

# The Millennium Development Goals Report



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## Mixed results on Millennium Development Goals in Caucasus and Central Asia: UN report

**MOSTLY PREVENTABLE PROBLEMS HOLD BACK MEETING TARGETS ON CHILD AND  
MATERNAL MORTALITY; CONCERNS RISE ON WATER SCARCITY AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

MOSCOW/ALMATY, 7 JULY 2014 – Having already met some targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia appear close to meeting others on education and gender equality by 2015, but the region's environmental targets will be missed without greater efforts, according to a new UN report.

*The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014*, launched today by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York, shows many positive results for the Caucasus and Central Asia region, which includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Agreed by all countries at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, the eight MDGs include a range of sub-targets covering poverty, hunger, health, gender equality, education and environmental indicators, with most concluding at the end of 2015.

### EDUCATION TARGET CLOSE AND GENDER EQUALITY IMPROVED

The Caucasus and Central Asia have been close to achieving universal primary education, but have seen little progress since 2000. Nine out of ten pupils who started primary school completed the last grade, bringing the region close to achieving its universal primary education goal.

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 non-agricultural sector in 2012.

The proportion of seats held by women in single or lower houses of national parliament in the Caucasus and Central Asia rose from seven per cent in 2000 to 19 per cent in 2014.

### FEWER HUNGRY AND POOR PEOPLE

The Caucasus and Central Asia met the MDG target of halving the percentage of under-nourished people ahead of 2015. In the region, the proportion of hungry people fell from 14 per cent in 1990-1992 to seven per cent in 2011-2013. The percentage of people living in extreme poverty, or less than \$1.25 a day, dropped from 10 per cent to four per cent between 1990 and 2010, which means the region met its poverty target ahead of 2015.

### CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS REMAIN MAJOR CHALLENGE

Currently, the world is reducing under-five mortality faster than at any other time during the past two decades. Although the region was able to cut in half the rate of children under age five dying, between 1990 and 2012, the Caucasus and Central Asia will fall short of the 2015 target.

The region boasts one of the lowest maternal mortality ratios of all developing regions – 39 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013. According to the report, the maternal mortality ratio in the Caucasus and Central Asia decreased 44 per cent between 1990 and 2013, which is major progress, but means the region will likely miss the MDGs target on maternal mortality by 2015. Maternal death is mostly preventable with increased access to regular check-ups. The level of skilled attendance at birth was nearly universal or 98 per cent in the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2012.

#### Little progress on access to water and protecting resources

The report warns that renewable water resources in the Caucasus and Central Asia are diminishing. The region has water withdrawal rates around 50 per cent. This is close to the threshold of 60 per cent at which physical water scarcity becomes a concern, both in the lives of people and for the environment. The region is likely to fall short on meeting its target to provide greater access to improved drinking water sources for people. In addition, the region has shown little progress on safeguarding natural resources through protecting land and marine areas, which makes it the least protected region in the world.

*The Millennium Development Goals Report*, an annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals, reflects the most comprehensive, up-to-date data compiled by over 28 UN and international agencies and is produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A complete set of the data used to prepare the report is available at [mdgs.un.org](http://mdgs.un.org)

For more information, press materials and an inter-agency media contact list, see [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

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