

A close-up, high-resolution portrait of a young African child, likely a boy, looking slightly to the left of the camera. The child has dark skin, short dark hair, and large, expressive eyes. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the intensity of the gaze. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the child's face.

Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals

MDG Report 2010

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Note to the Reader

The 2010 *Assessing Progress toward the MDGs in Africa* report is based on the latest updated and harmonized data from United Nations agencies and OECD statistics databases. UNSD is the official repository of data for assessing progress toward the MDGs. The main reason for using these international sources is that they collect and provide accurate and comparable data on MDG indicators across African countries. The irregularity of surveys/censuses, ages, definitions and methods of production of the indicators may explain the lag between the reporting year and the years of data, which vary from 2006 to 2008. Some of the indicators are new or have been modified since 2007. Some indicators, like CO₂ emissions and ozone depletion in Goal 7, are not relevant or are not quite in line with national priorities. Therefore, some countries use proxies for such indicators which reflect the specificities of their own circumstances and which align more fully with their priorities. Several indicators are dependent on censuses/surveys carried out every 2 or 10 years, so that inter-survey and inter-census periods tend to lead to data gaps. The MDG data are compiled by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG indicators, with one or more UN agencies being responsible for indicators falling under their area of competency.

UN agencies compile, on a regular basis, data from countries using standardized questionnaires or other mechanisms agreed upon with the latter. Submitted questionnaires are then validated

through a peer review process based on their data collection and processing methodology. They provide estimates, take the responsibility for filling data gaps by estimating missing values, and make adjustments if need be, to ensure global comparability across countries. The OECD also collects data specifically to track aid flows, based on a standard methodology and agreed definitions to ensure comparability of data across donors and recipients. As far as the production of MDG reports at the continental level is concerned, these UN agencies and the OECD provide adequate harmonized and comparable sources of data. However, some countries' official data on particular MDGs were used in this report to better indicate the performances of those countries on those indicators.

MDG data have not always been available on time at the national level. If they exist, they have been subject to problems of inconsistency with international standards. Moreover, data transmission to and estimates made by international agencies – together with the fact that countries do not produce data on MDGs annually – constitute another layer of problems contributing to the observed data gaps. Over the last few years, there have been commendable steps taken by African countries, with the support of international organizations, to obtain data for tracking progress on the MDGs. However, a number of challenges persist relating to the production of data in Africa. The low profile of statistics on the continent is due to a number of obstacles, including: inadequate resources allocated to statistical activities; the lack of institutional capacity; inadequate coordination of statistical activities; and minimal consideration of African specificities in setting up international standards. The African Statistics System (ASS) is therefore expected to further scale up its efforts

toward continental statistical integration to address a continent-wide need for harmonized and quality statistical information. The AUC, ECA, and AfDB have embarked on the development of programs that directly respond to these challenges and improve the statistical capacity of African countries. These include: the Africa Symposium for Statistics Development (ASSD), which is an advocacy framework for censuses; the African Charter on Statistics (ACS), constituting a framework for the coordination of statistical activities in the continent; the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), which provides guidance on the statistics harmonization process in Africa; and the new initiative on civil registration and vital statistics. Since 2009, the three institutions have also set up a joint mechanism for data collection and validation at the continental level for the production of an African Statistical Yearbook. These initiatives will scale up the availability of data for tracking progress on MDGs in Africa.

Proposed remedies for data gaps and discrepancies include the following measures:

- » African governments need to provide their national statistical systems with adequate and regularized financing to ensure their autonomy and independence in operations, in conformity with the African Charter on Statistics;
- » The joint AUC/ECA/AfDB mechanism for data collection and validation needs to be strengthened;
- » All countries need to strengthen their civil registration and vital statistics production system and conduct on a regular basis their censuses and surveys;
- » All countries should set up a national MDGs data collection mechanism for regular data reporting, validation, storage, and dissemination;
- » Some indicators need to be reexamined to take account of the priorities and specificities of developing countries.

Foreword

In five years' time, world leaders will assess the progress that has been made in meeting the Millennium Summit commitment to "spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty". That commitment, enunciated in the Millennium Declaration of 2000 and encapsulated in the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), has been the main impetus to advance international development over the last decade.

Mandated by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have, over the past five years, jointly produced this annual report on *Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals*. This year, the three pan-African institutions have been joined in this effort by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This year's report shows that, prior to the onset of the food and fuel crises and the global recession, African countries were making steady progress toward attainment of the MDGs. Even though information is not yet available to delineate the precise impact of the three crises on MDG achievement, we know that many African countries were sharply affected by these shocks. However, with support from their international development partners, including the African Development Bank and UNDP, African countries have taken a series of measures aimed at stemming the adverse effects.

According to this report, there has been progress achieved in reducing poverty rates and moving toward the targets of several of the MDGs, even though Africa still has the highest proportion of people living in extreme poverty within the developing world. The advances made are attributed, in part, to improvements in the political, economic, and social landscape across much of the continent.

The emerging picture of Africa in this year's report portrays a continent that has secured progress in key areas such as net primary enrollment, gender parity in primary education, political empowerment of women, access to safe drinking water, and stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS. Antiretroviral treatment is becoming available in a large number of countries and maternal mortality rates are falling in some places. On the economic front, growth has begun to pick up after the global economic and financial crises.

