

The Arab Millennium Development Goals Report

Facing challenges and looking beyond 2015

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United Nations
League of Arab States



- The report is a product of collaboration between League of Arab States, the United Nations organizations members of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and the Regional United Nations Development Group for the Arab States, and coordinated by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).
- Two years to go to 2015, this is the fourth and final Arab MDG report.

The Report: Objectives and Methodology



- The content:
 - Assessment of MDG progress
 - Rethinking a post-2015 development agenda for the Arab region
- Following the metadata guidelines, the report uses statistics from both national and international sources

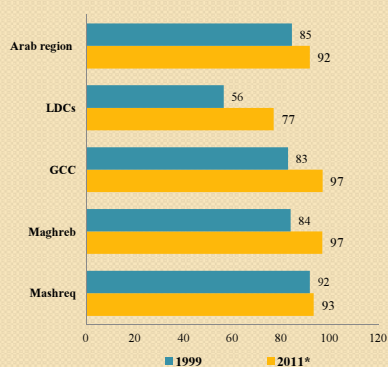
Three main messages

1. Overall, strong progress on many MDG targets, but with deficits in addressing inequality, quality, governance and regional partnership.
2. Recent political transitions in some countries provide an opportunity to meet people's aspirations, yet they are a current threat to MDG progress.
3. The post-2015 development framework should have, at its core, pillars that promote good governance; emphasize the *quality*, not just the *quantity* of development; empower women; reduce inequalities; and foster sustainable development for all.



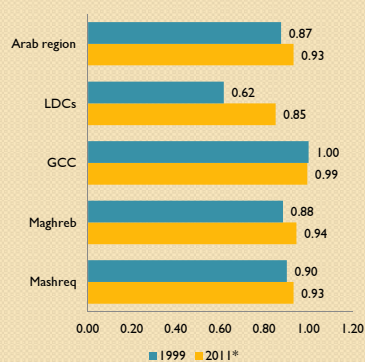
Significant gains towards universal access to education and gender parity

Primary net enrolment rates, per cent

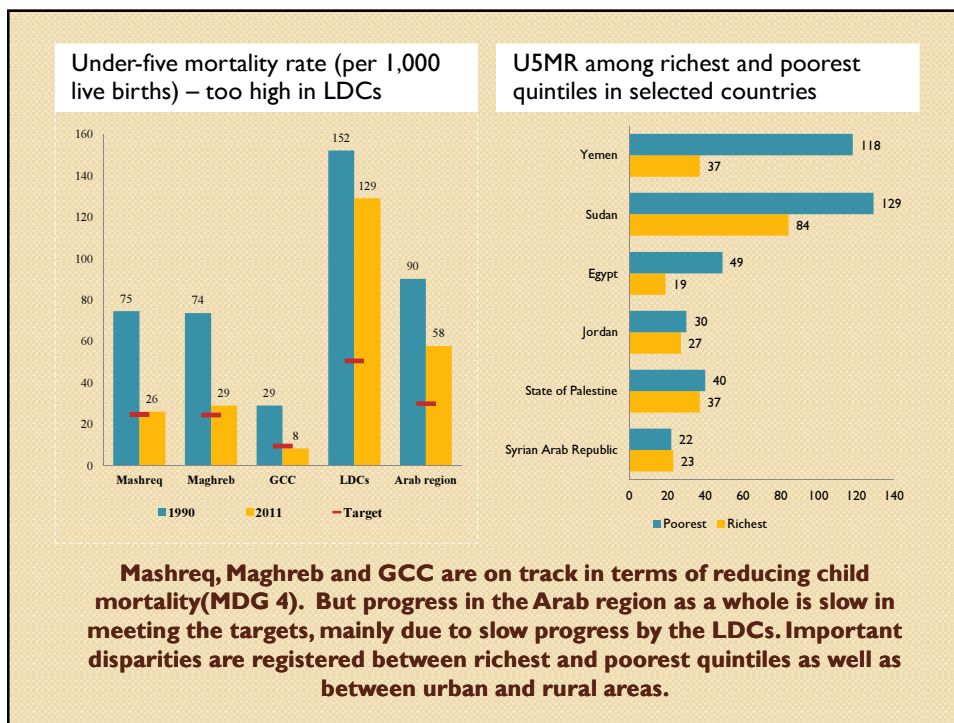
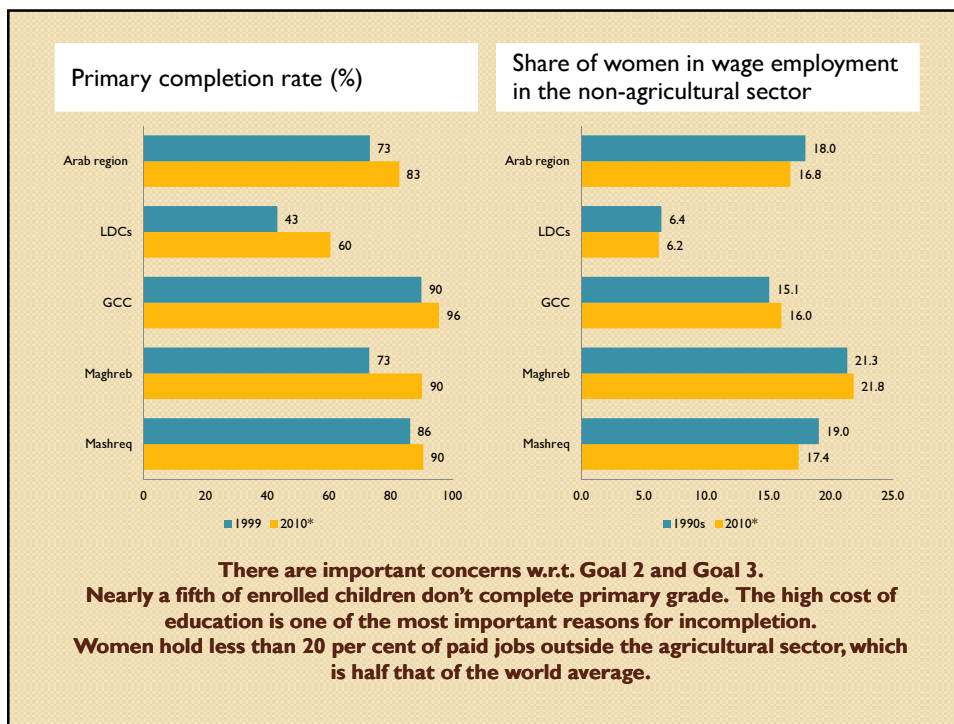


