



CHINA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2008 REPORT



Published Jointly by
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
United Nations System in China

© Copyright

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 2008

中华人民共和国外交部, 2008

United Nations System in China, 2008

联合国驻华系统, 2008

All rights reserved. Information from this booklet may be freely reproduced as long as credit is given.

保留所有权利。本出版物所在信息可自由复制，但须标明出处。

Note: Data used in this report are from official Chinese government sources except where otherwise indicated.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	2
Foreword	4
Introduction to the MDGs	7
China's Development During 30 Years of Reform and Opening Up	8
China's Development Strategy and the MDGs	11
Human Development in China	13
Assessment of China's MDG Progress	15
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	16
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	28
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	33
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	39
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	44
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	49
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	56
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	67
Conclusion	73

PREFACE

Ever since its founding, the United Nations has regarded promotion of development as one of its key tasks. For decades, UN has dedicated itself to the cause of global development and made positive contribution. In the year 2000, world leaders gathered in New York and adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, laying the foundation for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a roadmap and timetable for realizing the global aspiration for development. In the past eight years, good progress has been made in the implementation of these Goals thanks to the unremitting efforts of the international community—yet huge challenges remain. In this year of mid-term review of progress towards the MDGs, we hope that the UN High-Level Event on the MDGs in September will serve as a catalyst for further accelerating efforts to reach the Goals.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary for China's process of reform and opening up, during which remarkable economic and social progress has been achieved. With development its first priority, China has set its own goal of building a moderately prosperous society (Xiaokang) in an all-round way, which is fundamentally in line with the MDGs. After years of hard work, China has ahead of schedule met the MDG targets of halving the impoverished population and providing universal primary education, and has made fairly fast progress in other areas such as health and gender equality. China will very likely achieve all MDGs by 2015. As a major developing country home to one fifth of the world's population, China's success will be in itself the biggest contribution to world stability and development as well as the attainment of the MDGs globally.

On the other hand, China faces quite a few challenges in the course of development and still has a long way to go before fully achieving the MDGs. The Chinese Government will continue to apply the scientific outlook on development, featuring comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development, follow a people-oriented approach, strengthen overall coordination and work to build a harmonious socialist society of moderate prosperity in an all-round way.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, in collaboration with the UN System in China, previously published reports on China's progress towards the MDGs in 2003 and 2005. The 2008 report, again co-authored by the two sides, contains updated information and some additions. It is a summary of China's economic and social development during its 30 years of reform and opening up as well as a review of China's latest progress towards the various MDGs. It also points out problems and challenges China has encountered in achieving the MDGs and puts forward recommendations for future action.

This report, the latest outcome of the productive cooperation between the Chinese

Government and the UN System in China, is another testament to their sound partnership. In its drafting process, the UN system in China played an active part, providing rich materials and valuable advice. I wish to thank them for their contribution. I am sure this co-authored report will give a strong boost to China's cooperation and exchanges with the United Nations and help China draw on the good practices and experiences of other countries.

We have already passed the half-way point to the target date of the MDGs. The Chinese Government will continue to work for the timely achievement of the MDGs in China and make its own contribution to the common cause of development worldwide.



Liu Jieyi
Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs
The People's Republic of China

FOREWORD

In 2008 the world marks the mid-point of the 15 year period for achievement of the global Millennium Development Goals. On this occasion many world leaders are gathering in New York to review progress that has been made since the historic Millennium Declaration of 2000, and reconfirm their commitment to greater attainments between now and 2015. At such a moment this report, which assesses China's MDG accomplishments and lays out new challenges for the future is timely and significant both for China and for the entire world.

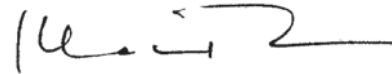
This report presents China's outstanding record of rapid and broad-based development over the 30 years since the beginning of the reform and opening up era in China in 1978. China's poverty reduction achievements have been particularly remarkable. Since 1990 the number of poor people in China has fallen by more than 300 million, a great contribution to global progress toward MDG 1. In fact it is clear that without China's reduction in poverty it would be impossible for mankind to achieve the MDG target of halving the share of the population living in poverty. Even before 1990 China had already started sustained increases in standards of living. Since 1978 more than 600 million Chinese people have been lifted out of poverty, an achievement of staggering proportions.

With many MDGs already achieved and most others firmly on track China is moving beyond several of the MDG targets and setting more ambitious social goals suitable for an advancing middle income society. In its medium-term 5-year plans and in its longer term vision of achieving an all-around Xiao Kang society by the year 2020 the government is placing great emphasis on reducing widening internal inequalities, particularly in terms of income and access to good quality health care and education services. As part of China's emphasis on a balanced, scientific approach to development, the government is steadily increasing its investment of human and financial resources in the less advanced interior regions, particularly in the Western provinces, where human development indicators are still well behind those in the wealthier coastal regions.

In the area of poverty alleviation too, even after far exceeding the MDG target, there is still the vital task of lifting China's remaining poor people out of poverty, and ensuring that they and others who have risen out of poverty are protected by safety nets that prevent them from sliding back when hit by the loss of a job, or an illness, or a natural disaster. China has already demonstrated that it is determined to move strongly to build on its earlier achievements in poverty alleviation, and confront head-on these remaining challenges.

This report is the product of a strong collaboration between the UN in China and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which coordinated inputs from a large number of government agencies. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to colleagues on both the UN and government side who put so much hard work into this production.

The UN is honored to work in partnership with the Government of China in this effort, and we will continue to strengthen our support for China as it builds on the achievements of the last 30 years, and develops its own solutions to the new challenges that it faces.



Khalid Malik
UN Resident Coordinator



INTRODUCTION TO THE MDGS

At the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, 189 member states unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration. Subsequently, a universal set of development goals and targets was agreed and called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Spanning eight areas of social, economic and environmental importance, with specific targets using 1990 as the baseline and 2015 as the target year, the MDGs are a clear, comprehensive and authoritative set of global development goals.

Recognized and actively supported by a wide range of parties, the MDGs have become an important standard for measuring global development progress and organizing international development cooperation. Having set detailed targets and indicators for all eight goals, the UN regularly issues global progress reports to track their achievement. In addition, the UN system works with member states to draft national MDG progress reports to raise awareness, stimulate debate and promote further action for development. In China, the Government and the UN Country Team previously drafted national reports in 2003 and 2005.

This year marks both the 30th anniversary of the era of China's reform and opening

up, and the halfway point for the MDGs. The following report summarizes China's development over the past three decades and its MDG progress to date.



CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT DURING 30 YEARS OF REFORM AND OPENING UP

In the 30 years since 1978, when its reform era began, China has achieved a remarkable transformation from a closed and highly centralized planned economy to an open and dynamic market economy. While serious new challenges have also emerged, socialism with Chinese characteristics has fuelled growth that has caught the attention of the world and enabled a country of over a billion people to emerge from poverty and improve its socioeconomic development.

The first important element of China's progress has been sustained and rapid economic growth. The reform process unleashed productivity and gave strong momentum to the economy. From 1978 to 2007, China's GDP on average grew by 9.8 percent per year and now accounts for 6 percent of the world total, making China the fourth largest economy in the world. Per capita GDP has increased from 379 yuan in 1978 to 18,934 yuan in 2007. The structure of the economy has significantly improved and agricultural output has grown. With greater industrial production and expanded infrastructure, China has become a major global production hub. This has spurred rapid urbanization, with the urban share of the population

rising from 17.9 percent to 44.9 percent, as new centres of economic dynamism have emerged. All of these factors have produced a windfall for national finances, which have shot up from 113.2 billion yuan in 1978 to 5.13 trillion yuan in 2007. Foreign exchange reserves have risen from US \$167 million to US \$1.53 trillion. To ensure that the benefits from progress are broadly distributed, a comprehensive strategy for integrated regional development has sought to speed up development and boost the capacity for growth in central and western China.

A second important element in China's successful development has been the policy of opening all aspects of the economy, across all regions, to the outside world. Following its 2001 entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), China has become fully integrated into the global economy, increasing its international trade from US \$20.64 billion in 1978 to US \$2.17 trillion in 2007, and its global trading rank from 29th to 3rd place. In 1978, both foreign direct investment (FDI) in China and China's overseas investment were below US \$20 million, but in 2007 realized FDI outside the financial sector reached US \$74.77 billion, while

China's own overseas investment had grown to US \$18.72 billion. Increasing openness has greatly improved enterprise competitiveness and overall economic strength in China, while its active participation in international cooperation has contributed also to economic growth abroad.

A third aspect has been dramatic improvements in people's living conditions. Income levels have grown steadily at a rapid pace, and many people's lives have moved from a state of severe deprivation to a moderately well-off (or "Xiaokang" – the government's term for its goal of achieving a balanced and solidly middle income level of development) state. Between 1978 and 2007, urban disposable income per capita increased from 343.4 yuan to 13,785.8 yuan, while rural incomes grew from 133.6 yuan to 4,140.4 yuan—a more than six-fold increase in both even after adjustment for inflation. The share of food in spending for urban and rural residents fell from 57.5 percent to 36.3 percent and from 67.7 percent to 43.1 percent, respectively, between 1978 and 2007. The emphasis in overall spending has shifted from a focus on basic needs such as food and clothing, to more diverse consumption patterns including housing, travel, education, culture, health, and so on. The rate of extreme poverty in rural areas has fallen from 250 million to 14.79 million people, while public goods and services such as universal primary education, public and basic health care, cultural facilities, etc. have been greatly expanded.

Fourthly, the institutions of the socialist market economy have been established and are being continually improved.

An economic system centred on public ownership but where other ownership forms play an important role has been established. Rural reform moves steadily forward. Strategic adjustments to the national economy and the reform of state-owned enterprises are deepening, while the non-state sector is continually and rapidly developing and now accounts for over one-third of GDP. The role of the market in resource allocation has been established in a primary way, and an integrated national market system is being created. Capital markets have grown to a large scale, while other markets are being developed to allocate land, labour and technology. Public administration reforms have been broadened, and the function of the Government further shifted towards economic adjustment, market supervision, social administration and public services. A system for indirect macro-level control through economic and legal means has been set up and is being consistently improved, while progress is being made on the rule of law and access to information. Structural reform and institutional development in the social sector have achieved noteworthy results, as urban and rural social security systems are being gradually expanded and institutionalized protection has been established for the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups. There is a system in place whereby incomes are primarily distributed according to the contribution derived from economic inputs, in particular from labour, whilst a variety of other distribution systems also exist. Reforms of compulsory education, health care, housing security, etc. have steadily advanced.

China still faces plenty of new and

emerging challenges in its ongoing process of development, including low overall productivity, long-standing structural contradictions and a reliance on an extensive model of growth. These have not yet been fundamentally addressed; a number of institutional and instrument obstacles are still present. Nor has the trend of widening income disparities been reversed. The task of promoting a development model in which economic and social needs are properly balanced, and rural and urban as well as interregional gaps are reduced, remains rather difficult. The Government is steadfast in implementing a scientific development perspective and continues steadily pushing forward the process of reform and opening up. It aims to accelerate economic restructuring and alter the growth model, while increasing efforts to improve people's social security and well-being, resolve all problems that arise moving forward, and promote socioeconomic development in a sound and fast manner.



CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE MDGS

Each country striving to achieve the MDGs does so through its own policies and practices. China began developing its own development goals and indicators to measuring progress towards the Xiaokang Society in 1980. By 2002, the Government had raised the bar by making this concept broader and more comprehensive. China has integrated its drive to meet the MDGs into its efforts to create a Xiaokang Society by formulating five strategies:

1. Expand domestic demand

The eradication of poverty and hunger are key MDG targets. China recognizes that sustainable economic growth must be based on domestic demand, especially household consumption. By increasing household incomes, particularly for low-income groups in both rural and urban areas, strengthening social security and improving the overall economic environment, China has bolstered the role of domestic demand in economic growth, with positive results. During this process, China has met the basic needs of over 200 million people and achieved the MDG targets on poverty and hunger far ahead of schedule.

2. Continually improve the economic structure

Economic growth is fundamental to achieving any of the MDGs. China has always made structural reform the centrepiece of its economic growth strategy, with the following directions set out for adjustments to the industrial sector: (i) strengthening the role of agriculture by improving productivity, optimizing the production structure, developing agricultural processing and strengthening rural infrastructure; (ii) charting a new course for the industrial sector through increasing market orientation, expanding the role of enterprises, strengthening capacities for innovation, optimizing the structure of industrial production, improving the quality of capital goods, minimizing resource consumption, improving product quality and strengthening competitiveness; and (iii) further breaking monopolies, lowering barriers to entry, and focusing on developing modern and productive as well as traditional service industries that can grow in size and quality.

3. Maintain the protection of environmental resources as a basic state policy

Ensuring the sustainability of the environment is a key part of the MDGs. China's growth is still extensive, necessitating new strategies that save energy and protect the environment, and can bring about fundamental changes in the development model. China's longterm target is to establish a resourceefficient and environmentally friendly society. The main strategies to achieve this are to adjust the structure of the economy, enhance the ratio of the service industry and high-tech industry in the total economy, eliminate high energy consumption and high pollution production, promote energy-saving technology, develop a circular economy, protect and recover natural zoology, strengthen environmental protection, strengthen the legal system, improve price mechanisms and financial policies, and enhance people's saving awareness, with all levels of government taking the lead.

4. Continue the balanced development of urban and rural areas, and different regions

A key MDGs requirement is to balance development across different regions and areas. At the start of its reforms, China implemented a coastal development strategy, encouraging some regions to prosper first. But the development of the central and western regions has been slower, producing disparities between rural and urban areas and different regions in income levels, living conditions and access to public services. The Government has adopted strategies to develop the central and western regions,

along with the traditional industrial base in the northeast. Different regions have also implemented targeted policies to promote balanced distribution in terms of population, economic resources and the environment.

5. Persist in the strategy of development rooted in technology and education

Achieving universal primary education is a key target of the MDGs. China has long prioritized education, technological progress and innovation as primary development drivers, particularly to shift the economic growth model to draw more on technology and human capital. In so doing, the main strategy is to simultaneously strengthen compulsory education, vocational training and higher education, so as to move from being an economy mainly endowed with abundant labour towards one also rich with human capital. Strengthening the capacity for innovation is now the foundation for strategies to further develop science and technology. Investment in technology is continually raising; the share of research and development in total GDP is envisaged to rise from the current 1.34 percent to 2 percent in 2010 and 2.5 percent in 2020. China actively promotes international cooperation around technology, strengthens intellectual property protection and fosters a positive environment that encourages innovation.



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

Since the reform era began, China's human development index (HDI) has increased by nearly 50 percent, from 0.53 in 1978 to 0.777 in 2005. In comparative terms, this means the country has risen from being just over the group of low HDI countries to now being just short of the high HDI group (0.5 is the cut-off point for low development as defined by the UN). Relative to other countries at the same level of human development in 1980, China's HDI grew twice as fast as the average.

At the same time, China's income inequality is widening. The per capita income ratio between urban and rural residents dropped from 2.6:1 in 1978 to 1.9:1 in 1985 first, then rose to 3.3:1 in 2007. China's income inequality is now the second highest in Asia, and is reaching levels that pose risks for the sustainability of future development. Such gaps are particularly critical in view of the increasing burden placed on individuals in paying for things such as health care and higher education, implying that income

Key development indicators

Indicator	Value	Year	High province/ region	Low province/ region
Population size (1,000,000)	1,321	2007	94.49	2.84
Population growth rate (‰)	5.17	2007	1.53	11.78
Life expectancy at birth	72.95	2005	75.2	69.6
Real GDP per capita (yuan at current exchange)	18934	2007		
Population below international poverty line (%)	2.8	2004		
Estimates of HIV/AIDS prevalence	700,000	2007		
Reported cases of HIV infection	49606	2004		
Malaria prevalence rate (%)	6.53	2004		
Reported death due to malaria	31	2004		
Rural areas with improved water supply (%)	93.78	2004		
Rural access to clean drinking water (%)	60.02	2004		
Under-five mortality rate (‰)	18.1	2007		
Net primary enrolment ratio (%)	99.5	2007		
Percentage of girls in primary education (%)	99.52	2007		
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	33.6	2007		

inequalities lead to disparities in access to key public services. Since the turn of the century, China's leadership has focused considerable attention on a more balanced growth model that will start to narrow the gap between urban and rural citizens and between the wealthy coastal provinces and the poorer inland provinces. Reversing widening income gaps although rather difficult, remains one of major tasks for the Government in coming years.



ASSESSMENT OF CHINA'S MDG PROGRESS

Overall, China has made great progress in achieving the MDGs. Most targets have been met or exceeded seven years in advance, including for poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and infant and under-five mortality rates. China is also on track to reduce maternal mortality, and control HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis, with good hopes for achieving the MDG targets by 2015. As part of its contributions to MDG 8, China is an active partner in South-South cooperation, providing various forms of assistance to other developing countries.







Nonetheless, China clearly still faces huge challenges in achieving sustainable development, including still considerable environmental pressures, and regional and rural/urban gaps. Other development problems include an ageing population caused by population control and increased life expectancy. By 2035, 1 in 4 Chinese people will be 60 years or older. Rapid urbanization along with advances in technology, transportation, and communication have led to a decrease in physical activity, as well as to shifts to less physically intense occupations. As the threat of most communicable diseases subsides, the incidence of non-communicable diseases associated with these lifestyle changes is increasing.

But China is taking action to address these challenges. It has publicized them and set greater targets for the next seven years, going beyond the requirements of the MDGs. Among these targets, the most important ones relate to reducing disparities, especially those in income and access to high-quality health care and education. Building on past successes, and drawing on the experience and financial and human resources that the last three decades of rapid development have produced, China is now poised to move its social development ahead even more rapidly, beyond the original MDG targets and towards more ambitious goals suitable for an advancing middle-income society.

This report presents detailed discussion of progress on all eight MDGs. Every goal will be introduced in terms of its status and trends, supportive environment and potential MDGs gaps.



GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Targets	Prospects for achievement	Level of national support
Target 1a: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	Already met 	Strong 
Target 1b: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	Potentially 	Strong 
Target 1c: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Already met 	Strong 

In its 30 years of reform and opening up, involving almost a quarter of the world's population, China has aimed to get rid of poverty, and pursue harmonious development and common wealth. Poverty reduction successes have rested largely on the foundation of rural reforms that started in 1978. Poverty reduction and development programmes implemented since 1986 have further contributed to ensuring that basic living needs are met in poor rural areas. Since 2002, the Chinese Government has planned urban and rural development in a coordinated way, within a greater policy framework combining industrial, regional and social policies.

Since 2007, a minimum living standard allowances system has been nationally implemented in rural areas. Various other initiatives for structural reform, economic development, targeted poverty alleviation, urban/rural integration, etc. have jointly contributed to rapid strides in poverty reduction. As a result, the number of people in absolute rural poverty has fallen from 250 million in 1978 to 14.79 million in 2007.

