

Optimal Utilization of Indigenous Languages: An Imperative for the Attainment of Millennium Development Goals

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Abstract

This paper examines the imperative of indigenous languages in the attainment of the millennium development goal (MDG). The works argue that until indigenous languages are empowered and fully developed as our main mediums of expression, we are 'merely pursuing a dead end.' Thus, the strong ties and relationship between indigenous languages and development cannot be separated. It is against this backdrop that we put forward that literacy through indigenous languages is crucial and necessary - for majority of Nigerians who are still illiterate and constitute the majority of indigenous peoples on which the achievement of the MDGs in 2015 lies. A language is just more than a tool of communication. It is a channel of values, traditions and cultures. It is therefore obvious that communication within a human community as mobilization of such people for a specific purpose will achieve the best results when done in the popular language of the people. Nigerian indigenous languages are rich in idioms, adages, proverbs, witty expressions and figures of speech which make messages and information clear and concise. Different stakeholders who know the quintessential power of language have long before now admitted that Nigerian languages have been neglected and marginalized with its attendant under utilization, loss of value, status, relevance. A good number, in fact three-quarter of the Nigerian languages are yet to be used as vehicles of instruction. Sadly, a lot of these languages are yet to be documented and described. Indigenous peoples also have the right to benefit from the MDGs and fulfill the aspirations contained in the UN Millennium Declaration. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) recently observed that indigenous issues are often absent from the MDGs and poverty reduction processes and from the MDGs reports and poverty reduction strategy papers. Indigenous peoples were not formally involved in the formulation of the Goals and until now they have been largely absent from developing MDG strategies and indicators as well as from the monitoring and reporting process.

This paper therefore advocates the use of current Information Technology (IT) resources to mobilize people and disseminate the information to people in their local languages. Such idea was used in India through 'simputer project' which makes information available to people in the rural settings using their local languages at an affordable rate. This ICT facility has been confirmed to be advantageous to the underdeveloped, undeveloped and developing countries where illiteracy, maternal and infant mortality, preventable diseases, epidemics, poverty, unemployment, civil unrest etc are still on the increase. Besides, speech synthesis – the ability of computer to create spoken words in an audio form in such a way that it is similar to human speech using diphones, can equally be used. With these methods the goals of MDG is made known to the grassroot people in their local languages.

1.0 Introduction

A common dilemma facing African countries today and indeed Nigeria is the fundamental problem of having to address the issues of poverty illiteracy, maternal and child mortality as well as environmental degradation. Suffice to say that attempts by leaders, past and present have recorded little or no improvement. Considered as Africa's largest black nation, Nigeria has a lot of potentials, which are enough for it to compete favourably with the countries of the G-7, Namely; France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States and Canada. This view has been strongly supported by reports of the Goldman Sachs (2007a 126-128), Soludo (2007), NEEDS (2004: 57-59), Vision Report (1997) and a host of others. In a study, NEEDS (2004) notes that, Nigeria has the potential to become Africa's largest economy and a major player in the global economy by virtue of its rich human and material resource endowment, while Goldman Sachs (2007a) argues that in the whole of African continent only two countries have the potentials to be among the G-20 by 2020 and these countries are Egypt and Nigeria. Yet, Nigeria is having the least performance.

Disturbing, however, this trend may be, according to UN's targets encapsulated under the Millennium Development Goals (henceforth MDGs), recognizes the need for indigenous people under which the MDGs targets may be met. According to a report by the UN millennium campaign under the United Nations Development Programmes (henceforth UNDP) for "MDGs and Indigenous People", there are over 370 million indigenous peoples in some 90 countries, living in all regions of the world. While they constitute 5 per cent of the world's population, indigenous peoples account for 15 per cent of the world's poor. Most indicators of well-

being show that indigenous peoples suffer disproportionately compared to non-indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples face systemic discrimination and exclusion from political and economic power; they continue to be over-represented among the poorest, the illiterate, the destitute; they are displaced by wars and environmental disaster; dispossessed of their ancestral lands and deprived of their resources for survival, both physical and cultural; they are even robbed of their very right to life.

