

# The Millennium Development Goals Report



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## The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015 Press Kit

### I. OVERVIEW

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report 2015 findings show the MDGs produced the most successful anti-poverty movement in history and will serve as a springboard for the new sustainable development agenda to be adopted this year.

The Millennium Development Goals Report, an annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals, reflects the most comprehensive, up-to-date data compiled by over 28 UN and international agencies. It is produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The data and analysis of the report prove that with targeted interventions, sound strategies, adequate resources and political will, even the poorest countries can make progress.

The MDG report confirms that goal setting can lift millions of people out of poverty, empower women and girls, improve health and well-being, and provide vast new opportunities for better lives.

Only two short decades ago, nearly half of the developing world lived in extreme poverty. The number of people now living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015.

The world has also witnessed dramatic improvement in gender equality in schooling since the MDGs; gender parity in primary school has been achieved in the majority of countries.

More girls are now in school, and women have gained ground in parliamentary representation in nearly 90 per cent of the 174 countries with data over the past 20 years. The average proportion of women in parliament has nearly doubled during the same period. The rate of children dying before their fifth birthday has declined by more than half, dropping from 90 to



43 deaths per 1,000 live births since 1990. Figures for maternal mortality show a decline of 45 per cent worldwide, with most of the reduction occurring since 2000.

Targeted investments in fighting diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria have brought unprecedented results. New HIV infections fell by approximately 40 per cent between 2000 and 2013. Over 6.2 million malaria deaths have been averted between 2000 and 2015, while tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions saved an estimated 37 million lives between 2000 and 2013.

Worldwide 2.1 billion have gained access to improved sanitation and the proportion of people practicing open defecation has fallen almost by half since 1990. Official development assistance from developed countries saw an increase of 66 per cent in real terms from 2000 and 2014, reaching \$135.2 billion.

The report highlights that while significant gains have been made on many of the MDG targets worldwide, progress has been uneven across regions and countries, leaving significant gaps.

World leaders have called for an ambitious long-term sustainability agenda to succeed the MDGs. Building on the success and momentum of the MDGs, new global goals will break fresh ground with ambitions on inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice.

“The emerging post-2015 development agenda, including the set of Sustainable Development Goals, strives to build on our successes and put all countries, together, firmly on track towards a more prosperous, sustainable and equitable world”, stated UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

## II. BACKGROUND

At the beginning of the new millennium, world leaders gathered at the UN to shape a broad vision to fight poverty in its many dimensions. That vision—which translated into eight goals, ranging from halving extreme poverty rates to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and to providing universal primary education—has remained the overarching development framework for the world for the last 15 years.

Essentially, the creation of the MDGs was a pledge to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity, and to free the world from extreme poverty. Since its implementation in the year 2000, the concerted efforts of national governments, the international community, civil society and the private sector have helped expand hope and opportunity for people around the world and yielded tremendous results.

The MDGs have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest. Efforts to achieve the MDGs will continue through the end of 2015 and remain a critical building block towards establishing a stable foundation for development efforts beyond 2015.

The year 2015 is when countries are set to adopt a new sustainable development agenda that builds on the success of the MDGs. The UN is working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs to carry on with an ambitious new sustainable development agenda.

