

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

In 15 economies of the Asia and Pacific region, including some of the most populous, more than 10% of the population live on less than **\$1 a day**. In 20 economies, again including some of the most populous, more than 10% of the population are **malnourished**. In around two thirds of economies for which data are available, 10% or more of children under 5 years of age are **underweight**.

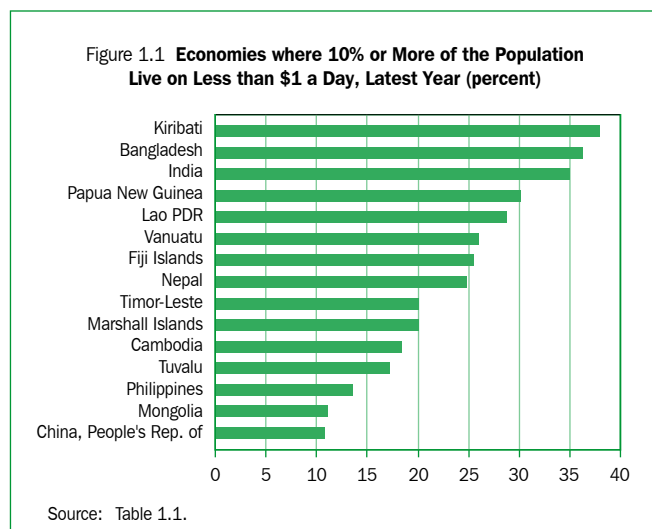
Introduction

Goal 1 has three targets:

- 1.A: *Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.* Note that this is a purchasing power parity (PPP)-adjusted dollar that has the same purchasing power in all countries. In the past, 1993 PPPs were used, but the figures are being updated by the World Bank using the new 2005 benchmark PPPs. Progress toward achieving this target will be assessed as new data become available.
- 1.B: *Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.* This target was introduced in the revised MDG framework.
- 1.C: *Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.* Hunger here is measured by the percentage of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption as determined by the Food and Agriculture Organization. The target has a cut-off point of 5%. If the percentages fall to 5% or less, the target is considered to have been reached even if the percentage at the start date of 1990 has not been halved.

Key Trends

Figure 1.1 lists 15 economies where 10% or more of the population were living on less than \$1 a day in the latest year for which data are available.



Seven of the 15 economies in Figure 1.1 are from the Pacific, although information for several of them is rather out of date and refers to the latter part of the 1990s. Their situation may have improved somewhat since then, but it is clear that eliminating extreme poverty is a serious challenge for the Pacific economies. The list also includes three populous Asian economies—Bangladesh, People’s Republic of China (PRC), and India. It is clear that most people in the developing parts of the Asia and Pacific region live in economies where extreme poverty afflicts at least 10% of the population.

Table 1.1 is based on a PPP dollar using the 1993 PPPs. These data are now being updated by the World Bank using the 2005 PPPs, and the new data are likely to show several differences from the older estimates. Progress toward the poverty goal will be assessed once the finalized figures become available.

Two other poverty measures are shown in Table 1.1. These are “poverty gaps” and a “quintile measure” of income distribution. Poverty gaps are measured as the distance from \$1 of the average income of persons living on less than \$1 a day multiplied by the percentage of the

population below the \$1-a-day poverty line. For example, if 20% of the population is below the \$1-a-day line and the average income of these persons is \$0.80, the poverty gap would be (1.0 minus 0.8) times 20%, i.e., 4%. The smaller the poverty gap, the easier it will be for countries to bring people above the \$1-a-day threshold. India has a relatively large poverty gap of 8.3%, while the poverty gaps in a few Pacific economies are in double figures.

The “quintile measure” shows the percentage of total household income of an economy, or in many economies’ total household consumption accounted for by the poorest 20% (one fifth or “quintile”) of the population. Low percentages reflect greater inequality while high percentages indicate a more even distribution of incomes.

In general, economies with more equal income distributions can be expected to have lower percentages of poor people. But Figures 1.1 and 1.2 show that this is not always the case. Bangladesh has a relatively high share of income going to the lowest quintile but it is among the highest for poverty measures; the PRC has a rather unequal income distribution but a fairly low percentage of the population living on less than \$1 a day.

