

Ethiopia's recent MDG performance

- a summary from the 2014 MDG report *Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals* by ECA, AU, UNDP, AfDB

Ethiopia is frequently mentioned in this year's MDG report, mostly for positive reasons, as it exhibits a number of development strides. Comparing the share of the population in extreme poverty in 1995, the earliest available data, with 2011, the latest available data, reveals that Ethiopia has basically reached the MDG goal 1 and target 1A, of halving its extreme poverty from 60.5 to 30.7 percent (see the annex below).

One of the reasons Ethiopia has managed to reduce extreme poverty is a number of development-related investments, in particular agricultural efficiency and social protection schemes such as the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). These interventions re-emphasize the need for inclusive growth that embraces sectoral productivity and growth. In relation, this year's report suggests that Ethiopia exhibits a relatively sound mix between micro- and macro-economic policies, which seem to have contributed to improving the socioeconomic environment, and thereby reduced poverty and improved development levels in general.

In addition, Ethiopia is one of the region's best performers in reducing hunger; between 1990 and 2013 the country's hunger index was reduced by 39 percent. Also, in terms of goal 2, primary school enrollment more than tripled from 23.2 percent in 1995 to 87.4 percent in 2011.

With respect to Goal 3, Ethiopia's performance has been positive. For instance, it is one of the 16 African countries with a female representation of over 30 percent in non-agricultural sectors. Furthermore it is very close (i.e., four percentage points) to reaching the MDG target of at least 30 percent women in national parliaments.

Ethiopia is also one of the few African countries on track to reduce under-five mortality (U5MR) by two-thirds by 2015. Furthermore, Ethiopia has made significant progress reducing the maternal mortality rate (MMR) through the use of low-cost impact interventions. The use of the community health extension programme, which provides health care services in rural areas has been critical to success in this area. The programme has succeeded in bringing services closer to the people, particularly rural dwellers who historically have had challenges in accessing health services and who have contributed more to the MMR than urban dwellers.

However, similar to Niger and Sudan, access to skilled birth attendants is low in Ethiopia. Less than 50 percent of births are overseen by a skilled birth attendant.

On the other hand, the country reduced its malaria incidence by 50 percent over the period 2000-2012 (goal 6, target 6C) and is also on track in meeting the MDG target 7C of halving the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The country has also been successful in reducing the practice of open defecation from 82 percent in 1990 to 34 percent in 2012. There is still a long way to go on MDG 7, however, considering that the proportion of Ethiopians using improved sanitation facilities is still very low (below 30 percent).

In terms of goal 8, Ethiopia exhibits a mixed performance. Its debt service figures depict a worrying trend, increasing from 2.1 percent of exports to 6.6 percent in 2012. And although the share of the population using internet grew by 30 percent between 2011 and 2012, the penetration level is among the lowest in the region: less than two percent of the population had internet access in 2012.

All in all, Ethiopia is one of better performers in the region, especially considering its initial conditions in 1990.

The key policy lesson from Ethiopia seems to be the adoption of a relatively inclusive growth approach by government officials, particularly over the past decade. However, there is room for broader and extended de-

velopment-oriented policies, considering the high economic growth trajectory exhibited by the country over the same time period.

ANNEX: Selected MDG indicators for Ethiopia, 1990-2011

| | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2011 |
|--|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Population below \$1 (PPP) per day, percentage | | 60.51 | 55.61 | 39.01 | 30.71 |
| Poverty gap ratio at \$1 a day (PPP), percentage | | 21.21 | 16.21 | 9.61 | 8.21 |
| Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day, percentage | | 55.11 (1994) | 50.97 (1998) | 34.98 (2003) | |
| Children under 5 moderately or severely underweight, percentage | | | 42 | 34.6 | 28.7 |
| Population undernourished, percentage | | 64.5 | 53.5 | 45.4 | 37.1 |
| Total net enrolment ratio in primary education, both sexes | | 23.2 | 40.4 | 62.7 | 87.4 |
| Primary completion rate, both sexes | | 15 | 23 | 43.2 | 57.8 |
| Gender Parity Index in primary level enrolment | 0.65 | 0.59 | 0.65 | 0.83 | 0.91 |
| Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector | | | | 43.82 | |
| Seats held by women in national parliament, percentage | | 7.7 | 21.4 | 27.8 | |
| Children under five mortality rate per 1,000 live births | 204 | 174.7 | 145.5 | 109.8 | 68.3 (2012) |
| Infant mortality rate (0-1 year) per 1,000 live births | 121.3 | 105.5 | 89.8 | 70 | 46.5 (2012) |
| Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births | 950 | 880 | 700 | 510 | |
| Births attended by skilled health personnel, percentage | | | 5.62 | 5.78 | 10.046 |
| People living with HIV, 15-49 years old, percentage | 1.3 | 3.1 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 1.4 |
| Proportion of land area covered by forest, percentage | 13.8 | | 12.5 | | |
| Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources, total | 14 | 20 | 29 | 38 | 49 |
| Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, total | 2 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 21 |
| ODA received in landlocked developing countries as percentage of their GNI | 8.4 | 11.62 | 8.46 | 15.71 | 11.28 |
| Debt service as percentage of exports of goods and services and net income | 37.6 | 18.3 | 14.5 | 2.1 | 4.5 |
| Internet users per 100 inhabitants | 0.0043 | 0.0043 | 0.0243 | 0.2243 | 1.481 (2012) |

Source: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), updates of 1 July 2014.