

The Millennium Development Goals Report



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REGIONAL BACKGROUNDER

Caucasus and Central Asia

The proportion of undernourished people in the total population has decreased from 14 per cent in 1990–1992 to 7 per cent in 2014–2016. The region also reached the target of halving the proportion of undernourished children, with the proportion of underweight children under age five declining from 9 to 4 from 1990 to 2015.

The region was close to achieving universal primary education. Yet, in 2015, in Caucasus and Central Asia, 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.

The region has continued to advance on promoting gender equality and empowering women:

- ▶ The region has achieved parity in both primary and secondary education between boys and girls. The ratios between the enrolment rate of girls to boys are 0.99 per cent and 0.97 in primary and secondary education, respectively, falling within the range of 0.97 and 1.03, the accepted measure for parity. At the tertiary level, there are more women enrolled than men.
- ▶ In the Caucasus and Central Asia region, 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.
- ▶ Women in the region are also gaining more power in politics. The proportion of seats held by women in single or lower houses of national parliament increased from 7 per cent in 2000 to 18 per cent in 2015.

The Caucasus and Central Asia region has reduced its under-five mortality rate by 55 per cent between 1990 and 2015. The mortality rate for children under five dropped from 73 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 33 in 2015.

The region boasts one of the lowest maternal mortality ratio among all developing regions—39 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013, a decrease of 44 per cent from 1990. The level of skilled attendance at birth was nearly universal (96 per cent) in the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2014.

The past decade saw that the incidence of tuberculosis declined significantly in Caucasus and Central Asia. The estimated number of new tuberculosis cases, which once increased from 113 to 212 per 100,000 people between 1990 and 2002, dropped sharply to 94 by 2013. In Caucasus and Central Asia, the protected terrestrial area—areas dedicated to safeguarding and maintaining biological diversity and natural resources, with their associated cultural value—grew from 2.7 per cent to 4.6 per cent of the land surface between 1990 and 2014, the lowest among all developing regions.

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. The proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility increased from 90 per cent to 96 per cent between 1990 and 2015.

