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## Statistical Commission

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**Items for information: development indicators**

## Development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2014/219. The report describes the work carried out by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2014 in the following areas: improving methodology for the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, strengthening statistical capacity-building for national monitoring, preparing for the final evaluation of the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and supporting the intergovernmental discussion on the formulation of the sustainable development goals for the post-2015 development agenda.

The report further presents an assessment of data availability with respect to monitoring progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and describes the preparation of the yearly reports on progress towards achieving the Goals.

The Commission is invited to take note of the work carried out by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goals Indicators and on preparations for the post-2015 monitoring.

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\* E/CN.3/2015/1.



## **I. Introduction**

1. With the approach of the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs have scaled up their efforts towards compiling the necessary data for the final evaluation of the progress achieved towards achieving the Goals, and have actively supported the intergovernmental work on the formulation of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. The present report describes the activities of the Group on preparing for the final assessment reports and contributing to the discussion of the new development agenda.

2. The report also summarizes the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Statistics Division on improving the production of the Millennium Development Goals indicators through methodological advancement and capacity-building activities. The work carried out has been guided by Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 of 25 July 2006 on strengthening statistical capacity.

3. Furthermore, the report presents the annual assessment of data availability in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database and describes the preparation of the 2014 progress report, the 2014 Gender Chart, and related outputs on the Millennium Development Goals with a view to informing the public and policymakers on progress towards achieving the Goals.

## **II. Preparing for the final evaluation of the progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals**

4. In view of the upcoming 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group has started the work on filling data gaps and compiling information for a comprehensive and thorough evaluation of the progress towards achieving the Goals.

5. In preparation for the final reporting on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has reached out to more than 50 countries and offered technical support as well as some financial support to national statistics offices (NSOs) in conducting the fifth round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS5). The Cluster Surveys, which are one of the main sources for Millennium Development Goals monitoring on children's and women's health and on equity analysis, provide important information for well over 100 indicators, including more than 20 Millennium Development Goals indicators. Fieldwork for more than 20 surveys have been completed so far and key finding reports presenting national-level indicators are expected for all survey countries by the end of 2014.

6. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has assisted countries in assessing progress towards the Millennium Development Goals at the national level. To date, more than 400 nationally owned Millennium Development Goals reports have been published. In the final years, UNDP has been working with countries to produce the last round of national Millennium Development Goals

reports, which will provide a collective review and key lessons learned, to be applied to informing and shaping the post-2015 development agenda.

7. The World Health Organization (WHO) is collaborating with UNICEF to develop time series for maternal health indicators and malaria indicators between 1990 and 2015. The projected results for the year 2015 will be used to estimate global and regional figures for the final Millennium Development Goals reporting.

8. The World Bank has been constructing a global database by assembling and cleaning country-level household survey data. Through PovcalNet, an online poverty analysis tool, the World Bank will be able to provide estimates at regional level through 2015 for the final report. The Institute of Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UIS-UNESCO) has developed projections based on both short-term data (2007-2012) and longer-term data (1990-2012). For the 2015 report, a short-term model will be used for the projections at the regional and global levels. Many other members of the Group have also carried out work to improve monitoring for the 2015 reporting.

9. At both the twenty-fifth meeting, held in New York in February 2014, and the twenty-sixth meeting, held in Geneva in October 2014, of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, the Group discussed intensively how to prepare for the final global *Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*. The Group agreed on the following key elements:

(a) *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015* will be the final report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group. Since objectivity and simplicity are the strengths of the report, the 2015 report will be concise, with style and format similar to that of the previous reports;

(b) The report will focus on the overall achievements by 2015 in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and targets and cover lessons learned, the gaps and unfinished business;

(c) The report will examine the impact of the Millennium Development Goals on development by comparing the average annual progress rates of 1990-2000 and 2000-2015 for a few selected indicators;

(d) Projections for the year 2015 will be used in the final report at global and regional levels, whenever applicable;

(e) The Group will work collaboratively to explore the interlinkages among indicators, targets and goals and ensure coherence and consistency within the report;

(f) The 2015 report will include a two-page special feature on lessons learned from MDG monitoring for post-2015;

(g) On the last page, the report will insert a weblink entitled "Further readings" to a website where key relevant reports and publication will be listed;

(h) Tentatively, the report is scheduled to be launched in July 2015 at the opening of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council.

### **III. Supporting the formulation of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda**

10. During the year 2014, the members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Statistics Division carried out many activities in support of the formulation of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including contributions to the preparation of a compendium of 29 statistical notes as inputs to the deliberations of Member States on the sustainable development goals. Work was also carried out by the members of the Group encompassing suggestions for incorporating new technology into data collection, assisting in setting numerical targets for some of the sustainable development goals, preparing potential indicators, developing methodologies and establishing the baseline data for the new agenda in their respective special areas.

