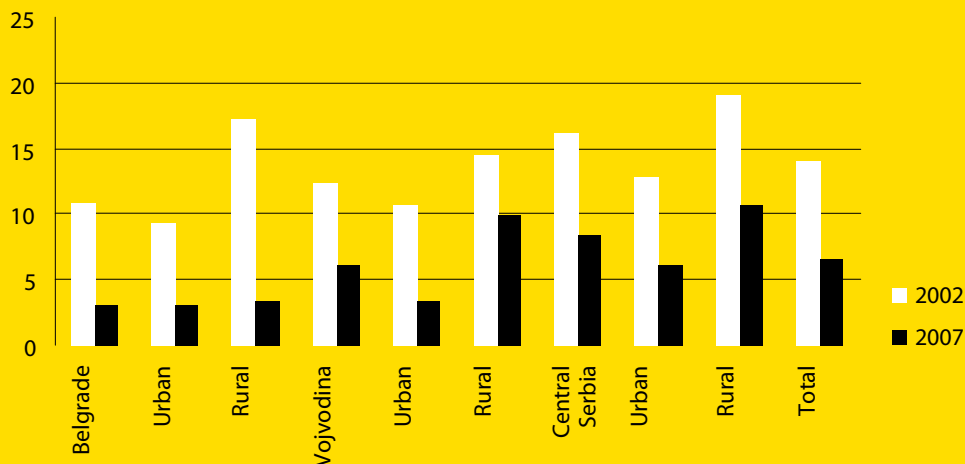
Source: Krstić (2008).

Despite the significant economic growth over the period 2002-2007, there are still some isolated areas with a high concentration of the poor that had little benefit from the economic growth, such as the rural areas of Southeast Serbia. In the period between 2002 and 2007, poverty was much more widespread in rural than in urban areas. However, poverty has had a much more pronounced decline in rural areas than in the urban ones (Chart 1.1). The differences in poverty between these areas were substantially deepened, as well as regional differences between the poorest (rural areas of Southeast Serbia) and the richest regions in Serbia (urban areas of Belgrade). The poor regions are mostly populated by people with a lower education profile, containing households with a large number of supported members and having many other features that make them especially vulnerable to poverty. Therefore, in the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, it is particularly important to emphasize the reduction of regional disparities within the sustainable development targeted at the poor population.

Table 1.1. Poverty indicators by labor market status of head of household, 2007

	Percentage of poor	Structure of poor, %	Structure of entire population, %
Active population	5.6	51.6	60.5
Employed	4.7	39.9	56.6
Unemployed	19.7	11.7	3.9
Inactive	8.1	48.4	39.5
Total	6.6	100.0	100.0

Source: Krstić (2008).

Even though poverty has significantly decreased, the profile of poor persons remained practically unchanged in comparison to 2002. The most vulnerable are still people from rural areas of Southeast Serbia, uneducated people and unemployed, the elderly (over the age of 65), as well as households with two or more small children (0-6 yrs). A new category that turned out to be more vulnerable than the average population in 2007 was children up to the age of 14, even though five years earlier their poverty index was below average.

According to labor market status, poverty is still most widespread among those households in which the head of household is unemployed (Table 1.1), whose poverty index was several times higher than the population average (19.7% in comparison to 6.6%, respectively). According to the employment level of all household members, the highest poverty index is among households with inactive members (12.2%), followed by households without any employed members (11.1%). This indicates that inactivity and unemployment are the main causes of poverty and social exclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

Poverty has a high correlation with education (Chart 1.2), given that the highly educated were not exposed to the risk of poverty (poverty index close to zero), and they made up only 1.7% of the poor population. This actually shows that education does pay off, since the labor market rewards education through much higher wages of highly educated people in comparison to other education profiles.

Chart 1.2. Percentage of poor by education level of head of household, 2007
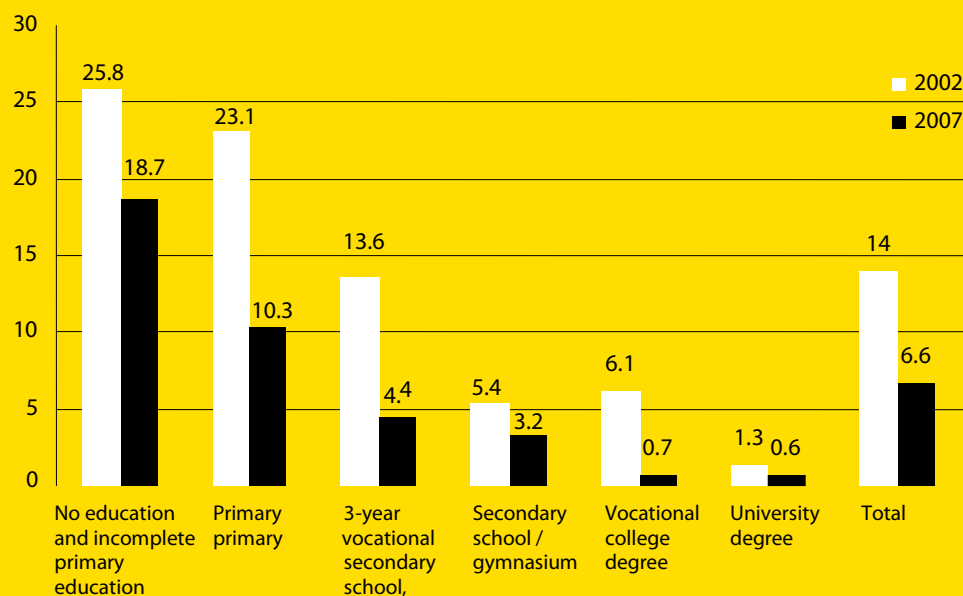
Source: Krstić (2008).

Even though these figures do not fully cover refugees, IDPs and Roma, the data on these vulnerble groups that were covered by the Survey show that Roma were by far the most vulnerable category in 2007.

Roma poverty was several times more widespread, and also much deeper and more severe in comparison to the general population, which was to be expected, bearing in mind the highly unfavorable status of Roma in the labor market, i.e. their high unemployment rate. Almost one half of the Roma population was poor (49.2%), while 6.4% were extremely poor. However, one should bear in mind, as it has already been emphasized, that the Living Standard Measurement Survey covered only those Roma that were integrated into the general population, and it is assumed that these Roma are in a better material situation, while the Roma from Roma settlements, who are a potentially vulnerable group, were not included in this Survey. A comparison of Roma poverty in 2007 with the situation from 2002 was not possible, given that in 2002, the Living Standard Measurement Survey did not contain a question on nationality/ethnicity. UNDP's research (UNDP, 2006) shows that many Roma households live in poverty for several generations, since uneducated parents teach their children unaltered behavioral norms that cannot assist them in leaving the vicious cycle of poverty. Furthermore, the low demand for unqualified labor additionally reduces the possibilities of their employment, increasing the probability of their social exclusion.

The poverty index of refugees and IDPs included in the Living Standard Measurement Survey was substantially higher in comparison to the rest of the Serbian population in 2002.[7] However, it should be emphasized that even within these categories of the population, there was a significant drop in poverty during the period between 2002 and 2007, just like in case of the rest of the Serbian population. The drop in poverty was much more pronounced with refugees (from 24% in 2002 to 7.4% in 2007) than when IDPs are concerned (from 24.6% to 14.5%), which means that the poverty index of refugees got closer to the poverty index of the regular population in 2007 (7.4% vs. 6.5%). It is important to mention that the number of refugees was significantly reduced in this period, given that a substantial part of the refugee population were integrated into the regular population of the Republic of Serbia.

Although absolute poverty is accepted as a national standard, the Working Group for Poverty and Economic Development proposed to monitor relative poverty by using a poverty line based on income (60% of the income median). This is even more valid, given that the National Statistical Office has accepted to monitor a substantial number of Laeken indicators. According to the National Statistical Office's estimations, relative poverty (60% of the income median per consumption unit) in 2007 stood at 21.6%.[8]

There is no data on hungry people in Serbia, even though the previous report did indicate the importance of data collection related to this problem. Malnutrition of children up to the age of five is measured on the basis of an indicator that calculates "the percentage of children up to the age of five whose body weight in relation to height deviates by minus two standard deviations or more from the median for the referent population." Since this figure exists only for 2005 (3.3%), we cannot monitor the evolution of this indicator until the data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, which will be carried out in 2010, are available. Although extreme poverty did not exist in 2007, depending on future economic trends and trends of the population's living standard, the "extreme poverty rate" indicator might be included separately at later stages, if there is a need for it.

The portion of state expenditures for social protection (including pensions) in GDP was increased from 15.6% in 2005 to 16.4% in 2008, while the portion of the two most important forms of state support to poor people (material assistance to families and child allowance) was reduced from 0.58% in 2005 to 0.44% of GDP in 2008 (World Bank, 2009). Two basic reasons for this are: a reduction in the number of poor persons in the period between 2002 and 2007, which caused the reduction in the number of beneficiaries; and legislative changes that reduced the social protection benefits and

[7] In order to increase the sample of refugees and IDPs for analysis, these categories included all the refugees and IDPs who had this status at the time of survey implementation, as well as those people who had refugee status since 1991, or IDP status since 1999, but now declare themselves as citizens of Serbia.

[8] Relative poverty in 2007, based on the Living Standard Measurement Survey, was calculated for the purposes of this report.

the number of eligible beneficiaries. Incidentally, the portion of these state expenditures for assistance to the poor in GDP is considerably lower than in some countries of Europe and Central Asia. In the coming year, the Government of Serbia has set the social protection of the poor as one of the most important fiscal priorities in circumstances of crisis and recession (Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2009).

1.3. Conclusions

Great progress in the realization of MDGs has certainly been achieved in the area of poverty, bearing in mind that the total poverty rate in 2007 was halved in comparison to 2002 (14% vs. 6.6%), and the extreme poverty rate was close to zero. Therefore, the First Millennium Development Goal, to halve the poverty rate and eradicate hunger by 2015, was accomplished in 2007. Benefits of high and continuous economic growth since 2000 have been transferred to the labor market through real growth of wages and other forms of income, not through growth of employment. Real growth of the population's income had an impact on real growth of consumption, which, with unchanged inequality, led to a significant drop in poverty in the Republic of Serbia during the period between 2002 and 2007. The poorest people benefited the most from the economic growth, given that their consumption grew faster than the consumption of the rest of the population.

Deterioration of indicators in the labor market in 2009, which could be felt as early as the fourth quarter of 2008 as a consequence of the global economic crisis' effects on the Serbian economy, indicates that a group of newly poor persons may have been formed, as well as extremely poor. This is why in the next period of time it is necessary to monitor all the indicators used for measuring the realization of the First MDG, which is related both to poverty and to the labor market.

The most vulnerable categories of the population are people from rural areas, especially from the territory of Southeast Serbia, the uneducated and unemployed population, children up to the age of 14, the elderly (older than 65), households with two

or more small children (0-6 yrs), Roma and IDPs. The poverty rate of urban and rural areas was decreased, but differences between them have deepened. Also, the poverty rate of refugees and IDPs was decreased, while the evolution of poverty among Roma could not be monitored due to the lack of comparable data. Roma poverty in 2001 was several times more widespread and also much deeper and more severe in comparison to the general population, which was to be expected, considering the unfavorable position of Roma in the labor market, i.e. their high unemployment rate.

The labor market indicators show some positive trends in the reduction of the total unemployment rate, youth unemployment rate and long-term unemployment rate. However, in spite of these noted positive trends, high unemployment, especially among the youth and the long-term unemployed, remained one of the greatest economic and social problems in the Republic of Serbia. When it comes to especially vulnerable groups, due to the lack of comparable data for other groups, we could monitor the trends of the unemployment rate only amongst refugees, and their unemployment rate was reduced significantly. IDPs and Roma were especially vulnerable in the labor market, which certainly had an influence on the fact that a substantial number of these persons remained poor. On the other hand, disabled persons had a low unemployment rate, but a rather high inactivity rate, which is mostly due to the fact that they are discouraged to look for a job in the first place. This led to their exclusion from the labor market, which may lead to their social exclusion.

Bearing in mind the effects of the global economic crisis, population groups that may be especially endangered in the next period are the youth, but also others that seek employment for the first time, as well as unemployed persons from especially vulnerable groups that were at risk even in normal conditions, such as unemployed Roma, IDPs, and disabled persons. In the next period, we can expect the unemployment rate to increase on two bases: many employed people may become unemployed, even though this effect can be alleviated through flexibility of wages (drop in real wages); and there may be limited opportunities for employment for the unemployed.

1.4. Recommendations

The following recommendations are related to labor market and social policy:

- Focus the social inclusion policy measures on vulnerable groups, such as IDPs, refugees, disabled persons and Roma.

- Improvement of the labor market position of especially vulnerable groups is the basic precondition for poverty reduction and their social inclusion. Therefore, it is necessary to increase their employment through active employment programs, but it is also needed to encourage self-employment and entrepreneurship. In addition, it is necessary to increase the education level of Roma in the long run, in order to break the vicious cycle: low education level – very high unemployment rate and/or poorly paid jobs – very low living standard. In the short run, it is necessary to solve the problem of their registration.

- Draft a memorandum on social inclusion, and then a National Action Plan on social inclusion that would define the concrete solutions for policy implementation in this area, and allow the regular monitoring of this process, as well as an evaluation of its efficiency.

- Reduce the regional differences in poverty by strengthening entrepreneurs' interest in investing in lesser-developed regions.

- Bearing in mind all the negative consequences of the global economic crisis and recession on the Serbian economy, state assistance to the poor in the next period should prevent the formation of new poverty, and also help not to deepen the poverty of the most vulnerable categories of the population.

The following recommendations are related to methodology and data:

- It is necessary to improve the monitoring of the labor market position of the marginalized groups, as well as the monitoring of poverty through the already existing surveys (Labor Force Survey, Household Budget Survey), and, if necessary, occasionally conduct surveys that would cover only certain vulnerable groups,

such as the Survey of Roma from Roma Settlements implemented in 2003, or the Survey on IDPs implemented in 2007.

- Assure a uniform methodology for monitoring indicators in the labor market, especially poverty indicators, in order to have comparable data sets and to monitor the progress achieved in the realization of MDGs. Specifically, it is necessary to ensure comparability of the poverty measurement methodology based on the Labor Force Survey data (which will, as of 2010, most likely be based on SILC data, too) so as to enable longer-term monitoring of changes in poverty.

- In the process of transition towards EU-SILC research, adopt monitoring of the relative poverty index (60% of the income median according to EU methodology) simultaneously with the absolute poverty index. This should be done both for the population as a whole, and for especially vulnerable groups.

- Start monitoring the EU Laeken indicators, as well as the country-specific indicators of social inclusion, and harmonize them with the proposed MDG indicators. Revise the indicators in the DevInfo database in line with the suggested indicators list.

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2.
SECOND MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:
**ENSURE THAT BY 2015 ALL BOYS AND GIRLS
COMPLETE A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY SCHOOLING**

Objectives	Indicators
1. Increase of primary schooling coverage	• Percentage of children enrolled in primary schools • Percentage of children that finish primary schools • Percentage of children enrolled in the fifth grade • Percentage of children [9] covered by preschool education • Number of preschool institutions in the Republic of Serbia
2. Obtaining a profession, promotion of the concept of life-long learning, availability of high education	• Percentage of children that finish regular secondary school • Coverage of children by secondary school (grades I-IV of secondary school, 15-18 yrs old) • Net enrollment rate in secondary school • Enrollment of students into the first grade of secondary school immediately after primary school • Percentage of irregular secondary school students • Percentage of youth that go to tertiary education • immediately after secondary school (4 years) • Percentage of literate youth between 15-24 yrs old • Percentage of youth between 15-24 yrs old without primary school
3. Improvement of education quality	• Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – science • Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – math • Program for International Student Assessment – math • Program for International Student Assessment – science • Program for International Student Assessment – reading

2.1. Features of the education system in the Republic of Serbia

The new millennium brought a new, increased interest in the phenomenon of education and the education system. The UN Millennium Declaration,[10] the EU Lisbon Declaration[11] and a large number of strategies and action plans adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia[12] (National Program of EU Integration, National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, Poverty Reduction Strategy, National Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, National Economic Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, Regional Development Strategy, National Action Plan for Children, National Youth Strategy, etc.) recognize education as one of the main mechanisms of development.

Education and upbringing go through four cycles: preschool, primary school, secondary school and higher/university education. The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia[13] guarantees the right of mandatory and free education to all – preschool (nine months before starting school) and an eight-year-long primary education. Concluding with academic/vocational studies, free education is possible in the Republic of Serbia.

[10] Adopted by the UN General Assembly in New York, September 2000 (A/55/L.2).

[11] Adopted by the Council of Europe, Lisbon, March 2000. The Lisbon Declaration is the ten-year plan of EU development, with the main purpose of transforming the EU into the most dynamical and leading knowledge-based economy in the world.

[12] http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vesti/dokumenti_sekcija.php?id=45678 (23 August 2009).

[13] Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No 83/06.

Table 2.1. Basic data on the education system in the Republic of Serbia for the school year 2006/07

	Level of education			
	Preschool (3-7 yrs)	Primary school	Secondary school	Tertiary
Number of employees in education	11,396	48,194	27,565	12,884
Number of enrolled	151,837	649,653	288,862	238,710
Number of enrolled in one generation	80,000 – 85,000	80,000 – 85,000	80,000 – 85,000	80,000 – 85,000
Number of institutions	2,297	3,545 (schools and branch classes)	477	194 (out of which 13 universities)
Ratio student: teacher	13.3	13.5	10.5	18.5

Source: National Statistical Office .

The education system is mostly funded by the budget of the Republic of Serbia. The Budget Law for 2008 allocates 16.15% of all budgetary expenditures for funding education, which represents an increase in comparison to the 14.03% allocated in 2005.[14] These values are similar to those noted in OECD countries,[15] which is the referent organization not only when it comes to economic development, but also when international testing and comparative analyses in the area of education are concerned.

If we take into consideration the second, most used indicator of importance that education bears in relation to other sectors – the share of education in Gross Domestic Product – we get a significantly different picture in comparison to other countries. The share of education in GDP in the period between 2005 and 2009 stands at between 3.5-4 %, which is still considerably lower than the OECD average (5.4%)[16] and the goals set by the strategic papers of the Serbian government (the amount of 6% of GDP is most commonly mentioned).

[14] Education, youth and sports were all in the jurisdiction of one ministry in 2005, and the 14.03% of budgetary expenditures were not spent on education only. Since 2007, youth and sports have been in the jurisdiction of a newly formed ministry, so the 16.15% of the 2008 budgetary expenditures was allocated exclusively for education purposes.

[15] See, www.oecd.org.

[16] Data from 2005.

Chart 2.1. Education structure of the population ages 15 and up, according to education degree, 2002
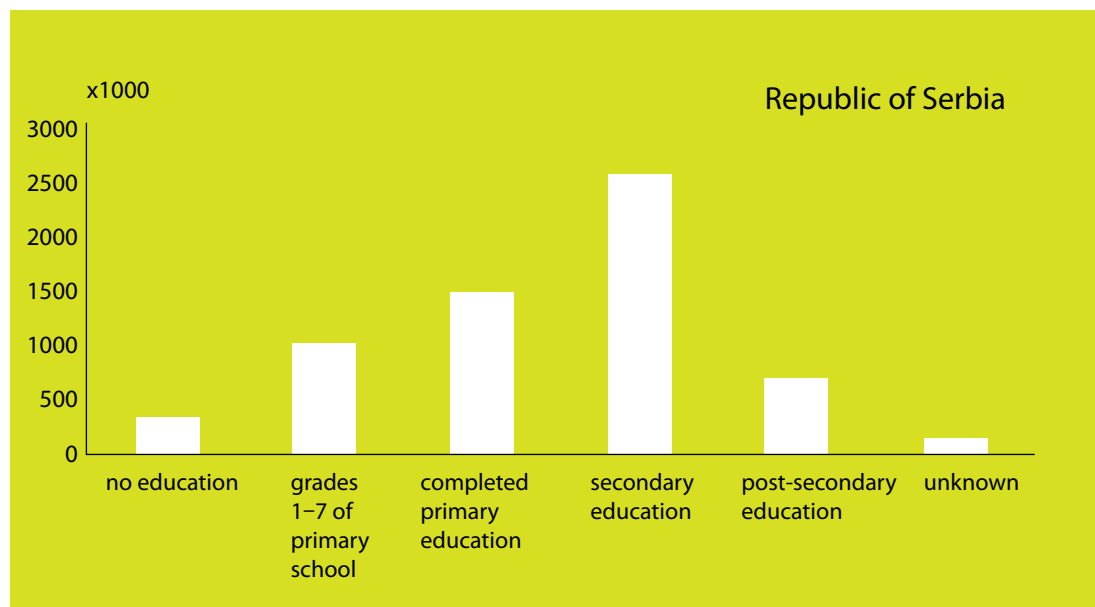
Source: National Statistical Office, Census 2002.

Acquired education is one of the most important correlates of poverty in the Republic of Serbia.[17] Among the poor, 67% in 2002, and 41% in 2007 came from families in which the head of household was either without any education or with incomplete primary schooling, while the portion of family members whose head of household had tertiary education in the poor population is almost negligible (0.7% in 2002 and 1.7% in 2007). However, if we analyze the education structure of the richest people in Serbia, 55% of households in this category have members with academic education, while only 5% of households from the richest groups have members with primary school only, or an even lower level of education. A low level of parents' education is related not only to the poverty of children but also to children's involvement in various levels of education, which increases the risk of trans-generational poverty and highlights the importance of full primary education coverage as a minimum.

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17 LSMS (2002 and 2007), National Statistical Office.

2.2. Primary education coverage

In 2008, 95.7% of children were enrolled in primary schools,[18] which is 1.8% less than in 2005. A much lower enrollment rate, as well as a trend of a pronounced decline of coverage, was noted amongst children from rural areas. From 81.15% in 2005, the enrollment rate dropped to 77.45% in 2008.

**Chart 2.2. Percentage of children enrolled in primary schools
at school enrollment age, 2005-2008**
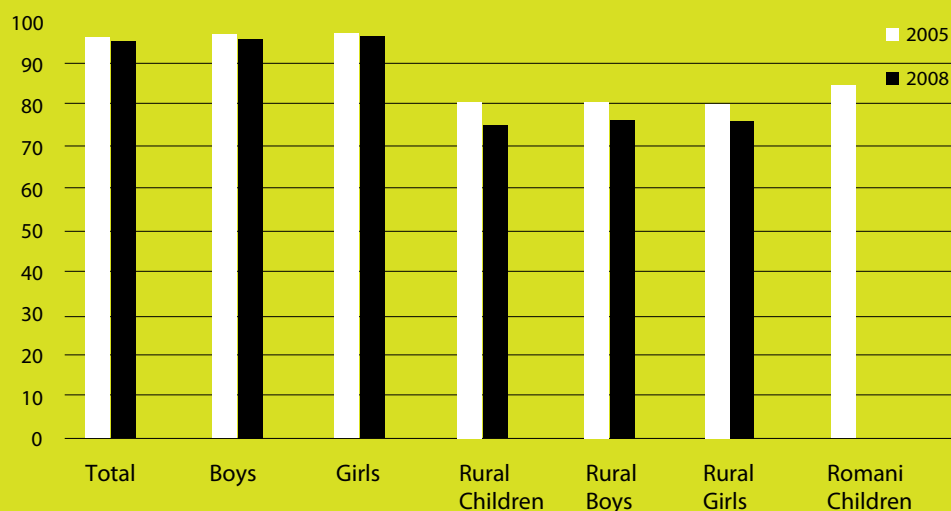
Source: National Statistical Office;
data on Roma children: REF Needs Assessments Study, 2004.[19]

....

[18] Including children that go to private primary schools.

[19] The chart includes the median value of the estimated scope 82.5-89.6%.

