

Progress on Hunger MDG
Four Indicators

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Indicators to Assess Progress on Hunger MDG

Two well-known and two lesser known indicators are available to assess progress on the hunger MDG.

The 2 well-known ones are:

- Income Poverty: (headcount ratio on lower poverty line, poverty gap ratio, squared poverty gap ratio)
- Child malnutrition (stunting)

The lesser known ones are:

- Seasonal poverty
- Self-assessment (perception on 'chronic deficit' vis-à-vis sociologically-rooted notion of *khoraki* i.e. meeting basic food needs)

1 Change as per Income Poverty Indicator

Table 1: Changes in Poverty and Inequality in the 1990s

	In per cent		
	1991/92	2000	Change per year
Head-count Index			
National	58.8	49.8	-1.8
Urban	44.9	36.6	-2.2
Rural	61.2	53.0	-1.6
Poverty Gap Index			
National	17.2	12.9	-2.9
Urban	12.0	9.5	-2.5
Rural	18.1	13.8	-2.8
Squared Poverty Gap Index			
National	6.8	4.6	-3.8
Urban	4.4	3.4	-2.7
Rural	7.2	4.9	-3.8
Gini Index of Income Inequality			
National	38.8	41.7	0.8
Urban	39.8	45.2	1.5
Rural	36.4	36.6	0.1

Source: BBS 2003.

2 Changes as per Child Malnutrition Indicator

Though prevalence of stunting among under-5 children has declined, it still remains very high at 39% in 2002 (Helen Keller).

3 Changes as per Seasonal Poverty Indicator:

Monga in a Time Perspective: 1990-2005

It may be useful to put the issue of *monga* in a time perspective. Surveyed data from 1990 shows that as now, the epicentre of the problem was the ecologically vulnerable northern districts. However, the general problem of seasonal poverty was more widespread covering at that time the greater districts of Comilla, Noakhali, Kushtia, Jamalpur, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra and Rajshahi. One of the important changes which has taken place over the 1990-2005 period is the general reduction of the seasonal poverty problem across Bangladesh and its continued persistence in the ecologically vulnerable parts of northern districts.

Table 2
Monga Situation 1990

<i>Division</i>	<i>% of Households in Distress: On 1 meal a day for 1-3 days a week in October</i>	<i>% of Households in Extreme Distress: On 1 meal a day for 4-7 days a week in October</i>
Chittagong	6	x
Khulna	1	x
Dhaka	3	x
Rajshahi	18	13
<i>Affected Districts</i>		
Comilla	19	x
Noakhali	8	x
Kushtia	14	x
Jamalpur	12	x
Dinajpur	11	x
Rangpur	25	26
Bogra	28	x
Rajshahi	12	2

Source: Hossain Zillur Rahman, "*Mora Kartik: Seasonal Deficits and Vulnerability of the Rural Poor*", in Hossain Zillur Rahman & Mahabub Hossain (ed), *Re-Thinking Rural Poverty: Bangladesh as a Case Study*, SAGE Publications, 1995

4 Changes as per Self-Assessment Indicator

Table 3
Poverty Self-Assessments (percent of rural households)

Self-Assessment	1989	1995	2001	2004
Always Deficit	24	18	9.9	11.6
Occasional Deficit	50	32.2	26.3	31.9
Break-even	17.5	30.7	40.8	33.4
Surplus	8.5	19.1	23	23.1

Source: 62 Village Survey and Re-Surveys: 1989, 1995: BIDS *Analysis of Poverty Trends Project*; 2001: PPRC/Grameen Trust *State of the Poor Project*, 2004: PPRC *Purposive Study to Assist Poverty Analysis in PRSP*