Figure 1.2 Share of Total Income or Consumption for Lowest Quintile, Latest Year (percent)

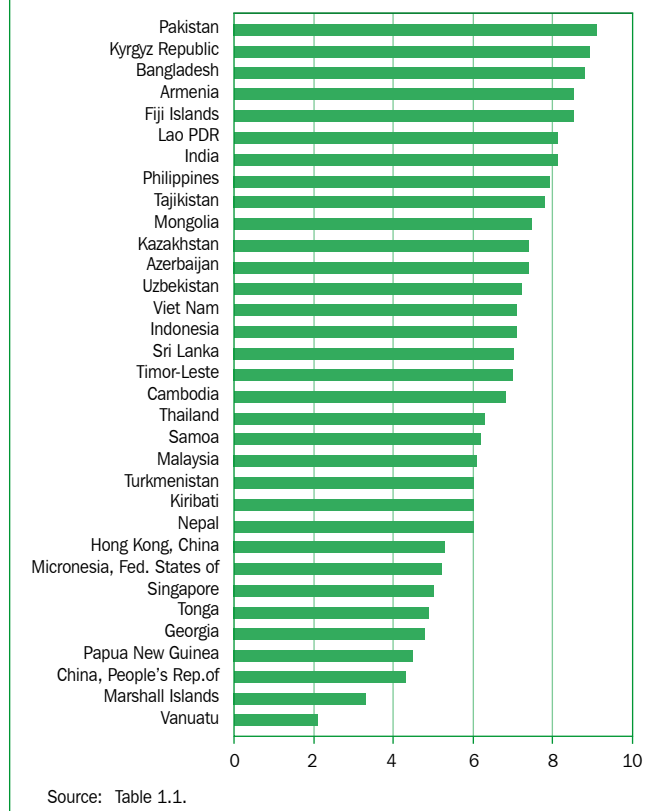
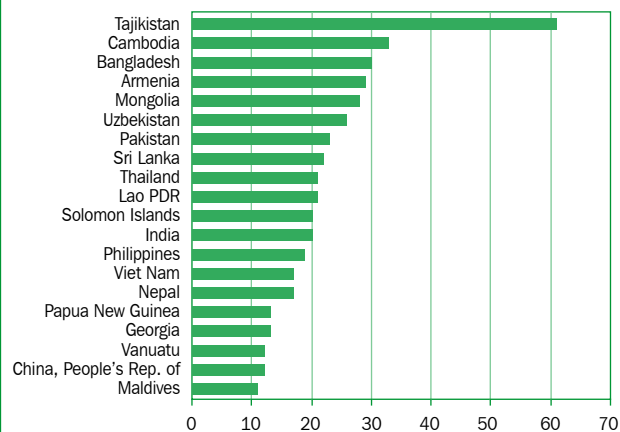


Figure 1.3 shows 20 economies where more than 10% of the total population suffer from hunger, i.e., they are “undernourished” according to the minimum level of dietary requirements as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Slightly more than 60% of the population of Tajikistan suffer from hunger, while the percentages are between 25% and 35% in Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan.

Figure 1.3 Economies with More than 10% of the Population Suffering from Hunger, Latest Year (percent)



Box 1.1 classifies 32 economies into four groups:

- Eight economies, three of which are former Soviet Union countries and two are Pacific economies, are **early achievers**. None of the five most populous Asian economies has yet achieved the target.
- Ten economies are **on track**. They include Indonesia, Viet Nam, and three Pacific economies.
- Ten economies including Bangladesh, PRC, India, and Pakistan are making **slow progress**.
- Three former Soviet Union countries together with Vanuatu are **regressing**. Percentages have not changed or have actually increased since the 1990s.

Box 1.1 Progress toward Achieving the Hunger Target

Early achievers

Azerbaijan	Kyrgyz Republic
Fiji Islands	Malaysia
Georgia	Myanmar
Korea, Rep. of	Samoa

On track

Armenia	Solomon Islands
Indonesia	Thailand
Kiribati	Timor-Leste
Lao PDR	Turkmenistan
Maldives	Viet Nam

Slow progress

Bangladesh	Nepal
Cambodia	Pakistan
China, People's Rep. of	Papua New Guinea
India	Philippines
Mongolia	Sri Lanka

Regressing

Kazakhstan	Uzbekistan
Tajikistan	Vanuatu

Source: Derived from Table 1.3.