11. In March 2013, the Group summarized its over 10 years of experience in improving data and methodologies for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals and issued a paper that discussed lessons learned from global monitoring from a technical perspective. The paper provided critical inputs to the discussion on measurability and accountability of the post-2015 development agenda.

12. At the twenty-sixth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, its working mechanisms were reviewed. The Group proposed that the paper on lessons learned from Millennium Development Goals monitoring be revised and expanded to include a review of both the process and the technical aspects of the working mechanism of the Group, with an emphasis on where it works well and how to best bring the experiences forward into the mechanism of the new monitoring group. Producing such a paper is an essential step towards wrapping up the work of the Group and ensuring that the voice of the Group and its successful experiences in Millennium Development Goals monitoring are represented in the dialogues on the post-2015 development agenda.

13. Given the expanded scope of the sustainable development goals, the composition of the monitoring Group will obviously need to change and expand, but the commonality will remain statistics. A body similar to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators, with thematic subgroups, could have the responsibility for coordinating the monitoring of the new development agenda at the global and regional levels.

14. The Group realized that there exist unique challenges and issues in respect of monitoring the Millennium Development Goals at regional and national levels. Hence, the Group is also working on exploring and taking stock of experiences based on regional and national Millennium Development Goals monitoring.

15. Another activity undertaken by the Group in support of the monitoring under the new development agenda was to establish a subgroup on use of administrative data for monitoring development goals and targets. The main objective of the subgroup is to develop a sustainable statistics system in order to allow countries to monitor development progress on an ongoing basis and to promote better use of administrative databases and associated management information systems. The first meeting was held in New York on 25 February 2014. The subgroup concluded that:

(a) Administrative data, household survey data, establishment survey data, and other sources of data complement and supplement each other, and that they are all important data sources, each with its own strengths and limitations;

(b) Many of the indicators necessary to monitor progress towards achieving the new goals and targets will be derived from administrative data. The subgroup noted that existing administrative data have not been fully utilized until now and recommended promoting better access to and better use of those data sources so that core development statistics can be obtained on an ongoing basis and in real time. Household surveys should be used to collect data that are usually not available from other data sources;

(c) It is important to acknowledge different types of administrative systems that are in place, identify the key users and the degree of reliability and quality, and examine means of improving them so as to produce more timely and better-quality statistics. Improving administrative data requires a close and strong collaboration between national statistical offices and line ministries. The subgroup suggested that dialogues and the exchange of knowledge between the national statistical offices and the line ministries be encouraged and national statistics offices be involved in the design of administrative data. It will be useful to map out good examples and best practices derived from cases where indicators can be compiled based on existing data in the current administrative databases;

(d) Improvement in the use of administrative data for monitoring should start with the existing administrative systems, such as civil registration, education and health information management systems, which should then be expanded and developed with the objective of collecting data for not only administrative but also statistical purposes;

(e) The increasing attention focused on the post-2015 development agenda and the need for national-level accountability provide a golden opportunity to re-create and redevelop administrative systems so as to enable them to incorporate statistical values. The subgroup recommended that greater use be made of new technology to advance collection of basic data, such as civil registration and vital statistics, which provide many development indicators with important denominator/numerator information.

#### **IV. Improving capacity and methodology for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals indicators and indicators for the future development agenda**

16. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Statistics Division have continued to review countries' needs and identify priorities for improving countries' capacity to produce Millennium Development Goals indicators and other development indicators for national monitoring. In 2014, the members of the Group embarked on a number of activities aimed at improving the availability and quality of data for monitoring development through improvement of access to metadata and guidelines and provision of training workshops and programmes to help countries strengthen their statistical capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate data for development.

17. The Statistics Division continues to promote the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata EXchange (SDMX) for Millennium Development Goals indicators and

other development indicators. Through a project entitled “Improving the collation, availability and dissemination of national development indicators including MDGs”, funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Statistics Division conducted a workshop for the 11 participating countries in the area of development indicators exchange using SDMX. The Statistics Division also completed the last of a series of national workshops on the organization and compilation of metadata.

18. The five United Nations regional commissions are working to wrap up the United Nations Development Account project entitled “Strengthening statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing”. Since 2001, regional and interregional training workshops and conferences have been organized to increase the availability of up-to-date and comparable Millennium Development Goals data at the national, regional and global levels, improve statistical capacities and institutional coordination so as to invigorate the production of Millennium Development Goals indicators, decrease statistical discrepancies among national, regional and global sources on the Millennium Development Goals indicators, and strengthen regional Millennium Development Goals networks.

