



For more information please contact:

**Regional Commissions New York Office
New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.**

You can also consult the Web pages of each regional commission

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

<http://www.uneca.org/>

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Geneva, Switzerland

<http://www.unece.org/>

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Santiago, Chile

<http://www.eclac.cl/>

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Bangkok, Thailand

<http://www.unescap.org/>

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Beirut, Lebanon

<http://www.escwa.org.lb/>

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UN Regional Commissions and the Millennium Development Goals

A regional approach to a global problem



Why does the regional approach matter for achieving MDGs

A regional approach

- Facilitates the design of regional policies and of various types of regional infrastructure which are key to achieving MDGs, such as development of transport infrastructure among neighbouring countries, regional energy cooperation, trade facilitation and border crossing;
- Supports national policies aimed at achieving MDGs through exchange of national policy experiences;
- Facilitates informed decision-making at the national level on MDG related policies through analytical and statistical tools produced at the regional level.

Regional policies and infrastructure for MDGs

Regional transport policies and infrastructures. Regional Commissions are assisting countries in expanding transport networks that will help to create income-generating activities in poor regions (Goal 1) and to remove a major obstacle to development in landlocked countries (Goal 8).

Regional trade integration policies, trade facilitation and border crossing. Regional Commissions contribute to setting up of regional trade infrastructures that are stimulating the growth of regional trade and business and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (Goal 1) as well as the promotion of an open and predictable Trade Facilitation Framework (Goal 8).

Regional cooperation to promote sustainable development. Regional Commissions are strengthening regional and subregional cooperation aimed at tackling transboundary challenges related to the protection of environmental resources (Goal 7). For this purpose, they organize intensive regional dialogues, which leads to concrete forms of cooperation and capacity-building activities on transboundary environmental issues, such as the rational use of energy, water and other natural resources in a subregional and regional context.

Regional Commissions support national policies aimed at achieving MDGs

Support to national policymaking on social and economic issues related to MDGs. Regional Commissions organize policy dialogues on such issues as pro-poor growth, equity and social integration (Goals 1 and 2), gender equality and women's empowerment (Goal 3), HIV/AIDS (Goal 5) and environment (Goal 7).

Regional Commissions are also promoting the awareness of national Governments on the "financing for development" goals set out by Goal 8 and taken up in the Monterrey Consensus, and on the appropriate follow-up actions. They organize policy dialogues, seminars and workshops to assist member countries in linking financing for development and the achievement of the MDGs.


Regional Commissions promote and monitor MDGs ...

Regional Commissions, in some cases in collaboration with UNDP and the regional offices of other UN entities, have been promoting the MDGs at the regional level (e.g. through forums and advocacy campaigns on the need to raise the priority accorded in the regional development agenda to tackling HIV/AIDS as a development challenge).

Regional Commissions are working with national and international statistical offices to strengthen statistical capacity for the generation of sound and reliable data relating to the MDGs. These are indispensable for effective monitoring and informed decision-making at the national level. They also support the analytical work done for the preparation of national and regional MDG reports.

Jointly or in complementarity with UNDP, they produced a Regional MDG Report which provides an analysis of the region's progress towards achieving the Goals and a platform for follow-up actions by governments and civil society and for learning from each other's experience.

They also launch follow-up initiatives, such as a series of subregional advocacy campaigns, consultations, and capacity building on MDGs involving various stakeholders coming together, using the convening and facilitating role of the Regional Commissions for this purpose.



UNECLAC Region 96 million people live in extreme poverty, out of a poor population of 222 million - Urban rate of open unemployment rose from 6.9% in 1990 to 10% in 2004. **UNESCAP Region** The home to two-thirds of the world's poor - 700 million people living in less than US\$ 1 a day. **UNECE Region** The only region where poverty increased by 300% during the 1990s (from 31 million to 90 million) - 120 million people do not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. **UNECA Region** The number of people living in absolute poverty has risen from 227 million in 1990 to more than 300 million in 2001 - The effect of HIV/AIDS has been estimated in high prevalence countries at 0.7 per cent GDP per capita growth loss per annum. **UNESCWA Region** 50% of the population lives with less than US\$ 2 a day - 36 million illiterate adults of which 60% are women and ten million children between the ages 6 and 15 are out of school.