



World Bank Group report outlines the difficulties in meeting MDGs post financial crisis.

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The World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 23 April 2010 published the 'Global Monitoring Report 2010: The MDGs after the Crisis'. The report explores the impact of the economic crisis on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The report finds that the financial and economic crisis has resulted in a severe deterioration of human development. It estimates that 53mn more people will remain in extreme poverty by 2015 than otherwise would have. In addition, the number of deaths among children under age five may increase by 1.2mn between 2009 and the end of 2015 due to crisis-related causes.

The report also highlights the uneven progress toward MDGs across different regions of the world. Poverty has fallen in East Asia from 55% in 1990 to 17% in 2005, and is likely to drop to 6% by 2015. Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa led to a decrease in the percentage of the population living in poverty (living on less than US\$1.25 per day) from 58% in 1990 to 51% in 2005. It is likely that by 2015, 38% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa will remain poor.

The report notes the strong engagement of the international community, which committed US\$150bn since the beginning of the crisis. The increase in official development assistance (ODA) was 0.7% in 2009 (US\$119.6bn), but 6.8% in real terms once debt relief is included. (ODA is estimated by the in OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC)).

According to the report, the impact of the financial crisis on poverty will be long lasting. As such, the report calls for strong external funding to ensure fiscal sustainability while maintaining key investments in infrastructure and social sectors. The report also encourages developing countries to apply domestic reforms to make government spending and service delivery more efficient.

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) strongly agrees with the call for increased funding, especially the 16th replenishment of WB's International Development Association (IDA16), which provides grants and loans to the world's least developed countries, and can help them to mitigate the effects of the financial crisis. Along these lines, PNoWB, in partnership with European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), has launched an *IDA16 Replenishment and Aid Effectiveness campaign* to draw attention to key development areas as they relate to the principles of aid effectiveness outlined in the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action. These include:

- 1) increasing country ownership;
- 2) strengthening country statistical/results measurement systems;
- 3) adding of a peer-review dimension to Country Assistance Strategy progress reports; and
- 4) leading by example in health, nutrition and population programs.

More information will soon be available at: http://www.pnowb.org/content_84_1

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