



THE WORLD BANK

Working for a World
Free of Poverty

Backgrounder #2

Global Monitoring Report 2006

Chapter 2 - Progress On Human Development Targets

Key Messages

Broad regional trends of MDG progress have not changed significantly since publication of Global Monitoring Report 2005. Only 20 percent of all developing countries are on track to reducing child mortality (MDG 4), all regions are off track on at least some of the goals. The two regions lagging most seriously behind—South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa—are off track on almost all the human development goals.

But there are still many indications of tangible progress over the last year:

- Many countries, including a number in Sub-Saharan Africa, have accelerated their progress on primary school completion in the past few years.
- Supplemental immunization programs in Africa have produced substantial declines in measles cases since 2000.
- Girls' enrollments are growing faster than boys' in every region
- The number of women elected to parliaments is increasing in many places.
- The first evidence that HIV prevention programs are beginning to work is emerging. And the number of AIDS patients under treatment in the developing world has increased rapidly, approaching 1 million in 2005—from less than 100,000 five years ago.

Other important trends:

- Official development assistance (ODA) commitments for education and health have increased substantially since the MDGs were adopted. In 2004, total assistance for health is estimated at \$11.4 billion, and that for education, \$9.5 billion.
- While education and health budget shares in developing countries increased only slightly if at all between 2000 and 2003, a number of countries made notable increases: Angola, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, Guyana, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Moldova, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, and Zambia.
- Countries in the global partnership Education for All Fast-Track Initiative (EFA FTI) are beginning to see clear benefits from more harmonized donor practices.
- Insecticide-treated bed nets are more widely distributed than ever, and national malaria strategies are getting funding and visibility.
- Where child survival is not improving, it is being monitored by global partners.
- In every region, countries are increasing community voice in management of frontline schools and health facilities. They are allocating funds more transparently, beginning to link providers' pay to performance. They are also conditioning income transfers to families on their use of education and health facilities.

What progress has been made on specific MDG targets?

Nutrition: Only 34 of 143 countries are believed to be on track to halve the number of people who are hungry. Almost all of South Asia and much of Africa are off track. Two countries making notable progress are The Gambia and Bangladesh.

Education: The number of countries that have achieved universal primary completion increased from 37 in 2000 to 50 in 2004, and recent data suggest that the average pace of progress is increasing. In Niger and Guinea primary completion rates have been increasing three times faster than before 2002–3. Countries making the fastest progress—Ethiopia, Mozambique, Cambodia, Benin, and Rwanda among them—are exceeding the rates of improvement achieved by today’s industrialized countries at a similar point in their history.

Gender Equality: Girls’ enrollments are growing faster than boys’ in all regions. In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, however, the primary completion rate for girls is still more than 15 percent lower than that for boys. In 2015, it is projected that 21 of 133 countries—12 of them in Sub-Saharan Africa—will still have girls’ to boys’ primary enrollment ratios below 0.9. Impressive progress in girls’ education has been made in Bangladesh and Mauritania.

Women’s share of the labor force has risen in almost all regions, but women are still at a disadvantage in labor markets. In Argentina, the female share of nonagricultural wage employment rose from 36 percent in 1990 to 48 percent in 2003. By January 2005, 17 countries had met the target of having 30 percent or more of national legislative seats held by women by 2015; globally, the proportion was only 15.9 percent, up from 13.5 percent in 2000. Morocco and Rwanda stand out for progress in this area.

Child Mortality: Most low- and middle-income countries today are not making enough progress to reach the goal. And in 15 countries, primarily those affected by conflict or HIV, the share of children who die before age five has increased (Cambodia, Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Iraq, Rwanda, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, and Swaziland). At the other extreme are countries achieving exceptionally sharp increases in child survival—Vietnam, Timor Leste, Bhutan, Mongolia, Laos, Eritrea, Comoros, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Guinea, Czech Republic, Egypt, Peru, FYR Macedonia, and Syria.

Maternal Mortality: There is strong progress in East Asia and the Pacific since 1990 and good coverage in Latin America and the Caribbean. But in Sub-Saharan Africa there has been almost no improvement, and in South Asia the coverage levels remain low, despite significant improvement. Within South Asia the improvement is led by Bangladesh.

Diseases: The number of people living with HIV (40.3 million) and deaths from AIDS continued to rise in 2005; Africa is still the most affected region, with Africans accounting for 63 percent of the world’s HIV cases. No region has achieved a declining rate of new infections, but recent data suggest that a few countries have begun to do so. The number of people on antiretroviral treatment more than doubled from 400,000 in late 2003 to about one million by end-2005. Coverage now exceeds 80 percent in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Cuba. As a result of the scale-up in treatment, between 250,000 and 300,000 deaths were averted in 2005.

Water and Sanitation: Only East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean are on track to meet the target. Europe and Central Asia has gone backward. Sub-Saharan Africa has had the slowest progress; only an estimated 64 percent of the population has access to safe water and 37 percent to improved sanitation.