In this paper, like Ngugi, we argue that until indigenous languages are empowered and fully developed as our main mediums of expression, we are 'merely pursuing a dead end.' Thus, the strong ties and relationship between indigenous languages and development cannot be separated. It is against this backdrop that we put forward that literacy through indigenous languages is crucial and necessary - for majority of Nigerians who are still illiterates and constitute the majority of indigenous peoples on which the achievement of the MDGs in 2015 lies.

A language is just more than a tool of communication. It is a channel of values, traditions and cultures. According to Fulgence (2003: 79-82), it is a whole way of look at reality, at life. The Nigerian languages, in spite of the efforts of many scholars, are losing a lot of ground especially in both utility and utilization. The basis of interaction in any given community is the language of such speech community. Being a means of communication language endows each person with the facility for greater self expression and improved relations with others in the same language community. It creates cultural and social bonds for those who share it. The foregoing justifies Ferdinand de Saussure's view of language in Hartzeler (1965: 113-126) that 'langue' as against Chomsky's competence. Whereas langue (language) is seen as a human-specific attribute that is (like a pool of water) collectively shared by the speakers of a given speech community, competence is the sum total knowledge an individual possesses of his or her language. Language creates cultural and social bonds for those who commonly speak it. It promotes a feeling of oneness and trust among those who inhabit that linguistic world. Language is a means through which society perpetuates and renews itself by inculcating its essential values into the people and reawakening their collective and individual consciousness. It is therefore obvious that communication within a human community as mobilization of such people for a specific purpose will achieve the best results when done in the popular language of the people. Nigerian indigenous languages are rich in idioms, adages, proverbs, witty expressions and figures of speech which make messages and information clear and concise. They (Nigerian languages) are as such qualify as essential medium for adequate and comprehensive communication for the mobilization of the people. Language brings into the open what might have been hidden inside.

Harris (1980: 97-105) notes that the more people understand the language they use, the less problem they have. It is an embodiment of people's worldview. Onoge (1989: 43-56) defines mobilization as the process of activation of some entity possibly human being in connection to the realization of some goals. It entails updating people's level of awareness of certain objectives with a view to achieving those objectives. In other words, mobilization as a process involves pooling together, harnessing, actualizing and utilizing potentials -human resources- for the purpose of development. Holistically, mobilization is a call to tackle any social, political, economic, health and educational problem that might arise within any given society.

It should be clear by now that using indigenous languages in communication with people enhance the awareness efforts particularly when such languages are nourished with indigenous proverbs and other figurative expressions.

2. An Overview of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs

In September 2000, at the threshold of the new millennium, 189 world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration sets out within a single framework the key challenges facing humanity in the new millennium, outline a response to the challenges, and establishes concrete measures for judging performance through a set of inter-related commitments, goals and targets on development, governance, peace, security and human rights. According to the declaration, it is stressed that no stone would be left unturned to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. They world leaders promised to free fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. They are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

In the light of the need to translate this commitment into action, the international community agreed to the MDGs which consist of eight goals to be achieved between 1990 and 2015. The MDGs are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions—income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion—while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. And since the adoption of the MDGs by world leaders, implementation strategies aimed at meeting the 2015 target have dominated the development agenda of many countries including Nigeria who is also a signatory to the declaration. The MDGs are summarized thus.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

Goals 1 to 7 relate to poverty and hunger, child education, empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Goal 8 is focused on promoting global partnership especially in the areas of technological transfer, enhanced aid quantity and quality, debt relief, etc. and acknowledges that the other seven Goals can only be achieved through international cooperation. Goals 1-7 are therefore responsibilities of developing and developed countries, whereas Goal 8 puts forward the developed countries' responsibilities.