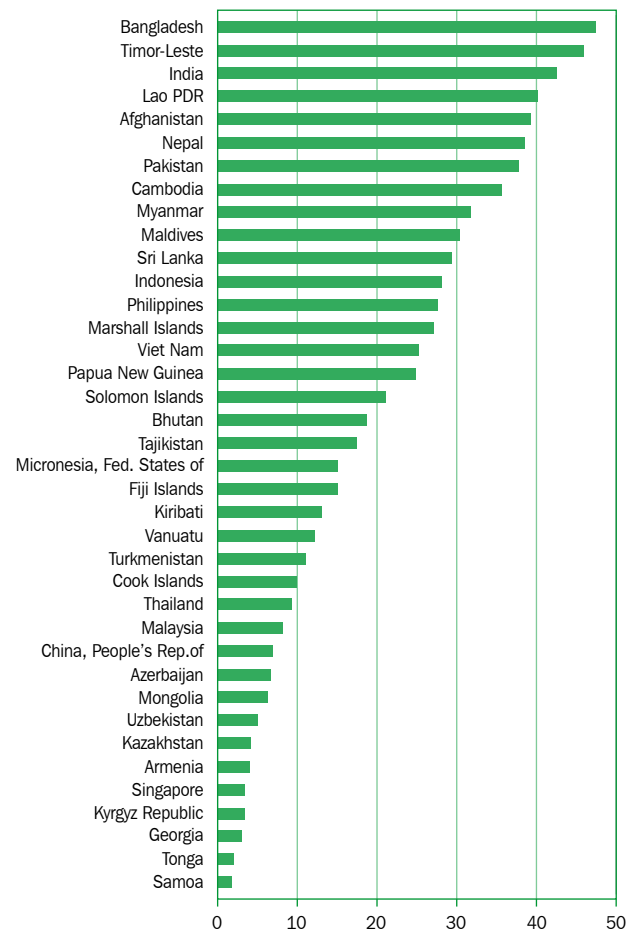
The above classification was done using global monitoring data up to the 2001–2003 period. It is quite likely that the classification of relatively fast-growing economies such as PRC and India may improve if data for more recent years are available.

While the hunger target relates to the total population considered to be malnourished, another useful indicator of hunger is the percentage of children under 5 years old who are underweight based on criteria identified by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Figure 1.4 shows that 10% or more of under-fives are underweight in around two thirds of the economies for which data are available. Percentages are over 40% in Bangladesh, India, Lao PDR, and Timor-Leste; and between 20% and 40% in a further 13 economies including Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Viet Nam. Poor nutrition in young children is clearly a serious problem in many developing economies in the Asia and Pacific region.

In Table 1.3, the percentages of underweight children are shown separately for boys and girls for 22 economies. When food is scarce, do boys tend to have more of it than girls? From Table 1.3 there is little evidence of a bias in favor of boys. The simple averages of underweight children for the economies for which the gender breakdown is available are 22% for boys and 23% for girls.

Figure 1.4 Percentage of Underweight Children under 5 Years Old, Latest Year



Source: Table 1.3.

Data Issues and Comparability

The "\$1-a-day" test for determining poverty and the calculation of "poverty gaps" requires information on household income or household consumption expenditure, and the PPP dollar conversion rate for 1993. Both the measurement of household income or expenditure in national currency and the calculation of 1993 PPPs will have relatively high error margins in many countries. It is expected that the estimates of the numbers in poverty may be substantially revised when the 1993 PPPs are replaced by the new 2005 benchmark PPPs.

The hunger indicators are based on standards that have been devised by FAO, UNICEF, and WHO. But while countries attempt to use the same standards, comparability is compromised by unavailability of regular data in many countries. Statistical techniques are typically used to extend data collected from household surveys to the full population. Such estimates may have large error margins.