19. Besides the Development Account project, the regional commissions have provided further training and improved methodology for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has published “Getting the facts right”, a guide to providing metadata for development indicators, in both English and Russian. ECE has been developing standards and models for improving the quality, timeliness and efficiency of the production of Millennium Development Goals and other indicators, including, for example, the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM), the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) and the Common Statistical Production Architecture. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) has organized subregional workshops and conducted thematic studies for assessing progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and considering challenges and opportunities for monitoring the post-2015 development agenda.

20. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>1</sup> new software (NAIIS) was recently released to help countries prepare greenhouse gas data. Regional hands-on training workshops on the use of NAIIS were organized for developing countries. The UNFCCC secretariat has initiated a pilot initiative to provide technical assistance to a group of seven non-Annex I Parties from the West African region. Over the three-year period 2014-2017, the participating countries will be able to benefit from targeted technical support in preparing their national greenhouse gas inventories.

21. UNICEF continues to help countries build capacity in monitoring progress on the situation of children and women. In 2014, UNICEF conducted six MICS workshops on survey design, data interpretation, further analysis and dissemination, with the participation of over 50 countries. Beyond the workshops context, technical teams are supporting the survey countries in the areas of sampling, data processing and household survey implementation. UNICEF has also carried out regional workshops and country missions on measurement and analysis of child mortality

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

and out-of-school children, and technical consultations on violence against children and child marriage.

22. WHO and UNICEF are working together on capacity-building for final Millennium Development Goals assessment and post-2015 planning under the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). Country missions have been organized to align methods and definitions and reconcile estimates. The Joint Monitoring Programme has provided support to MICS regional workshops by rolling out the water quality testing module in six countries, and to regional monitoring platforms in Africa and Asia. The Programme also provided support to the office of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

23. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized national workshops and a regional workshop, mainly for the African region, to strengthen the capacity of national statistical institutions to conduct food security assessments. The Voices of the Hungry project has developed a new experience-based metric of household and individual food insecurity (the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)) which can be used to measure the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity in the country, in a globally comparable way. The project collected information through the Scale in 150 countries in 2014 through the Gallup World Poll. A first report with rates of moderate and severe food insecurity will be ready by early in the second quarter of 2015. These new indicators are ideal for monitoring progress in reducing food insecurity across all countries in the world, including developed countries, in a way that is timely and comparable, and consistent with universal and ambitious targets of eradicating hunger and food insecurity.

## **V. Assessment of data availability on Millennium Development Goals indicators**

24. At the request of the Statistical Commission, the Statistics Division has regularly monitored the nature and availability of data in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database (<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>) since 2006. This assessment has served as an indirect measure of countries' capacity to produce the necessary data for Millennium Development Goals indicators. However, when countries' coverage in the database is being considered, it is important to bear in mind that not all data produced at the national level reach the international statistical system, mainly because of the inadequacy of existing reporting mechanisms, and that some of the data are the result of estimates produced by international organizations.

25. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group, together with other development partners, has launched many initiatives and activities to help countries strengthen their statistical capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate data for monitoring development and improve the dialogue between national and international experts. These initiatives have yielded tangible results. Increasingly, data production in countries has become aligned with internationally agreed recommendations and standards, and international organizations have developed a better understanding of data availability in countries and have included national experts when developing and applying methodologies for the production and estimation of the indicators.

26. Progress in data production in countries, improvements in the reporting of countries to the international statistical system, and organizations' increased access to and understanding of existing national sources have resulted in a greater availability of data in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators Database. Table 1 presents the availability of data for the assessment of trends, measured as the number of countries that have data before and after the year 2000 (at least one data point) in the database. Availability of trend data is shown as of 2003, 2006 and 2014.<sup>2</sup> In order that the current status of the data availability may be compared with that in 2003, only a subset of indicator series is considered, which includes those that have remained unchanged over the years in terms of definitions and methods of reporting. The number of countries for which data are available for a large number of indicator series has continued to increase over the years. In particular, the number of countries with trend data for 16-22 series increased from 0 in 2003, to 84 in 2006 and to 114 in 2014. Meanwhile, between 2003 and 2014, the number of countries with trend data for only 0-5 series fell from 47 to only 7.

Table 1  
**Number and proportion of countries and territories of developing regions in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database, by number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible<sup>a</sup>**

Number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible <sup>b</sup>	Countries and territories					
	As of July 2003		As of July 2006		As of July 2014	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
0-5	47	29	15	9	7	4
6-10	66	40	22	13	11	7
11-15	50	31	42	26	31	19
16-22	0	0	84	52	114	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>a</sup> The criterion used to determine if trend analysis is possible for a given indicator series is whether the country has data for the given series for at least one point before 2000 and one after 2000.

