UNITED NATIONS
END POVERTY 2015
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Make it happen
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FACT SHEET

GOAL 8: Develop a global partnership for development

QUICK FACTS

- Official development assistance (ODA) continued to drop from an all-time high of $107.1 billion in 2005, to $103.7 billion in 2007. Aid flows need to increase by $18 billion per year to meet the promise made by the G8 in 2005 of doubling aid by 2010 – an additional $50 billion annually in global aid, of which $25 billion would be for Africa.
- For the average developing country, the burden of servicing external debt fell from almost 13 per cent of export earnings in 2000 to 7 per cent in 2006, creating a more favourable environment for investment and allowing them to allocate more resources to reducing poverty.
- In developed countries, 58 per cent of people used the Internet in 2006, compared to 11 per cent in developing countries and 1 per cent in the least developed countries.

WHERE DO WE STAND?

There is a large delivery gap in meeting commitments towards the MDG target of addressing the special needs of least developed countries (LDCs), and to provide more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction. Efforts to step up ODA have been set back. In 2007, the only countries to reach or exceed the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) were Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Total net aid flows from members of OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) fell to $103.7 billion in 2007, representing 0.28 per cent of the combined national income of the developed countries. Assistance to the LDCs also falls short of the commitments made. In addition to the aforementioned countries, only Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom have met the target of providing at least 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their GNI in aid to the LDCs.

At various world summit meetings, donor countries have pledged to increase aid from $80 billion in 2004 to $130 billion in 2010 (at 2004 prices). The present rate of increase of aid for core development programmes (excluding debt relief) will have to more than double over the next three years if the level of aid committed for 2010 is to be met.

Only slow progress has been made in meeting the MDG target of developing further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system and providing tariff- and quota-free access for LDC exports. The recent collapse of trade negotiations is a serious setback to one of the objectives of the Doha Round of trade negotiations initiated in 2001 formulated as addressing the needs of developing countries according to a 'Development Agenda'. Seven years on, the failure to conclude a development Round constitutes the largest implementation gap in the area of trade.

The MDG target of dealing with the debt problems of developing countries has not been achieved in full. While the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) have benefited from large debt relief, many of them are still at risk of debt distress. Actions are needed to reduce the debt burden of countries that have not yet benefited from current debt relief initiatives and are experiencing debt distress.

The MDG target that aims to, in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries has served to mobilize resources and improve coordination to increase access to essential drugs and treatments to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in many countries. Access to essential medicines in developing countries is far from adequate, though. Surveys in about 30 developing countries indicate that only 35 per cent of medicines considered essential are available through the public sector and 63 per cent are available through the private sector. In a sample of six countries in Eastern, South-eastern and Southern Asia, availability through the private sector was only 45 per cent.

The MDG target to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, in cooperation with the private sector, has seen rapid progress in bridging the gap on the mobile phone sector, but large gaps remain in improving access to key technologies (Internet with broadband access is a good example) that are essential to increase productivity, sustain economic growth and improve service delivery in areas like health and education.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 74 per cent of the population lacks access to electricity, compared with 10 per cent in Latin America and near universal access in developed countries. There is an urgent need to strengthen global public-private partnerships to improve access to electricity.

WHAT HAS WORKED

1. **Tanzania** used resources saved through debt relief to abolish primary school fees (in 2002), build 30,000 new classrooms and 1,000 schools, and hire 18,000 additional trained teachers. The percentage of children enrolled in mainland Tanzania's primary schools climbed from 58.7 per cent in 1990 to 94.8 per cent in 2006. **Nigeria** established in 2005 a Virtual Poverty Fund to channel monies released by debt relief towards poverty reduction and the other MDGs. **Mozambique** used its debt service savings to vaccinate one million children against tetanus, whooping cough and diphtheria, to fight AIDS, and to build and electrify schools.

2. In **Kenya**, the availability of the more effective, but more expensive, malaria drug, artemether-lumefantrine, increased dramatically in 2006 thanks to the financial support received through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to procure and distribute this essential medicine to its public health facilities. Kenya also benefits from a differential pricing agreement whereby the manufacturer Novartis sells this same medicine at lower costs to public health systems in developing countries. The principle behind such differential pricing is that prices should be adapted to the purchasing power in lower-income countries so that people receive the best possible prices for life-saving medicines.

3. Through an inter-agency UN programme called Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance, support has been provided to least developed countries in making trade capacity an integral part of both national poverty reduction and development plans. Through the programme, African producers of mangoes were helped to counter pests such as red ants and fruit flies to improve the quality of their fruits and export them more easily. A project in **Mali** allowed the phytosanitary treatment of 2,000 hectares of orchards in 2006 (a surface which doubled since then) and facilitated obtaining the European certification standards EurepGAP. This led to a 50 per cent increase of exports of mangoes from 2005 to 2006, generating a windfall of $12 million for the Malian economy. In **Kenya**, a partnership was forged with Kevian, a juice manufacturer which, until recently, imported from abroad the concentrates for its mango juice. In this country too, local farmers have been encouraged as part of a UNDP project to improve their harvesting, marketing and pest management procedures. They also partnered with Kevian, which now uses local mangoes.

4. Since the adoption of the Goal 8 target to make available the benefits of new technologies, especially ICT, in cooperation with the private sector, there has been a phenomenal growth in **Africa**'s mobile phone sector. Africa remains the region with the highest annual growth rate in mobile subscribers worldwide and added over 60 million new subscribers in 2006. With around 200 million subscribers by the end of 2006, 22 per cent of Africa's population had a mobile phone, compared to 3 per cent with fixed telephone lines and 5 per cent who are Internet users. In comparison, mobile penetration in Africa used to be at just one in 50 people in 2000.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

» Bring commitments on ODA back on track, especially the 2002 Monterrey Consensus reaffirmation of 0.7 percent of GNI; the ODA commitments of 0.15–0.20 percent of GNI to LDCs included in the Action Plan for LDCs; and the 2005 G8 Gleneagles summit commitment to double aid to Africa from $25 billion in 2004 to $50 billion, at constant price dollars, by 2010.

» Accelerate implementation of the Paris Declaration to increase the quality, effectiveness, predictability and coherence of ODA.

» Develop steps and actions to complete the Doha Round of trade negotiations to reduce existing trade distortions in favour of more equitable mechanisms.

» Extend the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Country (eHIPC) debt relief initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and other debt relief mechanisms to other developing countries with severe debt distress problems.

» Promote regional and global cooperation to enhance food security.

» Assist developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, to ensure sustainable productivity increases and economic diversification.

» Form partnerships with civil society, NGOs, the private sector and foundations to develop, in a participatory manner, pro-poor urban and rural development strategies.

» Ensure low-cost access to essential drugs and life-saving interventions.

» Increase funding for research and development of essential drugs to treat tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

» Ensure equitable access to health and education services – including additional aid flows in the order of $10.2 billion per year.

» Introduce measures to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

» Improve affordable access to new technologies that enhance development, especially information and communication technologies and those for agriculture and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

» Initiate innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships to facilitate technology transfer, research and development in developing economies to achieve the MDGs.

» Encourage non-government partners, including the private sector and philanthropic organizations, to sustain funding for MDG projects and programmes.

» Work with partners to develop infrastructure and services and promote their integration into the global economy in order to enhance the capacity of enterprises.

For more information, please contact mediainfo@un.org or see www.un.org/millenniumgoals, including for the sources of this fact sheet.

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