Are the MDGs achievable?

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(a) Introduction
“We have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world’s people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs”

Millennium Declaration, 2000
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- A promissory note written by 189 governments to the world’s poor
- Without political will and adequate resources, it will be “a bad check which has come backed marked ‘insufficient funds’”
- Not achieving them will result in immense human costs, the credibility of governments will be lost and the future of international cooperation to solve global problems will be jeopardized
- More to human development than the MDGs, but progress towards them means progress towards human development
- Most comprehensive and most detailed set of human development goals ever adopted
In September 2005, the UNGA reviewed achievements since the Millennium Declaration of 2000, including progress towards the eight MDGs. These goals provide tangible benchmarks for measuring progress in eight areas, with a target date for most of them of 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 1</th>
<th>Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty. Halving the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day and halving malnutrition.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
<td>Achieve universal primary education. Ensuring that all children are able to complete primary education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 3</td>
<td>Promote gender equality and empower women. Eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary schooling, preferably by 2005 and no later than 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 4</td>
<td>Reduce child mortality. Cutting the under-five death rate by two-thirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 5</td>
<td>Improve maternal health. Reducing the maternal mortality rate by three-quarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 6</td>
<td>Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Halting and beginning to reverse HIV/AIDS and other diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 7</td>
<td>Ensure environmental sustainability. Cutting by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 8</td>
<td>Develop a global partnership for development. Reforming aid and trade with special treatment for the poorest countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Embody basic indicators for human development, including income poverty, education, gender equity, progress in combating infectious diseases and access to water and sanitation
- Are basic human rights
- The moral and ethical underpinnings as a global community
- “Are too important to fail”
“If solemn promises, ambitious pledges, earnest commitments and high-level conferences lifted people out of poverty, the MDGs would have been achieved long ago.”

Human Development Report, 2005, p.40
Failure to achieve the MDGs

- Unless there is a change of gear in human development
- Continuation of current trends will have fatal consequences
- Almost all the goals will be missed by most countries, some of them by huge margins
- “Business-as-usual” will be costly
(b) Projections not predictions
Projections for 2015

- Not predictions
- Based on trend analysis for 1990-2003
- Using national instead of regional averages, giving more precise picture
- Trends - projecting the past into the future are not outcomes - can be improved or worsened through public choices and external factors
Child Mortality and School Enrolment

The following two slides summarize the child mortality and school enrolment progress.

Shows many countries will achieve each MDG target by 2015 and how many countries will not meet the target until 2035 or later, if current trends continue.

Except for Mozambique and none of the sub-Saharan African countries will achieve the MDG child mortality target.
GOAL: Reduce Child Mortality by two-thirds
Number of countries

Goals Achieved

69
107
115

Goals Unmet

90
52
44
GOAL: Universal Primary Education

Number of countries

Goals Achieved

Goals Unmet
Progress towards five of the MDGs

- Child mortality, school enrolment, gender parity in education and access to water and sanitation shows bleak prognosis
- 50 countries with a combined population of almost 900 million are going backwards on at least one MDG; 24 of these countries are in sub-Saharan Africa
- Another 65 countries with a combined population of 1.2 billion will fail to meet at least one MDG until after 2040
Child health and maternal health – millions more children will die
Child Mortality

- Demonstrates powerfully the scale of challenges the international community faces
- Slowdown in 1990 in progress since 1990 set the world on course for comprehensive failure in meeting the MDG
- Two-thirds reduction in child deaths targeted will only be achieved in 2045 – 31 years late
- Achieving the MDG target requires average annual reduction of 2.7% in the incidence of child mortality, which is more than double the observed rate for 1990-2002
- Less than 1/5th of the developing world’s population live in countries that are on track to meet the target
- Not one sub-Saharan country with a significant population is on track
- Neither India nor China
Child Deaths

