EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Millennium Development Goal 8

The State of the Global Partnership for Development

MDG Gap Task Force
Report 2014

UNITED NATIONS

The present report was prepared by the MDG Gap Task Force, which was created by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to improve the monitoring of MDG 8 by leveraging inter-agency coordination. More than 30 United Nations entities and other organizations are represented in the Task Force, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Trade Organization. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN/DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) acted as lead agencies in organizing the work of the Task Force. The coordination was performed by Pingfan Hong, Director, and Keiji Inoue, Economic Affairs Officer, in the Development Policy and Analysis Division of UN/DESA.

List of bodies and agencies represented on the MDG Gap Task Force

Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN/DESA)

Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat (DPI)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

World Bank

World Food Programme (WFP)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University (UNU-WIDER)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

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Millennium Development Goal 8

The State of the Global Partnership for Development

MDG Gap Task Force Report 2014: Executive summary

United Nations
New York, 2014

Preface

The deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is fast approaching, with much progress to report and many challenges still ahead. The present report serves to review the experiences of recent years in pursuing a global partnership for development. Its analysis is particularly important as the international community focuses on formulating the post-2015 development agenda.

Since 2007, the MDG Gap Task Force has examined progress and shortfalls in implementing the targets of Goal 8, to "develop a global partnership for development". Each report focuses on the gap between commitments made and cooperation delivered, with the ultimate goal of helping the international community bridge the difference.

A number of targets for Goal 8 are close to being achieved. Duty-free and quota-free access to developed-country markets has been extended for exports from least developed countries. Countries eligible for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative have successfully completed that process and achieved substantial and irrevocable debt relief. At the same time, progress on other targets has been slow, in particular in reaching the pledged volumes of official development assistance (ODA). There are important exceptions, and I applaud those States that have continued to increase ODA.

Private investment has spurred the greater availability and falling cost of telecommunications across the developing world, but too many people continue to lack access to affordable essential medicines. We still need an effective convergence of public policies and private initiatives to bridge this gap.

Once again, the MDG Gap Task Force Report has brought together key information produced by different parts of the international system, presenting a coherent overall picture of development cooperation. The report identifies what works as well as what remains to be done to realize an effective partnership.

Now more than ever, leaders and citizens across the globe must boldly step forward to join in essential collective actions to eradicate poverty, raise living standards and sustain the environment.

I call on all Governments and international institutions to continue strengthening the global partnership for development so that we can usher in a more sustainable future.

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Millennium Development Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Targets	Indicators
	Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
Target 8.A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—both nationally and internationally **Target 8.B:** Address the special needs of the least developed countries Includes tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction **Target 8.C:** Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	**Official development assistance (ODA)** **8.1** Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national incomes **8.2** Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) **8.3** Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied **8.4** ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes **8.5** ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes **Market access** **8.6** Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries admitted free of duty **8.7** Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries **8.8** Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product **8.9** Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Targets	Indicators
Target 8.D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	**Debt sustainability** **8.10** Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative) **8.11** Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives **8.12** Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
Target 8.E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	**8.13** Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	**8.14** Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants **8.15** Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants **8.16** Internet users per 100 inhabitants

Executive Summary

The global partnership for development

The MDG Gap Task Force, an inter-agency collaboration created by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2007, is responsible for monitoring the policy commitments embodied in the Millennium Declaration and earlier international agreements, identified as the targets of Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Goal 8 was created as a call to developed countries to extend specific types of support to developing countries in order to help them achieve goals 1 through 7. The scope of Goal 8 has been widened over time with the introduction of new indicators and targets by the Task Force, and by the introduction of several new initiatives by the Secretary-General that focus the attention of various stakeholders on renewed efforts related to selected MDGs. The present Task Force was created to provide additional analytical work to supplement the targets and indicators of Goal 8.

As previous reports of the Task Force indicate, there have been positive developments that point to an effective international partnership, but shortfalls in development cooperation in recent years highlight the need for a revitalized global partnership for development as the international community moves towards delivering a post-2015 development agenda. For example, while the 2013 rebound in total official development assistance (ODA) hints at a change in the pattern, the gap between the Goal 8 targets and policy delivery remains wide.

As it was envisioned, Goal 8 embodied a mixture of policy targets that were relevant to development in general, but would not directly advance any of the other MDGs. Over time, this lack of coherence has undermined the achievement of Goal 8 targets and, arguably, the better rates of achievement of other MDGs by developing countries in general. In 2002, however, the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development embodied a globally collaborative cooperation strategy, which addressed a full scope of domestic and international policies for sustainable development.

The efforts to achieve the MDGs will continue unabated until the target year of 2015. Meanwhile, the United Nations has committed to developing a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Several lessons can be drawn from monitoring Goal 8 that have implications for future monitoring of the global partnership for development under the SDGs. First, there is a strong need to significantly strengthen the linkages between Goal 8 and other goals; second, global monitoring of the many partnership initiatives to advance towards the goals is an essential, albeit difficult, task; third, as targets and indicators are unlikely to remain salient over long periods of time, the successor to Goal 8 should periodically be reviewed for continued relevance and interest; and fourth, the efforts to attain the MDGs should not be confused with the broader, long-standing international commitment to foster sustainable development.

In preparation for the post-2015 development agenda, discussions are being held on achieving consensus for a holistic and comprehensive financing framework to underpin these development efforts. A renewed political commitment to development cooperation is imperative in order to develop a coherent set of substantive policies for global development as the international community transitions into a new era.

