



The Millennium Development Goals – a regional balance sheet

Millennium Development Goal	Likelihood of being achieved by 2015	Best Case	Worst Case
MDG 1 Reduce extreme poverty by half Reduce hunger by half	Unlikely <i>Although poverty and hunger levels have fallen in Asia, this progress is offset by regression in Sub-Saharan Africa.</i>	Asia: Asia has made significant progress in MDG 1, especially thanks to China's economic boom. Between 1990 and 2001 nearly 250 million people in the region rose out of poverty and hunger.	Sub-Saharan Africa: The bad news is that the poorest of the poor are actually regressing. In 1990 there were 227 million people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa: by 2001 this figure had risen to 313 million.
MDG 2 Achieve Universal primary education	Likely <i>Despite slow progress in Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa, five world regions are close to achieving the goal. Increased focus on school completion, rather than mere enrolment, is now required.</i>	Latin America: Over 96 per cent of children are enrolled in school, and the progress rate has outstripped the world rate. Although the completion rate is lower than the enrolment rate, progress has been achieved in this area also.	Oceania: Since 1990 the primary school enrolment rate has only increased by 2 per cent. In 2001 76 per cent of children were enrolled – less than in any other region bar sub-Saharan Africa (which registered faster progress). Only 60-70 per cent of children who enter primary school complete it.
MDG 3 Ensure gender equality and balance in primary school enrolment	Unlikely <i>More girls are going to school in every region around the world. But enrolment rates are not rising at a sufficient pace to make parity likely by 2015.</i>	North Africa: Primary school enrolment parity has almost been reached, with the girl/boy ratio at 93 per cent in 2001-2002 and rising – an 11 per cent increase over a decade.	Southern Asia: Remains far from achieving parity, with 15 per cent less girls than boys in primary school. Women remain marginalised within the region's working environments.
MDG 4 Reduce child mortality by two-thirds	Unlikely <i>Child mortality rates are dropping, but not fast enough. Immunisation rates have not increased by any significant margin. Half of all child deaths are caused by one of 5 diseases – pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, measles and AIDS</i>	North Africa: Has registered very good progress, more than halving child mortality rates. For this region, achieving this MDG by 2015 remains a feasible proposition.	Sub-Saharan Africa: Child immunisation levels remain low, and meagre progress has been registered in reversing mortality levels – in some countries, child mortality has actually risen.
MDG 5 Reduce maternal mortality by two-thirds	Unlikely <i>Very high – and often increasing - maternal mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia mean that this MDG is unlikely to be achieved.</i>	Bangladesh: Although Southern Asia has shown very poor progress in achieving this MDG, Bangladesh – one of the poorest countries in the world - has bucked this trend by substantially reducing maternal mortality. It has focused on providing skilled birth attendants and providing access to emergency obstetric care.	Southern Asia: This region continues to have the lowest level of professional care at birth in the world. Rural areas lack any skilled birth attendants. This makes Bangladesh's progress all the more interesting (see left).



<p>MDG 6 Combat diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</p>	<p>Unlikely <i>This is perhaps the MDG least likely to be met. Infection rates are rising for many infectious diseases, with not a single developing region coming close to achieving the goal. HIV/AIDS infection rates are alarmingly high across the world.</i></p>	<p>Nepal: Approximately 45 per cent of the population is infected with TB. Thanks to the implementation of Directly Observed Treatments (DOTS) and a National TB Programme, case notifications doubled in just 3 years, with 90 per cent of patients successfully completing treatment.</p>	<p>Sub-Saharan Africa: The region has seen significant increases in HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria infection rates. 7 out of 100 adults in the region live with HIV, and 900,000 people die of malaria every year. HIV education is poor, with less than 30 per cent of adults aware of how to avoid infection. TB infection rates have almost doubled from 1990 levels.</p>
<p>MDG 7 Ensure environmental sustainability Halve the proportion without safe drinking water</p>	<p>Unlikely <i>Deforestation remains a major concern, although Eastern Asia has proven that it can be reversed. Significant progress has been registered in providing safe drinking water, but sanitation levels remain at very low levels throughout the developing world.</i></p>	<p>Southern Asia: Access to safe drinking water has jumped by over 12 per cent over the past 15 years, and improved sanitation levels have trebled. Much of the gain was due to increased coverage in India.</p>	<p>Oceania: Forest coverage has decreased as deforestation rates have risen. The region has the world's lowest level of land and marine areas protected for conservation purposes. Only 52 per cent of the population has access to safe drinking water, and progress since 1990 has been negligible. Although sanitation levels are rising, the region still lags behind much of the world.</p>
<p>MDG 8 Establish a global partnership</p>	<p>Unlikely <i>Despite numerous campaigns and appeals, the global trading system remains unbalanced. Youth unemployment levels are rising across developing regions, and access to essential drugs remains limited and expensive.</i></p>	<p>Spread of IT: Mobile phones, internet connections and personal computers have all experienced booms across the developing world. In 2003 there were 25 mobile phones per 100 people in the developing world, and internet access has increased from 4 per cent in 1998 to 12 per cent in 2003.</p>	<p>Aid and Trade: Aid levels have increased in absolute terms, but are at a historical low as a share of donor country income – the pledged 0.7 per cent of GDP remains a very distant target. Trade negotiations at the WTO have reached an impasse, and agricultural subsidies within developed countries continue to offset the positive impact of them reducing import tariffs on goods from poor nations.</p>



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