

# Balance Sheets

*A summary of the goals, gains and unfinished business of the 1990-2000 decade as included in the Report of the Secretary-General, 'We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children'.*

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# Child health (1990-2000)

GOAL	GAINS	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
<b>Infant and under-five mortality:</b> <i>reduction by one third in infant mortality and U5MR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 60 countries achieved the goal of U5MR.</li> <li>At the global level, U5MR declined by 14 per cent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U5MR rates increased in 14 countries (9 of them in sub-Saharan Africa) and were unchanged in 11 others.</li> <li>Serious disparities remain in U5MR within countries: by income level, urban vs. rural, and among minority groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Polio:</b> <i>global eradication by 2000</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 175 countries are polio-free.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polio is still endemic in 20 countries.</li> </ul>
<b>Routine immunization:</b> <i>maintenance of a high level of immunization coverage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustained routine immunization coverage at 75 per cent (three doses of combined diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine (DPT3)).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 50 per cent of children under one year of age in sub-Saharan Africa are immunized against DPT3.</li> </ul>
<b>Measles:</b> <i>reduction by 95 per cent in measles deaths and 90 per cent in measles cases by 1995 as a major step to global eradication in the longer run</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worldwide reported measles incidence has declined by nearly two thirds between 1990 and 1999.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In more than 15 countries, measles vaccination coverage is less than 50 per cent.</li> </ul>
<b>Neonatal tetanus:</b> <i>elimination by 1995</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>104 of 161 developing countries have achieved the goal.</li> <li>Deaths caused by neonatal tetanus declined by 50 per cent between 1990 and 2000.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27 countries (18 in Africa) account for 90 per cent of all remaining neonatal tetanus.</li> </ul>
<b>Deaths due to diarrhoea:</b> <i>reduce them by 50 per cent</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This goal was achieved globally, according to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diarrhoea remains one of the major causes of death among children.</li> </ul>
<b>Acute respiratory infections (ARI):</b> <i>reduction of ARI deaths by one third in children under five</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARI case management has improved at health centre level.</li> <li>The effectiveness of <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b and pneumococcus vaccines is established.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARI remains one of the greatest causes of death among children.</li> <li>Vertical, single-focus ARI programmes seem to have had little global impact.</li> </ul>

Source: United Nations, 'We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children', Report of the Secretary-General, A/S-27/3, United Nations, New York, 4 May 2001.

## Nutrition (1990-2000)

GOAL	GAINS	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
<b>Malnutrition:</b> <i>reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malnutrition declined by 17 per cent in developing countries. South America achieved the goal with a 60 per cent reduction in underweight prevalence over the decade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>149 million children are still malnourished, two thirds of them in Asia. The absolute number of malnourished children has increased in Africa.</li> </ul>
<b>Breastfeeding:</b> <i>empowerment of all women to breastfeed their children exclusively for four to six months and to continue breastfeeding, with complementary food, well into the second year of life</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusive breastfeeding rates increased by nearly one fifth over the decade.</li> <li>Gains were also made in timely complementary feeding and continued breastfeeding into the second year of life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only about half of all infants are exclusively breastfed for the first four months of life.</li> </ul>
<b>Vitamin A deficiency:</b> <i>virtual elimination by the year 2000</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 40 countries are reaching the large majority of their children (over 70 per cent) with at least one high-dose vitamin A supplement a year. UNICEF estimates that as many as one million child deaths may have been prevented in this way in the last three years alone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As many countries are discontinuing national polio immunization days, a new distribution system for vitamin A will have to be found.</li> </ul>
<b>Iodine deficiency disorders:</b> <i>virtual elimination</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some 72 per cent of households in the developing world are using iodized salt, compared to less than 20 per cent at the beginning of the decade. As a result, 90 million newborns are protected yearly from significant loss in learning ability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are still 37 countries where less than half the households consume iodized salt.</li> </ul>
<b>Low birthweight:</b> <i>reduction of the rate of low birthweight (2.5 kilograms (kg) or less) to less than 10 per cent</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To date, 57 developing countries have low-birthweight levels below 10 per cent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 million babies in South Asia and 3.6 million babies in sub-Saharan Africa are born each year with low birthweight.</li> </ul>
<b>Growth monitoring:</b> <i>growth promotion and regular growth monitoring among children to be institutionalized in all countries by the end of the 1990s</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A majority of developing countries have implemented growth monitoring and promotion activities using various approaches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growth monitoring information is often not used as a basis for community, family or government action.</li> </ul>
<b>Household food security:</b> <i>Dissemination of knowledge and supporting services to increase food production</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of people in developing countries lacking sufficient calories in their diets has decreased marginally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In sub-Saharan Africa, about one third of the population lack sufficient food.</li> </ul>

**Source:** United Nations, 'We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children', Report of the Secretary-General, A/S-27/3, United Nations, New York, 4 May 2001.