There is no reliable data on primary education coverage of children from especially vulnerable groups (in particular Roma and children with developmental difficulties), given that there is still no precise data on their total number. It is assessed that the Roma children cohort size is about 25,000, around 70% of them going to primary schools. Although it is still far from the Serbian average, the primary school coverage of children of Roma families was significantly increased in the period between 2002 and 2007, and from 56% it reached 73%[20] (given that the Living Standard Measurement Study includes only those Roma families that are more integrated into society, it is possible that the real picture of primary school coverage of Roma children is less favorable). At the same time, the trend of enrolling Roma children into special schools/classes (often motivated by material benefits and not by real cognitive abilities of Roma children) has dropped from 8% to 6%, which can imply some positive changes in relation to the integration of Roma children into the education system.

It is assessed that 5-7% of children between 0 and 18 years old have some sort of developmental difficulties,[21] which could mean that in Serbia their number is between 78,000-100,000. In the following table, we have stated the only available official data related to the number of children/youth that go to special schools – there are less than 10,000 of them in primary and secondary schools in total. It is not possible to discuss the reasons for this drop in children in special schools with certainty, but in addition to a reduced birthrate, it is possible that this partially came out of the growing initiatives to introduce inclusive educational practice in Serbia.

Table 2.2. Number of children in special schools

	2005	2006	2007	
Number of children in special primary schools	8064	7707	7393	
Number of children in special secondary schools	1557	1465	1550	

Source: National Statistical Office.

Given that in regular schools data on the number of children and type of developmental difficulties are not monitored, we cannot know what happens to the rest of the 70,000-90,000 children up to the age of 18 (who are not included in special schools), i.e. to what extent they are integrated into regular schools, and to what extent they are invisible to official statistics, the education system and society as a whole.

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[20] LSMS (2007), National Statistical Office.

[21] National Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia (2006).

Chart 2.3. Percentage of children who finish primary school, 2005–2008
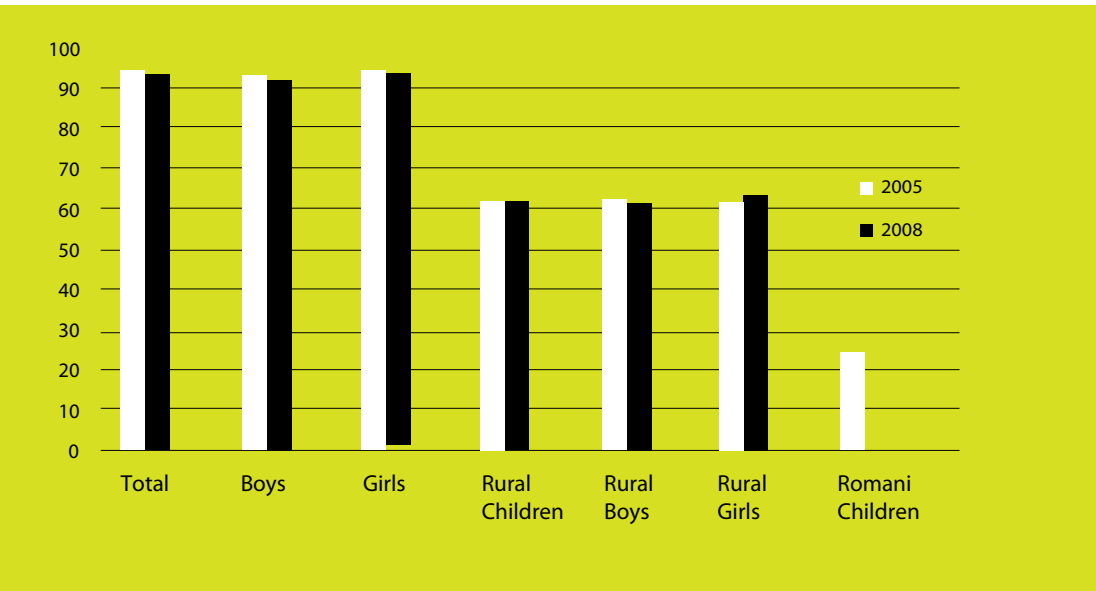
Source: National Statistical Office;
data on Roma children: REF Needs Assessments Study, 2004.[22]

There was a mild drop in the rate of primary school completion, from 95.29% in 2005 to 94.80% in 2008. In addition to a substantially lower primary school completion rate among rural children (74.31% in 2005 and 74.14% in 2008), there is a trend of reduced completion among boys and an increase in the completion rate among rural girls. There are no data on children from vulnerable groups.

When considering the data on the primary school completion rate, one should bear in mind that there is no data whatsoever on a certain number of children who have never entered the education system, and there is no precise data on children who drop out of the system before completing it. In order to get reliable data, it is necessary to monitor one whole generation through its primary school cycle, which will be made possible by introducing the Unique IT System in Education that the Ministry of Education plans to initiate for the 2009/10 school year.

The next important indicator for analysis is school dropouts between the fourth and the fifth grades. The fifth grade brings an important transition - from having all subjects taught by one homeroom teacher, to having various professors teaching various subjects. This also means the introduction of many new subjects, and for some children, a change of class and the entire school environment, including separation from home and continuing schooling in a different town. All this means that at this

....
[22] The chart includes the median value of the estimated scope 21-37%.

point some children will drop out of school, especially Roma and rural children (it is estimated that 50% of Roma[23] and 85.75% of rural children[24] enroll in the fifth grade).

Chart 2.4. Percentage of children that enroll in the fifth grade
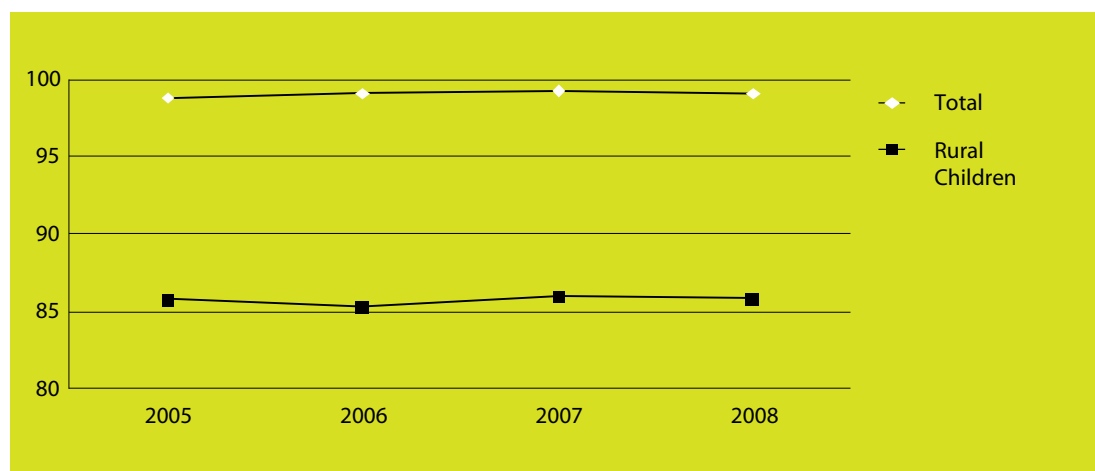
Source: National Statistical Office 2005–2008.

The dropout rate when enrolling in the fifth grade in 2008 was reduced from 1.14% to 0.87% ,which means that this specific objective has reached its target value. However, this picture is somewhat different within some specific groups of children: Roma and rural children have a lower rate of enrollment into the fifth grade (and with its current growth trend, chances are small that by 2015 this will get closer to values in the general population), but in addition to this, there are noticeable differences in this rate among girls, since their rate of enrollment into the fifth grade is 1.2% lower than for boys. The continuation of schooling after the fifth grade is a good indicator that the education system is not able to deal with the negative social, cultural and other factors that contribute to the early dropout of children from especially vulnerable groups from the education system.

2.3. Preschool education coverage

Investment in preschool education is one of the best and most efficient ways to achieve the previous three objectives – increased coverage, reduced dropout and a higher rate of primary school completion. With its encouraging influence on children's development, preschool should contribute to better preparedness of children to enter the education system, as well as to better performance and easier social integration. This is why it is important to require preschool programs to include children from less stimulating environments and children at a higher risk of social exclusion.

In the beginning of the new millennium, the Republic of Serbia was among the countries that had the lowest preschool coverage in Europe (less than 40%), without any visible signs of progress. As a response to that, in 2006 the mandatory Preschool Preparation Program (PPP) was introduced, targeted at children between 5.5 and 6.5 years old, and lasting six months. By introducing this measure, the state took the responsibility of funding one form of preschool education, unlike the previous period when preschool education, given that it was not mandatory, was funded by local self-governments and parents themselves. By making this preschool program free and mandatory – it got closer to those who needed it the most – children from less privileged groups. The implementation of the PPP led to a substantial growth of preschool coverage, especially in the group of children between 6 and 7 years old (see Chart 2.5).

Chart 2.5. Preschool coverage of children
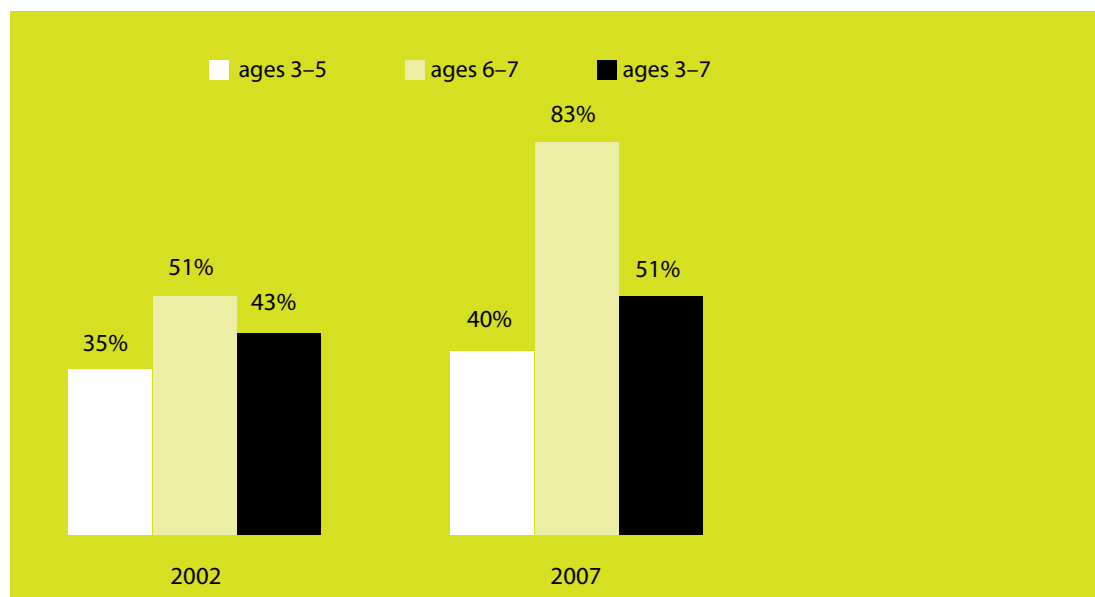
Source: Living Standard Measurement Study 2002-2007.

However, the Living Standard Measurement Study shows some large differences in coverage in relation to socioeconomic status variables: children between 3 and 5 years old from families whose head of household is of a low education level go to kindergartens mush less often than the general population (16% in comparison to the average of 43%). Also, only 15% of children from the poorest population go to kindergarten. A much lesser amount of children from households that are below the poverty line go to kindergarten (13% in comparison to 43%). Only 15% of Roma children from the sample go to kindergartens.

Only 53% of children between 6 and 7 years old from the poorest population go to any preschool institution. It is especially worrisome that almost 50% of children from households below the poverty line are not included in the mandatory PPP.

Based on the application of the PPP in the 2006/07 and 2007/08 school years, a cost-effective analysis was carried out,[25] indicating that:

• The goal of complete coverage of children through the PPP was not accomplished. According to various sources, between 5% and 17% of children were not included in the PPP in the 2007/08 school year (however, these findings need to be further verified, due to differences in data and their overall unreliability).

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[25] Education against poverty: analysis of introduction of preschool program in Serbia, Pesikan and Ivic 2009.

- There are huge regional differences when it comes to the coverage of children. The lowest coverage is in some of the lesser-developed regions and municipalities (in some of these environments, it is even 50% coverage).

- The coverage policy of children from unprivileged social groups was not achieved, given that their coverage was substantially lower than the population's average. Also, the quality of the PPP is worse for these children.

- Conclusions on the coverage and quality of the PPP, viewed together, seriously question the achievement of the effects planned in strategy papers for children from vulnerable groups.

An increase of 22% in the number of preschool institutions in the period between 2005 and 2008 (from 1873 to 2297) reflects the increased investments in the infrastructure, but indirect conclusions on the adequacy, geographical impartiality and effectiveness of the existing network can be made. The discrepancy in coverage of rural children (35.96%, NSO 2008) in comparison to the general population (51.24%, NSO 2008) can be partially attributed to the network's insufficient adequacy, which means that it is not equally available to everyone.

2.4. Secondary school education coverage

In the period 2005-2008, the net rate of enrollment in secondary schools has grown from 76.40% to 81.58%, while the percentage of completion dropped from 85.68% to 82.76%. The percentage of students that enroll in secondary schools straight after finishing primary schooling grew by 1% (from 97.59% to 98.60%).

Out of those who enrolled in secondary school in the 2007/08 school year, the majority went to four-year vocational schools (57.46%), a significantly smaller number to gymnasiums (24.18%) and the smallest percentage to three-year schools (18.36%). The percentage of students in gymnasiums has stagnated around 24%, in three-

years schools it has dropped (from 24.83% in 2005 to 18.36% in 2008), while interest in four-year vocational schools has significantly grown (from 50.87% to as much as 57.46% in the last school year).[26] Along with the choice to enter the labor market as soon as possible, another factor that contributes to this trend is the introduction of new vocational profiles that are based on modern achievements, corresponding to the dynamic demands of the economy. The development of high technologies has also significantly decreased the demand for profiles that are educated less than four years in the secondary school system.

One-fourth of boys and only 11% of girls enroll in three-year schools, while 29% of girls and 19% of boys opt for gymnasiums. The Living Standard Measurement Study from 2009 offers some interesting data on gender differences – 21% of boys are not covered by the education system, while the same goes for only 12% of girls. When it comes to youth not covered by the education system, some specific gender differences stand out among the poor (50% of girls compared to 31% of boys), refugees and IDPs (19% of girls vs. 27% of boys) and rural youth (17% of girls vs. 24% of boys).

The literacy rate of youth (15-24 yrs) in Serbia (2002 Census) stood at 99.36%. Bearing in mind this positive trend in comparison to previous years, it is possible to achieve complete literacy within this age group by 2015. In order to assure this, it is necessary to pay special attention to young Roma, whose illiteracy rate is 35.5%, and especially young Roma women, given that more than half of them are illiterate (51.6%, Census from 2002).[27]

[26] NSO.

[27] This data refers to individuals who declared themselves as Roma in the census. In addition to citizens of Roma origin who did not declare themselves as such, a part of the Roma population was not covered by the census.

2.5. Quality of primary education

Securing wide primary and secondary education coverage and creating the conditions to remain in the education system as long as possible are important objectives that out country has to meet by 2015. They are a necessary, but not the only precondition in order for the education system to fulfill its main function – to allow children to acquire the competences they need in order to live and work in modern society. In order to identify the extent to which education systems fulfill this function, a large number of countries, including Serbia, participate in international tests. Two of the most important tests that the Republic of Serbia participates in are the PISA[28] and TIMSS.[29]

Table 2.3.: Achievements of students on international tests

Indicator	Basis		Progress		Trend
	Year	Value	Year	Value	
Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) – math	2003	477 average 466	2007	486 average 500	↘
Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) – science	2003	468 average 473	2007	470 average 500	↘
Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) – math	2003	437 average 500	2006	435 average 498	→
Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) – science	2003	436 average 500	2006	436 average 500	→
Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) – reading	2003	412 average 494	2006	401 average 429	↘

[28] Program for International Student Assessment.

[29] Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study.

Achievements of 15-year-olds on these international tests provide information on the quality of education in our primary schools, indicate what human resources we have for economic, technological and social development, and show our competitiveness by comparing these exact indicators with other countries. The results achieved are lower than the international average, especially those from the PISA test that measured the level of functional literacy – the capacity of students to apply acquired knowledge and skills in key areas and in various situations, as well as to analyze, conclude and formulate conclusions, and solve and interpret various problematic situations.[30] Aside from being mostly below average (our children would need another school year to reach the average results of their peers), the achievements of our students have experienced a downward trend.

Another upsetting piece of information is the fact that "there is only a small percentage of our students in the highest categories of achievements, implying a non-ambitious education policy which has, at the level of everyday work with students in the conditions offered by regular schools, neglected the groups of students that had the capacity to achieve more."[31] Education policy creators are facing a great challenge – how to create such conditions that will allow the fulfillment of the first goal of education and upbringing in the Republic of Serbia, which means full intellectual, emotional, social, moral and physical development of every child and student, in line with his or her age, developmental needs and interests.[32]

[30] PISA 2006 Report, Institute of Psychology, Belgrade .

[31] Ibid.

[32] Law on Basis of Education and Edification System, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No 72/09.

2.6. Conclusions

Of all the education levels, preschool education coverage has marked the greatest increase. This positive trend is most notable at the age of one year before going to school, which doubtlessly indicates that the introduction of the mandatory and free Preschool Preparation Program in 2006 had a positive effect on the number of covered children in the general population. However, those children whom this program was supposed to help in the prevention of social exclusion and increase the chances of completing regular schooling and achieving better results (children from poor families, children with developmental problems, Roma children, rural children) were the ones to be the least included in preschool education. According to parents, the reasons for this are the distance of preschool institutions (in rural areas), the lack of capacities in institutions (in urban areas), but also the failing to recognize the importance of the inclusion of children of that age into educational institutions.

According to data from the National Statistical Office, in the Republic of Serbia in 2008, 4.3% of school-aged children were not enrolled in primary schools. When transferring to the fifth grade, 0.87% of enrolled children dropped out of the system, and 94.8% managed to finish primary school. Indicators of coverage and primary school completion are much less favorable when it comes to rural children – and what is even more worrying – they experienced a downward trend. When it comes to primary school coverage of Roma children, it is still far below average, but it did experience a substantial growth and now stands at the rate of 73% (Living Standard Measurement Study 2007). Socioeconomic status is an important factor of coverage, dropout and completion rate of both primary and secondary education. However, international tests show that the influence of socioeconomic status on the achievement of students that remained in regular schooling at the age of 15 is far below average,[33] and that the education system in the Republic of Serbia can be viewed as fair.

In the period between 2005 and 2008, the net enrollment rate in secondary schools was increased (from 76.40% to 81.58%), while the percentage of completion dropped (from 85.68% to 82.76%). The percentage of irregular students in secondary schools was around 3%. Overall, around 15% of youth of secondary-school age remain outside the formal education system. In light of the life-long learning concept, alongside

[33] OECD countries average, PISA 2006.

the youth of appropriate age that were not covered by secondary school education, the education system should "give a second chance" to the education of adults.

The quality of education in the Republic of Serbia is below the international average, and it dropped in the period between 2003 and 2006/07. Results of our 15-year-olds, showing the level of acquired applicable knowledge, indicate that our education system produces human resources that are not competitive in the global labor market. The need to improve the quality of education was one of the vehicles of proposing a new set of laws in 2009/2010.[34] Monitoring indicators related to the education of Roma children and especially children with developmental problems is rather difficult, due to the lack of data. The existing data originate from several research studies, and due to different methodologies, the comparison of this data should be done with care. Except for the Living Standard Measurement Study, the studies were not repeated, so it is difficult to draw reliable conclusions on trends.

When it comes to monitoring data on children covered by the education system, the introduction of the Unique IT System in Education will allow continuous and systematic collection of a large number of data relevant for creating and monitoring the education policy's effect. Speaking of difficulties that were identified in monitoring indicators of the Second Millennium Development Goal, the Unique IT System in Education will allow the monitoring of one generation of students from the beginning of their schooling to the end, and therefore it will provide much more reliable information – not only on dropout and completion rates, but also on their causes, which is even more important.

[34] The new umbrella Law on the Basis of the System of Education and Upbringing has been in force since 11 September 2009.

2.7. Recommendations

- Adapt the network of preschool institutions to the needs of local communities, and inform the parents whose children are included in preschool education to the least extent (children from poor families, children with developmental problems, Roma children, rural children) about the importance and benefits of including their offspring in the preschool institution's programs.

- Special attention should be paid to programs targeted at inclusion and support for schooling of children that bear the highest risk of dropping out of the education system. Given that the pilot projects of this type are already being implemented, they should be evaluated and ways/models for comprehensive support for the education of children from vulnerable groups should be proposed.

- Create a strategic approach to lifelong learning and establish mechanisms for the identification and acknowledgement of competences acquired in the informal educational context.

- Ensure full functionality of the Unified IT System in Education and its use, with the aim of making informed education policies, improvement of education practice and easier monitoring of education indicators.

- Based on the general principles, goals, general outcomes and standards of education and upbringing contained in the newly adopted Law on Basis of Education and Upbringing System, initiate the process of drafting the Strategy of Education in the Republic of Serbia.

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Law on the Basis of the System of Education and Upbringing.

United Nations (2000), Millennium Declaration.

3.
THIRD MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:
GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Objectives	Indicators
Reduce economic inequalities between men and women (in poverty, employment, unemployment, participation in trade unions, advancement at work, compensation)	• Comparative employment rates of men and women of working age (15-64) • Comparative unemployment rates of men and women of working age (15-64) • Percentage of women among salaried workers in the non-agricultural sector • Percentage of women among entrepreneurs and self-employed • Percentage of women among directors of business companies • Percentage of women among helping household members • Salary gap between men and women • Comparative employment rates of Roma men and women of working age (15-64) • Comparative unemployment rates of Roma men and women of working age (15-64) • Comparative employment rates of disabled men and women of working age (15-64) • Comparative unemployment rates of disabled men and women of working age (15-64) • Percentage of women among trade union members • Percentage of women on chair positions in trade unions
By 2015, increase the participation of women at all levels of political decision making to at least 30%	• Percentage of women among MPs in the Serbian National Assembly • Percentage of women among members of the Government of the Republic of Serbia • Percentage of women among ambassadors • Percentage of women among members of municipal assemblies in Serbia • Percentage of women among municipality presidents in the Republic of Serbia
By 2011, finalize the setting of system assumptions for achieving gender equality	• Number of public administration sectors whose annual work plans with budgets contain gender perspective • Number of employees in public administration included in trainings on gender studies, including gender budgeting • Number of local mechanisms for improving gender equality
By 2015, develop a system of protection for female victims of violence and a system for prevention of violence against women	• Percentage of criminal charges filed in cases of domestic violence in comparison to the overall number of reported cases • Percentage of convictions in cases of domestic violence in comparison to the number of prosecuted cases • Number of safe houses funded by state funds • Number of advisory centers for female victims of violence funded by state funds

3.1. Economic gender inequalities

The area of economic participation is one of the key social spheres that not only reflects, but also redefines and transform the gender regimes. Although some progress was achieved in the period between the two reporting periods, economic gender inequalities are still rather pronounced. They are manifested in the unequal position of men and women in the labor market, unequal awards for performance at work, and less opportunities for women to advance to positions of economic power and decision making.

The difference in the employment rate[35] between women and men of working age (15-64 yrs) did decrease in the period between 2005 and 2009, but it is still highly pronounced. Namely, in 2005, the employment rate for men stood at 61.2% and 40.8% for women (National Statistical Office, Labor Force Survey, 2006a), while in 2009 the employment rate for men stood at 58.7%, and 43.3% for women (NSO, LFS, 2009a). Growth in the employment rate of women, as well as the decrease of difference between the unemployment rates between men and women (from 20 to 15 percentage points)[36] can be seen as an important step forward, but it is necessary to view these figures in light of more long-term trends. Namely, in spite of the noted improvement, the differences in the employment rate between women and men not only remain significant, but the data imply that Serbian women did not manage to recover the employment rate they used to have before the transition, and that they lost during the economic decline and retraditionalization during the 90s, as well as in the process of economic restructuring after the year 2000 (compare Babović, 2007).