China uses 9 percent of the world's cultivated land to feed 20 percent of the global population, making a great contribution to world grain security. Its

Table 1.1: Changes in Chinese grain production over 30 years

Year	Planted acreage (million hectares)	Tons of grain produced	Kilogrammes of grain per hectare
1978	121	305	2,527
1983	114	387	3,395
1984	113	407	3,608
1988	110	394	3,578
1993	111	456	4,130
1998	114	512	4,502
2002	104	457	4,399
2003	99	431	4,332
2004	102	469	4,621
2005	104	484	4,642
2006	105	497	4,716
2007	106	501	4,751

Source: Data for 1949-1973 are from the book *New China 50 Years' Agricultural Statistical Material* China Statistical Press.

total grain production increased from 305 million tons in 1978 to 501 million tons in 2007, with grain production rising from 2,527 to 4,751 kilogrammes per hectare (see Table 1.1). The average annual increase in agricultural production has been 6.7 percent, far above the world average. Average annual increases in the production of meat, eggs, fruit and aquatic products have exceeded 7 percent, with per capita production levels surpassing world averages. Productivity has thus kept up with steadily rising demand, fostering improvements in the nutrition of both urban and rural residents.

TARGET 1A: HALVE, BETWEEN 1990 AND 2015, THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IS LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR A DAY

Status and Trends

According to the government poverty line, the number of absolute poor in China's

rural areas fell from 85 million people in 1990 (9.6 percent of the total rural population) to 14.79 million people in 2007 (1.6 percent of the total rural population). China is the first developing country to achieve the MDG poverty reduction target before the proposed deadline. Measured by the common international poverty line of US \$1 per day, the share of China's rural population living in poverty was reduced from 46 percent in 1990 to 10.4 percent in 2005, also meeting the MDG target well ahead of time (see Figure 1.1).

Another indicator used for target 1a is the poverty gap ratio, which reflects not only how many poor people there are, but also how far below the poverty line their income is. China has achieved good results on this indicator, with the ratio falling by 75 percent between 1990 and 2005 (see Figure 1.2). Income gaps between urban and rural areas as well as across different regions of the country are still widening, however. In 1990, the

income ratio between China's urban and rural residents was 2.2 to 1 (1510.2 yuan vs. 686.3 yuan), while in 2007 it had grown to 3.33 to 1 (13,786 yuan vs. 4,140 yuan). In 2007, the per capita income of the officially designated poor counties was 2,278 yuan, 55 percent of the national rural average and only 16 percent of the urban average.

China's advances have made a significant contribution to global progress on poverty reduction. From 1990 to 2005, the number of people worldwide living on less than US \$1 per day fell by 418 million, or 23 percent, to 1.4 billion. Excluding China, however, the global poor population actually rose by 58 million people. China has actively participated in global poverty reduction outside its borders by providing international development assistance, exchanging poverty reduction experiences and fostering international cooperation, and offering other forms of

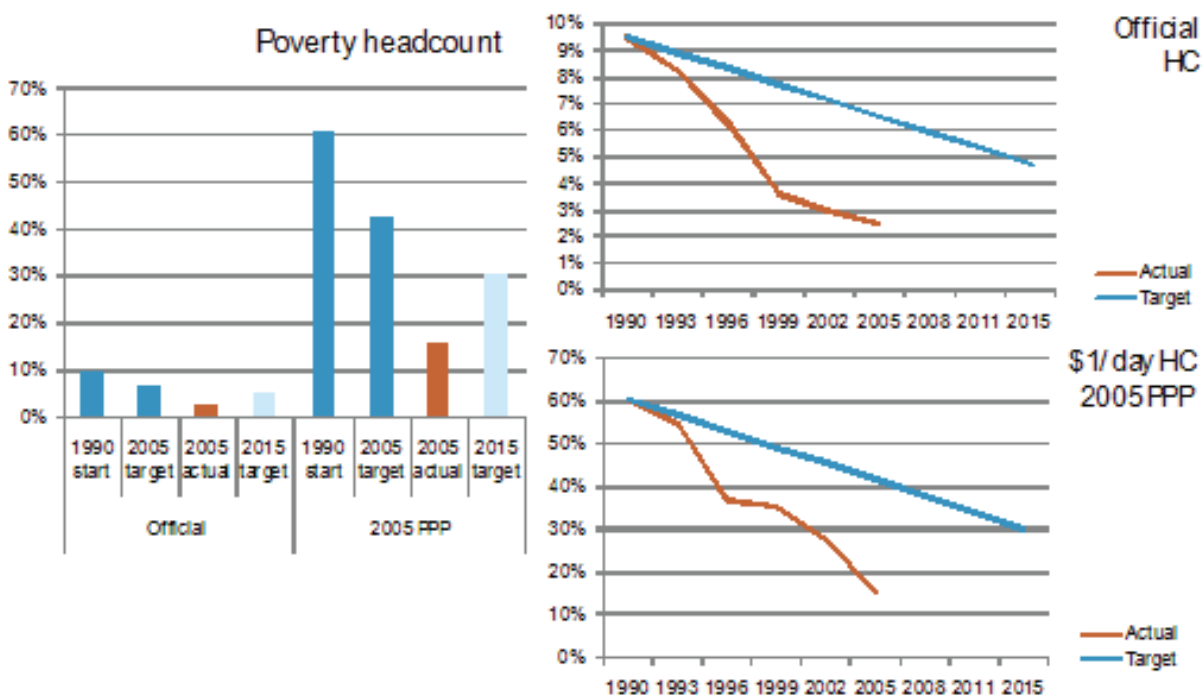
support to other developing countries and regions. While the picture changes slightly depending on the measures and conversion factors used, the conclusion remains the same: globally, the first MDG would be very hard to meet without China's impressive achievements in poverty reduction.

Supportive Environment

Rapid economic growth has underpinned China's progress in reducing poverty. From 1978 to 2007, China's average annual increase in GDP was 9.8 percent, with GDP per capita rising from US \$226 to over US \$2,000.

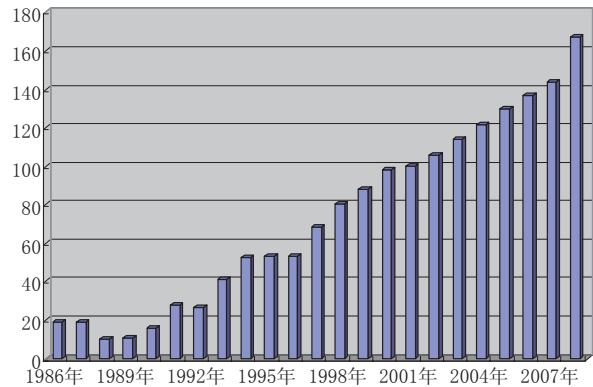
The Government has always made rural poverty reduction a priority when creating mid- and long-term national economic and social development strategies. National poverty reduction standards have been adjusted according to levels of economic development and the national financial

Figure.1.1: Rural poverty headcount



situation, while the key areas targeted for support have been determined according to the distribution of the remaining poor. The central Government has also routinely increased funding for poverty reduction, earmarking 150 billion yuan for a special fund for poverty reduction and mobilizing a further 200 billion yuan for poverty reduction loans between 1978 and 2007 (see Figure 1.3). Financial inputs from local governments have continually expanded.

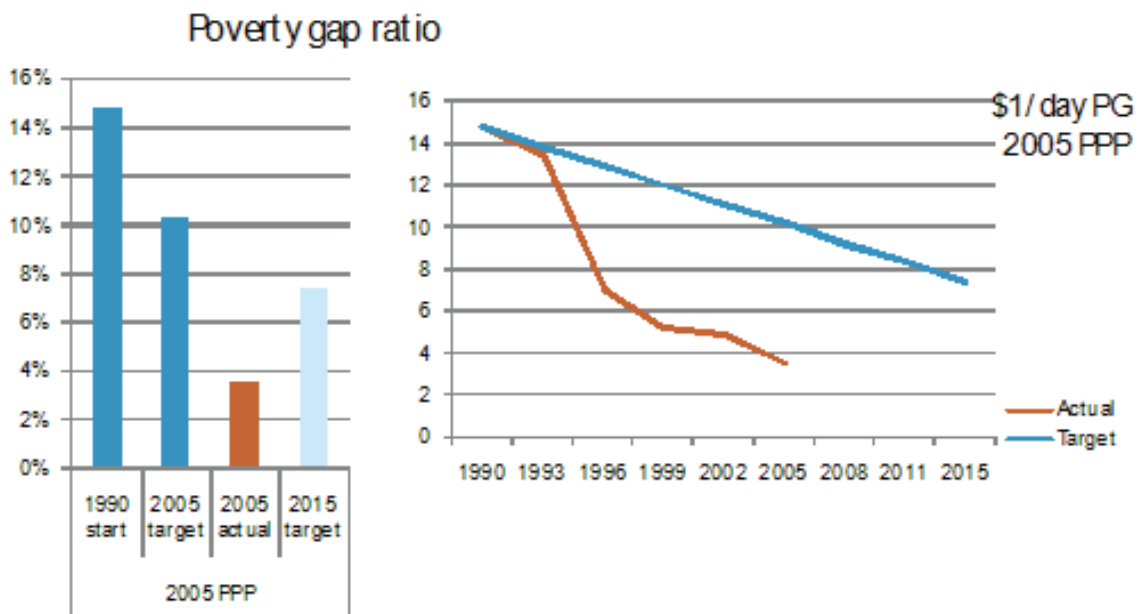
Figure 1.3 Central government funds devoted to poverty reduction, 1986-2007



Broad social participation and active international cooperation have been important factors as well. Various tiers of government, social agencies and large state-owned companies have assisted 481 key counties. Better-developed provinces and cities in eastern China have helped 11 poorer western provinces and cities. Private sector firms and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also been active in poverty reduction, along with various multilateral and bilateral agencies.

Since the 1990s, China has actively promoted “participatory poverty reduction.” This engages the poor in poverty reduction programmes and decisions about the allocation of funds to build their capacities to develop. Similar initiatives have been taken to target groups with particular needs, such as rural women, children and the disabled.

Figure 1.2: Rural poverty gap ratio



Chinese financial institutions have made a number of contributions. Between 2001 and 2007, the China Agriculture Bank issued poverty reduction loans totaling 150.7 billion yuan to the poorest counties. These loans mainly assist poor households to develop income-generation activities such as planting crops and animal husbandry, but also support the agricultural processing industry, labour-intensive industry, trade and retail intermediaries, rural infrastructure and social development programmes. They are structured to enhance living conditions and productivity, promote economic sustainability and ensure continued rural poverty reduction.

Potential MDG Gaps

(1) China still has a large number of poor people. Based on the current official poverty line, by the end of 2007, there were still 14.79 million people classified as “absolute poor,” along with 28.41 million low-income earners in rural China. This amounts to 43.2 million people, or 4.6 percent of the rural population.

(2) Poverty is still deep. Many of the poor have weak capacities and limited conditions for development, often living in remote regions with difficult natural conditions, underdeveloped infrastructure and a lack of public services. Many belong to vulnerable groups with few income sources and a tenuous position in the labour market, including women or people with disabilities who are in need of special assistance and support.

(3) The risk of natural disaster in poor regions is five times higher than the national average, illustrating that the remaining poor often face a challenging

combination of economic, social and natural risks that can lead to many difficulties. The structure of poverty is also not constant but shows significant fluctuations, with large numbers of people moving in and out of poverty every year. Temporary poverty seems more common than chronic poverty.

(4) Urban poverty still needs to be further defined, monitored and calculated. Historically speaking, urban poverty rates have been low, but the situation has been changing in recent years. The Government has put in place a number of measures to mitigate any new forms of urban poverty, such as the urban minimum living standard allowance system. As urbanization continues, however, further efforts should be made to address this potential problem. A key part of the response should be to systematically collect economic and social data on rural migrant labour in the cities.

(5) A new challenge to poverty reduction in China is the global trend of rapid increases in the prices of staple foods, particularly cereals such as wheat, rice and corn.

TARGET 1B: ACHIEVE FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL, INCLUDING WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Status and Trends

Employment-to-population ratios

China has a large working-age population of 769.9 million people as of 2007. The employment-to-population ratio for persons aged 15 and above, which provides a picture of the employment-

generating capacity of an economy, has declined steadily, from a very high 76.3 percent in 1990 to 73 percent in 2006. Figures are different based on gender, but the trends are similar, as shown in Figure 1.4.

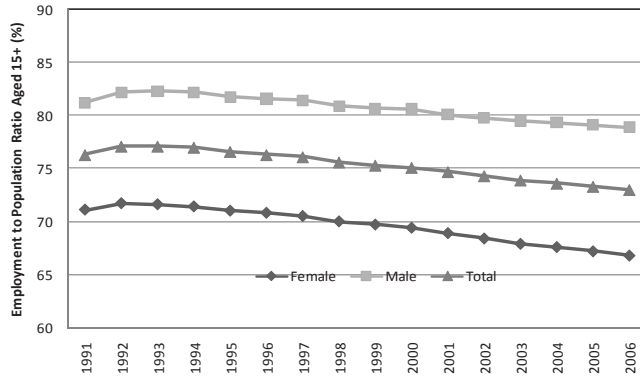


Figure 1.4 Trend of employment-to-population ratios for people aged 15 and above

Source: International Labour Organization, ILO Key Indicators of Labour Market, Fifth Edition, 2007.

As for youth aged 15 to 24, employment-to-population ratios have decreased sharply. From 1990 to 2006, the ratio declined from 72.7 percent to 64.5 percent, as shown in Figure 1.5. This trend can be largely attributed to the expansion of educational opportunities in China. More young people are attending school, completing higher secondary education, tertiary education and vocational training. They have effectively postponed their participation in the labour market.

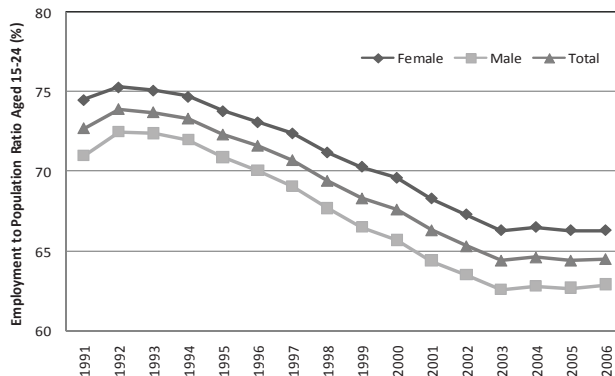


Figure 1.5 Trend of employment-to-population ratios for people aged 15 to 24

Source: International Labour Organization, ILO Key Indicators of Labour Market, Fifth Edition, 2007.

Falling employment-to-population ratios are not a troubling indicator for China. Expanded opportunities for vocational education have allowed young people to update and improve their skills, a crucial step towards higher value production.

Other factors such as economic restructuring, more intense labour market competition and rapid income growth may also be contributing to lower labour market participation and employment-to-population ratios. Nevertheless, in 2006, China had a higher employment-to-population ratio than 154 countries for which data are available. Only 22 countries reported a higher ratio than China.

Vulnerable employment

According to the criteria of the International Labour Organization (ILO), employment status is used to identify people in vulnerable employment. There are three categories of the employed: wage and salary workers, contributing family workers and self-employed workers. By definition, contributing family workers and self-employed workers are less likely to have formal work arrangements, so the share of vulnerable employment is calculated as the sum of contributing family workers and self-employed workers as a percentage of total employment.

In China, the total employed population can be divided into the following groups: urban unit workers (state-owned and collective enterprises, joint ventures and shareholding companies), workers in urban and rural private enterprises, workers in township and village enterprises,

self-employed workers (including with employees and without employees) and farmers. The sum of self-employed workers and farmers from the statistics in China is conceptually consistent with the ILO definition for vulnerable employment.

Under this definition, vulnerable employment has declined in China. This can be largely attributed to the expansion of employment in township and village enterprises and the private sector. But the movement of workers from rural to urban areas has posed significant challenges which poses great pressure on urban employment. Productively absorbing the growing urban workforce requires an environment conducive to the generation of decent and productive formal sector employment opportunities, characterized by an expansion in wage employment which remains a big challenge at the present stage.

The share of the working poor in total employment

China's success in poverty alleviation has

been primarily a result of rapid economic growth, active government actions against poverty and the involvement of the entire society. Economic growth rates averaging over 9 percent between 1992 and 2004 tremendously increased the living standards of ordinary people by providing huge numbers of non-agricultural employment opportunities. The Government is now shoring up social security systems for both urban and rural areas to provide income support for poor and low-income families.

According to ILO criteria, the working poor are defined as individuals who work but live with their families on less than US\$1 a day per family member. Direct measurements of working poverty are not available from official sources, as this requires cross-tabulations at the household level of poverty status with employment status. If, however, assumptions are made that i) the poverty rate of the population aged 15 and above is equal to that of the full population and ii) all of the extreme US \$1 per day

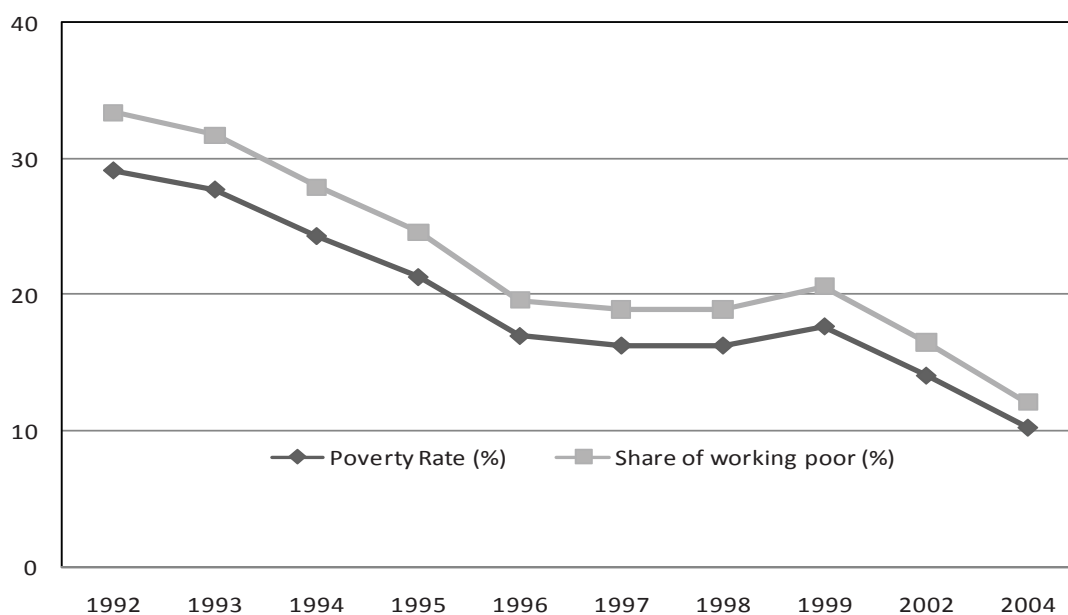


Figure 1.6: Share of the working poor

Source: International Labour Organization, ILO Key Indicators of Labour Market, Fifth Edition, 2007.

working age poor are employed out of necessity, an upper-bound estimate of the working poor can be obtained. This estimate appears in Figure 1.6, revealing that the share of the working poor has declined sharply, from 33.4 percent in 1992 to 12.1 percent in 2004.

