

Editorial

African Pause, Rewind and Fast Forward toward the Millennium Development Goals

The United Nations adopted the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, aiming that by 2015, substantial progress would be made in eight key aspects of human welfare worldwide¹:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

African countries had the widest gap between the starting point and the goals, but many were optimistic. Accomplishments have been made in starts and stops. Sometimes, nothing happens. Sometimes, war, political strife, or Mother Nature steps in to rewind the progress, and we must start again. The data presented in the following Tables is not encouraging, and Africa is the only region in the world where it seems very unlikely that any goal will be met by 2015. But we must not give up. This is the time to push the Fast Forward button!

Goal 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

	1990	1995	2000	2009
Employment to population ratio, 15+, total (%)	64	64	64	64
Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, total (%)	50	50	50	49
Income share held by lowest 20%	..	..	..	..
Malnutrition prevalence, weight for age (% of children under 5)	..	..	27.3	24.7
Poverty gap at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (%)	..	..	..	..
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population)	58	59	58	..
Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	31	31	29	26
Vulnerable employment, total (% of total employment)	..	..	..	..

¹ United Nations – Millennium Development Goals: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>

Goal 2

Achieve universal primary education

	1990	1995	2000	2009
Literacy rate, youth female (% of females ages 15-24)	58	..	60	67
Literacy rate, youth male (% of males ages 15-24)	73	..	76	77
..				
Persistence to last grade of primary, total (% of cohort)	..	..	..	..
Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group)	51	..	52	64
Total enrollment, primary (% net)	..	..	60	76

Goal 3

Promote gender equality and empower women

	1990	1995	2000	2009
Proportion of seats held by women in parliaments (%)	..	10	12	18
Ratio of female to male primary enrollment (%)	84	..	85	91
Ratio of female to male secondary enrollment (%)	76	..	81	79
Ratio of female to male tertiary enrollment (%)	..	..	70	..
Share of women employed in the nonagricultural sector (% of total nonagricultural employment)	..	..	..	..

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

	1990	1995	2000	2009
Immunization (% ages 1-2 yrs)	57	45	55	68
Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	109	106	98	81
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	181	175	160	130

Goal 5 Improve maternal health

	1990	1995	2000	2009
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19y)	..	..	131	112
Births attended by health staff (% of total)	..	..	45	44
Contraceptive prevalence (% of women ages 15-49)	15	..	22	21
Maternal mortality ratio (estimate, per 100,000 live births)	870	850	800	650
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care (%)	..	..	68	71
Need for contraception (% of married women 15-49y)	..	..	24	24

Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

	1990	1995	2000	2009
% of children <5 yrs. with fever	..	..	..	34
Condom use, population ages 15-24, female	..	..	14	19
Condom use, population ages 15-24, male	..	..	34	36
tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)	177	231	314	342
HIV, female (% ages 15-24)	..	..	..	3.8
HIV, male (% ages 15-24)	..	..	..	2
HIV, total (% of pop. ages 15-49)	2.4	5.3	6.3	5.4
Tuberculosis detection rate (% , all forms)	45	37	38	48

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

	1990	1995	2000	2009
CO2 emissions (ton per PPP \$ of GDP)	125.7	129.2	138.1	154.9
CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Forest area (% of land area)	31	..	30	28
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	27	28	29	31
Improved water source (% of population with access)	49	51	55	60
Marine protected areas (% of total surface area)	3	3	4	5