3. Towards Developing of African Languages

Different stakeholders (individuals, groups, linguists, government) who know the quintessential power of language have long before now admitted that Nigerian languages have been neglected and marginalized with its attendant under utilization, loss of value, status, relevance. They equally clamour for the urgent need to revive and reinvent them. The worrisome state of the African languages couple with the aspiration which go with them are aptly captured by the former president of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konare in 2002 in his speech during the lunch of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN). In his words taken from Urua (2005: 69-70),

‘...It is time our continent provided itself with the means to make African languages working languages in all the fields of public life. Only then will we make of our Regional Economic Communities true Instruments of African integration, and the African Union (AU) will become a reality for our people’s rehabilitated and reinstalled in their identity and in the historical and cultural continuity of their areas. Thus, the vehicular cross-border languages will strengthen the relationship between the populations beyond the political boundaries, which should be considered, as we always said, not as separation lines, but rather as stitches for the lacerated sociocultural tissue, torn to pieces only 116 years ago, stitching lines for these border lands and villages of our continent so much in search of unity...’

If we have been following the trends of events as they unfold in the history of the organization of African Unity (OAU), now known as the African Union (AU), there have been series of plans to undertake a holistic development of African indigenous languages to achieve developmental goals and targets. However, such efforts have always been thwarted by the lackadaisical attitude and lack of will power on the part of the policy makers at attaining those lofty goals. This notwithstanding, efforts should be made to reposition the African languages and retrace the necessity and relevance of optimal utilization of African languages for regional and national integration and development. When one surveys some of the aims and objectives and tenets of ACALAN’s Action Plan, one would discover the magnitude of the underutilization of African languages which the plan sets out to realize. Some of these aims and objectives are:

- (a) to encourage each member state to have a clearly defined language policy,
- (b) to ensure that all languages within boundaries of member states are recognized and accepted as source of mutual enrichment,
- (c) to liberate the African people from undue reliance on the utilization of non indigenous languages as the dominant, official languages of the state in favour of the gradual take-over of appropriate and carefully selected indigenous African languages in this domain.
- (d) to encourage the increased use of African languages as vehicles of instruction at all educational levels.

If we put the Nigerian languages within the perspective of the above aims and objectives, it will become so apparent that Nigerian languages have not been playing the central role they ought to play. A good number, in fact three-quarter of the Nigerian languages are yet to be used as vehicles of instruction. None of the Nigerian languages qualifies as official languages for some obvious reasons, many are not even seen as national languages and those that are elevated as national languages are not empowered fully to act in the same capacity. The most embarrassing is the fact that a lot of these languages are yet to be documented and described. What a gross under utilization! In fact the second aim and objective of ACALAN’s action plan was captured by the great literary and social activist Ngugi wa Thiong’O who is arguably one of Africa’s prolific writers to have emerged out of Africa in the 21st century. In his book, *Decolonizing the Mind*, Ngugi challenges the African writers to abandon writing in colonial languages as he calls literature written in these languages 'Afro-European Literature' and instead opt for their native languages to give African literature its own genealogy and grammar: the preaching that he himself put to practice as ‘*Decolonizing the Mind*’ was his last book in English.

4. Nigerian Languages and Their Status: A Brief Overview

The determination of the exact number of languages spoken in Nigeria has now become an issue of arbitrary guess. Various figures have been given by scholars (see Emenanjo 2003: 23). The conclusion drawn by each of

these scholars is that Nigerian languages are indeterminable especially when one considers the expressions like, around, about, slightly above, etc. which usually precede such numerical guess. Part of the problems preventing the exactness or accuracy of the figure is the controversy surrounding the distinction between a language and a dialect using mutual intelligibility criterion.

