

The Millennium Development Goals Report



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Fact Sheet

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- ▶ **Poverty:** Sub-Saharan Africa's poverty rate did not fall below its 1990 level until after 2002. The poverty rate in the region between 1990 and 2015 has fallen by 28 per cent. Today, 41 per cent of the population is living on less than \$1.25 a day.
- ▶ **Hunger:** The proportion of undernourished people has decreased from 33 per cent of undernourished people in 1990–1992 to 23 per cent in 2014–2016.
- ▶ **Primary education:** With a 20 percentage point increase in the net enrolment rate in primary education from 2000–2015, the region has had the best record of improvement of any region since the MDGs were established. Between 1990 and 2012, the absolute numbers of enrolment in the region more than doubled, from 62 million children to 149 million. However, of the 57 million of global out-of-school children of primary school age in 2015, 33 million are in sub-Saharan Africa, and more than half (55 per cent) are girls.
- ▶ **Gender equality:** As of 2015, 4 of the top 10 countries in world rankings of women in parliament are in sub-Saharan Africa, with Rwanda leading the way with women holding more than 60 per cent of parliament seats.
- ▶ **Child mortality:** The under-five mortality rate has fallen by 52 per cent, from 179 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 86 in 2015. Even though sub-Saharan Africa still has the highest child mortality rate, the rate of decline was over five times faster during 2005–2013 than it was 1990–1995.
- ▶ **Maternal health:** The maternal mortality ratio declined by 49 per cent over the past two decades, from 990 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 510 in 2013.
- ▶ **Infectious Diseases:** The incidence of HIV is declining steadily in the region, new infections per 100 people aged 15 to 49 declined more than 50 per cent. Between 2000 and 2015 over 6.2 million malaria deaths were averted globally, with an estimated 69 per cent reduction in malaria mortality in the under-five age group in this region.
- ▶ **Water and sanitation:** Access to an improved drinking water source increased by 20 per cent between 1990 and 2015. Between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility increased from 24 per cent to 30 per cent.

NORTHERN AFRICA

- ▶ **Poverty:** Northern Africa reached the target of halving the extreme poverty rate five years ahead of the 2015 deadline, with the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day, falling from 5 per cent in 1990 to less than 1 per cent in 2015.
- ▶ **Hunger:** Northern Africa is close to eradicating severe food insecurity, having attained an overall level below 5 per cent. The region also reached the target of halving the proportion of undernourished children, with the proportion of underweight children under age five declining from 10 per cent to 4 per cent from 1990 to 2015.
- ▶ **Primary education:** Northern Africa, which had enrolment rates of 80 per cent in 1990, has achieved universal primary education in 2015. In 1990, only 82 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys, but today there are 96 girls enrolled for every 100 boys.
- ▶ **Gender equality:** Women's access to paid employment has not improved in the past two decades, with women holding less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector. However, women are gaining more power in politics. The proportion of seats held by women in parliament increased from 4 per cent in 2000 to 25 per cent in 2015.



- ▶ **Child mortality:** The mortality rate for children under five dropped by 67 per cent—from 73 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 24 in 2015. Northern Africa is one of only three regions that have met the target of reducing the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds ahead of the 2015 deadline.
- ▶ **Maternal health:** North Africa is also one of the regions which recorded the highest reduction (57 per cent) in maternal mortality ratio, from 160 to 69 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births between 1990 and 2013.
- ▶ **Water and sanitation:** The proportion of people using an improved water source increased from 87 per cent to 93 per cent between 1990 and 2015, and the proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility increased from 71 per cent to 89 per cent between 1990 and 2015.

CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

- ▶ **Hunger:** The region has achieved the goal of halving hunger by 2015. Also, the proportion of undernourished children was halved. The proportion of undernourished people in the total population has decreased to 7.0 per cent in 2014–2016.
- ▶ **Primary education:** 97.4 per cent of pupils who started primary school completed the last grade, bringing this region closer to achieving the universal primary education goal.
- ▶ **Gender equality:** The region has achieved parity in both primary and secondary education between boys and girls. Parity in the number of women and men holding wage-earning jobs has been nearly achieved, with women holding 44 out of every 100 wage-earning jobs in the non-agricultural sector in 2015. The proportion of seats held by women in single or lower houses of national parliament increased from 7 per cent in 2000 to a projected 18 per cent in 2015.
- ▶ **Child mortality:** The under-five mortality rate was reduced by 55 per cent between 1990 and 2015, from 73 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 33 in 2015.
- ▶ **Maternal health:** Caucasus and Central Asia boasts one of the lowest maternal mortality ratio among all developing regions—39 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013.
- ▶ The level of skilled attendance at birth was nearly universal.
- ▶ **Water and sanitation:** The drinking water coverage has increased in Caucasus and Central Asia, where the coverage rate increased from 87 per cent in 1990 to 89 per cent in 2015. The region reached the target of halving the proportion of population without basic sanitation ahead of schedule, with 96 per cent of the population using an improved sanitation facility in 2015.