Labour productivity

Labour productivity—measured as output per person employed—can be used to assess the likelihood that a national economy will create and sustain decent employment opportunities with fair and equitable remuneration for all persons.

Figure 1.7 illustrates labour productivity trends in China, showing it has grown rapidly since 1990, when it was US \$1,871 per worker. By 2006, it had reached US \$6,352 per worker, 3.4 times the 1990 amount. This has made a major contribution to reducing extreme poverty.

Rising labour productivity in China stems from several importance factors: the improvement of labour quality, economic growth, technological progress and integration into the world economy. The

development of education in China has significantly reduced illiteracy rates and improved the quality of the labour force. Higher savings rates and the inflow of FDI have driven rapid growth and created more non-agricultural opportunities for the rural labour force. Global economic integration has allowed China to improve its people’s welfare through benefiting from the dissemination of technological advances and through more efficient resource allocation.

Supportive Environment

Full employment is a top Government policy goal. Policy measures including the provision of education and training for farmers, migrants and urban workers; the improvement of public employment services; and the development of a labour market information and monitoring system have helped update the skills of farmers and workers to improve their employability. The Government has made efforts to maintain rapid economic growth so as to generate more employment opportunities. The high economic growth rates of the past decade have largely

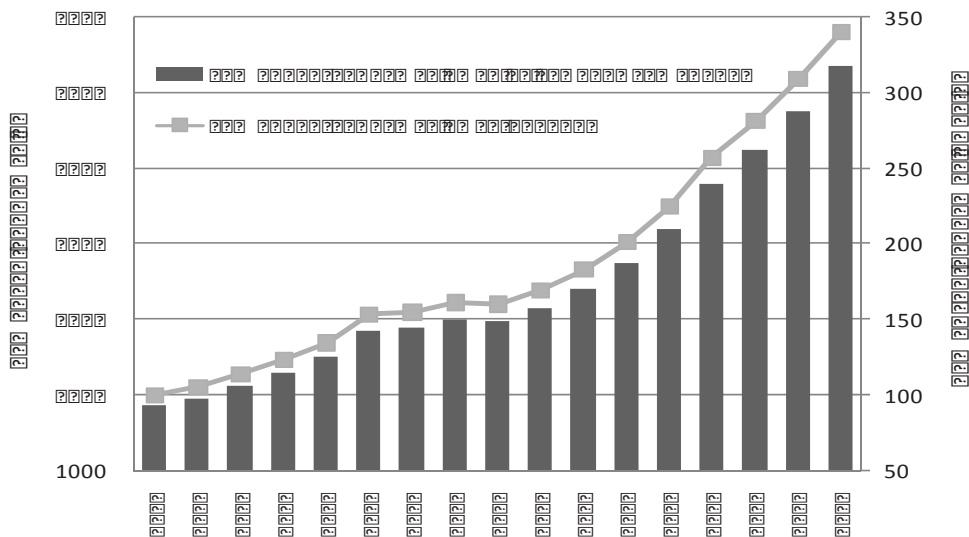


Figure 1.7: Labour productivity trends (US\$ per person)

Source: International Labour Organization, ILO Key Indicators of Labour Market, Fifth Edition, 2007.

reduced the share of the working poor by generating employment opportunities for rural surplus labour, and increased living standards.

The Government has also drafted labour laws and regulations to promote employment and improve social protection for workers, especially for rural migrant workers. A series of policies and regulations has been drafted since the mid-1980s, and updated or adjusted in light of changes in the labour market and the requirements of economic reform. In 2007, the Government promulgated two important labour law milestones: the Employment Promotion Law and the Labour Contract Law. These were implemented in 2008 to increase the quantity and quality of employment, and provide better protections for workers.

Potential MDG Gaps

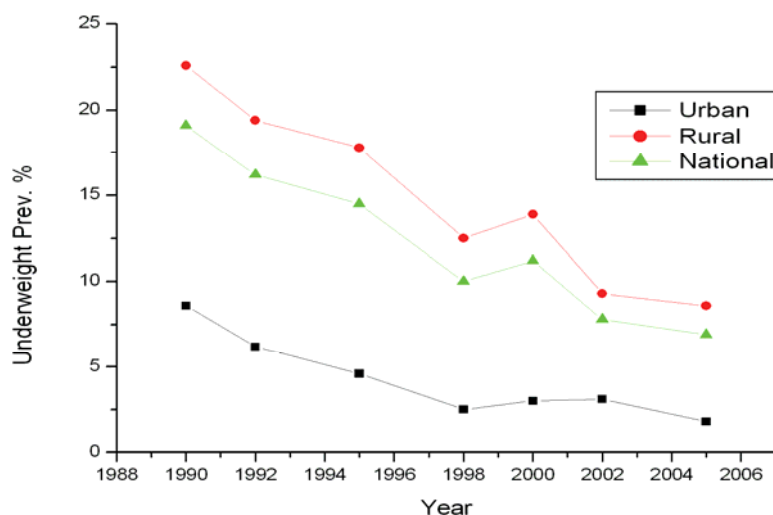
(1) Informal employment will be a big challenge to the goal of decent employment and healthy development in China. The number of rural migrants is estimated at about 130 million, but

most are employed in small and medium sized private enterprises without adequate social protection. Formalizing employment arrangements for migrants should be a priority policy action.

(2) The emergence of urban poverty poses another challenge. At present, China has already established an unemployment insurance system and a minimum living allowance system to provide income support for the urban poor. In addition to improving the minimum living allowance system in cities, linking unemployment insurance to training programmes could be another option to help the urban poor.

(3) There are some problems in training projects for migrant workers and the development of vocational education. Arrangements for training courses, and training contents and objectives do not always meet the needs of rural migrant workers, and coordination between governments in places that send and receive migrants is low. In vocational education, public investment has been limited. Resolving these problems will

Figure 1.8: The prevalence of underweight children under age five in urban and rural areas, 1990-2005



support the continued rapid growth of labour productivity.

TARGET 1C: REDUCE BY HALF THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM HUNGER

Status and Trends

China has already achieved this target, having reduced the proportion of the population with a minimum food consumption level from 17 percent in 1990 to 7 percent in 2002. While the dietary energy level has improved, the dietary pattern has also changed. The consumption of corn and rhizomes is decreasing, while the daily average intake of meat, especially from domesticated animals, and milk and eggs shows an upward trend.

The prevalence of underweight among children under five declined from 19.1 percent in 1990 to 6.9 percent in 2005, a decrease of 64 percent (see Figure 1.8). Both urban and rural areas have achieved a reduction by half in underweight prevalence. The prevalence of stunting among children under five dropped from 33.4 percent in 1990 to 9.4 percent in 2005.

Although the overall nutritional status of children in China has improved dramatically, the national average data hides regional disparities. Figure 1.8 illustrates that the prevalence of underweight of rural children is almost five-fold higher among rural children than that among children in urban areas. In less economically developed regions, the prevalence of child malnutrition still remains relatively high. The prevalence rates of underweight and stunting of children in the poorer western provinces in 2005 are double those in most developed eastern areas (Table 1.2).

Supportive Environment

The Government has strictly implemented a farmland protection policy and set up an insurmountable “red line”—that is, China will maintain an arable land area of 120 million hectares by the end of the 11th Five-Year Plan (2010). As comparison, China’s arable land area was 122 million hectares in 2007. The plan sets a binding target for grain production of around 500 million tons. Various measures support major grain-producing areas to stabilize production and encourage cultivation. The government has also advocated long-term sales contracts to ensure a supply-demand balance.

Table 1.2: Comparison of child malnutrition between eastern and western China (%)

Year		Eastern provinces	Western provinces	<i>P</i>
1992	Underweight %	15.1	21.4	<0.0001
	Stunting %	33.6	42.7	<0.0001
1998	Underweight %	8.3	18.3	<0.0001
	Stunting %	16.9	29.4	<0.0001
2000	Underweight %	9.1	19.9	<0.0001
	Stunting %	14.2	27.6	<0.0001
2005	Underweight %	5.8	12.5	<0.0001
	Stunting %	10.7	16.3	<0.0001



China's agriculture and rural economic reforms are market-oriented, emphasize the role of science and technology, and focus on improving quality to boost overall productivity and output. The Government plans to further expand areas for fodder crops, increase livestock and poultry breeding, and improve livestock and poultry species. In addition, it will strengthen the protection of aquatic resources and develop the aquaculture industry.

Given global food price increases, China is implementing a policy of self-sufficiency in grain production, along with various interventions to safeguard this. A series of policies has been issued on agriculture, rural areas and farmers; the agriculture tax has been rescinded; and agricultural subsidies are being provided, including direct subsidies for grain producers, improved seeds, agricultural inputs and farm machines. Priority goes to large producers of high-quality grains. For those who are vulnerable to food insecurity, a minimum living standard allowance for food expenditures is now provided. In 2007, over 15 million farmers in 23 provinces benefited from this safety net, an 82 percent increase over 2005.

The Ministry of Health has formally approved a general standard of complementary food supplementation for infants this year. This is a significant milestone and will contribute to the growth of children in China, especially in rural areas, as it will enable the sale of the standardized and approved complementary food supplements on the open market.

The newly revised Dietary Guidelines for Chinese Residents were issued in 2008. The detailed guidelines for special target groups, such as pregnant women and lactating mothers, infants and young children were also updated. These guidelines will provide specific guidance to different population groups on practices of food and nutrition intakes.

Potential MDG Gaps

(1) China's arable land and water resources are scarce, so it will face a problem of tight supplies of grain in the future, possibly for a long period of time. Arable land is under pressure from other uses. There is a need to comply with the 11th Five-Year Plan and effectively protect 120 million hectares of arable land.



(2) China's agricultural productivity is still relatively low. The use of agricultural science and technology is limited, infrastructure is still underdeveloped, and the ability to withstand natural disasters is marginal. Animal and plant diseases threaten agricultural production and the quality of agricultural products. The supply of agricultural investment funds cannot meet the large demand, and economic globalization and regional economic integration are presenting new challenges for domestic agricultural

development, particularly through international competition in agricultural product markets.

(3) Appropriate feeding practices for infants and young children have not been well promoted in China. Widespread commercialization, population migration and employment put pressure on new mothers to augment breastfeeding with formula. Meanwhile, due to the inadequate feeding practices and the lack of standard supplement preparations for infants, micro-nutrient deficiency remains common among infants and young children.



GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Target	Prospects for achievement	Level of national support
Target 2a: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Already met	Strong
		

Education is the basis of national development, and educational equality is essential for social equity. Throughout the reform era, the Chinese Government has paid great attention to education development, given priority to the strategic position of education, promoted the important strategies of both developing the country through science and education, and strengthening the country through human resource development. Since 1983, it has issued the Teacher's Law, the Education Law, the Vocational Education Law, and the Compulsory Education Law, etc., as part of the legal framework for ensuring the sustainable development of education. In the Five-Year Plans for national economic and social development, education is always an important component. By end 2000, China was close to achieving the goal of universal nine-year compulsory education, and eliminating illiteracy among young

and middle-aged people. In 2006, the Government revised the Compulsory Education Law and clarified the policy of providing free compulsory education. The Government of China insists on the universal benefits of education, focuses on the right of education for vulnerable groups, makes great efforts to redress imbalances of education between urban and rural areas, and across different regions. It upholds the principle of giving priority to rural areas, the central and western regions, poverty-stricken areas, border areas and minority regions in the allocation of public educational resources. With a focused responsibility of local governments and public schools in receiving areas, additional efforts are being made to guarantee that children of migrant workers have opportunities to enjoy equal access to compulsory education. Education for children who are left behind in rural areas is also taken into

consideration.

China has consistently increased its investments in education. From 2003 to 2007, central fiscal educational expenditures totaled 2.43 trillion yuan, up 1.26 times compared to the previous five year period. By 2010, the Government will strive to ensure that allocations for public education reach 4 percent of GDP.

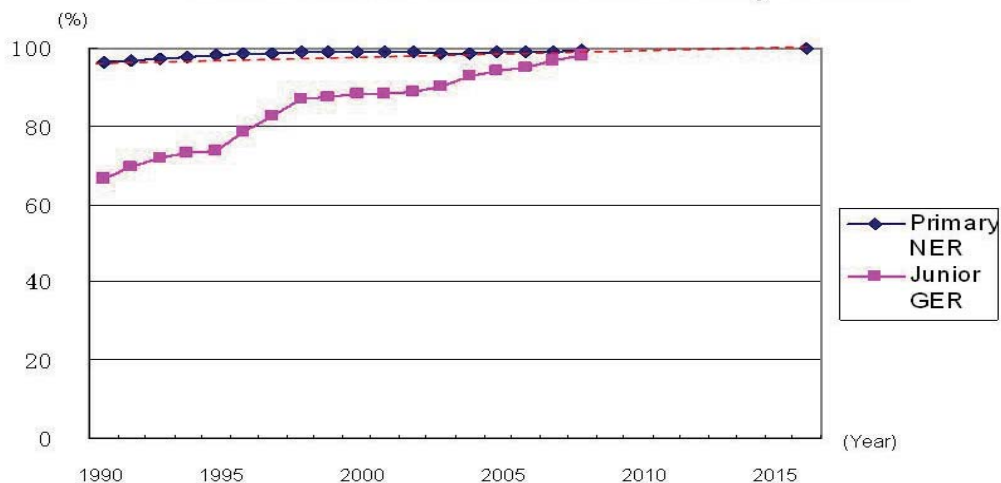
In the 30 years of reform and opening up, China has steadily advanced toward its goal of universal education. In 1978, the primary enrolment ratio was 94%, and the promotion rate from primary to secondary education was 87.7%. In 2007, the two indicators had been increased to 99.5% and 99.9% respectively.

TARGET 2A: ENSURE THAT, BY 2015, CHILDREN EVERYWHERE, BOYS AND GIRLS ALIKE, WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE A FULL COURSE OF PRIMARY SCHOOLING

Status and Trends

China has achieved the overall primary education target in MDG Goal 2. The national development plan has set up the more ambitious goals of universalizing nine-year compulsory education, which includes both primary and junior secondary education. By end 2007, the primary Net Enrolment Ratio for both boys and girls had reached 99.5 percent. The primary school five-year retention rate increased from 95 percent in 2000 to 99 percent in 2006. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in junior secondary education reached 98 percent, while the coverage of nine-year compulsory education was 99.3 percent for the country (see Figure 2.1). Twenty-five provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have achieved universal nine-year compulsory education. However, there are still significant disparities

Figure 2.1: Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education & Gross Enrolment Ratio in Junior Secondary Education



Data Source: Education Statistical Yearbook 2001, MOE

Essential Statistics of Education in China 2007, MOE

between urban and rural areas, the eastern and western regions, and various counties on school conditions, teachers' competencies, and teaching qualities

The national target of "Education For All" is intended to eliminate illiteracy among young and middle-aged population. As part of this group, the literacy rate of young people aged 15 to 24 increased from 94 percent in 1990 to 99 percent in 2005 (see Figure 2.2). This high literacy rate is clearly linked to achievements in universalizing nine-year compulsory education since 1990. The urban-rural gap in literacy rates of young people has been narrowed, from 6 per cent in 1990 to 1.6 per cent in 2005. However, the literacy rate of rural adults 15 years old and above is still relatively low.

Supportive Environment

The Government has made compulsory education, especially rural compulsory education, an important part of the national development strategy. It has established an educational development strategy that focuses on rural compulsory

education, revised and issued the Compulsory Education Law, which provides a legal guarantee for the sustainable and sound development of compulsory education. During the periods of 1996 to 2000 and 2001 to 2005, the central Government invested 8.9 billion yuan (US\$1.3 billion), while local financial support amounted to 12.5 billion yuan (US\$1.8 billion) to speed up progress towards universal compulsory education in the poverty areas in 22 middle and western provinces.

In late 2005, the Chinese Government decided to reform the mechanism for funding rural compulsory education by including it fully within the national public financial security system. This established guaranteed funding mechanism, with sharing of budgets between the central and local governments on a project basis and a pro rata rate basis. The Government ensures children's right to access compulsory education through the policy of "two exemptions and one subsidy" by exempting school fees and textbook expenses for rural students, and

Figure 2.2: Literacy rates among young people (15-24) and adults (15 and above)



providing living subsidy to rural boarding school students. From 2006 to 2007, this policy benefited nearly 150 million rural students. They are now being fully extended to urban areas.

In addition to the “Project for Compulsory Education in Rural Areas” and the “Project for Reconstruction Of Rural Classrooms At Risk”, the Government has boosted resources for a number of other projects, such as “the Project for Rural Boarding School Construction”, “the Rural Modern Distance Education Project”, and “The Project For Reconstruction Of Rural Secondary School Buildings”. Such support has significantly improved the teaching conditions, teaching qualities, and contributed to the universal nine-year education in middle and western areas of China.

Another education development strategy promoted by the Government of China is to encourage developed areas and urban areas to provide assistance to rural areas. In particular, two projects have been promoted between schools in eastern developed regions and western poor regions, and between urban schools and rural schools in the same province. Since 2000, the eastern region and urban areas have sent a large number of teachers and school management personnel to provide teacher training in poorer areas, as well as provide them with financial support, books, teaching materials and etc., to support children from families with financial difficulties, without reimbursement.

In recent years, the number of migrant workers has been growing, highlighting the increasingly emerging issue of education of their children. The Government has formulated a series of



policy measures based on the principle that “the government of migrant-receiving areas must take primary responsibility for education of migrant children, and that full-time public primary schools and secondary schools should be open to migrant children’, with a view to guaranteeing the rights of the children of migrant workers on education. At present, the vast majority of children who migrate with their parents have access to compulsory education. At the same time, governments at all levels attach great importance to the education and supervision of children left behind in rural schools after their parents migrate.

Potential MDG Gaps

While the MDG target 2 has been achieved, the Government of China is making efforts to address some existing challenges:

(1) Teaching quality and learning outcomes: the main disparities between urban and rural areas lies in teaching quality and learning outcomes, which are caused by differences of teachers’ competencies, teaching facilities, and application of interactive teaching methods. In order to promote equality in education and improve teaching qualities, long-term efforts should be made to strengthen basic education in rural areas. A set of national universal minimum

education standards, including eligibility criteria for teachers, school facility standards, and ceilings on the number of students per class would help ensure education equality.



(2) Migrant children and children with disabilities: More efforts need to be made to establish registration and tracking systems, and to solve the fundamental problem of education budgeting for migrant children. Special services should be provided to children with disabilities, and efforts made to integrate them into normal schools. This will enhance basic education access and completion among children with disabilities.

(3) Education budgeting: The government needs to continue increasing the percentage for the education budget in national GDP and financial expenditures, focusing on rural and remote areas, in order to reduce the burden of families and improve quality of education services.

(4) Education statistics: China has established a huge and complete education statistics system. However, methods for defining and calculating some indicators still need further improvement, including the development and use of the “cohort” method to track school attendance, and further, resolving difficulties in statistics caused by the promotion and migration of students between different regions.



GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Target	Prospects for achievement	Level of national support
Target 3a: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Likely	Strong
		

China has the largest population in the world, and half of its 1.3 billion people are women. Promoting gender equality and women's development are not only important to China's development but the progress of humanity. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to women's development and has made the achievement of equality between men and women a basic national policy, and includes women's development in national economic and social development plans. Over the 30 years of reform and opening up, China has achieved sustained economic growth and overall social progress, which helps safeguard equal rights and opportunities for women and men. The Government has therefore taken economic, judicial, administrative and media measures to guarantee that women enjoy equal rights in the political,

economic and cultural spheres, as well as in social life and their families.

The 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women, which issued the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, has exerted great influence on the promotion of gender equality and women's development worldwide. For its part, the Chinese Government issued the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women (2001-2010), which specifies 34 major objectives and 100 strategies and measures in six areas: women and the economy, women in decision-making and management, the education of women, women and health, women and the law, and women and the environment. In May 2007, the National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council published

a mid-term evaluation report showing on-track implementation of the programme.

TARGET 3A: ELIMINATE GENDER DISPARITY IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, PREFERABLY BY 2005, AND IN ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION NO LATER THAN 2015

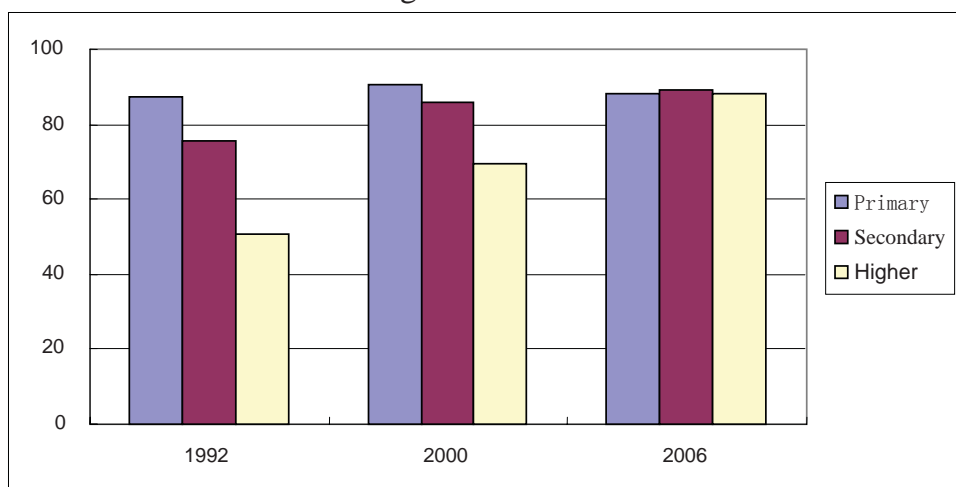
Status and Trends

China is making smooth progress on achieving gender equality in primary and junior secondary education. The ratio of primary Net Enrolment Ratio for girls to boys rose from 98 in 1991 to 106 in 2006. China has basically achieved gender equality in primary education. In 2007, the primary Net Enrolment Ratios for girls and boys was 99.52 percent and 99.46 percent, respectively. The overall gender disparities in primary education have been eliminated. The number and percentage of girls in tertiary education level are increasing. In 2007, there were

534,600 female graduate students in China, accounting for 44.74 percent of the total number. Overall, the gap between men and women education years has decreased to about one year. China has achieved the target of “elimination of gender disparity in primary and junior secondary education”, and is on the way “to eliminating gender disparities at all levels of education no later than 2015” (see Figure 3.1).

Meanwhile, adult literacy rates have steadily risen. In 2005, the literacy rate for women from 15 to 24 years old was 97.7 percent, only one percent lower than that of men of the same age; essentially, gender equality has been achieved. The literacy rate of all women above 15 years of age is 83.85 percent, while for women between the ages of 15 and 50, it is 95 percent. The literacy rate of women above 15 in rural areas is only 78 percent, however, much lower than the 92 percent for man. The gap in literacy rates varies from province to province, ranging from 4 to 27 percent.

Figure 3.1: Ratio of gross enrolment ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and higher education



Source: Calculations made by UNICEF based on statistics from the annual reports of the Ministry of Education.

China has witnessed increases in women's employment rate, one of the indicators applied to MDG 3. In 2006, 347 million women from both urban and rural areas found jobs, accounting for 45.4 percent of the total employed population. More and more women find employment in high-tech sectors such as the computer, software, telecommunications and finance industries, although the proportion of women who work irregularly is higher than for men. An income gap between men and women still exists (as shown in Figure 3.2).

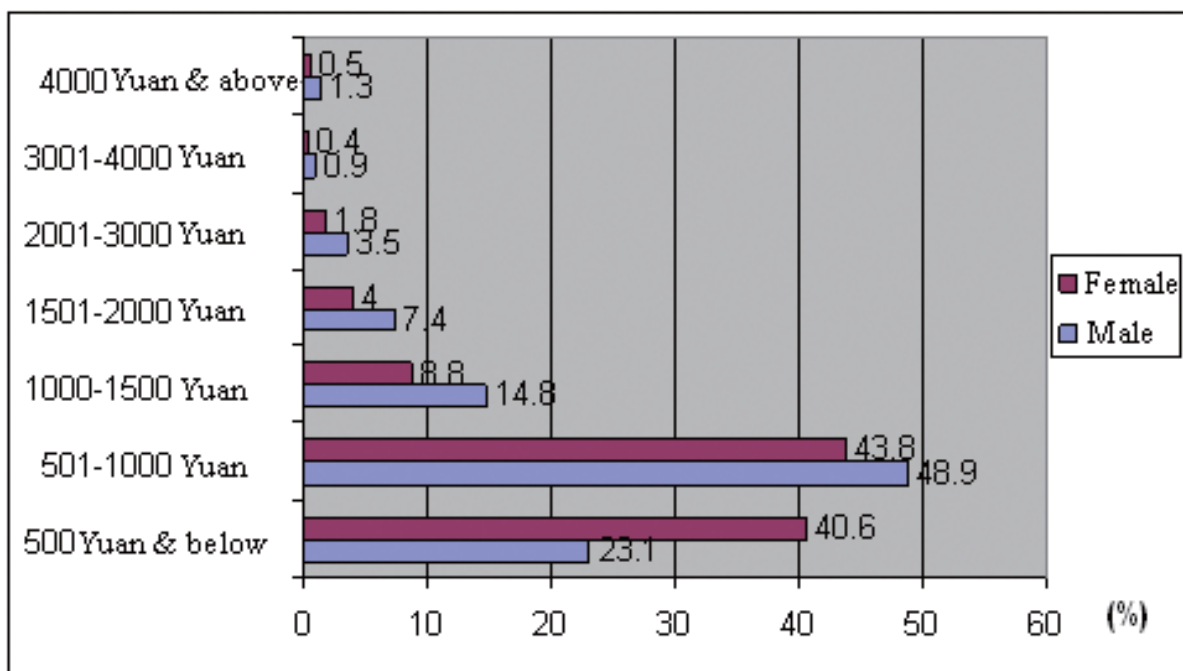
Women enjoy equal rights in labour and social security policies. By the end of 2007, there were 201.37 million workers covered by pension insurance, 223.11 million by basic medical insurance, 116.45 million by unemployment insurance, 121.73 million by work injury insurance and 77.75 million by maternity insurance, which is a remarkable improvement, compared to statistics in 2000. Labour and social security bodies at all levels keep intensifying their supervision to

identity and correct violations against female workers.

Women's political participation, another indicator applied to MDG 3, is important to ensure that women's rights and interests are protected and upheld. In China, 21.3 percent of people at the parliamentary level are women, about three percentage points above the average for Asia. The average participation rate at the highest level of decision-making almost equals that of the Americas (21.6 percent) and Europe (21.2 percent). At present, there are more than 15 million women cadres, accounting for 38.5 percent of the total. The proportion of women cadres at the ministerial and director-general levels are 10.3 percent and 12.9 percent, rising by 1.3 percent and 0.7 percent compared with rates in 2003.

In general, the political participation of women in decision-making and administration still lags behind that of

3.2: Variations in urban incomes, 2005



men. The parliamentary participation figure has remained around 20 percent since the late 1970s, for example (see Figure 3.3). Although China has increased the number of women cadres, they commonly work in areas appropriate for women according to traditional stereotypes. Many assume deputy positions, but not principal ones.

Based on the data of the 5th Population Census conducted in 2000, the sex ratio at birth was 116.86 males to 100 females. This is high and reflects a gender imbalance caused by various factors, including culture (such as gender stereotypes); economy (such as lower productivity in remote rural areas, an underdeveloped social security system, and traditional living patterns that involve relying on boys to support older people); and science and technology (such as abuse of B-ultrasound technology, sex identification and artificial termination of pregnancy). A consistent increase in the sex ratio at birth negatively impacts social balance and harmonious development. By taking comprehensive measures to reverse this trend—for example, the

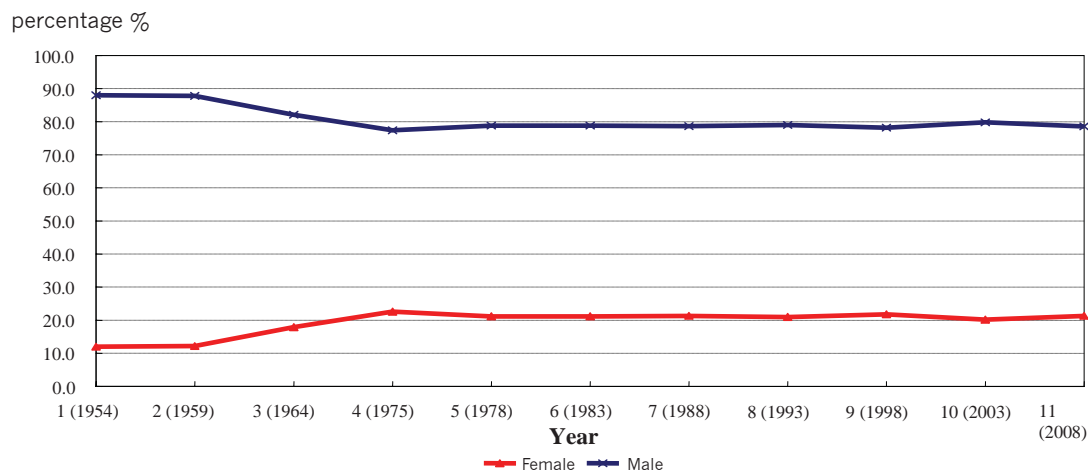
national Care for Girls Action initiative, awards to households with a single child and assistance to households with two daughters—the Government is making efforts to develop policies conducive to gender equality and the advancement of women.

Supportive Environment

China has made promoting gender equality an important objective in the guidelines of national development plans. It ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 and has complied with its obligations. The government reports to the CEDAW Committee every four years, and continuously makes efforts to follow the subsequent recommendations.

China has established a legal system to protect women's rights and interests, and promote gender equality. This is based in the Constitution and the Law of the People's Republic of China Concerning the Guarantee of the Rights and Interests of Women, along with relevant national and regional laws and regulations. From 2001 to 2006, China promulgated and/

Figure 3.3: Ratio of women and men in the National People's Congress, 1954-2008



or modified the Population and Family Planning Law, the Marriage Law, the Law of the People's Republic of China on Land Contracts in Rural Areas, the Law of the People's Republic of China Concerning the Guarantee of the Rights and Interests of Women, the Law of the People's Republic of China on Maternal and Infant Health Care, Stipulations on Family Planning Technical Services, Labour Security Supervision Regulations and Legal Aid Ordinances. The Government also promulgated the National Action Plan of Education for All and the National Programme of Action for Child Development (2001-2010), providing legal and policy guidance to guarantee equal educational opportunities for boys and girls. Favourable measures to support girls include the famous Spring Bud Plan, which helps girl dropouts from poor families return to school. By 2007, this plan had assisted over 1.7 million girls from 30 provinces with an investment of 600 million yuan.

Women account for 70 percent of adults who are illiterate. Since 2007, the Government has earmarked 50 million yuan (7.4 million US\$) annually to support literacy projects, focusing on ethnic groups in western areas and women. China has launched "women's illiteracy eradication campaign", combined with women's vocational training. By 2007, over 20 million women became literate through this initiative.

The Government attaches great importance to women's re-employment, working to create more jobs for women, provide employment services and training, and help laid-off female workers find new jobs, with an emphasis on extending these

services to rural women.

Potential MDG Gaps

(1) To monitor progress towards gender equality, more effective mechanisms and systems for collecting solid data, disaggregated by gender, age, region and ethnicity, need to be developed. The dissemination and utilization of data also need to improve to monitor and promote gender equality more efficiently.

(2) To overcome existing stereotypes on the value of men and women, awareness of gender equality needs to be highlighted in educational activities, textbooks and the mass media.

(3) Discrimination based on gender, age and region still exists in the labour market. The possibilities of re-employment for middle-aged and elderly women are extremely unlikely. Female college graduates and young women face more employment difficulties than their male peers. Employment quality and the structure of employment for women also need to be further improved. Attention should be paid to the issue of women having an earlier retirement age than men.

(4) Women's participation in public affairs and political life has to be bolstered, which requires an enabling political, social





and cultural environment at all levels of society.

(5) Violence against women is a very critical gender issue. To eliminate it, more commitment and actions are needed.

(6) A comprehensive approach needs to be in place to overcome traditional stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of women and men in family and society, as these often devalue women. Social security should be optimized through comprehensive social and economic measures to improve the situation of relying only on sons to support the elderly. The legal system needs to be improved to prevent sex-selective abortions, which will help reverse the skewed sex ratio at birth.



GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Targets	Prospects for Achievement	Level of National Support
Target 4A: Reduce under-5 mortality by two-thirds	Already Met	Strong
		

In the context of China's reform and opening up, over the last 30 years, the Government has worked continuously to improve maternal and child health (MCH) through legislation, clarifying the function and management of the various elements of the MCH service network, implementing MCH projects, allowing NGOs to play their role and engage in international cooperation and exchange, all of which has ensured that the health status of women and children has improved steadily. The Government of China promulgated "The Law on Maternal and Infant Health Care of the People's Republic of China" in 1994, which is the first one to protect the rights and interests of women and children and a legal basis for MCH services. In 2001, the Government of China formulated National Programs of Action on Women's Development and Children's Development for 2001-2010. It has also announced the "Implementation Method for the Law of Maternal and Infant Health Care".

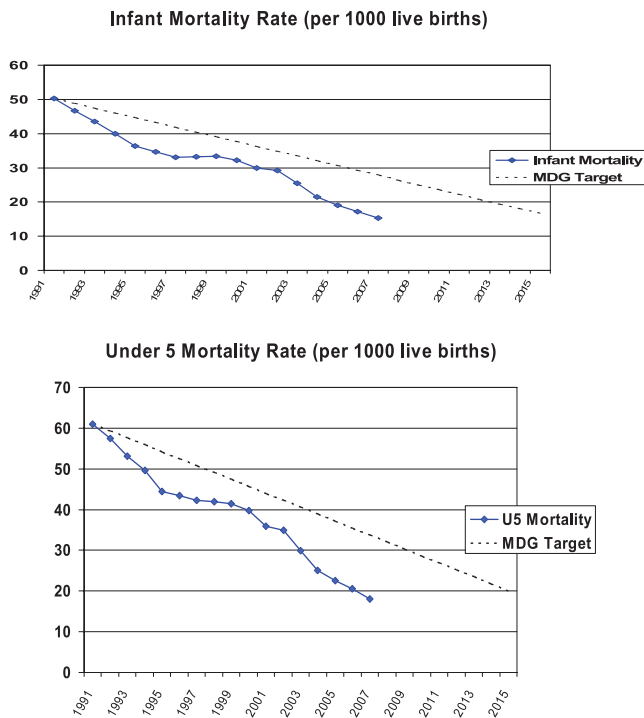
MCH care is now based on the foundation of a complete law and regulation system, which provide support to the protection of women's and children's health. There are now more than 3000 MCH centres nationwide, employing 500,000 staff in a three-tiered network of county, township and village level services providing MCH care to the country. The mortality rate of children under-five years of age has decreased from 64 per 1000 live births in 1980 to 18.1 in 2007.

TARGET 4A: REDUCE UNDER-5 MORTALITY BY TWO-THIRDS FROM 1990 TO 2015

1. Status and trends

China has progressed smoothly in reducing the mortality of children under-5 years of age. The infant mortality rate has reduced from 50.2 per 1000 live

births in 1991 to 15.3 in 2007 (a decline of 69.5%) and the mortality of children under-5 has dropped from 61 per 1000 live births in 1991 to 18.1 in 2007 (a decline of 70.3%), suggesting that China has achieved this MDG ahead of time (see Figure 4.1).



The Government and UN agencies acknowledge wide disparities in child mortality rates across China, according to socioeconomic status, urban-rural residence and geographic location. Although these gaps in mortality have decreased numerically, the mortality in poor western provinces remains high relative to wealthy eastern provinces. Given China's population, these disparities are important, as enormous numbers of mothers and children remain at higher risk than national figures would suggest. Most strikingly, infant and child mortality is almost 2.7 times higher in the western than eastern region, 2.4 times higher in rural than urban areas, and 2 to 5 times higher in the poorest rural counties than in large cities.

Review of the Maternal and Child Survival Strategy in China was conducted by the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA in 2005 - 2006. A classification of urban areas and rural counties was developed, which rated the health and socio-economic development of each county into one of two urban categories (small-medium cities; large cities) and four rural categories (types 1 - IV, with type IV being the poorest). Deaths in poorer rural counties (types II-IV) account for 80% of the under five deaths in China, compared to their population share of 64%. In western areas, the U5MR still remains about 40 per 1000 live births. Progress also lags among the infants and children of migrant women, who account for an increasing proportion of the population in major urban areas but have less access to health care. Data on this group are not available; nor are data on IMR or U5MR broken down by gender, which are important in the context of the increasingly skewed sex ratio favouring



males at birth (118 boys to 100 girls in 2005, up from 110:100 in 2000) . A relatively higher female infant mortality rate was partially due to the preference for male child which caused some artificial intervention.

In 2000, over 80% of under-five deaths occurred in infancy, 50% in the newborn period and 40% in the first week of life (due mainly to neonatal asphyxia, premature delivery or low birth weight; severe infection, and congenital malformations). National data from 2007 now suggest that 84% of deaths under-fives occur during infancy and 59% in the newborn period. This underscores China's appropriate focus on improving access to and the quality of delivery and newborn services to further reduce IMR and U5MR. Beyond infancy, pneumonia, injury and diarrhoea in rural areas, and injury and pneumonia in urban areas are the most important causes of child death. It is estimated that over 75% of child deaths are caused by a small number of preventable conditions, and that 34% of U5 deaths in China are easily preventable, particularly in poorer rural areas. Nutritional status, although improved, remains a significant contributing factor to child mortality, particularly in rural areas. Micronutrient deficiency is common and is decreasing more slowly than child underweight.

The situation of child immunization varies greatly across the country. According to the latest national survey conducted in 2004, coverage with measles vaccine and other recommended childhood vaccines now exceeds 90% nationally, but measles coverage in some western provinces reached only 56-68% from 2001 to 2003.

