

Iran Millennium Development Goal's in a Glance

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Abstract

The Millennium Development Goal's (MDG's) represent a global partnership that has grown from the comments and targets established at the world summits of the 1990's. Responding to the world's main development challenges and to the calls of civil society, the MDG's promote poverty reduction, education, maternal health, gender equality, and aims at combating child mortality, AIDs and other diseases, environmental sustainability and global partnership. Set for the year 2015, the MDG's are an agreed set of goals that can be achieved if all actors work together and do their part. Poor countries have pledged to govern better, and to invest in their people through health care and education. Rich countries have pledged to support poor countries through aid, debt relief and fairer trade. MDG's at the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in Iran aims to, reduce the under- five mortality rate to two thirds between 1990 and 2015, improve maternal health by reducing to three quarters the mortality ratio and achieve universal access to reproductive health, to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and TB, and to have them halted by 2015, to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and to achieve by 2010 a universal access to treatment to all those who need it and by 2015 begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and TB.

Keywords: *Millennium, Health, Iran*

Introduction

Iran's MDG report based on the national statistics indicated that progress and achievements has been made in most health indicators. These achievements have been attained through the efforts exerted by the health sectors and through the establishments of the health networks. Extensive activities with regards to the expansion of the coverage of the primary health care network (PHC) during the 1980's to the present has played the primary role in achieving significant progress in reducing child mortality, under- 5 deaths per 1000 live births has decreased from 68.1 in 1990 to 22.33 in 2007. The next indicator considered in this MDG is vaccination coverage for measles. Practical measures regarding measles vaccination initiated exactly forty years ago in Iran have resulted in satisfactory achievements reaching coverage of almost 100% at present. For the improvement of maternal health in the context of reproductive health, two indicators have been defined such as maternal mortality ratio, and the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. Basing on available data, ma-

ternal mortality ratio per (100,000 live births) has demonstrated significant decrease from 91 cases of death in 1989 to 24.6 cases in 2007. During the same year, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel increased from 70 % to around 97.3%.

In combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB, within the framework of the available data, 16,679 cases of HIV infection had been identified in the country at the end of 2007, the use of unsterile syringes by drug users has been reported to be the highest cause of infection (67.5%). With regards to the prevalence of malaria, based on the available data, the incidence rate per 100,000 population has decreased from 94 in 1996 to 23 in 2007 and also basing on the estimates provided by WHO, tuberculosis incidence, prevalence and death rates in Iran in 2006 have been 28.3 and 22, respectively per 100,000 population and this showed respective decrease of 39% and 37% compared with the 1990 report. At present 100 of the diagnosed TB cases in Iran are under directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS).

Conclusion

However, despite the improvements of MGD at the national level, differences at the provincial level should be taken into consideration for the improvement of these indicators and the implementation of effective factors. There are still key challenges ahead in fully achieving MGD and they include:

- Revitalization of Primary Health Care by initiating Family Physician and referral system;
- Improvement in the effectiveness of qualitative and quantitative measures in health care networks;
- Fighting newly emerging and re-emerging diseases;
- The country being a host to continuous influx of foreign migrants. Implement cross boarding project with neighboring countries.
- Intersectoral coordination between the private sectors, non- governmental organizations (NGO's) and governmental bodies in order to establish a more effective ground for attracting financing resources;
- Expansion of health insurance;
- Designing and improvement of information management systems and the corresponding systems for monitoring and evaluation.

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