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[35] Employment rates represent the proportion of employed persons in relation to the total number of persons of working age (15-64 yrs). Specific employment rates of men and women represent the proportion of employed women, i.e. men in relation to total number of women, i.e. men of working age.

[36] Due to methodological changes that took place in the LFS since 2008, which include a higher share of self-employed and helping household members, it is quite possible that part of the above stated changes was caused by an amended methodology. It can be assumed that the higher share of helping household members had partially led to the increase of employment rate of women, because women dominate in this particular category. However, bearing in mind the size of this category, the effect of methodological changes is not crucial for understanding the above described trend.

Chart 3.1. a Comparative employment rates for men and women in 2005 and 2009
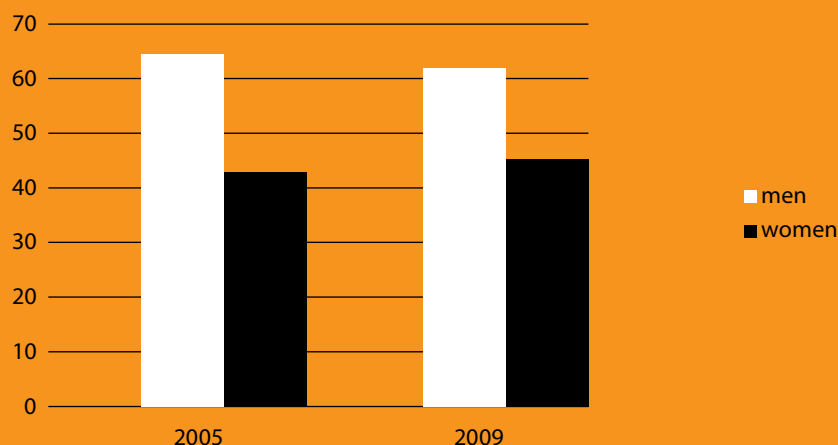
When it comes to the economic participation of women among the salaried workers in the non-agricultural sector of activities, there is also a rather weak but positive trend to be noted. While in 2005 the participation of women among salaried workers in the non-agricultural sector[37] stood at 40.2% (NSO, LFS, 2006a), in 2009 it grew to 42.4% (NSO, LFS, 2009a).[38]

Between the two reporting periods, there has been an increase in the share of women among entrepreneurs and the self-employed. In the category of entrepreneurs and self-employed with employees the share of women increased from 23.8% in 2005 to 28.4% in 2009. At the same time, the share of women in the category of self-employed that do not employ other workers grew from 23.9% in 2005 to 26.8% (NSO, LFS, 2006a, 2009a). However, these figures on the share of women among entrepreneurs and the self-employed should be taken with some consideration. Certain studies have shown that some female entrepreneurs are only formally among the founders of the enterprise, while the real function of entrepreneur in their enterprises is carried out by men (most commonly husbands) (compare Popović-Pantić, Petrović, 2007).

[37] In this report, the non-agricultural sector has a broader definition than in the official statistics communications. While the official classification of NSO sees only mining, industry, energy production and construction as non-agricultural activities, this report also includes service-providing activities in the non-agricultural sector: commerce, work in hotels and restaurants, transportation, financial services, public administration, education, health care, social services, etc.

[38] Employment of women in mining, industry, energy production and construction is traditionally low. In 2005, women made up 25.5% of workers employed in this sector, while in 2009 their percentage stood at 27.3%.

An important indicator of economic inequalities is the share of women and men in decision-making positions. Data from the Agency for Business Registers implies that women's access to director positions is still poor. In 2005, there were 20.8% of women among business company directors, while in 2009 this figure stood at 20.6%.[39]

While women are a minority in the categories of entrepreneurs, self-employed and managers, they constitute the majority of another group in the labor market, which suffers from a particularly unfavorable position. These are the so-called helping household members, who usually work outside the sphere of the formal labor market (without a contract) and without any salary. The portion of women in this category grew from 69.6% in 2005 to 72.3% in 2009 (NSO, LFS, 2006a, 2009a). The vast majority of helping household members are engaged in agriculture (91.4%), while the other persons from this category work in commerce and restaurant businesses. A study from 2008 on rural women with the helping household member status engaged in agriculture has shown that as much as 44% of these women had found themselves in this situation after losing their job, and that this category was marked by a highly unfavorable position – not only when it comes to its economic aspect, but also when enjoyment of their key social rights is concerned (health and pension insurance, access to various forms of social assistance) (Babović, Vuković, 2009).

One of the key indicators of economic inequalities between men and women is the pay gap for work of equal value.[40] In 2004, the gap between average wages of women and men stood at as much as 16% (Momčilović, 2006).[41]

Gender inequalities in labor market position seen from the perspective of unemployment have experienced a declining trend. In 2005, the unemployment rate of women stood at 27.4%, and that of men at 17.6% (NSO, LFS, 2006), while in 2009, the unemployment rate of women dropped to 18.1%, and that of men to 15.0% (NSO, LFS, 2009a). With this, the difference in unemployment rates between men and women dropped from around 10 to 3 percentage points.

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[39] Source for 2006: database of Agency for Business Registers from November 2006. Source: database of the Agency for Business Registers from August 2009.

[40] It is necessary to mention that the statistical agency in Serbia does not monitor this indicator in the appropriate way. In Serbia, the difference in salary is monitored through the difference between average monthly wages of women and men in comparison to average monthly wages of all Serbian employees. In the EU, the pay gap between women and men is monitored through the so-called unadjusted gender pay gap, which represents the percentage relation of the difference between average wages of men and women per hour and average wages of men per hour. Ideally, calculating the pay gap in wages between women and men should be implemented in line with a methodology that controls the effects of different determinants that influence the salaries of women and men (educational degree, sector, years of service, etc.) in order to efficiently measure the difference that comes out of discrimination, and not out of other, more objective features of the labor force.

[41] Here, the gap in wages between women and men is presented as a percentage relation of the difference of average wages of men and women per hour and the average wages of men per hour ("unadjusted gender pay gap").

Chart 3.1. b Comparative unemployment rates for men and women in 2005 and 2009
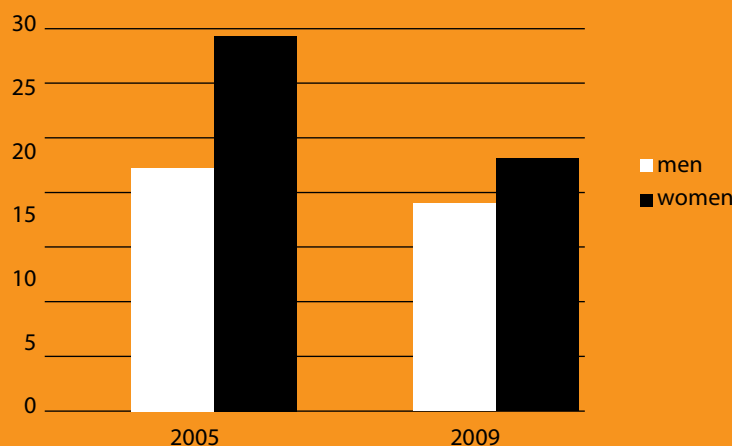
Source: National Statistical Office, 2008a.

Women from marginalized social groups have a particularly unfavorable position in the labor market. Unfortunately, there are no precise and updated records which would allow us to monitor the economic inequalities between women and men from these groups. Although they are not entirely reliable, the data from the Labor Force Survey[42] on gender inequalities among the Roma indicate a highly unfavorable position of Roma women. In 2009, the employment rate of men who have declared themselves as Roma in the LFS stood at 42.6%, while the employment rate of Roma women was only 10.3%. At the same time, the unemployment rate of Roma stands at 28.0%, and 68.2%[43] for Roma women.

Unfortunately, similar data for women with disabilities is not available, even though it could have been provided by simple monitoring. Data obtained from the LSMS in 2007 indicate that the labor market position of these groups is extremely unfavorable, confirming that it is very important to establish a continuous monitoring of disables persons' position in the labor market, because, without precise data it is not possible to design adequate and efficient measures to improve their position. In 2007, the employment rate of women with disabilities stood at 20.9%, while the employment rate of disabled men was 32.4%. At the same time, the unemployment rate of women with disabilities was 15.9%, while it stood at 11.6% for men from the same

[42] It is necessary to view this data with caution, given that it is not mandatory to answer the question on ethnicity in the survey, so it cannot be expected that the survey noted all the members of Roma population in the sample, nor that the Labor Force Survey included the Roma in a completely representative manner.

[43] Source: NSO, Labor Force Survey, April 2009.

social category. A rather high inactivity rate is typical for members of both genders in the group of persons with disabilities, even though it is substantially higher among women (63.3% for men and 75.1% for women) (NSO, 2008a).

The above stated data draws attention to the double marginalization of women from vulnerable groups. They belong to a social group that faces serious problems with inclusion in the economy sphere in comparison to the general population, and their gender pushes them into an even more unfavorable position in comparison to men from the same referent group.

Participation of women in trade unions was recognized as one of the important elements of improving gender equality in the sphere of economic participation and economic relations. Unfortunately, in Serbia there is not a unique monitoring system of membership in trade unions, and therefore precise and comprehensive data does not exist.[44] In the two biggest trade unions (United Branch Trade Unions "Nezavisnost" and Alliance of Independent Trade Unions of Serbia) there are around 46% female members, but this percentage is much lower when it comes to chair positions in trade unions.[45] Both trade unions have established women's sections, and in "Nezavisnost" there is an SOS hotline for female victims of discrimination and violence at work.

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[44] The data stated in the previous MDG Report referred only to the trade union Nezavisnost. This time, data on the Alliance of Independent Trade Unions of Serbia was also included, thus covering the two biggest union organizations.

[45] Among the members of the Board of Directors of the trade union Nezavisnost, there are only 9% women, while among the members of the Steering Committee there are 19%. Among the members of the Council of Alliance of Independent Trade Unions of Serbia (the highest ranking body between the two congresses) there are 20% women.

3.2. Participation of women in government and political decision making

Participation of women in political decision making is an extremely important aspect and precondition of establishing gender equality. Here, data indicates some contradictory trends in this aspect. An increase of participation of women is noted at the level of national bodies of legislative and executive branches, while at the local level there is stagnation in comparison to the previous period.

After the national parliamentary elections in 2008, the portion of women among the MPs of the national Assembly of Serbia was doubled (increased from 11% to 22%) in comparison to the previous Report on MDG Realization. In spite of increasing the portion of women in the legislative branch in the Republic of Serbia, the goal of having 30% of women among MPs has not been accomplished yet. After the provincial elections in 2008, the portion of women in the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina was even reduced by 6% (from 19% to 13%), leading to the conclusion that the trend indicates an unsettling deviation from the set millennium objective.

The portion of women in the highest authorities of the executive branch is also unfavorable. After the elections in 2008, there were 18% women in the Government. It is an increase in comparison to 12% from the previous reporting period, but it is still lower than 2002, when there were 21% women among the government members. However, when it comes to this aspect, one may say the Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina has almost reached the set millennium objective, given that among the members of this political institution there are 29% women.

The share of women among the ambassadors of the Republic of Serbia was stated as one of the indicators of political participation of women in Serbia. Relative progress was achieved in this aspect, given that in comparison to 2002, when there were 11% women among the ambassadors, their share increased to 20% in 2009.

According to basic indicators, the share of women in local authorities also indicates that we are still significantly far from the set millennium objective. When it comes to the share of women among members of municipal assemblies, there is stagnation in

comparison to the previous reporting period. After the local elections in 2004, there were 21% women among members of municipal assemblies, and that percentage remained the same after the local elections in 2008.[46] The share of women among municipal presidents and mayors is far less favorable, given that women can be found in this function in only 4% of municipalities in the Republic of Serbia.

Chart 3.2. Participation of women in political decision making
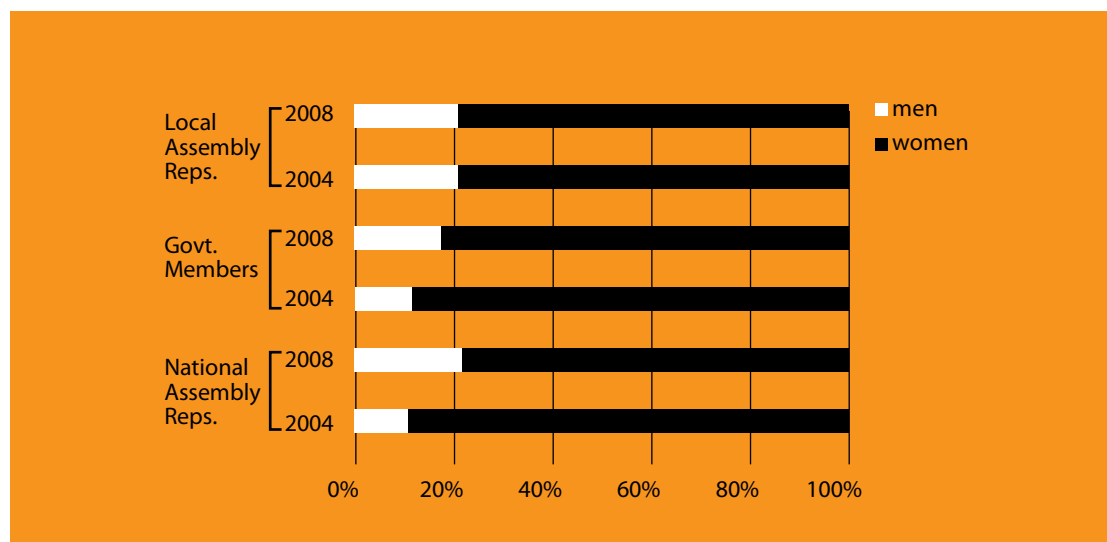
Source: National Statistical Office: Women and Men in Serbia 2008, 2005;
National Statistical Office, Local Elections, 2008.

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[46] In this respect, differences are registered between municipal assemblies on the territory of central Serbia and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, given that there are 20% women in municipal assemblies on the territory of central Serbia, and 24% women in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

3.3. System assumptions and policies for gender mainstreaming

In the previous Report of the Serbian Government, the objective of finalizing the institutional framework for achieving gender equality was defined as a mid-term objective, which was supposed to be realized by 2008. Bearing in mind that the set objective was not completed (even though it was worked on in the previous period of time), it has been kept with a changed time framework, foreseeing its realization by 2011.

Normative, institutional and strategic assumptions were recognized as the most important system assumptions in order to achieve gender equality. When it comes to normative assumptions, the most important one is certainly the passing of the Gender Equality Law in the Republic of Serbia. The Law Proposal was drafted and it entered the Parliament procedure, so now it is expected to be adopted by the end of 2009.

When it comes to building institutional gender equality mechanisms, there is continuous, albeit an insufficiently efficient trend of establishing and strengthening the institutional capacities for gender equality improvement. Between the two reporting periods, the central institutional gender equality mechanism was transformed, meaning that the Gender Equality Council of the Republic of Serbia was replaced by the Gender Equality Directorate of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia. In addition, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia has the Gender Equality Committee, while the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina has the Provincial Secretariat for Labor, Employment and Gender Equality, as well as the Gender Equality Institute. Within the Ombudsman's Office in the Republic of Serbia and in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, there are ombudsman's deputies in charge of gender equality.

In the mean time, the building of institutional mechanisms for gender equality was continued at the local level. Up until now, within the local self-governments in the Republic of Serbia, 69 gender equality mechanisms were formed. These local mechanisms are substantially different from one municipality to another, in line with the

municipality's capacities, formal institutional form and efficiency in action. They usually have poor capacities, since they do not contain a permanently employed staff, they lack the appropriate budgetary funds, and within their competences, they remain at the level of a basic advisory role.

In 2009, the drafting of the National Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy for Empowerment of Women and Improvement of Gender Equality was initiated, which will provide the basis for comprehensive and coordinated activities for the improvement of gender equality.

In the previous report, the Government of the Republic of Serbia recognized gender-sensitive budgeting and gender-sensitive fiscal policy[47] as important components for establishing the gender equality system grounds. A gender-sensitive fiscal policy analysis has not been implemented yet, so it would be important to undertake such an analysis by 2011. On the other hand, when it comes to gender-sensitive budgeting, up till now there have not been any concrete steps at the level of the budget of the Republic of Serbia, but this analysis was carried out in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, and it is planned to base the Vojvodina budget for 2010 on the recommendations from this analysis.[48]

Between the two reporting periods, civil servants trainings were implemented in the area of gender policies, including gender budgeting. Up till now, these trainings have included 265 senior civil servants.

Lastly, the year 2009 was spent on intensive work on the preparation of the CEDAW Report. The process is coordinated by the Gender Equality Directorate, and it is expected that the report will be finished by spring of 2010. However, along with regular reporting, it is very important that the Republic of Serbia continuously monitors the realization of measures recommended by CEDAW Committee, while evaluating their efficiency.

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[47] Gender-sensitive or gender-responsible budgeting stands for the integration of gender perspective into budget planning that includes analysis of revenues and expenditures, as well as activities of (re)distribution of funds in a way that improves gender equality. In that sense, gender-sensitive or gender-responsible fiscal policy stands for planning and implementing fiscal policy measures that contribute to the improvement of equality between men and women.

[48] Since 2007, UNIFEM has been supporting gender budgeting initiatives in Serbia at the local level and the provincial level (in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina).

3.4. Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence appears in various forms, and there is no sufficiently precise and systematical data on this problem in the Republic Serbia. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia (Official Gazette, 85/05) penalizes domestic violence and is treating it as a criminal act for the first time (Art. 194), while the Family Law (Official Gazette, 18/05) treats violence against women as a social, not as an individual problem, and foresees various protective measures. From 2007 the sex and age of the victims are being recorded under the statistical research on persons who have reached the age of majority and committed crimes, but they are published only for the category of those convicted. Records on domestic violence are also not precise enough, given that it is not possible to sort out data on domestic violence against women, men and children.

The available data indicate some positive changes in the implementation of the law where protection against domestic violence is concerned. First of all, there has been an increase in reported cases of domestic violence in the Republic of Serbia. In 2004, 1009 cases of domestic violence were reported, while in 2009 there were 3276 such cases. In the first observed year, men were perpetrators in 94.4% of cases, while in 2008 men were the perpetrators in 92.1% of cases. Furthermore, the data indicate that there have not been any changes in the percentage of charges filed between these two observed periods. While in 2004, charges were filed for 70.6% of reported cases of domestic violence, in 2008, 69.9% of cases were prosecuted. There is a significant improvement in the number of convictions – 374 in 2004, or 52.5% of prosecuted cases in that year, and 1681 in 2008 ,which stands at 73.4% of prosecuted cases in the same year (NSO, 2009c).[49]

When it comes to the provision of institutional support for victims of gender-based violence, there has been an increase in the number of advisory centers and safe houses for women between the two reporting periods. According to data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy for 2009, in the Republic of Serbia there are 10 safe houses (which is 4 more than in 2006) funded by state funds. Within these houses,

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[49] The highest percentage of sentences passed (69%) are suspended sentences, while 18% of perpetrators were sentenced to prison, 11% of perpetrators were sentenced to financial penalty, 1% of cases ended with a court admonition, while in other cases the court passed so-called correctional measures, meaning that the perpetrator was found guilty, but not sentenced to any punishment (NSO, 2009c).

there are also advisory centers for victims of violence. In addition to this, in Belgrade and Novi Sad there are also advisory centers for victims of violence that operate outside of safe houses. Besides public services for support for victims of violence, there are various forms of support provided by non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Serbia. The number of active support providers varies due to the differences in amounts and continuity of available donations. According to data provided by mapping support services for victims of gender-based violence (Brankovic, 2009), there were 37 active organizations of this kind Serbia-wide.[50]

Lastly, the Republic of Serbia has initiated a multi-year project whose bearer will be the Gender Equality Directorate of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia, with the purpose of developing a strategy for the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, as well as establishing a unique database on these forms of violence, which is supposed to provide better grounds for systematic efforts for the suppression and prevention of violence against women.

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[50] These organizations provide various forms of support: from psychological counseling, therapy, legal support, to medical care and shelter protection (details in Brankovic, 2009).

3.5. Conclusions

An overview of the situation and trends concerning the realization of the Third Millennium Development Goal indicates some positive steps in most of the set objectives, but they also imply a need to invest significant efforts in the next period of time in order to meet the set goals.

The data indicate a positive trend of a reduction of economic inequalities between women and men, manifested in various aspects of labor market position. However, inequalities are still clearly registered through a lower employment rate and a higher unemployment rate of women, through a significantly lower share of women among entrepreneurs and self-employed, and a majority share of women in the category of helping household members, as well as through slightly better but still poorer opportunities for women to reach positions of economic power in comparison to men.

Women from marginalized social groups – Roma women and disabled women – are in a particularly unfavorable position. Unfortunately, data on the position of marginalized groups in the labor market and gender differences between these groups are not available in an adequate form, based on regular monitoring, which means that the basis for interventions targeted at the improvement of these groups' position continues to lack quality.

When it comes to the participation of women in circles of political power and decision making, there are some contradictory trends. The participation of women in the central circles of political power and decision making has increased, the participation of women in the legislative branch has decreased while at the same time it has increased in the executive branch in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, and there has been stagnation at the level of local government, with a very low share of women among the municipality presidents.

The key elements of system foundations for the improvement of gender equality in the Republic of Serbia have been established, but there are still many tasks to be completed. Key institutional elements have been established at the central and provincial level and the process of establishing local mechanisms continues, but their capacity is usually weak. The Gender Equality Law Proposal has entered the parlia-

mentary procedure, and at the moment there is intense work being done on drafting the National Action Plan for Strategy implementation, as well as the next Report to CEDAW Committee of the United Nations.

In achieving objectives in the area of development of protection systems for female victims of violence, there is, first of all, a lack of appropriate records that would provide grounds for defining suitable measures and activities. Based on available data, we can note a trend of an increase in visibility and court processing of domestic violence cases. Based on the planned activities of the Gender Equality Directorate, it can be concluded that in the next period of time within this millennium objective, special efforts will be undertaken with the aim of providing conditions for fulfillment of the set goals.

3.6. Recommendations

- It is necessary to improve records and methods of monitoring the position of marginalized groups in the labor market, including gender-desegregated monitoring.

- It is necessary to increase the employment of women through programs of active employment, by eliminating discriminatory practices and strengthening capacities for self-employment and entrepreneurship. Programs should be adjusted to the specific needs and potentials of women, especially those from marginalized social groups.

- It is necessary to keep updated records on the share of women in trade unions and among the chairpersons of trade unions, given that there are no such records at the moment, therefore the data available depend on occasional reports from certain trade unions. It is necessary to increase the share of women in political decision making at all levels.

- It is necessary to continue with establishing local gender equality mechanisms and to strengthen their capacities. Given than only slightly more than 40% of local

self-governments in the Republic of Serbia do have such mechanisms established, it is extremely important to encourage their establishing and to strengthen their capacities for action. In addition, in order to have a more efficient gender mainstreaming policy in the Republic of Serbia, it is necessary to establish regional gender equality mechanisms that would coordinate measures and activities between central and local government levels.

- It is necessary to produce a gender-sensitive fiscal policy analysis by 2011.

- In order to establish gender-sensitive budgeting, it is necessary to base the budget planning on gender-sensitive analyses. For the future monitoring of this component, it would be very important to assess the number of sectors in public administration whose annual work plans funded by budgetary funds do contain gender perspective.

- It is necessary to establish a system for monitoring the realization of measures recommended by the UN CEDAW Committee, with an evaluation of their efficiency.

- It is necessary to establish adequate records on sexual and gender-based violence. For this purpose, it would be necessary to precisely register the number of cases of violence according to the gender and age of the victim (which would allow separate monitoring of violence against women, men and children). It is necessary to keep separate records of sexual and gender-based violence inside and outside the family. It is necessary to keep records of the percentage of reported cases that get prosecuted as offences and criminal acts, as well as of the percentage of charges filed by official authorities and charges filed by victims. Also, it is necessary to keep precise records on the percentage of prosecuted cases that ended with convictions, according to the type of conviction, i.e. the sentences passed.

