



Report of the Secretary-General Annual Ministerial Review: Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health

- The report examines the progress and challenges of implementing global public health, particularly in a time of growing financial and economic instability.
- Without urgent improvements and long-term commitments to make health systems accessible and affordable, the health Millennium Development Goals will be difficult to achieve. Investing in infrastructure and maintaining health spending will help mitigate damages created by the economic downturn, and protect recent social and health-related achievements from being undone.
- The international community should pursue its commitments to delivering aid for health, in the hopes of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Moreover, the response to the crisis needs to be multi-sectoral in its approach. Rigorous analysis and monitoring of the implications of the current crisis and development are needed in order to manage problems in the short and long term.

Key recommendations include:

- Developing a comprehensive and integrated approach to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Particularly in the effort to improve women's health and prevent, treat and control neglected tropical and non-communicable diseases
- Invest in infrastructure and delivery systems, in order to survey, respond and combat potential outbreaks and other public health emergencies.
- Progressively expand universal access to health services through adequate facilities, public transportation, financial protection, a dynamic health workforce and information systems.
- Investing in information and communication technologies and health education, in order to strengthen national and global awareness of health risks and services provided.
- Acknowledge that health is at the heart of all policies. This includes taking decisive actions to address food shortages, climate change, conflict etc... which ultimately affect social welfare.
- Promoting greater coherence or collaboration between a range of state and non-state actors
- Building productive partnerships with organizations in the maintenance of health-care facilities, and utilization of information technology to provide health advice and services.
- The allocation of adequate resources for health and development, despite the economic downturn, to reach the poorest and the most vulnerable. This should include the implementation and monitoring of international commitments.

Executive Summary

Health is at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals. It is the specific subject of three MDGs and a critical precondition for progress on most of them. Coherence and partnership among United Nations entities, national and international actors, including Governments, civil society, the private sector, philanthropy and academia is crucial to helping countries achieve their health priorities.

Progress has been made in some areas, but much remains to be done. For many countries meeting the health goals remains a daunting task, especially since improving health outcomes is linked not only to the provision of health services, but also to interventions outside the health sector.

With more resources and greater political will, health targets can be reached. However, in this time of financial and economic crisis, there is a danger that social goals like health will be neglected. If this occurs, previous gains will be jeopardized and in both high- and low-income countries, it will be the most vulnerable groups of society that will be most negatively affected.

Progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals must be sustained, but this will require new energy and stronger commitment. The report highlights priority actions and recommendations to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals and to ensure progress in the areas of universal health coverage, health system strengthening, and aid delivery and effectiveness.