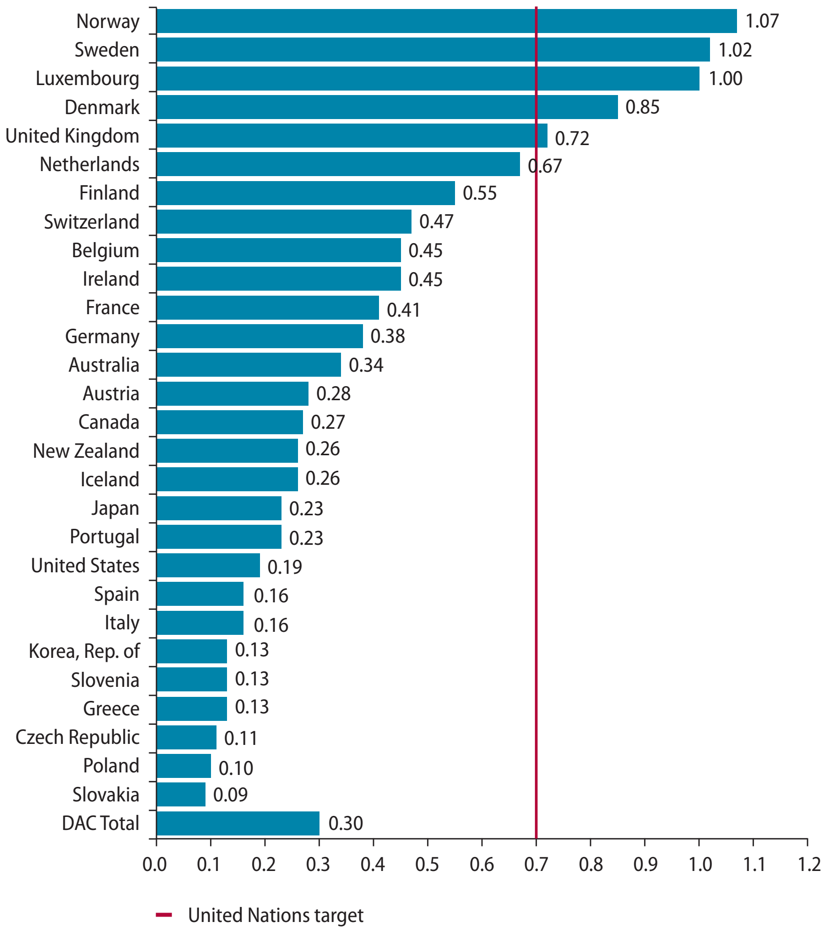
Official development assistance

Positive developments in 2013 have helped to alleviate concerns about recent reductions in ODA, which reached a record of $135 billion[1] after two consecutive years of falling volumes. This rebound was largely attributable to increases in multilateral and humanitarian aid (7 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively). Net ODA contributions from 17 of the 28 countries that form the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) increased in 2013. The overall increase in ODA has marginally narrowed the gap between the United Nations target of disbursing 0.7 per cent of donor gross national income (GNI) and actual flows to 0.4 per cent of combined DAC donors' GNI (five donor countries met the target: Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

In addition to the increase in the volume of ODA, there has been improvement in the conditions of aid, specifically on the degree of autonomy of recipient Governments to select entities to implement aid programmes within their countries. In the least developed countries (LDCs), this "untied" form of aid reached 83 per cent of total bilateral aid disbursed by DAC countries in 2012, a 2 per cent improvement over 2011.

1 All monetary amounts are expressed in United States dollars, except where otherwise indicated.

ODA of DAC members, 2013* (*percentage of GNI*)

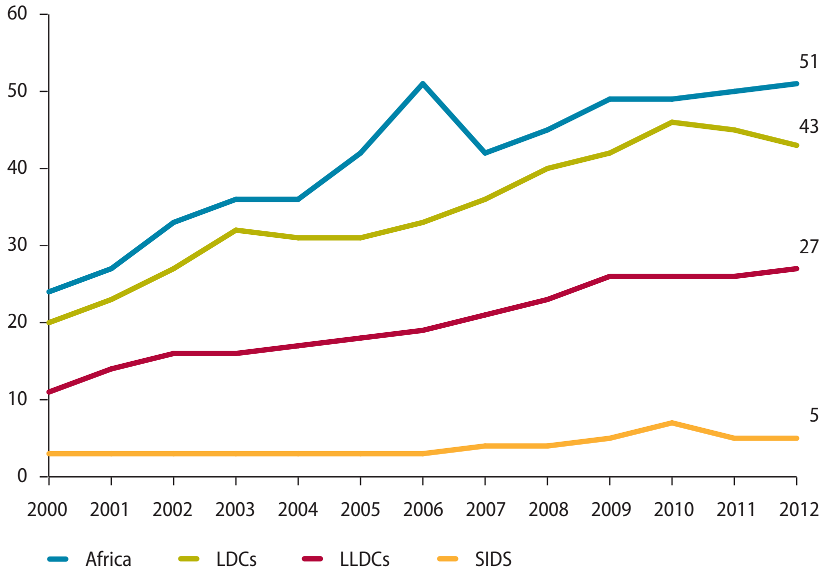


Source: OECD/DAC data.

* Data for 2013 are preliminary.

