



Institute of
Development Studies

MDGs – mid course review

ODI meeting, House of Commons

Date: 19 July 2007

Development Goals 1960-2000

The UN has set some 50 quantitative time bound goals since 1960

Four or five have been “mostly achieved”

- Eradication of smallpox – and nearly of polio and guinea-worm
- Targets for raising life expectancy & reducing IMR

The majority have shown “considerable progress”

- Increased coverage of water, sanitation, education, immunization, vit A, etc
- Reductions of malnutrition, IDD etc

A few goals have “slipped badly”

- Accelerated reduction of illiteracy
- 0.7 of GNI for aid
- Special support for least developed countries

Source: R. Jolly et al, *UN Contributions to Development Thinking and Practice* (2004), Table 10.8,

Examples - good and bad

1950s **Eradicating malaria** –goal unrealizable at the time

1960-1980 **UPE (Universal Primary Education)**

enrolments expanded rapidly, population growth underestimated, and goal failed

1961-70 **(First) Development Decade** growth target exceeded

1966-79 **Smallpox eradication** –brave target, professional monitoring, historic achievement

1981-1990 **Water and Sanitation Decade** –bad target setting, good results but widespread sense of failure

1984-1990 **“Child survival & Development Revolution”** to expand immunization and ORT, reduce child mortality, good monitoring, world-wide advocacy, goal achieved globally and in some 70 countries, with great sense of public achievement

GNP growth, poverty reduction and MDG achievement

- Growth is important – but the pattern and structure of growth is essential if poverty is to be reduced and the MDGs achieved.
- This means
 - redistribution with growth as part of macro strategy
 - a clear and specific focus on MDG goal achievement
 - focusing public expenditure and aid on MDG support
 - monitoring kept up to date and made public
 - sustaining the focus over the longer run

Growth Performance in 80 countries 1984-2001

	Positive growth	Negative growth	All growth spells
Pro-poor	55 (23%)	53 (22%)	108 (46%)
Anti-poor	76 (32%)	53 (22%)	129 (54%)
Total Spells	131 (55%)	106 (44%)	237 (100%)

Conclusion:

**Pro-poor growth needs to be promoted
much more vigorously**

Traffic lights are flashy – but may be too simple, confusing and often discouraging

Goals and Targets	AFRICA			ASIA			Oceania	Latin America & Caribbean	EUROPE
	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western			
GOAL 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger									
Reduce extreme poverty by half	low poverty	very high poverty	moderate poverty	moderate poverty	very high poverty	low poverty	---	moderate poverty	low
Reduce hunger by half	very low hunger	very high hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	high hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	very
GOAL 2 Achieve universal primary education									
Universal primary schooling	high enrolment	low enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment	moderate enrolment	moderate enrolment	high enrolment	high
GOAL 3 Promote gender equality and empower women									
Equal girls' enrolment in primary school	close to parity	almost close to parity	parity	parity	close to parity	almost close to parity	close to parity	parity	high
Women's share of paid employment	low share	medium share	high share	medium share	low share	low share	medium share	high share	high
Women's equal representation in national parliaments	very low representation	low representation	moderate representation	low representation	low representation	very low representation	very low representation	moderate representation	repr
GOAL 4 Reduce child mortality									
Reduce mortality of under-five-year-olds by two thirds	moderate mortality	very high mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	low
Measles immunization	high coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	very low coverage	high coverage	high
GOAL 5 Improve maternal health									
Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters*	moderate mortality	very high mortality	low mortality	high mortality	very high mortality	moderate mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	low
GOAL 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases									
Halt and reverse spread of HIV/AIDS	---	very high prevalence	low prevalence	moderate prevalence	moderate prevalence	---	moderate prevalence	moderate prevalence	high
Halt and reverse spread of malaria*	low risk	high risk	moderate risk	moderate risk	moderate risk	low risk	low risk	moderate risk	high
Halt and reverse spread of tuberculosis	low mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	high
GOAL 7 Ensure environmental sustainability									
Reverse loss of forests**	low forest cover	medium forest cover	medium forest cover	high forest cover	medium forest cover	low forest cover	high forest cover	high forest cover	high
Halve proportion without improved drinking water	high coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	high coverage	low coverage	high coverage	high
Halve proportion without sanitation	moderate coverage	very low coverage	very low coverage	low coverage	very low coverage	moderate coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	high
Improve the lives of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	very high proportion of slum-dwellers	high proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	very high proportion of slum-dwellers	high proportion of slum-dwellers	---	high proportion of slum-dwellers	low of sl
GOAL 8 Develop a global partnership for development									
Youth unemployment	very high unemployment	moderate unemployment	low unemployment	moderate unemployment	low unemployment	high unemployment	low unemployment	moderate unemployment	high
Internet users	moderate access	low access	moderate access	moderate access	low access	moderate access	moderate access	high access	mod