The incidence rate of some vaccine-preventable diseases was still high among those children who live in western poverty regions and floating population.

2. Supportive Environment

Improving child health and reducing the mortality of children is a priority task of the Government of China. As stated above, China has already formed a more complete system of laws and regulations related to MCH. China has also established its own specific objectives for infant and maternal mortality rates as well as for immunization coverage in the 11th National Development Plan (2006-2010); these national goals are generally more ambitious than the MDG targets. The Government of China has also implemented the NCMS (New Cooperative Medical Scheme) since 2003, which is anticipated to cover the entire rural population by 2010. A system of medical financial aid to fund and subsidize the poor to participate in NCMS has also been introduced. It is anticipated that both the urban and rural population will be able to access essential health care by 2010.

In 2003, the Government of China introduced a systematic social project to eliminate gender discrimination and manage the problem of the high male:female birth sex ratio. The "Care Girls Action" project has developed socio-economic policies favoring girls and also families using family planning methods that concur with national family planning policy, and investigates and punishes the crimes of non-medically indicated antenatal gender selection, artificial abortion for sex selection purpose, female infanticide and abandonment, abducting and trafficking of girls, etc.

The Government of China has also made much effort to improve MCH services. Each level of health facility has established prompt and effective healthcare and the “green channel” system to eliminate maternal and infant death due to delayed referral or first-aid. In addition, the “Reducing Maternal Mortality Rate and Elimination of Neonatal Tetanus”, “Birth Defect Intervention” and “Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/Aids” Projects, as well as several cooperative projects with international organizations (all of which have improved the services in poor middle and western areas), have reduced maternal and infant mortality rates.

In particular, the Government of China has organized and implemented the “Reducing Maternal Mortality Rate and Elimination of Neonatal Tetanus” Project, allocating 1680 million RMB for this project during the years 2000 to 2008. The central and local governments also allocated special funds for childhood Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) and other MCH activities. The central government funds a 40 RMB subsidy to members of the NCMS in middle and western areas. In addition, a further minimum 40 RMB is provided by local government to each person who joins the Scheme.

In 2007, EPI was further expanded to provide 12 kind of vaccines to all children (oral polio; diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis; BCG for tuberculosis; measles mumps rubella; hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis, meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis A). Central government will fund purchase of all vaccines and syringes as well as subsidies of 1-2 RMB per dose for health workers in

poor areas of the country.

3. Potential MDG gaps

(1) Insufficient funding of the public health sectors has resulted in the preventive health service and its coverage to be incomplete. In some provinces, the lack of operational funds have limited the preventive health care service coverage and its quality.

(2) The NCMS and urban health insurance schemes need to be further strengthened according to specific local conditions. Medical care should not be unaffordable for the poor.

(3) Differences in access to quality health care still exist, affecting rural and poor populations, the floating population, and children of minority ethnicity. Enhancing the basic MCH service available to these populations is a high priority. Much attention should be paid to the quality of human resources working in MCH care, especially in rural China and particularly in the area of neonatal health care.





(4) The traditional mentality of favouring men over women still exists in China, promoting people to prefer boys over girls and partially causing the female infant mortality rate to be higher than male. Special attention should be paid to the higher female infant mortality in rural area.

(5) Although the national maternal and child mortality surveillance system has been strengthened in recent years, challenges remain on measurement of the child mortality rate and immunization coverage among unregistered and floating populations.

(6) Some traditional and new strategies that could have a significant impact on child survival remain under-implemented, particularly in the poorest areas. These include early post-natal screening and counseling on appropriate feeding for all infants; screening and special care of low-birth weight infants; integrated management of childhood illness; supplementation with micronutrients and the use of new vaccines to prevent diarrhea, pneumonia and meningitis.



GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Target	Prospects for Achievement	Level of National Support
Target 5A: Reduce the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by three quarters by 2015	Likely	Strong
		
Target 5B: Realize universal reproductive health by 2015	Potentially	Good
		

Over the past 30 years, the reform process and opening up of China to the outside world have brought economic prosperity, and also greatly promoted women's health and reproductive health. The Chinese government attached great importance to maternal health and reproductive health issues, included these issues into national development strategies, promulgated a series of relevant laws, regulations and policies, and gradually established a set of comprehensive policies and a related legal system. These have included The Law on Maternal and Infant Health Care, Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests, The Population and Family Planning Law, Regulation on the Technical Services in Family Planning, and The Program for the Development of Chinese Women, which provide solid legal guarantees for the protection of women's

rights, and improving the reproductive health status of China's women. In recent years, China has continuously intensified health care reform to establish the basic health care system which includes health care during pregnancy and reproductive health services. China has also actively increased government investment, mobilized all sorts of social resources to build a health care network covering the nation's women and has continuously improved the maternal and reproductive health service quality. In addition, China also carried out community education to improve people's scientific understanding on maternal and reproductive health care. These measures have greatly improved maternal health and reproductive health and reduced maternal mortality. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has been drastically reduced from 100 per 100,000

live births before 1980 to 36.6 per 100,000 in 2007. At the same time, the uptake of reproductive health services is rising, and Chinese women's survival and health have dramatically improved.

TARGET 5A: REDUCE THE MMR BY THREE QUARTERS, BETWEEN 1990 AND 2015

1. Status and Trends

China has reduced the MMR from a baseline of 94.7 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 36.6 per 100,000 in 2007 (see Figure 5.1 for detail), a reduction of 61.4%, and placing China on track to achieve this MDG target. However, again regional differences indicate that the MMR in rural areas is far higher than that of urban areas, and also higher in poor than in developed regions.

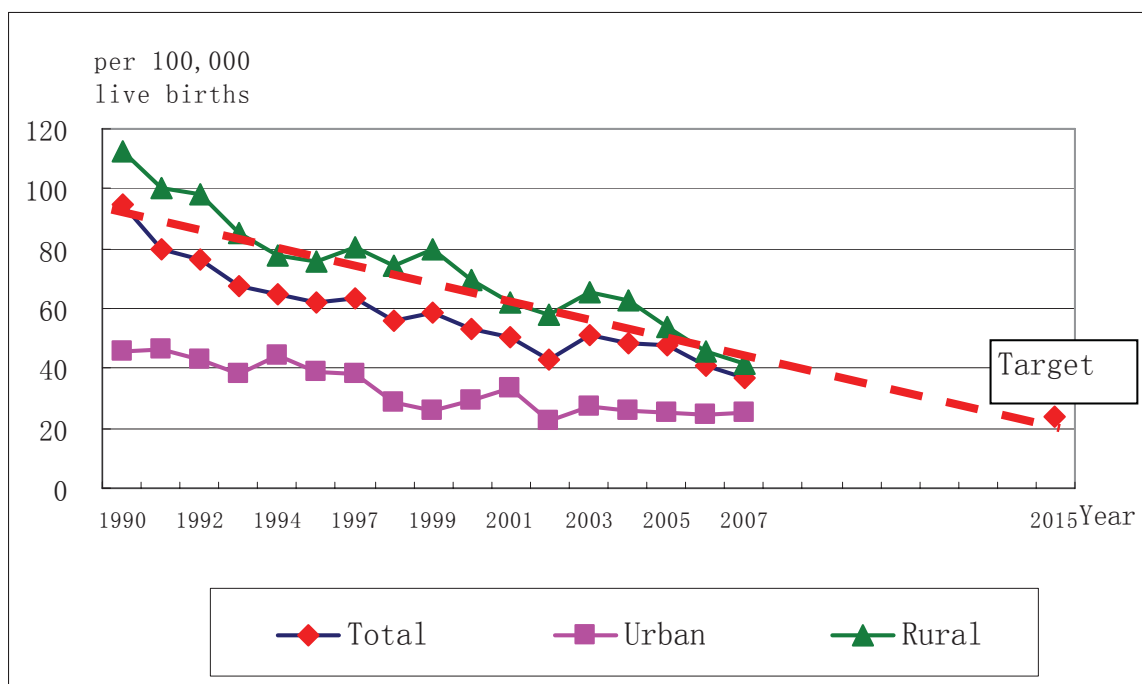
Analysis on the causes of maternal death revealed that obstetric haemorrhage (in

particular postpartum haemorrhage) and pregnancy associated hypertension or eclampsia are the leading causes. Raising the hospital delivery rate is the most effective way to reduce the MMR. Since implementation of the "Reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio and Eliminating Neonatal Tetanus" project, the hospital delivery rate in rural areas has greatly increased.

2. Supportive Environment

Improving MCH is a strong priority of the Chinese government. The 11th Five-year Plan set specific targets for maternal mortality, as well as goals for hospital delivery rates. These national goals are generally more ambitious than the MDG targets. A comprehensive policy and legal framework has been established to address the above targets. Funding for prenatal and obstetric care receive strong support from government. China has established a three-tier MCH service network (village, township and county)

Figure 5.1 Trends in Maternal Mortality Ratio, 1990-2007⁷



and a routine service system to promote prenatal and post-natal care and monitor maternal and infant mortality. Another major influence on maternal health in China is the Ministry of Health's "Reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio and Eliminating Neonatal Tetanus" project. Commencing in 378 poor rural counties in 2001, this project has now expanded to over 1,200 counties, improving the access of poor rural women to better quality antenatal and obstetric care. In addition, since 2003 key indicators of health among migrant populations are included in the MCH reports submitted annually by provinces, and many provinces and cities have developed local policies to increase the access of migrant communities to local health services.

A joint review by the Chinese Government and the UN system of maternal and child survival strategy in 2005 - 2006 established the status of maternal health in China and outlined agreed strategies for improving the situation. Scaling up

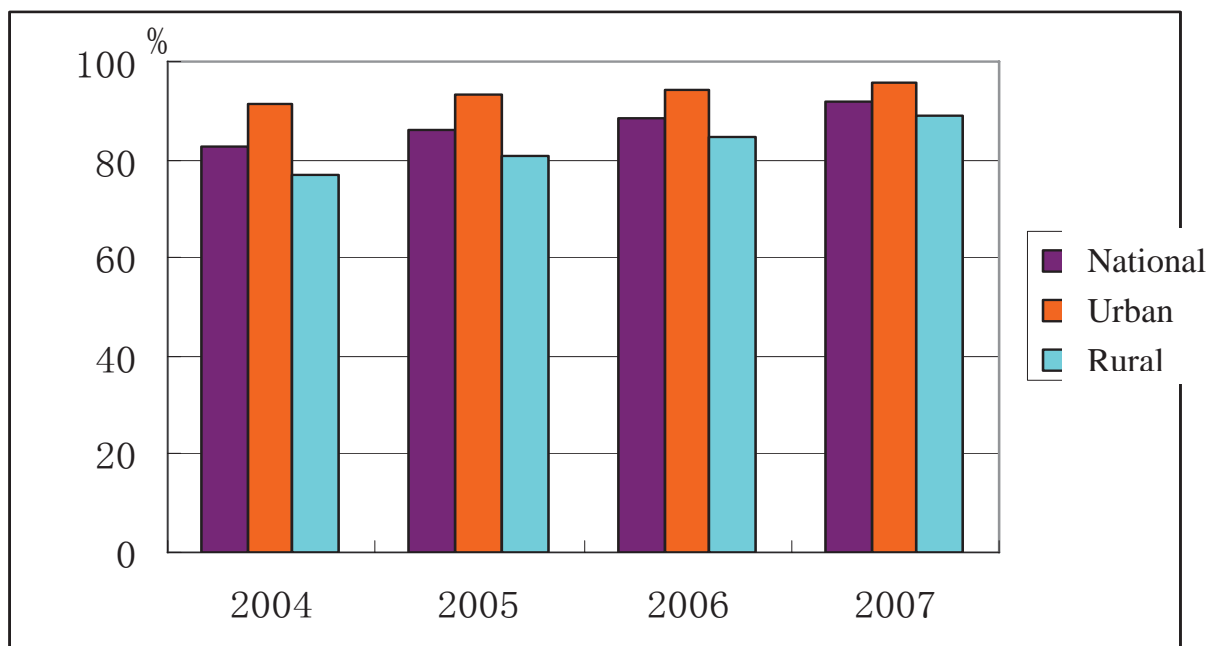
financial assistance for poor pregnant women's hospital delivery has greatly reduced maternal and newborn mortality. Recognizing the major impact that out-of-pocket expenses on health care have on families, the central government is rapidly expanding public funding for NCMS, which now covers 85.7% of counties and has 730 million subscribers.

3. Potential MDG Gaps

(1) Disparities in access to and the quality of health services for rural, poor, migrant and ethnic minority women continue, leaving many of these groups with a disproportionate burden of mortality. The knowledge and practices of midwifery and obstetric staff in particular should be improved, particularly in rural China, focusing on delivery care, and emergency and referral services.

(2) The fees charged for maternity services have, until recently, been a barrier to the care and treatment of many of China's neediest women. Further strengthening

Figure 5.2 Hospital Delivery Rate





of the NCMS and urban health insurance schemes is required to ensure coverage, for all women, of an essential package of affordable quality services.

(3) Some traditional and new strategies that could have a significant impact on maternal mortality such as pre-pregnancy counseling and care, and early supplementation with multiple micronutrients for pregnant women remain under-implemented, particularly in the poorest areas.

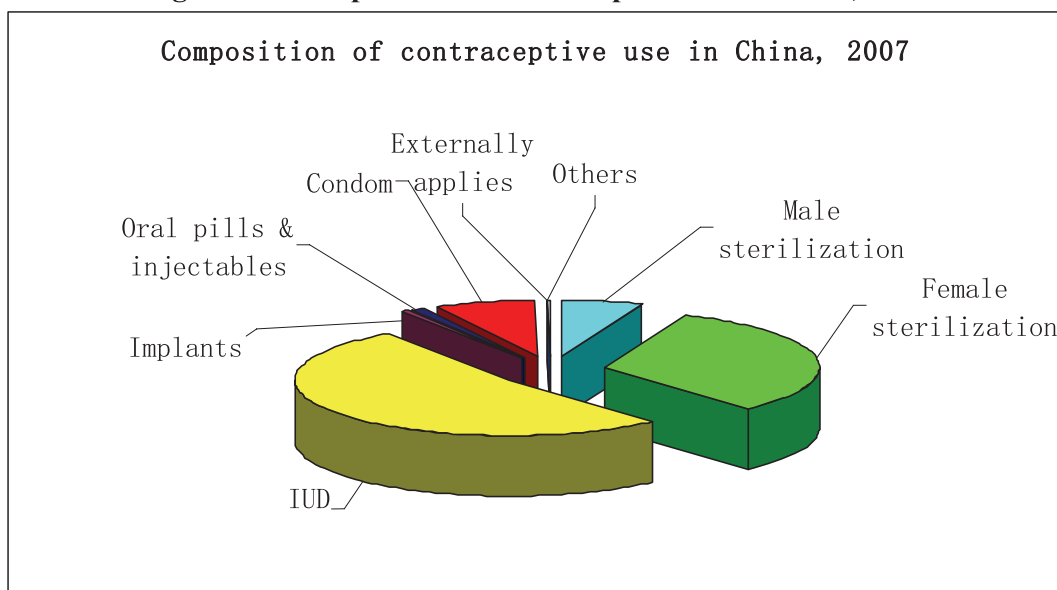
TARGET 5B: ACHIEVE, BY 2015, UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Status and Trends

There are four internationally agreed indicators to measure progress in reproductive health: contraceptive prevalence, the adolescent birth rate, antenatal care coverage and the unmet need for family planning. The adolescent birth rate and unmet need for family planning are new indicators, and thus the Chinese Government may not have data on them this year.

Official data show that China has been doing well in achieving universal access to reproductive health, and will reach this target on time, particularly in terms of contraceptive prevalence and antenatal care. Data for 2007 reveal that the contraceptive prevalence rate in China was 89.74 percent among married women of reproductive age (see Figure 5.3), much higher than the world average of 63.1 percent and the average of the less-developed regions at 62.4 percent

Figure 5.3 Composition of contraceptive use in China, 2007



in 2003. Modern methods such as the intrauterine device and condoms account for most contraceptive usage.

Data on antenatal care indicate progress in providing care by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses or midwives). The antenatal care coverage rate has hovered around 90 percent since 2000 (see Figure 5.4). China has also advanced systematic pregnancy care, with higher criteria to monitor and manage early pregnancy counselling, antenatal care, delivery and postpartum visits, with coverage at 76 to 78 percent. Disparities continue across different provinces and between urban and rural areas, however.

Supportive Environment

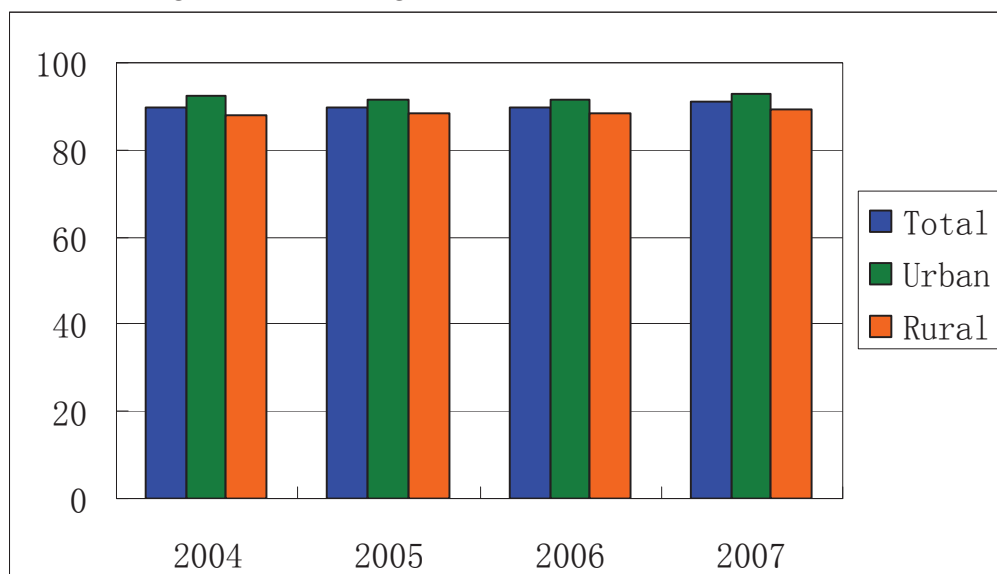
In reproductive health care, family planning policies have contributed to increased contraceptive prevalence. Various contraceptives are free and readily available to married couples. Since 1999, China has implemented the Reproductive Health Promotion Programme. It covers the provision of informed choice in family planning services and integrated reproductive care services; community-based programs for reducing birth

defects; and a model combining RTI prevention with MCH services and family planning services. UNFPA has supported the Reproductive Health/Family Planning Programme jointly implemented by the National Population and Family Planning Commission and Ministry of Health in 30 provinces. Given rising unwanted pregnancy rates among unmarried young people, the programme has piloted initiatives to provide sexual and reproductive health education targeting young people. At present, many MCH hospitals have adolescent health care service.

Potential MDG Gaps







(1) Adolescent births and unmet needs for family planning underscore that much work remains in reproductive health care, particularly in providing services to unmarried people and migrants. Since the definitions and methods of calculation for adolescent birth rates and unmet needs for family planning have just recently been agreed as part of the MDGs, the Government will try to incorporate these indicators into routine reporting systems and/or surveys.