Goal 1 Targets

Table 1.1 **Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day**

	1.1 Proportion of Population below the Poverty Line (percent)			
	\$1 (PPP) a Day		National	
	1990	Latest Year	1990	Latest Year
Developing Member Countries				
Central and West Asia				
Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
Armenia	<2.0	<2.0 (2003)	54.7 (1996)	26.5 (2006)
Azerbaijan	12.0	2.9 (2001)	68.1 (1995)	20.8 (2006)
Georgia	<2.0	6.4 (2003)	...	39.4 (2005)
Kazakhstan	<2.0	<2.0 (2003)	34.6 (1996)	16.1 (2004)
Kyrgyz Republic	<2.0	<2.0 (2003)	45.4 (1993)	39.9 (2006)
Pakistan	47.8	9.8 (2004)	28.6 (1993)	23.9 (2004)
Tajikistan	<2.0	7.5 (2003)	...	44.4 (2003)
Turkmenistan	<2.0	<2.0 (2003)	...	29.9 (1998)
Uzbekistan	...	...	...	26.2 (2003)
East Asia				
China, People's Rep. of	33.0	10.8 (2004)	9.4 (1990)	2.0 ^a (2007)
Hong Kong, China	...	...	...	...
Korea, Rep. of	...	...	7.0 (1990)	5.0 (2004)
Mongolia	27.3	11.0 (2002)	36.3 (1995)	36.1 (2003)
Taipei, China	...	...	...	0.8 ^c (2003)
South Asia				
Bangladesh	34.4	36.3 (2005)	51.6 (1991)	40.0 (2005)
Bhutan	...	...	...	23.2 (2007)
India	44.3	35.1 (2004)	36.0 (1993)	27.5 (2004)
Maldives	...	<2.0 (2004)	...	21.0 (2004)
Nepal	45.7	24.7 (2003)	42.0 (1995)	30.9 (2004)
Sri Lanka	3.8	4.8 (2002)	26.1 (1991)	22.7 (2002)
Southeast Asia				
Brunei Darussalam ^d	...	...	...	...
Cambodia	32.5	18.5 (2004)	39.0 (1994)	34.7 (2004)
Indonesia	20.6	4.0 (2005)	15.1 (1990)	16.6 (2007)
Lao PDR	53.0	28.8 (2002)	45.0 (1993)	32.7 (2003)
Malaysia	<2.0	<2.0 (2004)	16.5 (1990)	5.1 (2002)
Myanmar	...	...	...	26.6 (2001)
Philippines	20.2	13.6 (2006)	33.0 (1997)	33.0 (2006)
Singapore	...	...	...	...
Thailand	10.2	<2.0 (2002)	18.0 (1990)	9.8 (2002)
Viet Nam	50.8	8.4 (2004)	50.9 (1993)	19.5 (2004)
The Pacific				
Cook Islands	...	...	...	12.0 (1998)
Fiji Islands	...	25.5 (1996)	...	37.5 ^e (2002)
Kiribati	...	38.0 (1996)	...	50.0 (1996)
Marshall Islands	...	20.0 (1999)	...	...
Micronesia, Fed. States of	...	5.2 (1998)	...	27.9 (1998)
Nauru	...	...	...	...
Palau	...	...	...	59.2 (2004)
Papua New Guinea	...	30.2 (1996)	...	37.5 (1996)
Samoa	...	5.5 (2002)	...	20.3 ^f (2002)
Solomon Islands	...	...	...	...
Timor-Leste	...	20.0 (2001)	...	39.7 (2001)
Tonga	...	4.0 (2001)	...	22.3 ^f (2002)
Tuvalu	...	17.2 (1994)	...	29.3 ^f (1994)
Vanuatu	...	26.0 (1998)	...	40.0 (1998)
Developed Member Countries				
Australia	...	...	...	...
Japan	...	...	...	...
New Zealand	...	...	...	...

continued.

Goal 1 Targets

Table 1.1 **Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day** (continued)