- It is necessary to further develop services of social support for victims of violence, as well as coordinated activities of preventing violence against women.

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4.
FOURTH MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:
REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Objectives	Indicators
1. Between 2000 and 2015, reduce mortality of children under the age of five by an average of 50%	• Mortality rate of children under the age of five • Mortality rate of infants • Rate of perinatal mortality • Rate of neonatal mortality • Mortality rate of children under the age of five in the Roma population • Mortality rate of infants in the Roma population
2. Between 2000 and 2015, improve the coverage of women by antenatal and postnatal health care by at least one-third	• Coverage of women by modern health care during the first trimester of pregnancy (percentage of women who visited medical doctors in the first trimester of pregnancy) • Percentage of women covered by at least one medical field visit during pregnancy • Average number of medical field visits to mothers and newborn babies during the first five days after childbirth
3. Between 2000 and 2015, halve the mortality rate of children under the age of 19 from external causes of death	• Specific mortality rate of children under the age of 19 from an external causes of death[51]
4. Between 2000 and 2015, increase the percentage of exclusively breastfed infants from birth until six months of age	• Percentage of exclusively breastfed infants from birth until six months of age • Percentage of exclusively breastfed infants from birth until six months of age in the Roma population
5. Between 2000 and 2015, improve the coverage of children by mandatory immunizations to 99.0%	• Percentage of children vaccinated against measles in the first 18 months of life • Percentage of Roma children vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis in the first year of life • Percentage of Roma children vaccinated against measles in the first 18 months of life

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[51] According to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision, Chapter XX Blocks V01-Y98, external causes of mortality and morbidity include: accidents, intentional self harm, assault, events of undetermined intent, legal interventions and operations of war, complications of medical and surgical care, sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality, supplementary factors related to causes of morbidity and mortality classified elsewhere. Available at: http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10online.

4.1. Reduce mortality of children under the age of five

In 2008, mortality of children under the age of five in the Republic of Serbia stood at 7.8 deaths per 1000 live births, which is at the level of this indicator's value in countries that became EU members after 2004, that now stands at 8.6 deaths per 1000 live births (WHO, HFA). In these countries however, the value of this indicator is above the EU average which, in 2007, was 5.47 deaths per 1000 live births (WHO,HFA). The value of this indicator is approximately 2.5 deaths higher for boys in comparison to girls. The most common causes of death of children of this age are situations that occurred in the perinatal period and congenital defects, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities, but an important share of deaths are also caused by injuries and poisoning, especially in the period between one and four years old (Chart 4.1).

The majority of mortalities of children under the age of five relate to infant mortality. In 2008, the infant mortality rate stood at 6.7 deaths per 1000 live births. If we compare the infant mortality in Serbia with the EU member countries, we can note that the value of this indicator is at the same level as in the countries that became EU members after 2004, even slightly lower, but it is still substantially higher than the average value of this indicator in the EU (WHO, HFA). Most infants die in the neonatal period, in the first 6 days, from causes that occurred during the perinatal period and from congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities, as well as from causes classified as symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings (Public Health Institute of Serbia).

Chart 4.1. Mortality of children under the age of five
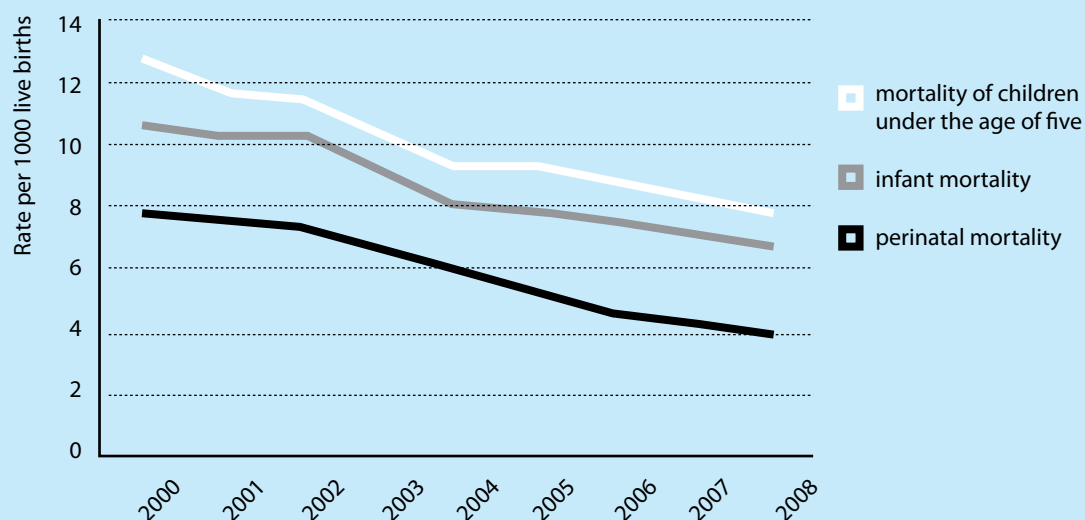
Source: Institute of Public Health of Serbia, 2008.

There are differences in the infant mortality rate between boys and girls. Data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey implemented by UNICEF show a substantially higher mortality rate of children and infants under the age of five in the Roma population. By applying the Brass Method, based on studies in this population, it was estimated that in 2005 the mortality rate of children under the age of five and the mortality rate of infants in Roma settlements stood at 29 and 25.9 deaths per 1000 live births, respectively, which is significantly higher than the average values at the level of the Republic of Serbia (UNICEF, 2005). This certainly reflects the unfavorable living conditions that the inhabitants of Roma settlements live in. It is not possible to monitor the trend, since there are no newer data on the subject, and the next research that will use the same methodology is planned for 2010, although it is not certain whether it will include the Roma population separately. On the other hand, the National Statistical Office's data on mortality in this ethnic group show values close to the values marked in the general population – in 2007, mortality of Roma children under the age of five was 8.2, and infant mortality was 5.8 per 1000 live births (Public Health Institute of Serbia, 2008). Bearing in mind the unfavorable living conditions that this population copes with, as well as some other indicators (utilization of health care, immunization coverage, nutrition of children under the age of five), it is assumed that the assessment of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey is closer to reality.

The trend of mortality of children under the age of five shows that the values of all the monitored indicators are decreasing. Thus, mortality of children under the age of five was reduced from 12.7 in 2000 to 7.8 per 1000 live births in 2008, while the infant mortality rate was reduced from 10.6 per 1000 live births in 2000 to 6.7 in 2008. The rate of perinatal mortality has been reduced, this reduction being mostly due to a decrease of neonatal mortality, while the rate of stillbirths has mostly remained at the same level (Lozanović-Miladinović et al, 2008). Given the present trend of indicators of mortality of children under the age of five, we can expect that the objective to halve the mortality by 2015 will be met.

At the primary level, health protection of children of this age is mostly provided by children's health-care services within health-care centers. They provide good health care to children of this age, as well as preventative measures (National Public Health Institute, 2008). In order to create more favorable conditions for children's life, growth and inclusion in society, in 2004, the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in collaboration with NGOs and international partners, adopted the National Action Plan for Children, which represents a plan of priority measures, activities and programs that should be undertaken. The National Action Plan emphasizes the improvement of children's health, and defines goals and activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals. In April 2009, the new Program for Health care of Women, Children, Children of School Age and Youth in Serbia was adopted, and professional methodological guidelines are being drafted at the moment, which will define measures and activities for the health care of children in line with up-to-date knowledge and recommendations.

Special attention was paid to the improvement of health in the Roma population, so the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia funded projects for the improvement of their health, implemented in collaboration with Roma NGOs. Nineteen projects related to the improvement of health of children and youth covered more than 4000 Roma children and adolescents.

4.2. Health protection of women during pregnancy, childbirth and maternity

In order to meet the objective and reduce the mortality rate of children under the age of five, it is necessary to improve antenatal and postnatal health care, especially given that the most common causes of death of children under the age of five are certain conditions originating in the perinatal period, as well as congenital defects, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities, and also symptoms, signs, and clinical and laboratory findings. Health care of women during pregnancy is important, both for their own health and for the health of their children. It provides opportunities to educate women about pregnancy and childcare, but also to give them information on the general improvement of reproductive health. In 2008, three-fourths of pregnant women (77.55%) had visited a gynecologist in the first trimester of pregnancy. Although the Regulation on the Content and Scope of the Right to Health care from the Mandatory Health Insurance and on Co-payment does foresee one mandatory medical field visit with a pregnant woman during pregnancy, or several visits in the case of a high risk pregnancy, according to the indications (Rational Health Protection Institute, 2006), in 2008, there were on average 0.88 visits per pregnant woman, which is below the planned results, meaning that nearly a quarter of pregnant women were not covered by medical field visits during pregnancy. After childbirth, the regulation foresees 5 visits to mothers and newborn babies, and in 2008 there were 5.92 visits per mother, which is more than planned.

Since 2000, there has been an improvement in the coverage of women by antenatal and postnatal care. The percentage of pregnant women that visited a gynecologist in the first trimester of pregnancy has increased since the year 2000; from 54.3% in 2000, it has reached a value of 77.55% in 2008, which is not yet a satisfactory result. The percentage of pregnant women who received medical field visits also grew from 33.9% in 2000 to 77% in 2007, which is a significant improvement of coverage. When it comes to medical field visits to mothers and newborn babies, the average number of visits has continually increased since the year 2000, growing from an initial 2.9 to 5.92 in 2008, making this indicator reach its optimal value (Chart 4.2).

Chart 4.2. Coverage of women by modern health-care protection during pregnancy

percentage of women who saw a gynecologist in the first trimester of pregnancy

percentage of women covered by medical field visits during pregnancy
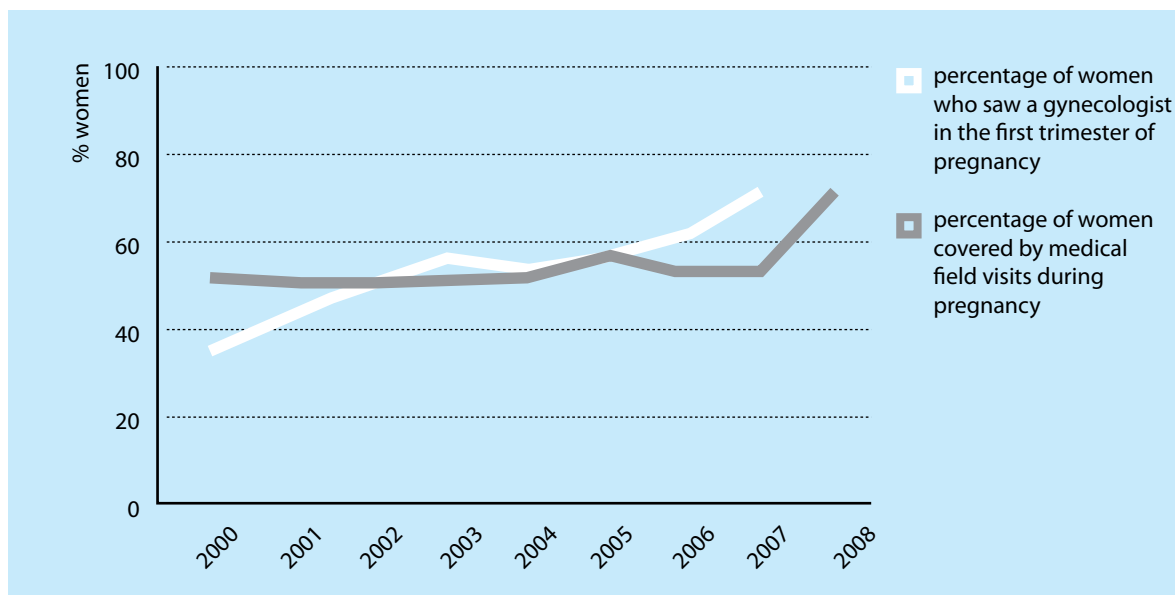
Source: Public Health Institute of Serbia, Database.

Even though there has been an improvement in the coverage of women by modern antenatal and postnatal care, research shows that there are inequalities in relation to this coverage, which is lower among Roma women, the youngest women and women with lower educational degrees (UNICEF, 2005).

At the primary level, health care related to pregnancy is implemented in health care centers, within services for health-care for women. In the period between 1997 and 2007, "Schools for pregnant women" were opened in around 60% of health-care centers, while some 30% of health-care centers provided physical and psychological preparation for pregnancy and childbirth (Public Health Institute of Serbia, 2008). It is believed that the introduction of these activities is related to changes in care, leading to a woman-centered type of protection, which is a significant improvement (Simkin et al, 1989).

In order to improve the Roma population's access to health care, especially Roma women and children, health mediators were introduced, who collaborate with clinicians from health-care centers as a part of medical filed visit service. Up till now, 48 Roma health mediators have started working within the medical filed visit service of health-care centers, and 15 more mediators are being trained at the moment, preparing to start working in September 2009 (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia, 2009).

4.3. Mortality of children under the age of 19 from external causes of death

In 2008, mortality of children under the age of 19 from external causes of death stood at 10 per 100,000 children of this age. This is the leading cause of death of this population group. Mortality rates are higher among boys than among girls. When analyzing the structure, it can be noted that the most frequent causes of death are accidents, i.e. traffic accidents. However, in the age between 15 and 19 suicide is an important cause of death; accordingly, in 2007, there were 19 registered suicides in this group (Statistical Office of Serbia, 2008). Young people under the age of 19 are often victims of violence; in 2007, 14 murder cases were registered in this age group (Statistical office of Serbia, 2008).

Chart 4.3. Mortality rate of children under the age of 19 from external causes of death
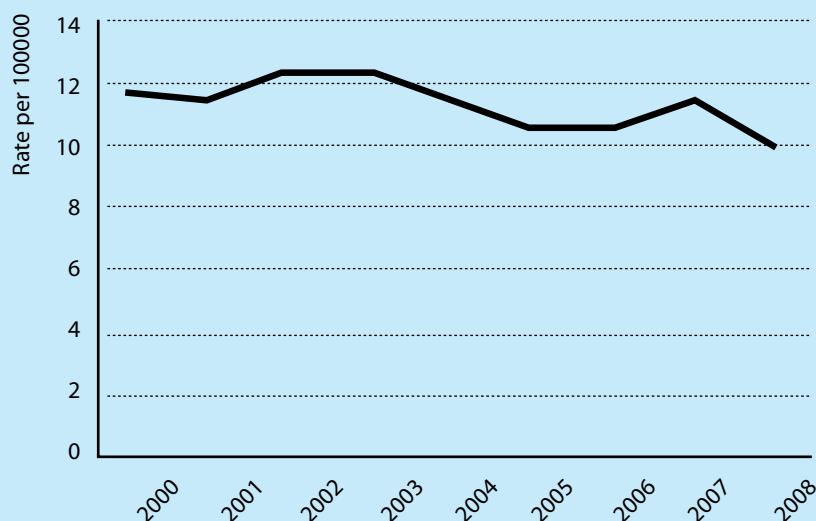
Source: Public Health Institute of Serbia, Database

In the period since the year 2000, the mortality rate of children under the age of 19 went from an initial 11.7, to 10 per 100,000 children in 2008. The lowest mortality rate was in 2008, when it stood at 10 per 100,000, while it reached its peak in 2002 when it was 12.5. Even though there has been a certain decrease in the mortality rate of children under the age of 19 from external causes, it is not certain whether the objective to halve it by the year 2015 will be reached (Chart 4.3).

The needs to improve traffic safety, to reduce violence among youth and against youth, and to preserve and improve mental health were recognized as important strategic goals for action in the National Strategy for Youth and in the Strategy for Development and Health of Youth. In 2009, a new Law on Traffic Safety on Roads was adopted. Activities aimed at the prevention of violence among children are particularly important, and since 2005, UNICEF has been implementing a program called "School without violence" in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Council for Children's Rights, Institute for Improvement of Education, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Youth and Sports. The program includes 165 schools in the Republic of Serbia, and as of September 2009, another 20 to 25 schools are expected to join in (UNICEF). This program included more than 110,000 students and 10,000 adults. There is another ongoing project, "Prevention of violence and suicide among the youth," whose bearer is the Institute for Mental Health, which educates teams within primary health care, schools and centers for social welfare to enable them to work with the youth and provide help in relation to the prevention of violence, suicides and suicidal behavior.

4.4. Percentage of breastfed children

In the first years of their lives, breastfeeding protects children from infection, provides an ideal source of nutrition, and it is cost-effective and safe. Some research have provided proof that exclusively breastfeeding children up to six months of age has certain advantages in comparison to introducing complementary foods (Kremer et al, 2002). UNICEF and WHO recommend that up to the age of six months, children should be exclusively breastfed. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, the percentage of exclusively breastfed children in 2005 was 15.1% (UNICEF, 2005), while among the Roma in Roma settlements this indicator had a more favorable value, 18.0%. There are significant regional differences in the percentage of exclusively breastfed children up to the age of six months. The highest percentage is in the territory of Southeast Serbia (22.3%) and the lowest is in the territory of West Serbia (UNICEF, 2005, NPHI, 2008).

In comparison to 2000, when the percentage of exclusively breastfed children was close to zero by the age of four months (UNICEF, 2000), these figures indicate an improvement. Such an unfavorable result in 2000 was probably a consequence of the outdated practice which advised mothers to introduce water, tea, fruit juice and other food as early as possible. In spite of this increase, the percentage of exclusively breastfed children is still insufficient.

This improvement is related to substantial efforts invested in promoting breastfeeding in the Republic of Serbia through a program of promotion, support and protection of breastfeeding and the creation of baby-and-mother-friendly health-care institutions. It was shown that children who were breastfed early (within one hour after being born) have more chances to be breastfed than those who were not, so early breastfeeding and allowing mothers and babies to stay in the same room in hospitals is very important, both for the early development of children and for the support of breastfeeding. In Serbia, there are 49 such baby-friendly hospitals with the appropriate certificates (Public Health Institute of Serbia, 2008).

4.5. Immunization of children

In Serbia, the immunization program has a long tradition, so there have been no registered cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria and neonatal tetanus in Serbia for quite a few years. In 2008, the percentage of children up to the age of 18 months immunized against measles stood at 96%, indicating a fairly high coverage. Coverage is certainly much higher than in the year 2000, when it was 87%. As early as 2001, it increased to 95% and ever since it has been at a level between 95% and 97%.

In spite of such high coverage, research shows that there are inequalities in vaccination coverage, according to regional level and socioeconomic status. Research implemented by UNICEF in 2005 indicates that the highest vaccination coverage is in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and in the territory of East Serbia, while the lowest is in the territory of Southeast Serbia. It was also noted that vaccination coverage is higher in urban environments, and among children whose mothers have a high education (UNICEF, 2005). It was emphasized that Roma children living in Roma settlements are especially endangered, given that vaccination coverage is the lowest in this population. According to this research, the percentage of children vaccinated against measles in Roma settlements stood at 63%, while in the general population of the Republic of Serbia children up to the age of 18 months it was 86.6%. The reasons given for the lower percentage of vaccinated Roma children are lack of a health insurance card, but also lack of medical assistance, lack of information among parents, as well as an attitude that vaccination is not that important (Dinkić, Ognjenović, McClelland, 2009).

Since the year 2000, there were only sporadic reported cases of measles, but in 2007 there was an epidemic with 201 registered cases, mostly among the non-vaccinated population in Roma settlements (PHI, 2008).

The Program for Health Protection of Population against Contagious Diseases 2002-2010 was adopted in the republic of Serbia in 2002. The elimination of autochthonous measles is stated as one of the priority goals of this program, and one of the measures was high vaccination coverage by the MMR vaccine mixture for children up to the age of two, followed by revaccination at twelve, with a mandatory 95% in every

settlement (Ministry of Health, 2002). In late 2006, the Activity Plan for the elimination of measles and reduction of congenital rubella syndrome rate was adopted.

Given that the need to increase the vaccination coverage of the Roma population was recognized, activities were undertaken to improve the Roma population's access to health care through the introduction of Roma health mediators. As a result of the undertaken activities, 872 children in 2008 were covered by vaccination, and by June 2009, 1600 Roma children were fully vaccinated, and the vaccination of more than 3500 children of the ages 0-15 was initiated (Ministry of Health, 2009). Also, in the period between 2006 and 2007, 16 projects related to immunization were funded, implemented by health-care institutions in collaboration with Roma NGOs. These programs include around 1800 persons.

4.6. Conclusions

In the Republic of Serbia, there has been progress when it comes to the reduction of the child mortality rate. Mortality rates are significantly dropping both among children under the age of five and among infants, in the perinatal and in neonatal periods. This is certainly due to better coverage by modern antenatal and postnatal health care, but also due to improvements in immunization coverage. Vaccination coverage is growing and reaching high values. The percentage of exclusively breast-fed infants up to the age of six months is also increasing.

Even with these improvements on the territory of the Republic of Serbia as a whole, there are significant disparities to be noted, according to regional level and socio-economic status. In some population groups, for example among the Roma, the indicators are substantially lower in comparison to the national average. Even though the existing data are not enough to monitor trends in the Roma population, research indicates that among the Roma, the mortality rate of children under the age of five is up to three times higher than the Serbian average, while vaccination coverage is substantially lower. Indicators are especially unfavorable for the population living in Roma settlements.

4.7. Recommendations

Present trends show that the Republic of Serbia is progressing well towards meeting the Millennium Goal related to the reduction of infant mortality. For further improvements, it is necessary to provide an even better coverage of women by antenatal care, which will be achieved by further strengthening primary health care in the first place. It is especially important to provide health education to women concerning pregnancy and childcare.

In order to reduce the health gap between certain population groups and the general population, it is necessary to further develop programs for improving access to health care for marginalized groups. This can be achieved by continuing with good practices, such as the introduction of Roma health-care mediators. It should be noted that the health gap, existing between certain population groups and the general population, is a result of broader social and economic health determinants, including social vulnerability and exclusion, unemployment, a low level of education and a lack of access to information. Therefore, the health gap can not be bridged by health-care services alone, but through cooperation with the education system, media, nongovernmental organizations and other organizations and sectors. Vaccination coverage is rather high and it can be improved by significantly increasing coverage in especially vulnerable populations.

It is also important to have targeted research in order to better monitor the situation in particularly vulnerable populations, which will enable the streamlining of activities to suit specific needs of these groups. In addition to assessing the actual needs of particularly vulnerable groups, such target research would enable an evaluation of previously implemented activities and their impact on health-care improvement. Target research in specific vulnerable groups should be integrated into the health-care system and carried out periodically.