Not all developments have been positive, however. Aid continues to be heavily concentrated, with the top 20 recipients receiving 53 per cent of total ODA in 2012. Despite a 12.3 per cent increase in aid to LDCs in 2013 compared with the previous year, preliminary data show an important decrease in bilateral aid to sub-Saharan Africa, down 4 per cent in real terms, to $26.2 billion during the same period. Further, the aid portfolios for landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) have stagnated since 2010, and those for small island developing States (SIDS) declined for a second straight year in 2012.

Total ODA received by priority groups of countries, 2000–2012
(*billions of 2012 dollars*)



Source: OECD/DAC data.

In addition, while a growing number of other official and private sources are providing concessional development financing, these flows also fell in 2012. Even more discouraging, forward spending plans of major donors do not indicate a significant growth in ODA flows in the medium term.

The global community recognizes the need to address these and other shortfalls, and a number of international commitments have been made in an effort to improve cooperation under the global partnership for development. At the special event on the MDGs, Member States called for the urgent implementation of the target of disbursing the equivalent of 0.7 per cent of donor GNI as ODA by 2015. Additionally, member countries of the Group of Eight, at the Summit held in Lough Erne, Northern Ireland, in June 2013, reaffirmed their commitments to sustainable global food and nutrition security, by committing to disbursing the financial pledges made at L'Aquila in 2009. In December 2013, a global coalition of developed and developing countries pledged a record $52 billion in financing over the next three years to the World Bank's International Development Association, the fund for the world's poorest. The DAC has also decided to put forward proposals to modernize the ODA concept, so as to maintain relevancy in an evolving global development landscape.

Aid effectiveness has long been an issue of importance for providers of development cooperation. In recent years, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) has embraced a broader agenda, working to incorporate domestic resource mobilization and private sector engagement in order to improve the impact of development cooperation efforts. At a high-level meeting in September 2013, the GPEDC also emphasized the importance of middle-income countries and South-South and triangular cooperation in global development efforts. The GPEDC has committed to working with the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), which seeks to promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners. Together, these two multi-stakeholder partnerships aim to help strengthen recipient Governments' ownership over development cooperation programmes and enhance both recipient and donor Governments' mutual accountability mechanisms.

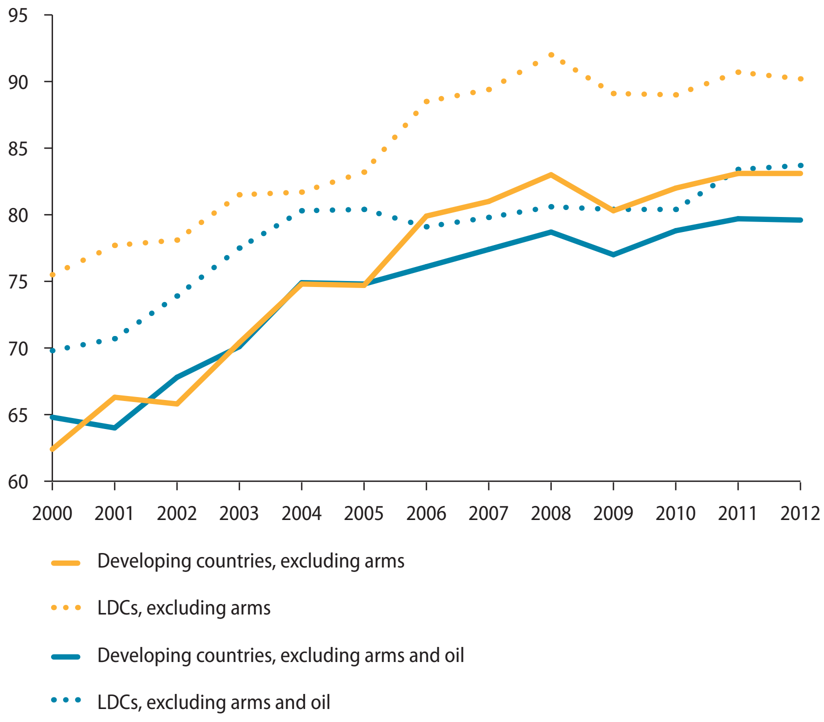
The MDG Gap Task Force recommends that donor Governments continue to strive to achieve previously agreed upon commitments and meet the United Nations target of disbursing 0.7 per cent of GNI in ODA. Donor Governments must further increase the share of ODA to priority groups of countries, including Africa, LLDCs and SIDS, as originally committed to in MDG 8. Other providers of aid are encouraged to continue to provide and increase their assistance. All development actors are encouraged to pursue mutually accountable, transparent and coordinated financing, and to build on the DCF in pursuit of more effective development cooperation in preparation for the launch of the post-2015 development agenda.

Market access

A central concern of Goal 8 has been to support developing countries in attaining the MDGs through economic growth, helped by export growth and supported by an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system. A number of issues are changing the current trade policy landscape, including: trade in services, which plays an increasingly important role in global trade; the rapid expansion of global value chains, which have opened export opportunities for several developing countries while imposing added pressure on others to implement strategies to integrate their exports into existing value chains; and the need for national trade diversification efforts to alleviate the impact of shocks, especially for low-income countries, and new target-setting for international trade policy liberalization in the post-2015 era.

Developed countries have lowered tariffs considerably and the proportion of developed-country imports from developing countries admitted duty free has continued to increase over time. However, there is still room for action to address the negative impacts of non-tariff measures on developing-countries' abilities to participate effectively in the global economy.