	1.2 Poverty Gap Ratio		1.3 Share of Poorest Quintile in National Consumption (percent)	
	1990	Latest Year	Latest Year	
Developing Member Countries				
Central and West Asia				
Afghanistan	...	...	...
Armenia	0.4	0.4 (2003)	8.5	(2003)
Azerbaijan	3.4	0.2 (2001)	7.4	(2001)
Georgia	0.0	2.0 (2003)	4.8	(2003)
Kazakhstan	0.0	0.1 (2003)	7.4	(2003)
Kyrgyz Republic	0.0	0.5 (2003)	8.9	(2003)
Pakistan	14.6	1.0 (2004)	9.1	(2005)
Tajikistan	0.0	1.0 (2003)	7.8	(2004)
Turkmenistan	0.0	0.0 (2003)	6.0	(2003)
Uzbekistan	...	...	7.2	(2003)
East Asia				
China, People's Rep. of	8.9	2.5 (2004)	4.3	(2004)
Hong Kong, China	...	...	5.3 ^b	(1996)
Korea, Rep. of	...	...	...
Mongolia	7.6	2.1 (2002)	7.5	(2002)
Taipei, China	...	...	...
South Asia				
Bangladesh	7.9	8.4 (2005)	8.8	(2005)
Bhutan	...	...	...
India	11.8	8.3 (2004)	8.1	(2004)
Maldives	...	...	...
Nepal	13.6	5.6 (2003)	6.0	(2003)
Sri Lanka	0.7	0.3 (2002)	7.0	(2002)
Southeast Asia				
Brunei Darussalam ^d	...	...	...
Cambodia	...	3.6 (2004)	6.8	(2004)
Indonesia	3.9	0.5 (2005)	7.1	(2005)
Lao PDR	5.5	6.6 (2002)	8.1	(2002)
Malaysia	0.1	0.7 (2004)	6.1	(2004)
Myanmar	...	...	...
Philippines	4.4	2.3 (2006)	7.9	(2006)
Singapore	...	...	5.0 ^b	(1998)
Thailand	1.3	0.0 (2002)	6.3	(2002)
Viet Nam	5.5	1.0 (2004)	7.1	(2004)
The Pacific				
Cook Islands	...	...	...
Fiji Islands	...	0.3 (1996)	8.5	(2002)
Kiribati	...	...	6.0	(1996)
Marshall Islands	...	...	3.3	(2002)
Micronesia, Fed. States of	...	0.5 (1998)	5.2	(1998)
Nauru	...	...	...
Palau	...	...	...
Papua New Guinea	...	12.4 (1996)	4.5	(1996)
Samoa	...	6.6 (2002)	6.2	(2002)
Solomon Islands	...	...	...
Timor-Leste	...	11.9 (2001)	7.0	(2001)
Tonga	...	7.7 (2001)	4.9	(2001)
Tuvalu	...	...	...
Vanuatu	...	30.5 (1998)	2.1	(1998)
Developed Member Countries				
Australia	...	...	5.9 ^b	(1994)
Japan	...	...	10.6 ^b	(1993)
New Zealand	...	...	6.4 ^b	(1997)

a Refers to rural areas only.

b Refers to income share.

c Defined as percent of low-income population to total population.

d Brunei Darussalam is not a developing member country but an unclassified regional member country of ADB.

e Refers to percentage of population below basic needs poverty line per adult equivalent.

f Refers to percentage of poor households.

Sources: ADB staff estimates; Millennium Indicators Database Online (UNSD 2008); East Asia Update, PovcalNet Database (World Bank 2008); The Pacific Islands Regional Millennium Development Goals Report (SPC 2004); country sources.

Goal 1 Targets

Table 1.2 **Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people**

	1.4 Growth Rate of GDP per Person Employed (percent, at constant 1990 US\$ PPP)		1.5 Employment-to-Population Ratio (percent, aged 15 and over)	
	1992	2006	1991	2006
Developing Member Countries				
Central and West Asia				
Afghanistan	...	...	55.8	58.4
Armenia	-27.2	13.1	67.6	48.6
Azerbaijan	-19.1	27.2	58.5	61.2
Georgia	-43.7	10.2	60.4	53.2
Kazakhstan	0.2	8.9	62.8	64.7
Kyrgyz Republic	-14.6	0.4	58.7	58.7
Pakistan	6.3	0.7	54.4	55.3
Tajikistan	-29.5	4.7	54.4	47.9
Turkmenistan	-7.6	6.1	57.6	59.6
Uzbekistan	-18.5	3.9	55.9	57.7
East Asia				
China, People's Rep. of	11.4	9.7	75.9	72.7
Hong Kong, China	7.3	4.7	62.6	58.4
Korea, Rep. of	4.0	3.8	59.0	59.7
Mongolia	-7.7	4.6	49.5	59.0
Taipei, China	6.8	3.4	56.9	54.3
South Asia				
Bangladesh	2.9	4.3	73.4	66.7
Bhutan	3.8	6.2	54.4	60.7
India	3.8	7.1	58.6	55.7
Maldives	2.6	10.0	49.7	59.9
Nepal	2.3	-0.9	59.0	57.8
Sri Lanka	5.4	5.4	51.6	51.7
Southeast Asia				
Brunei Darussalam ^a	3.2	1.4	62.5	59.1
Cambodia	4.9	6.4	78.7	75.9
Indonesia	2.9	3.9	63.1	60.7
Lao PDR	3.8	4.2	65.3	66.0
Malaysia	6.5	3.2	60.9	62.0
Myanmar	2.5	5.5	74.6	74.5
Philippines	-4.6	2.0	59.1	64.2
Singapore	2.0	6.3	64.4	60.3
Thailand	7.4	3.9	77.4	72.2
Viet Nam	4.1	5.7	75.4	73.4
The Pacific				
Cook Islands	...	...	...	...
Fiji Islands	0.5	1.5	60.6	62.5
Kiribati	...	...	...	...
Marshall Islands	...	...	...	...
Micronesia, Fed. States of	...	...	...	...
Nauru	...	...	...	...
Palau	...	...	...	...
Papua New Guinea	16.4	0.9	70.7	71.3
Samoa	...	...	...	...
Solomon Islands	5.3	1.7	65.7	65.8
Timor-Leste	...	...	61.9	66.7
Tonga	...	...	...	...
Tuvalu	...	...	...	...
Vanuatu	...	...	...	...
Developed Member Countries				
Australia	3.4	1.1	56.7	59.9
Japan	-0.4	2.4	62.5	57.7
New Zealand	0.4	-0.1	56.9	64.7