Figure 5.4 Coverage of antenatal care in China, 2004-2007





GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Targets	Prospects for achievement	Level of national support
Target 6a: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Likely	Strong
		
Target 6b: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	Potentially	Good
		
Target 6c: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of malaria and other major diseases	Likely	Good
		

Great progress has been achieved in infectious disease prevention and treatment in China over the reform period. In the 1950s, the top causes of death in China were infectious diseases and verminosis, which by 2005 had declined to the ninth most common cause following years of effort. Among developing countries, China has been the first to eliminate some of the most serious infectious diseases, including variola and poliomyelitis. Since the first AIDS case was reported in 1985, China has continually increased policy support for HIV prevention and treatment, as well as its financial investment. The Government has

taken a leadership and organizational role in forming a national working mechanism with every department assigned its own specific responsibility and the involvement of the whole society in HIV prevention and control work. It has achieved substantial progress.

China is one of 22 countries with a heavy burden of tuberculosis, having the second largest number of TB patients in the world. Two 10-year national prevention and treatment plans have been implemented since 1981, and a set of modern TB control strategies has emerged.

The number of malaria patients has declined from 24 million in the 1970s to a few hundred thousand by the end of 2007. The number of areas heavily affected by malaria has decreased remarkably.

Although China suffers frequent natural disasters, it has had not an outbreak of infectious disease after a disaster in many years. China successfully responded to SARS in 2003, controlled the expansion of avian influenza to humans in 2004, and ensured that no infectious disease outbreak occurred after the recent earthquake in Sichuan. Disease prevention and control organizations at the central, provincial, city and county levels have been established, along with prevention, control and treatment systems for serious infectious diseases such as HIV and AIDS, TB, malaria, schistosomiasis, hepatitis B, etc.

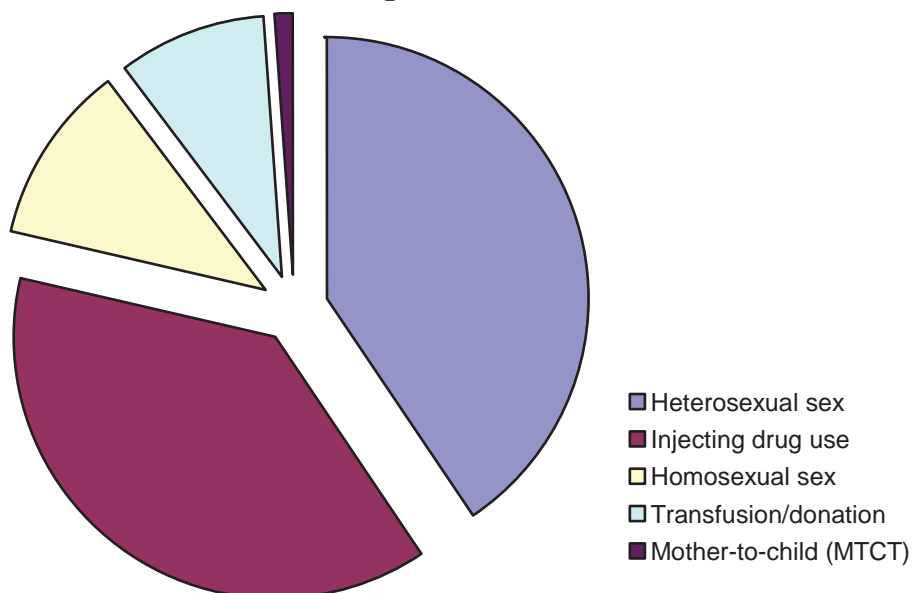
TARGET 6A: HAVE HALTED BY 2015 AND BEGUN TO REVERSE THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS

TARGET 6B: ACHIEVE, BY 2010, UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR HIV/AIDS FOR ALL THOSE WHO NEED IT

Status and Trends

Although the situation is still fluid, and there are a number of difficult challenges ahead, China is on track to achieving the first target. According to the 2007 Joint Assessment Report prepared by the State Council AIDS Working Committee Office and the UN Theme Group on AIDS in China, China had approximately 700,000 people living with HIV and AIDS by 2007, including 40.6 percent infected by heterosexual transmission, 11 percent through men having sex with men and 38.1 percent through intravenous drug use. The HIV infection rate is 0.05 percent (see Figure 6.1). Currently, China's HIV epidemic remains one of low prevalence overall, but with pockets of high infection

Fig. 6.1 Estimated transmission paths of all HIV infections, 2007



among specific sub-populations and in some localities. The epidemic continues to expand, but with declining speed, and geographic distribution is highly varied. Sexual transmission is now the main mode for the spread of HIV.

Among the HIV infections reported between January and October 2007, about 1.6 percent were acquired through mother-to-child transmission, a marked increase over the 0.1 percent rate in 1998. Over the same period, women comprised about 29.5 percent of newly reported HIV cases. If the prevention of mother-to-child transmission is not scaled up, more women may pass the virus to their children. By the end of December 2007, programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission covered more than 4.41 million pregnant women in 271 counties, and were backed by financial support from the central Government (see Figure 6.2). The HIV transmission rate from mother-to-child decreased nearly 60 percent through prevention measures.

China's 2008 report to the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS indicated that based on the Global Fund Round 5 AIDS baseline survey, 50 percent of men aged 15 to 24, and 55 percent of young women aged 15 to 24 obtain proper information and knowledge of HIV prevention and treatment.

By the end of December 2007, anti-retroviral therapy was being provided in 1,232 counties in 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities). The cumulative number of people aged 15 and above who had commenced treatment was 41,777, with 33,980 currently receiving the therapy (see Figure 6.3).

Supportive Environment

The Government strengthened the national AIDS policy framework by issuing the Regulations on AIDS Prevention and Control, and the new Five-Year Action Plan for Reducing and Preventing the Spread of AIDS (2006-2010) in early 2006. The State Council AIDS Working Committee Office

Fig. 6.2 Results from programmes in 271 counties to prevent mother-to-child transmission, 2007

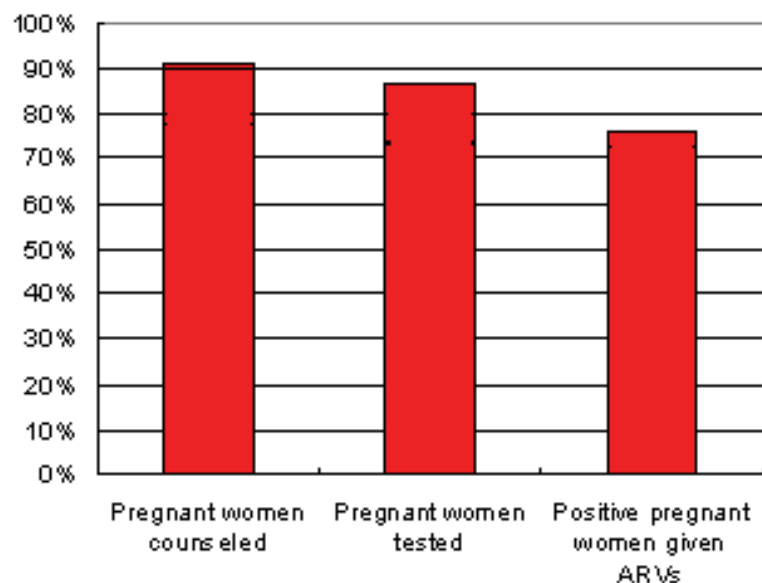
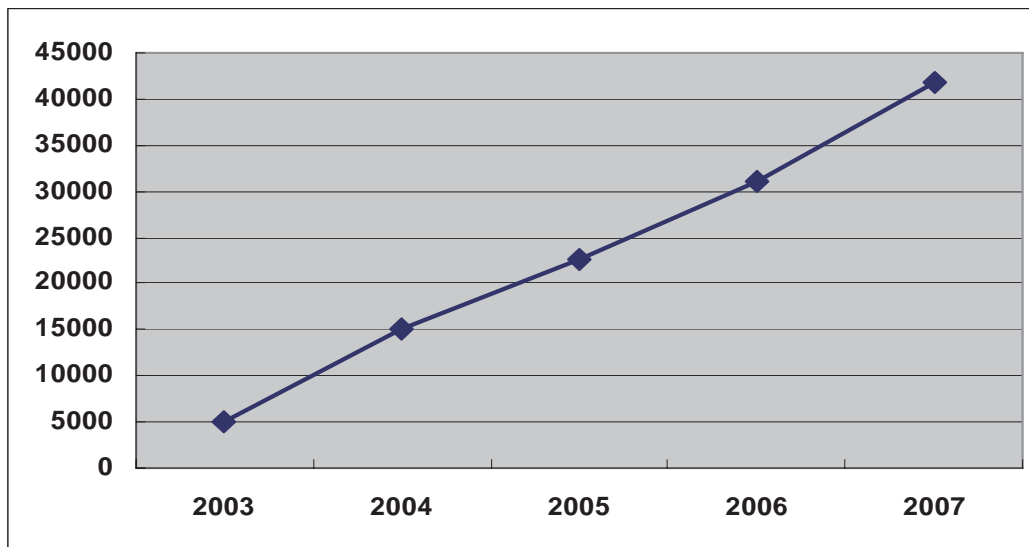


Figure 6.3 Cumulative number of AIDS patients receiving anti-retroviral therapy

was established in 2004; all 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) and 88 percent of cities have established AIDS prevention and treatment leadership. The Four Free One Care policy provides free anti-retroviral drugs to AIDS patients, free voluntary counselling and testing, free drugs to HIV-positive pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission, free schooling for children orphaned by AIDS, and care and economic assistance to the households of people living with HIV and AIDS. The Government has also conducted a series of advocacy and education activities among migrant populations, youth and women in order to raise HIV and AIDS awareness, and fight stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV. A multisector prevention and treatment mechanism has been developed. Government financial inputs for AIDS prevention and treatment topped 2.6 billion yuan from 2005 to 2007.

Active international cooperation includes partnerships with UN organizations; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and bilateral agencies from

Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Many international NGOs have also been engaged in HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment work in China, including the Clinton Foundation and Gates Foundation. International projects have covered all 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities).

Potential MDG Gaps

(1) The National AIDS Publicity and Education Guidelines should be revised and updated. Information, education and communication activities that reach vulnerable groups, including out-of-school youth, minorities, migrant workers, and migrant populations from remote and rural areas, need concerted attention. Anti-stigma advocacy and education among health care workers and the whole society should be strengthened to reduce stigma and discrimination, and encourage the broader involvement of those affected by HIV and AIDS.

(2) There should be a nationwide scaling up of effective interventions directed at high-risk populations. Although much

improvement has been observed in condom use among sex workers and clients, the scale of such interventions has been below what is needed in order to generate significant impacts.

(3) Comprehensive approaches to changing behaviours among intravenous drug users should be stepped up. Effective follow up is often constrained by the lack of reliable information on key target populations, particularly men having sex with men. Not enough is known about the size of these populations or their behaviour patterns.

(4) Anti-retroviral therapy should be standardized, and adherence to treatment protocols improved. There should be initiatives to promote the availability of second-line drugs, and support local governments in devising matching policies and increasing investments in implementing the Four Free, One Care programme.

(5) Regulations and laws should be further adjusted and/or completed to support civil society organizations working to prevent HIV and AIDS.



TARGET 6C: FROM 1990 TO 2015, REDUCE TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA CASES BY HALF

Status and Trends

China has revised this target to make it more suitable for national circumstances. Based on WHO estimates, China has 1.31 million new TB cases each year, and 600,000 of them are smear positive, which makes China number two in the world in the number of cases. China is one of 22 high-burden countries for tuberculosis. A 2000 survey found that the prevalence of active pulmonary TB was 367/106, and the prevalence of smear-positive pulmonary TB was 122/106. The survey estimated that China has 4.5 million active TB cases; 1.5 million of them are smear positive. Every year there are 130,000 TB deaths. The prevalence is twice as high in the less-developed central and western provinces as in the more economically prosperous eastern provinces. About 80 percent of TB cases occur in rural areas, with TB serving as one of China's "poverty-causing" diseases.

China has adopted the WHO-recommended DOTS control strategy for TB, increasing coverage from 5 percent in 1991 to 100 percent in 2007. Case detection has increased from 5 percent to 79 percent, while the cure rate has remained above 85 percent since 1994.

The number of reported malaria cases has risen from 24,000 in 2000 to 64,000 in 2006. Stronger control measures have led to downward trends in malaria reporting. A total of 50,148 malaria cases with 18 deaths were reported in 31 provinces (municipalities and autonomous regions), or a 21.9 percent decline compared to 2006. The notification rate was 0.70

per 10,000. Among these cases, 48,318 involved vivax malaria, 1,830 falciparum malaria. Cases are still being reported in 1,182 counties (cities, districts) in over 20 provinces, covering a population of nearly 700 million people. These cases have been distributed mainly in the relatively under-developed and inaccessible areas, including the southwest border areas, the central mountainous area of Hainan, Huaibei Plain of Anhui, Henan, and the border areas of Henan and Hubei in central China.

Malaria control made significant progress in 2007. Four million person-time blood screenings were conducted for fever patients; 363,000 people received radical treatment during their resting stages; and 1.856 million people received prophylactic medication in the season when malaria transmission is high. A total of 4 million people were protected through indoor residual insecticide spraying in malaria outbreak sites, insecticide immersion of nets in key villages, and delivery of free long-lasting insecticide-treated nets for poor residents in remote areas. In addition, about 49,000 malaria control workers received technical training, and various health education activities were conducted among populations in endemic areas.

Children born in China in the 1950s could expect to live for 46 years, while those born in 2000 could expect to live for over 71 years.⁸ Such rapid development is contributing to major societal changes and new challenges. Reduced fertility and increased life expectancy has led to a population that is rapidly aging. By 2035, one in four people living in China will be 60 years or older.⁹ At the same time, chronic diseases already account for 82.5 percent of deaths and 70 percent

of disability.¹⁰ The economic loss from three major non-communicable conditions (heart disease, stroke, and diabetes) in China was estimated at \$558 billion between 2005 and 2015.¹¹ A large part of this loss is due to premature death and disabilities among adults between 35 and 69 years of age. However, more than 50 percent of deaths from chronic disease are attributable to a small number of modifiable risks factors, including salt intake and diet, exercise, and tobacco use.¹²

The three main causes of death in China are cerebrovascular diseases (22.45 percent), cancer (22.32 percent), and chronic respiratory diseases (15.81 percent). More than 160 million adults in China are hypertensive,¹³ and more than half are undiagnosed.¹⁴ The prevalence of hypertension has increased by 31 percent during 1991 to 2002. The prevalence of hypertension is higher in northern provinces (34 percent) compared with southern ones (23 percent).¹⁵ Diabetes is estimated to affect 2.6 percent of the population above the age of 18, although most are unaware of their condition and even fewer receive treatment.¹⁶ There are 350 million smokers in China, and an additional 540 million people (including 180 million children) are exposed to second hand smoke.¹⁷

Over the next 10 years in China, it is projected that deaths from chronic diseases will increase by 19 percent. A high burden of chronic disease is not an inevitable consequence of an ageing population – much of this burden of disease occurs prematurely and could be prevented if cost-effective policies were implemented. However, awareness and implementation of policies and interventions are still low. Although

challenges remain, China is taking important steps to prevent adults from dying too young or suffering disabilities related to chronic conditions

Supportive Environment

The State Council developed the National TB Prevention and Control Programme (2001-2010) in 2001. Accordingly, the Ministry of Health created two five-year implementation plans—for 2001-2005 and 2006-2010—with targets and tasks for different stages of national TB control. China has gradually implemented free treatment, strengthened case notification and case management, provided health services for TB cases in remote rural areas, set up township microscopy sites to help rural residents access health services in time, and strengthened work planning and budget estimation.

In order to achieve programme targets, China has gradually increased allocations for TB prevention and control. Central funding rose from 260 million yuan in 2004 to 480 million yuan in 2007. Provincial and sub-provincial governments have also upped their inputs. Support and technical assistance has come from the World Bank; the UK's Department for International Development; grants from Japan; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the Canadian International Development Organization; the Damien Foundation Belgium and the WHO.

To respond to the difficulties of TB control among migrant workers, drug-resistant TB, and TB and HIV co-infection, the Ministry of Health has conducted pilot activities in several locations and is studying these experiences.

The Government has also increased financial inputs for malaria control. Free anti-malaria drugs are provided to high-prevalence provinces. In 2007, the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health allocated 24 million yuan in special funding to support malaria prevention and control in some high-prevalence provinces. Since 2003, China has successfully applied for Global Fund support, receiving US \$62 million. The Government also pays attention to regional collaboration with neighbouring countries on malaria control, and is working on establishing a disease notification mechanism for the Burma border area.

Potential MDG Gaps

(1) The rapid expansion of DOTS has led to quality problems in some places, including a lack of staff and weak human resource capacities. This affects training, supervision, cooperation between TB control facilities and general hospitals, surveillance and statistics, laboratory functioning, health promotion, etc. Initiatives on TB control in migrant populations, multi-drug resistant TB, and TB and HIV cross infection are still in the pilot stage. A comprehensive TB prevention and control programme needs to be further elaborated and implemented.

(2) Due to inconvenient transportation, weak awareness among medical workers, and poor compliance with existing policies, some residents in remote rural areas do not receive a prompt or accurate diagnosis. The standard treatment rate is low, as a result. Frequent population shifts and malaria prevalence in border countries are additional large challenges.



GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Targets	Prospects for achievement	Level of national support
Target 7a: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Likely	Strong
	↑	↑
Target 7b: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	Potentially	Good
	→	→
Target 7c: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Likely	Strong
	↑	↑

Over its 30 years of reform and opening up, China's efforts to protect the environment and improve socioeconomic development have been simultaneously progressing. In the 1970s, as China began transitioning from a planned to a market economy, economic growth was achieved with an environmental price. The 1980s were a turning point for environmental protection, which was positioned as part of basic state policy, laws and regulations were improved on this subject. In the 1990s, especially after the UN Conference on the Environment and Development, China altered its traditional development path to emphasize sustainability. Since

the turn of the century, China has realized that the coordinated development of the economy, population, natural resources and environment is critical to the Xiaokang Society. It has set achievement of an ecologically sound civilization as part of its national strategic tasks. China is continuing to explore ways of achieving this by establishing energy-saving and environmentally friendly industrial structures, and promoting sustainable consumption, aiming for the harmonized coexistence of human beings and the natural world.

