



Millennium Development Goals in Uzbekistan

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and the Asian Development Bank in Uzbekistan

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OVERVIEW

ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are part of the Millennium Declaration and were agreed by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. They are an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty and improving people's lives.

The Millennium Declaration represents the common vision of the members of the United Nations for a peaceful, prosperous and just world. The Declaration outlines a wide range of commitments in human rights, governance and democracy.

There are eight overall goals and related targets and indicators, selected to ensure a common assessment and understanding of the status of MDGs at global, regional, and national levels. The goals and their targets are to be achieved by 2015.

The Global Millennium Development Goals

The eight specific goals are intended to:

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- 2. Achieve universal primary education**
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**
- 4. Reduce child mortality**
- 5. Improve maternal health**
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development**

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN UZBEKISTAN

The Millennium Development Goals are a global project, applying to every country in the world. It is important that they are adapted for each country to reflect what is plausible and attainable in that country. Uzbekistan is working to set concrete and realistic national MDG targets and time bound indicators that apply to the Uzbek context. This brochure presents the proposed Uzbek MDG targets and the support provided by the UN agencies and Asian Development Bank to the achievement of the MDGs in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan achieved relatively high levels of human development during the Soviet era and made considerable progress towards achieving the MDGs related to education, gender equality, health and provision of clean water and sanitation. However, there are serious environmental problems, particularly in the area including and adjacent the Aral Sea.

The transition to a market economy is imposing additional strains on the population, as factories are closing down or are being restructured and real incomes have declined. The challenge in moving forward is to maintain past achievements while public resources are tightening and to address the negative aspects of the Soviet legacy.

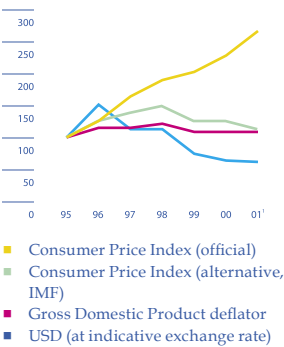
In order to maintain and further improve the relatively high level of human development, it is important to improve living standards in rural areas and for vulnerable groups of the population, enhance access to and quality to education and health services and address issues pertaining to environmental degradation.

In Uzbekistan the MDG goals are intended to:

- 1. Improve living standards and reduce malnutrition**
- 2. Improve the quality of education in primary and secondary schools**
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**
- 4. Reduce child mortality**
- 5. Improve maternal health**
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases**
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development**

Improve living conditions and reduce malnutrition

Real Wages 1995–2001
(1995=100)



¹ First 9 months

Source: Ministry of Macroeconomics and Statistics, IMF and World Bank estimates.

In its 'Living Standards Assessment 2002', the World Bank estimates that 27.5% of the population in Uzbekistan lives below the poverty line and does not have the means to ensure a daily minimum calorie intake of 2,100 calories.

It is unclear whether poverty in Uzbekistan is a transitory phenomenon or is becoming more permanent. Poverty is generally more widespread in rural areas, in small towns in the southern regions as well as in Karakalpakstan in the North-West. In Karakalpakstan, poverty and environmental damages resulting from the drying up of the Aral Sea are closely related.

Families with more than four children, the unemployed, underemployed or those that have low wage employment or are simply unable to work, are more likely to be poor. Approximately 74% of the employed population is underemployed or works in informal, temporary, or low wage employment. The informal sector provides employment op-

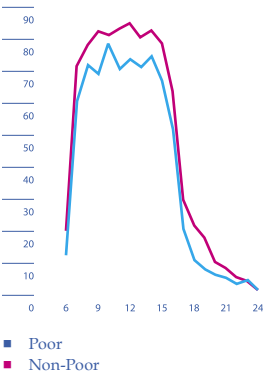


PHOTO: A. BAKHIBAYEV

portunities which are unavailable in the formal sector. However, people who work in the informal sector are also at greater risk of exploitation and human rights abuse.