Proportion of developed-country imports from developing countries admitted duty free, 2000–2012 (*percentage*)

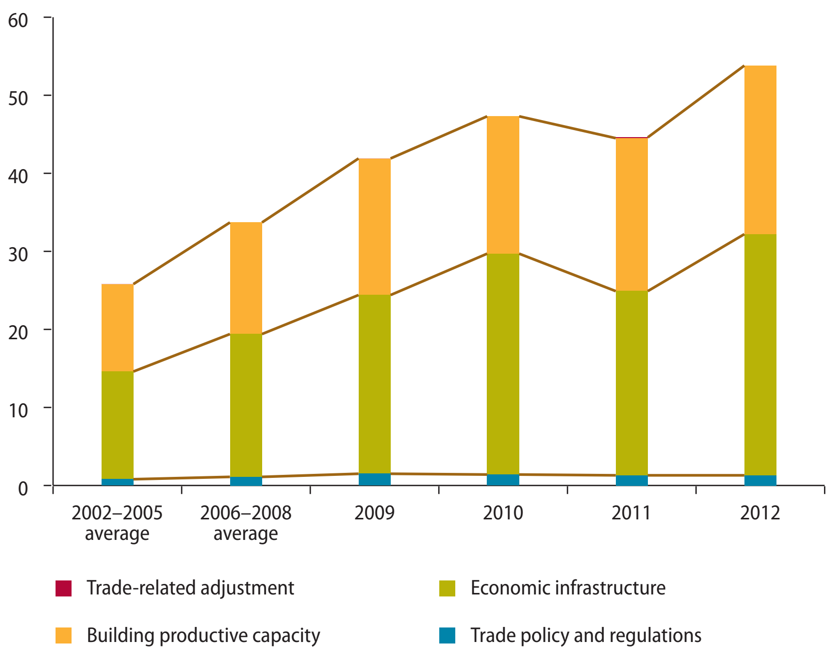


Source: ITC/UNCTAD/WTO database.

Agricultural exports from LDCs received additional preferences, and agricultural subsidies in OECD countries—while little changed in 2013—remained lower than in previous years. However, while members of the Group of Twenty (G20) reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from protectionist measures in 2013, the number of new trade restrictions increased in 2013, potentially undermining confidence in the professed commitment of the G20 to an open and liberal trading system. Another cause for concern is the persistence of tariff peaks, which continue to affect market access opportunities. Over 9 per cent of tariff lines continue to be affected by tariff peaks in high-income member countries of the OECD, with the greatest impact being felt in the trade of agricultural products. In addition to tariff peaks, tariff escalations, which impact products at later stages of production, increased in 2013.

Donor countries and institutions have continued to support developing-country efforts to build trade capacity through initiatives such as Aid for Trade, which grew in 2012, driven by aid to economic infrastructure. Middle-income countries, in particular, have benefited from this increase, while LDCs have seen a decline in their share of Aid for Trade flows. It is also important to note that the terms of Aid for Trade are hardening, with concessional loans becoming a more prominent source of financing than grants.

Aid for Trade commitments by category, 2002–2012 (*billions of 2012 dollars*)



Source: OECD/DAC, Credit Reporting System.

Multilateral efforts to improve global trading norms have also seen results. After more than a decade of trade negotiations on the trading prospects of developing countries, a breakthrough was achieved in late 2013 with the Bali Package. The Package included agreements on trade facilitation, agriculture, a package of decisions for the LDCs and a monitoring system on special and differential treatment (SDT) provisions. The trade facilitation portion contains commitments to reduce transaction costs, increase transparency and harmonize customs formalities, although there are concerns over the voluntary nature of the commitments and the expected costs of implementation. The second part of the agreement contains decisions that address some concerns of developing countries regarding public stocks of food, land reform and rural livelihood programmes, as well as the administration of tariff-rate quotas. The third part of the Bali Package is focused on specific issues of waivers to LDC service exports, duty-free and quota-free access, rules of origin, and assistance to the cotton sector. Lastly, a decision was made to set up a monitoring mechanism for SDT and to strengthen the SDT provisions in trade negotiations. While promising, the decisions taken in Bali cover only a subset of the issues of the Doha Round, and a clearly defined work programme to conclude the Round is yet to be completed. Therefore, the impact of the Bali Package on global economic integration remains to be seen.

As the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs approaches, a final push towards improving market accessibility for developing countries is needed. The MDG Gap Task Force encourages World Trade Organization (WTO) members to prioritize achievement of the ambitious goals set out in the Bali Package, with the aim of concluding the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Further, efforts should continue in the elimination of protectionist policies which inhibit access to the global economy, as well as in the removal of all agricultural export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic support. Finally, developed countries are encouraged to increase support for capacity-building in developing countries, through initiatives such as Aid for Trade.

