

Background Note on accelerating progress towards the MDGs

Remarkable progress has been made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in the targets related to poverty reduction, improved drinking water sources, primary education and health.

Several other targets are also within reach by 2015.

Nevertheless, significant shortfalls remain in the targets related to reducing hunger, gender equality, child mortality, maternal mortality and environmental sustainability, as well as delivering on global partnership commitments.

Progress has also been uneven across countries and among different population groups and regions within countries. In the world's poorest countries in particular progress often failed to keep up with rapidly changing demographics.

Many initiatives and actions to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs have been taken at national, regional and global levels, involving a large number of different stakeholders.

These initiatives have produced encouraging results, but redoubled efforts are needed.

Sustained, inclusive, and equitable growth with environmental stewardship is crucial for achieving the MDGs.

Policy options for supporting this type of growth include: Advancing the reforms in financial regulation to reduce risks of financial and economic crisis; Strengthening counter-cyclical policy space; Incentivizing long-term investment for sustainable development; Enhancing international policy coordination and cooperation; promoting employment with decent wages, particularly employment of women and youth; reducing inequality through social protection and other redistributive measures.