

The Millennium Development Goals Report



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Latin America and the Caribbean reach some targets for Millennium Development Goals, but lag on others

ADVANCES ON HUNGER, CHILD SURVIVAL AND GENDER EQUALITY, BUT WEAK PROGRESS ON POVERTY, EDUCATION, MATERNAL HEALTH, HIV AND DEFORESTATION, UN REPORT SAYS

MEXICO CITY, 7 JULY 2011 — Latin America and the Caribbean met targets for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to hunger reduction, and are well on track to meet the child survival and gender equality targets. Progress has not been as remarkable in other areas—including poverty reduction, education, and other targets related to health and environmental sustainability, a UN report says.

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011, launched today by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Geneva, finds uneven progress towards the MDGs for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The MDG Report 2011 says Latin America and the Caribbean reached the target of halving the proportion of undernourished children, with the proportion of children under age five who are underweight declining from 10 per cent in 1990 to 4 per cent in 2009.

The mortality rate of children under the age of five in Latin America and the Caribbean fell significantly, from 52 per cent in 1990 to 23 per cent in 2009. If this trend continues, the report says, the region will reach the MDG target of a two-thirds reduction by 2015.

Latin America and the Caribbean also made major strides on gender equality, according to the report. The region met the MDG target of gender parity in education. The numbers of girls enrolled in secondary and tertiary education compared to boys are the highest of all developing regions. Women participate in paid work nearly as much as men, the report says, and the proportion of women employees in non-agricultural work was 43 per cent in 2009, the second highest among all developing regions.

CHALLENGES IN THE CARIBBEAN

By contrast, the Latin America and Caribbean region is not on track to reach the target of halving extreme poverty by 2015, mainly because, according to the latest available data, the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day in the Caribbean only decreased from 29 per cent to 26 per cent between 1990 and 2005.

The region may not reach the MDG target of universal primary education by 2015 either. Enrolment in primary school increased only marginally, the report finds, from 93 per cent in 1999 to 95 per cent in 2009.

On health, the Caribbean has the second highest rate of new HIV infections among all developing regions. But, on a positive note, the proportion of people living with HIV and receiving antiretroviral therapy in the Caribbean jumped from 5 per cent to 38 per cent between 2004 and 2009, and the proportion of women receiving antiretroviral drugs to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission grew from 20 per cent to 55 per cent.

According to the report, maternal mortality in the Caribbean was still high, with 170 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008, and only 69 per cent of birth deliveries attended by skilled health personnel in 2009. And Latin America had the second highest adolescent childbearing rate of all developing regions — 82 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 in 2008.

ACCESS TO WATER BUT NOT TOILETS; LARGEST FOREST LOSSES

While Latin America and the Caribbean have met the target of halving the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water, the region is far from meeting the similar target on sanitation, the report says, and the gap between rural and urban areas remains daunting. An urban resident was almost twice as likely to use a toilet or latrine as a rural resident in 2008, the report finds.

On environmental sustainability, South America continues to show the largest net losses of forests among all regions, at just under 4 million hectares per year over the period 2000-2010, despite the fact that deforestation is slowing at the global level, according to the report.

The Millennium Development Goals Report, an annual assessment of regional progress towards the Goals, reflects the most comprehensive, up-to-date data compiled by over 25 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.

For more information and press materials, see www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

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