Uzbekistan's MDG target by 2015 is to halve the proportion of people living in poverty.

School Attendance by Age and Welfare Status



Source: Uzbekistan Living Standards Assessment, World Bank, 2002.

Improve the quality of education in primary and secondary schools

Uzbekistan is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and pays special attention to matters related to education.

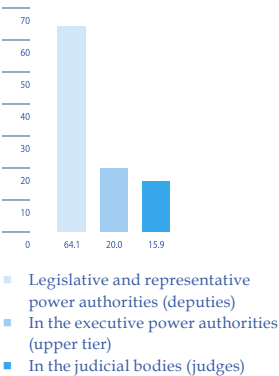
Literacy and enrolment rates in primary secondary and vocational education are comparable to those of economically developed countries and Uzbekistan has achieved this global MDG.

The country's target is to improve by 2015 the quality of primary and general secondary education while maintaining universal access.

Promote gender equality and empower women

By signing the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Government of Uzbekistan has made a commitment to ensure equality between men and women and fight gender-based discrimination. The country recognizes that equal access to educa-

Gender Composition of the State Power Authorities as of January 1, 2002



Source: Women and Men of Uzbekistan, Statistical Collection, The State Statistic Department of the Ministry of Macroeconomics and Statistics, 2002.



PHOTO: V. KOVREIN

tion promotes gender equality and empowers women in their social, economic and political life.

Despite this, the situation of women in social, health and economic terms is often worse than men's. The majority of women are employed in low-wage sectors, such as health and education. Approximately 48% of the officially registered unemployed is women and the majority is unable to accept employment because of domestic duties.

The share of women in higher levels of Government is at only 13.7%.

The country's targets are to: a) achieve gender equality in primary and general basic secondary and vocational education by 2005 and b) improve gender balance in higher education by 2015.

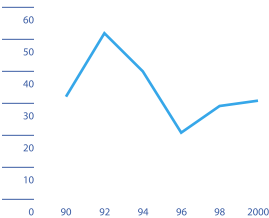
Reduce child mortality and improve maternal health

Child mortality in Uzbekistan is among the lowest in the Central Asian countries, but still high in comparison to other countries of the Former Soviet Union. The majority of deaths occur in the early neonatal period, often as a result of respiratory diseases. However, infant and child health are also under threat from a chronic lack of micronutrients such as iodine and fluoride as well as the mother's health and nutritional status and child feeding habits.

Determining the actual rate of child mortality is problematic, because Uzbekistan does not use the World Health Organization's (WHO) 'Live Birth' definition. This definition differs from the one currently used in that a 'live birth' is one where after birth, the newborn is breathing or showing a sign of life, irrespective of the length of pregnancy.

Maternal mortality rates have been unstable in the past few years and there are links between poor women's health and the quality of health services. Health problems, such as anemia (60%

Maternal Mortality Ratio



Source: Ministry of Health, Health for All Database, WHO.



PHOTO: UNDP

of women in childbearing age are anemic) are also associated with maternal mortality. Moreover, poor nutrition, frequent births and an unhealthy environment aggravate the situation. The health of mothers and children is more at risk in the southern and north-western regions where higher levels of child and maternal mortality and morbidity have been reported.

Uzbekistan has adapted its national targets to be achieved by 2015 to: a) reduce by two thirds the mortality rates among children aged from 0–5 years b) reduce maternal mortality by

one third. Uzbekistan has also undertaken measures to adopt the internationally accepted WHO live birth definition.

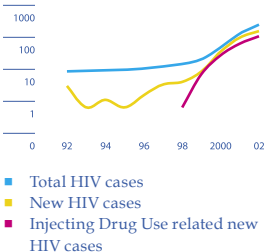
Combat HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis

The economic difficulties resulting from the transition have made poor people more vulnerable to diseases. Whilst the absolute figures of HIV/AIDS in Uzbekistan are still low, recent trends show a constant and very high rate of increase. There was an overall two-fold increase in 2003, with even higher rates among vulnerable groups such as drug addicts and prisoners. Drug users represent more than 50% of all new HIV cases.

