

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) AND POVERTY REDUCTION

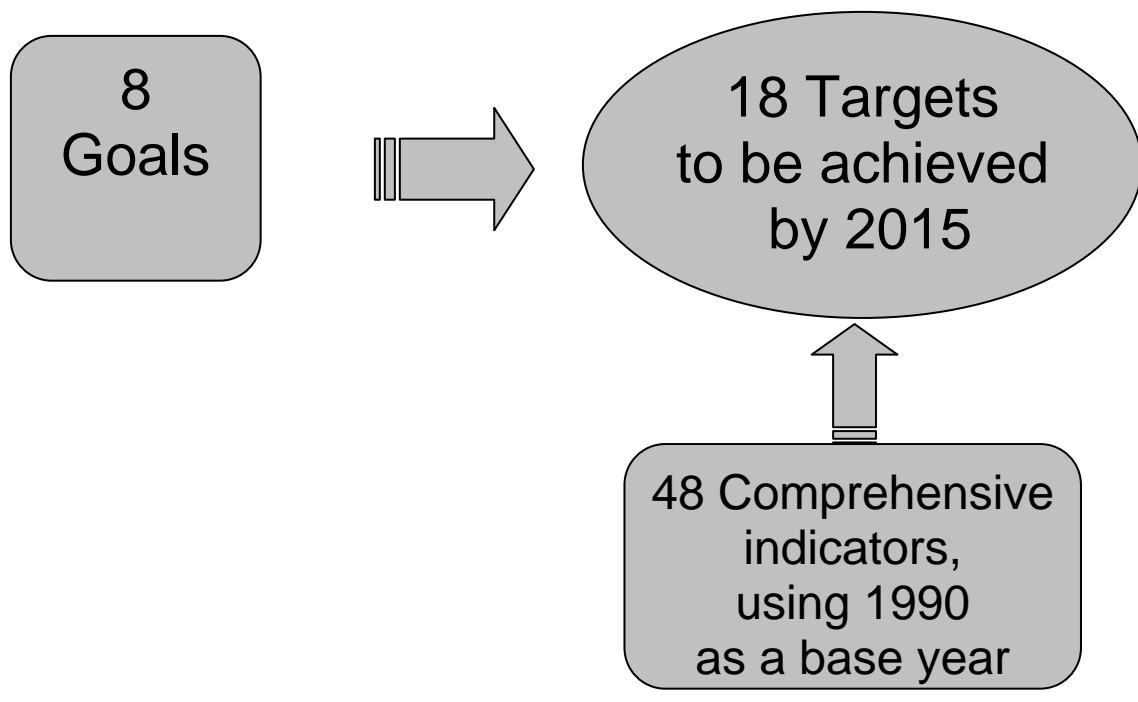
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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- A set of time-bound and measurable goals for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women.

- formulated at the United Nations Millennium Summit (New York, Sept. 2000)

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve mental health
6. Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger

Target 1.

Halve between 1990 & 2015 the proportion of people whose income is below national poverty line

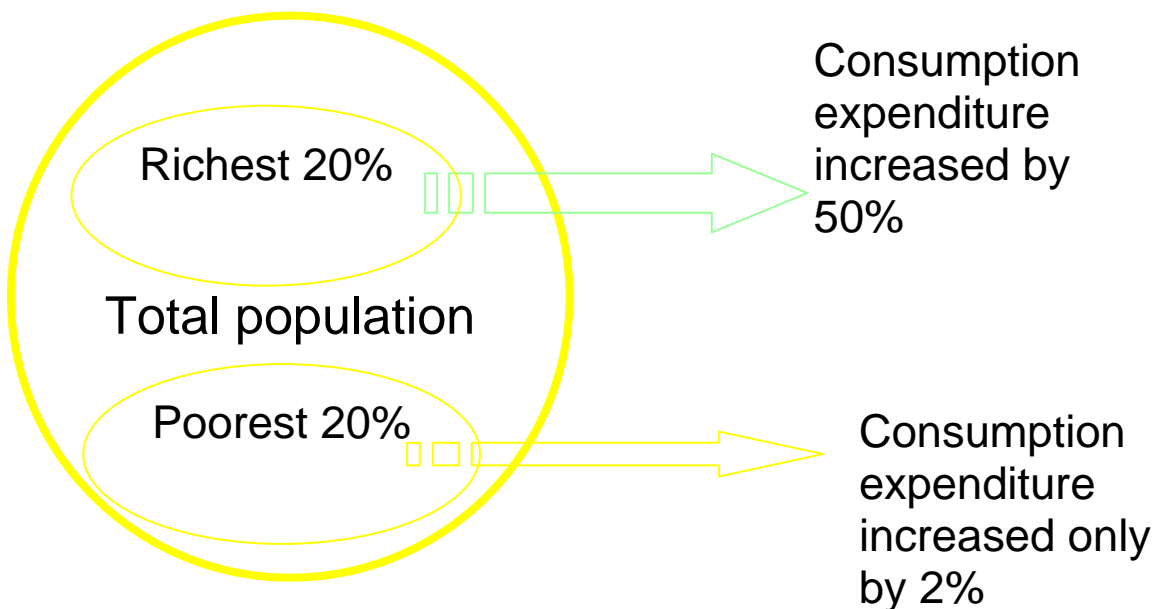
Proportion of population below national poverty line has reduced from 26.1 in 1990 to 22.7 in 2002. The target to be achieved in 2015 is 13. Incidence of poverty in the seven poorest districts has increased to between 30 & 37%.