country experiences in each region may differ significantly from the regional average. For the regional groupings and country data, see mdgs.un.org.

ources: United Nations, based on data and estimates provided by: Food and Agriculture Organization; Inter-Parliamentary Union; International Labour Organization; International Development Statistics; UNICEF; World Health Organization; UNAIDS; UN-Habitat; World Bank – based on statistics available June 2006.

Africa is mostly red. Does this motivate... or discourage action?

CHAPTER 2 – Reducing poverty in Africa

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

“With 10 years to go to the Millennium Development Goal target date of 2015, current trends will leave most countries in sub-Saharan Africa far short of most targets.”

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2006

2.3 Table 2.1 shows the UN summary of MDG progress. Progress towards every MDG has been insufficient in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite this bleak projection – and the blight of conflict in Darfur and elsewhere – there are grounds for optimism that the next nine years to 2015 will see improved progress. *Africa Rising* (see spread) tells the story – with examples of DFID’s role – of recent successes in achieving faster economic growth. The advance of democracy received a boost with the first fully democratic national elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since independence, for which the UK was the largest bilateral donor, contributing over £35 million since 2004. However, the tragic conflict in Kinshasa during late March 2007 were a disappointing setback.

Table 2.1: Progress towards the MDGs in Africa

Assessment of progress towards target Dark Green = target met. Light Green = almost met/on target. Orange = some/negligible progress, insufficient to meet target. Red = no change or negative progress. Pink = insufficient data		Northern Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa
MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Reducing extreme poverty by half		
	Reducing hunger by half		
MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education	Achieving universal primary education		
MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	Achieving equal girls’ enrolment in primary school		
	Women’s share of paid employment		
	Women’s equal representation in national parliaments		
MDG 4: Reduce child mortality	Reducing mortality of under-5 year-olds by two-thirds		
	Measles immunisation		
MDG 5: Improve maternal health	Reducing maternal mortality by three quarters		
MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS		
	Halting and reversing the spread of malaria		
	Halting and reversing the spread of tuberculosis		
MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	Reversing the loss of forests		
	Halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water		
	Halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to basic sanitation		
	Improving the lives of slum dwellers		

Note: The UN regional classification of countries is given in annex 3.

Source: UN, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2006 (see annex 3 for details of data sources).

Additional indicators of progress

Regional rankings

Ranking of countries by expansion rates, showing countries in top quartile and above median

Total number of countries with coverage rates increased by, say 10% 25% and 50%.

Regional level

% increase over base year

% increase over last 3 to 5 years compared to previous 3 to 5

total increase as % of rate required to meet MDGs in 2015/ 2025 year when MDGs would be reached at present rate

Country indicators

% increases over base year

% increase over last 3 to 5 years compared to previous 3 to 5

increase as % of total required to reach MDG by 2015/25

Memo- year when UK (or other DC) reached target level

Conclusions for monitoring

- Focus on progress not just on target achievement
- Define progress in reasonable and achievable ways
- Emphasise number of countries in each region making progress, not only those “on track”
- Suppress spurious precision
- Emphasize broad numbers and % ages of population affected

The real challenge is mobilization- country by country

- Social mobilization is a major purpose of monitoring, not just accountability
- Monitoring should not be used to marginalize countries - most countries can be shown to be making progress in some respects.
- Build on the positives when they are really positive
- Use success to mobilize further commitments