In the past decade the incidence rate of tuberculosis has almost doubled in all regions, but particularly in the north-western regions and among certain groups such a drug addicts and prison inmates.

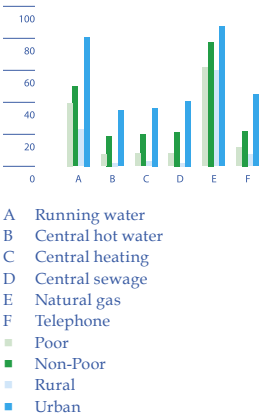
The national targets to be achieved by 2015 are to: a) reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis and b) have them halted by 2015.

HIV-related Indicators



Source: Ministry of Health, 2002.

Access to Public Services and Utilities by Geographic Location and Poverty Status *percent of population*



Source: Uzbekistan Household Budget Survey 2000–2001

Ensure environmental sustainability

Uzbekistan is an arid, landlocked country, with 80% of land being desert and semi-desert areas. The Soviet legacy of inefficient and extensive use of water resources and toxic chemicals—notably in heavily irrigated cotton production areas—has caused the loss of the Aral Sea and the nature around it and is still causing environmental and health problems today. Despite some progress, there is a need to increase the proportion of people in urban and rural areas with access to improved water sources.



PHOTO: A. RASHIDBAEV

To ensure sustainable growth and human development, the environmental legacies of the Soviet past need to be urgently addressed.

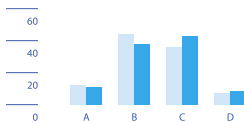
The national targets to be achieved by 2015 are: a) to make sure that the country policies and programmes protect the environment for today's and tomorrow's generations and reverse the loss of environmental resources; b) increase the share of rural and urban population with access to an improved water source and sanitation by 2015.

Strengthen Uzbekistan's global partnerships for development

Since independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has pursued democratic and economic reforms. Uzbekistan has managed stable economic growth, maintained access to education and health and, unlike other countries in the region, is not heavily indebted. Uzbekistan recognizes the need to take further steps to liberalize trade, particularly with regional neighbours, and encourage private investment from local and foreign sources.

Regional cooperation is high on the Government's agenda as it will enable markets to work across borders and trade and investments to flourish. Promotion of trade, sharing of water and energy, environmental protection and flows of ideas and experience will contribute to sustainable development in Uzbekistan.

Distribution of Investments by Kinds
in % of total fixed capital investments



- A Dwellings
- B Non-residential buildings and constructions
- C Machines, equipment and implementations
- D Others
- 2002
- 2003

Source: Statistical Review of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2003, State Statistics Committee, 2004.

The national targets for Uzbekistan are being finalised and are still a matter for discussion. Tentative targets are to: a) ensure partnership with regional neighbours and other countries by joining efforts to promote regional peace and stability; b) expand trade including regional and cross border trade and transport; c) attract foreign direct investment; and d) rationalise water and energy management.



PHOTO: A. ZUEV

**GOVERNMENT EFFORTS SUPPORTED
BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO ASSIST
THE COUNTRY TO ACHIEVE
THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Uzbekistan has committed itself to the MDGs, to reduce poverty and promote human development in the country. The international community, including the UN system, is prepared to assist the Government and the people of Uzbekistan in realising these goals, through financial assistance and partnership.

A preliminary MDG baseline study prepared with the assistance of the UN Country Team and the Asian Development Bank, shows that it is important that data related to MDGs are not only accurate and updated but also trusted by the whole society. To ensure that the national MDGs benefit everybody, it is vital to determine how issues may affect people differently depending on whether they are men or women, young or old, what their jobs and income are and where they live.

Together with the United Nations Information Centre, the UN Agencies promote awareness and understanding of the MDGs.

The most important task is to ensure that the national MDGs benefit everybody.