<sup>b</sup> Referring to the indicator series for which the reporting is done for countries and territories of developing regions. The calculation for the indicator series on donor countries is presented separately.

27. Improvement of overall data availability, irrespective of whether the data points exist before or after 2000 is even greater, reflecting a faster improvement in data availability during more recent years. There were 129 countries in 2014 displaying data for two points in time for 16-22 series, up from only 4 countries in 2003 (see table 2).

<sup>2</sup> A brief description of the methodology for the assessment of data availability in the MDG Indicators Database is presented in annex I. The complete results of the analysis are available from the website of the Statistical Commission (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2015.htm>).



**Table 2**  
**Number and proportion of countries and territories of developing regions in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database, by number of indicator series with at least two data points<sup>a</sup>**

<i>Number of indicator series with at least two data points<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Countries and territories</i>					
	<i>As of July 2003</i>		<i>As of July 2006</i>		<i>As of July 2014</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage<sup>c</sup></i>
0-5	31	19	9	6	3	2
6-10	49	30	19	12	10	6
11-15	79	48	31	19	21	13
16-22	4	2	104	64	129	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>a</sup> The two points in time considered in this table refer to any time, irrespective of whether it is before or after 2000.

<sup>b</sup> Referring to the indicator series for which the reporting is done for countries and territories in developing regions. The calculation for the indicator series for donor countries is presented separately.

<sup>c</sup> Total does not equal 100 owing to rounding of percentages.

28. A more comprehensive assessment of current data availability can be conducted on the totality of the indicator series, as appears in the most recent update of the database. Table 3 presents 55 indicator series in the database reported for 163 countries in the developing regions. As of July 2014, about 48 and 53 countries have furnished the trend data for 31-40 series and 41-55 series, respectively.

**Table 3**  
**Number of countries and territories of developing regions available in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database, by number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible, as of July 2014<sup>a</sup>**

<i>Number of indicator series</i>	<i>Countries and territories</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
0-10	7	4
11-20	18	11
21-30	37	23
31-40	48	29
41-55	53	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>a</sup> The criterion used to determine if trend analysis is possible for a given indicator series is whether the country has data for the given series for at least one point before 2000 and one after 2000.

29. Table 4 presents the availability of indicator series related to specific groups of countries — such as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and donor countries — in the database as of July 2014.

Table 4

**Data availability for specific groups of countries in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database, as of July 2014**

<i>Indicator series</i>	<i>Number of countries</i>	<i>Period</i>
<b>A. Indicator series related to ODA from the 28 donor countries</b>		
8.1 Net official development assistance (ODA), total, as percentage of donors' gross national income (GNI)	28	1990-2013
8.1 Net ODA, to least developed countries, as percentage donors' GNI	28	1990-2012
8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donors to basic social services	25	1996-2012
8.3 Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	24	1990-2012
8.9 Proportion of ODA to help build trade capacity	23	2005-2012
8.8 Agricultural support estimates	14 <sup>a</sup>	1990-2012
<b>B. Indicator series related to the 32 landlocked developing countries</b>		
8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their GNI	29	1990-2012
	3	2001-2011
<b>C. Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States</b>		
8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their GNI	30	1990-2012
	1	1990-2011
	1	1990-2010
	1	1990-2009
	1	1990-2008
	2 <sup>b</sup>	1990-1995
<b>D. Indicator series related to 39 eligible HIPC initiative countries</b>		
8.10 Number of countries that have reached their Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) decision and completion points	36 <sup>c</sup>	2000-2012
8.11 Debt relief committed under the HIPC Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI)	36 <sup>c</sup>	updated every year

<sup>a</sup> Referring to 14 OECD countries.

<sup>b</sup> No more ODA has been received by Singapore and the Bahamas since 1995.

<sup>c</sup> Data not available for 3 pre-decision-point countries (Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan).

30. It should be noted that some of the data are the results of estimates produced by the international organizations to fill some of the data gaps. To enable assessment of the exact extent to which the data in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database reflect the actual capacity of countries to produce the

necessary data, the colour coding in the database allows data produced by countries to be distinguished from adjusted data or estimates.

31. The assessment shown in table 5 indicates the nature of the data of the Millennium Development Goals indicator series. First, the nature of the data for a country for a specific series is evaluated. In order for a country to be designated as falling into a given category for the specific series, the majority of data points must be in that category. Second, evaluation of the nature of an indicator series is dependent on the nature of the data in the majority of countries. The majority of indicator series are based on data from countries with no or minimum adjustment. There are, however, still 15 indicator series for which the majority of data points are estimated by the international organization and one indicator series for which most data points are derived through a model. A complete list of series under each category and related data availability are presented in annex II.

