



GOAL 8 Develop a Global Partnership for Development

FACT SHEET

TARGETS

1. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system
2. Address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states
3. Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt
4. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries
5. In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially ICTs

Quick Facts

- * Official development assistance stands at 0.31 per cent of the combined national income of developed countries, still far short of the 0.7 per cent UN target. Only five donor countries have reached or exceeded the target.
- * Debt burdens have eased for developing countries and remain well below historical levels.
- * Only 1 in 6 people in the developing world has access to the Internet.

WHERE DO WE STAND?

Levels of official development assistance (ODA) continue to rise despite the financial crisis, but Africa is short-changed and aid remains below expectations. Net disbursements of ODA reached almost \$120 billion in 2009, an all-time high. In real terms, this represents a slight increase of 0.7 per cent compared to 2008, even though in current US dollars ODA fell by over two per cent.

Donor countries at the Gleneagles Group of Eight Summit and the UN World Summit in 2005 pledged to increase ODA to \$146 billion in 2010. Currently, 2010 ODA levels are projected to be around \$126 billion. This shortfall in aid affects Africa in particular. It is estimated that Africa will receive only about \$11 billion out of the \$25 billion increase promised at Gleneagles.

For most donor countries, aid remains well below the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. Only five donor countries have reached or exceeded the UN target: Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. In terms of aid volume, the largest donors in 2009 were the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan.

Aid is increasingly focused on the poorest countries, with the least developed countries receiving about a third of donors' total aid flows.

Developing countries are gaining access to the markets of the developed countries. The proportion of developed country imports — excluding arms and oil — from developing countries reached close to 80 per cent in 2008, a jump from 54 per cent a decade earlier.

Least developed countries are benefiting from tariff reductions. Developed countries' tariffs on imports of agricultural products, textiles and clothing have remained high. But least developed countries are continuing to benefit from preferential tariffs, especially on agricultural products (1.6 per cent as opposed to 8 per cent for other developing countries).

Debt burdens have eased for developing countries and remain well below historical levels. Forty countries qualify for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. Thirty-five of them have had future debt repayments reduced by \$57 billion, and 28 have received additional assistance of \$25 billion under the multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. But the existing major debt relief initiatives are coming to an end, and a number of low-income and small middle-income countries are in or at risk of debt distress.

Access to information and communications technology (ICT) is expanding. Globally, an estimated 4.6 billion people had access to mobile phones by the end of 2009 — equivalent to one mobile cellular subscription for 67 out of every 100 people. Growth in mobile telephony remains strongest in the

developing world, where mobile penetration had passed the 50 per cent mark by the end of 2009. In sub-Saharan Africa, where only 1 per cent of people have access to fixed telephone lines, more than 30 per cent now have access to mobile phones.

Access to the Internet continues to expand, but is still closed to the majority of the world's people. By the end of 2008, 1.6 billion people, or 23 per cent of the world population, were using the Internet. In the developed regions, the percentage remains much higher than in the developing world, where only 1 in 6 people are online. In Southern Asia, Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa, a mere 6 per cent of people had Internet access.

WHAT HAS WORKED?

- **Increasing the share of world trade for developing countries:** The share of world trade belonging to economies that are developing and in transition has increased to over 40 per cent, from 35 per cent in 2000, despite the inability to successfully resolve the Doha development round of trade talks. Developing and transition economies now attract a full half of global foreign direct investment (FDI) and are the source of one quarter of global outflows. FDI outflows from these countries are more than fifty times greater in volume than they were in 1990.
- **Strengthening South-South cooperation:** The Report of the UN Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (2009) estimates that 40 per cent of FDI from countries of the South goes to highly vulnerable least-developed countries, many of which are just emerging from conflict. FDI emanating from South Africa, for instance, accounts for more than half of the incoming flows to Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho and Malawi — providing a force for greater stability, less poverty and more regional coherence in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Transforming debt into public funds:** Several countries have implemented Debt for Development Swaps and Virtual Poverty Funds to transform debt into public funds used to fight poverty. In Egypt, under its Debt for Development Swap agreement with Italy, 53 development projects with a budget of \$149 million were implemented between 2001 and 2006. In Chad, Ghana, Honduras, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia, Virtual Poverty Funds had a positive impact on development indicators and public spending.

WHAT IS THE UN DOING?

- The Third **UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries** (2001, Brussels) helped galvanize international support for the 50 most vulnerable national economies and set terms for boosting Official Development Assistance and trade access and improving domestic governance. A follow-up confer-

ence to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2011 will assess the results of the 10-year action plan and adopt new measures for the least developed countries into the next decade.

- A new North-South consensus on development, overcoming previous rifts, took shape at the **International Conference on Financing for Development** (2002, Monterrey, Mexico). Among the steps forward were agreement on principles for sustainable economic growth and pledges by donor countries that reversed a decade-long stagnation and decline in Official Development Assistance. A follow-up conference in Doha, Qatar, in 2008 endorsed strong action to contain the ongoing economic crisis, restore sustained economic growth and reform the international financial architecture.
- The High-Level **UN Conference on South-South Cooperation** (2009, Nairobi) demonstrated that cooperation among developing countries — through aid, trade, technical assistance and investment — is playing a prominent role in progress on the Millennium Development Goals, and encouraged countries of the South to advance this valuable partnership.
- In May 2009, near the beginning of the **H1N1 pandemic**, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) obtained agreement from pharmaceutical companies to donate at least 10 per cent of their vaccine production to poor countries.
- The **GAVI Alliance** (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization) — a public-private global health partnership that includes WHO, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank — is working to accelerate access to vaccines, strengthen immunization systems and introduce innovative new immunization technologies. Since its launch in 2000, the GAVI Alliance has helped prevent over 1.7 million deaths.
- At the beginning of the Internet revolution, the UN and its Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) took a lead role in promoting the advantages of the new digital order in developing countries, and with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in improving their role in **Internet governance**. The Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), a UN body, is helping to **close the digital divide** by facilitating public-private partnerships.

Sources: *The MDG Report 2010*, United Nations; UN MDG Database (mdgs.un.org); MDG Monitor Website (www.mdgmonitor.org); *What Will It Take to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals? — An International Assessment 2010*, UN Development Programme (UNDP); *MDG Good Practices 2010*, UN Development Group; *World Investment Report 2010*, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2008*, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

For more information, please contact mediainfo@un.org or see www.un.org/millenniumgoals.