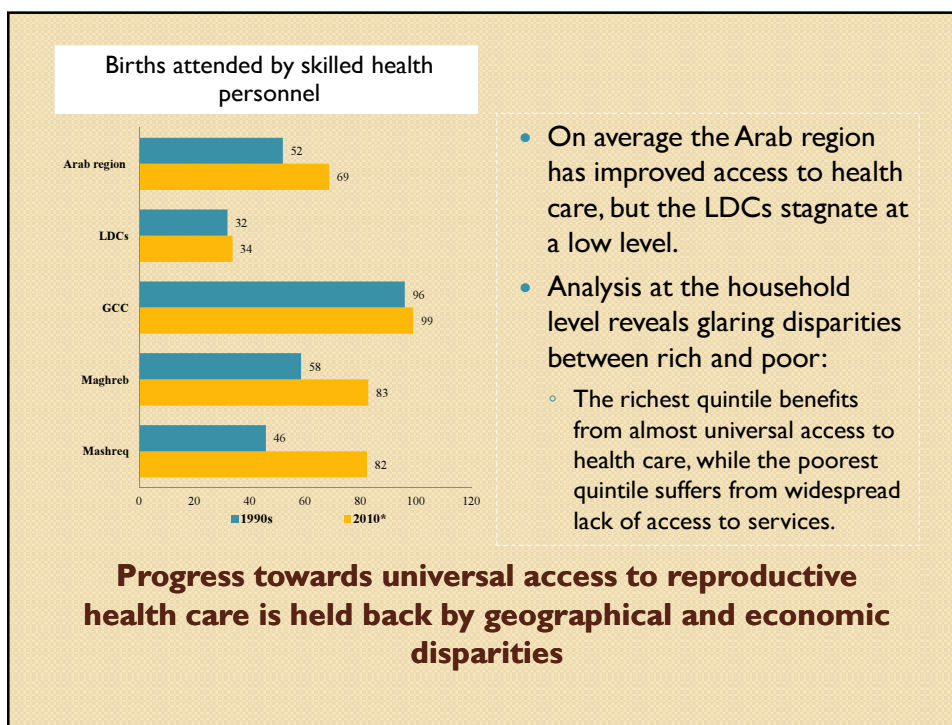
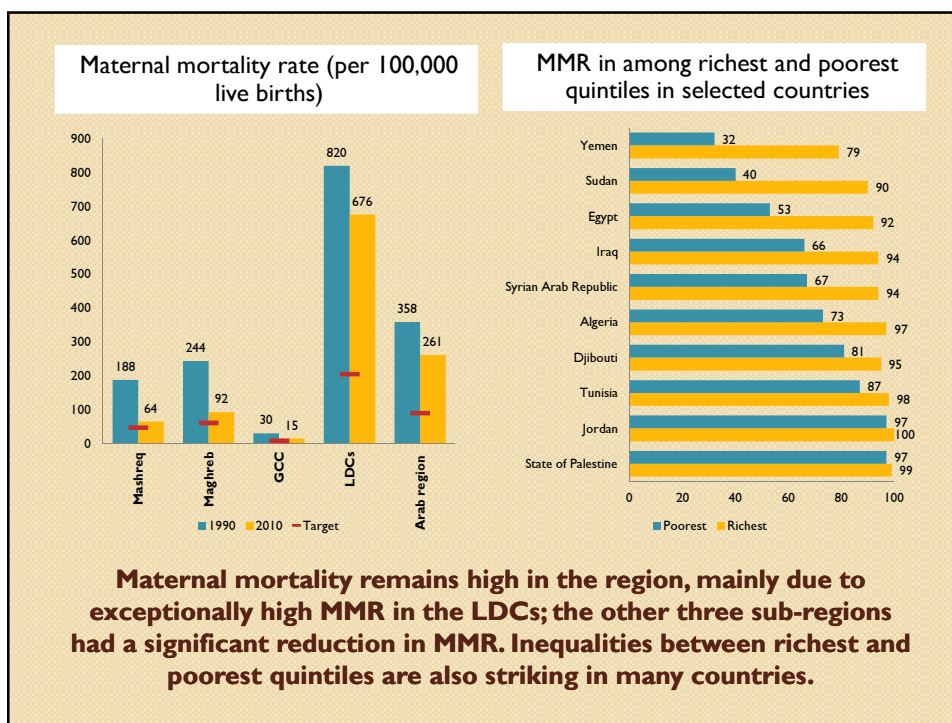
- Primary school enrolment and literacy rates in the region have increased.