Table 5  
**Number and proportion of Millennium Development Goals indicator series by nature of the data available in the majority of countries in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database, as of July 2014**

<i>Nature of data<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Indicator series</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>Indicator series reported for countries and territories of the developing regions</b>		
Country data	32	58
Country-adjusted	3	5
Estimated	15	27
Modelled	1	2
Global monitoring data	4	7
Not available	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Indicator series related to ODA from the 28 donor countries</b>		
Country data	6	100
<b>Indicator series related to the 32 landlocked developing countries</b>		
Country data	1	100
<b>Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States</b>		
Country data	1	100
<b>Indicator series related to 39 eligible HIPC Initiative countries</b>		
Global monitoring data	3	100

<sup>a</sup> The coding of the nature of data can be found in annex II.

32. For data to feed into the public and political debates on the current situation, they have to be sufficiently recent. International organizations have improved their communication with national statistical systems and made efforts to compile and release the international data series on the Millennium Development Goals as early as possible at every round of reporting. All indicators have data for the year 2005 or later. There remains however a delay of at least two years for most of the indicators,

with only seven indicator series with data for 2013 and one with data for 2014 (see table 6).

Table 6  
**Number and proportion of indicator series by latest available year in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database, as of July 2014**

<i>Latest available year</i>	<i>Indicator series</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>Indicator series reported for countries and territories of the developing regions</b>		
2005-2009	3	5
2010	16	29
2011	7	13
2012	21	38
2013	7	13
2014	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Indicator series related to ODA from the 28 donor countries</b>		
2012	5	80
2013	1	20
<b>Indicator series related to the 32 landlocked developing countries</b>		
2012	1	100
<b>Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States</b>		
2012	1	100
<b>Indicator series related to 39 eligible HIPC Initiative countries</b>		
2012	3	100

## VI. Millennium Development Goals reporting in 2014

33. The Secretary-General launched *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014* in New York on 7 July 2014. The report presents the yearly assessment of global progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, based on regional and subregional figures on the official Millennium Development Goals indicators provided by the partner organizations. The data and analysis presented in the report were also used as an input to the report by the Secretary-General on work of the Organization (A/69/1), submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. The report contains a statistical annex with all the official figures on the Millennium Development Goals indicators. An assessment of regional and subregional progress toward achieving the goals was presented in the 2014 Millennium Development Goals Progress Chart.

34. As part of the activities designated to mark the 500-day countdown towards the target date of the Millennium Development Goals, the Statistics Division prepared a video which reflected on the current state of progress towards the

achievement of the Goals. The Division has also launched a visualization site for the Millennium Development Goals indicators.

35. The Millennium Development Goals Gender Chart 2014 was launched at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York on 10 March 2014 by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Chart focuses on the situation of women towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and highlights inequalities between women and men looking at wealth, location, ethnicity and other relevant factors.

## **VII. Conclusions and the way forward**

36. **The Statistical Commission may wish to take note of the work carried out by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs during 2014 in implementing the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 and the requests by the Commission at its forty-fifth session on the improvement of data and indicators with respect to monitoring the Millennium Development Goals.**