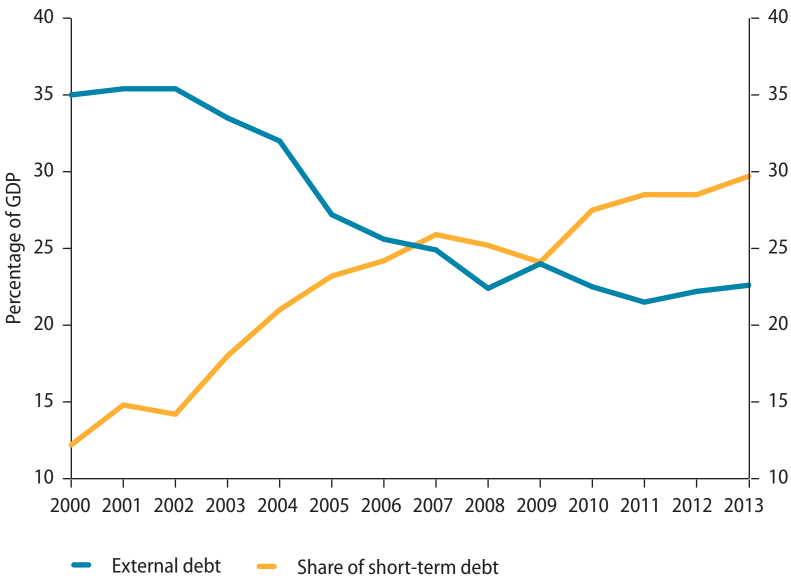
Debt sustainability

Goal 8 debt indicators have provided a narrative on the evolving debt landscape of developing countries in general, but have placed primary emphasis on the debt situations of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs). While Goal 8 contained no indicators for addressing debt crises in non-HIPCs, it implicitly addressed these countries when it called for policies that would lead to sustainable debt levels for all developing countries.

Debt relief under the HIPC and MDRI initiatives has substantially alleviated debt burdens in assisted countries and has facilitated their efforts to increase poverty-reducing expenditure. The HIPC Initiative is now drawing to a close, with 35 out of 39 eligible countries having reached the completion point as at end-June 2014. However, several HIPC countries are once again approaching moderate or high levels of debt distress.

Meanwhile, the external debt of developing countries as a whole measured only 22.6 per cent of their combined gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013, a decline of more than 10 percentage points over the past decade. However, short-term debt levels have continued to rise, as have debt servicing-to-export ratios, indicating a growing risk of debt vulnerability in the short term. Additional attention is needed on these and other countries' debt vulnerabilities, particularly small States (as defined by the Commonwealth Secretariat).

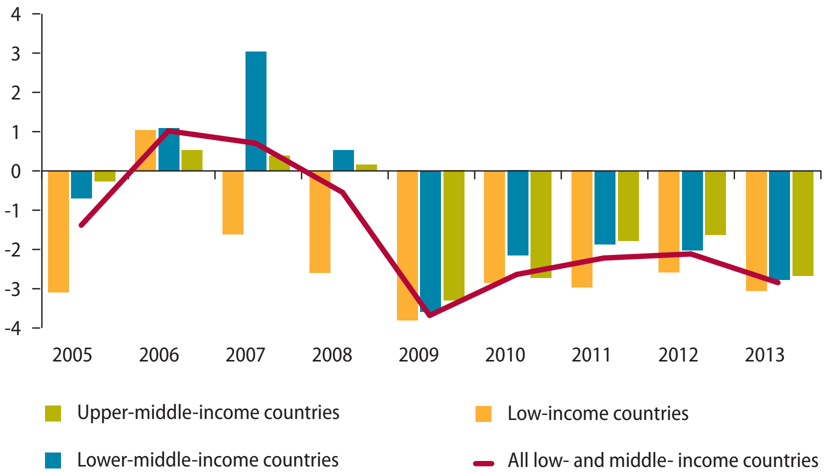
External debt (*percentage of GDP*) **and share of short-term debt of developing countries** (*percentage*)**, 2000–2013**



Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook April 2014 database.

There has been considerable change in the landscape of sovereign debt of developing countries, with many low- and middle-income countries accessing international capital markets. For some countries, this change in the structure of debt increases vulnerability to national currency depreciation and subsequent increases in debt-servicing obligations. At the same time, the fear of ineffective debt management policies and a subsequent push towards fiscal austerity can also have adverse consequences for employment, tax revenues and social expenditures. In fact, developing countries in general have seen widening of fiscal deficits in recent years.

Fiscal balances of low- and middle-income countries, 2005–2013
(*percentage of GDP*)

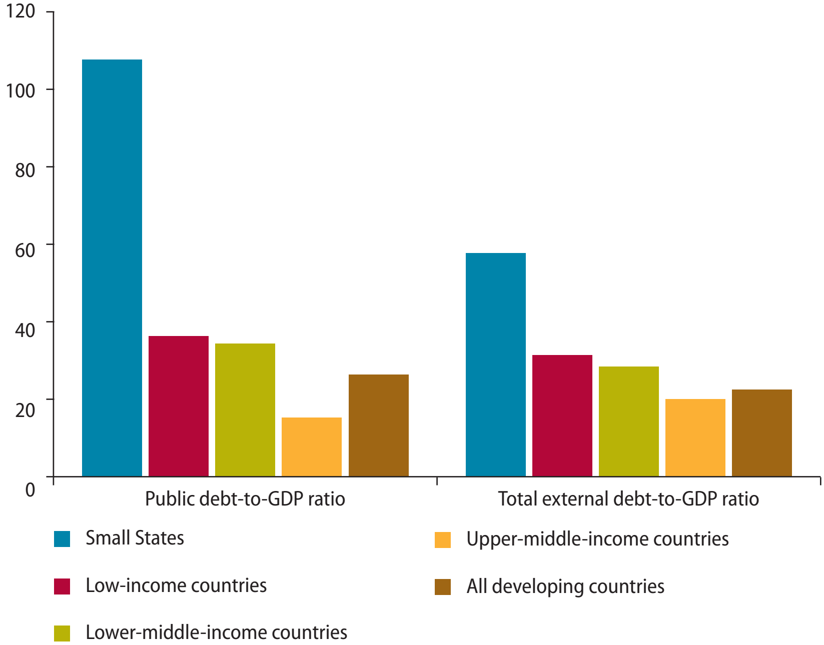


Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook April 2014 database.