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5.
FIFTH MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:
IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH
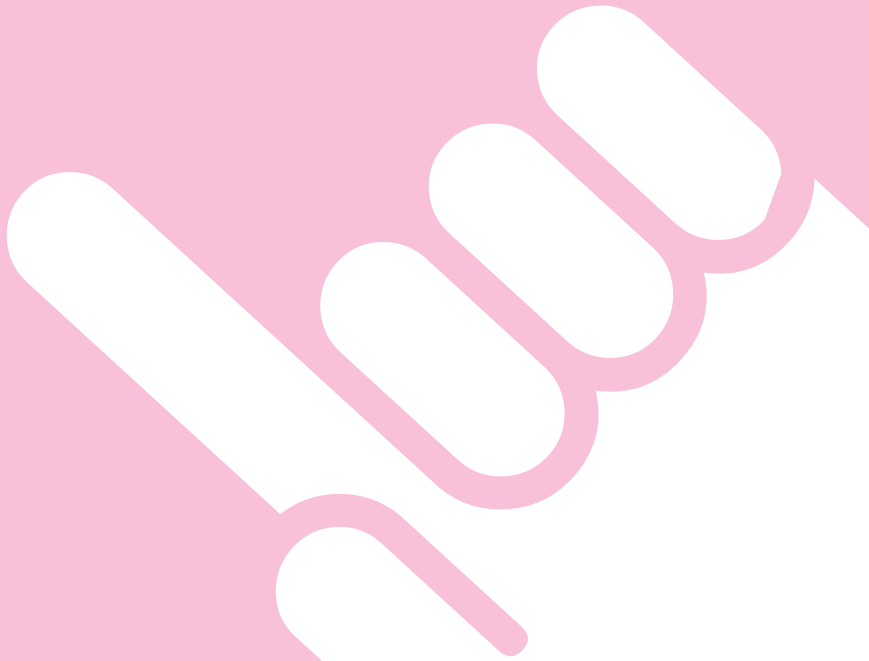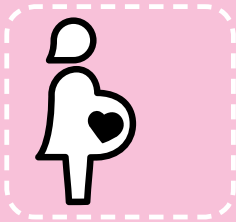
Objectives	Indicators
1. By 2015, reduce maternal mortality by one-fifth	• Maternal mortality ratio (women deceased due to complications caused by pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium per 100,000 live births) • Proportion of childbirths with medical attendance (%)
2. By 2015, preserve and improve the reproductive health of women by maintaining the fertility rate at the present level, reducing the rate of abortion by 50%, and doubling the percentage of women who use modern contraceptive methods	• General fertility rate in the reproductive period (number of live births per 1000 women between 15 and 49 years old) • Total fertility rate (number of children per woman) • Abortions in the reproductive period (rate per 100,000 women between 15 and 49 years old) • Abortions among adolescents (rate per 100,000 women between 15 and 19 years old) • Percentage of married women or women in stable relationships between 15 and 49 years old who use some of the modern contraceptive methods (modern methods: pill, intrauterine coil, condom, diaphragm, local chemical contraceptives)
3. Between 2000 and 2015, reduce the mortality of women of fertile age by one-third	• Mortality rate from all causes of death per 100,000 women of fertile age • Mortality rate from cancer per 100,000 women of fertile age • Mortality rate from all causes of death per 100,000 women of fertile age in the Roma population

5.1. Maternal mortality

Maternal mortality, i.e. mortality of women caused by diseases and conditions that occurred during pregnancy, childbirth and six weeks after childbirth, is not something that happens often, so it was suggested to monitor five-year averages. Given that the period of 2000-2004 was taken as the basis, the next five-year period is 2005-2009, and data for it is not available yet. It can be noted, though, that from 2000 to 2007, maternal mortality was at its peak in 2005 and 2006, when it stood at 13.9 and 12.7 per 100,000 live births, respectively, while it reached its lowest point in 2007 when there was not a single death caused by complications during pregnancy, childbirth or puerperium (Chart 5.1). The maternal mortality ratio in 2005 and 2006 was notably higher than the average in EU countries, where it was 5.63 in 2005, and 5.9 in 2006 (WHO, HFA).

The proportion of childbirths with medical attendance shows high values in the entire period since the year 2000, reaching 99.8% in 2007. The percentage of childbirths attended by trained medical personnel constantly increased in the observed period, from 98.7% in 2000 to 99.8% in 2007. This was a result of the practice of having almost all childbirths in health-care institutions. In spite of such a high coverage at the level of the Republic of Serbia, it has been noted that the coverage is lower in some population groups. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (UNICEF, 2005) has shown that in 2005, the percentage of childbirths with medical attendance was somewhat lower among Roma (95.4%), and even lower among the Roma living in Roma settlements (92.9%), in comparison to the average of the Republic of Serbia (which, according to this Survey, stood at 99.0%).

Chart 5.1. Ratio of maternal mortality
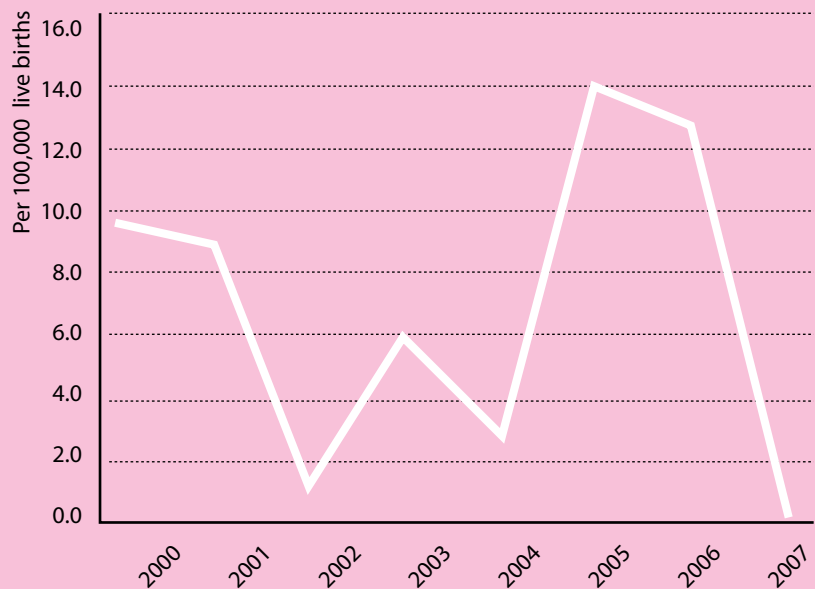
Source: Population statistics, National Statistical Office.

5.2. Reproductive health of women

Within the improvement of women's health in the reproductive age, an important aspect relates to fertility and family planning. In our country, there is a continuous negative trend in fertility. The number of live births per 1000 women of reproductive age has been reduced from 26.3 in 2000 to 22.3 in 2007, while the number of children per woman decreased from 1.5 to 1.4. In 2008, the Government of the Republic of

Serbia adopted a Birth Incentive Strategy, which provided guidelines for encouraging reproduction in response to the low birth rate (Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2008).

In the area of family planning, it is noted that abortion is still used as a method of birth control, instead of modern contraceptive methods. Research shows than in 2000, the percentage of married women or women in stable relationships who use modern contraceptive methods was 33%, while research from 2006 had a slightly higher findings, 37.3%. At the same time, there was a lower rate of abortions, both among women of reproductive age and among adolescents. In 2000, the rate of abortions among women of reproductive age was 2069.5 per 100,000 women, while in 2007, it stood at 1149.4 per 100,000 women. Among adolescents (young women between 15 and 19 years old), in 2000 there were 504.2 abortions per 100,000 adolescents. According to registered data, since 2000 this trend has been decreasing, and in 2007 this rate stood at 443.9 per 100,000 adolescents. Even though the goal is to reduce the number of abortions, there are doubts whether the data on abortions reflect the actual situation in this field. A significant problem that is stated is the fact that private health institutions do not regularly report these interventions.

5.3. Mortality of women of fertile age

Mortality of women of fertile age decreased from 129.9 in 2000 to 102 per 100,000 women in 2008. Given that it was reduced by one-fifth, and that the decreasing trend is obvious, it is expected that the objective to reduce it by one-third by 2015 will be met. Especially if we bear in mind that the mortality rate of women of reproductive age from cancer is also decreasing, given that cancer is the most common cause of death in this age.

5.4. Conclusions

Promotion of women's health in the reproductive period does show some improvements, such as a reduction in mortality of women of reproductive age from all causes of death, as well as from cancer. Figures also show a reduction in the abortion rate and an increase in the use of modern contraceptive methods, even though there are certain reservations related to a possible incomplete registration of abortions. Special attention should be paid to the continuously decreasing fertility rate.

5.5. Recommendations

Prevention of a further decrease in the fertility rate may only be achieved with broader social support and encouragement of reproduction through consistent implementation of the Birth Incentive Strategy.

In order to decrease mortality from complications during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, it is necessary to pay special attention to vulnerable groups such as adolescents, women with a low income and a low education degree, women with chronic illnesses and other marginalized groups. It is necessary to provide access to quality antenatal and postnatal care and care at childbirth.

Abortion rates are still high, and further improvements demand more active and better organized work on the promotion of modern contraceptive methods. Health edu-

cation and health promotion among adolescents, but also among adult women and their partners, through the mobilization of local communities, civil associations and media will improve overall knowledge of reproductive health and have a positive impact on attitudes and behavior in this regard. In order to achieve this, it would be helpful to carry out surveys that would clarify women's behavior, especially surveys that would include women who had several abortions, and surveys on the behavior and influence of sexual partners.

Certain financial incentives, such as subsidies for contraceptives for low-income population groups, would also contribute to the promotion of modern contraceptive methods.

In order to further decrease mortality in women of reproductive age, it is necessary to have a larger number of women covered by regular examinations in primary health care, as well as by a breast and cervical cancer early detection program.

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6.
SIXTH MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:
COMBAT HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER DISEASES

Objectives	Indicators
1. By 2015, halt the spread of HIV/AIDS	• AIDS incidence per one million people • AIDS mortality rate per one million people • Proportion of young people (between 15 and 24 years) using condoms during risky sexual intercourses (%)
2. Improve the control of tuberculosis by implementing the DOTS strategy	• Incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 people • Successfully treated newly discovered tuberculosis patients (%)
3. Increase the life expectancy by an average of two years in the period from 2000 to 2015, and reduce the share of the population who describe their health as poor or very poor	• Total life expectancy at birth • Life expectancy at birth for women • Life expectancy at birth for men • Standardized circulatory diseases mortality rate (per 100,000 people) • Standardized cancer mortality rate (per 100,000 people) • Standardized mortality rate from injuries, poisoning and other external factors (per 100,000 people) • Percentage of adult population who perceive their health as being poor or very poor
4. Reduce risky behaviors by 10% from 2000 to 2015	• Prevalence of smoking among children between 13 and 15 years old (%) • Percentage of young people between 15 and 19 years old who smoke (occasionally or daily) • Percentage of young people between 15 and 19 years old who do not consume alcoholic beverages • Percentage of young people between 15 and 19 years old who have tried psychoactive substances • Prevalence of smoking among adults aged 20 years and up (%) • Children up to five years old who are obese (body weight in proportion to height deviates by +2 standard deviations in relation to the referent population -%) • Prevalence of obesity among adults aged 20 years and up (with BMI ≥30 -%)
5. By 2010, establish centers for preventive health services in all health care centers in Serbia	• Number of centers for preventive health-care services
6. By 2010, establish mechanisms for monitoring the health of children with developmental difficulties and adult persons with disabilities	• Number of registered children with developmental difficulties

6.1. Prevention of HIV/AIDS

According to the latest data from 2008, the AIDS incidence rate was 5.1 per one million people, while the AIDS mortality rate in 2008 stood at 3 per one million people. There are three times more men than women among the AIDS patients and persons who died from it, and the majority of them were in the age group between 30 and 39 (Public Health Institute of Serbia, 2008). AIDS incidence and mortality rates are decreasing. The incidence rate has dropped from 10.4 in 2000 to 5.1 in 2008, and the mortality rate has dropped from 5.6 to 3 deceased persons per one million people.

Although the majority of AIDS victims are intravenous drug users, in recent years the number of those who were infected through unprotected sexual intercourses has been increasing. This is why the improvement of sexual behavior is of utmost importance for the control of HIV spreading. The National Health Survey of the Population of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia, 2007) has shown that 74.7% of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 use a condom during risky sexual intercourse. This represents a significant improvement in relation to the earlier survey results, according to which in 2000 only 33.4% of youth used condoms during risky sexual intercourse (UNICEF, 2000).

Since AIDS appeared in our country in 1985, numerous activities were undertaken in order to prevent its spreading, from providing education to the general population and vulnerable groups, to providing free antiretroviral therapy since 1997. The Republic of Serbia receives continuous support for the national response to HIV from UN agencies. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has allocated funds in three rounds since 2003 for the implementation of projects related to HIV control in the Republic of Serbia. The National Strategy for Fight against HIV/AIDS was adopted in 2005, providing guidelines for HIV/AIDS prevention activities in the general population, among the youth and vulnerable groups, for activities related to the provision of care, treatment and support to persons living with HIV/AIDS, for activities related to community support in the fight against HIV/AIDS, as well as for epidemiologic surveillance over HIV/AIDS, monitoring and reporting (Ministry of Health, 2005).

6.2. Control of tuberculosis

The tuberculosis incidence rate in 2008 was 24 per 100,000 people, and the percentage of successfully treated patients for 2007 was 83 (the percentage of successfully treated patients was reported for the previous year due to the long duration of treatment). The tuberculosis incidence rate in the Republic of Serbia is lower than the one in countries that have become EU member states since 2004, where the average tuberculosis incidence rate was 39.32 per 100,000 people in 2007, but it is higher than the average EU rate, which stood at 15.48 per 100,000 people in 2007 (WHO, HFA database).

With the support of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the project "Control of tuberculosis in the Republic of Serbia through implementation of DOTS strategy and outreach services" has been implemented in the Republic of Serbia since 2004. Implemented measures and activities have resulted in a decrease in the tuberculosis incidence rate from 32 per 100,000 people in 2005 to 24 per 100,000 people in 2008. During the same period, the number of successfully treated patients was increased from 69% in 2005 to 83% in 2007.

6.3. Life expectancy at birth and perception of health

Life expectancy at birth of the Serbian population increased in the period from 2001 to 2007 by 1.4 years, that is, from 72.1 to 73.4 years (Chart 6.1).

Chart 6.1. Life expectancy at birth
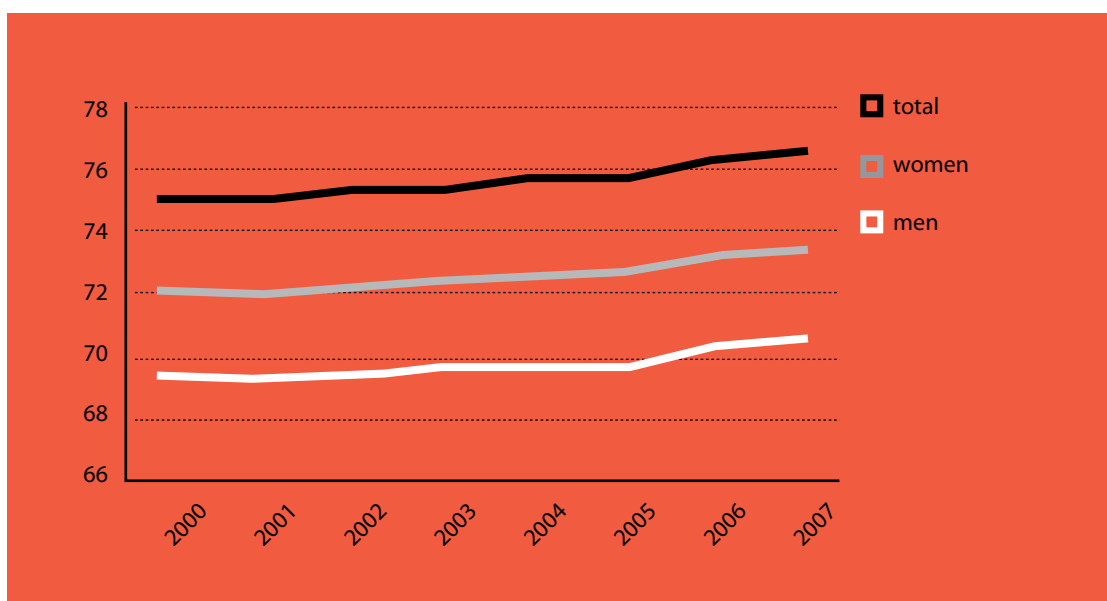
Source: National Statistical Office.

This indicator has become more favorable both for men and for women. Bearing in mind the trend of this indicator, which has been constantly increasing since 2000, it can be expected that the objective of increasing the life expectancy at birth by 2 years in the period between 2000 and 2015 will be fulfilled.

In spite of these positive trends of life expectancy at birth, the subjective assessment of population of the Republic of Serbia regarding their proper health was somewhat less favorable in the National Health Survey from 2006, when compared to the one from 2000. The percentage of adults describing their health as poor or very poor was 15.0% in 2000 and 15.7%[52] in 2006.

Chart 6.2. Standardized mortality rates, population age 0-64
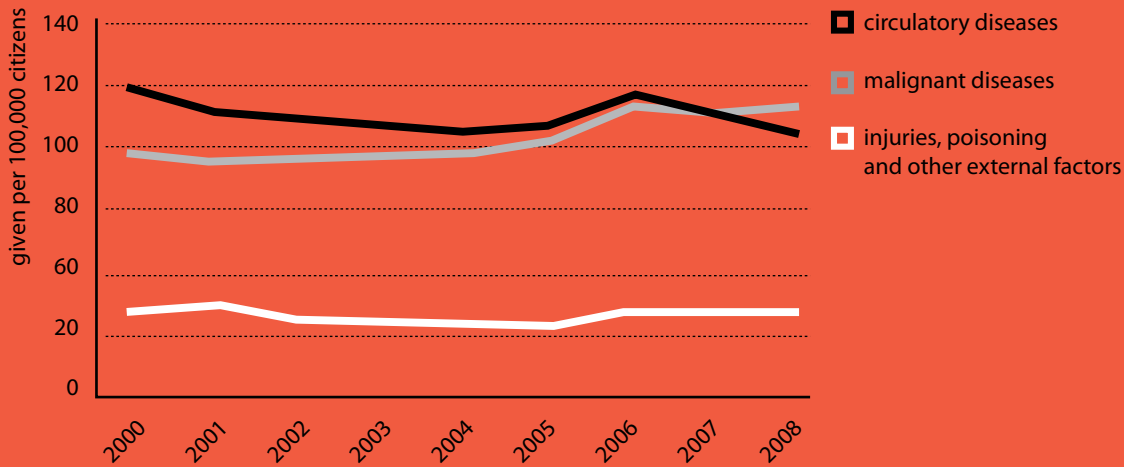
Source: Public Health Institute of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut".

Looking at the diseases which are the leading causes of death in the population of the Republic of Serbia, we can see that the standardized circulatory disease mortality rate among persons between 0 and 64 years old is considerably high, standing at 101.6 per 100,000 people in 2008. This is twice as high as the value of this indicator in the European Union (49.42 per 100,000 people in 2007), and somewhat lower than the average value in the countries which became member states in 2004, or in 2007 (105.16 in 2007, WHO, HFA database). The circulatory diseases mortality rate has been decreasing since 2007, when it stood at 120.18 per 100,000 people. This is quite significant, given that more than 50% of all deaths in the Republic of Serbia are caused precisely by circulatory diseases (Chart 6.2).

The Republic of Serbia has adopted the Strategy for Prevention and Control of Chronic Non-communicable Diseases, as a comprehensive strategic document defining

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[52] In the report from 2006, it was suggested to monitor the population older than 16 years old, but the National Health Survey in Serbia covered the adult population over 19 years old.

objectives, activities, indicators, expected results, key actors and a timeframe for the implementation of the strategy.

The standardized cancer mortality rate among the population between 0 and 64 years old was 109.8 per 100,000 people in 2008. This rate experienced an increase in the period between 2000 and 2008 (Chart 6.2). This increase can be partially explained by an improvement in the registering and identification of causes of death. However, the decrease in standardized cancer mortality rates both in the EU and in Central and Eastern European countries indicate that the modern approaches to primary and secondary prevention of cancer are still being insufficiently applied in our country (Public Health Institute of Serbia, 2008, WHO, HFA database). The problem of suffering and dying from cancer has been acknowledged, and a program called "Serbia Against Cancer," which defined the need for organized screening of cervical, breast and colon cancer was adopted. Other programs were also passed, such as the National Program for Colon Cancer Prevention, National Program for Breast Cancer Prevention and National Program for Cervical Cancer Prevention.

The standardized rate of mortality from injuries, poisoning and other external factors among persons between 0 and 64 years old in 2008 stood at 35.5 per 100,000 people. The rate was 34.9 in 2000, and it dropped in the period between 2001 and 2005, when it reached its lowest value, standing at 30.8. This mortality rate has experienced an increase since 2006 (Chart 6.2).

6.4. Health-related behaviors

The data on risky behavior, smoking, alcohol and drug use have been obtained from population surveys conducted on 5 or 6 year basis. Therefore, although it is possible to view the changes in risky behavior prevalence between the two research cycles, it is not possible to monitor the trend for now.

Smoking among school children between 13 and 15 years old is decreasing, thus the prevalence of smoking in this age group was 16.9% in the survey from 2003 and 10.4% in the survey from 2008. Positive changes related to smoking were registered in the National Health Survey of the Population of the Republic of Serbia, which also demonstrates that the percentage of youth between 15 and 19 years old who occasionally or daily smoke has dropped from 22.9% to 15.5% in the period between 2000 and 2006, while the number of non-smokers has increased. The percentage of smokers in the adult population decreased from 40.5% in 2000 to 33.6% in 2006.

In the period since 2000, numerous activities focused on smoking reduction were carried out in the Republic of Serbia, such as the ratification of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and the adoption and implementation of the National Tobacco Control Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, as well as an action plan for the period up to 2010, which certainly largely contributed to the positive changes in the prevalence of smoking.

The percentage of youth between 15 and 19 years old who do not consume alcoholic beverages increased from 58.8% in 2000 to 63.6% in 2006.

In relation to psychoactive substances, the population survey shows an increase in the number of young people between 15 and 19 years old who have tried these substances. The Government of Serbia has passed the Strategy for the Fight against Drugs in the Republic of Serbia 2009–2013, as well as the Action Plan for Program Implementation, defining, among other things, activities related to the primary prevention of drug use.

Nutrition indicators show an increase in the number of obese persons in both the adult population and among children under 5 years old. The percentage of the obese

in the population aged 20 years and up has increased from 17.4% in 2000 to 18.3% in 2006. In the group of children under 5 years old, 15.3% of children have a body weight which exceeds the referent population by over two standard deviations.

6.5. Preventive health-care services

In 2007, there were 116 health-care centers in the Republic of Serbia which functioned as independent institutions, and another 41 health-care centers within larger medical complexes, which makes a total of 157 health-care centers. Efforts were invested in establishing prevention centers within health-care centers, and their numbers increased from 27 in 2006 to 49 in 2008. However, two-thirds of health-care centers still lack prevention centers and it is still uncertain whether they can be established in all health care-centers by 2010.

Mechanisms for monitoring the health of children with developmental difficulties and adult persons with disabilities are yet to be established. There are only partial research and data.

6.6. Conclusions

Considerable results were achieved in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases. The activities implemented with significant support of international institutions have resulted in the reduction of AIDS and tuberculosis incidence, as well as the reduction of mortality related to AIDS.

Positive trends have been registered in the reduction of mortality from vascular diseases, as well as from injuries and poisoning. However, considerable efforts have to be invested in the reversal of negative trends related to mortality from cancer.

From the aspect of health-related behavior, we have registered a reduction in the prevalence of smoking, but also an increase in obesity.

6.7. Recommendations

Since the activities related to the control of tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS prevention and smoking reduction have produced considerable results, they should definitely be continued. Although significant results have been achieved in decreasing the prevalence of smoking in the country, additional efforts are necessary to ensure consistent application of the relevant legislation and promote public awareness, as well as to introduce financial measures with a view to reducing the demand for tobacco products.

The designed cancer-prevention programs are yet to be implemented, but their consistent implementation in the following period could contribute to reversing the negative trends of mortality from cancer. The relevant activities should include risk factor prevention, early detection and adequate disease control measures.

Prevention of risk factors common to several chronic illnesses, such as smoking, physical inactivity and obesity, is considered potentially the most effective. Chronic disease control requires an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, health promotion and programs conducted by other sectors. Work on the promotion of healthy lifestyles is also a prerequisite for the fight against diseases that represent the most common cause of death.

Special attention should be paid to population groups with low levels of education, low-income groups and other vulnerable groups.

