



LAGOS STATE

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**2009
REPORT**

Background

This is the second report prepared by the Lagos State Government on the progress made so far towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is a simple story of the progress made by the State between 2007 and 2009 on the 8-point development goals which today, have become the parameters for measuring a country's progress in the area of human development.

The report is divided into two sections. The first section covers the introduction, the methodology adopted in conducting the study and the development context of the report, while the second section examines the achievements made under each MDG. Specifically, discussions of each of the MDGs highlight the status, trends, challenges and opportunities as well as the policy environment in the State that support the attainment of specific goals.

Lagos State has made remarkable progress in some critical aspects of the Millennium Development Goals and given the emphasis of the current administration in the State on good governance, transparency and accountability, it can be concluded that the State has the potential to attain the following six of the MDGs: Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education; Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women; Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality; Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability; Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development. The State, however, has to work harder to ensure that significant progress is made regarding the other two goals where it is yet to record remarkable success. These two other goals are: Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health.

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

The proportion of people living below \$1 per day in the State has been declining over the years. From 53.1% in 2006, it went down to 41.7% in 2007 and further down to 40.1% in 2008. This feat is attributable to the giant strides of State government in the area of free education, free eye glasses for people with eye problems, improvement of Lagos environments and general provision and renewal of infrastructure.

However, population explosion has remained a major problem facing Lagos State. Specifically, rural-urban migration has continued to rise since the mid-1980s till date as the State has continued to remain the destination of new migrants in search of greener pastures. The present administration has responded to this challenge with a strong determination to improve squatter settlements and relocate people in flood affected areas.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

The State has fared well in the area of education. The proportion of pupils who started primary 1 and reached the last grade of primary school education (i.e. completed Primary Six) moved from 95.6% in 2007 to 97.6% in 2008 and then to 98.9% in 2009. The number of literate people between the ages of 15-24 years, however, dropped from 87.3% in 2007 to 79.7% in 2008 and further to 76.9%. Interestingly, the State has the highest post-secondary education enrolment in the country, and has also been able to achieve gender balance in the enrolment of pupils especially at the primary school level. Many pupils have benefited from the State's free education programmes particularly with the provision of free textbooks and writing materials to public schools.

Despite these achievements, however, there are still many challenges confronting the educational sector in the State including the underfunding of tertiary education in the State. Generally, progress towards the goal is currently impressive and there exists likelihood that the State may attain this goal by 2015 if it doubles its efforts on its ongoing education policies and sharpens its focus on tertiary education.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

As contained in Table 3.1, the number of female students who were enrolled for Primary School education and Senior Secondary education has been on the increase. This is contrary to what obtained in 1990. Although, from 1996 to 2004, there was steady increase, by 2006 the figure dropped from 107.9% in the previous year to 104.4%. The proportion of seats occupied by women has also been on steady increase between 2001 and 2007. In comparative terms, many women are still apolitical and where they come out, only a few of them are successful. The 30% affirmative quota given to women still largely exists on paper rather than in practice. It is even amazing to note that the ratio of male to female enrolment in primary and secondary schools is increasingly growing in favour of the females. Girls are increasingly being put out of their parents' households for qualitative education. Evidence of gender inequality is imminent in the ratio of male to female that have been occupying elective positions in the state. For instance, while the total number of males in the Lagos State House of Assembly was put at 36 in 2007, females share was just 5.

There are many challenges confronting the women empowerment in Lagos namely: lack of willingness on the part of majority of women to fight men's dominance in national life, weak sensitization and poor publicity on women's role in development especially for women living in the slum areas. There is also the challenge of domesticating the United Nations Convention on Women and other global and regional frameworks put in place to eradicate gender inequality. Some of the ways of overcoming this problem include: stimulation of women's interests in politics since majority of decisions about males and females take place at the political arena/government circle. The Lagos State Government also needs to establish and strengthen Transit Homes for Victims of Women Violence. The present administration can make provision for free legal assistance to the victims of gender violence. Women, across all ages, should be able to defend their rights, and fight for their freedom.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Infant mortality in Lagos State has been on the decrease since 2003 till date. From 352 per 1000 live births in 2004, the figure dropped to 59 per 1000 live births in 2008. The mortality rate of children under five also dropped from 171 per 1000 live births in 2004 to 89 in 2008. The proportion of children that have undergone immunization has also been impressive, reaching 69.2% in 2008 before dropping to 68% in 2009. This impressive showing has been attributed to increased public awareness among parents on the health of their children and improved sanitation at government hospitals in the State especially those in remote areas of the State.