Small States present significant debt sustainability challenges and require country-specific efforts to address them. In 2013, the average ratio of public debt to GDP of small States amounted to 107.7 per cent, compared with a ratio of 26.4 per cent of GDP for developing countries as a whole. Among the inherent vulnerabilities of small States are a greater frequency (and magnitude) of natural disasters, limited capacity to respond to and recover from these disasters, susceptibility to terms-of-trade shocks, and climate change. These vulnerabilities have not as yet been adequately addressed by international mechanisms and calls have been made for comprehensive debt relief strategies complemented by national ownership over governance and debt management, private sector development and macroeconomic stability.

Frameworks have been introduced over time with the purpose of evaluating debt sustainability, such as the joint World Bank-IMF Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF) and the IMF Debt Sustainability Analysis for Market Access Countries (DSA). The DSF, introduced in 2005, helps guide low-income countries and their donors in mobilizing financing for development needs, while reducing the chances of an excessive debt build-up. Over time, the DSF has been augmented to capture more of the nuances of debt vulnerabilities. The DSA assesses debt sustainability of market access countries by estimating public debt ratios over time under varying scenarios. In addition, the World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment

Debt-to-GDP ratios of small States and other developing countries, 2013
(*percentage*)



Source: UN/DESA, based on IMF World Economic Outlook April 2014 database.
Note: Data of small States are excluded from averages for other groupings in this figure. Total external debt data includes private non-guaranteed long-term debt.

evaluates the strength of a country's policies, which helps set indicative limits to sustainable debt levels.

There is a need for an enhanced approach to debt restructuring that will consider the changing composition of overall developing-country debt. Presently, methods for improving the architecture for sovereign debt restructuring are being debated in various forums. Going forward, the international community's task will be to assist developing countries in effectively managing their current levels of debt and avoiding build-up of unsustainable debt levels. The MDG Gap Task Force encourages international financial institutions to continue reviewing their various debt sustainability frameworks in the light of an ever-changing debt landscape. A more useful, albeit more challenging, approach to evaluating debt sustainability is needed, such as the asset liability management framework that captures the linkages between internal and external debt and the value of debt management strategies, including a full inclusion of contingent liabilities and private debt. International financial institutions should at the same time improve the registration of debt data, its timeliness and coverage, and reconciliation between reporting by creditor and debtor reporting systems so as to enhance capability to monitor debt sustainability and respond to early warning signals.

Further, the international community is encouraged to ensure timely and equitable debt relief for critically indebted countries and to examine options for the enhancement of the international architecture for sovereign debt restructuring. Governments should strike a social and developmental balance while implementing adjustment policies to reduce excessive debt burdens. Finally, growing debt levels in some countries underscore the need to increase grants for the poorest countries.

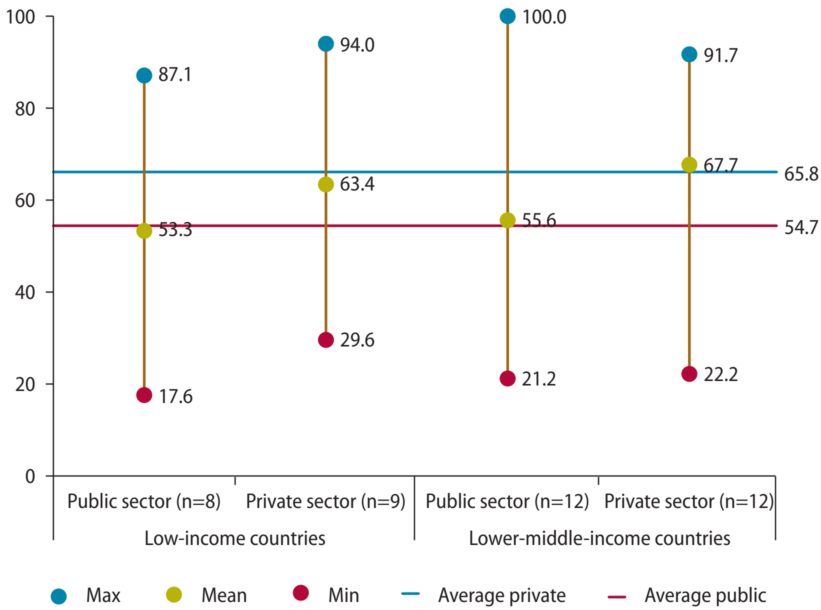
Access to essential medicines

Increased global action in recent years has led to progress in combating both non-communicable and acute diseases. However, despite some noteworthy efforts to increase access to essential medicines, namely HIV treatment therapies, access in developing countries remains insufficient. In order to improve access to medicines, treatments must not only be sufficiently available and appropriately priced, but must also be affordable to patients. Between 2007 and 2013, availability of generic medicines in both the public and private sectors remained low (55 per cent and 66 per cent, respectively, on average).

