



## Millennium Development Goals A Glimpse on Status and Progress

### KEYWORDS

Development, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Mortality, Poverty

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### ABSTRACT

The MDGs are the world's targets for reducing extreme poverty in its many dimensions by 2015 including income poverty, hunger, disease, exclusion, lack of infrastructure and shelter while promoting gender equality, education, health and environmental sustainability. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been widely accepted as a yardstick for measuring the development progress across the countries. The year 1990 has been considered as the base year and the year 2015 as the end period for this purpose. This paper examines the status and progress of MDGs in world and India. The reality is that most countries may achieve progress on some goals and face a unique set of challenges in achieving others; there is a wide variation of progress. Despite progress towards achievement of some of the targets, numerous Goals and targets are likely to be missed unless additional, strengthened or corrective action is taken urgently.

### Introduction

The MDGs are the world's targets for reducing extreme poverty in its many dimensions by 2015 including income poverty, hunger, disease, exclusion, lack of infrastructure and shelter while promoting gender equality, education, health and environmental sustainability. The world has an unprecedented opportunity to improve the lives of billions of people by meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the international community's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many forms (UNDP, 2005).

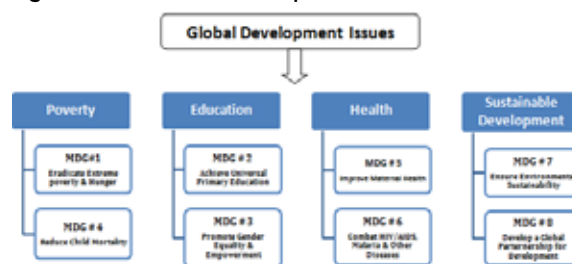
### Objectives and Database

This paper examines the status and progress of MDGs in world and India. The specific objectives of the paper are: to understand the concept of millennium development goals and to analyze the status and success achieved by world and India. The paper is based on the secondary information collected from various mass media including internet, various reports of government of India, UNDP and other international institutions.

### Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): A Bird's Eye View

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been widely accepted as a yardstick for measuring the development progress across the countries. The MDGs comprise of eight goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators. The year 1990 has been considered as the base year and the year 2015 as the end period for this purpose. Many of the indicators are quantifiable using available data from official statistics and surveys conducted by countries and international agencies (Figure-1).

Figure-1: Millennium Development Goals



### Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – Global Status and Progress

The Millennium Development Goals as the international community's collective commitment to create a better tomorrow for billions of people. According to the World Development Indicators, significant advances have been made in the period from 1990 to 2020 on a number of indicators like- GDP per person employed (constant 1990 PPP \$), Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49), Telephone lines (per 100 people) and Trade (% of GDP) (table-1). Deaths of children under five declined steadily worldwide, from 12.6 million in 1990 to 9 million in 2007, despite population growth (UNDP, 2010). Dramatic disparities in access to comprehensive reproductive health information and services are both a symptom of and a contributor to poverty and gender inequality (UNDP, 2005).

Table-1: Millennium Development Goals: Progress of World and India

	1990		2000		2010		% of Achievement by 2010 over 1990	
	World	India	World	India	World	India	World	India
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>								
Employment to population ratio, 15+, total (%)	62	58	61	57	60	54	3.23	6.90
Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, total (%)	52	46	46	42	43	34	17.31	26.09
GDP per person employed (constant 1990 PPP \$)	11,864	3,531	13,942	5,063	17,997	8,401	51.69	137.92
Malnutrition prevalence, weight for age (% of children under 5)	25	60	20	44	16	..	36.00	....
<b>Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education</b>								
Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group)	80	63	82	71	90	96	12.50	52.38
Total enrollment, primary (% net)	82	..	85	85	91	98	10.98	...
<b>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women</b>								
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	13	5	14	9	19	11	46.15	120.00
Ratio of female to male primary enrollment (%)	88	74	93	84	97	100	10.23	35.14
Ratio of female to male secondary enrollment (%)	83	57	92	71	97	92	16.87	61.40
Ratio of female to male tertiary enrollment (%)	90	52	100	66	108	73	20.00	40.38

