

Asia and Pacific





One World One Hope

“The Millennium Development Goals is Common Vision and Global Commitments”

Asia and the Pacific Countries Need More Attention to Achieve its Target by 2015

Overview

Progress towards MDG attainment and poverty alleviation in many countries of Asia and the Pacific region.

Poverty Reduction and MDG Achievement the Asia-pacific region has an enviable record in socio-economic development in the last three decades. there are, however, four significant challenges. the first is the largest mass of income poverty in the world. over 900 million people - larger than the combined population of North America and Western europe - live in extreme poverty. the second is the persistence of hunger in the midst of high growth. the third deprivation relates to high unemployment and underemployment. finally, progress on MDGs is severely hampered by an alarming rise in inequality across the region. Many countries of the region have been striving to overcome this quartet of development challenges. until recently, the global economic and trade environment was viewed by most countries as supportive of poverty reduction, with outward oriented development policies yielding impressive results. however, the ongoing global economic crisis following the food and fuel price shocks, and growing climate change threats, has the potential to undo years of progress towards MDG attainment and poverty alleviation in many countries of Asia and the pacific. there is as yet little empirical data to track the impact of the global economic crisis on MDG progress in the region. however, employment declined sharply in export-oriented sectors, causing negative effects across other sectors. the effects on social sectors and on human development conditions have been marked and it is estimated that in 2009, the crisis trapped up to an additional 17 million people in extreme poverty.

The Asia-Pacific region has an enviable record in poverty reduction, with impressive aggregate trends in several poverty related [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#). There are, however, four significant shortcomings.

The first is the largest mass of income poverty in the world. Over 900 million people - larger than the combined population of North America and Western Europe live in extreme poverty. The second is the persistence of hunger in the midst of high growth. The third deprivation relates to high unemployment and underemployment. Finally, there is an alarming rise in inequality across the region.

Many countries of the region have been striving to overcome these development challenges. However, with the ongoing global economic crisis riding on the back of the food and fuel price shocks, the prospects for poverty reduction have deteriorated significantly with slippages in each of the four development challenges.



Income poverty is projected to increase by over 100 million in Asia and the Pacific, increased job insecurity may accentuate social tensions, the number of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition is slated to increase by at least 50 million in the region. And governments have fewer resources to invest in health, education and social protection, just when people need them the most.

The Poverty Practice in Asia-Pacific provides support to clients on a range of initiatives including poverty/MDG monitoring, MDG localization, participatory planning for poverty reduction at the local level, pro-poor policy formulation, strengthening the capacity of relevant ministries for poverty planning, forecasting poverty/MDG consistent macroeconomic frameworks, analyzing the fiscal space available to implement MDG based national development plans, identifying and fostering human development-oriented trade and investment policies. Its core services in support of achievement of the MDGs involve: (1) Policy advice and technical support; (2) strengthening capacity of institutions and individuals (3) Advocacy, communications, and public information; (4) Promoting and brokering dialogue; and (5) Knowledge networking and sharing of good practices. The Practice also provides a platform for intra- and inter-regional dissemination of knowledge. [Click here to read the report on MDGs.](#)

WFWO's programming in this region recognizes the importance of indigenous knowledge, ethnic minorities, and the participation of youth and women in decision-making and development processes to raise public awareness to contribute to the implementation of the Eight MDGs objectives.

Resources: UN/UNDP



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