Prices of generic medicines also remain relatively high for patients in low- and lower-middle income countries, averaging three times higher than international reference prices. Further, assuring the quality of medicines continues to pose challenges, particularly considering the existence of falsely labelled or counterfeit medicines—an area in critical need of policy and legislative solutions.

A number of factors, including patents and trade flexibilities, may play a role in determining access to essential medicines. The existence of patents may restrict access to certain treatments, but the WTO Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement contains certain flexibilities. The Agreement allows developing countries to manage their own intellectual property systems by deciding who will receive patent protections within their countries, a strategy that may increase treatment access. Additionally, pharmaceutical companies can promote the supply of generic medicines in developing countries by entering into voluntary licensing agreements. LDCs are exempt from complying with the TRIPS Agreement with respect to pharmaceutical products until 2016; they also have a renewed general extension with respect to implementation of the TRIPS Agreement,

Availability of selected generic medicines in public and private health facilities in low- and lower-middle-income countries, 2007–2013 average (*percentage*)



Source: World Health Organization/Health Action International (WHO/HAI), based on data from medicine price and availability surveys from 2007 to 2013 using the WHO/HAI standard methodology, available from http://www.haiweb.org/medicineprices.

Note: n = number of countries. Baskets of survey medicines differ between countries.

except for non-discrimination, until 1 July 2021. This allows LDCs the opportunity to create a viable technological base and to overcome various capacity constraints, including technology transfer.

Many multi-stakeholder partnerships in developing countries are also aiming to improve access to medicines. The International Health Partnership is attempting to translate international principles for effective aid and development cooperation into practice in the health sector. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) has become the main multilateral source of funds for global health, and its contributions to the achievement of health-related MDGs have been critical. In addition, as at end-September 2013, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) had supported the antiretroviral treatment of 6.7 million patients worldwide. In early 2014, PEPFAR joined forces with the Millennium Challenge Corporation to promote greater host-country ownership in the United States global AIDS programme. In addition to focusing on access to HIV treatments, more attention has been paid to the failure to address non-communicable diseases. To this end, the World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases for the period 2013–2020. Nevertheless, despite these important initiatives, greater efforts by the international community, pharmaceutical companies and Governments are still needed in order to enhance and expand accessibility.

The MDG Gap Task Force recommends that developing countries create multidimensional policies that take advantage of TRIPS Agreement flexibilities in order to foster access to essential medicines. Developing countries are also encouraged to implement laws that address counterfeit medicines so as to improve quality assurance and to accelerate the development of programmes on non-communicable diseases. While efforts to increase access to HIV treatment therapies in low-income countries should certainly continue, focus should also be placed on middle-income countries with high HIV prevalence.

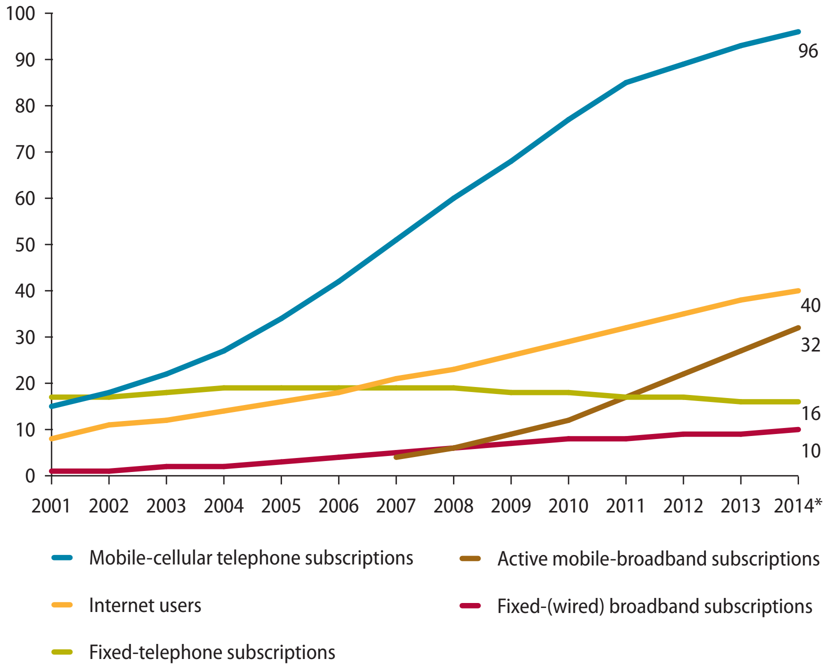
Access to new technologies

Developing-country access to advanced technologies highlighted in Goal 8 of the MDGs continues to grow at a fast pace, particularly in mobile telephony and internet usage. In mobile-cellular subscriptions, penetration continues to grow twice as fast in developing countries in 2014 as in developed countries. By the end of 2014, penetration rates of mobile-cellular subscriptions in developing countries will reach 90 per cent, compared with 121 per cent in developed countries. As a result, the number of mobile-cellular subscriptions in the developing world will account for 78 per cent of the world's total. Similarly, growth in Internet usage in developing countries continues to outpace that in developed countries.

As global demand for higher-speed access to the Internet increases, the number of fixed- and mobile-broadband subscriptions continues to grow. By the end of 2014, 711 million people in the world are expected to have fixed-broadband subscriptions—twice as many as in 2009. Mobile-broadband penetration is expected to grow even faster, reaching 32 per cent by the end of 2014, a fourfold increase since 2009.

