The world decided in the year 2000 to launch a focused attack on poverty and the problems of ill-health, hunger, discrimination against women, a lack of drinking water and a degraded environment.

Meeting at the United Nations at the dawn of the new Millennium, leaders from virtually all countries agreed to a set of eight ambitious Goals. Developing countries, the most highly victimized by poverty, have been taking the lead in the campaign, especially regarding the first seven Goals concerning direct improvements in human well-being. The eighth Goal includes steps that developed countries need to take in support of their campaigns of developing countries to win the first round in the fight to ultimately eradicate poverty.

How far along are we? Most of the targets set for progress on the Millennium Development Goals are benchmarks for the period 1990 to 2015 – promising clear and measurable improvement on standards prevailing in 1990 by the end of 2015. The chart below shows progress up to June 2006, drawing on the latest information from all countries of the world and from the UN family of operational agencies.

Millennium Development Goals: 2006 Progress Chart

The progress chart operates on two levels. The words in each box tell what the current rate of compliance with each target is.

Target already met or very close to being met.

Target is not expected to be met by 2015, if prevailing trends persist.

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Target is not expected to be met by 2015, if prevailing trends persist.

The chart below shows the trend, toward meeting the targets by 2015 or not. See legend below:

Target already met or very close to being met.

Insufficient data.

Targets are expected to be met by 2015 if prevailing trends persist, or the problem that this target is designed to address is not a serious concern in the region.

The current target for forests is based on new methodologies and therefore will not compare properly with previous assessments.

County experiences in each region may differ significantly from the regional average. For the regional groupings and country data, see indigo.org.


Compiled by: Statistics Division, UN DESA. Photo credit: Adam Rogers/UNCDF.