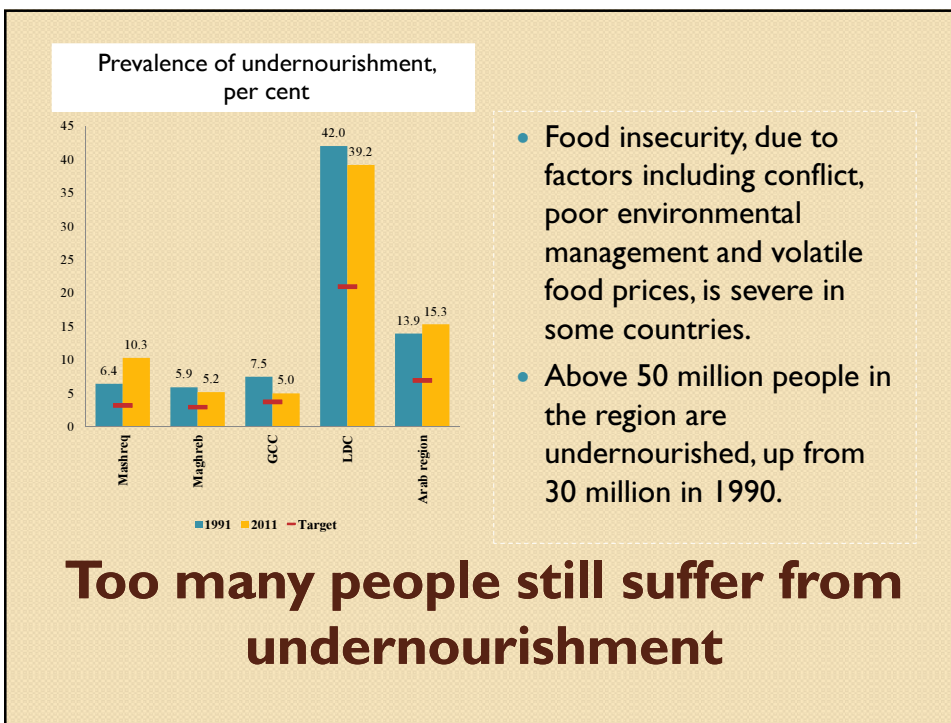
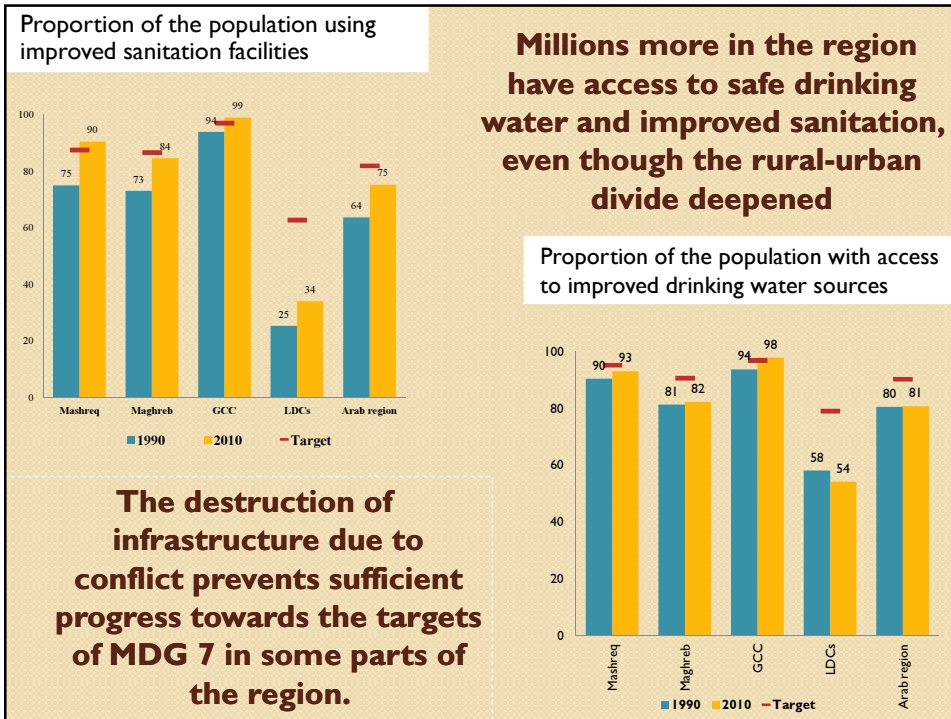
Gender parity index: Primary enrolment