TARGET 7A: INTEGRATE THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO COUNTRY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES AND REVERSE THE LOSS OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

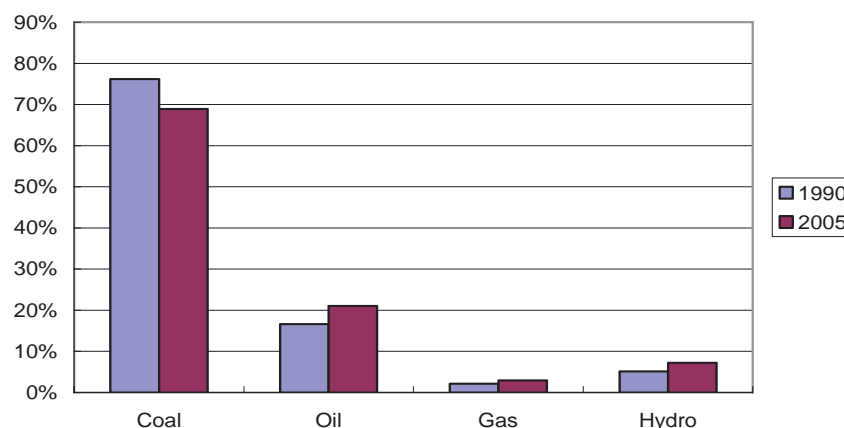
Status and Trends

Years of rapid growth have taken a toll on China's land and forest resources. In recent years, a number of government initiatives have attempted to address this issue. These include returning farm land to forests, grasslands or wetlands; practicing forest and wetland conservation, and nature reserve development; using reforestation to combat desertification; managing grasslands and controlling pollution. National forest coverage increased from 13.92 percent to 18.21 percent from 1990 to 2005. The total artificial forest area is 54 million hectares or one-third of the world's total, giving China the top ranking for this in the world. By 2007, 2,531 natural reserves had been established, and 15.2 million hectares of land had been protected, accounting for 15.19 percent of the total land area of China. Nationwide, 47 percent of

wetlands are protected, and the total area of natural forest reserves comprises 12.8 percent of total land area.

Today, China is the world's second biggest energy consumer. It has become the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in absolute terms, with 3.65 tons per capita of greenhouse gas emissions (fossil energy) in 2004. Its emissions, however, are about one-fifth of those of the United States at 19.7 tons, and less than one third of the average for developed countries. This is due in part to impressive progress in energy saving and the reduction of emissions. From 1990 to 2005, China saved 800 million tons of coal equivalent, which is the same as reducing 1.8 billion tons of carbon dioxide emission by adjusting the economic structure and increasing energy efficiency alone. In 2007, energy use per unit of GDP declined by 1.16 tons of coal equivalent, down by 3.66 percent compared with 2006, which saved about 100 million tons of coal. Sulfur and carbon dioxide emissions declined by 4.7 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively. The share of coal in overall one-off energy consumption has fallen from 1990 to 2005, from 76.2

Figure 7.1: Changes in China's patterns of energy consumption since 1990



percent to 68.9 percent, while the shares of oil, gas and hydro-power have increased from 16.6 percent, 2.1 percent and 5.1 percent to 21 percent, 2.9 percent and 7.2 percent respectively (see Figure 7.1).

The absolute increase in generation capacity for renewable sources has increased dramatically. China is one of the world's main producers of photovoltaic generators, solar water heating technology and wind power plants. By the end of 2007, the installed capacity of hydropower generation had reached 145 gigawatts, accounting for 20 percent of the total power generation capacity. Installed wind turbine power generation capacity is over 6,000 megawatts. The solar heat collecting area was up to 110 million square metres, which accounts for 50 percent of the world total. There were more than 27 million household biogas digesters that generate 11 billion cubic metres of biogas annually. China will gradually increase the proportion of renewable energy in overall energy consumption, with targets of 10 percent by 2010 and 15 percent by 2015. By achieving these targets, the utilization of renewable energy in China by 2020 will be 600 million tons of coal equivalent, saving 1.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide and 8 million tons of sulfur emissions. Given the very rapid increase in energy demands, however, boosting the share of renewable energy in overall consumption is an ongoing challenge.

China has also made impressive progress in curbing emissions of ozone-depleting substances (see Figure 7.2). It has met the phasing-out targets of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. By the end of 2006, the production and consumption of the major ozone-depleting substances,

chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, trichloroacetic acid (TCA) and methyl bromide were reduced to the level of 1986, allowing China to fully meet the target agreed with the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol. From 1 July 2007, China stopped the consumption of CFCs (except for essential uses) and halons. This important target was achieved two and half years ahead of the schedule set by the protocol (December 2009).

Supportive Environment

Since the 1992 UN environment conference, China has developed a national environment strategy for achieving the conference's vision of sustainable development, known as Agenda 21. The 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010), which was approved by the National People's Congress, has defined national objectives, tasks, key areas of investment and policy measures, and made energy saving and emission reduction as restrict targets. In 2007, China launched the National Climate Change Programme, which set a goal of increasing the efficiency of energy use by 20 percent while increasing to 10 percent the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix by 2010. It stipulates maintaining the emission of nitrogen dioxide at the 2005 emission level, increasing forest coverage to 20 percent, rehabilitating pastureland by 24 million hectares, improving degraded grassland by 52 million hectares, increasing the coverage of protected areas to 16 percent and controlling desertification on 22 million hectares.

To implement the new Five-Year Plan for Environmental Protection, in March 2008, China officially upgraded the State Environmental Protection Administration

to a new Ministry of Environmental Protection, and established a State Bureau of Energy. It launched the first pollution cost assessment report, and became the first developing county that qualitatively analyses the economic cost of pollution. China has endorsed and implemented a number of international conventions and treaties, including the Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention on Biodiversity, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention on Wetland Protection, the Stenholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the World Convention on Heritage, etc.

China is continuously increasing inputs to environment protection. In 1996, expenditures on environmental protection only accounted for 0.7 percent of GDP, increasing to 1.4 percent in 2003. It is expected that this figure will rise to 2 percent by 2010. During the 10th Five-Year Plan period, national public investment

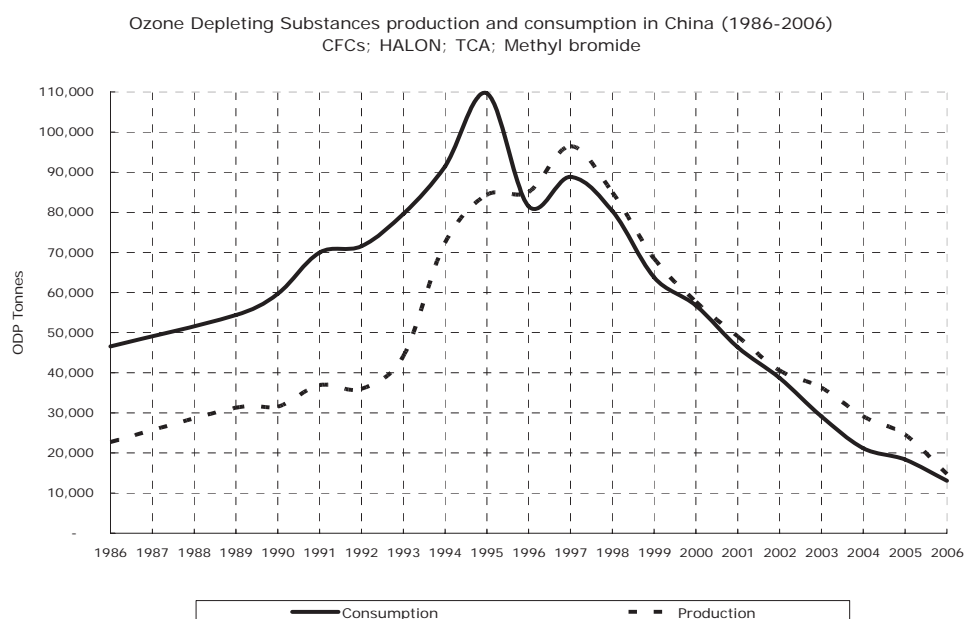
in environmental protection amounted to 2.13 billion Yuan, with an annual increase of 28.3 percent. Local governments mobilized 370 million Yuan through local public financial resources, with an annual increase of 56.7 percent.

Potential MDG Gaps

(1) With the acceleration of industrialization and urbanization, the quest for natural resources will increase, which will put pressure on land use, forest management and environment protection. As land without forest and grass coverage is mainly located in areas subject to erosion and desertification, this delays and hinders eco-restoration. To adapt to climate change, there is an urgent need to introduce integrated and coordinated approaches to accelerate eco-restoration processes.

(2) Although advanced technologies and funds have been introduced, China is still facing many difficulties in reducing energy use per unit of GDP, and carbon

Figure 7.2: The production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, 1986-2006



emissions due to the dominance of coal in energy use. There is a lack of appropriate advanced techniques for energy efficiency, while industry, and the electricity, transportation and building construction sectors confront many hindrances in promoting green techniques. It is also a challenge to introduce low carbon modules in infrastructure, energy, transportation and the building sector, given current and future urbanization.

(3) China's agriculture is under pressure from climate change and the degradation of eco-systems due to the small per capita size of land ownership. The sustainable development of agriculture will require adjusting agricultural production structures, improving agro-production conditions, preventing desert expansion and enhancing capacities to adapt to climate change.

(4) The threat posed by the pollution of water resources is particularly great, because China's per capita endowment of water is only a quarter of the world's average. The improvement of water resources management and allocation, the strengthening of infrastructure and

the national water saving programs will contribute to water safety, better socioeconomic development and sustainable water ecosystems.

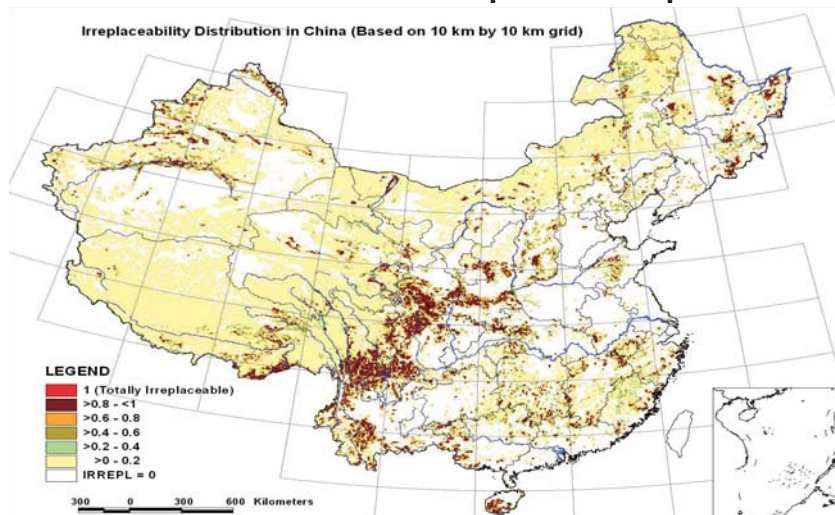
(5) Due to imbalanced regional ecological rehabilitation, the western part of China, especially northwest China, struggles with huge challenges to environmental sustainability. The vulnerable ecosystem in western China is a leading factor restricting socioeconomic development there. It is also critical to the rest of the country because it is the origin of the northwest monsoon wind and the main rivers.

TARGET 7B: REDUCE BIODIVERSITY LOSS, ACHIEVING, BY 2010, A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF LOSS

Status and Trends

China is home to some of the world's richest ecological treasures, with a great variety of unique and globally significant species and ecosystems. This biodiversity

Figure 7.3: The distribution of irreplaceable species in China



Source of Data: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

is under severe threat from the pressures of economic growth, however, presenting significant challenges to sustainability and progress on the MDGs.

China's great diversity is particularly valuable since it has a high degree of endemism, meaning its species are found only there and not naturally anywhere else (see Figure 7.3). China has recorded 33,000 species of higher plants, accounting for over 11 percent of recorded plant species worldwide, and ranks third in the world in plant diversity. It is also home to approximately 6,347 species of vertebrates, including 581 mammals, 1,244 birds, 376 reptiles, 284 amphibians and 3,862 fresh water fish species. More than 20,000 marine species have been reported, accounting for over 10 percent of the marine life diversity of the planet. China is also one of the world's major centres of origin for agricultural crops, and one of the four major cradles of cultivated plants.

Today, China's globally significant biodiversity confronts severe threats

from the illegal harvesting and exploitation of plants and animals, as well as forest degradation. The latter has led to the phenomenon of "empty forests" in much of China. Many large lakes are shrinking and small lakes are disappearing. Water quality is declining, water levels are dropping, and pollution and eutrophication are widespread. Wetland and aquatic biodiversity is suffering from the disappearance and dysfunction of wetlands, while major and minor rivers and streams are excessively polluted. Grasslands are overgrazed, with 90 percent of natural grasslands now degraded. Desertification is increasing in fragile dryland areas, grasslands and limestone karst areas.

Supportive Environment

The Chinese Government has developed some important policies and plans for ecological protection and restoration. Biodiversity conservation is part of the 11th Five-Year Plan, including forest and wildlife protection, the construction of natural reserves and land conversion.

Table 7.1: Status of major groups of animals and plants in China

Species	Threatened %	Near threatened %	Threatened status % (est. 1998)
Hermatypic corals	100	0	-
Butterflies	12.8	20.1	-
Frogs and toads	39.9	19.63	2.5
Snakes, lizards and turtles	27.5	15.3	4.5
Birds	7.4	7.36	14.6
Mammals	39.8	10.7	22.1
Conifers	69.9	21.2	28.0
Flowering plants	86.6	7.2	13.0
Rhododendrons	55.4	0.04	-
Orchids	78.3	21.2	-

The update of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is almost complete. It comprises the National Biodiversity 2010 Targets and Indicators, and provincial strategies and plans finalized or underway in key biodiversity areas. The new National Climate Change Programme includes a strong emphasis on natural forest, wetland and grassland protection and restoration. Wetland conservation regulations have been put into force, while the Ramsar implementation centre within the State Forestry Administration has been strengthened through increased attention to wetland management, as indicated by new wetland management regulations. The State Environmental Protection Administration has been upgraded to a full ministry, the Ministry of Environmental Protection. It is expected that the office responsible for Convention on Biodiversity implementation within the ministry will be significantly strengthened as a result of institutional restructuring.

Potential MDG Gaps

(1) Poor awareness of the role and importance of biodiversity for economic and social development means that biodiversity conservation is not fully integrated in planning and policy-making processes at the national and local levels.

(2) Responsibilities for biodiversity conservation are allocated to a number of government agencies. Cross-agency coordination and policy consistency need to be improved.

(3) There has been a failure to effectively implement policies and legislation on the ground. The capacity of local governments to translate and adapt national laws and

policies into locally adapted regulations promoting biodiversity needs to be strengthened.

(4) Monitoring systems and procedures lack consistency and transparency. Monitoring capacities and information sharing need to be strengthened.

TARGET 7C: HALVE THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND BASIC SANITATION

Status and Trends

The Chinese Government has made significant progress in improving the quality of drinking water and the environmental sanitary.

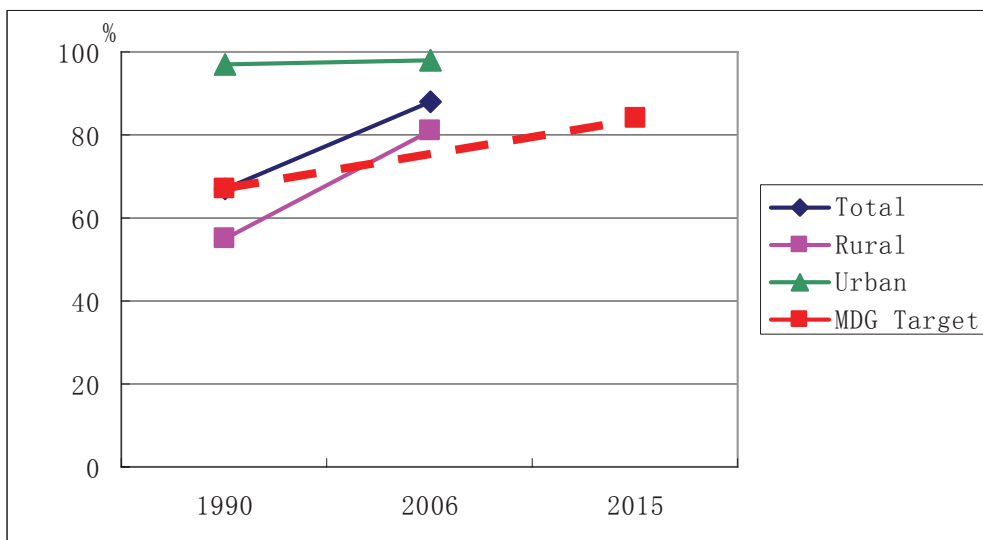
A 2008 joint monitoring report by the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO), "Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: Special Focus on Sanitation," estimated that the proportion of the population obtaining safe drinking water increased from 67 percent in 1990 to 88 percent in 2006. China will achieve the MDG target on "halve the proportion of population without safe drinking water" (Figure 7.4). An assessment made by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Water Resources found that the increases can mainly be attributed to improvement in rural areas. In 2000, 379 million rural residents lacked access to safe drinking water, the figure had declined to 251 million people by 2007. According to the 11th Five-Year Plan, another 160 million

people will obtain access to safe drinking water over the period 2006 to 2010. This means that China will exceed the MDG target.

According to the Ministry of Health, coverage rates of improved water sources in some western China are still much lower than national averages (see Figure 7.5).

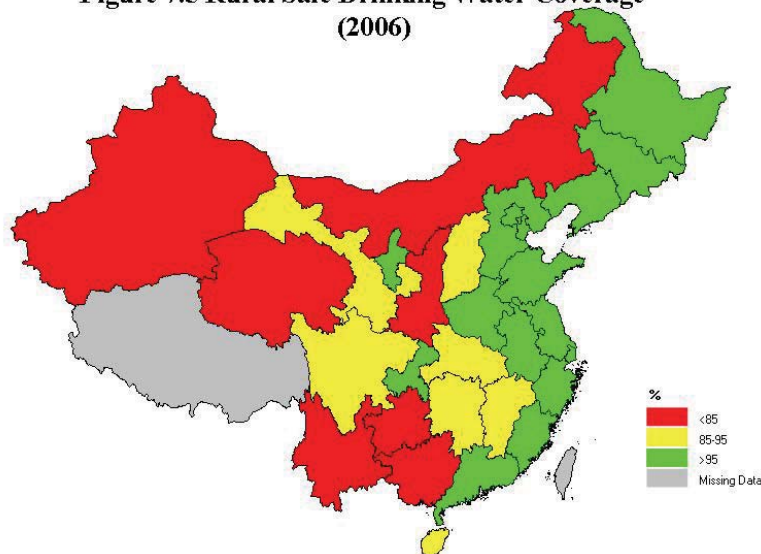
The Government gives top priority to improved drinking water in rural areas, but gaps have resulted from different geographical and economic conditions.

Figure 7.4: Proportion of the population access to improved safe drinking water



Source: "Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: Special Focus on Sanitation," UNICEF and WHO, 2008.