continued.

Goal 1 Targets

Table 1.2 **Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people** (continued)

	1.6 Proportion of Employed People Living below \$1 (PPP) per Day (percent)		1.7 Proportion of Own-Account and Contributing Family Workers in Total Employment (percent)	
	Earliest Year	Latest Year	Earliest Year	Latest Year
Developing Member Countries				
Central and West Asia				
Afghanistan	...	...	...	...
Armenia	9.5 (1996)	2.5 (2003)	...	16.6 (2001)
Azerbaijan	15.9 (1995)	4.9 (2001)	...	...
Georgia	1.8 (1996)	8.8 (2003)	53.9 (1998)	64.2 (2005)
Kazakhstan	0.0 (1993)	1.1 (2003)	40.0 (2001)	35.8 (2004)
Kyrgyz Republic	11.0 (1993)	0.0 (2003)	51.5 (2002)	49.8 (2004)
Pakistan	21.4 (1997)	12.7 (2005)	64.9 (1995)	61.2 (2005)
Tajikistan	20.9 (1999)	10.4 (2003)	...	...
Turkmenistan	28.5 (1993)	16.5 (1998)	...	...
Uzbekistan	4.6 (1993)	20.9 (2003)	...	...
East Asia				
China, People's Rep. of	33.4 (1992)	12.1 (2004)	...	...
Hong Kong, China	...	...	5.5 (1993)	7.7 (2005)
Korea, Rep. of	...	...	30.0 (2000)	26.3 (2005)
Mongolia	18.7 (1995)	15.1 (2002)	56.6 (2000)	59.7 (2003)
Taipei, China	...	...	27.6 (1990)	23.2 (2002)
South Asia				
Bangladesh	39.6 (1992)	49.9 (2000)	69.4 (1996)	63.1 (2003)
Bhutan	...	...	...	...
India	68.0 (1992)	39.1 (2005)	...	...
Maldives	...	...	53.9 (1995)	50.3 (2000)
Nepal	44.7 (1996)	33.7 (2004)	...	...
Sri Lanka	9.8 (1996)	8.4 (2002)	39.0 (2002)	39.1 (2003)
Southeast Asia				
Brunei Darussalam ^a	...	...	...	...
Cambodia	87.0 (1994)	75.4 (2004)	84.5 (2000)	86.7 (2004)
Indonesia	22.0 (1993)	10.3 (2002)	62.8 (1997)	61.0 (2001)
Lao PDR	22.8 (1992)	33.6 (2002)	90.1 (1995)	...
Malaysia	0.0 (1992)	0.0 (1997)	24.9 (1995)	20.4 (2003)
Myanmar	...	...	...	...
Philippines	24.2 (1994)	18.0 (2003)	45.0 (2001)	45.1 (2005)
Singapore	...	...	8.1 (1991)	9.1 (2004)
Thailand	6.8 (1992)	1.0 (2002)	70.3 (1990)	53.0 (2004)
Viet Nam	...	22.7 (2004)	82.1 (1996)	73.9 (2004)
The Pacific				
Cook Islands	...	...	...	...
Fiji Islands	...	...	...	...
Kiribati	...	...	...	...
Marshall Islands	...	...	...	...
Micronesia, Fed. States of	...	...	...	...
Nauru	...	...	...	...
Palau	...	...	...	...
Papua New Guinea	...	...	...	...
Samoa	...	...	...	...
Solomon Islands	...	...	...	...
Timor-Leste	...	...	...	...
Tonga	...	...	...	...
Tuvalu	...	...	...	...
Vanuatu	...	...	...	...
Developed Member Countries				
Australia	...	...	10.3 (1990)	9.8 (2005)
Japan	...	...	19.3 (1990)	12.1 (2005)
New Zealand	...	...	12.6 (1991)	12.0 (2005)