The foregoing notwithstanding, languages spoken in Nigeria can be classified generally as national languages according to Elugbe (1990: 65-89). For him, the term could be ambiguous; it can be given three different interpretations. First, it could mean any language spoken in Nigeria (including Pidgin, Arabic, English, French). A large number of them are spoken in the regions in which they are located. They constitute those languages that are limited to the locality in which they are spoken, with very little or no role given to them by the society. They are consequently recognized, if at all, only by members to which they are first languages. Secondly, it could mean any language with higher numerical strength of native speakers (if this interpretation is adopted, we shall have Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba in line with the 1977 constitution which elevates the status of these languages to national languages). Thirdly, a national language could be taken to mean any language with widest geographical spread (if this is followed, the English language will be taken as the national language. Whereas, it is not rather, the English language is an official language). For this study we shall group Nigerian languages into two groups namely; endoglossic and exoglossic. The endoglossic languages may be seen as those languages that are native or indigenous to Nigeria. According to Grimes (2000: 2-7), such languages include over 500 languages given in the Ethnologue (2000). The exoglossic languages are those languages that are foreign to Nigeria. They are imported languages. They include Arabic, English and French

5. Indigenous People and the MDGs

Just like other segments of the Nigerian population, indigenous peoples also have the right to benefit from the MDGs and fulfill the aspirations contained in the UN Millennium Declaration. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) recently observed that indigenous issues are often absent from the MDGs and poverty reduction processes and from the MDGs reports and poverty reduction strategy papers. Indigenous peoples were not formally involved in the formulation of the Goals and until now they have been largely absent from developing MDG strategies and indicators as well as from the monitoring and reporting process. This omission may lead to the exclusion of indigenous peoples from sharing the benefits of the MDGs and may in fact adversely impact their communities by deepening the discrimination faced by indigenous peoples and accelerating the exploitative use of their land and resources in the name of progress and economic development. The Permanent Forum emphasizes that unless the particular situation of indigenous peoples are adequately taken into account, some Millennium Development Goals processes may lead to accelerated loss of lands and natural resources for indigenous peoples, and thus their means of subsistence and their displacement, as well as to accelerated assimilation and erosion of their culture. According to the UNDP's report on the MDGs and Indigenous people, indigenous peoples aspire to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs. Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination, and by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. The dominant development discourse does not adequately respond to these aspirations and needs of indigenous peoples. Unfortunately, major development projects often do not take into account fundamental interests of indigenous peoples thereby excluding them from full, meaningful and effective participation in development.

It is against this backdrop that the role indigenous languages play towards a complete integration of indigenous peoples who constitute the thrust for the achievement of the MDGs cannot be ignored. Even The UNDP emphasizes the need to adopt an integrated approach, which incorporates the close connections among issues of livelihood security, the environment, hunger and sustainable resource management. It also recognizes the need to raise awareness of the MDGs and the impact on indigenous peoples to promote their participation in the process of monitoring achievement of the MDGs, such as the official MDG progress reports. The UN Millennium Campaign provides support to individuals and organizations.

6. Problems Encountered in the Use of Indigenous Languages in Information Dissemination

It is noteworthy to highlight some of the loopholes often encountered even while using some local languages for information dissemination. Some of these problems are:

Lexical Inadequacies

Many Nigerian languages do not have sufficient lexical items to cater for certain lexical expressions, especially those related to foreign technology and issues in science. With these, there is tendency to fall back on the use of metalanguage. This however, may not solve the problem as it may deviate semantically from the intended conceptual or cognitive meaning of the foreign word in a significant way. In some cases, there may not always be a one-to-one correspondence between the meaning of the words in the source language (possibly English) and the recipient language (any indigenous languages mostly those that are not standardized). Uno (1987) notes that lack of systematically developed metalanguage and specialized vocabulary for effective information

dissemination in various fields of human activity may hamper the efforts geared towards the use of Nigerian languages in achieving the desires and aspirations of millennium development goals.

Other problems are those of misrepresentation and misconception of ideas, and cultural inhibition where the native speakers may not even be willing or eager to cooperate with those who may want to help them develop their language.

