

# MDG Monitor – Q & A

## 1) What is the MDG Monitor?

The MDG Monitor is a new tool to track global and country-level progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It consolidates existing MDG data and information in a single place, and showcases it in ways that we hope will be accessible to a wide spectrum of audiences (e.g. via interactive maps and “Google Earth”). The overall objective is to make it easier for development practitioners, policymakers, journalists, students, etc., to find out how the world and individual countries are doing in their efforts to meet the MDGs by 2015.

## 2) How does it work?

The MDG Monitor is a website that can be found at [www.mdgmonitor.org](http://www.mdgmonitor.org) Its key components include:

- MDG Profiles: data and information on efforts to achieve the MDGs in over 130 developing countries. Country level data comes from national MDG reports, and narrative overviews are based upon information supplied by UNDP country offices.
- Interactive Maps: maps help users track progress both by geography (e.g. Africa) and by goal (e.g. primary education).
- News: the latest news on the MDGs and a searchable archive of MDG stories.

## 3) What is the “Google Earth layer”?

UNDP has partnered with Google to display MDG data on top of “Google Earth’s” map and satellite imagery. This is an additional way of showcasing country-level MDG data, and making it available to Google Earth’s 300 million users. MDG Monitor users simply to click on the Google Earth icon on the MDG Monitor homepage, download Google Earth and start “flying”...!

## 4) There are already several websites dedicated to the MDGs. What’s the value added of the MDG Monitor?

The MDG Monitor complements rather than duplicates efforts by the World Bank and others by focusing on country-level profiles, challenges and opportunities. This approach taps the unique strength of UNDP’s worldwide network of country offices, and the investments it has already made in national MDG reports. The MDG Monitor dovetails with ongoing efforts by UNDP HQ and Country Offices to increase awareness of the MDGs and be the “scorekeeper” of overall efforts.

## 5) What kind of data does the Monitor use? How often will it be updated?

The MDG Monitor showcases existing official data from a variety of sources. These include:

- The UN Human Development Report,
- The UN Statistics Division and DESA’s Population Division
- The World Bank’s World Development Indicators

The MDG Monitor does not produce any data of its own; it is a tool that sits on top of the latest

data available from others.

Some statistics displayed by the MDG Monitor may differ from those of national governments, and may therefore be subject to dispute. This is one of the reasons why all data displayed on the MDG Monitor is sourced (e.g. back to the World Bank or the UN Statistics Division). Any questions about the validity of data displayed via the MDG Monitor should be directed to the original source of the data.

The MDG Monitor will be continuously updates as new data becomes available.

#### **6) What about the narrative parts of the Country Profiles?**

Each MDG country profile contains a narrative overview and update on the status of the MDGs at in the country in question. Information for these narratives was supplied by UNDP Country Offices, often in consultation with governments counterparts and the UN Country Team.

#### **7) Why is UNDP involved in the Monitor?**

UNDP has an official mandate from UN to keep track of progress towards the MDGs. The MDG Monitor is part of UNDP's efforts to step up its role as MDG scorekeeper and key advocate of the MDGs.

Achieving the Goals is a global responsibility that must involve a wide range of public and private actors. "Track, Learn and Support", the overall framework for the MDG Monitor website, represent three essential pillars of efforts to achieve the MDGs. Development targets are not achievable without a clear understanding of the current situation of every country, or without a deep and detailed knowledge of their possibilities and potential.

#### **8) How much did the MDG Monitor cost?**

The MDG Monitor has an overall budget of US\$ 190,000 for production, launch and ongoing maintenance. UNDP has benefited from generous support from its partners, including a \$150,000 grant from the Cisco Foundation, and in kind support from Google.

#### **9) Shouldn't UNDP use the money in other kind of projects that actually help achieve the MDGs on the ground?**

We believe this investment is well placed because beating poverty and disease, and ensuring that children can go to school and get medical care is everyone's concern. The Monitor is designed to be an informative, learning and tracking instrument for development specialists, policy makers, community leaders, students and journalists. Only a concerted effort of international organizations, governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals will enable us globally to achieve the Goals. We believe that the Monitor can be part of the solution.

#### **10) Who are UNDP's partners?**

Following the MDG spirit, the MDG Monitor has been a collaborative public-private effort. Funding for the MDG Monitor and in-kind support has been provided by two leading technology companies: Google and CISCO. The MDG Monitor also represents a collaborative effort of several United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

**11) Why is the monitor so focused on developing countries? Why don't you offer detailed data about the MDG 8, which is relevant for rich countries?**

Developed countries must follow through on commitments to achieve the 0.7% GNI target for official development assistance by 2015, improve aid quality and predictability, and change trade policies to the benefit of poor countries, including a successful conclusion of the World Trade Organization's Doha Round negotiations. Every donor must issue forecasts for scaling up aid to reach the 2010 and 2015 aid commitments. However, there is still no reliable data about the impact of international cooperation on the MDGs. UNDP's Poverty Group is currently working to measure that impact. Results will be included in the Monitor as soon as that analysis is available.

**12) What are the future plans for the MDG Monitor?**

As countries continue along the path towards achieving the Goals, the Monitor will continue to track updates and provide users with new features that examine the current and future state of the MDGs. These features will include representation of forecasts and potential scenarios through animated charts and graphs. Visual representations of data will help educate users and increase awareness of the MDGs