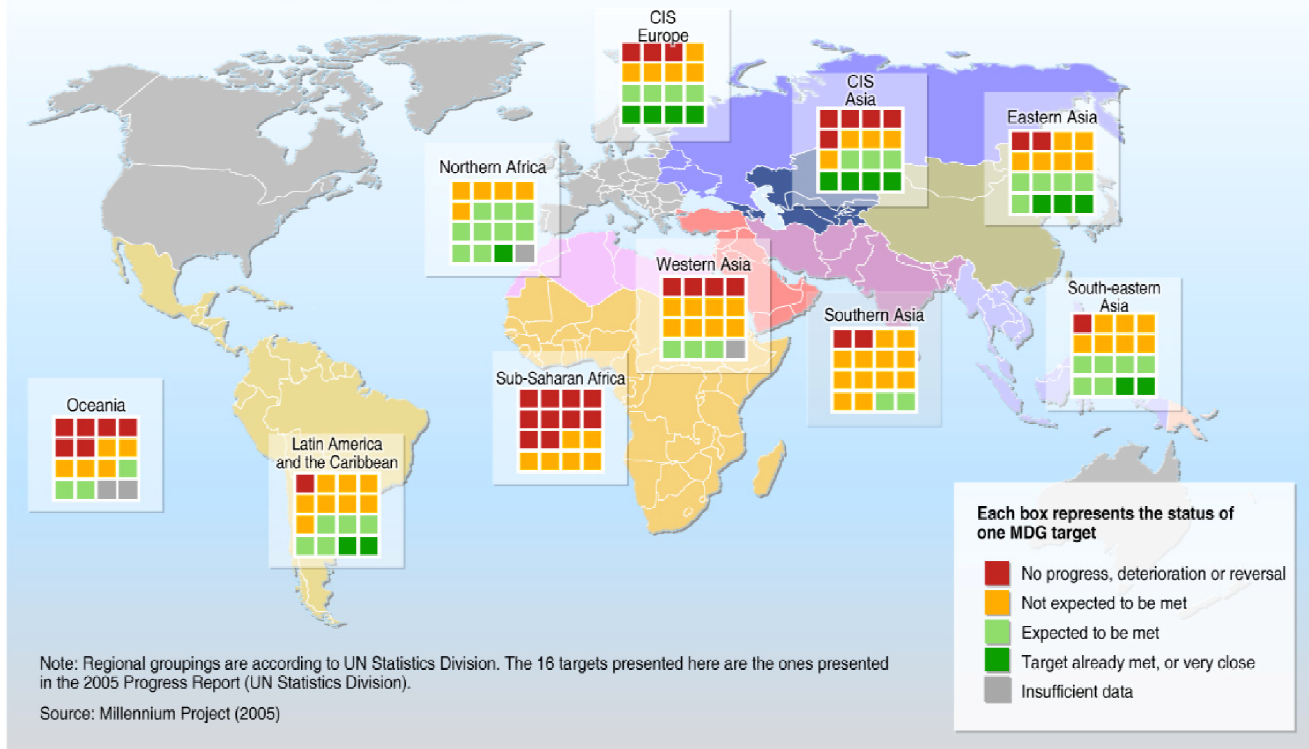
Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

	1990	1995	2000	2009
Debt service (% of exports, (-) workers' remittances)	11	10	9	3
Internet users (per 100 people)	0.0	0.1	0.5	8.8
Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)	0	0	2	37
Net ODA received per capita (current US\$)	35	32	19	53
Telephone lines (per 100 people)	1	1	1	1

Other Indices

	1990	1995	2000	2009
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	6.3	5.9	5.6	5.0
World	3.3	2.9	2.7	2.5
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	577	528	488	1,125
World	4,064	5,061	5,293	8,732
GNI, Atlas method (current US\$) (billions)	297.2	310.8	327.6	944.2
World (trillions)	21	28	32	59
Gross capital formation (% of GDP)	17.9	18.4	17.2	20.8
World	23.4	22.3	22.3	19.0
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	50	50	50	53
World	65	66	67	69
Literacy rate, adult total (% >15yrs.)	53	..	57	62
World	76	..	82	84
Population, total (millions)	514.9	589.0	671.8	839.6
World (billions)	5.2	5.7	6.1	6.8
Trade (% of GDP)	51.8	57.6	63.1	63.3
World	38.0	41.8	48.8	48.5

Millennium Development Goals overview Trends toward meeting the targets by 2015



Oladele A. Ogunseitan, Ph.D., M.P.H.
 Program in Public Health & School of Social Ecology,
 University of California, Irvine,
 CA 92697, USA.
 Editor-in-Chief.