

Status of Millennium Development Goals for 2015 – PAKISTAN

Pakistan has adopted 16 targets and 41 indicators against which progress towards achieving the Eight Goals of the MDG's is measured. Time series data available for 33 of these indicators reveal that Pakistan is on track to achieve the targets on 9 indicators, whereas its progress on 24 indicators is off track.

1. Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty

In MDG 1, progress on all indicators is lagging. The head count poverty (caloric plus basic needs) in Pakistan, though decreasing from 34% in 200-01 to 22.3% in 2005-06, is lagging behind the target of 13%. One of the indicators where situation has really worsened in the past 4 years is the proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption which stood at 58% in 2010/11, owing to two digit inflation (and even higher food inflation) over the last 4 years which has significantly decreased the purchasing power of the poor.

2. Achieve universal primary education

Pakistan's progress has also been severely lagging in Goal 2, achieving universal primary education as it is off track in achieving the targets set for 2015 in all three indicators. In particular, the completion/survival rate seems to have declined rapidly in recent years implying that more than a quarter of the students enrolled in primary schools do not complete their education. Pakistan's literacy rate, though having improved marginally over the years remains considerably short of the MDG target of 88% by 2015 at 58%, and closer inspection reveals large gender and rural/urban disparities.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

In the MDG area of promoting gender equality and empowering women (MDG 3), Pakistan has achieved one of the highest ratios of women parliamentarians in the South Asia Region. The proportion of women in the national parliament (National Assembly and Senate) stands at 22.2%. It can also be noted that on three out of the four indicators related to MDG 3, progress is lagging. These three indicators include the Gender Parity Index (GPI) for youth literacy, secondary and primary education.

4. Reduce child mortality

In MDG 4, Pakistan has also achieved its target for the proportion of children under five who suffered from diarrhea in the last month and received ORT, and is on track to meet its target for the Lady Health Workers' coverage of target population in 2015.

5. Improve maternal health

Closely linked to MDG 4 is MDG 5, improving maternal health, for which Pakistan has a considerable distance to go to meet the MDG targets by 2015, especially in reducing the maternal mortality ratio and increasing the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

In light of MDG 6, as the prevalence of HIV among the population has been historically low, Pakistan has surpassed the target for reducing HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women and vulnerable groups. Progress in the proportion of TB cases detected and cured with ORS, an indicator for MDG 6, is on track with Pakistan expected to achieve its target for 2015.

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

With regards to MDG 7, Pakistan has achieved the target of access to improved water resources when three sources of improved water are taken into account: tap water, hand pumps and electric motor propelled water. Pakistan has also surpassed its target of

converting 0.920 million of vehicles on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) with more than 2.8 million vehicles reported to be running on CNG in 2008. Pakistan is on track to meet the target for land protection for the conservation of wildlife as a percentage of total land area, an indicator for MDG 7

8. Develop a global partnership for development

Goal 8 envisages fostering cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral level for attaining the MDGs in resource constrained countries like Pakistan. Donor government agency's provisions of Official Development Assistance (ODA) at 0.25 percent, has fallen short of their commitment of 0.7% of their GDP. Pakistan's current account deficit (almost 5.0 percent of GDP) for an extended period of one decade; rising real cost of borrowing; stagnant exports; and a declining flow of foreign exchange have contributed to an accumulation of external debt in the 1990s. A major contribution to the increase in stock of outstanding debt has stemmed from the financing provided by the IMF Standby Agreement. The debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services increased from 14.4 percent in 1990-91 to 28.5 percent in 2010-11.

Education For All Goals

Six internationally agreed education goals aim to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015.

Goal 1

Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

Goal 2

Ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to, and complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality.

Goal 3

Ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes.

Goal 4

Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults.

Goal 5

Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality.

Goal 6

Improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.