

Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals

MDG Report 2009



Economic Commission for Africa



African Union



African Development Bank Group

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Foreword

The year 2008 was characterized by three defining crises – the food crisis, the fuel crisis, and the global financial and economic crisis – the ripple effects of which are still being felt in 2009 and the aggregate of which is yet to be fully determined. The impact of these crises on poor regions has been severe. The number of poor and hungry people has risen across the developing world, but more acutely in Africa. This number is likely to increase, depending on the severity and duration of the current global economic recession.

It is against the background of these crises that our three pan-African institutions prepared the report, *Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals, 2009*. The impetus for this report comes from two sources: the 2005 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Abuja mandated the Commission to prepare an annual report on progress toward the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, and second the 2005 Sirte Decision of the African Union, which mandated the African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to annually prepare status reports on progress toward attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa.

There is little doubt that the global economic slowdown has had an adverse impact on African economies and presents a new challenge to achieving the MDGs in the region. However, this report does not capture the impact of the crisis on

progress toward the targets of the MDGs because it is based on UN data derived prior to the outbreak of the crisis. While availability of data remains a constraint in the analysis of progress toward the MDGs in Africa, this report notes that the situation is improving in this respect. This is in large measure due to the efforts of African National Statistics Offices to collect data at the national level for reporting purposes and also to scale-up advocacy for data development throughout the region. Nonetheless, as underscored in previous reports, data gaps remain a serious constraint for monitoring and reporting of progress toward the MDGs in Africa. It is thus imperative that Member States sustain and intensify their efforts to improve national statistical systems.

The overall message of this report is that progress toward the MDGs remains on course, albeit unevenly across some goals and subregions. The report testifies to the fact that African countries, with the support of their development partners, are scaling up efforts to accelerate progress to achieve the MDGs. Significant progress has been made on primary school enrollment, gender parity, women's empowerment, and access to improved sanitation and safe water. Sadly, progress on the health MDGs remains poor. In addition, the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis is increasing in some subregions of the continent.

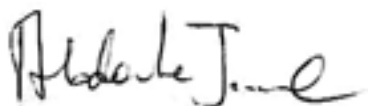
Overall, at current rates, the continent continues to lag on many of the goals. Consequently, aid remains essential if gains are to be safeguarded and future achievements secured. However, some

of Africa's development partners have still to honor the commitments they made at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles. The current global financial and economic crisis should not be seen as an excuse for scaling down much-needed development assistance. Reduced global trade will harm all countries, developed and developing alike. Current financing constraints make it even more important for donors to ensure, in keeping with the Paris Declaration, that aid is predictable, transparent, and aligned with African countries' policy priorities.

A group of experts from African Member States reviewed the draft of this report at a meeting held in April 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We thank them for their contributions and for helping to

enhance the quality and relevance of this document. The final version of the report was presented at the second joint ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the AU Commission Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in June 2009, in Cairo, Egypt and at the African Union Heads of State Summit held in Sirte, Libya in July 2009.


The objective of this report remains the same: to provide the latest Africa-specific MDGs analysis and to contribute to the development of policies to accelerate progress toward achievement of the MDGs in our region. We commend this report to all stakeholders in African development and more importantly to our Member States.



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This report is the joint product of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). It was produced under the overall guidance of the United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, the Chairperson of the AUC, Mr. Jean Ping, and the President of the AfDB, Dr. Donald Kaberuka. The report was presented at the second joint ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the AU Commission Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, in June 2009, in Cairo, Egypt. A slightly expanded version of the report was presented at the African Union Heads of State Summit in Sirte, Libya, in June-July 2009.

The Report was put together by a team headed by Mr. Kasirim Nwuke, Chief MDGs/Poverty Analysis and Monitoring Section, African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGS) of ECA. Members of the core research and writing team, which was provided by ECA, included Adrian Gauci, Oumar Diallo, Elizabeth Woldermariam, and Souleymane Abdallah. Excellent research support was provided by Tsega H. Belai, Selamawit Mussie, and Jean Claude Ndabananiye. Azeb Moguesse provided high-quality administrative and logistical support and Berhanu Tesfaye competently handled publication-related matters. Dimitri Sanga of the African Center for Statistics (ACS) and Chukwudozie Ezigbalike of the Information Technology, Science and Technology Division reviewed and provided comments on early drafts of this report.

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The first draft of the report was discussed in April 2009 at a meeting of experts from Member States co-organized by the AUC and AfDB in collaboration with ECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The countries represented at the ad hoc expert group meeting, along with the names of the experts were: *Algeria*: Mr. Ali Hafrad and Mr. Mokrane Djouadi; *Angola*: Mr. Miguel Gonçalves and Ms. Olim Constancia; *Burundi*: Mr. Balthazar Fengure; *Cameroon*: Mr. Issofa Nchare and Mr. Jean Marie Otele Ahanda; *Chad*: Mr. Ahmat El-hadj Hamida; *Comoros*: Mr. Hamadi Soalihy; *Congo*: Mr. Joachim Bassakinina; *Côte d'Ivoire*: Mr. Allassane El Banguia; *Egypt*: Mr. Karim Ismail; *Ethiopia*: Mr. Daniel Yilma, Mr. Dereje Ketema and Mr. Tamrat Yacob; *Gabon*: Mrs. Marie Rosine Mimie Itsana; *The Gambia*: Mr. Abdou Touray; *Equatorial Guinea*: Dr. Teodoro Ondo Mba; *Kenya*: Mr. Michael Oyugi and Michael Muthura Mwangi; *Lesotho*: Mrs. Ntsiuoa Jaase; *Liberia*: Mr. Ohyndis B. Sleweon; *Malawi*: Mrs. Charlotte Chinyama and Mr. Robert Msuku; *Mauritania*: Mr. Sidi Mohamed Ould Zenvour; *Mozambique*: Mr.

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Experts at the meeting of the joint Committee of Experts of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the AUC Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance held in June 2009 in Cairo, Egypt provided additional comments.

The African Development Bank provided resources for printing the Report.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAA	Accra Agenda for Action	HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ACGS	African Center for Gender and Social Development	IAEG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group
ACS	African Center for Statistics	IMF	International Monetary Fund
ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy	IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
AfDB	African Development Bank	ITNs	Insecticide-Treated Nets
AGOA	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act	LDCs	Least Developed Countries
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
ATC	Agreement on Textiles and Clothing	MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
AU	African Union	MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
AUC	African Union Commission	ODA	Official Development Assistance
CAR	Central African Republic	ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
CDIAC	Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center	OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons	PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)	SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment, Short-Course	SSM	Special Safeguard Mechanism
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	TB	Tuberculosis
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa	U5MR	Under-Five Mortality Rate
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreements	UN	United Nations
EU	European Union	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GNI	Gross National Income	UN-HLE	UN High-Level Event
GTLP	Global Trade Liquidity Program	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
HBC	High-Burden Countries	UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries	WHO	World Health Organization
		WTO	World Trade Organization