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality								
Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months)	73	56	73	55	85	74	16.44	32.14
Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	61	81	51	64	38	49	37.70	39.51
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	87	114	73	88	53	63	39.08	44.74
Goal 5: Improve maternal health								
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	0	..	63	106	53	79	...	...
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	62	..	62	43	66	53	6.45	
Contraceptive prevalence (% of women ages 15-49)	58	45	61	47	62	54	6.90	20.00
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)	400	600	320	390	210	200	47.50	66.67
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases								
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)		216	..	216	...	185		0.00
Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49)	0.3	0.1	1	0.4	0.8	0.3	166.67	200.00
Tuberculosis case detection rate (% of all forms)	49	80	44	49	65	59	32.65	-26.25
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability								
CO2 emissions (kg per PPP \$ of GDP)	1	1	1	1	0	1	100.00	0.00
CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	4	1	4	1	5	1	25.00	0.00
Forest area (% of land area)	32	21.5	31.4	22	31.1	23	2.81	-6.98
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	47	18	56	25	63	34	34.04	88.89
Improved water source (% of population with access)	76	69	83	81	88	92	15.79	33.33
Marine protected areas (% of territorial waters)	5	2	8	2	10	2	100.00	0.00
Net ODA received per capita (current US\$)	11	2	8	1	19	2	72.73	0.00
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development								
Internet users (per 100 people)	0	0	6.8	0.5	29.5	7.5	...	...
Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)	0	0	12	0	77	61	...	...
Telephone lines (per 100 people)	10	1	16	3	18	3	80.00	200.00
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	3	4	3	3	2	3	33.33	25.00
Other								
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	4,089	390	5,278	450	9,067	1,260	121.74	223.08
GNI, Atlas method (current US\$) (billions)	21,655	341	32,293	474	62,509	1,539	188.66	351.32
Gross capital formation (% of GDP)	23.4	26	22.3	24.4	19.9	35.1	14.96	-35.00
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	65	58	67	62	70	65	7.69	12.07
Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above)	76	48	82	61	84	..	10.53	...
Population, total (billions)	5.3	0.9	6.1	1.1	6.9	1.2	30.19	33.33
Trade (% of GDP)	38.7	15.2	49.5	26.5	56	49.7	44.70	226.97

Source: World Development Indicators

Notwithstanding these national processes, evidence on MDG achievements indicates an enormous variation among countries. Progress is highly uneven across countries even within a region for the different Goals. Some countries appear to have made steady gains towards a number of MDG targets-such as income poverty, primary education and gender parity in education whereas others have actually reversed course on some targets, even while making progress on others. At current trends, most developing countries are projected not to meet most of the MDGs.

#### Status and Progress of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in India

India's MDG-framework is based on the 2003 UNDG guidelines on concepts, definitions and methodology of MDG indicators. This framework recognizes 53 indicators (48 basic and 5 alternatives). In the context of India's national policies, not all the targets under the eight MDGs are relevant. Only 12 of the 18 targets covering all the 8 goals are followed for the tracking of MDGs (GOI, 2011). The progresses of India's MDGs are summarized in table -2.

Table -2: MDGs and Targets: Summary of progress achieved by India

Goals	Description	Target	Existing (1990-91)	Target for 2015	Achievement		Success rate
					No/Per cent	Year	
1:	Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger	1: Halve, National Poverty line	37.2 per cent	18.6 per cent	27.5 per cent	2004-05	Moderate
		2: Halve, proportion of people who suffer from hunger	52 per cent	26 per cent	40 per cent	2005-06	on track
2:	Achieve Universal Primary Education	3: Children complete a full course of primary education	75 per cent	100 per cent	96 per cent	2007-08	Success
3:	Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women	4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education Primary Level	0.76 per cent	100 per cent	29 per cent	2007-08	on track
		secondary level	0.60 per cent		42 per cent	2007-08	on track
4:	Reduce Child Mortality	5: Reduce by two-thirds the under-five mortality rate	125 per thousand live births	42 per thousand live births	69 per thousand live births	2008	on track
5:	Improve Maternal Health	6: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio	437 per 100,000 live births	109 per 100,000 live births	264 per 100,000 live births	2006	Moderate
6:	Combat HIV / AIDS, Malaria and TB	7: Have halted and to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	3.5 per cent	0 per cent	0.31 per cent	2009	Moderate
		8: Have halted and to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases (TB Cases)	338 per 100,000 population	0 per cent	249 per 100,000	2009	Off the Track

7:	Ensure Environmental Sustainability	9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development and reverse the loss of environmental resources	690,171 sq.km forest area (2005)	NA	690,899 sq.km forest area	2007	Moderate
		10: Halve, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	76 per cent	38 per cent	51 per cent	2007-08	Moderate
		11: By 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers	56 thousand slums	Reduce it to max. extent	43 thousand slums	2003-04	Moderate
8:	Develop Global Partnership for Development	12: Benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication with PPP	0.67 per cent Tele density	To max. extent	60.99 per cent Tele density	Sept, 2010	Moderate

Source: Compiled from many sources of GOI

### Conclusion

Recent challenges, including the economic crisis, food and fuel price volatility, the ongoing climate challenge, and now even a flu pandemic, taken together threaten to halt or even reverse the advances which have been made. This is no time for business-as-usual approaches to development. The reality is that most countries may achieve progress on some goals and face a unique set of challenges in achieving oth-

ers; there is a wide variation of progress. India is at a crucial turning point with a few successes and some failures. India has been successful in getting children into primary school, in providing access to water and in conserving environmental resources. On hunger there are disappointing failures. India accounts for 50 percent of the world are hungry. But the big challenge standing in the way of MDG achievement remains the extreme variations and inequalities that exist across the wide expanse of India's multi-ethnic and regional landscape.

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