



MDG ACCELERATION FRAMEWORK

United Nations Development Programme

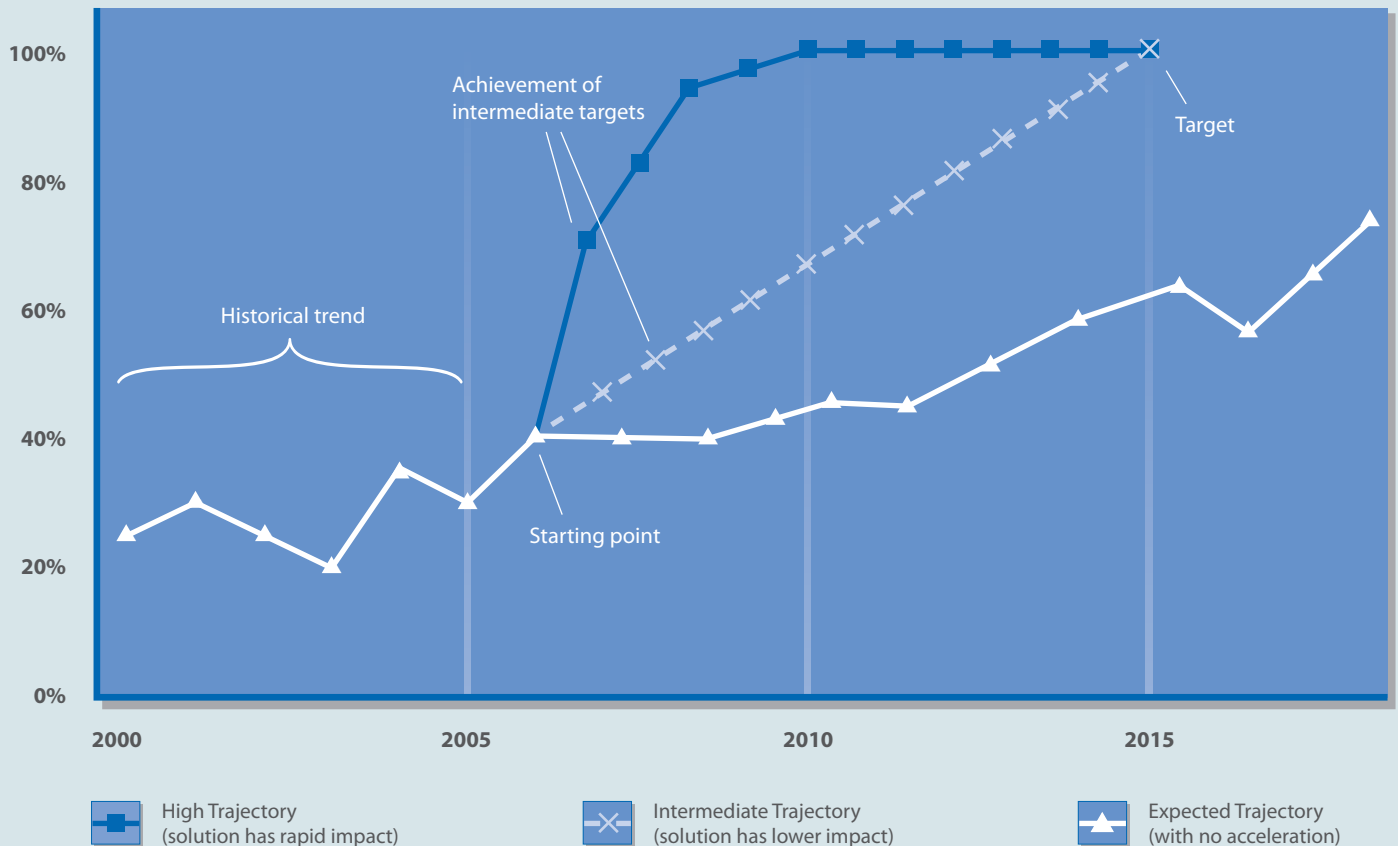
INTRODUCTION

Where are we on the MDGs?

Since the world agreed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, there has been impressive global progress on some fronts in achieving the MDGs. While accomplishments abound, unevenness in achievements and disparities in rates of progress are also apparent—within countries, between countries and across the MDGs. There is an urgent need to focus and prioritize actions towards MDG acceleration.

What is MDG acceleration?

An MDG target is considered to be off-track in a country when it is not expected to be met at the current rate of progress. Acceleration increases the rate of progress so that the target can be met by 2015. It results from removing critical bottlenecks that are impeding the implementation of key interventions.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the MAF?