WESTERN ASIA

- ▶ **Poverty:** The absolute poverty rate dropped from 5.3 per cent in 1990 to 1.5 per cent in 2011. However, in recent years there has been a resurgence of poverty after years of progress, and the poverty rate is expected to increase from 1.5 to 2.6 per cent between 2011 and 2015.
- ▶ **Hunger:** The region has made significant progress in improving child undernutrition, with the proportion of underweight children under age five declining from 14 per cent to 4 per cent from 1990 to 2015. However, due to war, civil unrest and the increase in refugees, the prevalence of undernourishment will increase by 32 per cent between 1990–1992 and 2014–2016.
- ▶ **Primary education:** The adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education grew from 84 per cent in 1990 to 95 per cent in 2015. There were only 85, 66 and 63 girls enrolled in primary, secondary and tertiary schools, respectively, for every 100 boys in 1991. But, now the numbers has increased to 94, 95 and 99 girls for every 100 boys in 2015. Western Asia is the only developing region in which gender parity was reached in tertiary education.
- ▶ **Employment:** Women's access to paid employment has some improvement in the past two decades, however women still hold only about one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector. The proportion of youth employment is only half of that of the entire working-age population.
- ▶ **Gender equality:** Women in the region are gaining more power in politics. The proportion of seats held by women in single or lower houses of national parliament increased from 4 per cent in 2000 to 12 per cent in 2015.

- ▶ **Child mortality:** The under-five mortality rate reduced by 65 per cent between 1990 and 2015, dropping from 65 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 23 in 2015.
- ▶ **Children in conflict:** Nevertheless, the ongoing conflict in Syria has had a devastating impact on children's education. Data from the Syrian Ministry of Education indicate that enrolment rates fell by 34 percentage points for grades 1 to 12 in the school year ending in 2013. Among Syrian refugee children of primary and lower secondary school age (6 to 14 years) in Lebanon, the enrolment rate is estimated to be around 12 per cent.
- ▶ **Water and sanitation:** The proportion of the population using an improved water source increased from 85 per cent to 95 per cent between 1990 and 2015. The proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility increased from 80 per cent to 94 over the same period.

EASTERN, SOUTH-EASTERN AND SOUTHERN ASIA

- ▶ **Poverty:** By 2011, Asia had met the target of halving the proportion of people who live in extreme poverty. As a result of progress in China, the extreme poverty rate in Eastern Asia has dropped from 61 per cent in 1990 to only 4 per cent in 2015. Since 1990, the extreme poverty rate has been reduced by 66 per cent and 84 per cent in Southern Asia and South-Eastern Asia, respectively.
- ▶ **Hunger:** Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia have reached the hunger target. China alone accounts for almost two-thirds of the total reduction in the number of undernourished people in the developing regions since 1990. Southern Asia faces the greatest hunger burden, with about 281 million undernourished people.
- ▶ **Primary education:** Universal primary education has been achieved or is close to be achieved in these three subregions. Many more girls are now in school compared with 15 years ago. Gender parity has been reached in both primary and secondary education. Southern Asia has seen the most impressive progress. In 1990, only 74 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in this subregion. Today, 103 girls are enrolled for every 100 boys. However, in Southern Asia, an estimated 57 per cent of out-of-school children will never go to school.
- ▶ **Gender equality:** Women's share of wage employment has continued to grow. However, in Southern Asia, women's participation rate in the labour market is one-quarter to one-third of men's rate. Between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of seats held by women in single or lower houses of national parliament increased from 7 per cent to 18 per cent in Southern Asia; from 12 per cent to 18 per cent in South-Eastern Asia; and from 20 per cent to 22 per cent in Eastern Asia.
- ▶ **Child mortality:** In all three subregions of Asia, the under-five mortality rate has fallen by 60 per cent or more since 1990.
- ▶ **Maternal health:** The maternal mortality ratio declined by more than 55 per cent between 1990 and 2013.
- ▶ **Infectious diseases:** New HIV infections fell by 49 per cent in Southern Asia. However, South-Eastern Asia and Eastern Asia showed either stagnation or an increase in new HIV infections. The tuberculosis (TB) incidence rate has been falling in all subregions.
- ▶ **Water and sanitation:** Since 1990, the proportion of the population without access to improved drinking water has been cut in half in Eastern Asia, South-Eastern Asia and Southern Asia. Nonetheless, nearly one-fifth of all people using unimproved sources live in South Asia. Eastern Asia met the sanitation target ahead of time. In South-Eastern Asia and Southern Asia, the proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility has increase by 25 percentage points since 1990. However, still more than half of population in South Asia lack access to improved sanitation.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- ▶ **Poverty:** Latin America and the Caribbean reached the target of halving the extreme poverty rate, with the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day falling from 13 per cent in 1990 to 4 per cent in 2015.
- ▶ **Hunger:** The proportion of undernourished people in the total population has decreased from 15 per cent in 1990–1992 to 6 per cent in 2014–2016. While in 2014–2016 the prevalence of undernourishment in Latin America was less than 5 per cent, and in the Caribbean it was 20 per cent.
- ▶ **Primary education:** The adjusted net enrolment rate grew from 87 per cent in 1990 to 94 per cent in 2015, but most of the progress was made before 2000. Disparities remain large among the two subregions: with 82 per cent in the Caribbean and 95 per cent in Latin America.