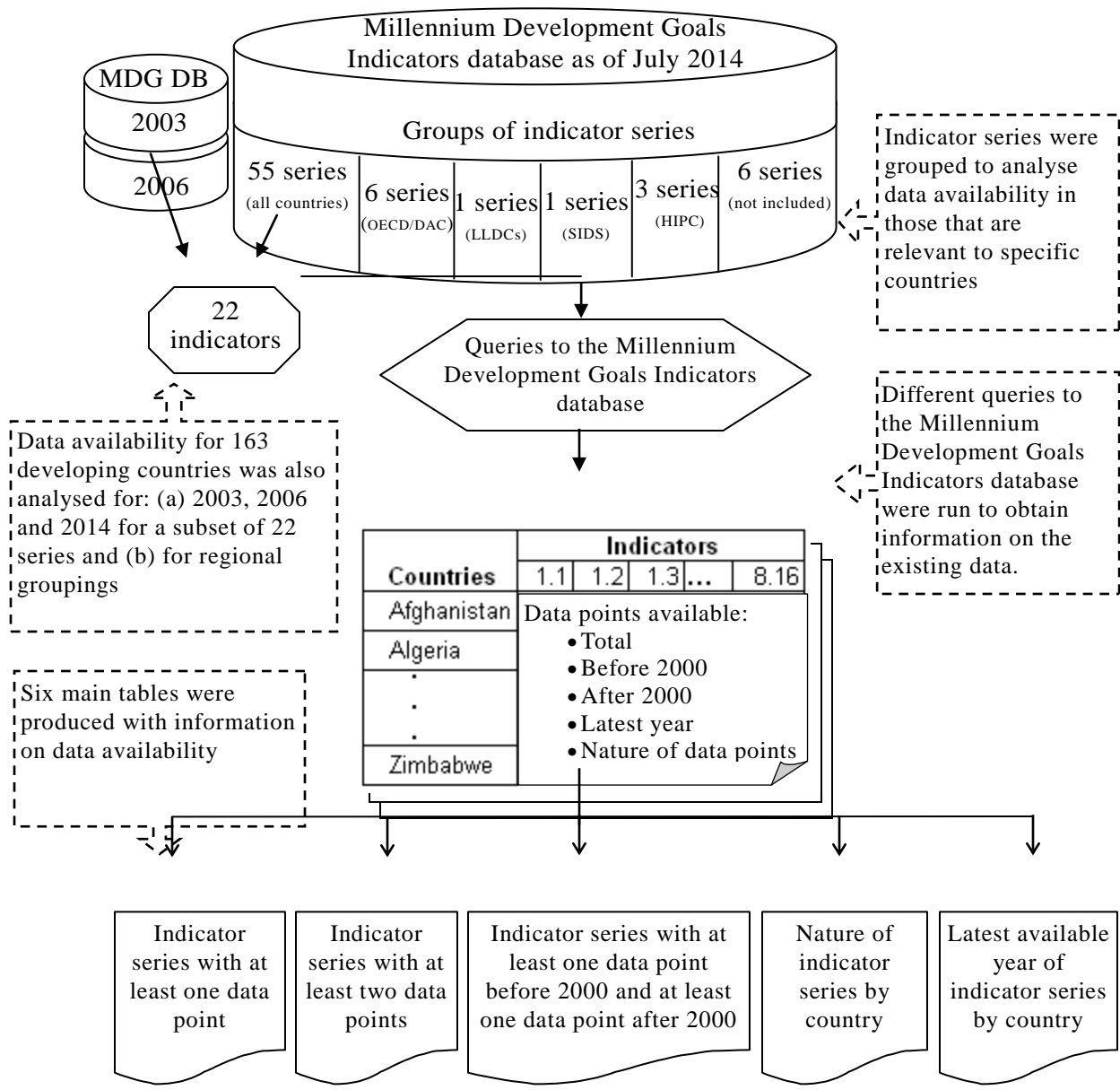
37. **The Commission may also wish to take note of the proposed next steps:**

- **Prepare for the final evaluation of progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals**
- **Continue to review lessons learned from Millennium Development Goals monitoring with a view to contributing to the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda**
- **Continue to provide training to strengthen countries' capacity to monitor development**

## Annex I

### **Assessment of data availability in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database (MDG DB)**

1. A total of 66 indicator series were included in the analysis of data availability (see list A). For the assessment of progress in the availability of data over time (between 2003 and 2014), the analysis has been conducted on a subgroup of 22 key series. Considering a smaller set of indicators has the following advantage: the assessment can be conducted over a longer period of time, providing a clearer indication of how data production has evolved since the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals began. The analysis is based on the information available at the time the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database is regularly updated (July of each year).
2. Of the 66 series, 55 are relevant to all 163 developing countries included in the database, while the remaining refer to specific groups of countries as follows:
  - (a) Six series relevant to 28 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donor countries;
  - (b) One series relevant to the 32 landlocked developing countries (LLDCs);
  - (c) One series relevant to the 51 small island developing States (SIDS);
  - (d) Three series relevant to the 39 HIPC Initiative countries.
3. The remaining six indicator series were not included: because data are not reported (one series); because the indicators refer to an aggregated level (four series); or because the reporting started in 2010 (one series).
4. The following chart describes the steps followed to process the information:



## List A. Millennium Development Goals Indicators included in data availability analysis

### Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions

- 1.1 Proportion of population below \$1.25 purchasing power parity (PPP) per day
- 1.2 Poverty gap ratio
- 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
- 1.4 Growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed
- 1.5 Employment-to-population ratio
- 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1.25 (PPP) per day
- 1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment
- 1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age\*
- 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
- 2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education\*
- 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary\*
- 2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds, women and men\*
- 3.1 Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
  - Gender parity index in primary-level enrolment\*
  - Gender parity index in secondary-level enrolment\*
  - Gender parity index in tertiary-level enrolment\*
- 3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector\*
- 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament\*
- 4.1 Under-5 mortality rate
- 4.2 Infant mortality rate
- 4.3 Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles
- 5.1 Maternal mortality ratio
- 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- 5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate\*
- 5.4 Adolescent birth rate
- 5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)
  - Antenatal care coverage, at least one visit
  - Antenatal care coverage, at least four visits
- 5.6 Unmet need for family planning
- 6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years\*