- An additional 4.4 million children will die
- Cumulatively an additional 41 million children will die
- These are lives that would be saved if the targets were met
  (See the following two slides)
- More than 45% of child deaths 4.9 million in total occur in 52 countries that are going backwards or making little progress
- It will take Sub-Saharan Africa until 2115 to achieve the MDG target
- The two largest centres of death are Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria; child mortality rate in Nigeria has fallen from 235 per 1,000 live births to 198 since 1990, at this rate it will take Nigeria another 40 years to achieve the target
- 2/3rd of all child deaths occur in 13 countries: Only 2 – Bangladesh and Indonesia are on track; another 4 – China, India, Niger and Pakistan will achieve the goal between 2015 and 2040; the rest - Afghanistan, Angola, DRC, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda – are off track for more than a generation or going backwards
## Child Mortality – the human cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Shortfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All countries</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child mortality – the cumulative cost of missed targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Cumulative shortfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All developing countries</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>41.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Water and sanitation – more than a billion unserved
Progress in access to water and sanitation have an important bearing on child deaths.

The target of halving the number of people without sustainable access to improved water sources will be missed by 210 million people (see following slide).

Another 2 billion people will also lack access to an improved sanitation source in 2015.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for the bulk of the deficit.
### No access to clean water – the human cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Shortfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>278.2</td>
<td>198.6</td>
<td>80.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>419.0</td>
<td>190.7</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>232.6</td>
<td>108.9</td>
<td>103.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All developing countries</td>
<td>1,036.6</td>
<td>525.2</td>
<td>209.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Halving extreme poverty and malnutrition depends on growth and distribution.
Poverty

- Will fall faster the higher the rate of growth for poor countries and bigger the share of any increase in growth for poor people.
- The global target will be met because of high growth in China and India.
- But most countries will miss the target.
- 800 million will live on less than $1 a day (extreme poverty) and another 1.7 billion people will live on less than $2 a day (moderate poverty) in 2015.
- The incidence of global extreme poverty will fall from 21% today to 14% in 2015.
Regional Composition of poverty

- Sub-Saharan Africa’s share of extreme poverty will rise sharply from 24% today to 41% in 2015.
- Around 380 million fewer people will live in extreme poverty if all countries achieve the target; more than half of these will be in Sub-Saharan Africa (see following slide).
- Sub-Saharan Africa will need to achieve an implausible high annual per capita growth rate of around 5% over the next 10 years to achieve the 2015 target.
## Income poverty – the human cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Shortfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>313.0</td>
<td>352.7</td>
<td>218.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>271.0</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>431.0</td>
<td>395.0</td>
<td>101.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>44.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All developing countries</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,072.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>826.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>379.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Malnutrition

- Prospects for reaching the MDG target less promising
- Incidence of malnutrition fell from 20% to 17% since 1990, but the number of malnourished people remains unchanged
- To achieve the 2015 target the rate of progress must be doubled
- There will be 670 million people suffering from malnutrition in 2015, 230 million more people than if the target were achieved
- Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 60% of the deficit
Regional Projections

- South Asia is projected to make strong progress on income poverty, but will account for 40% of malnutrition in 2015.
- South Asian countries are comparable to Sub-Saharan African countries in terms of malnutrition, despite higher average incomes, which highlights the role of gender inequalities in malnutrition.
Education – missing the universal enrolment target
Education

A crucial human development goal in its own right and a key to progress in other areas

Progress is too slow to achieve the 2015 target (see following slide)

If current trends continue, the target will be missed by at least a decade – 47 million children out of school in 2015, 19 million of them in Sub-Saharan Africa

46 countries are going backwards or will not meet the target until after 2040, they account for 23 million of the 110 million children currently out of school in developing countries
## Children not enrolled in school – the human cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Shortfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>45.5</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All developing countries</strong></td>
<td><strong>109.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>46.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>46.7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender parity and empowerment – one target already missed
Gender parity in primary and secondary school