a Brunei Darussalam is not a developing member country but an unclassified regional member country of ADB.

Sources: Millennium Indicators Database Online (UNSD 2008), *Key Indicators of the Labour Market* (ILO 2007).

Goal 1 Targets

Table 1.3 Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

	1.8 Prevalence of Underweight Children under Five Years of Age, Latest Year (percent)			1.9 Proportion of Population below Minimum Level of Dietary Energy Consumption (percent)		
	Total	Girls	Boys	1990–1992	1995–1997	2001–2003
Developing Member Countries						
Central and West Asia						
Afghanistan	39 ^a	40	38 (2003-2004)	...	...	...
Armenia	4	6	2 (2005)	...	52 ^b	29
Azerbaijan	7 ^c	8	6 (2001)	...	34 ^b	10
Georgia	3	2	4 (1999)	...	44 ^b	13
Kazakhstan	4	4	4 (2006)	...	3 ^b	8
Kyrgyz Republic	3	3	4 (2006)	...	21 ^b	4
Pakistan	38	36	38 (2001-2002)	24	19	23
Tajikistan	17	...	... (2005)	...	22 ^b	61
Turkmenistan	11	10	12 (2005)	...	12 ^b	8
Uzbekistan	5	5	5 (2006)	...	8 ^b	26
East Asia						
China, People's Rep. of	7	...	... (2005)	16 ^d	12 ^d	12 ^d
Hong Kong, China	...	...	...	...	...	...
Korea, Rep. of	...	...	...	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5
Mongolia	6	7	6 (2005)	34	45	28
Taipei, China	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Asia						
Bangladesh	48	49	46 (2004)	35	40	30
Bhutan	19 ^a	17	20 (1999)	...	...	...
India	43	43	42 (2005)	25	21	20
Maldives	30	30	31 (2001)	17	15	11
Nepal	39	40	38 (2006)	20	26	17
Sri Lanka	29 ^c	30	29 (2000)	28	26	22
Southeast Asia						
Brunei Darussalam ^e	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cambodia	36	36	35 (2000)	43	46	33
Indonesia	28	...	... (2003)	9	6	6
Lao PDR	40	40	40 (2000)	29	28	21
Malaysia	8	...	... (2005)	3	3	3
Myanmar	32	32	31 (2003)	10	7	5
Philippines	28	...	... (2003)	26	22	19
Singapore	3	3	4 (2000)	...	...	...
Thailand	9	10	9 (2005)	30	23	21
Viet Nam	25	...	... (2005)	31	23	17
The Pacific						
Cook Islands	10	...	... (1997)	...	...	...
Fiji Islands	15	...	... (1994)	10	7	4
Kiribati	13	...	... (1999)	9	7	6
Marshall Islands	27	...	... (1999)	...	...	...
Micronesia, Fed. States of	15	...	... (1997)	...	...	...
Nauru	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palau	...	...	...	...	...	...
Papua New Guinea	25	...	... (2000)	15	15	13
Samoa	2	...	... (1999)	11	11	4
Solomon Islands	21	...	... (1999)	33	21	20
Timor-Leste	46	45	46 (2003)	11	9	8
Tonga	2	...	... (1999)	...	...	...
Tuvalu	...	...	...	12	...	...
Vanuatu	12	...	... (1996)	12	12	12
Developed Member Countries						
Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...
Japan	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	...

a For children aged 6–59 months.

b 1993–1995 average.

c For children aged 3–59 months.

d Includes Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; and Taipei, China.

e Brunei Darussalam is not a developing member country but an unclassified regional member country of ADB.

Sources: Millennium Indicators Database Online (UNSD 2008), Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women Online (UNICEF 2007), Pacific Islands Regional Millennium Development Goals Report 2004 (SPC 2004).