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- 6.2 Condom use at the last high-risk sex
    - Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24-year-olds, men
    - Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24-year-olds, women
    - Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old\*
  - 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
    - Men 15-24-year-olds with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
    - Women 15-24-year-olds with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
  - 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years
  - 6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs
  - 6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets
  - 6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs
  - 6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
    - Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population
    - Tuberculosis prevalence rate per 100,000 population\*
    - Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population\*
  - 6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment, short-course (DOTS)
    - Tuberculosis detection rate under DOTS\*
    - Tuberculosis treatment success rate under DOTS\*
  - 7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest
  - 7.2 Carbon dioxide emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)\*
  - 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances
    - Consumption of all ozone-depleting substances in ozone-depletion potential (ODP) metric tons
    - Consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in ODP metric tons\*
  - 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used
  - 7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected
  - 7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source\*
  - 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility\*
  - 7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums

- 8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
- 8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population\*
- 8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population
- 8.16 Internet users per 100 population\*

**Indicator series related to ODA from the 28 donor countries**

- 8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income
  - Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' GNI
  - Net ODA to least developed countries as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' GNI
- 8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
- 8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance (ODA) of OECD/DAC donors that is untied
- 8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product (GDP)
- 8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

**Indicator series related to the 32 landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)**

- 8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes

**Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States (SIDS)**

- 8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes

**Indicator series related to 39 eligible HIPC Initiative countries**

- 8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)
- 8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives
  - Debt relief committed under HIPC Initiative, cumulative
  - Debt relief delivered in full under MDRI Initiative, cumulative

**List B. Indicator series not included in data availability analysis**

**Indicator series with data reported only at the regional or global level**

- 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
- 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction

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- 8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty
- 8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries

**Indicator series for which data reporting started in 2010**

- 6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria

**Indicator series for which no data are reported**

- 8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

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\* Series included in data availability analysis for 2003, 2006 and 2014.

*Abbreviations:* OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; DAC, Development Assistance Committee; HIPC, heavily indebted poor countries; PPP, purchasing power parity; GDP, gross domestic product; DOTS, directly observed treatment short-course; ODP, ozone-depletion potential; CFC, chlorofluorocarbons; GNI, gross national income; MDRI, Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

## Annex II

## Data availability in the Millennium Development Goals Indicators database, by country coverage and nature of data

<i>Millennium Development Goals indicators</i>	<i>Countries with at least 1 data point</i>		<i>Countries with at least 2 data points</i>		<i>Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000</i>		<i>Nature of data<sup>a</sup></i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	
<b>Indicator series reported for developing regions</b>							
<b>C = Country data</b>							
1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed	67	41	63	39	42	26	C
1.5 Employment-to-population ratio	136	83	110	67	90	55	C
1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day	102	63	72	44	63	39	C
1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment	116	71	92	56	62	38	C
1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	120	74	112	69	102	63	C
2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education	142	87	133	82	109	67	C
2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary	136	83	123	75	101	62	C
2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds, women and men	129	79	115	71	74	45	C
3.1 Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education							
Gender parity index in primary-level enrolment	153	94	150	92	135	83	C
Gender parity index in secondary-level enrolment	151	93	145	89	126	77	C
Gender parity index in tertiary-level enrolment	143	88	138	85	114	70	C
3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	155	95	119	73	90	55	C
3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	135	83	135	83	125	77	C
5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	136	83	134	82	120	74	C
5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate	130	80	117	72	96	59	C
5.4 Adolescent birth rate	162	99	162	99	158	97	C
5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)							
Antenatal care coverage, at least four visits, percentage	102	63	68	42	50	31	C
Antenatal care coverage, at least one visit, percentage	134	82	120	74	97	60	C
5.6 Unmet need for family planning	102	63	73	45	60	37	C
6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex							
Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24-year-olds, men, percentage	58	36	37	23	15	9	C
Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24-year-olds, women, percentage	65	40	46	28	14	9	C
Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49-year-olds, percentage	130	80	111	68	89	55	C