# Women's health (1990-2000)

GOAL	GAINS	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
<p><b>Maternal mortality:</b> reduction between 1990 and the year 2000 of the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by half</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There has been heightened awareness of causes leading to high MMR, but little tangible progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no evidence that maternal death rates have declined significantly over the last decade.</li> <li>515,000 women still die every year as a result of pregnancy and childbirth. A woman in sub-Saharan Africa faces a 1 in 13 chance of dying during pregnancy and childbirth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Family planning:</b> access by all couples to information and services to prevent pregnancies that are too early, too closely spaced, too late or too numerous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contraceptive prevalence increased by 10 per cent globally and doubled in the least developed countries.</li> <li>The total fertility rate has declined from 3.2 to 2.8.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every year, adolescents give birth to 15 million infants.</li> <li>Only 23 per cent of women (married or in union) in sub-Saharan Africa use contraceptives.</li> <li>Access to reproductive health education remains a challenge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Childbirth care:</b> access by all pregnant women to prenatal care, trained attendants during childbirth and referral facilities for high-risk pregnancies and obstetric emergencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modest gains were made in both antenatal care and births assisted by a skilled health worker in all regions except sub-Saharan Africa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential obstetric care services are lacking.</li> <li>Coverage of delivery care is only 29 per cent in South Asia and 37 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Anaemia:</b> reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of 1990 levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most developing countries have iron supplementation measures for pregnant women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available evidence shows little change during the 1990s in the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women.</li> </ul>

**Source:** United Nations, 'We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children', Report of the Secretary-General, A/S-27/3, United Nations, New York, 4 May 2001.

# Water and environmental sanitation (1990-2000)

GOAL	GAINS	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
<b>Water:</b> <i>universal access to safe drinking water</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>816 million additional people obtained access to improved water supplies over the decade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some 1.1 billion people still lack access. Global coverage increased by only 3 per cent, to 82 per cent.</li> <li>Water quality problems have grown more severe in a number of countries during the decade.</li> <li>Coverage in low-income areas remains low, especially in informal settlements.</li> </ul>
<b>Sanitation:</b> <i>universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>747 million additional people utilized improved sanitation facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.4 billion people, including half of all Asians, lack access. Global coverage increased by only 5 per cent, to 60 per cent.</li> <li>80 per cent of those lacking sanitation live in rural areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Guinea worm disease:</b> <i>elimination</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of reported cases has declined by 97 per cent. The disease is now eliminated in all regions except one country in the Middle East and 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Momentum towards elimination of guinea worm disease needs to be maintained.</li> </ul>

**Source:** United Nations, 'We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children', Report of the Secretary-General, A/S-27/3, United Nations, New York, 4 May 2001.

# Education (1990-2000)

GOAL	GAINS	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
<p><b>Early childhood development:</b> <i>expansion of early childhood development (ECD) activities, including appropriate low-cost family and community-based interventions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolment of children in early childhood programmes has kept pace with or exceeded population growth rates in most regions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most progress has been among urban and elite populations and on formal pre-school programmes.</li> <li>Countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have seen a virtual collapse of public provision of pre-school education.</li> <li>Limited progress on comprehensive family- and community-based approaches.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Universal access to basic education:</b> <i>achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Net primary school enrolment has increased in all regions and reached 82 per cent globally.</li> <li>Latin America has achieved its regional target of more than 70 per cent primary school achievement in urban areas.</li> <li>The World Education Forum (Dakar 2000) endorsed a comprehensive definition of education quality.</li> <li>Many countries have extended the period of basic education to close the gap between end of compulsory schooling and minimum age for employment.</li> <li>Humanitarian relief now includes education as part of its basic package.</li> <li>The HIPC II Initiative now links increased investment in basic education to debt relief.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 100 million children of primary school age remain out of school, especially working children, children affected by HIV/AIDS, conflict and disability, children of the poor or ethnic minorities and rural children.</li> <li>Millions are receiving an education of poor quality.</li> <li>At least one third of the 190 million working children aged 10-14 in developing countries have no access at all to basic education.</li> <li>Funding for education interventions in humanitarian crises remains a low priority.</li> <li>Implementation of HIPC II has been slow.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gender disparities:</b> <i>reduction of current disparities between boys and girls</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The primary school enrolment gap between girls and boys has narrowed globally from 8 percentage points to 6 percentage points.</li> <li>Among developing regions, CEE/CIS and Baltic States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and East Asia and the Pacific have the lowest gender gap (of 2 percentage points or less).</li> <li>Middle East and North African countries have halved the gender gap, to 8 percentage points.</li> <li>South Asia reduced the gender gap by nearly a fifth, to 14 percentage points.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The gender gap has not changed over the decade in sub-Saharan Africa.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adult literacy:</b> <i>reduction of adult illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 rate, with special emphasis on female literacy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult illiteracy has declined from 25 per cent to 21 per cent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absolute number of illiterate adults has remained at about 880 million over the last decade worldwide, with numbers of illiterates increasing in most regions.</li> <li>Illiteracy is increasingly concentrated among women, especially in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Knowledge, skills and values for better living:</b> <i>increased acquisition by individuals and families of knowledge, skills and values for better living, using all educational channels</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of education and training for young people in skills formation is increasing, with greater emphasis on life skills and livelihood skills.</li> <li>New partnerships have emerged among education providers, industry and community leaders to promote relevant skills-based learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people, especially in Central and Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, face massive unemployment and often displacement.</li> <li>The majority of young people in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia lack the skills to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.</li> </ul>

Source: United Nations, 'We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children', Report of the Secretary-General, A/S-27/3, United Nations, New York, 4 May 2001.