



embargoed until 1 july, 9 am cest (gmt+2)

Big strides on Millennium Development Goals with more targets achievable by 2015: UN report

Aid money falls and gaps persist, but MDG momentum gains speed

Geneva, 1 July

Globally, the maternal mortality ratio declined by 47 per cent over the last two decades, from 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births to 210 between 1990 and 2010. The report says meeting the MDG target of reducing the ratio by three-quarters will require accelerated interventions and stronger political backing for women and children.

Between 2000 and 2011, the number of children out of school declined by almost half – from 102 million to 57 million, but the report says too many children are still denied their right to primary education. From 1990 to 2011, 1.9 billion people gained access to a latrine, flush toilet or other improved sanitation facility, but 2.5 billion still lack improved sanitation facilities. The report also notes that the planet’s resource base is in serious decline, with ongoing losses of forests, species and fish stocks, in a world already experiencing the impacts of climate change.

Uneven progress

Global attention needs to focus on disparities, the report recommends. Progress towards the eight MDGs has been uneven not only among regions and countries, but also between population groups within countries. People living in poverty or in rural areas remain at an unfair disadvantage. In 2011, only 53 per cent of births in rural areas were attended by skilled health

