

# Foreword

This report continues the tradition of excellent collaboration among the Pan African institutions – the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It provides the latest update on Africa’s progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), following the landmark September 2010 High Level Panel event. This event noted that the global achievement of the MDGs by 2015 is still possible through strengthened international partnership, closer collaboration between national authorities and development partners, and committed political will at the national level.

The report notes that progress toward the MDGs is continuing, but that the food, fuel, and financial crises over the past few years, coupled with the instability in North Africa in 2011, may impact on the pace of advancement. This calls for efforts to be redoubled to preserve gains and ensure success.

In particular, declines in labor productivity, increasing youth unemployment, and rising numbers of working poor are worrisome trends for the continent. Indeed, the recent political developments in North Africa and the Middle East are a wake-up call both for Africa and other global regions on the need for a more inclusive and equitable approach to growth.

The rising numbers of the working poor should also remind us that the essence of job creation is to provide a decent living wage and not simply a

wage. Furthermore, the disproportionate representation of women among the ranks of the working poor calls for more concerted efforts to address the gender imbalance in the workforce, focusing not only on the share of female employees but on their distribution across the broad spectrum of occupational and skills categories.

The report underscores that the MDGs are closely interlinked, hence the need for an integrated approach to accelerate their achievement. To this end, it is imperative that policymakers prioritize those interventions that will have the greatest leverage or cascading effects on a wider range of indicators. For instance, we know that gender empowerment, education, poverty, and health are inextricably linked. We must therefore exploit these and other relationships to sharpen the strategic focus of our interventions.

Monitoring is central to assessing performance on the MDGs. Effective monitoring requires more substantial investments in data collection, analysis, and dissemination than is currently the case in Africa. Improved data coverage and quality, particularly at subnational levels, are critical for unmasking intra-country variations on MDGs performance and in identifying pockets of vulnerability as a basis for targeted interventions. Indeed, this report continues to observe considerable variations in MDGs performance between subregions, within subregions, and within individual countries.

Despite the slow progress recorded on several indicators in Africa, there are a number of documented best practices and lessons that can be harnessed in order to accelerate progress. It is encouraging to note that these success stories can be found even in countries recovering from conflicts, such

as Liberia and Sierra Leone. These countries have made remarkable progress in infant mortality (Liberia) and maternal health (Sierra Leone). Their performance demonstrates that with the right level of political will and appropriate external support, the MDGs can be achieved even under very difficult conditions.

In this report we underscore the potential for social protection programs in accelerating progress toward the MDGs. Consequently, we urge policymakers to recalibrate their social protection programs, so that they are perceived not as handouts but rather as measures to strengthen productive assets. These perspectives are pertinent and timely in light of the impact of the food, fuel, and financial crises on the lives of many. It is clear that the role of the state in designing and implementing innovative and fiscally sustainable social protection programs is more vital now than ever before.

Domestic resources must be complemented by scaled-up development assistance if African countries are to attain the MDGs. In this regard, we call for increased development assistance for the achievement of the MDGs in Africa and note with concern that several Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments to Africa, including those made in Monterrey in 2002, Gleneagles in 2005, and L'Aquila in 2009, have yet to be fulfilled. A more worrisome prospect is that they are even

less likely to be met in the current environment of fiscal consolidation in response to the global economic crisis. However, it is encouraging to note that developing countries are benefiting from new donors that are non-DAC members and from private sector donations from advanced economies. Nonetheless, aid to African countries is expected to rise by only 1 percent per year between 2011 and 2013, in real terms. Beyond advocacy for more ODA, stepped-up efforts are therefore required on a number of fronts, namely to seek out alternative sources of financing; to be more judicious in the use of existing resources; and to develop credible and robust systems of domestic resource mobilization.

Undoubtedly, aid effectiveness requires close alignment of donor assistance with national priorities, including the MDGs. To this end, implementation of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action is key to ensuring a sharper focus by donors on the objectives of recipient countries toward poverty reduction and development.

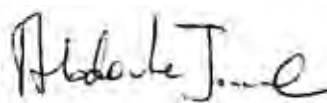
We wish to thank all those who have contributed to the preparation of this report. We commend and encourage the report's commitment to take into account the views and experiences of leaders, policymakers, and development practitioners who are actively promoting the achievement of the MDGs in Africa and especially in meeting the agreed targets.



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# List of Abbreviations

ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy	DOTS	Directly Observed Short-Course Treatment
AfDB	African Development Bank	DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	EAC	East African Community
ALSF	African Legal Support Facility	ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ANEM	Algeria National Employment Agency	ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	EDND	Economic Development and NEPAD Division
AUC	African Union Commission	ERD	European Report on Development
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program	EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
CAR	Central African Republic	EPRI	Economic Policy Research Institute (South Africa)
CARMMA	Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa	ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	EU	European Union
CBHI	Community Based Health Insurance	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
CDIAC	Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center	FHCI	Free Health Care Initiative (Sierra Leone)
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons	FISP	Farm Input Subsidy Program
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	FSP	Food Security Program
COPE	Care of the People (Nigeria)	GAFSP	Global Agricultural and Food Security Program
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CSG	Child Support Grant	GHI	Global Hunger Index
DAC	Development Assistance Committee	GNI	Gross National Income
DI	Disability Insurance	GPI	Gender Parity Index
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)	HAART	Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey	HDI	Human Development Index
		HIPC5	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
		HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
		ICT	Information Communications Technology

IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute	PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program (Ethiopia)
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development	RSA	Republic of South Africa
IGME	Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation	SADC	Southern African Development Community
ILO	International Labor Organization	SI	Social Insurance
IMF	International Monetary Fund	SOAP	State Old Age Pension
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate	SPF	Social Protection Floor
ITNs	Insecticide Treated Nets	TB	Tuberculosis
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	U5MR	Under-Five Mortality Rate
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	UEMOA	Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine
IUDs	Intrauterine devices	UN	United Nations
LDCs	Least Developed Countries	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty program (Ghana)	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
LIFDC	Low-Income Food-Deficit Country	UNDP-RBA	United Nations Development Programme – Regional Bureau for Africa
MAF	MDG Acceleration Framework	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
MPS	Making Pregnancy Safe Initiative	UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa’s Development	US\$	American Dollars
ODA	Official Development Assistance	WFP	World Food Program
ODI	Overseas Development Institute (UK)	WHO	World Health Organization
ODP	Ozone Depletion Potential	WTO	World Trade Organization
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances		
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development		
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children		
PEPFAR	President’s Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (U.S.)		
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission		