- Supposed to be met by 2005 but already missed
- If the target was met there will be 14 million more girls in primary school today, 6 million in India and Pakistan and another 4 million in Sub-Saharan Africa
- By 2015, the shortfall from gender parity target will be 6 million girls out of school, a majority of them in Sub-Saharan Africa (see following slide)
- In 41 countries accounting for 20 million of the girls currently out of school, the gender parity will not be achieved until after 2040
### Girls not enrolled in school – the human cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Shortfall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All developing countries</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)

- Tracks female representation in legislative bodies, governments and the private sector, along with a range of income indicators
- Globally only about 15% of legislative assembly seats are held by women
- In only 43 countries the ratio of female to male parliamentarians is more than 1 to 5, and in only 2 – Rwanda and Sweden – the ratio is close to parity
- In Nigeria women account for 6% of the House of Representatives, less than 4% of the Senate and no state governors
- In Saudi Arabia and the UAE, there are no female representation
GEM demolishes two widely held myths about gender empowerment

- No evidence that Islam necessarily represents an obstacle to female empowerment – Malaysia, a Muslim country has a GEM comparable to Greece
- No clear evidence that gender inequalities automatically diminish at higher levels of income – both Italy and Japan rank lower in GEM than Costa Rica and Argentina; Sweden and Japan are comparable in terms of Human Development Index (HDI) but Sweden’s GEM is almost double that of Japan (see following slide)
- Social norms, political culture and public attitudes matter as much as economic wealth and overall development in defining opportunities for women
Income does not predict gender empowerment
(c) Changing course and getting on track
Clear warning from the projections

- The gap between trend projections and MDG targets represents a huge loss of human life and human potential.
- The gap can be closed with correct policy choices made by governments and the international community.
Viet Nam

- Registered an extraordinary rate of progress towards the MDGs
- Income poverty already cut by half, falling from 60% in 1990 to 32% in 2000
- Child mortality rates fell from 58 per 1,000 live births to 42 over the same period
- This is due to rapid broad-based economic growth AND investments in human development in the 1980s
- Challenges remain to reach the most marginalized groups and regions

*Chile also converted high economic growth into rapid human development*
Bangladesh

- Rapid advance towards the MDGs even at a lower level of growth
- Public policies and interventions by the civil society expanded access to basic services
- (See following slide)
Rapid progress in a low-income country - Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income poverty (%)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gini coefficient</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 under weight for age (%)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>69(^a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratios of girls to boys in primary school (girls per 100 boys)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>124(^b)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Data refer to 2003  
\(^b\) Data refer to 2002
Four strategies that contributed to Bangladesh’s human development take-off

1. Active partnership with civil society
2. Targeted transfers
3. Extended health programmes
4. Virtuous circle and female agency

Bangladesh achieved remarkable progress at low levels of income and starting from low literacy, high malnutrition and weak institutions – demonstrates what can be achieved through stronger state action and civic activism
Uganda

- Combined economic reform with an improved record in income poverty and education
- Progress uneven
- (See following slide)
Mixed performance on human development - Uganda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income poverty (%)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gini coefficient</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5 under weight for age (%)</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>$167^a$</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality ration (per 100,000 live births)</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a Data are for 1990
Conflict

Remains a potent barrier to human development
Peace removes that barrier
Afghanistan: improved human security leading to improvement in human development; primary school enrolment in 2001 reached 3 million and rose to 4 million in 2003; basic health services have been extended throughout the country; economic recovery taking root; risk that the international community will lose interest as the focus shift elsewhere
New Partnerships

- Changing course and getting on track for the MDGs require new partnerships in development.
- Countries falling short of achieving the MDGs, especially in Africa but also in other low-income countries need financial resources to create a virtuous circle of increased investment in human development and faster growth.
- The UN Millennium Project sets out a partnership framework based on two pillars – developing countries need to set out clear national strategies for reaching the MDGs, including the financing gaps to be covered and rich countries will mobilize the development assistance resources to cover these gaps.
A renewed focus on inequality and distributional equity

- Deep structural inequalities in human capabilities, opportunities and income act a brake on the MDGs
- Putting strategies for greater equality at the center of national strategies for achieving the MDGs would dramatically enhance the chances of success