Many countries have implemented development strategies to achieve the MDGs, but in some the rate of progress has been slow. UNDP has developed the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF), with technical inputs and collaboration with other United Nations agencies, to support countries in determining how they can accelerate progress in such cases. The MAF is a flexible, yet systematic process of identifying and analyzing bottlenecks and possible high-impact solutions to achieving a country's MDG priorities. It leads to a concrete plan of action, with coordinated roles for the government and all other development stakeholders.

2. Why do we need the MAF? And why now?

In spite of best efforts, many countries risk missing one or more of the MDG targets unless efforts are intensified and focused on achieving the MDG goals and their related targets. However, much has been learned through efforts of the last ten years, and there is now enough evidence on what works and what does not. The Outcome Document of the 2010 MDG Summit called for international cooperation in accelerating MDG achievement; the MAF is a critical response to this call.

3. Who is the MAF for?

The MAF was developed for countries with off-track MDG targets at either the national or subnational level. In principle, the MAF can be applied in any country. In practice, it has been shown to be most effective when strong political commitment around off-track MDGs can bring together all key players in a collaborative effort to achieve the goals or targets.

4. How does the MAF work?

The MAF supports countries in devising nationally owned, multi-partner action plans for improving their rate of progress on off-track MDGs, within the context of their existing planning cycle and processes. Once a country identifies an MDG target that is off-track, the MAF supports it to: (1) identify the strategic interventions required to achieve the MDGs by 2015, (2) prioritize bottlenecks preventing the effective implementation of the priority interventions, (3) determine high-impact and feasible solutions to prioritized bottlenecks, and (4) formulate an MDG action plan for implementation and monitoring. This action plan is a nationally owned, multi-partner programme that fits within existing strategies.



Photo: Evan Schneider



Photo: Kayla Keenan

5. Has the MAF been tested?

UN Country Teams have supported 14 countries so far (and the number is growing!) in applying the MAF at either the national or subnational level to address a range of MDGs targeting hunger, poverty, maternal health and education. Results demonstrate the potential of the MAF to make a concrete difference: coherent, focused and implementable MDG actions plans were formulated and are being implemented.

6. What makes the MAF different from other initiatives?

The MAF is not a stand-alone initiative to be used by a development organization or a donor, but a tool for governments to take ownership of off-track MDGs. It is anchored in existing processes at the country level—both by governments and the UN system—and takes a cross-sectoral approach to achieving the MDGs. It also has the full endorsement of the United Nations Development Group—the body uniting all of the 32 funds, programmes, agencies, departments and offices of the United Nations that play a role in development.

7. Who are the main players in the country?

The national government leads the process, with support of its partners—the UN Country Team, bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The active cooperation and support of development partners is key to ensuring the success of the MAF in coordinating and targeting efforts to execute the implementation plan.

8. So what's next?

The MAF has been strengthened through the pilot experience, and a growing number of UN Country Teams are interested in applying it. For the pilot countries, the next step is to ensure the effective implementation of the action plans.

9. How can I roll out the MAF in my country?

A country interested in applying the MAF can work with its local UN Resident Coordinator's office.

10. Where can I get more information?

The pilot country experience is captured in 'Unlocking Progress: MDG Acceleration on the Road to 2015' (www.undp.org/mdg/acceleration.shtml).

The MAF is available at www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=1505.

