

## Introduction to the Millennium Development Goals

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty, and setting out a series of targets with a deadline of 2015. These have come to be known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2007, the MDG monitoring framework was revised to include four new targets agreed on by member states at the 2005 World Summit, namely, full and productive employment and decent work for all, access to reproductive health, access to treatment for HIV/AIDS, and protection of biodiversity. The indicators for these new targets became effective in January 2008, and this is the framework used here to monitor progress toward achieving the MDGs.

Box 1 lists the eight MDGs and the corresponding targets and indicators for monitoring progress.

Box 1 Millennium Development Goals	
Goals and Targets (from the Millennium Declaration)	Indicators for Monitoring Progress
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	
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 \$1 (PPP) per day <sup>1</sup> 1.2 Poverty gap ratio 1.3 Share of the poorest quintile in national consumption
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 1.5 Employment-to-population ratio 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day 1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment
Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
<b>Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education</b>	
Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	2.1 Net enrollment ratio in primary education 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach the last grade of primary 2.3 Literacy rate of 15–24 year-olds, women and men
<b>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	
Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	3.1 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education 3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the nonagricultural sector 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
<b>Goal 4: Reduce child mortality</b>	
Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate	4.1 Under-5 mortality rate 4.2 Infant mortality rate 4.3 Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles
<b>Goal 5: Improve maternal health</b>	
Target 5.A: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	5.1 Maternal mortality ratio 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate 5.4 Adolescent birth rate 5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) 5.6 Unmet need for family planning
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>	
Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15–24 years 6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15–24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of nonorphans aged 10–14 years
Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs
Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria 6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets 6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs 6.9 Incidence, prevalence, and death rates associated with tuberculosis 6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under the Directly Observed Treatment Short (DOTS) course

*continued.*

Box 1 Millennium Development Goals (continued)

Goals and Targets (from the Millennium Declaration)	Indicators for Monitoring Progress
<b>Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	
Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources	7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest 7.2 CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP) 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used
Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction
Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility
Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums <sup>2</sup>
<b>Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development</b>	
Target 8.A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system  Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction—both nationally and internationally	Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries, Africa, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states. Official Development Assistance (ODA) 8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income 8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water, and sanitation)
Target 8.B: Address the special needs of the least developed countries  Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction	8.3 Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied 8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes 8.5 ODA received in small island developing states as a proportion of their gross national incomes
Target 8.C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	Market Access 8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty 8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product 8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity
Target 8.D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	Debt Sustainability 8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative) 8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives 8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
Target 8.E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population 8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population 8.16 Internet users per 100 population

AIDS = acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, CO<sub>2</sub> = carbon dioxide, DAC = Development Assistance Committee, GDP = gross domestic product, HIPC = heavily indebted poor countries, HIV = human immunodeficiency virus, MDRI = Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, ODA = official development assistance, OECD = Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, PPP = purchasing power parity.

<sup>1</sup> For monitoring country poverty trends, indicators based on national poverty lines should be used, where available.

<sup>2</sup> The actual proportion of people living in slums is measured by a proxy, represented by the urban population living in households with at least one of the four characteristics: (a) lack of access to improved water supply; (b) lack of access to improved sanitation; (c) overcrowding (three or more persons per room); and (d) dwellings made of nondurable material.

Source: Millennium Development Goals Indicators: The Official United Nations Site for the MDG Indicators. July 2012.

## Progress toward Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Targets

The progress of ADB developing members toward achieving the MDGs and targets is discussed in this part. For each goal, there is a short analysis together with supporting statistical information presented in figures, boxes, and tables on the performance of countries toward achieving the goals. Progress classification was determined using the methodology outlined in Technical Note I of the report, Accelerating Equitable Achievement of the MDGs (UNESCAP, ADB, and UNDP 2011). The rate of change is calculated using the linear time trend of a suitable transformation of the indicator values. On

the basis of their performance to date, countries are classified as **early achiever, on track, slow progress, no progress,** and **regressing**, as measured by target indicators estimated from data available since 1990:

- Early achievers – countries that have already reached the target;
- On track – countries that are expected to meet the target by 2015;
- Slow progress – countries that are expected to meet the target after 2015;
- No progress – countries that started at desirable levels relative to the 2015 goal but exhibited either a downward trend or no change in more recent years;
- Regressing – countries that have actually slipped backward relative to 1990 or earliest reference year.