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7.
SEVENTH MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:
ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Objectives	Indicators
1. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies, stop the loss of environmental resources and encourage their revitalization	• Percentage of investments in the protection of the environment in relation to the achieved GDP • Percentage of forested areas in relation to the total area of the Republic of Serbia • Percentage of protected natural goods areas in relation to the total area of the Republic of Serbia • Percentage of households using solid fuel in relation to the total number of households • Primary energy consumption (tons of equivalent oil) per GDP unit in purchasing power parity (toe/'000 GDP, in US$2000 PPP) • Percentage of energy generated from renewable energy sources in relation to total primary energy consumption • Carbon dioxide emission per capita (tons of CO_2 per capita) • Consumption of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC, ODP tons)
2. Reduce the percentage of the population without appropriate access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and organized communal waste collection	• Percentage of households with access to public waterworks • Percentage of households with access to public sewage system • Percentage of households with access to sewage system which possesses an appropriate communal wastewater treatment system • Percentage of households covered by organized communal waste collection • Percentage of water samples from controlled public waterworks which meet the physical, chemical and biological requirements, in relation to the total number of controlled systems
3. Improve the housing conditions of poor inhabitants of non-hygienic settlements	• Percentage of constructed social apartments in relation to the total number of constructed apartments • Percentage of households in poor districts in relation to the total number of households

7.1. Stop the loss of natural resources and encourage their revitalization

The long-term strategy of the Republic of Serbia in the area of the environment and sustainable development entails the improvement of the population's quality of life through ensuring desired environmental conditions and nature preservation, the reduction of pollution and pressures on the environment, as well as the use of natural resources in a manner that ensures their availability to future generations. The key steps include the strengthening of the existing measures and development of new measures for the implementation of sustainable development policy, further integration of environmental policy in other sector policies, acceptance of larger individual responsibility for the environment, harmonization of national and EU legislation as well as their full implementation, and a more active involvement of the public in the decision-making processes.

In response to European partnership goals and conditions, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the National Integration Program in October of 2008, which represents the basis of the legislative work plan of the Government of Serbia until 2012. In Serbia's EU Accession Strategy, 2012 has been identified as the year when the Republic of Serbia will be ready to undertake the obligations related to EU membership. In 2008, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the National Sustainable Development Strategy, and in 2009 the corresponding Action Plan. The implementation of this Plan is of great importance for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the Seventh Goal. The objective of the strategy is to induce the balance of three key dimensions – economic growth, environment protection and social balance, and to contribute to the harmonization of policy goals as well as the identification of their mutual advantages. The protection and preservation of the environment represent one of the priorities of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The National Environment Protection Program and National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources have not been passed yet, and their adoption will also be of utmost importance for progress in the realization of the seventh MDG. The Strategy for the Introduction of Cleaner Production, based on the sustainable development concept, was also introduced. The Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia was passed in 2006, with

the aim of preserving and improving the state of forests and improving forestry as a branch of the economy. The 2003 National Waste Management Strategy was revised.

A set of 16 environmental protection laws was adopted in May of 2009, representing obvious progress in the harmonization of environmental protection regulations with the relevant European directives, and their implementation should contribute to the resolution of many environmental problems. The laws were passed on the following: air protection, nature protection, chemicals, waste management, packaging and packaging waste, ionizing radiation protection and nuclear safety, etc. The following conventions were ratified: Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Convention on Trans-border Effects of Industrial Accidents, Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, etc. Even with the considerable efforts invested, a certain number of regulations have not been harmonized with EU legislation (for example, the Law on Waters). This is a process which demands large human and material resources.

The present level of investment in the environment in the Republic of Serbia is insufficient. In the period between 2001 and 2008, it stood at 0.3% of GDP. However, there are no precise data on total investments in environmental protection and construction of infrastructure in this area. New EU member states from Central Europe have invested from 1.5% to 2.5% of their GDP in environmental protection in the pre-accession period. The internationally recognized obligations in the environmental protection area are numerous, and lack of concern only raises future costs.

Forests, as the most valuable part of the ecosystem, capable of considerably improving general living conditions, have a very important position in the global concept of environmental protection and improvement, and accordingly demand special treatment through an appropriate system of protection, use and management of all forests' functions within sustainable development. Forested areas cover 29.1% of the total area of the Republic of Serbia, which demonstrates a positive trend in comparison to the 25.6% recorded in 2000.

Protected natural areas covered 6.19% of the total territory of the Republic of Serbia in 2008, which was a somewhat smaller percentage than in the previous year (6.20%), due to the abolishment of a level of protection of certain natural goods. When compared to 2000, when the total protected area was 4.92%, a positive trend is evident. Apart from national parks, nature reserves, exceptional natural sites, natural monuments and nature parks, 215 plant and 426 animal species are protected in the Republic of Serbia as natural rarities. Nine areas of international importance in accordance with the Ramsar Convention are also protected, and Golija-Studenica is

protected as a biosphere reserve in accordance with the Convention on Natural and Cultural Heritage. From the aspect of the percentage of protected areas in the total territory, the Republic of Serbia is among the countries with a middle-lower protection level.

The main sources of air pollution in the Republic of Serbia are thermal energy facilities (thermal power plants, heating plants), oil refineries, products of fuel combustion in industry and transportation (continual increasing of vehicle numbers and low quality of fuel - use of leaded petrol and diesel with a high percentage of sulfur), but also the use of solid fuels (heating wood and coal) in households, individual boiler rooms and burners. The National Statistical Office data on the use of solid fuel show that in 2007, as much as 54.2% of households used solid fuels, which represents a positive trend when compared to the reference value of 60% from 2002. The order of regions, in accordance with the percentage of households using solid fuels, is the following: Belgrade (24.9%) and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (51.1%) are far below the national average; Šumadija (62.7%) is in third place, followed by the territory of East Serbia (66.4%), and the territory of Southeast Serbia (75.6%), while the territory of West Serbia (79.4%) is clearly the region with the highest percentage of households using solid fuels for heating purposes (National Statistical Office, 2008). Considerable differences from the aspect of the type of heating used by urban and other settlements are evident. In urban settlements, 34.3% of households use solid fuels, as opposed to 84.1% in other settlements. Heating wood and coal remain the most-used energy sources in households, especially in the case of the poorer population. Solid fuel consumption, although decreasing, is still high. According to an estimation by the Ministry of Energy and Mining for 2008, the percentage of solid fuel in final energy consumption is 11% (Ministry of Energy and Mining, 2009). The Energy Sector Development Strategy till 2015 foresees a considerable increase in the number of individual natural gas consumers, as well as of centralized heating system users by approximately 400,000 and 180,000 households, respectively, which will certainly be reflected in the reduction of solid fuel consumption.

Energy consumption in the Republic of Serbia is quite cost-ineffective. A high level of electric energy use for heating purposes is typical, together with a very low energy efficiency in all energy consumption sectors (industry, transportation, agriculture, public and communal economic activities and in households). The level of energy efficiency in the Republic of Serbia is among the lowest in Europe. An increase in energy efficiency is necessary because of the growing problems in the global energy sector, which is directly reflected in the domestic energy situation: the growth in prices of energy-generating products (high oscillations of energy-generating products' prices in the global market during 2008), the need to provide long-term energy sources and reduce dependency on importing, as well as to protect and preserve the environment (Republic Development Bureau, 2009).

In 2008, the primary energy consumption per gross domestic product unit was 0.38 toe/'000 GDP (in US$2000 PPP) for the Republic of Serbia, according to the International Energy Agency (International Energy Agency, 2008), which indicates a minimal decrease when compared to the reference value of 0.39 toe/'000 GDP (in US$2000 PPP) from 2002. This is a very high value and only several other countries, such as Russia, Nepal, Moldavia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Ukraine had higher ones, while in the developed (OECD) countries it was approximately 0.15 toe/'000 GDP (in US$2000 PPP) (International Energy Agency, 2008). This means that 2.5 times more energy per GDP unit was used in the Republic of Serbia than in developed countries, which indicates the existence of considerable room for energy rationalization. Generally speaking, there has been a slight drop in energy consumption per GDP unit. The official data of the Republic of Serbia on this indicator are not available yet.

In 2008, the percentage of energy generated from renewable sources in relation to the total primary energy consumption was estimated at 5.86%, and that is only if the primary generated electric energy from the hydro potentials of large hydroelectric power plants is counted too (and not only the potential of hydroelectric plants up to 10 MW of power). When compared to 2002, when it was 7.5%, a slight decrease in this percentage is evident. With the aim of increasing the use of renewable energy sources in 2009 the Republic of Serbia adopted the Regulation on conditions for obtaining the status of privileged producer of electricity and criteria for assessing the fulfillment of these conditions, as well as the Regulation on measures encouradging the production of electric energy using renewable energy sources and combined production of heating and electric energy. The Republic of Serbia became in 2009 member and founder of the International Renewable Energy Agency, as the first international intergovernmental agency with specific focus on renewable energy, and will continue to actively participate in the work of this agency, in accordance with its statute and its interests in the field of use of renewable energy sources.

The energy sector, together with the transportation sector, is the main source of CO_2 emission in the Republic of Serbia, mostly due to fossil fuel combustion in thermal power plants and heating plants. The use of wood as fuel in households also contributes to CO_2 emission. In 2007. according to the International Energy Agency's statistics for 2009, the intensity of CO_2 emission (1.03 kg of CO_2/'000 GDP, in US$2000 PPP) in the Republic of Serbia is almost 2,5 times higher than the average among OECD European countries. Since 2001, when CO_2 emission was 4.43 t of CO_2 per capita, there has been a trend of growth, and in 2007 it was 6.73 t of CO_2 per capita, according to data from the International Energy Agency (International Energy Agency, 2008). The Republic of Serbia's first National Communication, within the obligations that come out of Serbian membership in the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC), has yet to be prepared, which makes the Republic of Serbia lag considerably behind most of the Convention member states, so official data on CO_2

emission are not available. The aforementioned data represent only an estimation and cannot be considered as official, and an inventory of greenhouse effect gases is still being prepared. The Republic of Serbia has ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2007 as a non-Annex I of the UNFCCC member states, that is, non-Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol member states, which opens the possibilities for the Republic of Serbia's involvement in the clean development mechanism.

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning keeps records on ozone layer damaging substances, and it reports on these matters to the UNEP Ozone Secretariat. In line with the Montreal Protocol, the ban on the use of CFC comes into force on 1 January 2010. The amount in the Republic of Serbia in 2008 was 77.5 ODP, so a positive trend and a drop in relation to the amount of 868 ODP from 1994 are evident (UNEP Ozone Secretariat, 2009).

7.2. Assure access to water supply and sanitation networks and safe handling of communal waste

The total percentage of the population with access to clear and safe drinking water in 2005 stood at 98.9%, covering 99% of the urban population and 86% of the rural population (UNICEF, 2006).[53] It should be clarified that, by definition, this indicator is identified as "the percentage of the population which uses any of the following drinking water supply sources: 1) water from waterworks; 2) a public drinking fountain; 3) an artesian well; 4) a well (protected/covered); or 5) a protected water source." Bearing in mind the level of the Republic of Serbia's development, it is more convenient to use a more narrow definition of access to clean and safe drinking water as "the percentage of households which have access to a public waterworks system."

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[53] This data relates to Serbia and Montenegro.

According to the National Statistical Office data for 2008, 78.3% of households of the Republic of Serbia had access to a public waterworks system, while the rest of the population gets water from wells, public drinking fountains and other sources (National Statistical Office, 2008). A considerable percentage (17.4%) of rural households uses protected wells or hydrants, and an additional 2.3% uses open water sources, including lakes and streams. When compared to 2002, when the percentage of the population with access to public waterworks was 69%, an improvement is evident. However, there is a great disparity in the coverage of urban and rural areas by a public waterworks system. This demands considerable improvements, and further development of the public water supply system represents a priority.

The water used in public water supply systems comes from groundwater sources (500 mil. m^3/year) and surface water sources (200 mil. m^3/year). During the summer period, there is a shortage of water in certain regions and a problem of water quality in others (especially in Banat and Bačka). Although the supply of water from public waterworks to households is considerable, many of those water supply systems do not function correctly. Due to the advanced age of the system and many years of poor maintenance, many facilities have lost their projected performances, so the service quality is reduced and the system experiences large losses. The average loss in the water supply system in Serbia is approximately 30% (Republic Development Bureau, 2009).

In 2008, 156 central waterworks systems were controlled in the territory of Serbia, out of which 113 were in the territory of Central Serbia and 43 in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Public waterworks systems that meet the requirements are those that have less than 5% of samples which fail to meet the microbiological standards and less than 20% of samples which fail to meet physical and chemical standards. In total, 50.64% of the waterworks systems meet the requirements, out of which 6.41% are in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and 44.23% in the territory of Central Serbia (National Institute for Public Health "Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut," 2009). There is a growing trend in public waterworks systems with appropriate drinking water quality.

The development of sewage systems considerably lags behind the development of water supply to the population. In the wastewater management sector, the Republic of Serbia is, according to the EBRD development and reform related transition indicators, in the next-to-last place among the transition countries, together with Albania. The NSO data for 2008 show that 35.03% of households have access to the public sewage system (National Statistical Office, Municipalities of the Republic of Serbia 2008), which indicates a slight increase when compared to the 33% registered in 2002. In the urban environment this percentage is 50% to 85%. The existing infrastructure is in a very bad shape in some municipalities, especially in the South Ser-

bia region. The lowest percentage of households with access to the public sewage systems is located in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. In Belgrade, 75.9% of the population has access to the public sewage system, while 20.3% have sanitation linked to a septic tank, and 3.7% use outhouses. There are considerable differences between towns and villages – only 15% of rural households are connected to the public sewage system. There are data showing that in 2005, a total of 87% of the population had improved sanitary conditions, covering 97% of the urban population and 77% of the rural population (National Statistical Office, 2006). This indicator, by definition, implies the "share of the population possessing in their dwelling place: 1) a toilet connected to the sewage system; 2) any kind of flushing toilet; 3) an improved septic tank; 4) a traditional septic tank." The analysis applicable to the Republic of Serbia, represented in this report, was generated through calculation of the percentage of households connected to the public sewage system in relation to the total population and percentage of households with septic tanks. The safest manner of wastewater collection is through a public sewage system.

Insufficient attention is paid to wastewater treatment prior to its discharge into recipients. Plants for treatment of city wastewater, with a collective capacity of the equivalent of a population of one million, have been constructed in 28 settlements, and in 2006, only 5 of them were functional. The discharge of wastewater from settlements, industry and agriculture into waterways is conducted without almost any previous treatment (349.2 million m^3 of communal wastewater was discharged in 2008 from the public sewage system) (National Statistical Office, 2008, Municipalities of the Republic of Serbia, 2008). According to the National Statistical Office, out of the total quantity of communal wastewater, 13.78% go through some kind of treatment before being discharged into recipients. The largest cities in the country – Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš – lack communal wastewater treatment plants. Some of the existing plants are neglected, while many offer only primary (mechanical) treatment and most of them do not function around the clock. Only 4.8% of households have access to a sewage system with an appropriate communal wastewater treatment system, out of which 0.4% of households have access to primary treatment, 4.3% to secondary and 0.3% to tertiary treatment of wastewaters prior to their discharge into a recipient (National Statistical Office, 2008). This even represents a negative trend, because the percentage has decreased when compared to the 5.3% registered in 2002, which is explained by the closing of several outdated plants.

Waste management remains unsatisfactory. The main challenges of waste management in the Republic of Serbia still relate to ensuring good coverage and capacity for the provision of basic services such as waste collection, transport and sanitary disposal. According to an estimate by the Environmental Protection Agency, because waste monitoring is currently being established, the average waste collection coverage is 60%. Waste is collected in urban environments, while in rural ones, there is

usually no organized waste collection. A very slight increase of coverage has been recorded, which represents a positive trend, but we are still dealing with estimations, without more detailed data. In line with the revised National Waste Management Strategy, it is planned for the waste collection coverage to reach 80% of the population by 2015. Several sanitary landfills have been built, several regional landfills are under construction), but large quantities of waste are still disposed in unsuitable disposal spaces, some of which do not meet even the minimal sanitary landfill technical standards. The existing level of recycling, i.e. use of waste is insufficient. Progress is expected in this area, since a new Law on Waste Management was adopted in 2009.

7.3. Housing conditions of the poor inhabitants of non-hygienic settlements

Data on safe housing are not available. The social housing issue is resolved through different housing programs. A law on social housing was adopted in August 2009, and the relevant Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is preparing a National Social Housing Strategy. Social housing is defined by the law as housing of appropriate standards provided by the support of the state. The Program of Social Non-profit Apartments has been being implemented in Belgrade for several years, and it entails the construction of 2000 apartments. In seven towns, 570 apartments were built in the framework of the Program for Housing and Integration of Refugees (Serbian Environmental Protection Agency, 2008). A certain number of apartments were built through donor programs. The construction of a large number of social apartments is planned for 2010.

A specific objective relates to the achievement of considerable improvements in the life of the poor population living in non-hygienic conditions. Housing is considered non-hygienic if it meets one of the following conditions: lack of drinking water sources, lack of sewage system, insufficient living space, temporary housing facilities, or a lack of housing security. According to a UNICEF survey, it is considered that 18.9% of households are located in slums (UNICEF, 2006). Among the poor households, only a little over a half of the apartments possess a bathroom (54.3%), that is, a lavatory (51.1%), while in the apartments of non-poor households a bathroom exists in almost 92.8 % of apartments. About 0.5% of the total population lives in premises not intended for housing (National Statistical Office, 2008). Roma represent the most vulnerable group when it comes to housing security and conditions. Almost 59% of Roma households, that is, as much as 62% of the Roma population lives in non-hygienic conditions. These settlements lack utilities, infrastructure and are built spontaneously. Individual housing units do not meet housing standards and are usually constructed out of waste materials and improvised construction material. In 2002, there were 137 Roma settlements in Belgrade, out of which 64 (45%) were non-hygienic, and there were as many as 29 (21%) slums ("cardboard settlements"), with a total of 36,702 inhabitants (UNDP, 2008). There are around 108,000 Roma in the Republic of Serbia, although Roma organizations warn that the real number of Roma

could be as much as five times higher. It was also estimated that there are 470,000 refugees and IDPs, out of which 120,000 are poor. It is very difficult to obtain data on safe housing, even approximate ones.

7.4. Conclusions

Strategic principles were determined by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy. A whole set of laws in line with EU legislation was adopted, and their implementation is of great importance for the prevention of loss of resources, protection of nature, waste management and encouraging recycling, reduction of air pollution and chemicals management. Certain progress has been achieved in the supply of water to the population from the public waterworks system and the improvement of drinking water quality. Certain progress was also achieved in the area of providing access to the public sewage system. However, communal wastewater treatment and waste management infrastructure remain the key challenges. There is room for improvement in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources, which is now mostly reduced to hydro energy and biomass. By adopting regulations on stimulation of the utilization of energy sources, conditions have been created for larger utilization of these energy sources. We still lack the First National Communication on Climate Change of Serbia, as well as official data on CO_2 emission with greenhouse effect. The realization of projects that use the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol – the clean development mechanism, are in the preparatory phase. There has also been a shift in the improvement of housing conditions of the poor inhabitants in non-hygienic settlements, and certain activities in the area of constructing a larger number of social apartments are being planned.

7.5. Recommendations

In order to achieve the objectives of the Seventh Millennium Goal by 2015, the following is necessary:

- Adoption and implementation of the National Environment Protection Plan and National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources.

- Further harmonization of environmental regulations with EU legislation and expansion and strengthening of institutional capacities.

- Preservation, improvement and expansion of existing forested areas (increasing the territory of forested areas and improving forest structure).

- Improvement of the system for managing protected natural goods and further expansion of the territory of protected natural goods.

- Encouraging the sustainable use of natural resources, reduction of specific energy and raw materials consumption, raising energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources.

- Connecting individual households in larger towns to remote or gas heating system and reducing the number of households using solid fuels.

- Capacity building for application of the Kyoto Protocol (reducing greenhouse gas emissions); planning the measures for adaptation of population, natural resources, economy, agriculture and climate changes, and their integration into all sector policies, in line with the obligations stemming from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

- Increase the number of households connected to the public waterworks system and a provision of suitable quality drinking water.

- Increase the number of persons with access to the public sewage system, revitalization of the existing wastewater treatment plants in settlements and construction of new ones.

- Increase the number of inhabitants covered by the waste collection system, construction of regional waste management centers and stimulation of waste recycling.

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8.
EIGHTH MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:
DEVELOP GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	Indicators
1. Dynamic and sustainable growth of gross domestic product	• GDP growth rate • GDP, in millions USD • GDP per capita, USD • Foreign trade balance, % GDP • Current account balance of balance of payments, % GDP • Share of direct foreign investments in % GDP • Share of foreign debt in % GDP
2. Increase the accessibility of new technologies to a much larger number of citizens	• Number of mobile phone subscribers per 100 people • Number of personal computers per 100 people • Number of internet users per 100 people
3. Increase investments in human resource development	• Share of budget expenditures for education in % GDP • Share of budget expenditures for health care in % GDP

8.1. Trends of GDP and other indicators of economic development

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals entails a dynamic and sustainable growth of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2015. Since the achievement of the first seven Millennium Development Goals depends in a larger or smaller extent on changes in GDP and other economic development indicators, we will present their evolution in the period between 2005 and 2008. But before that, we will point out the importance of developing partnerships for economic development, both with EU countries, and with countries in other regions. Active participation and support for regional, that is, international cooperation as a whole is one of the basic foreign trade priorities of Serbia (Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2008). Through integration on regional and multilateral levels, the Republic of Serbia will obtain better access to foreign markets and thus increase its effective market size, which stimulates the inflow of direct foreign investments and the growth of exports.

The Republic of Serbia has signed the EU Stabilization and Accession Agreement (SAA) as well as the Transitional Trade Agreement in 2008. By signing these documents, the Republic of Serbia has undertaken an obligation to gradually harmonize its legislation with EU legislation and apply it with consistency. The next step is to receive the status of a candidate country for EU membership. It is estimated that the Republic of Serbia will become an EU member in the next 4 to 6 years. The government has adopted many legal acts and bylaws identified in the National EU Integration Program for the period from July of 2008 to June of 2009, so it is estimated that the realization of the program in that period reached 70%.

The Republic of Serbia participates in numerous regional initiatives and processes, such as the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Stability Pact, the Central European Initiative, the Southeast Europe Cooperation Initiative and the Regional Initiative for Migration, Asylum and Refugees. The Republic of Serbia has also signed important multilateral agreements covering the countries in the region (Central European Free Trade Agreement – CEFTA 2006, Energy Community Treaty, Agreement on the Establishment of a European Common Aviation Area). The Republic of Serbia should continue to conduct the policy of improving friendly relations and maintain-

ing regional and international peace. The continued involvement of the Republic of Serbia in the regional Southeast European initiatives is important, among other things, for the fulfillment of obligations imposed by the Stabilization and Accession Agreement.

In the period between 2005 and 2008, the Republic of Serbia has achieved dynamic economic growth, high export growth, considerable inflow of direct foreign investments and an improvement in economy efficiency. The average GDP growth rate in this period was 6%. In 2005, GDP per capita, calculated in accordance with the current foreign currency exchange rate, was US$3,408, and US$6,805 in 2008.[54] The growth of aggregate demand had the biggest impact on economic growth. Besides this, economic growth was also positively influenced by realized investments and structural reforms. From the sectoral aspect, the growth of GDP is primarily the result of the growth in the telecommunications sector, wholesale and retail trade and the financial sector, while a slightly lower growth was realized in industry, transport and construction.[55] The use of GDP is characterized by a high share of personal consumption, a low share of investments and a high foreign trade deficit.

Positive macroeconomic results are followed by an increase in internal and external imbalances. The trade balance deficit increased from 20.8% of GDP in 2005 to 22.8% of GDP in 2008, and the current account deficit increased from 8.6% of GDP in 2005 to 17.4% in 2008. The trade balance deficit grew because of the faster growth of imports in comparison to exports, and the current transactions deficit grew because of the growing trade deficit and the decrease of current transfers (remittances). The coverage of imports by exports is very low, and it stood at 48% in 2008. The growth of the current account deficit is a consequence of growth in domestic demand, generated by growth in public consumption, real salaries and bank loans. It was covered by the financial account surplus through a considerable inflow of foreign capital.

The total commodities exchange between the Republic of Serbia and the EU countries continues to grow, so in 2008 the share of exports to the EU in total exports was 54.2%, while the share of imports from the EU in total imports stood at 53.2%. The commodities exchange with CEFTA members is also growing, as they represent the second-most important Republic of Serbia foreign trade partners after the EU.

