

Poverty Reduction and Beyond: How Far toward the Goals?

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The efforts underway to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015 have been only partially successful thus far. East and South Asia, led by China and India, have already reduced income-poverty by significant margins. However, many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are still quite far from achieving the goals. Moreover, universal primary education aside, most of the non-income-poverty indicators are yet to come close in their trajectories towards the goals. There are formidable challenges on health, education, gender, and environment for developing countries and the international community alike.

The international community has provided wide-ranging assistance to developing countries using a variety of mechanisms, including resource transfers, technical assistance and assistance with policy making and institution building. To further poverty reduction in low-income countries beyond what has been achieved, the international community needs to explore ways of augmenting or modifying existing modes of assistance and testing the efficacy of new and less conventional measures.

Appendix

Background Table for Figure 1. Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day (%)

	1990	2004
Eastern Asia	33.0	9.9
South-Eastern Asia	20.8	6.8
Southern Asia	41.1	29.5
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	0.5	0.6
Western Asia	1.6	3.8
Transition Countries of South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.7
Northern Africa	2.6	1.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	46.8	41.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	10.3	8.7
Developing Regions	31.6	19.2

Source: United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2007*, New York: United Nations, 2007.

Background Table for Figure 3. Under-Five Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births

	1990	2005
Eastern Asia	48	27
South-Eastern Asia	78	41
Southern Asia	126	82
Western Asia	68	55
CIS, Asia	81	72
CIS, Europe	27	17
Transition Countries of South-Eastern Europe	29	17
Northern Africa	88	35
Sub-Saharan Africa	185	166
Latin America and the Caribbean	54	31
Oceania	80	63
Developing Regions	106	83

Source: The same as above.

Background Table for Figure 4. Proportion of Population Using Improved Sanitation (%)

	1990	2004	2015 (Target)
Eastern Asia	24	45	62
South-Eastern Asia	49	67	75
Southern Asia	20	38	60
Western Asia	81	84	91
CIS	82	83	91
Northern Africa	65	77	83
Sub-Saharan Africa	32	37	66
Latin America and the Caribbean	68	77	84
Oceania	54	53	77
Developing Regions	35	50	68

Note: The improved sanitation is defined as an excreta disposal system which effectively prevent human, animal and insect contact with excreta.

Source: The same as above.