Many of the figures in the following analyses that illustrate progress on the MDGs refer to the “earliest” and “latest” year, reflecting the earliest year and the latest year for which data are available. Ideally, all countries would have the necessary statistics for every year from 1990 to the current year. However, lack of data from economies reflect the difficulty in collecting and disseminating data. The statistical tables are the sources for the figures used in the analysis and show the actual years to which the data refer.

In addition, the progress classification has been made for indicators that have explicit targets, such as \$1.25-a-day PPP poverty, maternal and infant mortality, school enrollment, and gender parity. In monitoring progress, “cutoffs” were introduced for several targets (see Table 1), which are the cutoffs adopted in the UNESCAP, ADB, and UNDP (2011) report. For example, a cutoff of 2% is used for the target “halving extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015”. This means that when the percentage of those living on less than \$1.25 a day is reduced to 2%, the target is considered to have been reached even if 2% is not half of the percentage in 1990.

For indicators whose target is to reverse the trend, such as in HIV prevalence, TB prevalence, TB incidence, forest cover, protected area, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, only four categories were used—indicators trending in the “right” direction since 1990 are categorized as Early achievers; indicators showing no change at all over the period are categorized as On track; indicators trending in the “wrong” direction are categorized as Off track – Regressing; and indicators that started with high levels but exhibited a downward trend in more recent years are categorized as No progress.

**Table 1. Cutoff Values for Selected MDG Indicators**

No.	Indicator	MDG Target	Cutoff
1.1	Proportion of population below \$1.25 (PPP) a day	half the 1990 percentage	2%
1.8	Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	half the 1990 percentage	none
2.1	Total net enrollment ratio in primary education (both sexes)	100%	95%
2.2	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach the last grade of primary (both sexes)	100%	95%
3.1	Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education	1	0.95
4.1	Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births	one-third the 1990 percentage	none
4.2	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	one-third the 1990 percentage	none
5.1	Maternal mortality ratio	reduce by $\frac{3}{4}$ (without)	none
5.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	reduce by $\frac{3}{4}$ (without)	none
5.5	Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit)	100%	95%
6.1	HIV prevalence	reverse the trend	none
6.9a	TB incidence	reverse the trend	none
6.9b	TB prevalence	reverse the trend	none
7.1	Forest cover	reverse the trend	none
7.2	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	reverse the trend	none
7.3	ODP substance consumption	reverse the trend	none
7.6	Protected area	reverse the trend	none
7.8	Population using improved water sources (urban and rural combined)	half the 1990 percentage (without)	none
7.9	Population having access to improved sanitation facilities (urban and rural combined)	half the 1990 percentage (without)	none

CO<sub>2</sub> = carbon dioxide, ODP = ozone depletion potential, PPP = purchasing power parity, TB = tuberculosis

Table 2 illustrates the MDG progress classification, adapted from the 2011 joint UNESCAP, ADB and UNDP report, which reflects the progress that developing economies in Asia and the Pacific region have made over two decades. The classifications into five categories were made for indicators where data were available from UN bodies that have been designated to monitor the MDGs and also from the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Indicators database (United Nations 2012) following the July 2012 update. Differences in progress classification between Table 2 and the UNESCAP, ADB and UNDP report arise not due to methodological processes but differences in data used.

