

The MDG Gap Task Force Report

2015



UNITED NATIONS

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Fact sheet: Where are the gaps?

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

GLOBAL ODA

(in 2014 US dollars)

Commitment

\$326 billion

to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of donor country gross national income (GNI) dedicated to ODA, according to the longstanding and reconfirmed agreement by UN Member States.

Delivery (in 2014)

\$135 billion

in total ODA from OECD DAC countries, equivalent to 0.29 per cent of developed-country combined gross national income.

Gap (in 2014)

\$191 billion

or 0.41 per cent of developed country GNI.

ODA TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)

(in 2014 US dollars)

Commitment (for 2015)

\$67 billion
to \$89 billion

in annual ODA to LDCs by 2015—based on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020—to provide ODA between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of donor countries' GNI by 2015.

Delivery (in 2013)

\$44.5 billion

in total ODA to LDCs by DAC countries, equivalent to 0.10 per cent of donor country GNI.

Gap (in 2013)

\$22 billion
to 45 billion

or between 0.05 and 0.10 per cent of donor country GNI.

MARKET ACCESS

DOHA ROUND

Commitment

Conclude Doha Round
of trade negotiations

All UN Member States have agreed to establish an “open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system”. The Doha Round of trade talks was launched in 2001 to fulfil this goal.



Delivery (in 2014)

Bali Package The provisions—trade facilitation, agriculture and development-related issues—made in the 2013 Bali Package have served as an important catalyst to the multilateral trade talks. In November 2014, the Trade Facilitation Agreement was incorporated into the WTO legal framework through an amendment protocol, and it will enter into force after ratification by two-thirds of its members.

Gap A clearly defined work programme on the remaining Doha issues is yet to be defined, adopted and implemented.

TRADE-RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

Commitment

Resist protectionism G-20 has pledged to resist all protectionist measures and to rectify any protectionist measures taken in response to the global financial crisis.

Gap

77 per cent of the protectionist measures introduced since the onset of the crisis are still to be eliminated.

DUTY-FREE, QUOTA-FREE ACCESS FOR LDC EXPORTS

Commitment

97 per cent of LDC exports should benefit from duty-free and quota-free access to developed country markets, by recommendation of the 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.
(of tariff lines)

Results (in 2014)

84 per cent of the value of developed country imports from LDCs, excluding arms and oil, admitted free of duty
60 per cent of imports from LDCs are admitted under “true” preferential access.

DEBT SUSTAINABILITY

Commitment

Debt problems of all developing countries should be dealt with comprehensively through national and international measures in order to make them sustainable in the long term.

Result (as of end-April 2015)

36 of the 39 countries have reached the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative’s “completion point”, qualifying for irrevocable debt relief.

Gaps

3 HIPCs have not yet reached the “decision” point and do not qualify for debt relief.

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

Commitment

Make essential medicines affordable and available in developing countries, in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies.

Results (in 2014)

Availability Essential medicines are available, on average, in only 58 per cent of facilities in the public sector and 67 per cent in the private sector (in a sample of developing countries).

Affordability

Median prices of essential medicines in the public sector were three times higher than international reference prices and five times higher in the private sector of developing countries.



ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Commitment Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, in cooperation with the private sector

Results (in 2014)

Cellular telephony

120 mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in developed countries

91 mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in developing countries

Internet access

80 Internet users per 100 inhabitants in developed countries

32 Internet users per 100 inhabitants in developing countries

Gaps

9 per 100 inhabitants of developing countries do not have mobile cellular subscriptions

48 fewer Internet users per 100 inhabitants in developing countries as compared to developed countries

TASK FORCE OBSERVATIONS FROM MONITORING MDG 8

The MDG Gap Task Force, created by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2007, systematically monitored existing international commitments on MDG 8 and their fulfilment at the global and country level. Over time, several key observations have been made:

- ▶ Goal 8 targets were not always well specified; there was often a mismatch between target and indicator.
- ▶ There was a lack of quantitative time-bound targets in the five substantive areas. Some targets were neither precise nor time bound and did not draw upon actual or relevant data.
- ▶ In some cases, data were available, but the indicator was not sufficiently informative.
- ▶ There was a lack of qualitative indicators describing processes of partnership formation, commitment, engagement and implementation.