PHOTO: WORLD BANK

Improve living standards and reduce malnutrition

In 2004 the Government of Uzbekistan prepared its medium-term strategy (up to 2010) aimed at improving living standards and reducing poverty in the country. The UN system and the Asian Development Bank have worked together with the Government to ensure that the Living Standards Strategy and the MDGs complement one other. It is envis-

aged that the Living Standards Strategy will also serve as a basis for the development of an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy paper with assistance from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the UN Country Team.

The UN Country Team and ADB focus their assistance on addressing poverty in its various forms and in the regions that are worst affected. UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, WB and ADB are supporting projects in the regions adjacent to the Aral Sea.

ADB and the World Bank provide support to strengthen statistical capacities for monitoring living standards.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Economy and the State Statistics Committee, independent research centres, the World Bank and UN agencies have supported studies on assessment of the level and causes of poverty in Uzbekistan.

In 2002, to monitor the progress of the country towards implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the

Practical measures include UNDP's support of microfinance and small business schemes.



PHOTO: A. KAHNIMBAEV

Child, UNICEF and the Cabinet of Ministers established a Geographic Information System to monitor the achievement of 33 basic mother and child development indicators, reflecting quality of life and living standards. The system has been introduced in 37 communities (mahallas) in five of the 12 regions of the country.

Practical measures, which address poverty, include UNDP's development of economically vulnerable areas through sup-

porting micro finance and small business schemes, establishment of a network of business incubators, and community development interventions, whilst UNICEF supports income-generating opportunities for extremely single women households in rural areas.

Improve the quality of education in primary and secondary school

In Uzbekistan approximately 7.4% of GDP is allocated to education. Government spending per student at the pre-primary, vocational and higher levels is above international averages. While it is important that this level is maintained, it is also important that resources are allocated and disbursed more efficiently. In terms of national MDGs, the Government supports access to and quality of education. This is done through the National Programme for Personnel Training.

The programme supports the development of modern and appropriate curricula, improved teaching practices that involve students more actively, training programmes for teachers and better quality of textbooks. Within this programme, UNICEF is working with the Government to implement the Global Education Principles. These principles advocate for child-friendly teaching methods that promote equality between boys and girls.

UNICEF also supports the education of children by reconstructing or upgrading of essential school facilities such as classrooms, lavatories and equipment throughout the country. The World Bank and WHO are supporting a project on European Network of Health Promoting Schools.

The Government supports universal access to primary and secondary education.



Ultimately, the focus of the United Nations System is on access to quality education for all, including children with disabilities and language difficulties, such as refugee children.

Promote gender equality and empower women

Since the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action in 1995, the Government of Uzbekistan has re-confirmed its commitments to the principles of gender equality and eliminating discrimination against women. Progress towards the MDGs is being accomplished by mainstreaming gender throughout the eight goals, so that men and women alike can benefit from their achievement.

The Government has introduced decrees to ensure that the role of women in the state and society is protected and enhanced.

The UN System in Uzbekistan assists the country's efforts in ensuring legal, social and economic equality between men and women, by advocating for engendering of all the MDGs. More specifically, the UN system is supporting Government efforts to collect national statistics disaggregated by age and sex, in order to analyse how problems affect men and women, boys and girls differently.

Reduce child mortality and improve maternal health

The Government of Uzbekistan intends to achieve the national goals to reduce child and maternal mortality through the Health Sector Reform Programme, the Primary Health Care Initiative and the National Programme on Reduction of Infant and Child Mortality. The programmes are based on the WHO/UNICEF strategy of Safe Motherhood and In-

UN agencies and ADB are active in integrated child, mother and adolescent health in support of state health care programmes.



PHOTO: A. RASHIDBAEV

tegrated Management of Childhood Illnesses. The Department of Social Security of Family, Maternity and Childhood of the Cabinet of Ministers coordinates all activities related to maternal and child health.