The report draws attention to policy innovations in Africa that are facilitating progress toward attainment of the MDGs. These innovations include new and expanded social protection programs, which were once thought to be unaffordable to most poor countries but are now embraced as important additional interventions to secure progress on key human development indicators. In addition, countries have used the MDGs as a framework for development planning, strengthening coordination and cascading the MDGs to lower tiers of government.

Political support for the MDGs remains strong. For instance, the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government continues to review, on a yearly basis, progress toward the attainment of the MDGs. Moreover, even at the height of the

crisis, budget allocations to MDG-critical sectors did not fall in most African countries. A further indication of the strength of political support can be seen in the establishment in March 2010 of the African Parliamentarians' MDGs Forum.

Nonetheless challenges remain, especially in the area of health. Achieving the goal of "health for all," as embraced in Almaty about 30 years ago, has proven to be difficult. Health in Africa is still not "for all" but rather is characterized by glaring inequities among socioeconomic groups and classes. Progress in achieving the MDGs has therefore been considerably fettered by the slow progress on meeting the health targets.

The adverse impacts of climate change pose a further threat to the sustainability of MDGs achievement. Moreover mitigating climate change presents a significant policy challenge for a region that faces huge energy needs to power its development and industrialization. The continent must have access to the technology and financing that will enable it to meet those energy needs, but in a way that is consistent – to the extent possible – with climate change mitigation.

It is also the case that the global partnership for the MDGs has fallen short of its promise. The Doha Round of trade negotiations, for instance, remains stalled, denying African countries the opportunities

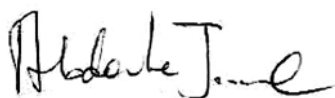
that might emerge from a successful development round. In addition, various international commitments, including those made at Monterrey and Gleneagles, are yet to be fulfilled.

The evidence in this report indicates that actions taken by African governments in concert with their development partners are having a positive impact on the lives of their populations. In this regard, African countries must scale up efforts to meet their own commitments, as expressed in the various decisions of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Development partners, too, must fulfill their commitments to development and to the MDGs. We call for these commitments to be renewed and given greater impetus by world leaders when they meet in September 2010 to review progress toward the MDGs. Backed by the evidence presented in this report and elsewhere, it is becoming clear that the challenges that we face in meeting the MDGs in Africa can be overcome through a sustained focus on what works and a stronger international partnership.

We wish to thank all those who have contributed to the preparation of this report. We commend it for the attention and use of leaders, policymakers, and development practitioners who are actively engaged in promoting the achievement of the MDGs in Africa and especially in meeting the agreed targets.



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List of Abbreviations

AAA	Accra Agenda for Action	ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
AAPA-MDGS	Association of African Parliamentarians for the Advancement of the MDGs	EDND	Economic Development and NEPAD Division
ACS	African Charter for Statistics	EFA	Education For All
ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy	EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank	ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa
AfT	Aid for Trade	EU	European Union
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa	EUR	Euro
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ASS	African Statistics System	FISP	Farmer Input Support Program
ASSD	Africa Symposium for Statistics Development	GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
AUC	African Union Commission	GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
BCI	Bonobo Conservation Initiative	GBP	British Pound Sterling
BIG	Basic Income Grant	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
BPR	Business Process Re-engineering	GHI	Global Hunger Index
BRIGHT	Burkinabe Responses to Improve Girls' Chances to Succeed	GNI	Gross National Income
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program	GPI	Global Peace Index
CAR	Central African Republic	HIPCs	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
CARMMA	Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa	HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	IAEG	Inter Agency and Expert Group
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)	ICD	International Classification of Diseases
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)	ICT	Information Communication Technologies
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey	IDA	International Development Association
DOTS	Directly Observed Short-Course Treatment	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
DRG	Debt Relief Gain	IGME	Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
		IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

IMF	International Monetary Fund	PNAS	Plan National d'Action Sociale
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate	PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
		R&D	Research & Development
IPTp	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria during pregnancy	R4D	Research for Development
IRS	Indoor Residual Spraying	RECs	Regional Economic Communities
ITNs	Insecticide-Treated Nets	REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	SBAS	Strategic Budget Allocation System
LDCs	Least Developed Countries	SDT	Special and Differentiated Treatment
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty	SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
LGRP	Local Government Reform Program	SIDS	Small Island Developing State
LLDCs	Landlocked Developing Countries	TB	Tuberculosis
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	TFR	Total Fertility Rate
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	TRIPS	Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative		
MDR-TB	Multi-Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis	U5MR	Under-five Mortality Rate
MFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (Uganda)	UN	United Nations
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
MKUKUTA	Tanzania's National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
		UNDP-RBA	United Nations Development Programme – Regional Bureau for Africa
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio	UNECA	See ECA
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment (Uganda)	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
NAMA	Non Agricultural Market Access	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations	UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency	UNHQ	United Nations Headquarters
NSOs	National Statistical Offices	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ODA	Official Development Assistance	UNPD	United Nations Population Division
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
		USAID	United States Agency for International Development
OSSAP-MDGs	Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs	USD	American Dollars
PAP	Pan African Parliament	VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
PASDEP	Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty	VPF	Virtual Poverty Fund
		WFP	World Food Program
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan	WHA	World Health Alliance
PER/MTEF	Public Expenditure Review/Medium Term Expenditure Framework	WHO	World Health Organization
		WHS	World Health Statistics
PMI	President's Malaria Initiative	WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission	WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
		WTO	World Trade Organization