Target 2.

Halve between 1990 & 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

More than one-fifth of the population is undernourished. The high prevalence of underweight children (<5 years) is a source of concern, although it has decreased from 38% in 1993 to 29% in 2000. Incidence is particularly high in estate & rural areas.

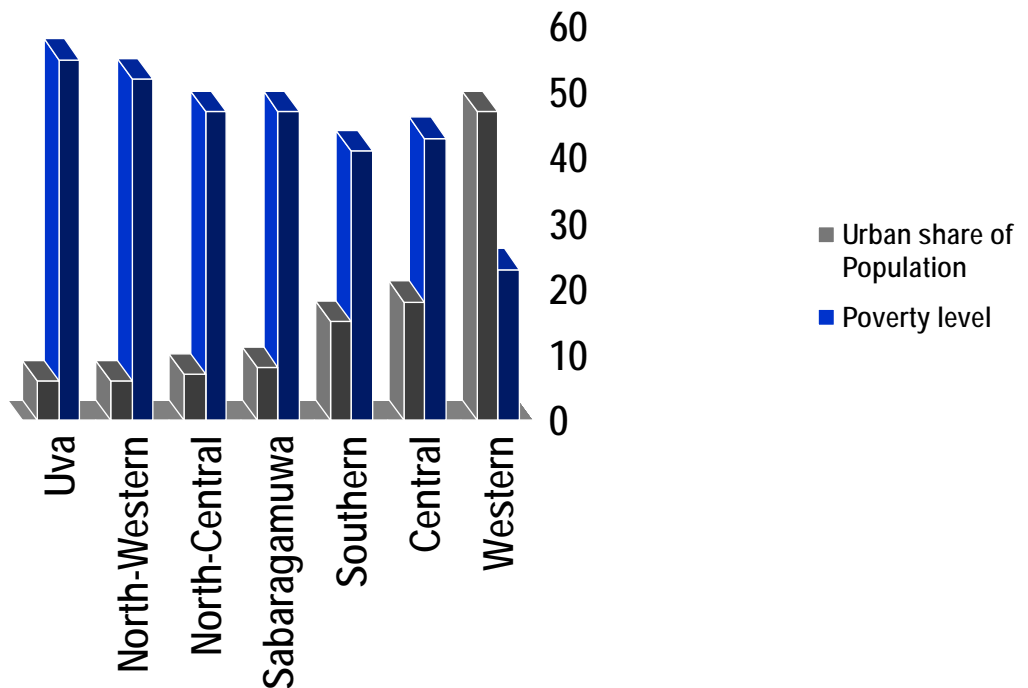
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger



Poverty headcount ratio (%) by district

<i>District</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2002</i>
Colombo	16	6	Matara	29	27
Gampaha	15	11	Matale	29	30
Kalutara	32	20	Puttalam	22	31
Anuradhapura	24	20	Kegalle	31	32
N'Eliya	20	23	Hambantota	32	32
Polonnaruwa	24	24	Ratnapura	31	34
Kurunegala	27	25	Badulla	31	37
Kandy	36	25	Moneragala	34	37
Galle	30	26			

Poverty level & Urban share of population by Province



Challenges

- To create pro-poor growth to catalyze the poor to engage in productive economic activities
- Minimize the sharp regional variations in terms of poverty
- Match the needs and potentials of individual & family/ community with available resources

Priorities for development

- Reform and synergize existing poverty alleviation programmes - Area-based consultative and participatory poverty reduction programmes
- Increase investment in infrastructure in less developed regions that have potentials for value creation
- Diversification of agriculture with rural industrialization
- Improving regional food security & Quality
- Nutritional support programmes for poorest families

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Target 3.

