

MDG success springboard for new sustainable development agenda: UN report

Oceania region makes some progress, but will miss critical targets

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 this

The maternal mortality ratio declined by 51 per cent in the Oceania region over the past two decades, from 390 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 190 in 2013, still the second highest among all regions.

Oceania made substantial progress in expanding access to primary education between 1990 and 2015 with an increase in enrolment rates from 69 per cent to 95 per cent. Despite progress in improving gender parity in education, girls continue to face high barriers to schooling in all levels of education. In Oceania, it is projected that only 86 girls are enrolled in secondary schools for every 100 boys in 2015.

Women's access to paid employment in the non-agricultural sector has been increasing over the past two decades, with an increase of 6 percentage points over the period 1990–2015, from 33 per cent to 39 per cent.

Progress has also been made in protecting marine areas, which helps to prevent loss of biodiversity, maintain food security and water supplies, strengthen climate resilience and provide services for human well-being. In Oceania, there were no coastal or marine protected areas in 1990, but 7.4 per cent of such areas were protected in 2014.

However, Oceania continues to experience high levels of poverty and slow economic growth and is in danger of missing critical MDG targets.

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