7. Nigerian Languages and MDGs: What should be done?

Of such innumerable number of indigenous languages in Nigeria only very few of them have received any significant kind of documentation and description aside Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba. A large percentage of indigenous languages have not been codified in any sense: no orthographies, dictionaries or grammars. They have no iota of standardization or codification in any way. Their development should be accelerated via graphization, standardization and orthographies so that having reduced them to writing, the aims and objectives of the MDGs can be printed for distribution in people's language knowing full well that 70% of Nigerians speak these languages. Developing language should be through these orthographies and reference materials. They should then be used as media of instruction in line with the National Policy on Education (NPE) on Language and ACALAN's aims and objectives.

Underutilization of indigenous languages in all its ramifications is seen as one area which slows down the rate of linguistic development. Fafunwa (1975: 68-71) and Skutnabb-Kangas (2000) note that studies have shown that people appreciate information better and equally learn much better if such message is disseminated in their language. A larger percentage of Nigerians resides in the rural areas. Nearly all of them are monolingual with just very few as bilingual. As such they do not comprehend the language of print and electronic media which is English. Given this predicament, they are unable to access the intention and desires the message of MDG's is conveying using English medium, since the information is not transmitted via the language they understand. In other words, for the efforts of the facilitators of MDG's to yield any desired result and its impact felt as expected, it is imperative that rural populations are reached in a medium to which they can relate and participate. The foregoing therefore necessitates the development and optimal utilization of our indigenous languages.

According to Osuji (1995: 243-251), the centrality of indigenous languages can not be overstressed. Taking clue from his experience in MAMSER, Osuji recalls that the use of the English language in 1987 for the propagation of MAMSER yielded little or no result. Its impact was not felt even at the grassroot. But when the approach was changed using indigenous languages as means of communicative tool, the result was impressive and rewarding. By far, language is the most critical universal feature of human communication and as such an important index for the attainment of the MDGs. In a heterogeneous country like Nigeria with over 250 languages, the use of English language as the official language of communication has yielded little or no results at all as far as the MDGs are concerned. This is because majority of the population are largely indigenous people, a population to which the MDGs are targeted at.

Through the development of Nigerian languages, Urua (2005) notes that cyber information dissemination can help facilitate this. According to her, the use of current Information Technology (IT) resources, and information centres can be set up to mobilize people and disseminate the information to people in their local languages. Such idea was used in India through 'simputer project' which makes information available to people in the rural settings using their local languages at an affordable rate. With simputer, a low cost handy alternative to PC's, opportunities which IT has to offer is made available to common man. According to www.simputer.org, it is so advantageous to the underdeveloped, undeveloped and developing countries where illiteracy, maternal and infant mortality, preventable diseases, epidemics, poverty, unemployment, civil unrest etc are still on the increase. Crystal (2003: 96) aptly captures bulk of what simputer does as given a public profile to language to make it concrete. Through this simputer technique, therefore, information on government and other developmental agencies such as MDG programmes, objectives, principles, ideas and ideals and any other crusade that have human and communal well-being are disseminated to them in their own language i.e indigenous languages, since these human developmental agencies are largely meant for masses.

Not only this, speech synthesis – the ability of computer to create spoken words in an audio form in such a way that it is similar to human speech using diphones, can equally be used. By speech synthesis, it entails splicing the already recorded words and permute them together via computer devices to produce audible sounds that resemble human speech. With this method (speech synthesis) the goals of MDG is made known to the grassroot people in their local languages. The speech synthesis, notes Urua (2005: 69-70) is suitable and beneficial in that it presents information for illiterate societies and also to the physically challenged people like the blinds since it talks. To develop simputer project and speech synthesis, the services of linguists, computer scientists and cooperation of the respective speech communities are very important.