Direct foreign investment in this period was 8 billion euro and its share in GDP was reduced from 6.1% in 2005 to 5.1% in 2008. The majority of these investments were related to the purchase of domestic state or social enterprises, and a minority to Greenfield Investment. The increase of investments in economic infrastructure, new technologies and equipment is the basic prerequisite for achieving higher GDP

[54] GDP per capita in 2008. calculated in accordance with the US$ exchange rate from 2005 would be US$ 4.113.

[55] The data relates to the period between 2005 and 2007.

growth rates, increase of competitiveness and growth in exports (Economic Development Strategy, 2006).

Even with the positive shifts related to the creation of a stimulating business environment, a lot more needs to be done in the field of establishing enterprises (slow administrative procedures, provision of access to infrastructural services, corruption, complex procedure of issuing building permits, impossibility of acquiring property on construction land under market conditions) and the improvement of efficiency in the judicial system in relation to property and contracts protection. According to World Bank research (World Bank, 2009) on business activities ("Doing business 2010"), which analyzes the regulation influencing the functioning of enterprises in all of their developmental phases – from establishment and business activities, international trade, tax payments to closing – Republic of Serbia is in 88th place out of 183 countries. Its ranking dropped by two places in comparison to the previous year. The decline of indicators was registered in all areas, excluding the area of simplifying company registration and the area of obtaining loans. The worst indicators in Republic of Serbia are the ones related to the area of issuing building permits (174th place).

The percentage of foreign debt in GDP in 2008 remained at approximately the same level as in 2005 – 64%. According to the World Bank criterion (the ratio between foreign debt and GDP), the Serbian economy belongs in the group of mid-level indebted countries (the limit is 80% of GDP). However, the other World Bank criterion (the ratio between foreign debt and the export of goods and services) places Republic of Serbia firmly in the group of high-level indebted countries (211.5% in comparison to the 220% limit).

Having in mind the unfavorable influences of the global financial and economic crisis, which became visible in the Republic of Serbia economy in the fourth quarter of 2008, it is estimated that the Republic of Serbia economy, following the 2009 recession and a 4% GDP drop, will stagnate in 2010 and then begin to grow again in the following two years by an average rate of 3% and 5%, respectively. The economic policy in this period will be focused on the maintenance of macroeconomic and financial stability and the recovery of the economy, with the mitigation of the negative effects of the global economic crisis on the Republic of Serbia economy (Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2009).

8.2. New technologies and their accessibility to citizens

The availability of modern technologies and their accessibility under favorable terms to a larger number of citizens can influence the reduction of the gap between the technologically outdated Republic of Serbia economy and the developed world. This should be complemented by investments in science, education, and research and development, since the knowledge-based economy is a prerequisite for fast and sustainable development. Although state expenditures on scientific and research activities have increased since 2001, they still remain at the very low level of 0.3% of GDP.

The number of mobile phone subscribers per 100 people has increased by 70.1% in the period between 2005 and 2008 – in 2008 the number of subscribers was slightly higher than the number of inhabitants (119.7). The number of personal computers per 100 people between 16 and 74 years old also experienced a growth. In 2006, there were 43.2 personal computers per 100 people (between 16 and 74 years old), and two years later there were 52. The data also indicate that not every computer owner had access to the internet because the number of internet users was slightly lower than the number of personal computers per 100 people between 16 and 74 years old. The number of internet users increased by 29.1% in the period between 2006 and 2008, from 32 users per 100 people (between 16 and 74 years old) in 2006 to 41 users per 100 people in 2008.

According to the Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies conducted by the National Statistical Office in 2008 (NSO, 2008), 40% of Republic of Serbia households own a computer, only 5.8% own a laptop and 33.2% have internet access. The largest prevalence of computers, as well as internet access, was in the urban areas, Belgrade and households with an income higher than 600 euro. The reduction of the gap between the presence of personal computers in urban and rural areas is evident, and it is caused by the higher growth of users in rural areas than in urban ones (9.6% in relation to 4.8%). Approximately one-half of households with internet access use a modem connection. Data also indicate that the use of a modem connection was reduced by 22.3% in 2008 when compared to 2007, as a consequence of a growing use of broadband connection (an increase of about 8.2%).

8.3. Investment in human resources development

The development of education and health care represents an important prerequisite for high-quality human potential and standard of living.

International experiences show that the competitiveness of a country rises with the growth of labor force adaptability and qualifications. The Republic of Serbia has oriented its policies towards attracting more foreign and Greenfield Investments. However, these structural changes are successful only if they are followed by an increase in labor force skills quantity and quality.

The analysis of the youth labor market in the Republic of Serbia (Krstic and Corbanse, 2009) has demonstrated an important correlation between the education of young people, their skills and their position in the labor market, as well as the fact that their living standard depends on these factors. Poverty has a high correlation with education levels, since persons with university degrees were not exposed to poverty risks (poverty index close to zero), and they constituted only 1.7% of the poor (Krstic, 2008). This indicates that education does pay off, since the labor market rewards education through much higher salaries for highly educated individuals in comparison to other education profiles. There is no doubt that investments in human resource development are a necessary condition for achieving the First Millennium Development Goal (halve the poverty rate and eradicate hunger). The features of the Republic of Serbia education system are provided in another part of the study in relation to the achievement of the Second Millennium Development Goal.

Although permanent reforms have been conducted in the area of education and health-care systems, investment in these economic activities, which are treated as developmental factors of the modern economy, remains at a very low level.

State expenditures for education have increased from 3.5% of GDP in 2005 to 3.8% of GDP in 2008. This share is much lower than the UNESCO recommendation of 6%, which is the level of these expenditures in OECD countries. Data for 2008 indicate

that the objective set in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, for the share of state expenditure for education to reach 6% in 2010, will not be realized.

State expenditures for health care in the period between 2005 and 2008 stood at 5.7% of GDP, while the total expenditures for health care are estimated at approximately 9% of GDP. According to some estimates, "payments out of pocket" constitute about 85% of private health-care expenses (Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2007). The features of the health-care system in the Republic of Serbia are analyzed within the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Millennium Development Goals.

8.4. Conclusions

The Republic of Serbia has achieved dynamic economic growth, high export growth, considerable inflow of direct foreign investments and an improved economy efficiency in the period between 2005 and 2008. The average GDP growth rate in this period was 6%. However, the positive macroeconomic results were followed by an increase of internal and external imbalances. The trade deficit increased from 20.8% of GDP in 2005 to 22.8% of GDP in 2008. It was covered by remittances from our workers abroad, revenue from the sale of domestic enterprises and by borrowing. The global economic crisis has caused a substantial reduction of options for covering the trade deficit. Exports, which were already considerably lower than imports, were reduced in the first half of 2009, as a consequence of the drop in export demand. The inflow of direct foreign investment on the basis of privatization, which is practically over, will also be small in the following period.

Even with the positive shifts related to the creation of a positive business climate, a lot more has to be done on improving the business and investment climate in order to attract direct foreign investments and channel them towards the export-oriented economy sectors, especially those that produce modern technologies.

The accessibility of modern technologies to a larger number of citizens would definitely influence the reduction of the gap between the technologically outdated Republic of Serbia economy and the developed world. This should certainly be complemented by further state investments in science, education, and research and development, since a knowledge-based economy is a prerequisite of fast and sustainable development, especially bearing in mind small state budget allocations for these purposes.

8.5. Recommendations

- In order to effectuate the results in developing partnerships with the EU and countries in other regions, it is necessary to adapt the economic policy to the expansion needs of export economy sectors, which especially relates to the methods for sustaining macroeconomic stability.

- Improve the set of fiscal incentives for direct foreign and domestic investment in export sectors of the economy, especially if they increase production, employment and exports, if they are located in underdeveloped regions and if they use high technology.

- It is also necessary to improve the business climate, which in the first place entails political stability and also higher efficiency in the judiciary system and administration, as well as the reduction of corruption.

- Continuously increase strategic investment in science, education, and research and development. Create conditions for employment of highly educated individuals, as well as conditions for the return of those professionals who have temporarily left the country.

- Establish a set of incentives for all companies and entrepreneurs investing in development and increase the scale of innovative and inventive activities.

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
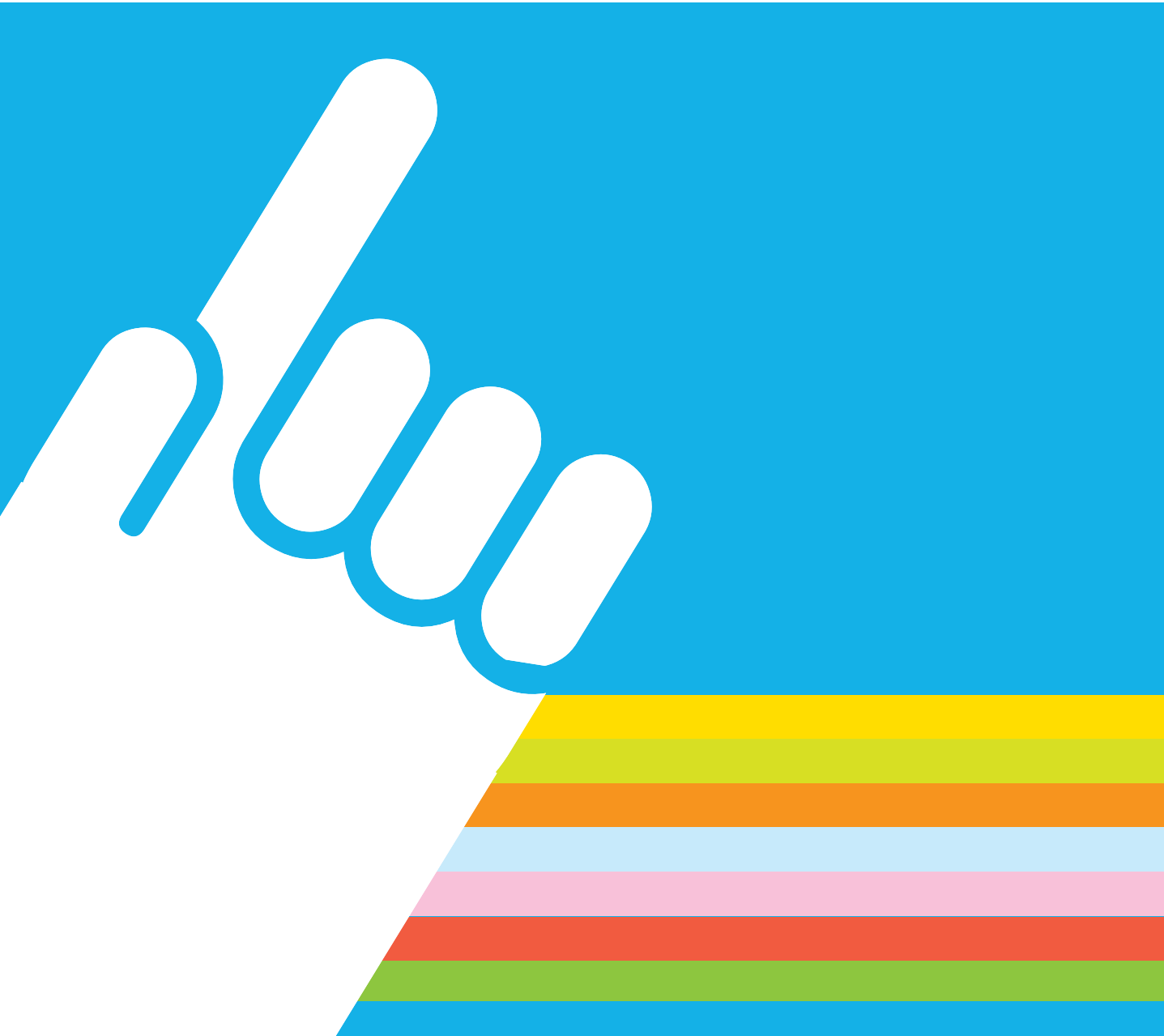
First Millennium Development Goal: Halve The Poverty Rate And Eradicate Hunger

The greatest progress in the realization of MDGs has certainly been achieved in the area of poverty, bearing in mind that the total poverty rate in 2007 was halved in comparison to 2002 (14% vs. 6.6%), and the extreme poverty rate was close to zero. Therefore, the First Millennium Development Goal, to halve the poverty rate and eradicate hunger by 2015, was already accomplished by 2007.

The most vulnerable categories are people from rural areas, especially on the territory of Southeast Serbia, the uneducated and unemployed population, children up to the age of 14, the elderly (older than 65), households with two or more small children (0-6 yrs), Roma and IDPs. The poverty rate of urban and rural areas decreased, but differences between them have deepened. Also, the poverty rate of refugees and IDPs decreased, while changes in Roma poverty could not be monitored due to the lack of comparable data. Poverty of Roma in 2001 was several times more widespread and also much deeper and more severe in comparison to the general population, which was to be expected bearing in mind the unfavorable position of Roma in the labor market, i.e. their high unemployment rate.

In spite of these noted positive trends in the labor market in the period from 2005 to 2009, high unemployment, especially among the youth and the long-term unemployed, remains one of the greatest economic and social problems in the Republic of Serbia. IDPs and Roma were especially vulnerable in the labor market, which certainly had an influence on the fact that a lot of these persons remain poor. On the other hand, disabled persons had a low unemployment rate, but a rather high inactivity rate, which is mostly due to the fact that they are discouraged from seeking a job. This led to their exclusion from the labor market, which may lead to their social exclusion.

Therefore, it is necessary to focus measures of a social inclusion policy on vulnerable groups such as IDPs, refugees, disabled persons and Roma. Improvement of the labor market position of especially vulnerable groups is the basic precondition for poverty reduction and their social inclusion. It is necessary to increase their employment through active employment programs, but it is also necessary to encourage self-em-

ployment and entrepreneurship. In addition, it is necessary to improve the monitoring of vulnerable groups' position in the labor market, as well as their living standard.

Deterioration of indicators in the labor market in 2009, as a consequence of the global economic crisis' effects on the Republic of Serbia economy, indicated the possible formation of a new poor population, as well as an extremely poor population. Population groups that may be especially endangered in the next period of time are the youth, but also others that seek employment for the first time, as well as unemployed persons from especially vulnerable groups that were at risk even in normal conditions, such as unemployed Roma, IDPs, and disabled persons. For this reason, state assistance to the poor in the next period of time should prevent the formation of new poverty, but also help not to deepen the poverty of the most vulnerable categories of the population.

Second Millennium Development Goal: Ensure That By 2015 All Boys And Girls Complete A Full Course Of Primary Schooling

Of all the education levels, preschool education coverage has marked the greatest increase. This positive trend is most notable at the age of one year before going to school, which doubtlessly indicates that the introduction of the mandatory and free Preschool Preparation Program in 2006 had a positive effect on the number of covered children in the general population. However, children from poor families, children with developmental difficulties, Roma children and rural children were significantly less included in preschool education. This is why, in addition to the "reconstruction" of the preschool institutions network, it is necessary to implement measures to inform parents about the importance and the benefits of sending their children to preschool programs.

In the Republic of Serbia in 2008, 4.3% of school-aged children were not enrolled in primary schools (NSO). When transferring to the fifth grade, 0.87% of enrolled children dropped out of the system, and 94.8% managed to finish primary school. Indicators of coverage and primary school completion are much less favorable when it comes to rural children and Roma children. International tests show that the influence of socioeconomic status on the achievement of students that remained in regu-

lar schooling at the age of 15 is far below the average of OECD countries, and that the education system in the Republic of Serbia can be viewed as fair. In the next period of time, special attention should be paid to measures that will make the education system in the Republic of Serbia more accessible to children from vulnerable groups, keeping them in the system as long as possible.

In the light of the life-long learning concept, alongside the youth of appropriate age that were not covered by secondary school education (15%), the education system should "offer a second chance" to the education of adults. Therefore, it is necessary to invest additional effort into making the system of formal education more flexible and open for all, and it would also be good to undertake some concrete activities to establish a system of recognizing and acknowledging competences acquired in informal educational context that manages to respond to the dynamic requests of the labor market much faster.

The quality of education in the Republic of Serbia is below the international average, and it dropped in the period between 2003 and 2006/07. Results of our 15-year-olds, showing the level of acquired applicable knowledge, indicate that our education system produces human resources that are not competitive in the global labor market. Goals of education contained in the new Law on Basis of Education and Edification System should serve as the starting point for making a new Strategy of Education in the Republic of Serbia.

Third Millennium Development Goal: Gender Equality And Empowerment Of Women

The analysis of trends in achieving the Third Millennium Goal, which foresees improvement in gender equality and empowerment of women, shows some contradictory tendencies. The area of economic inequalities is marked by certain steps forward in the form of an increased share of women among employees, decreased differences in unemployment rates between men and women, and increased share of women among entrepreneurs and self-employed. However, there are still gender inequalities in labor market positions. This is particularly unfavorable in relation to women's opportunities of advancing to positions of economic power, and it is extremely unfavorable among the marginalized social groups, such as the total population engaged in agriculture within the household, the Roma minority and persons with disabilities.

Trends of participation of women in the sphere of political decision making indicate increased participation in legislative and executive branches of central power, while their participation in the local self-governments' bodies is stagnating. Construction of institutional foundations for gender equality is not finished yet. Positive trends can be seen in the sphere of the protection of women from violence. Data indicate that violence against women has become a more transparent social problem, and a higher percentage of violence-related cases are being processed in the judiciary institution. Capacities of social services for victims of violence are also increasing, even though they are still substantially below the level of needs.

In order to more efficiently monitor progress in the realization of the Third Millennium Goal, it is necessary to improve records and methods of monitoring, especially where minority groups are concerned, or trends in the sphere of legal protection of women from various forms of gender-based violence. In order to reduce economic inequalities and economically empower women, it is necessary to increase their employment through active measures of the labor market, suppression of discriminatory practices, and strengthening their economic resources and capacities.

In order to increase the participation of women in political decision making, it is necessary to increase their presence at all levels and in all forms of government, especially in legislative and executive branches. It is necessary to finish the initiated processes of constructing institutional mechanisms (especially at the local level), but also to intensely implement measures and policies targeted at gender mainstreaming, as well as to monitor their implementation. It is necessary to improve the efficiency of protection of women from violence, as well as to strengthen the resources in the provision of social services for protection from violence and for prevention of violence against women.

Fourth, Fifth And Sixth Millennium Development Goals: Reduce Child Mortality; Improve Maternal Health; Combat Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis And Other Diseases

In the Republic of Serbia, there has been important progress in the reduction of child mortality, and it is realistic to expect that the objective to halve this mortality by 2015 will be reached. Mortality rates are significantly decreasing both among children under the age of five, and among infants, in the neonatal and perinatal periods. This is also due to better coverage by modern antenatal and postnatal health care, as well as to improvements in immunization coverage.

In the area of women's health in the reproductive period, there are some improvements to be noted, such as reduction of mortality of women of reproductive age from all causes, as well as from cancer. Data also show a reduction of the abortion rate and an increase in the use of modern contraceptive methods, even though there are certain reservations related to the possible incomplete registration of abortions. Special attention should be paid to the continuous reduction of the fertility rate.

Even though the overall health of women and children did improve at the level of the Republic of Serbia, there are some significant differences to be noted, both at the regional level and according to socioeconomic status. In some population groups, for example among the Roma, the indicators stand at much lower values in comparison to the national average. In order to reduce the health gap between certain population groups and the general population, it is necessary to further develop programs for improving access to health protection to marginalized groups. It is also necessary to better monitor the situation in especially vulnerable groups through targeted surveys.

Significant results have been achieved in the combat against AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases. Activities undertaken with considerable support from international institutions led to reduction of incidence of AIDS and tuberculosis, as well as to a reduction in mortality caused by these diseases. Positive flows are noted in the reduction of mortality from vascular diseases, as well as from injuries and poisoning. Nevertheless, substantial efforts should be invested in order to change the unfavorable trends related to mortality from cancer.

In the area of health-related behavior, reduction of smoking prevalence was noted, but also an increase in obesity.

For further improvements in the health of women and children, it is necessary to provide an even better coverage of women by modern antenatal protection, which will be achieved by further strengthening primary health care in the first place. It is especially important to introduce health education for women related to pregnancy and childcare. Work on the promotion of healthy lifestyles is a precondition for combating diseases which are the leading causes of death.

Seventh Millennium Development Goal: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

The realization of the Seventh Millennium Goal achieved substantial progress by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy and a whole set of laws in line with EU legislation, and their implementation is of great importance for the prevention of loss of resources, protection of nature, waste management and encouraging recycling, reduction of air pollution and chemicals management. With the adoption of legislation encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, conditions have been created in the Republic of Serbia that can increase the use of these energy sources. In order to complete the strategic framework for the environment, it is necessary to adopt the National Environment Protection Plan and the National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources, as well as to expand and strengthen the institutional capacities for the implementation of these regulations. There is obvious progress in the supply of water to the population from the public waterworks system and an improvement in drinking water quality, but it is necessary to continuously increase the number of connected households. A certain, albeit insufficient, progress was also achieved in the area of providing access to the public sewage system. However, communal wastewater treatment is at a very low level and improvements will demand a lot of financial investment. Also, in line with the reviewed National Waste Management Strategy, one of the priorities of the government is to increase the number of inhabitants covered by the waste collection system, construction of regional waste management centers and stimulating waste recycling. There is room for improvement in energy efficiency, reduction of specific consumption of energy and raw materials, and the use of renewable energy sources. There is also a shift in the improvement of housing conditions of poor inhabitants in non-hygienic settlements, and there are plans to construct a larger number of social apartments.

Eighth Millennium Development Goal:
Develop Global Partnerships For Development

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals entails a dynamic and sustainable growth of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2015. The Republic of Serbia has achieved dynamic economic growth, high export growth, a considerable inflow of direct foreign investments and an improved economy efficiency in the period between 2005 and 2008. The average GDP growth in this period was 6%. However, these positive macroeconomic results were followed by an increase in internal and external imbalances. The trade balance deficit increased from 20.8% of GDP in 2005 to 22.8% of GDP in 2008. It was covered by remittances from our workers abroad, revenue from the sale of domestic enterprises and by borrowing. The global economic crisis has caused a substantial reduction of options for covering the trade deficit. Exports, which were already considerably lower than imports, was reduced in the first half of 2009, as a consequence of the drop in export demand. The inflow of direct foreign investments on the basis of privatization, which is practically over, will also be small in the following period.

In order to effectuate the results in developing partnerships with the EU and countries in other regions, it is necessary to adapt the economic policy to the expansion needs of export economy sectors, which especially relates to the methods for sustaining macroeconomic stability.

Even with the positive shifts related to the creation of a positive business climate, a lot more has to be done on the improvement of the business and investment climate in order to attract direct foreign investment and channel it towards the export-oriented economy sectors, especially those that bring modern technologies. Improvement of the business climate entails political stability in the first place, but also higher efficiency of the judiciary system and administration, as well as a reduction of corruption.

The accessibility of modern technologies to a larger number of citizens would definitely influence the reduction of the gap between the technologically outdated Republic of Serbia economy and the developed world. This should certainly be complemented by the further increase of strategic state investments in science, education, and research and development, since a knowledge-based economy is a prerequisite for a fast and sustainable development, and especially bearing in mind small state expenditures for these purposes up until now.

