

Working Toward the Millennium Development Goals

Fact Sheet



In 2000, leaders around the world adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration and committed to work together toward meeting a series of global development targets—the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—by 2015. By 2010, it is expected that the target of reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty will be reached. Child deaths declined from 12.5 to 8.8 million between 1990 and 2008, and the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy increased tenfold between 2003 and 2008. But for some indicators, progress is not meeting expectations. For example, nearly 60 percent of people who need antiretroviral therapy don't have access to it; children from rural areas of developing countries are more likely to be underweight than children in urban areas; and progress on gender equality, which is critical for the achievement of all MDGs, has lagged.

The Millennium Development Goals represent the global effort to enhance the quality of life of people worldwide. For nearly four decades, MSH has strengthened health systems in more than 70 countries, including fragile states, making care more accessible and sustainable by building local capacity and integrating services. This approach includes reducing child mortality (MDG 4); improving maternal health (MDG 5); combating HIV, malaria, and other diseases (MDG 6); and expanding access to clean water and sanitation services (MDG 7). MSH also reaches beyond improved health outcomes: We help empower women leaders in their communities (MDG 3); we strengthen the ability of governments to be efficient, responsive, and accountable; and we build partnerships among governments, service organizations, businesses, and donors that foster local economic growth (MDG 8).

We Strengthen Leadership, Governance, and Management Capacity

MSH fosters leadership, promotes good governance, and helps modernize health care management by training leaders to identify challenges, motivate teams, and focus on results. Our work to advance the well-being of women and girls extends to leadership development.

We Strengthen Health Service Delivery

MSH builds partnerships among governments and both local and international organizations to expand access to quality, comprehensive health care by integrating services and building health systems.

We Expand and Prepare the Health Workforce

MSH supports health program managers and their teams in creating work climates that improve staff retention and motivation, and expands access to services by training community health workers, many of whom are women.

We Support Efficient Pharmaceutical and Laboratory Systems

MSH helps develop the capacity of both the public and private sectors to select, procure, and distribute quality medicines, laboratory supplies, and health commodities.

We Provide Solutions for Health Care Financing

We help governments and other partners assess their financial systems and develop initiatives to use funds more effectively through performance-based financing, grant management, and costing programs.

We Support Evidence-Based Decisions through Health Information

MSH works with partners to design practical systems to collect, use, and report information.

Accelerating Achievement of the MDGs by Building Local Capacity and Integrating Services

In **Afghanistan**, MSH and its partners bolster national and local capacity to expand community-based care in 13 provinces. From 2003 to 2006, through the USAID-funded **REACH Program**, the number of Afghans with access to basic health services increased from half a million to 7.5 million, the rate of births attended by skilled providers doubled, the number of children immunized increased from 15 to 37 percent, and the use of modern contraceptives rose from 16 to 26 percent. These achievements were facilitated by the training of 6,300 community health workers (half of whom are women) and an innovative literacy program that reached 8,500 women. Today, through the **Tech-Service Project**, USAID and MSH are continuing to make progress as more than 25,000 community health workers are employed in the country, nearly 60 percent of pregnant women receive prenatal care, and deaths of children under the age of five have declined by one-third.

In **Ethiopia**, MSH and its partners are expanding access to HIV & AIDS services through a comprehensive, integrated approach that strengthens the health system from the national to the community level. The USAID-funded **Ethiopia HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program** organizes committees of local stakeholders, including private businesses, to mobilize community assets in support of people living with HIV; links those committees to health centers through more than 6,300 local outreach workers and case managers; and connects the health centers to area hospitals through a clinical mentorship program. In two years, from 2007 to 2009, the program has supported 550 health centers in providing HIV & AIDS services, increasing the number of individuals on treatment from 15,000 to more than 58,000. Of that group, 60 percent are women. In the second year alone, nearly 2 million people (including 250,000 pregnant women) were counseled and tested for HIV. The linkages between communities and health facilities connect clients to other health services as well, including maternal and child health services.

In **Tanzania**, MSH and its partners are expanding access to quality health services through the accreditation of private-sector drug shops, known as ADDOs, and the training of licensed drug dispensers. Shop employees provide reliable medical information and dispense appropriate medicines and supplies for family planning, the prevention of HIV & AIDS, and the treatment of malaria and childhood diarrhea. A recent study of ADDOs in two regions that serve more than 2.5 million people revealed that, in 2009, more than 300,000 people who previously did not have access to high-quality treatment for malaria received treatment at ADDOs. In 2009, the program expanded from 4 regions to 10 regions, increasing the number of shops to more than 1,500 (an increase of more than 50 percent) and expanding coverage from 12 percent to nearly 40 percent of the country's population. Of 4,000 people trained as licensed dispensers, 90 percent are women. The program helps shop owners improve and sustain their shops by connecting them to microfinance lenders.



The Millennium Development Goals

- 1: Eradicate** extreme poverty and hunger
- 2: Achieve** universal primary education
- 3: Promote** gender equality and empower women
- 4: Reduce** child mortality
- 5: Improve** maternal health
- 6: Combat** HIV & AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- 7: Ensure** environmental sustainability
- 8: Develop** a global partnership for development

For additional information, go to www.msh.org, or contact Crystal Lander, Senior Policy Officer, at +1-703-310-3432 or clander@msh.org.

MSH's Mission

MSH is a global nonprofit health organization that has worked in more than 135 countries to save lives and improve the health of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health.