



### Millennium Development Goal Country Reports: Vehicles for Action

The Millennium Development Goal country reports will supply frequent updates on a country-by-country basis towards attainment of the Goals. They will serve as unique benchmarks to analyze trends and to identify achievements, challenges and obstacles.

Producing the MDG country reports is a way to foster and focus public debate at the national and sub-national level on specific development priorities, which in turn will trigger action — in terms of policy reforms, institutional change and resource allocation.

#### The main premise of the reports is to:

- Move the Millennium commitments from the global to the local level.
- Create the necessary links between global target setting and national priority setting.
- Re-energize a broad political constituency to accelerate progress towards the Goals.
- Generate public awareness, scholarship and debate for action around the development challenges of our times.
- Build alliances across and within countries, working with national governments, civil society, the private sector, international financial institutions and other development partners.

The reports are meant to be read not only by policy makers and development partners, but also by the media and the general public as short and easy-to-read reviews that convey messages quickly in a non-technical way. They should also provoke deeper analysis at the country level and will build upon existing reports — such as National Human Development Reports, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, or Common Country Assessments — in order to minimize each country's reporting burden.

#### Country Reporting Is Already Under Way

So far, twelve country reports have been issued – for Albania, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nepal, Poland, Senegal, Tanzania and Vietnam. They are available on [www.undg.org](http://www.undg.org). Another twenty are expected by the end of this year. The plan is for every developing and transition country to produce at least one MDG report by the end of 2004.

The UN is organizing regional workshops on the MDGs around the world. In October, a UN workshop will be held in Laos for 12 UN country teams in Asia and the Pacific. It will include participants from government, civil society, academia, the World Bank and other development partners. The Central and East Africa regions and the Arab states have already hosted similar forums. There are also encouraging signs from the private sector, expressing interest in supporting MDG efforts.