Table 2. Millennium Development Goals Progress Tracking

Goal	1		2		3			4		5		6			7						
	\$1.25 per day poverty	Underweight children	Primary enrolment	Reaching last grade	Gender Primary	Gender Secondary	Gender Tertiary	Under-5 mortality	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality	Skilled birth attendance	Antenatal care (≥ 1 visit)	HIV prevalence	TB incidence	TB prevalence	Forest cover	Protected area	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	ODP substance consumption	Safe drinking water	Basic sanitation
<b>Developing Member Economies</b>																					
<b>Central and West Asia</b>																					
Afghanistan		▶			■	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	■		▶	●	▶		▶	●	▶	■
Armenia	●	▶	●	●	●	●	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	◆	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	●	▶	■
Azerbaijan	●	■	▶	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	▶	■	▶	▶	▶	●	●	▶	●	■	●
Georgia	▶	●	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	●	◆
Kazakhstan	●	■	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	◆	●
Kyrgyz Republic	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	▶	■	▶	▶	▶	●	●	▶	●	●	■
Pakistan	●	■	■	▶	■	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	●	■	■
Tajikistan	●	●	●	●	■	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	●	▶	●	■	▶
Turkmenistan	●	▶						■	■	■	●	●		●	●	▶	▶	▶	●	■	◆
Uzbekistan	▶	●	■	●	●	●	▶	■	■	■	●	●	◆	▶	●	●	●	●	●	▶	●
<b>East Asia</b>																					
China, People's Rep. of	●	●	●	●	●	●	▶	■	▶	●	▶	▶	▶	●	●	●	●	▶	●	●	●
Hong Kong, China			●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	◆	●	▶	●	●	●	●	▶	●	●	●
Korea, Rep. of			●	●	●	●	■	■	■	◆	●	▶	▶	●	●	●	▶	▶	●	●	●
Mongolia	●	●	●	▶	●	●	●	●	▶	■	●	▶	▶	●	●	●	▶	▶	●	●	■
Taipei, China			●		●	●	●								●		▶	▶	●		
<b>South Asia</b>																					
Bangladesh	■	▶	■	■	●	●	■	▶	▶	▶	■	■	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	■	■
Bhutan	●	■	▶	■	●	●	■	▶	■	■	▶	■	▶	●	●	●	●	▶	▶	●	■
India	■	■	●	■	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	●	●	●	▶	▶	●	■
Maldives	●	▶	●	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	●	●	■
Nepal	●	■	▶	■	●	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	●	●	■
Sri Lanka	●	■	▶	●	●	●	●	■	■	■	▶	■	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	●	●
<b>Southeast Asia</b>																					
Brunei Darussalam <sup>a</sup>			●	●	●	●	■	■	■	●	●		●	▶	▶	●	▶	▶	●	●	■
Cambodia	▶	■	●	■	●	▶	■	■	■	▶	■	■	●	▶	●	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	■
Indonesia	●	■	●	■	●	▶	▶	■	■	■	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	■	■
Lao PDR	▶	●	●	▶	■	▶	▶	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	▶	●
Malaysia	●	▶	■	■	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	●	■
Myanmar		■	●	■	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	●	■
Philippines	■	■	▶	■	●	●	●	■	■	■	■	■	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	▶	■
Singapore		▶					▶	●	◆			▶	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	▶	●	●	●
Thailand	●	●	■	▶	●	●	▶	■	■	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	▶	●	●	●
Viet Nam	●	▶	●	▶	▶	●	●	■	■	■	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	●	▶	▶	●	●	●
<b>The Pacific</b>																					
Cook Islands			●	▶	●	●		■	■	■		◆	●	●	●	●	▶	▶	●	◆	●
Fiji		▶	●	■	●	●		■	■	■	▶	◆	▶	●	●	●	▶	▶	●	■	■
Kiribati			●		●	●		■	■	■	▶		▶	●	●	●	▶	▶	●	■	■
Marshall Islands			●	■	●	●	●	■	■	■	▶		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	◆	■
Micronesia, Fed. States of	▶		●		●	●		■	■	■	■		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	▶
Nauru			●		●	●	▶	▶	■				▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	▶
Palau			●		●	●	●	■	■	■	●		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	▶	●
Papua New Guinea		▶	■	■	■	▶	■	■	■	■	■	■	◆	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	■	▶
Samoa		▶	●	▶	●	●	▶	■	■	■	▶		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	●	◆
Solomon Islands			▶		●	▶		■	■	■	▶		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	■	■
Timor-Leste	▶	▶	■		●	●	▶	●	▶	▶	■	■		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	■	◆
Tonga			●		●	●	●	■	■		●			▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	●	◆
Tuvalu			●	▶	●	●		■	■	■	▶			▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	●	■
Vanuatu		▶	▶	▶	●	●		▶	▶	▶	▶			▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	●	●	■