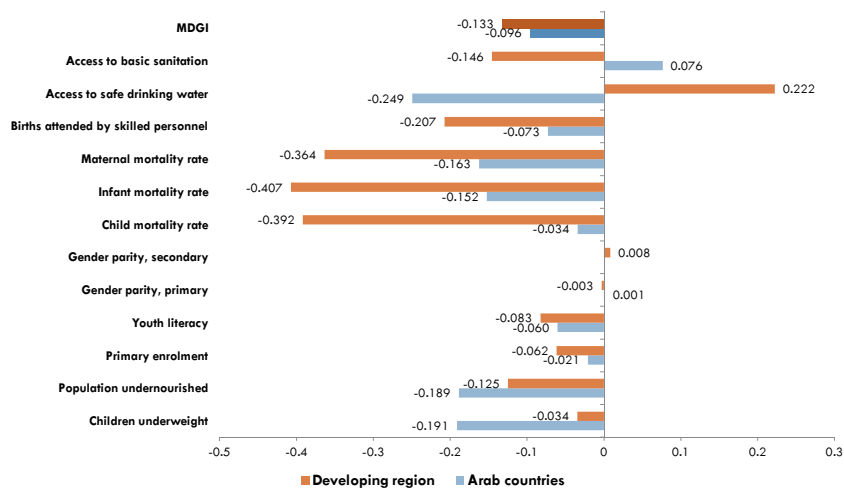
- The region is increasingly close to gender parity in education for primary, secondary as well as tertiary enrolment.