8. Conclusion

The paper tries to further make case for the holistic development of all the Nigerian indigenous languages considering their centrality to the attainment of MDGs and other government developmental programmes. The

paper asserts that unless a pragmatic approach is taken towards the total overhauling of these languages none of the government policies can achieve its aims because all human activities from the time immemorial till date revolve around language. People's indigenous language is the only channel through which these policies can reach them and subsequently yield the desired result. When these languages are developed, their optimal utilization in governance, education and socio-economic life is achieved. Besides, the ethno-religious crisis threatening the peaceful existence of the country will surely die a natural death. This is not an assumption. It is a reality.

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Appenendix I.

Comprehensive list of the MDGs

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Poorest quintile's share in national income or consumption, per cent (WB)

Population below \$1 (PPP) per day consumption, percentage

Population below national poverty line, rural, percentage

Population below national poverty line, total, percentage

Population below national poverty line, urban, percentage

Poverty gap ratio

Purchasing power parities (PPP) conversion factor, local currency unit to international dollar
Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from Hunger
Children under 5 moderately or severely underweight, percentage
Children under 5 severely underweight, percentage
Population undernourished, number of people
Population undernourished, percentage
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education
Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
Literacy rates of 15-24 years old, both sexes, percentage
Literacy rates of 15-24 years old, men, percentage
Literacy rates of 15-24 years old, women, percentage
Net enrolment ratio in primary education, both sexes
Net enrolment ratio in primary education, boys
Net enrolment ratio in primary education, girls
Percentage of pupils starting grade 1 reaching grade 5, both sexes
Percentage of pupils starting grade 1 reaching grade 5, boys
Percentage of pupils starting grade 1 reaching grade 5, girls
Primary completion rate, both sexes
Primary completion rate, boys
Primary completion rate, girls
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015
Gender Parity Index in primary level enrolment
Gender Parity Index in secondary level enrolment
Gender Parity Index in tertiary level enrolment
Seats held by men in national parliament
Seats held by women in national parliament
Seats held by women in national parliament, percentage
Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
Total number of seats in national parliament
Women to men parity index, as ratio of literacy rates, 15-24 years old
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality
Target 5. Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
Children 1 year old immunized against measles, percentage
Children under five mortality rate per 1,000 live births
Infant mortality rate (0-1 year) per 1,000 live births
Goal 5. Improve maternal health
Target 6. Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
Births attended by skilled health personnel, percentage
Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
AIDS deaths
AIDS orphans (one or both parents)
Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, men, percentage
Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, women, percentage
Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old, percentage
Contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old, any method, percentage
Contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old, condom, percentage
Contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old, modern methods, percentage
Men 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, percentage
Men 15-24 years old, who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV, percentage
Men 15-24 years old, who know that a person can protect himself from HIV infection by consistent condom use, percentage
People living with HIV, 15-49 years old, percentage
Ratio of school attendance rate of orphans to school attendance rate of non orphans
Women 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, percentage
Women 15-24 years old, who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV, percentage

Women 15-24 years old, who know that a person can protect himself from HIV infection by consistent condom use, percentage

Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets, percentage

Children under 5 with fever being treated with anti-malarial drugs, percentage

Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population

Tuberculosis detection rate under DOTS, percentage

Tuberculosis prevalence rate per 100,000 population

Tuberculosis treatment success rate under DOTS, percentage

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂), metric tons of CO₂ per capita (CDIAC)

Carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂), thousand metric tons of CO₂ (CDIAC)

Consumption of all Ozone-Depleting Substances in ODP metric tons

Consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs in ODP metric tons

Energy use (Kg oil equivalent) per \$1,000 (PPP) GDP

Land area covered by forest, percentage

Protected area to total surface area, percentage

Protected areas, sq. km.

Target 10. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, rural

Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, total

Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, urban

Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, rural

Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, total

Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, urban

Target 11. By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Slum population as percentage of urban, percentage

Slum population in urban areas

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

Target 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Debt service as percentage of exports of goods and services and net income from abroad

Target 18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Internet users

Internet users per 100 population

Personal computers

Personal computers per 100 population

Telephone lines and cellular subscribers

Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population