● = Early Achiever    ▶ = On track    ■ = Slow    ◆ = No progress    ◀ = Regressing

a Brunei Darussalam is a regional member of ADB, but it is not classified as a developing member.

Source: Staff estimates based on UNESCAP, ADB, and UNDP method for assessing the MDGs (*Accelerating Equitable Achievement of the MDGs*, February, 2012).

Table 2 also used updated data where data for latest years are available and revisions on data on earliest years were adapted. In addition, differences in MDG Progress classification between Table 2 and the joint UNESCAP, ADB and UNDP report may arise due to the reclassification used in this report, which decomposes the UNESCAP classification “regressing/no progress” group into two separate groups, particularly for indicators with explicit targets. For indicators whose target is to reverse the trend, countries that started with high levels but exhibited a downward trend or no change in more recent years were classified as “no progress” instead of UNESCAP classification “off track”.

Extreme poverty, universal primary education and gender goals (MDG 1, MDG 2 and MDG 3) have been generally achieved earlier than their target dates with South Asia lagging behind in their gender goals. The problem in primary education is ensuring the completion of primary schooling, and not merely increasing enrollment. Under-5 mortality and infant mortality goals (MDG 4) remain to be a problem in the region. Since infant mortality is a significant proportion of under-5 mortality, focusing efforts on reducing infant mortality can translate to much lower under-5 mortality ratios. There is a slow progress in meeting maternal mortality goals (MDG 5), especially in Central and West Asia and Southeast Asia. Also, a number of economies in Central and West Asia and Southeast Asia are regressing in reducing HIV prevalence (MDG 6). TB incidence and prevalence goals (MDG 6) have also been achieved in most countries in the region, but with some Central and West Asia economies regressing in reducing TB incidence. With respect to environmental sustainability (MDG 7), forest cover is depleting, especially in Southeast Asia but there has been an increase in areas placed under protection. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the region are increasing, which is directly related to the increase in economic activities and higher incomes in the region. Ozone depleting substance consumption targets have been achieved due to the phasing out of chlorofluorocarbons as envisioned in the Montreal Protocol. Finally, the provision of basic sanitation proves to be more problematic than provision of safe drinking water.

## Data Sources and Comparability with Other Publications

Data used for assessing the economies’ progress in achieving the MDGs are presented in the following statistical tables. These were compiled from the UN bodies that have been designated to monitor the respective MDGs and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Database. For some indicators, data for the Pacific countries were sourced from the National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) Database maintained by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, while for Taipei, China, data were sourced from the Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS) website. New data points for earlier years are added while the most recent estimates are revised whenever data become available. Data have been verified to the extent possible, but responsibility for the reliability of the statistics remains with the agencies that are listed as the sources of each table.

Differences that exist between this publication and reports from other organizations on the performance of countries in meeting the MDGs may be due to several factors, including data sources, dates when statistics were collected and published, and different methodology used in assessing the progress.

## Selected References

- UNESCAP, ADB, and UNDP, 2012. *Accelerating Equitable Achievement of the MDGs*. Asia-Pacific Regional Report 2011/12. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Development Programme. Bangkok. (<http://asia-pacific.undp.org/>), accessed August 2012.
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