Yet, despite these gains and many international initiatives, gaps in access to advanced technologies still persist between developed and developing countries. While mobile-broadband penetration is expected to reach 84 per cent in 2014 in developed countries, it is estimated to barely exceed

Global trends in access to ICT, 2001–2014
(*penetration rates per 100 inhabitants*)



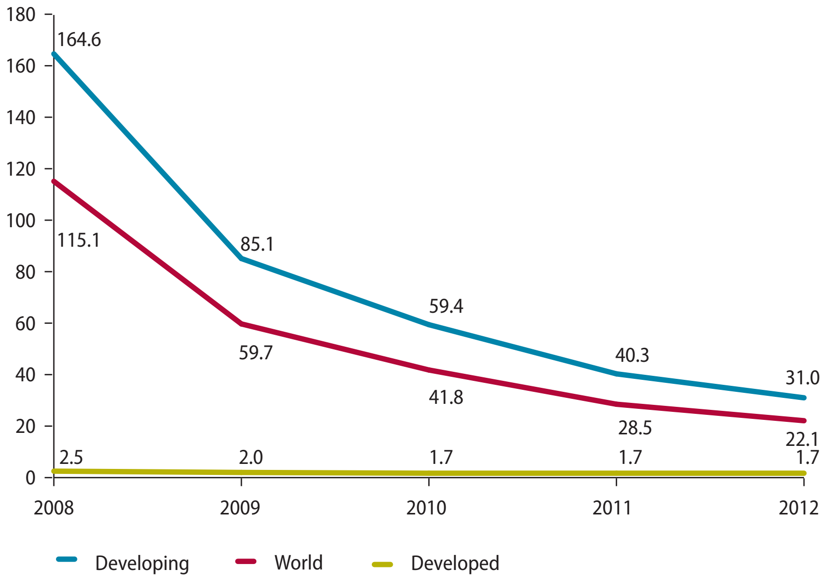
Source: ITU, World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database.
* Data for 2014 are estimated.

21 per cent in developing countries. A similar gap exists in fixed-broadband penetration rates between developed countries and developing countries (28 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively). In many developing countries, broadband prices still remain unaffordable for large segments of the population, even as prices continue to drop. For mobile telephony, the gap is diminishing, but it still remains.

National regulatory and licensing frameworks have a large effect on expanding access to information and communication technology (ICT) services. Some markets, such as the mobile service market, have benefited from relatively less interventionist regulatory frameworks than other sectors, with precedence being placed on the creation of competitive market development opportunities.

Additionally, Governments are increasingly using ICT and e-government approaches to promote and to achieve development agendas. National and local governments have been collaboratively using

Fixed-broadband prices, 2008–2012 (*percentage of GNI per capita*)



Source: ITU, *Measuring the Information Society Report 2013*.

Note: Simple averages. Based on 144 economies for which fixed-broadband prices were available; GNI per capita data is based on World Bank data.

e-government to simplify administrative procedures and to provide information to their citizens, thereby promoting greater levels of efficiency and transparency. The provision of e-government services continues to spread and facilitate development efforts, but many types of services are still not provided online, particularly within developing country contexts.

The international community recognizes the potential benefits of increased access to and use of ICT for achieving development goals and has thus launched several initiatives to augment such access. The Broadband Commission for Digital Development, for example, has made efforts to show the potential impact of broadband networks on greater MDG achievement. Efforts have also been made to identify measurable goals for target 8F of MDG 8, so as to better monitor countries' progress towards becoming "information societies". To this end, the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development has been tracking progress towards achieving greater digital connectivity worldwide, finding that ICT access and use continues not to be equally distributed, even as ICT networks, services, applications and content expand.

There are also a number of efforts to conceptualize a possible post-2015 ICT monitoring framework that includes setting appropriate targets and indicators, and strong linkages to a broader development agenda. Further, the use of advanced technology for disaster risk reduction efforts is growing in importance and prevalence, with the number of countries developing national disaster loss databases increasing. International initiatives are now also in place to respond to developing-country needs for access to technologies that address the impact of climate change. In particular, during the Climate Change Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in November 2013 in Warsaw, countries agreed to establish an international mechanism to provide the most vulnerable populations with better protection against loss and damage caused by extreme and slow-onset weather events. Developed-country Governments also clarified plans to mobilize financing in support of developing-country efforts to adapt effectively to climate change.

Other notable developments have occurred. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) launched WIPO GREEN, which aims to promote the innovation and diffusion of green technologies. Additionally, a decision was taken during the Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review in 2013 to draw upon scientific and technological innovations as a means through which to tackle extreme poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. Finally, in early 2014 the International Telecommunication Union agreed on programmes, projects and initiatives to support development priorities in ICT over the next four years.

The MDG Gap Task Force encourages Governments to continue their pursuit of improved access to ICTs for their citizens, particularly the provision of affordable broadband Internet services to all people, through open and fair regulatory systems. Further, Governments should support the transfer and sharing of innovative technologies so as to aid the acceleration of MDG achievement and reduce the risk of disasters. Building partnership initiatives with developed countries and with the private sector is an important channel through which to achieve greater access to ICTs. Part of this requires that Governments support policies that enhance the environment for innovation, while enabling faster diffusion of technologies to support sustainable development. Governments are also encouraged to continue their efforts to expand access to broadband Internet as well as online information and services in support of achievement of the MDGs.

14-56706