In recognition of the problems related to maternal health and contraception, Government programmes have been developed, which will increase the level of medical knowledge within the family, in order to strengthen women's health and bring up healthy children.

The WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, ADB and World Bank, together with the Ministry of Health are active in integrated child, mother and adolescent health in support of the Government's programmes. Following on the successful implementation of a rural primary health care project under WB financing, primary health care reforms are planned to be scaled up country-wide under a joint ADB and WB financing umbrella.

UNICEF, the Center for Disease Control and USAID jointly support the Ministry of Health in a pilot project in Ferghana Oblast to introduce the WHO live birth definition. Moreover, a National Plan for the reduction of infant mortality is also being introduced by the Ministry of Health.

Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases

The Government of Uzbekistan has adopted an intersectoral 'Strategic Programme on Response to HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2003-2006', which aims to integrate HIV/AIDS issues into the policies for the country's development.

A number of UN agencies, including UNODC, are promoting public awareness of HIV/AIDS related issues.



The programme promotes mechanisms for national co-ordination to respond to the epidemic. It aims to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and its prevention amongst the general population, young people and groups at risk. It also promotes improvement of medical services and access to Antiretroviral Therapy as a basic human right for people living with HIV/AIDS.

A revision of laws is being encouraged to incorporate HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and to implement prevention programmes for those at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

The UN system collectively, as well as UNAIDS and at individual agency level, is working to support the Government in achieving the national target of reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Thus, UNESCO and UNICEF are promoting HIV/AIDS awareness in education and new curricula. UNICEF also provides peer-to-peer education and the establishment of youth-friendly services. UNFPA works in three main areas: with youth in reproductive health; improving medical skills in diagnosing and treating sexually transmitted infections including HIV; and informing people on how to protect themselves against sexually transmitted diseases. In this context, UNODC addresses the problems related to intravenous drug abuse reduction. WHO supports policy development and provides technical assistance in the areas of prevention, antiretroviral treatment and care. The World Bank is addressing the issue as part of the financing provided to the health sector, and under an ongoing regional HIV/AIDS initiative.

The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS co-ordinates efforts with national counterparts such as the Ministry of Health, the Republican AIDS Centre and the Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNDP and WHO are working together to support a programme for training of trainers on HIV/AIDS within the Armed Forces.

The UN system supports a programme for training of trainers on HIV/AIDS within the Armed Forces.



PHOTO: UNDP

The Government has adopted a 'Strategic Programme on prevention and reduction of tuberculosis in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2004-2008'. The programme is based on the internationally recommended strategy of 'Directly Observed Treatment'. WHO is collaborating with a number of development agencies, donors and the Ministry of Health to stop tuberculosis.

With regard to malaria, this disease does not pose an immediate threat in Uzbekistan. However, it is important for the country to maintain the success achieved in its eradication. Efforts are primarily focussing on ensuring that the country stays free of the disease in the future. This is a particularly challenging task as there is a potential for malaria to reoccur in the country. Thus, WHO is assisting the country to set up a surveillance system to prevent epidemics of this disease.

Uzbekistan has successfully applied to the Global Fund against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis for support to address the above challenges.

Ensure environmental sustainability

Since independence Uzbekistan has struggled to improve its environmental management systems and to introduce more effective policy and institutional approaches. The country has signed all major environmental conventions related to climate change, biodiversity and anti-desertification and has taken significant steps to promote citizens' right to a clean and safe environment.

Reversing the loss of environmental resources is one of the national targets.



PHOTO: A. BAKHIBAYEV

The State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan is co-ordinating amongst the various ministries, departments and organisations involved with environmental management.

The focus of these efforts has been on how to ensure implementation of the Programme of Actions on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 1999–2005. The main goal of the Programme is to establish an environmental strategy, policy and associated programmes to support the initial stage of the country's transition to sustainable development. With regard to monitoring and evaluating so-

cial and environmental progress in the country, the MDGs clearly offer an ideal framework.

At the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Uzbekistan developed and adopted the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe, to protect children's health and the environment.

