

MDG success springboard for new sustainable development agenda: UN report

Caucasus and Central Asia sees continued progress in gender equality

NEW YORK, 6 JULY 2015—The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have produced the most successful anti-poverty movement in history and will serve as the jumping-off point for the new sustainable development agenda to be adopted next year, according to the annual MDG report launched today by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015 found that the 15-year effort to achieve the eight aspirational goals set out in the Millennium Declaration in 2000 was largely successful across the globe, while acknowledging shortcomings that remain. The data and analysis presented in the report show that with targeted interventions, sound strategies, sufficient resources and political will, even the poorest can make progress.

“Following profound and consistent gains, we now know that extreme poverty can be eradicated within one more generation”, said Ban Ki-moon. “The MDGs have greatly contributed to this progress and have taught us how governments, businesses and civil society can work together to achieve transformational breakthroughs”.

Goals and targets work

The MDG report confirms that goal-setting can lift millions of people out of poverty, empower women and girls, improve health and well-being, and provide vast new opportunities for better lives.

Only two short decades ago, nearly half of the developing world lived in extreme poverty. The number of people now in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015.

The region achieved universal primary education and has continued to advance in promoting gender equality and empowering women. Parity in both primary and secondary education between boys and girls has been achieved, and women in the region are attaining more power in politics.

Other successes include reducing the region's under-five mortality rate by 55 per cent between 1990 and 2015, achieving almost universal skilled attendance at birth and reaching the target of halving the proportion of the population without basic sanitation.

Inequalities persist

The report highlighted that significant gains have been made for many of the MDG targets worldwide, but progress has been uneven across regions and countries, leaving significant gaps. Conflicts remain the biggest threat to human development, with fragile and conflict-affected countries typically experiencing the highest poverty rates.

Gender inequality persists in spite of more representation of women in parliament and more girls going to school. Women continue to face discrimination in access to work, economic assets and participation in private and public decision-making.

Despite enormous progress driven by the MDGs, about 800 million people still live in extreme poverty and suffer from