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Although major inroads are being made in reducing child mortality in the region – with four countries achieving more than a 50 per cent reduction between 1990 and 2009 – the highest levels of under-five mortality continue to be found in sub-Saharan Africa. One in eight children died before the age of five in 2009, nearly twice the average in the developing regions and around 18 times the average in the developed regions. And despite advances in many countries in reducing maternal deaths, sub-Saharan Africa also has the highest maternal mortality level in the world – 640 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2008, which is more than twice the average in the developing regions and 38 times the average in the developed regions.

The report says that in sub-Saharan Africa, child underweight prevalence only decreased from 27 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2009, which means the region may not reach the MDGs' hunger-reduction target. Using the latest poverty data available, the report says, sub-Saharan Africa is not on track to meet the poverty-reduction target. In 2005, 51 per cent of its population lived in extreme poverty (living on less than \$1.25 a day), down only seven points from 58 per cent in 1990. But recent World Bank projections are slightly more upbeat, forecasting that the extreme poverty rate in the region will fall below 36 per cent by 2015, based on economic growth performance and trends.

Although aid to developing countries reached a record high in 2010, the report notes, only \$11 billion has been received of the \$25 billion increase promised to sub-Saharan Africa at the 2005 Gleneagles G8 Summit, owing mainly to shortfalls from some European donors that give large shares of their aid to Africa.

First agreed at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, the eight MDGs set worldwide objectives for reducing extreme poverty and hunger, improving health and education, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015. At the UN MDG Summit in September 2010, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Goals and called for intensified collective action and the expansion of successful approaches; a Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health was launched and garnered over \$40 billion in commitments.

*The Millennium Development Goals Report*, an annual assessment of regional progress towards the Goals, reflects the most comprehensive, up-to-date data compiled by over 25 UN and international agencies and is produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A complete set of the data used to prepare the report is available at [mdgs.un.org](http://mdgs.un.org). For more information, press materials and an inter-agency media contact list, see [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals).

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