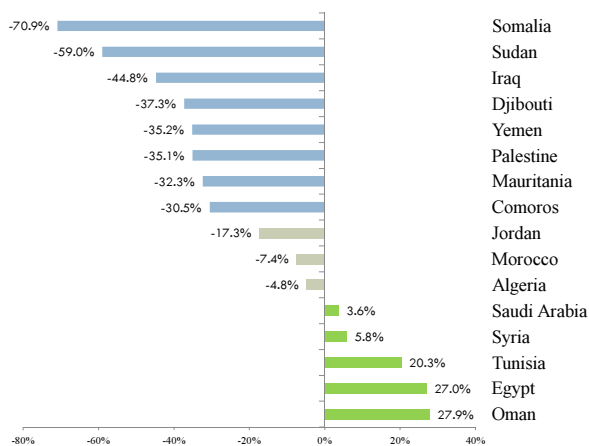




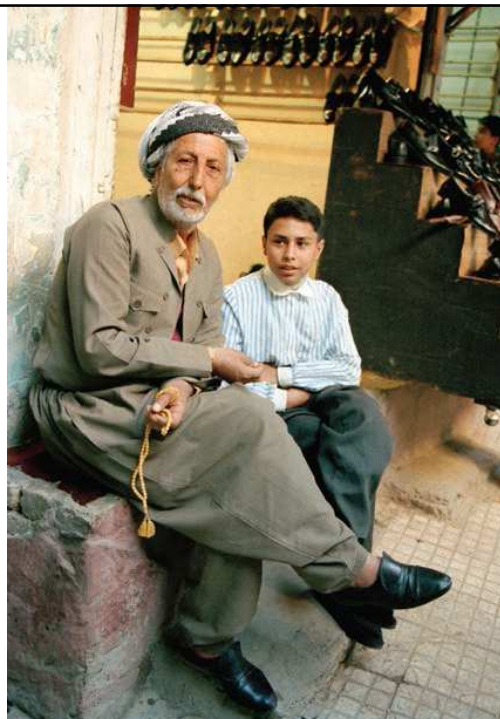
Summary of MDGs: Despite deficits in MDG 1 & 7, Arab region has performed better than the average of developing regions



Summary of MDGs: LDCs and countries in conflict lag significantly behind

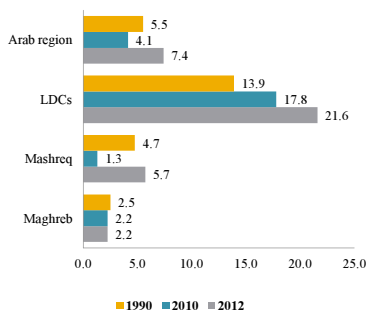


2. The recent events represent an opportunity for the region if the aspirations of the people are met, but also a challenge to MDG progress by 2015



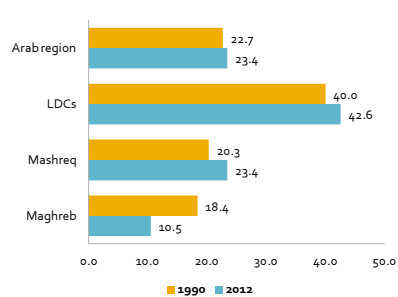
Poverty swells after 2010

INCIDENCE OF EXTREME POVERTY, LESS THAN US \$1.25 A DAY



- Estimates in 2012 shows that extreme poverty spikes to 7.4 per cent in 2012.

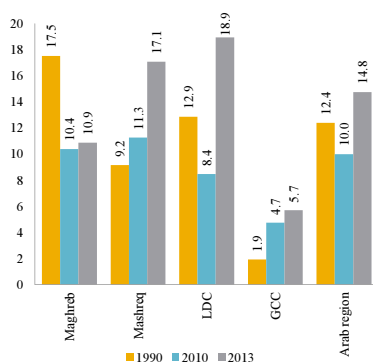
INCIDENCE OF POVERTY BASED ON NATIONAL POVERTY LINES



Poverty also rose to 23.4% in 2012, as against 22.7 per cent in 1990.

Instability affected unemployment

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES,
PER CENT

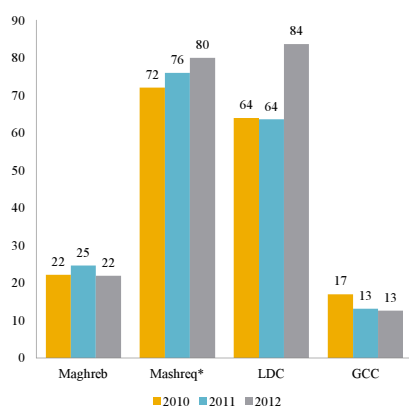


- In 2013, the unemployment rate is expected to have reached 14.8 per cent, which is even above the 1990 level.

