

Contribution by Pakistan

MDG Status and Initiatives in Pakistan

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Pakistan is fully committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals have been reflected in the overall development strategy of Pakistan and embodied in the Medium Term Development Framework (MTDF) 2005-10 and Vision-2030, policies, programs and targets are outlined in seven themes: *Poverty reduction, basic and college education, health and nutrition interventions, population welfare, water supply & sanitation and sustainable development.*

An overall review of MDGs carried out in 2006-07 shows that enrollment in primary schools has increased and the gender in-equality in schooling has been reduced. In the Health sector though the progress in “*under-five-mortality (U5MR)*” is slow, the percentage of skilled birth attendants, doctors and nurses have increased. The Government of Pakistan is also addressing the problems of TB, Malaria and HIV/AIDS and the incidence of polio eradication. However, Hepatitis which is indicting a huge population of Pakistan requires to be addressed effectively and holistically.

Pakistan is an early achiever in terms of reducing the percentage of population living below the poverty line. On the basis of national poverty line, poverty decreased to 23.9 per cent in 2005 as compared to 34.5 per cent in 2001. High economic growth, targeted programme for poverty reduction and significant increase of pro poor expenditure, lifted a large number of poor households out of poverty. The overall program of MDG indicators show that out of 34 indicators adopted, Pakistan is ahead in 7, on track in 16 and lagging in 11 indicators. The following table reflects the performance of Pakistan in terms of achievements:

Goals	No. of Indicators Adopted	Ahead	On Track	Lag
Eradicate Extreme poverty and hunger	3	1	2	-
Achieve Universal Primary Education	3	1	-	2
Promote Gender Equality & Women Empowerment	4	1	3	-
Reduce Child Mortality	6	1	3	2
Improve Mental Health	5	-	1	4
Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases	5	1	4	-
Ensure Environmental Sustainability	8	2	3	3
Total:	34	7	16	11

The Government in Pakistan, as part of its strategy to intensify Pakistan's efforts for the achievement of the MDGs, has recently taken the following steps to address the urgent needs of the poor:

- a) First, increased the support price for wheat to encourage the small farmers to grow more wheat.
- b) Second, liberalized imports to improve the supply situation of essential commodities especially duty free imports of wheat.
- c) Third, instituted high level Committees to stabilize and monitor prices of essential commodities.
- d) Fourth, ensured the availability of all basic food items at Utility Stores Corporation at a cheaper rate than the open market prices.
- e) Lastly, provided cash assistance of Rs 1,000/- per month to 3.4 million poor households under the newly created **Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)** with an allocation of Rs 34 billion for 2008-09.

A brief detailing the efforts and special initiatives taken by Pakistan to promote women empowerment and gender equality is also attached.

Performance in the identified MDG's is as under:

Goal: Achieve Universal Primary Education

There are three indicators relating to the Universal Primary Education (UPE) under Millennium Development Goals. Pakistan has achieved a net primary enrollment of 53 per cent, the completion survival rate of 74 per cent and an overall literacy rate of 54 per cent in 2005-06.

Goal: Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment

At the national level GPI in primary enrollment steadily improved from 0.73 to 0.82 and to 0.82 in 1990, 2001 and 2005 respectively. However, the national estimates mark considerable inter-provincial variations in GPI. Although the country has missed the preferred target year of 2005 to achieve GPI 1.0 in primary and secondary education, the rate of progress is however, steadily achievable by 2015.

Considerable progress in eliminating gender disparity in primary education in the last 7 years is apparent. The numerical analysis indicates that nine districts have already attained the MDG target to parity ratio of 1.0 and another 4 districts are almost close to the target. If the past rate of progress is maintained and extrapolated into the future, another 25 districts will attain the parity ratio. However, fast track initiatives in this regard will ensure the attainment of parity in majority of the districts by 2015.

Goal: Reduce Child Mortality

There has been an overall improvement in the immunization coverage. In relation to the national MDG target of greater than 90 per cent set for 2015, nearly 16 districts have already achieved it, and extrapolating the recent past performance another 50 districts are likely to achieve it around 2015.

Goal: Improve Maternal Health

Reduction of maternal mortality by three quarters between 1990-2015 is another targeted goal. In addition, as agreed by Heads of Governments in the World Summit Outcome, it also aims to provide universal access to reproductive health by 2015. According to the results of Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2006-07, the maternal mortality ratio has decreased to 297 from 350 in 2000-01 per 100,000 live births. The data implies that approximately 3 out of 1,000 women in Pakistan will die of maternal causes during their lifetime (lifetime risk). **The following programmes aim to address the problems of maternal mortality and access to reproductive health information and services in Pakistan;**

The **Lady Health Workers Programme** was initiated in 1994 to provide basic health care services to women on their doorstep thereby bridging the gap between the community and institutionalized services. The Government has recruited over 96,000 LHWs in the past couple of years. In addition to the Women's Health project, which has been active since June 2000. The Government of Pakistan has recently launched its **National Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Programme**. It is aimed at improving access to high quality and effective MCH services for all, especially the poor and disadvantaged, through the development and implementation of a sustainable MCH programme at all levels of the health delivery system.

Goal: Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the general population is still less than 1 per cent of the population and Pakistan is therefore, considered a low prevalence country. However, in some groups of the population, who are vulnerable to a high degree of risk to contacting the disease, this has crossed the 5 per cent mark. Malaria continues to be an endemic disease in large areas of the country. Tuberculosis has been, and continues to be a major contributor to the overall burden of disease in the country. Latest bio-statistics indicate that the resistance to the existing generation of drugs to combat the disease is beginning to rise, thereby posing greater challenges to attaining the target.

Goal: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Access to improved drinking water sources especially for the poorest of the poor remains a challenge. With the launch of multi-billion rupee, "**Clean Drinking Water for All by 2008**", Government of Pakistan has further stepped up efforts to achieve the targets. Pakistan's adaptation of MDG indicator for drinking water coverage defines it, as the proportion of population (urban and rural) with sustainable access to improved water sources i.e. Pipe and Hand Pump water. As per this definition, water supply and sanitation coverage increased from 65 per cent and 42 per cent in 2004-05 to 70 per cent each in 2007-08. Details of progress are given below:

Name of Sector/Sub-Sector	Year 2004-05	2015 MDG Target	Achievement of Targets
Forest cover including State and private forests/farmlands (%age of total land area)	4.9	6.0	5.20
No. of petrol & diesel vehicles using CNG fuel	38,000	920,000	1.7 million
Access to sanitation (national)%	42	90	70
Access to clean water (national)%	65	93	70