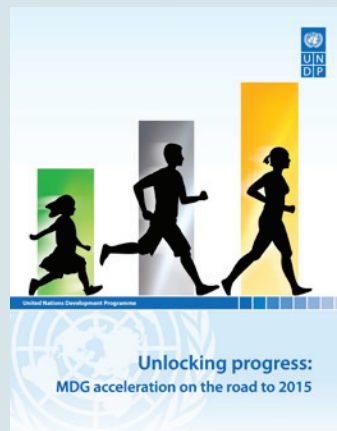
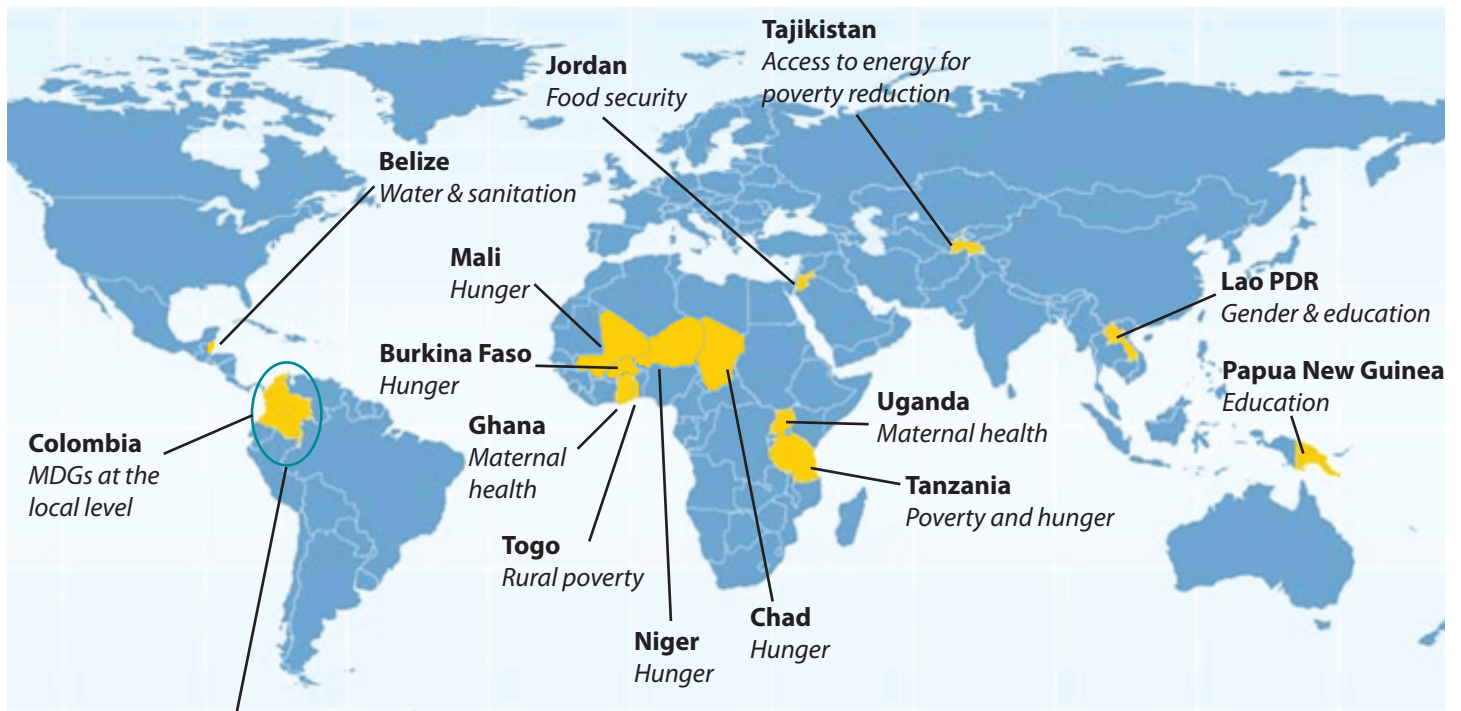


Photo: Ari Vitikainen



“The MDG Acceleration Framework ... proposes innovative initiatives, interventions and technologies with proven experience and best practices across the country, as well as from other countries. The framework provides solutions in line with the Government’s priorities to accelerate progress towards the MDG achievement with particular focus on the unreached—the people confronted with challenging outcomes.”

Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR

“... the [MDG] Acceleration Framework suggests a practical and achievable action plan for a long-term scaling-up of results achieved in [boosting agricultural productivity of small-holder farmers] since 2008. This is the key to achieving substantial progress in this area over the next five years.”

Mrs. Dédé Ahoéfa Ekoué, Minister of Development and Planning, Republic of Togo

COUNTRY EXAMPLES

- In **Belize**, the MAF helped the government to identify why rural areas, primarily populated by Mayan communities, were not receiving adequate water and sanitation services. The lack of representation and participation by stakeholders in local water boards and a lack of accountability were identified as the key bottlenecks. Specific measures were then agreed upon to improve the governance of water boards.
- In **Colombia**, where all of the four territories and two municipalities have adopted local development plans that list the interventions required to meet the selected MDG targets, the MAF is expected to improve the implementation of key interventions in these action plans at the sub-national level.
- **Ghana**, whose government and UN Country Team displayed a strong sense of leadership and ownership in the MAF rollout process, already has a MAF Action Plan that has been endorsed by key sector ministries of the government, civil society organizations, and development partners.
- The Government of **Lao PDR** used the MAF to inform the preparation of its 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan.
- The MAF in **Niger** is focused on food security and nutrition. The Comprehensive Action Plan was formally endorsed by the government in its Cabinet Meeting on 31 March 2011. The Government of Niger has earmarked US\$30 million for the MAF interventions between 2011 and 2015 starting with US\$6.0 million in 2011 2011 Finance Act (Budget). The Prime Minister's office is directly coordinating the implementation of the MAF action plan.
- In **Togo**, the MAF helped to bring an MDG acceleration focus within the existing national investment plan on agriculture and food security— such a focus could lead to rapid gains on the ground, with due care taken to ensure sustainability.
- In **Uganda**, the MAF helped operationalize the 2007 Roadmap for Maternal Health, with clear roles and commitments across ministries and agencies.



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For more info visit: www.undp.org/poverty

Cover photos: Kayla Keenan (left), Government of Santander/Colombia (top right), UNDP (bottom right)