

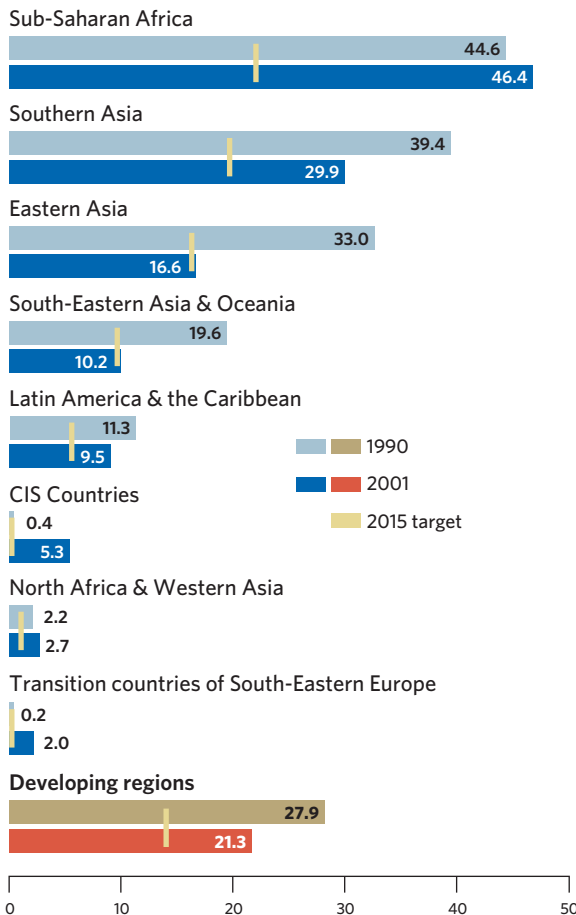
The Millennium Development Goals—meeting human needs

The world decided in 2000 to launch a concerted attack on poverty and the problems of illiteracy, illness, hunger, discrimination against women, contaminated 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 for improving human well being. The five-year General Assembly review of the Millennium Development Goals takes place in September.

National leaders at the July 2005 Group of 8 meeting in Gleneagles, UK, agreed to double aid to Africa, from the current \$25 billion a year to \$50 billion by 2010. If fulfilled, pledges made at Gleneagles or in the run up will bring total ODA to \$129 billion by 2010 – although many development advocates were disappointed that no new timelines were set to reach the UN goal of 0.7 per cent of national income for ODA, other than the 15 European Union members that had already reached that target or set a deadline for reaching it. Other indications of progress and of shortcomings are charted below.

Asia leads the way in reducing poverty rates

Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day, 1990 and 2001 (Percentage)



During the 1990s, extreme poverty dropped in much of Asia, fell slowly in Latin America, changed little in Northern Africa and Western Asia, and rose and then started to decline in the transition economies. But in sub-Saharan Africa, which already had the highest poverty rate in the world, the situation deteriorated further and millions more fell into deep poverty.

Source: *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005*, DPI/2390

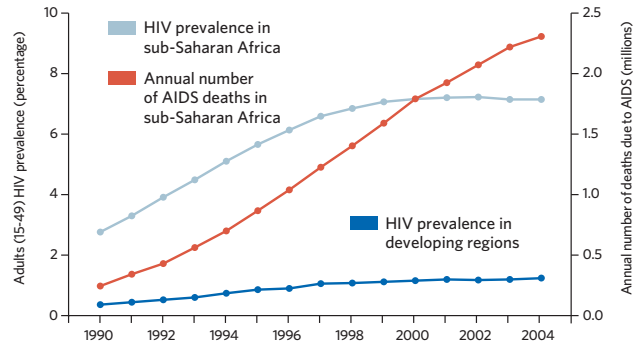
Five regions are close to universal primary school enrolment

Net enrollment ratio in primary education, 1990/91 and 2001/02 (Percentage)



In five regions, 90 per cent of children or more are enrolled in primary school, though maintaining these high levels — and reaching the remaining few who are out of school — has sometimes been difficult. Sub-Saharan Africa has made progress, but still has over a third of its children out of school. In five African countries, less than half the children of primary school age are enrolled. In Southern Asia, Oceania and Western Asia, enrolment is also lagging, with about 20 per cent of children out of school.

HIV prevalence remains high in sub-Saharan Africa, as deaths and new infections mount

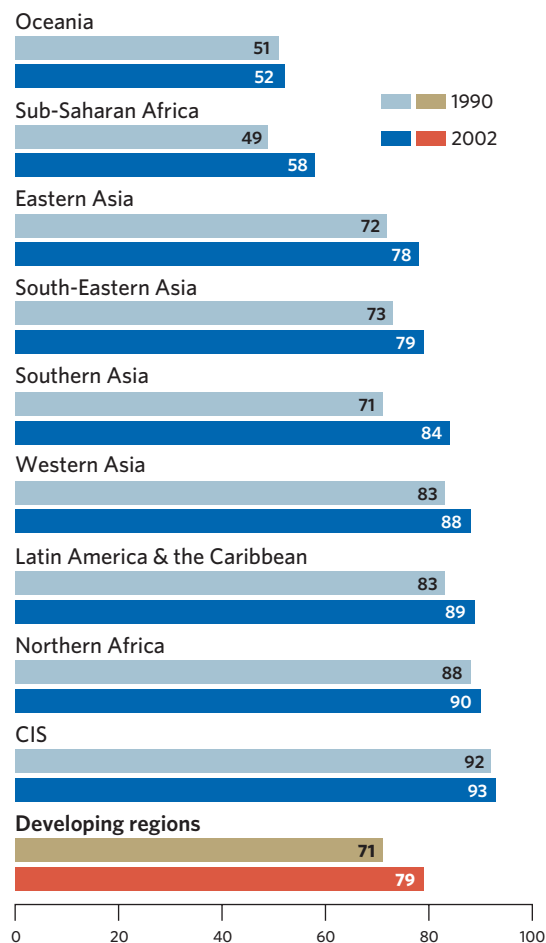


HIV prevalence in adults aged 15–49 in sub-Saharan Africa and all developing regions (Percentage) and number of AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa (Millions), 1990–2004

In sub-Saharan Africa, 7 out of 100 adults are living with HIV. In some Southern African countries, more than a quarter of the adult population are HIV-positive. Although prevalence rates have stabilized in the region, they remain at very high levels. This does not mean that the epidemic has been controlled. Rather that the increasing number of AIDS deaths each year roughly matches the number of new infections.

Access to safe drinking water has improved worldwide

Proportion of population using improved sources of drinking water, 1990 and 2002 (Percentage)



The proportion of population using safe sources of drinking water in the developing world rose from 71 per cent in 1990 to 79 per cent in 2002. The most impressive gains were made in Southern Asia. This jump was fuelled primarily by increased coverage in India, home to over 1 billion people. The good news — gains in all regions since 1990 — is counterbalanced by the fact that 1.1 billion people were still using water from unimproved sources in 2002. In sub-Saharan Africa, where 42 per cent of the population is still unserved, the obstacles to progress, which include conflict, political instability and low priority assigned to investments in water and sanitation, are especially daunting given high population growth rates.