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education.

The net enrolment in primary education was 97% in 2000-2001, which is much higher than the South Asian regional average.

The literacy rate of 15-24 year olds has increased from 92.7 in 1990 to 95.6 in 2001.

Challenges

- Improving equity - Extreme poverty is still the main reason for non participating of children at primary stage.
- Improving the quality of education.

Priorities for Development

- Develop and sustain a high quality education system
- Improving the delivery of state support to schooling
- Restoration of basic infrastructure & teacher supply in the North-East

Goal 3. Promote gender quality & empower women

Target 4.

Eliminate gender disparity in primary & secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education on later than 2015.

There are more girls than boys in primary education in Sri Lanka, and almost as many in secondary and tertiary education.

The share of women employed in the non-agriculture sector has increased.

The representation of political level is still lacking.

Challenges/ Priorities for development

- Ensuring the legal rights of women
- Reducing gender imbalances in skill development and in employment
- reducing existing gender inequalities in access to and utilization of services in all sectors
- Assisting women to deal adequately with gender based violence
- Increasing the political participation

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Target 5.

Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, under-five mortality rate.

Under-five child mortality rate (22 per 1000 live births in 1996) has decreased, but still far from the target of 12 by 2015.

Infant mortality has also decreased to 12. The target is 9 by 2015.

Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized was 88% in 2000. The target is 99% in 2015.

Challenges

- There are still underserved populations/ regional disparities
- High rate of infant death
- Retention of staff in difficult areas

Priorities for Development

- Improvement in the quality of care and services (improvement of facilities for newborn, continuous upgrading of skills and quality assurance)
- Provision of required health staff in the conflict affected areas & underserved pockets.
- Improvement of infrastructure and introduction of mobile clinics in underserved/ remote areas.

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target 6.

Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate.

Maternal mortality decreased substantially and is the lowest in South Asia. (The ratio in 2001 was 0.47 per 1000 live births and the target is 0.36) Regional variation is a source of concern.

The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel was 96% in 2000, although this is significantly lower in the estate sector (84%).

Challenges

- Improve access to and quality of family planning
- Maternal under-nutrition
- Improve post-natal care

Priorities for Development

- An effective programme of pregnancy counseling
- The reasons for seeking abortions would have to be addressed
- Education/ counseling for better family planning
- Provision of ambulance services and communication facilities to the hospitals in remote areas.

Goal 6. Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria & other diseases

Target 7. Halve halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/ AIDS	Number of people living with HIV is still low. However there is no guarantee that this number will remain low in future.
Target 8. Halve halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other diseases	The number of new malaria cases varies greatly from year to year seemingly a cyclical pattern. The incidence of new tuberculosis cases has increased from 6174 in 1991 to 8639 in 2001.

Priorities for development

- Support training of HIV/ ADIS & expand education
- Improved diagnosis and treatment of patients with malaria and other diseases
- Strengthening of provincial and district facilities to provide better service

Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 9.

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Rapid deforestation and increasing emissions of CO₂ are cause of concerns. Between 1990 and 2001 the proportion of land area covered by dense forest decreased by 6.7%.

In order to protect forest land, a National Forest Policy was formulated in 1995. A National Wildlife Policy was also formulated in 2000 to conserve the wildlife resources.

Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 10.

Halve by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water & basic sanitation

The share of households with access to safe drinking water increased from 68% in 1994 to 82% in 2001. The target is 86% by 2015.

Water supply & sanitation have given priority in public investment.

Priorities for development

- Integrated management of solid waste, wet lands, water quality, sand mining etc
- Special water supply & sanitation programmes for poor communities
- The management and supervision of water resources and the protection of watersheds and catchments
- Central body for management of water resources

Conclusion

So far we have achieved good progress in terms of providing universal primary education, reducing child and maternal mortality, and combating diseases.

Although Sri Lanka is most likely to achieve many of its national MDGs, the challenge is at the sub-national levels as inequalities and regional imbalances have posed serious threats. Much more remains to be done at the sub-national level.