Table: National Millennium Goals, Objectives and Indicators

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
MDG 1: HALVE THE POVERTY RATE AND ERADICATE HUNGER					
Objective 1: By 2015, reduce the unemployment rate by at least 50%	Total unemployment rate (15-64 yrs)	2005	21.8	2009	16.4
	Youth unemployment rate (15-24 yrs)	2005	47.7	2009	40.7
	Ratio of long-term unemployed in the total number of unemployed (15-64 yrs)	2005	79.0	2009	61.8
	Disabled persons unemployment rate (15-64 yrs)			2007	13.3
	Roma unemployment rate (15-64 yrs)			2007	31.6
	Refugee unemployment rate (15-64 yrs)	2002	22.0	2007	18.1
	IDPs unemployment rate (15-64 yrs)			2007	36.0
Objective 2: By 2015, halve the poverty rate of the entire population and eradicate hunger	Entire population poverty rate	2002	14.0	2007	6.6
	Urban areas poverty rate	2002	11.2	2007	4.3
	Rural areas poverty rate	2002	17.7	2007	9.8
	Roma poverty rate			2007	49.2
	Refugee poverty rate	2002	24.0	2007	7.4
	IDPs poverty rate	2002	24.6	2007	14.5
	Entire population poverty rate based on the relative line of poverty (60% of the income median)			2007	21.6
	Children up to the age of five whose body weight in relation to height deviates more than minus two standard deviations in relation to the referent population	2005	3.3		
	Share of state expenditures for social protection in % GDP	2005	15.6	2008	16.4

	Source	Note
<td colspan="3" style="background:yellow"></td>		
	LFS, NSO	Data is not entirely comparable due to coverage improvements since 2008. See details in text.
	LFS, NSO	
	LFS, NSO	New indicator.
	LSMS, NSO	There is no comparable data for 2002: it is suggested to make 2007 the referent year.
	LSMS, NSO	Only Roma integrated in the general population are included. It is not possible to calculate the comparable data for 2002 since LSMS did not contain a question on ethnicity.
	LSMS IDPs, NSO	It is suggested to introduce separate unemployment rates for refugees and IDPs. The data from 2007are relevant only for IDPs.
	LSMS, NSO	Data for 2002 are changed in comparison to the previous report due to amended methodology.
	LSMS, NSO	
	LSMS, NSO	
	LSMS, NSO	Only Roma integrated in the general population are included. It is not possible to calculate the comparable data for 2002 since LSMS did not contain a question on ethnicity.
	LSMS, NSO	In comparison to the previous report, poverty rates of refugees and IDPs were separated. Poverty rate was not calculated based on LSMS of IDPs because there is neither a defined consumption aggregate nor a poverty line.
	LSMS, NSO	
	LSMS, NSO	New indicator.
	DevInfo, NSO	Next indicator will be available based on MICS in 2010.
	MF, DevInfo	The value of the indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report.

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
MDG 2 : BY 2015 ALL BOYS AND GIRLS COMPLETE A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY SCHOOLING					
Objective 1: Increase in primary schooling coverage	Percentage of children enrolled in primary schools	2005	97.50	2008	95.7
	Percentage of children that finish primary school	2005	95.29	2008	94.8
	Percentage of children enrolled in the fifth grade	2005	98.86	2008	99.13
	Percentage of children[56] covered by preschool education	2005	48.23	2008	51.24
	Number of preschool institutions in the Republic of Serbia	2005	1873	2008	2297
Objective 2: Obtaining a profession, promotion of the concept of life-long learning, availability of higher education	Percentage of children that finish regular secondary school	2005	85.68	2008	82.76
	Coverage of children by secondary school (grades I-IV of secondary school, 15-18 yrs old)	2005	76.42	2008	81.68
	Net enrollment rate in secondary school	2005	76.40	2008	81.58
	Enrollment of students into the first grade of secondary school immediately after primary school	2005/06	97.59	2008	98.6
	Percentage of irregular secondary school students	2004/05	2.73	2008	3.06
	Percentage of youth that go to tertiary education immediately after secondary school (4 yrs)	2005/06	79.50	2008	
	Percentage of literate youth between 15-24 yrs old	2002	99.36	2008	
	Percentage of youth between 15-24 yrs old without primary school	2002	5.70	2008	
Objective 3: Improvement of education quality	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) – math	2003	477 average 466	2007	486 average 500
	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) – science	2003	468 average 473	2007	470 average 500
	Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) – math	2003	437 average 500	2006	435 average 498
	Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) – science	2003	436 average 500	2006	436 average 500
	Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) – reading	2003	412 average 494	2006	401 average 429

[56] Between 3 and 7 years old.
[57] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

		Source	Note
		NSO	The value of the indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report, in collaboration with NSO.
		NSO	
		NSO	Data did not exist in the previous version of the report.
		NSO	The value of the indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report, in collaboration with NSO.
		NSO	
		NSO	
		NSO	
		NSO, according to: ME	
		NSO, according to: ME	The value of the indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report, in collaboration with NSO.
			The value of the indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report, in collaboration with NSO.
		Census, NSO	
		Census, NSO	
		Institute for Pedagogical Research, ME	Testing is done every 4 years, which means that there is no data for 2005.
		Institute for Pedagogical Research, ME	Testing is done every 4 years, which means that there is no data for 2005.
		Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, OECD, ME	Testing is done every 3 years, which means that there is no data for 2005.
		Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, OECD[57], ME	Testing is done every 3 years, which means that there is no data for 2005.
		Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, OECD, ME	Testing is done every 3 years, which means that there is no data for 2005.

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
MDG 3: GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN					
Objective 1: Halve economic inequality between men and women (in poverty, employment, unemployment, partici-pation in trade unions, advancement at work, compensation)	Comparative employment rates of men and women of working age (15-64)	2005	61.2 m 40.8 f	2009	58.7 m 43.3 f
	Comparative unemployment rates of men and women of working age (15-64)	2005	17.6 m 27.4 f	2009	15.0 m 18.1 f
	Percentage of women among salaried workers in the non-agricultural sector	2005	40.2	2009	42.4
	Percentage of women among entre-preneurs and self-employed	2005	23.8	2009	27.0
	Percentage of women among directors of business companies	2006	20.8	2009	20.6
	Percentage of women among helping household members	2005	69.6	2009	72.3
	Salary gap between men and women	2004	16%	2008	
	Comparative employment rates of Roma men and women of working age (15-64)	2006	-	2009	42.6 m 10.3 f
	Comparative unemployment rates of Roma men and women of working age (15-64)	2006	-	2009	28.0 m 68.2 f
	Comparative employment rates of disabled men and women of working age (15-64)	2002	-	2007	32.2 m 20.9 f
	Comparative unemployment rates of disabled men and women of working age (15-64)	2002	-	2007	11.6 m 15.9 f
	Percentage of women among trade union members	2002	40.04[58]	2008	46.05[59]
	Percentage of women on chair posi-tions in trade unions	2002	5.56[60]	2008	20.07[61]

[58] Value for 2002 is based exclusively on data for UBTU „Nezavisnost".
[59] Value for 2008 is based on data for both UBTU „Nezavisnost" and AITUS.
[60] Value for 2002 is based exclusively on data for UBTU „Nezavisnost".
[61] Value for 2008 is based on data for both UBTU „Nezavisnost" and AITUS.

	Source	Note
	LFS, NSO	New indicator.
	LFS, NSO	New indicator.
	LFS, NSO	Modified indicator, harmonized with the one used in World Report on Realization of MDGs .
	LFS, NSO	Modified indicator – instead of percentage of women among founders of business companies, change of source: NSO instead of Agency for Business Registers.
	Agency for Business Registers of the Republic of Serbia	New indicator, introduced to show inequalities in participation in economic decision making and power.
	LFS, NSO	New indicator, introduced because of importance of monitoring gender inequalities in the sphere of unpaid labor.
	LFS, NSO	Redefined indicator in line with the available methodology of monitoring of NSO.
	LFS, NSO	New indicator, introduced instead of the previous one which related to the number of employed Roma women: instead of NES, LFS NSO.
	LFS, NSO	New indicator, introduced because of the importance of monitoring gender inequalities in this marginalized group.
	LSMS, NSO	New indicator, introduced instead of the previous one which related to the number of employed women with disabilities: change of source - instead of NES, LFS NSO.
	LSMS,NSO	New indicator, introduced because of the importance of monitoring gender inequalities in this marginalized group.
	Trade Unions	Incomplete data: for 2002 only data for UBTU "Nezavisnost" are available, while for 2008 there are data for both "Nezavisnost" and AITUS.
	Trade Unions	Incomplete data: for 2002 only data for UBTU "Nezavisnost" are available, while for 2008 there are data for both "Nezavisnost" and AITUS.

Objective 2: By 2015, increase the participation of women at all levels of political decision making to at least 30%	Percentage of women among MPs in the National Assembly of Serbia	2004	11.0	2008	22.0
	Percentage of women among members of the Government of the Republic of Serbia	2004	12.0	2008	18.0
	Percentage of women among ambassadors	2002	11.0	2009	20.0
	Percentage of women among members of municipal assemblies in the Republic of Serbia	2004	21.0	2008	21.0
	Percentage of women among municipality presidents in the Republic of Serbia	2004	3.6	2008	4.2
Objective 3: By 2011, finalize the setting of system assumptions for achieving gender equality	Number of public administration sectors whose annual work plans with budgets contain gender perspective	-	-	-	-
	Number of employees in public administration included in trainings on gender studies, including gender budgeting	-	-	2009	265
	Number of local mechanisms for improving gender equality	-	-	2009	69
Objective 4: By 2015, develop a system of protection for female victims of violence and a system of preventing violence against women	Percentage of criminal charges filed in cases of domestic violence in comparison to overall number of reported cases	2004	70.6	2008	69.9
	Percentage of convictions in cases of domestic violence in comparison to number of prosecuted cases	2004	52.5	2008	73.4
	Number of safe houses funded by state funds	2006	6	2009	10
	Number of advisory centers for female victims of violence funded by state funds	2005	6	2009	12

	NSO	
	Government of the Republic of Serbia	Redefined indicator and objective, due to the attitude that it is necessary to include the highest positions of the executive branch.
	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy	Old indicator.
	NSO	New, more precise indicator for participation in local legislative branch, instead of the old indicator – percentage of women among chair persons of local self-governments.
	NSO	New indicator, introduced for a more precise insight into the share of women in the highest positions in local self-governments.
	Gender Equality Directorate	Redefined old indicator which related only to gender-sensitive analysis of the budget, not to gender budgeting itself.
	Public Administration Human Resources Management Service	Change of year of realization.
	Gender Equality Directorate	Redefined old mechanism which measured the number of employees in mechanisms, not the presence of local mechanisms in the total number of local self-governments in the Republic of Serbia.
	NSO	New indicator instead of the old one: number of reported cases and court procedures related to violence against women.
	NSO	New indicator instead of the old one: number of family legal protection measures.
	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy	
	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy	

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
MDG 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY					
Objective 1: Between 2000 and 2015, reduce mortality of children under the age of five by an average of 50%	Mortality rate of children under the age of five (per 1000 live births)	2000	12.7	2008	7.8
	Mortality rate of infants (per 1000 live births)	2000	10.6	2008	6.7
	Rate of perinatal mortality (per 1000 live births)	2000	11.2	2008	8.9
	Rate of neonatal mortality (per 1000 live births)	2000	7.7	2008	4
	Mortality rate of children under the age of five in the Roma population (per 1000 live births)	2005	29.0		
	Mortality rate of infants in the Roma population (per 1000 live births)	2005	25.9		
Objective 2: Between 2000 and 2015, improve coverage of women by antenatal and postnatal health care by at least one-third	Coverage of women by modern health protection (percentage of women who visited medical doctors in the first trimester of pregnancy)	2000	54.3	2008	77.55
	Coverage of women by at least one medical field visit during pregnancy (percentage of women covered by at least one medical field visit during pregnancy)	2000	33.9	2007	77
	Average number of medical field visits to mothers and newborn babies	2000	2.9	2008	5.92
Objective 3: Between 2000 and 2015, halve the mortality rate of children under the age of 19 from external causes of death	Specific mortality rate of children under the age of 19 from external causes of death (per 100,000 children of same age)	2000	15.9	2008	10
Objective 4: Between 2000 and 2015, increase the percentage of exclusively breastfed infants from birth until six months of age to at least 30%	Percentage of exclusively breastfed infants from birth until six months of age	2005	15.1		
	Percentage of exclusively breastfed infants from birth until six months of age in Roma population	2005	18.0		
Objective 5: Between 2000 and 2015, improve coverage of children by mandatory immunizations to 99.0%	Percentage of children vaccinated against measles in first 18 months of life	2000	86.6	2008	96
	Percentage of Roma children vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis in the first year of life	2005	70.0		
	Percentage of Roma children vaccinated against measles in first 18 months of life	2005	63.0		

	Source	Note
	NSO	
	NSO	
	NSO	
	NSO	
	UNICEF, MICS	
	UNICEF, MICS	
	NIPH Batut	
	NIPH Batut	
	NIPH Batut	
	NIPH Batut, NSO	
	UNICEF, MICS	
	UNICEF, MICS	
	Database NIPH Batut	
	UNICEF, MICS	
	UNICEF, MICS	

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
MDG 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH					
Objective 1: By 2015, reduce maternal mortality by one-fifth	Maternal mortality (women deceased due to complications caused by pregnancy, childbirth and maternity per 100,000 live births)	2000-2004	5.6		
	Childbirths in the presence of medical workers (%)	2000	98.7	2007	99.8
Objective 2: By 2015, preserve and improve the reproductive health of women by maintaining the fertility rate at the present level, reducing the rate of abortion by 50%, and doubling the percentage of women who use modern contraceptive methods	General fertility rate in reproductive period (number of live births per 1000 women between 15 and 49 years old)	2000	26.3	2007	22.3
	Rate of total fertility (number of children per woman)	2000	1.5	2007	1.4
	Abortions in reproductive period (rate per 100,000 women between 15 and 49 years old)	2000	2069.5	2007	1149.4
	Abortions among adolescents (rate per 100,000 women between 15 and 19 years old)	2000	504.2	2007	443.9
	Percentage of married women or women in stable relationships between 15 and 49 years old who use some of the modern contraceptive methods (modern methods: pill, intrauterine coil, condom, diaphragm, local chemical contraceptives)	2000	33.0	2006	37.3
Objective 3: Between 2000 and 2015, reduce the mortality of women of fertile age by one-third	Mortality rate from all causes of death per 100,000 women of fertile age	2000	129.9	2008	102
	Mortality rate from cancer per 100,000 women of fertile age	2000	50.3	2008	43.2
	Mortality rate from all causes of death per 100,000 women of fertile age in the Roma population	2002	242.6		

	Source	Note
	NSO	
	NSO	
	NSO	
	NSO	
	Yearbook of health statistics, 2007, NIPH	
	Yearbook of health statistics, 2007, NIPH	
	UNICEF MICS, Health Survey	Data for 2000 is from MICS, while for 2006 it is from Health Survey. For 2005, MICS stands at only 18.6%.
	NSO, NIPH Batut	
	NSO, NIPH Batut	
	NSO	Data on assessed number of Roma women of reproductive age were obtained from the census.

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
MDG 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, TUBERCILOSIS AND OTHER DISEASES					
Objective 1: By 2015 reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS	Incidence of persons suffering from AIDS per one million people	2000	10.4	2008	5.1
	AIDS mortality rate per one million people	2000	5.6	2008	3
	Share of young people (between 15 and 24 years of age) using condoms during risky sexual intercourse (%)	2000	33.4	2006	74.7
Objective 2: Improve the control of tuberculosis by implementing DOTS strategy and achieving a 95% rate of successfully treated patients	Incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 people	2005	32.0	2008	24
	Successfully treated newly discovered tuberculosis patients (%)	2005	69	2007	83
Objective 3: Increase life expectancy by an average of two years in the period from 2000 to 2015 and reduce the share of the population who describe their health as poor or very poor	Total life expectancy at birth	2000	72.06	2007	73.4
	Life expectancy of women at birth	2000	74.75	2007	76.2
	Life expectancy of men at birth	2000	69.69	2007	70.7
	Standardized vascular diseases mortality rate (per 100,000 people)	2000	120.20	2008	101.6
	Standardized cancer mortality rate (per 100,000 people)	2000	93.20	2008	109.8
	Standardized rate of mortality from injuries, poisoning and other external factors (per 100,000 people)	2000	34.90	2008	35.5
	Percentage of adult population who describe their health as poor or very poor	2000	15.0	2006	15.7

	Source	Note
	Register of HIV/AIDS, NIPH Batut	
	Register of HIV/AIDS, NIPH Batut	
	UNICEF, MICS National Health Survey of the Population of Serbia	Data from MICS for 2005 are 74.3%. Also, data for 2000 are from MICS.
	National Register and Institute for Pulmonary Diseases	
	National Register and Institute for Pulmonary Diseases	
	NSO	
	NSO	
	NSO	
	Calculated based on NSO database	
	Calculated based on NSO database	
	Calculated based on NSO database	
	National Health Survey of the Population of Serbia, 2000 and 2006	

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
Objective 4: Reduce risky behaviors by 10% from 2000 to 2015	Prevalence of smoking among children between 13 and 15 years old (%)	2003	16.9	2008	10.4
	Percentage of young people between 15 and 19 years old who smoke (occasionally or constantly)	2000	22.9	2006	15.5
	Percentage of young people between 15 and 19 years old who do not consume alcoholic beverages	2000	58.8	2006	63.6
	Prevalence of drug use (occasionally or constantly) among children between 12 and 19 years old (%)	2000	0.9		
	Percentage of young people between 15 and 19 years old who have tried psycho-active substances	2000	6.9	2006	9.3
	Prevalence of smoking among adults aged 20 years and up (%)	2000	40.5	2006	33.6
	Children up to five years old who are obese (body weight in proportion to height deviates by +2 standard deviations in relation to the referent population -%)	2000	13.6	2005	15.3
	Prevalence of obesity among adults aged 20 years and up (with BMI ≥ 30%)	2000	17.4	2006	18.3
Objective 5: By 2010 establish centers for preventive health services in all health-care centers in Serbia	Number of centers for preventive health-care services	2006	27	2008	49
Objective 6: By 2010 establish mechanisms for monitoring the health of children with developmental difficulties and adult persons with disabilities	Number of registered children with developmental difficulties		NP		

	Source	Note
	GYTS	
	National Health Survey of the Population of Serbia, 2000 and 2006	
	National Health Survey of the Population of Serbia, 2000 and 2006	
	National Health Survey of the Population of Serbia, 2000	
	National Health Survey of the Population of Serbia, 2000 and 2006	
	National Health Survey of the Population of Serbia, 2000 and 2006	
	UNICEF, MICS	
	National Health Survey of the Population of Serbia, 2000 and 2006	
	NIPH Batut	

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
MDG 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY					
Objective 1: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies, stop the loss of environmental resources and encourage their revitalization	Percentage of investments in the protection of the environment in relation to the achieved GDP (%)	2001	0.3	2008	0.3
	Percentage of forested areas in relation to the total area of the Republic of Serbia (%)	2000	25.6	2008	29.1
	Percentage of protected natural goods areas in relation to the total area of the Republic of Serbia (%)	2000	4.92	2008	6.19
	Percentage of households using solid fuels in relation to the total number of households (%)	2002	60.0	2008	54.2
	Primary energy consumption (tons of equivalent oil) per GDP unit in purchasing power parity (toe/'000 GDP, in US$2000 PPP)	2002	0.39	2006	0.38
	Percentage of energy generated from renewable energy sources in relation to the total primary energy consumption (%)	2002	7.50	2008	5.86
	Carbon dioxide emission per capita (tons of CO2/capita)	2001	4.43	2006	7.18
	Consumption of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) (ODP tons)	1994	868.0	2008	77.5
Objective 2: Reduce the percentage of the population without appropriate access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and organized communal waste collection	Percentage of households with access to public waterworks (%)	2002	69.00	2008	78.31
	Percentage of households with access to public sewage system (%)	2002	33.00	2008	35.03
	Percentage of households with access to sewage system which possesses an appropriate communal wastewater treatment system (%)	2002	5.30	2008	4.8
	Percentage of households covered by organized communal waste collection (%)	2006	55.0	2008	60.0
	Percentage of water samples from controlled public waterworks which meets the physical, chemical and biological requirements, in relation to the total number of controlled systems (%)	2005	40.00	2008	50.6
Objective 3: Improve the housing conditions of the poor inhabitants of non-hygienic settlements	Percentage of constructed social apartments in relation to the total number of constructed apartments (%)	2005	n/a	2008	n/a
	Percentage of households in poor districts in relation to the total number of households (%)	2005	18.9	2008	n/a

	Source	Note
	MF, SEPA	Percentage does not include allocations from public enterprises and institutions.
	SEPA, IPN, MESP	
	SEPA, IPN, MESP	
	NSO, DevInfo, SEPA	
	IEA	Data from International Energy Agency was used.
	MME	
	IEA	Available figures on CO2 emission are only an estimation and they cannot be seen as official figures.
	MESP	Complete ban on CFC use will enter into force on 1 January 2010.
	NSO, DevInfo	Percentage relates only to households connected to public water-works, not to rural waterworks and wells.
	NSO, DevInfo, SEPA	Percentage relates only to households connected to public sewage system, not to septic tanks. Values for 2002 are corrected.
	NSO, MAFWM, SEPA	Reduction of percentage of wastewater treatment is explained by the cessation of work of certain outdated plants.
	SEPA	Only estimations exist.
	NIPH	
	NSO	There is no data, but beginning of construction of a larger number of social apartments is expected, and the Law on Social Housing was adopted.
	NSO, DevInfo	New indicator. The next data will be available according to MICS 2010.

Goals	Indicators	Basis		Present situation	
		Year	Value	Year	Value
MDG 8: DEVELOP GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR GROWTH					
Objective 1: Dynamic and sustainable growth of gross domestic product	GDP growth rate	2005	6.0	2008	5.4
	GDP, in millions USD	2005	25.361	2008	50.124
	GDP per capita, USD	2005	3.408	2008	6805
	Foreign trade balance, % GDP	2005	-20.8	2008	-22.8
	Balance of accounts of balance of payments, % GDP	2005	-8.6	2008	-17.4
	Share of direct foreign investments in % GDP	2005	6.1	2008	5.1
	Share of foreign debt in % GDP	2005	64.0	2008	63.6
Objective 2: Increase the accessibility of new technologies to a much larger number of citizens	Number of mobile telephony subscribers per 100 people	2005	70.2	2008	119.7
	Number of personal computers per 100 people	2006	43.2	2008	52.0
	Number of internet users per 100 people	2006	31.6	2008	40.8
Objective 3: Increase investment in human resources development	Share of budget expenditures for education in % GDP	2005	3.5	2008	3.8
	Share of budget expenditures for health care in % GDP	2005	5.7	2008	5.7

	Source	Note
	NSO, DevInfo	New indicator.
	NSO, DevInfo	Value of indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report.
	NSO, DevInfo	Value of indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report.
	NBS	New indicator.
	NBS	New indicator.
	NBS, DevInfo	Value of indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report.
	NBS, DevInfo	Value of indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report.
	Telekom Srbija and NSO, DevInfo	New indicator; it has been suggested to introduce it instead of the indicator related to the number of landline telephony subscribers.
	NSO, DevInfo	This indicator was corrected in relation to the previous report.
	NSO, DevInfo	New indicator.
	MF, DevInfo	Value of indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report.
	MF, DevInfo	Value of indicator for 2005 was corrected in relation to the previous report.

ABBREVIATIONS:

ABR	Agency for Business Registers
AP	Autonomous Province
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AITUS	Alliance of Independent Trade Unions of Serbia
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
DevInfo	NSO and UNICEF database of socioeconomic indicators
DFID	Department for International Development
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment
ES	Primary School
EU	European Union
EU-SILC	EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HBS	Household Budget Survey
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEA	International Energy Agency
IPH	Institute for Public Health of Serbia Dr Milan Jovanović Batut
IPN	Institute for Protection of Nature of the Republic of Serbia
LFS	Labor Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standard Measurement Study
MAFWM	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MMR	Vaccine mixture against measles, mumps and rubella
MME	Ministry of Mining and Energy
NAP	National Action Plan
NAS	National Assembly of Serbia
NIHI	National Institute for Health Insurance
NIPH	National Institute for Public Health
NSO	National Statistical Office
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PE	Preschool Education
PISA	Program for International Student Assessment
PPP	Preschool Preparation Program
RS	Republic of Serbia
REF	Roma Education Fund

SAA	Stabilization and Accession Agreement
SEPA	Serbian Environmental Protection Agency
SS	Secondary School
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
toe	Ton of oil equivalent
UBTU	United Branch Trade Unions
UITSE	Unique IT System in Education
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO-HFA	World Health Organization "Health for All"

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