Millennium Development Goals indicators	Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS							
Men 15-24-year-olds with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, percentage	71	44	40	25	2	1	C
Women 15-24-year-olds with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, percentage	99	61	65	40	6	4	C
6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years	66	40	48	29	26	16	C
6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets	56	34	43	26	2	1	C
6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs	60	37	49	30	4	2	C
6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment, short-course (DOTS)							
Tuberculosis treatment success rate under DOTS, percentage	155	95	153	94	146	90	C
7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest	160	98	160	98	160	98	C
7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances							
Consumption of all ozone-depleting substances in ODP metric tons	138	85	137	84	137	84	C
Consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs in ozone-depleting potential (ODP) metric tons	138	85	137	84	137	84	C
7.5 Proportion of total water resources used	120	74	76	47	57	35	C
<b>CA = Country-adjusted</b>							
8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services	102	63	102	63	96	59	CA
8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population	158	97	158	97	156	96	CA
8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population	158	97	158	97	157	96	CA
<b>E = Estimated</b>							
1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	106	65	106	65	106	65	E
4.1 Under-five mortality rate	139	85	139	85	139	85	E
4.2 Infant mortality rate	139	85	139	85	139	85	E
4.3 Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles	139	85	139	85	138	85	E
6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years	93	57	93	57	93	57	E
6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs	90	55	89	55	0	0	E

Millennium Development Goals indicators	Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis							
Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population	156	96	156	96	155	95	E
Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	156	96	156	96	155	95	E
Tuberculosis prevalence rate per 100,000 population	156	96	156	96	155	95	E
6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment, short-course							
Tuberculosis detection rate under DOTS	156	96	156	96	153	94	E
7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected	159	98	159	98	151	93	E
7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	155	95	155	95	154	94	E
7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	155	95	155	95	152	93	E
7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums	87	53	59	36	48	29	E
8.16 Internet users per 100 population	158	97	155	95	154	94	E
<b>M = Modelled</b>							
5.1 Maternal mortality ratio	128	79	128	79	128	79	M
<b>G = Global monitoring data</b>							
1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day	96	59	76	47	67	41	G
1.2 Poverty gap ratio	96	59	76	47	67	41	G
1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	105	64	77	47	67	41	G
7.2 Carbon dioxide emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)	154	94	154	94	152	93	G
<b>Indicator series related to ODA from the 28 donor countries</b>							
<b>C = Country data</b>							
8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income							
Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	28	100	28	100	26	93	C
Net ODA to least developed countries as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	28	100	28	100	26	93	C
8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)	25	89	25	89	22	79	C
8.3 Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	24	86	24	86	19	68	C
8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their GDP	14	50	14	50	14	50	C
8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity	23	100	23	100	0	0	C

Millennium Development Goals indicators	Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data <sup>a</sup>
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
<b>Indicator series related to the 32 landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)</b>							
<b>C = Country data</b>							
8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes	32	100	32	100	30	94	C
<b>Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States (SIDS)</b>							
<b>C = Country data</b>							
8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes	36	71	36	71	32	63	C
<b>Indicator series related to 39 eligible HIPC Initiative countries</b>							
<b>G = Global monitoring data</b>							
8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)	39	100					G
8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives <sup>b</sup>							
Debt relief committed under HIPC Initiative (cumulative)	36	92					G
Debt relief delivered in full under MDRI Initiative (cumulative)	36	92					G

*Abbreviations:* GDP, gross domestic product; DOTS, directly observed treatment, short-course; ODP, ozone-depletion potential; CFC, chlorofluorocarbons; PPP, purchasing power parity; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; DAC, Development Assistance Committee; ODA, official development assistance; HIPC, heavily indebted poor countries; MDRI, Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

<sup>a</sup> The coding of the nature of data is as follows:

C = country data. The figure is the one produced and disseminated by the country (including data adjusted by the country to meet international standards).

CA = country-adjusted. The figure is the one produced and provided by the country, but adjusted by the international organization for international comparability, that is, to comply with internationally agreed standards, definitions and classifications (age groups, International Standard Classification of Education, etc.).

E = estimated. The figure is estimated by the international organization, when corresponding country data on a specific year or set of years are not available, or when multiple sources exist, or when there are issues of data quality. Estimates are based on national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources, but on the same variable being estimated.

M = modelled. The figure is modelled by the organization when there is a complete lack of data on the variable being estimated. The model is based on a set of covariates, i.e., other variables for which data are available and that can explain the phenomenon.

G = global monitoring data. The figure is regularly produced by the designated organization for global monitoring, based on country data. However, there is no corresponding figure at the country level, because the indicator is defined for international monitoring only (example: population below \$1 a day).

NA = not available. The nature of the data is unknown or was not provided.

<sup>b</sup> Data on the cumulative debt relief committed are updated every year.