The estimated increases in poverty and unemployment are expected to contribute to a continuing increase of people suffering from hunger-- One out of five in the near future ; up from 15 per cent in 2011.

Fiscal space for development expenditure in middle-income countries and LDCs is more constrained after 2010

GENERAL GOVERNMENT GROSS
DEBT, PER CENT OF GDP



- Mashreq and the LDCs are facing increased debt levels
 - Some middle-income countries are above the 60 per cent debt-to-GDP threshold for debt sustainability
 - All LDCs are above the 40 per cent debt-to-GDP threshold for debt sustainability
- Government fiscal deficits are rising
 - From 2011 to 2012, the deficits grew from 2.3 per cent to 4.5 per cent in the LDCs, and from 5 per cent to 8.4 per cent in the Mashreq countries

3. The post-2015 development framework should have, at its core, pillars that promote good governance; emphasize the *quality*, not just the *quantity* of development



Drive and embody inclusive development through good governance

- The fact that some of the countries caught in the recent wave of political instability were also among the region's leading MDG achievers raises important questions about critical issues that have been overlooked by the MDG framework.
- In the Arab region, in particular in the countries that are going through political transition, the rebuilding of institutions is critical.



Emphasize the *quality*, not just the *quantity* of development

- The quality of services that affect development (education, health care etc.) should be firmly incorporated in the post-2015 agenda.
- Not just rate of growth but quality of growth should be prime attention of measuring success in the new development agenda.
- Similarly, quality of life of men and women, and the personal freedoms they have needs greater attention in monitoring any set of development goals.



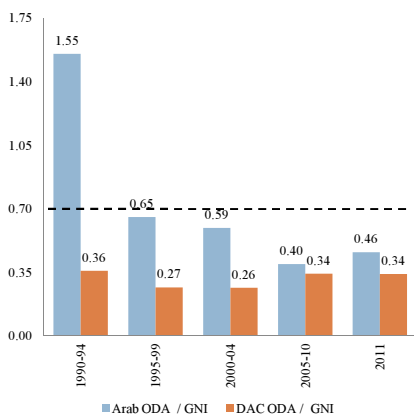
Integrate equality and sustainability frameworks into development agendas

- The vulnerability of food, water and energy resources threatens long-term sustainable development in the region
- Economic growth, accompanied by high and rising inequality, is not sustainable
- A starting point could be to assess national economic, social and environmental policies in terms of whether they contribute to, or detract from, equality and sustainability



National efforts need to combine with regional and global partnerships for development

ODA by Arab Donors and DAC ODA as percentage of GNI

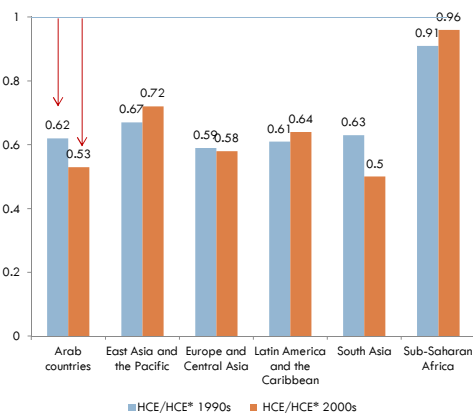


- ODA is far below what is needed for the LDCs, given their limited MDG achievements.
- ODA from Arab donor countries as a share of GNI has declined since 1990, but Arab donors are still more generous than OECD-DAC countries.

Rethink indicators to monitor poverty and inequality and improve access to data

- Reliance on the international fixed poverty line of US \$1.25 raises concerns for many developing countries, especially in the Arab region.
- Measures of inequality should be more reliable and account for actual disparities.
- Measures need to go beyond just income poverty and inequality.

Ratio of household expenditure from surveys to household expenditure from national accounts



Finally, two years to 2015, countries need to prioritise critical policy interventions to accelerate MDG progress



- First, an Arab food security fund can expedite relief during food emergencies
 - ▣ Given the region's acute food security issues, now is the time for implementation of a fund

- Second, Arab countries need to improve social protection
 - ▣ It promises income security and access to all essential services to all citizens, and is a way of ensuring progress across the MDGs.



Thank you!

The report is accessible at: <http://www.escwa.un.org/sites/arabmdg13/>