- ▶ **Gender equality:** Parity has been achieved in primary education between boys and girls in the region. Women in Latin America and the Caribbean participate in paid employment nearly as much as men, 45 out of every 100 wage-earning jobs in the non-agricultural sector are held by women, the highest in all developing regions. Women's representation in parliaments (27 per cent in 2015) is the highest among all developing regions and even higher than the average share in developed regions.
- ▶ **Child mortality:** The under-five mortality rate was reduced by 69 per cent between 1990 and 2015. From 54 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 17 in 2015. The target of a two-thirds reduction in the under-five mortality rate was reached.
- ▶ **Maternal health:** There were 190 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013 in the Caribbean. Latin American has a much lower maternal mortality ratio, with 77 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013. Latin America and the Caribbean have made slow progress in reducing adolescent childbearing, and the birth rate among adolescent girls is the second highest of all developing regions.
- ▶ **Infectious diseases:** New HIV infections dropped by 56 per cent from 2000 to 2015 in the Caribbean. In Latin America, new HIV infections have shown only a slow decline from 2000 to 2015. 44 per cent of people living with HIV/AIDS in the whole region received antiretroviral treatment therapy, the highest among all developing regions.
- ▶ **Water and sanitation:** The region met the MDG drinking water target five years ahead of schedule. The proportion of the population using an improved water source was 95 per cent in 2015, up from 85 per cent in 1990. The region is also very close to reaching the target of halving the proportion of population without basic sanitation. The proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility increased from 67 per cent to 83 per cent between 1990 and 2015.

OCEANIA

- ▶ **Hunger:** Oceania has made limited progress on reducing the prevalence of undernourishment from 1990–1992 to 2014–2016. The proportion of undernourished people in the total population decreased from 15.7 per cent in 1990–1992 to 14.2 per cent in 2014–2016. Progress in Oceania has been slow because of heavy dependence on food imports by the small islands that constitute the majority of countries in that region. Food security in this region is also hampered by natural and human-caused disasters, which often result in volatile prices and sudden and unpredictable changes in the availability of important staple foods.
- ▶ **Primary education:** Oceania made substantial progress in expanding access to primary education between 1990 and 2015 with an increase in enrolment rates from 69 per cent to 95 per cent. However, girls continue to face high barriers to schooling in all levels of education. In Oceania, it is projected that only 86 girls will be enrolled in secondary schools for every 100 boys in 2015.
- ▶ **Gender equality:** Women's access to paid employment in the non-agricultural sector has been increasing over the past two decades, with an increase of 6 percentage points over the period 1990–2015, from 33 per cent to 39 per cent. The proportion of seats held by women in parliament increased only slightly from 3.6 per cent in 2000 to 4.4 per cent in 2015. Women in Oceania lag far behind in equal participation in political decision-making.
- ▶ **Child Mortality:** The under-five mortality rate reduced by 31 per cent between 1990 and 2015, dropping from 74 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 51 in 2015.
- ▶ **Maternal health:** The maternal mortality ratio declined by more than half in Oceania over the past two decades, from 390 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 190 in 2013.
- ▶ **Infectious diseases:** New HIV infections fell by 25 per cent in Oceania. The tuberculosis death rate has fallen by two-thirds in the region.
- ▶ **Environment protection:** In Oceania, there were no coastal or marine protected areas in 1990, but 7.4 per cent of such areas were protected in 2014.
- ▶ **Water and sanitation:** The proportion of the population using an improved water source increased from 50 per cent to 56 per cent between 1990 and 2015. But the proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility has remained around 35 per cent since 1990.