The State, however, still has many challenges in the area of child health, namely the reliance of majority of people on unregulated and unregistered traditional health care practitioners and poor statistical tracking capacities of the State Government on health profiles of its citizens and child mortality in particular.

Regardless of these challenges, however, there is the likelihood of halving untimely deaths and child mortality in the State if the current administration and the successive ones give the health sector a high premium.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

The number of maternal deaths in the State increased from 281 per 100,000 women in 2004 to 342 in every 100,000 in 2005. It, however, declined to 248 in 2006 only to rise again to 444 deaths per 100,000 women in 2009.

Experts in the field blame the rise in maternal mortality in the State on poor public interest in the use of public hospitals for antenatal care, increasing dominance of the traditional Birth Attendants in health care delivery, poverty, poor road networks and disenchantment of some people with the insistence on blood donation and HIV/AIDS test for expectant mothers and their husbands.

Other causes include post partum haemorrhage, abortion-related deaths, eclampsia, septicaemia and obstetric complications, poor sanitation and dirty environments of some maternal clinics and the traditional birth attendants, and low public awareness on the danger of taking expectant mothers to private hospitals not recognized by law has also been very low.

As a response, the State Government has insisted that the Traditional Birth Attendants must submit themselves for training. This policy has a likelihood of helping to educate traditional medical attendants in the State on maternal birth related complications, if it is sustained.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

The prevalent rate of HIV/AIDS among the pregnant women in the State has continued to decrease. From 6.8% in 1992/1993, the figure dropped to 3.3% in 2005. The prevalent rate among women between ages 15-24 years old however rose from 3.7% in 2007 to 5.1% in 2007. The rise is attributable to increasing sexual activities among the adolescents and youths who were still in their reproductive years.

Interestingly, the percentage of people who said they know that HIV/AIDS exists and that it can kill has continued to rise over the years. Unfortunately, this has not translated into safer sexual behaviours for most people.

It is important to observe that Lagos State is one of the States of the federation where HIV/AIDS has remained a major health burden due largely to the high influx of migrants who have continued to transfer the virus to the permanent inhabitants of the State.

The government of the State has to increase funding if it must overcome the challenge of infrastructure and facilities for HIV/AIDS testing. It also has to ensure constant monitoring and evaluation of progress made so far in this area. Also, SACA must intensify its various policy intervention programmes that will radically improve the perceptions of the people about the problems of HIV/AIDS just as the State Government would need to make ARV free for PIWHA, so that more and more people could be encouraged to know their status and come forward for treatment.

Malaria is another killer disease in the State. The number of reported cases of malaria increased between 2003 and 2007 but dropped in 2005 partly due to the intensity of government's efforts in fighting it.

Tuberculosis has continued to claim many lives especially the poor who are not able to afford the cost of treatment especially in private hospitals.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is one of the cardinal objectives of this administration. This explains the emphasis being placed on the tree planting programme of the State. It has also taken up the challenge of environmental disasters, Ozone layer depletion and of changing the spatial face of Lagos. Specific data show that the proportion of the State's land covered by forest has increased from 1.5% in the year 2006 to 1.6% in the year 2008. The attainment of Mega City status by Lagos State has thrown up many challenges. Some of these are over-urbanization, air pollution, solid waste management, inadequate public enlightenment about the ideals of sustainable environmental development and flooding.

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency has worked hard to improve the environment in the State. It is hoped that increased collaboration between the Federal Ministry of Environment and the State Ministry of Environment will go a long way in halving environmental hazards in Lagos State.

Water shortage is another major problem confronting the inhabitants of Lagos slums. Even in large urban centres, many citizens can still not access safe water. The number of people accessing public water is still far from those who cannot or do not even have hope of getting it in the next three years. Existing data reveal that in the year 2007 only 30% of people in Lagos had access to safe drinking water. This proportion dropped to 25% in 2008 and later increased to 30% in 2009. The hope of meeting this target by year 2015 is weak. Thus, the State Government must rise up to the challenges of ensuring that more citizens access safe water.

Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development

Lagos State is one of the States of the Federation that is enjoying the collaboration of the global community. This is evidenced by the number of collaborations between the state and some international Development Agencies such as the World Bank, IMF, UNHCR, UNICEF to mention a few. Specifically, the value of overseas development assistance to the state increased from N7,592,900.00 in 2007 to N1,078,905,018.20 in 2008 but dropped to N52,805,583.03 in 2009.

Increasingly, the State Government is working towards collaborating with more Development partners. This, according to the Government will help to eradicate poverty and fast-track the development of the State.

Status at a Glance

Goal	1990	1992	1996	2004	2006	2007	2008	2009	Target 2015	Progress Towards Target
1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger										
Percentage of the population living in relative poverty		48.1	53.0	63.58		41.7	40.4	40.2	24.05	Improving but a slow pace
Percentage of the population living in extreme poverty (2900 calories)				66.96		23.3	23.2	23.1	24.15	Improving but a slow pace
Percentage of people living below \$1 per day				64.05		52.3	51.3	51.0	24.15	Slow
Poverty incidence in the State						63.4	62.0	61.7	24.15	Improving
Inequality level (Gini coefficient)				0.6429					-	Insufficient data
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education										
Net enrolment ratio in Primary school or education	421,199	430,077	438,573	423,866	447,069	454,808 (96.7%)	466,201 (97.3%)	479,256 (98.2%)	600,000	Improving
Proportion of pupils starting primary 1 who reach last grade of primary school (Primary six completions (%))	95%	97%	97.5%	98%	99%	95.60%	97.60%	98.90%	100%	Impressive
Literacy rate of 15-24 years olds, women and men	N/A	87.6 (1991)	N/A	1,725,549 (87.8%)	N/A	87.3%	79.7%	78.9%	100%	Improving
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women										
Primary Education (Girls per 100 boys)	102.7	101.3	107	105.3	107.9	104.44	104.36	103.95	100%	Impressive
Senior Secondary Education (Girls per 100 boys)	96.3	97.9	98.3	102	102.1	113.72	115.15	113.75	100%	Impressive
Share of women in paid employment (non agricultural sector)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	Insufficient data
Proportion of seats held by women in the State House of Assembly			5.3	5.3	5.3	12.1			30%	Slow but improving
4. Reduce Child Mortality										
Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)	-	-	-	352	294		59		35	Improving
Under - five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	-	-	-	471 (2005)	-		89		45	Improving
Proportion of one-year old children immunized against measles	-	-	-	102,238 30%	162,049(2005) 214,420 58% (2006)	280,556	69.2%	68%		Improving
5. Improve Maternal Health										
Maternal mortality ratio (number reported)			281	341	248			444 per 100,000	75	Worsening
Proportion of births attended to by trained health personnel							82.8%			Insufficient
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases										
HIV prevalence among pregnant women in the State	1.9%	6.8%	3.5%, 4.7% (2003)	3.3%					<2%	Declining
HIV prevalence among 15-24 years old (women)					4.1%	3.4%	5.1%		1.9%	Worsening
Percentage of general population with comprehensive knowledge of HIV and AIDS prevention and methods,						51.7	56.3		100%	Declining
Percentage population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive knowledge of HIV and AIDS prevention and methods			2003 75%	72.75%	92.8%		1.1			Insufficient data
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability										
Proportion of the State's land area covered by forest	30%	25%	20%	15%	15%	-	16	-	20	Slow but improving
Proportion of gas flared						-	-	-	0	
Proportion of households with access to safe drinking water	N/A	N/A	1,249,320	1,316,320	1,316,910	30%	25%	30%	70%	Slow
Proportion of households with access to basic sanitation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.1	65	68	71		Improving
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development										
Value of overseas development assistance to Lagos State	8,902,500	273M	485,463,890	1,475,455	3,785,995,956	7,592,900	1,078,965,018.20	52,805,583.03	258	Poor
Personal computer (%)					4.4	1.8	3.9			Improving
Internet access						0.5	1.5			Slow but improving
Mobile phone (%)										
					77.3	50.5	48.7	41.3%	85	Poor