UNDP and other UN agencies in co-operation with the WB are working with the Committee for the Protection of Nature to promote a clean and safe environment. The focus areas include environmental management, climate change, biodiversity, conservation and land degradation.

ADB, WB, WHO and UNFPA are supporting studies and assessments on how health, poverty and the environment are linked. The WB and UNICEF are also assisting the Government in the provision of clean water and sanitation.

Strengthen Uzbekistan's global partnerships for development

Uzbekistan is establishing partnerships both at the global, regional level and national level. The Shanghai Co-operation Organisation comprising the Central Asian countries,

The Shanghai Co-operation Organisation supports the creation of an international network against security threats in the region.



China and Russia is a co-operation mechanism tasked with promoting regional co-operation on issues related to security, including drugs, human trafficking and terrorism. The organisation supports the creation of an international network against security threats in the region and intends to play a role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

UNDP is supporting the Uzbek Government's efforts to include Afghanistan into regional co-operation mechanisms.

The Central Asian Co-operation Organisation aims to bring together the five Central Asian states in the promotion of a common regional market and the creation of a single eco-

nomic and information area. Within this framework, the ADB, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund, UNDP and the World Bank support the process of regional co-operation and integration in three main areas: trade and transport facilitation, water and energy, and regional co-operation in cross-border trade.

The co-operation between Uzbekistan and NATO and the opening of the Partnership for Peace training centre in Tashkent are items high on the Government's agenda.

The UN system, both collectively and at the individual agency level, is at the forefront in supporting global partnerships. Together they facilitate linkages and exchanges of experience in all MDG related areas, including good governance, democracy and human rights.

In the areas of human rights, UNDP provided support to the Government to draft the National Action Plan to Combat Torture. Currently, UNDP also provides support to strengthen national capacities to integrate international human rights obligations with the national legislation, raise the awareness on international human rights principles and enhance the population's access to justice.

In the area of border management, UNODC works with the Government of Uzbekistan to enable a smoother and simplified transit of people and goods. UNDP supports the implementation of the European Commission Border Management and Drugs Programmes in Central Asia. At the Termez-Hayraton control post on the Uzbek border with Afghanistan, guards and customs officials are trained in information gathering and sharing, as well as in various anti-drugs and trafficking techniques. This UNODC project is an example of a UN supported activity that promotes regional partnership for development. UNODC also assists the Office of the Procurator General in establishing an intranet web site to connect all regional procurators' offices in Uzbekistan

While simultaneously improving legislation, establishing institutions and facilitating a gradual transition toward a more open society and market-oriented economy, the Government is committed to introducing more effective methods of economic policy and implementing economic and fiscal reforms.

In the area of governance reforms, UNDP supports the Government's efforts to promote information and communication technology through an initiative that uses information and communication technologies for increased efficiency and transparency in governance. UNDP also supports access to the internet and in partnership with the Cabinet of Ministers and the Agency for Foreign Economic Relations and aid co-ordination.

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THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN UZBEKISTAN

Goal	National Targets
1. Improve living standards and reduce malnutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Halve poverty by 2015
2. Improve the quality of education in primary and secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve by 2015 the quality of primary and basic secondary education while maintaining universal access
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Achieve gender equality in primary and general basic secondary and secondary special and vocational education by 2005 ■ Improve gender balance in higher education by 2015
4. Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce by two thirds the under five mortality rate by 2015
5. Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce maternal mortality by one third by 2015
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases	<p>HIV/AIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and have it halted by 2015 <p>Tuberculosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reverse the spread of tuberculosis and have it halted by 2015
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015 ■ Increase the share of urban and rural population with access to an improved water source and sanitation by 2015
8. Develop a global partnership for development	<p>Tentative and in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure partnership with regional neighbours and other countries and countries by joining efforts to ensure regional peace and stability, expanding trade including regional and cross border trade and transport, attracting foreign direct investments, and rationalize water and energy management