Figure 7.5 Rural Safe Drinking Water Coverage (2006)



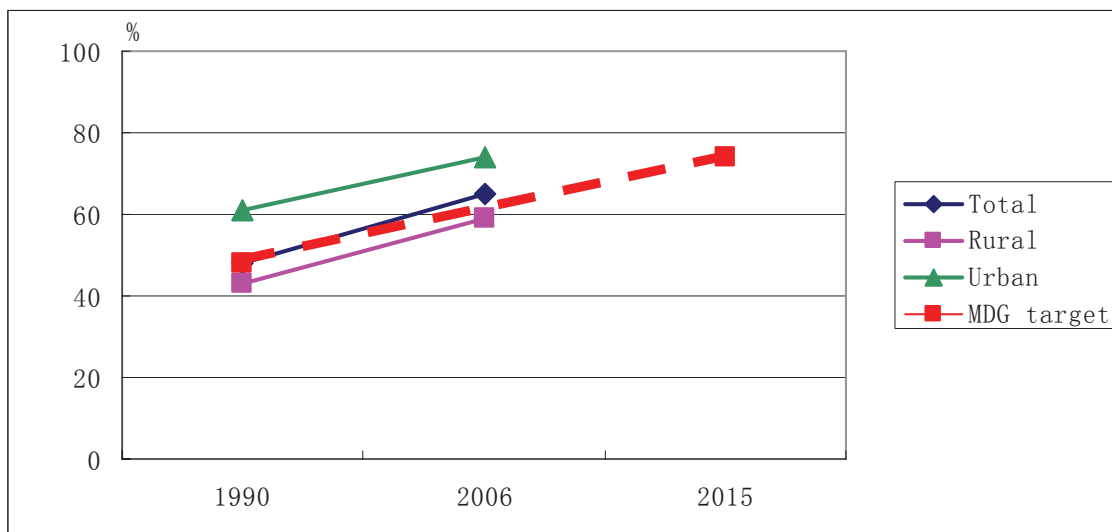
Data Source: MOH, China Health Statistics Yearbook 2007

Note: The map is indicative, not represent the legal boundary

According to the UNICEF and WHO joint monitoring report, sanitary latrine coverage is increasing in both rural and urban areas. However, the coverage of sanitary latrines in rural areas is still much lower than that in urban areas. The MDG target is likely to be achieved only on condition that both central and local governments increase their financial inputs on rural sanitation improvement in the coming 9 years.

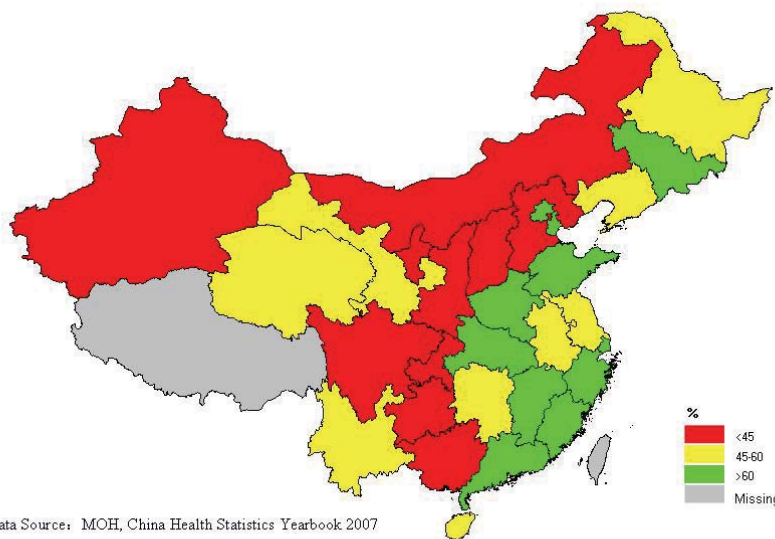
Similarly, the priority of sanitation improvement in China is in the rural areas. Statistics from Ministry of Health shows that the differences among provinces are significant. The rural sanitary latrine coverage rates range from the lowest province with 28 percent to the highest province with 95 percent (Figure 7.7).

Figure 7.6 Proportion of population access improved sanitary latrines



Source: “Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: Special Focus on Sanitation,” UNICEF and WHO.

Figure 7.7 Rural Sanitary Latrine Coverage (2006)



Data Source: MOH, China Health Statistics Yearbook 2007
 Note: The map is indicative, not represent the legal boundary

Supportive Environment

The Government pays great attention to ensure providing safe drinking water and sanitary environment. The 11th Five-Year Plan prioritizes safe drinking water and rural sanitation in the New Socialist Countryside Programme. According to the “National assessment report on rural situation on safe drinking water” completed in 2005, the Government of China has issued the “National 11th Five-Year Plan on Rural Safe Drinking Water (2006-2010)”. It calls for extending safe drinking water to another 160 million rural residents. By 2010, the problems concerning drinking water safety in moderate and severe fluorosis areas and areas affected by arsenic are to be fully solved. All water safety issues should be completely settled by 2015. In order to achieve these targets, between 2001 and 2005, the Government invested RMB 22.3 billion in water safety, including RMB 11.7 billion from the central government, and RMB 10.6 billion from local governments and individuals. Between 2006 and 2010, RMB 65.5 billion have been planned for drinking water improvement, including RMB 32 billion from the central government, RMB 27 billion from local governments and RMB 6.5 billion from rural people benefiting from the improvements.

Funding for rural sanitary latrine improvement increased annually in the 10th Five-Year Plan, a trend that continues in the 11th Five-Year Plan. These increases were associated with the New Socialist Countryside Programme, the Western Areas Development Programme, the Project On Schistosomiasis Control, the Rural Health Education Project and the Project On Climate Change. Between



2004 and 2006, the central Government invested more than RMB 400 million in rural sanitary latrine improvement in schistosomiasis-affected areas, which contributed greatly to schistosomiasis control. In 2007, it invested nearly RMB 300 million in sanitary latrine improvement in non-schistosomiasis areas. The Government has also intensified the promotion of high-standard harmless sanitary latrines in rural areas.

Potential MDG Gaps

(1) There are gaps between urban and rural areas in safe drinking water coverage and sanitary latrine coverage. Disparities between the western and eastern regions have widened. Population migration and urbanization may help reduce the number of population without access to safe drinking water and essential basic sanitary facilities.

(2) The utilization of agricultural chemicals and water pollution caused by domestic garbage, solid waste and industrial waste will create problems for efforts to improve drinking water. Issues of arsenic and fluoride poisoning are still severe in some areas.

(3) Although the central Government has invested heavily in rural sanitary latrine

improvement, there is still a gap between the current status and the MDG target. It is clear that investments by local governments are insufficient. The shortage of technical and management personnel in counties, towns and villages is significant. Little attention has been paid to the departments that undertake the work. Sanitary latrine facilities are often not properly utilized and maintained due to weak sanitation and hygiene promotion.

(4) The improvement of personal and environmental sanitation remains a challenge especially in rural areas, since this means effectively guiding people to change their behaviours. New mechanisms and measures need to be brought in.

(5) The improvement of drinking water and sanitary latrine facilities requires the involvement of a large number of departments and governments of all levels, along with enterprises, communities and families. An enabling policy framework should be in place, comprising professional standards, effective coordination mechanisms and monitoring methods. Capital should be raised from various sources in order to achieve cost effectiveness and maximum impact.



GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

As a developing country, China is not duty-bound to carry out the obligations under Goal 8, but China has always regarded strengthening cooperation with other developing countries as an important cornerstone of foreign policy. China's South-South cooperation takes diversified forms, covering a wide range of areas such as trade, investment and technology, and constituting the important part of global South-South cooperation. Since the 1950s, China has been providing assistance to other developing countries. In recent years, with the upgrading of China's economic strength, the size and scope of assistance has been gradually expanded. By the end of 2007, China had provided assistance to more than 120 countries with almost 2,000 projects of various types. It had waived 374 debts of 49 heavily indebted poor countries and least-developed countries. Trainings had taken place for nearly 100,000 foreign officials, managers and technicians, while about 20,000 medical staff had been sent to developing countries. China also provided urgent humanitarian assistance after the Indian Ocean tsunami and other major natural disasters.

Most developing countries are concentrated in Africa, an important area for China's cooperation. Bilateral trade between China and Africa went from US \$2 billion in 1999 to US \$73 billion in 2007. Direct investment rose from US \$317 million in 2004 to US \$519 million in 2006. Chinese President Hu Jintao, in his speech at the 2006 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, promised to provide US \$3 billion of preferential loans and US \$2 billion of preferential buyer's credits to Africa from 2007 to 2009, and to set up a China-Africa Development Fund that will have US \$5 billion to encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa.

China has actively participated in regional cooperation, including Greater Mekong sub-regional cooperation, Central Asia regional economic cooperation and the Greater Tumen Initiative between China, Russia, Mongolia, DPRK and the Republic of Korea, and has hoped to promote comprehensive regional economic integration in Asia. In May 2004, China and the World Bank jointly held a Global Poverty Reduction Forum in Shanghai, and communicated global poverty reduction

awareness and practices. At the forum, China announced its US \$20 million contribution to the Asian Development Bank for the establishment of China's Special Fund for Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation, which aims to support poverty reduction and regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific. China also signed an agreement with UNDP to jointly create the International Poverty Reduction Centre of China. Formally established in Beijing in May 2005, the centre is a new platform for international cooperation on poverty reduction.

In recent years, with increased South-South trade and investment, private enterprises need to participate in policy dialogues on social, environmental and other issues. The Chinese Government and these enterprises are rapidly raising the status of the latter in these dialogues. For example, the Chinese business community increasingly recognizes the importance of the UN Global Compact. Since 2000, a series of Global Compact forums have been held in China. In July 2007, more than 80 Chinese business leaders attended the Global Compact Leaders Summit in Geneva, making up the largest delegation. Their presence reflects the wider participation of the Chinese business community in South-South cooperation related to the Global Compact.

TARGET 8A: DEVELOP FURTHER AN OPEN, RULE-BASED, PREDICTABLE, NON-DISCRIMINATORY TRADING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Developing countries have regularly called for the establishment of a fair, stable, inclusive and orderly international financial system that supports international economic cooperation and promotes development. In this regard, China has been actively advocating for a greater voice and the expanded representation of developing countries in international financial institutions, towards enhancing the effectiveness of the international financial system. In the reform process of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), China has played a positive role. It has also actively participated in the Bank for International Settlements and other agencies.

Trade is a very important factor in achieving common global development. China has always supported the multilateral trading system, opposed trade protectionism, and promoted a just and rational international trading system. Since 2001, China has fulfilled its commitments made during WTO accession negotiations, and constantly improved its economic openness, bolstering the rapid development of its national economy along with the stability of international trade. China participated in the Doha Round negotiations fully and helped link the negotiations to the achievement of development goals. In response to the WTO initiative "Aid for Trade", China has donated US \$200,000 to help developing countries, in particular the least-developed nations, to enhance their ability to

participate in international trade.

TARGET 8B: ADDRESS THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

In December 2003, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced duty-free market access for some of the commodities from the least-developed countries in Africa that have diplomatic relations with China. Chinese President Hu Jintao announced at the 2005 UN Summit that China would give zero-tariff treatment for most China-bound exports from all of these countries. In November 2006, at the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Chinese President Hu Jintao announced that the number of zero-tariff products would increase from 190 to 440.

By June 2008, 42 of the 50 least-developed countries as defined by the United Nations were receiving zero-tariff treatment for the substantial export of goods through various channels. The proportion of zero tariffs is 9.3 percent to 14.3 percent, accounting for 97.9 percent of the total trade volume of the exports of these countries to China. About 466 items from 31 LDCs in Africa could become zero-tariff products.

TARGET 8C: ADDRESS THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL-ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

As a transit developing country, China has always supported the economic development of landlocked developing

countries and their participation in international trade, and has provided transit transport services. Since 2002, under the coordination of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, China, Mongolia and Russia have been engaged in negotiations on the China, Mongolia and Russia Transit Transport Agreements. Since 2003, China has been actively implementing the Almaty Programme of Action and participating in the Greater Mekong Sub-region to Facilitate Cross-boundary Passenger and Freight Transport Agreements, along with many other international conventions on transit transport. It has assisted with infrastructure construction for landlocked developing countries, including the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan Highway and other cross-border transport routes. Regional cooperation has been targeted to facilitating trade with landlocked developing countries.

China recognizes the importance of small-island developing countries to sustainable development. It backs the Mauritius Strategy and assists small-island countries to implement it. Over the years, the Government has deepened and expanded cooperation with these states, providing assistance within its capacity. In March 2006, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced at the China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum that the Government would provide 3 billion yuan in preferential loans to the enterprises of the Pacific Island countries to promote economic and trade cooperation for the next three years. In addition, China has offered assistance through technical cooperation and material projects, and organized various training and practical skills

courses. In 2005 and 2006, to support personnel training, China held the Tropical Agriculture Technology Training Courses for Small Island Developing Countries and the International Workshop on the Sustainable Development of Small-Island Developing States.

China helps small-island countries strengthen their capacities to manage water resources through training, personnel exchanges and the provision of experts. China is concerned about the issue of climate change as well as small-island developing countries, coping with the challenges seriously. In the past few years, China has adopted a very strict energy and climate change policy, set the world's most ambitious goals on energy conservation and alternative energy development, and encouraged the development of new low-carbon technologies. At present, China has the world's largest solar farms and hydropower facilities. It is becoming the world's main exporter of renewable energy technologies.

TARGET 8 D: DEAL COMPREHENSIVELY WITH THE DEBT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEASURES IN ORDER TO MAKE DEBT SUSTAINABLE IN THE LONG TERM

Since 2000, China has been gradually increasing its foreign aid, particularly to boost assistance to the least-developed countries. President Hu Jintao declared

that China will further expand the scale of assistance to the heavily indebted poor countries and least-developed countries at the UN High-Level dialogue on Financing for Development in September 2005. Over the following two years, China will waive or eliminate, through bilateral channels or other means, all outstanding interest-free and low-interest government loans that had been due before the end of 2004, and that were held by heavily indebted poor countries with diplomatic relations with China. During the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, President Hu Jintao proclaimed that China would waive interest-free loans due to expire at the end of 2005 for the heavily indebted poor countries and the least-developed countries in Africa that have diplomatic relations with China. By June 2008, China had signed an agreement to eliminate the debts of 32 out of 33 eligible countries.

China also participates in debt relief and development operations initiated by international or regional organizations such as the IMF and the African Development Bank, the West African Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank. It has provided an SDR donation of nearly 40 million to the IMF. Since China joined the African Development Bank in 1985, it has committed US \$486 million to the African Development Fund and contributed US \$195 million to multilateral debt relief operations. There is also a US \$2 million bilateral technical cooperation fund with the African Development Bank. China has donated US \$33.2 million to the Special Development Fund of the Caribbean Development Bank, and established a US \$1 million technical cooperation fund with the Caribbean Development Bank and the

West African Development Bank.

TARGET 8E: IN COOPERATION WITH PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES, PROVIDE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ESSENTIAL DRUGS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

As a developing country, China has been making efforts to establish and improve basic domestic medical care. Since 1979, the Chinese Government has participated in the WHO's Action Programme on Essential Drugs and organized experts to select essential medicines. China has launched an initiative in 2006 to provide basic medicines in urban communities and rural areas, and guided pharmaceutical enterprises to provide the most commonly used essential medicines to urban communities. The development of systems to provide essential medicines has helped meet the basic needs of the Chinese people through increased availability.

China has also called on developed countries to help developing countries access affordable essential medicines, and worked directly to assist other developing countries. At the 2005 UN High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, President Hu Jintao declared that China would provide medicines such as anti-malaria vaccines, and aid in establishing and improving medical facilities, and training medical staff. During the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing in November 2006, he committed China to building 30 hospitals in Africa, providing 300 million yuan to help combat malaria through artemisinin-based drugs, and

establishing 30 anti-malarial centres. Progress has been made on these initiatives: construction of 19 of the 30 hospitals will start this year, and will begin on the others by the end of 2009. China has set up malaria control centres in Burundi, Chad, Liberia, Gabon, the Republic of Congo and Uganda; other centres are being constructed in an orderly manner. In 2007, China provided anti-malarial drugs to 33 African countries facing serious epidemics. There are now more than 1,000 Chinese medical team members working in 40 African countries.

TARGET 8F: IN COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MAKE AVAILABLE THE BENEFITS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, ESPECIALLY INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Chinese Government stresses the fundamental importance of the information and communications industry, and supports leapfrog development strategies by making use of information technology to stimulate industrialization, and industrialization to promote information technology. These approaches have achieved positive results.

China has completed construction of a national communications infrastructure that covers the entire country, and reaches different parts of the world through advanced technology and comprehensive business service. Both the scale of this network and the number of users rank first in the world. Moreover, the pace of development has also ranked highest. As of April 2008, the total number of users of China's fixed telephone and mobile

phone systems reached 927 million. Total telephone coverage was 70.5 percent. The number of Internet users amounted to 221 million people, and the Internet access rate was 16.8 percent. Information and communication technologies are increasingly used in pushing forward the various aspects of China's national economic and social development.

The overall level of China's information and communication industry still needs to be improved, however. Development between urban and rural areas, and among the different regions has been uneven. The task of narrowing the "digital divide" is still arduous. The Chinese Government has prioritized rural communications, and initiated the "Village to Village Works". By the end of 2007, China had invested over 30 billion yuan to open new telephone lines for 75,000 administrative villages and over 20,000 natural villages. The telephone conversation rate of the administrative villages was 99.5 percent and the broadband Internet access rate 92 percent. Over 2,000 agricultural information service platforms and more than 6,000 agriculture-related Internet sites have been built. China is establishing a fund for universal telecommunications service, and is promoting the application of various techniques and guiding enterprises to participate in the construction of rural communications.

For the information industry, the 11th Five-Year Plan focuses on encouraging independent innovation, enhancing competitiveness, improving the environment for development, and promoting strategic restructuring of the information industry in order to lay a solid foundation for achieving the strategy

"Powering the Country Through the Information Industry."

China has encouraged regional cooperation in the field of information and communications. It has assisted Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and other countries to build the Greater Mekong Sub-region Information Highway, trained senior telecommunications managers for countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and held training workshops for managers and technical personnel of member countries of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity.



CONCLUSION

GOALS and Targets	WILL THE GOAL OR TARGET BE MET	STATE OF NATIONAL SUPPORT
MDG1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger		
Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	Already met	Strong
Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	Potentially	Strong
Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Already met	Strong
MDG2: Achieve universal primary education		
Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Already met	Strong
MDG3: Promote gender equality and empower women		
Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Likely	Strong
MDG4: Reduce child mortality		
Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under five mortality rate	Already met	Strong
MDG5: Improve maternal health		
Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	Likely	Strong
Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	Potentially	Good
MDG6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases		
Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Likely	Strong

Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	Potentially	Good
Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Likely	Good
MDG7: Ensure environmental sustainability		
Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Likely	Strong
Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	Potentially	Good
Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Likely	Strong
MDG8: Develop a global partnership for development		

Analysis of China's progress in achieving the MDGs reveals great success as well as new challenges brought on by rapid development. China is likely to achieve all the MDG targets by 2015, but special attention should be paid to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, combating HIV/AIDS and reversing the loss of environmental resources. The Chinese Government is aware of the problems and has taken actions to address the new challenges, paying special attention to balancing development between urban and rural areas, different regions, economic and social progress, and between people and nature. China is set to achieve further development successes by 2015, making even greater contributions to the international effort to reach the MDGs.