

**AMÉRICA LATINA Y LOS OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO DEL  
MILENIO (ODM): ÉXITO Y FRACASOS**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Este artículo hace una valoración breve de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM) que se han convertido en los parámetros para que los países en desarrollo determinen los desafíos críticos de su desarrollo. El objetivo de este artículo es mostrar los logros y los fracasos de la región de América Latina en la implementación de las políticas.*

**Introduction**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have become a key metric for measuring the performance of developing countries in addressing critical development challenges. The Millennium Development Goals were 8 international development goals for the year 2015 that had been established the Millennium Summit of the UN in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

The Latin America region has made positive progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, albeit with differences among nations associated mostly with the progressive appropriation of the goals in each country, as well as adaptation to specific circumstances.

Although significant progress has been made, the region continues to face problems in meeting all the targets, due to familiar challenges associated with historical obstacles to development in the region: low levels of secondary education coverage; very poor quality and relevance of education content overall; the inability to generate decent and productive work for all; persistently high levels of inequality that impede social cohesion; the marginalization of population groups due to racial-ethnic, gender, and socio-economic inequities; and the failure to empower women and foster their economic and physical autonomy.

**Alleviation of Extreme Poverty and Acceleration of Food Security**

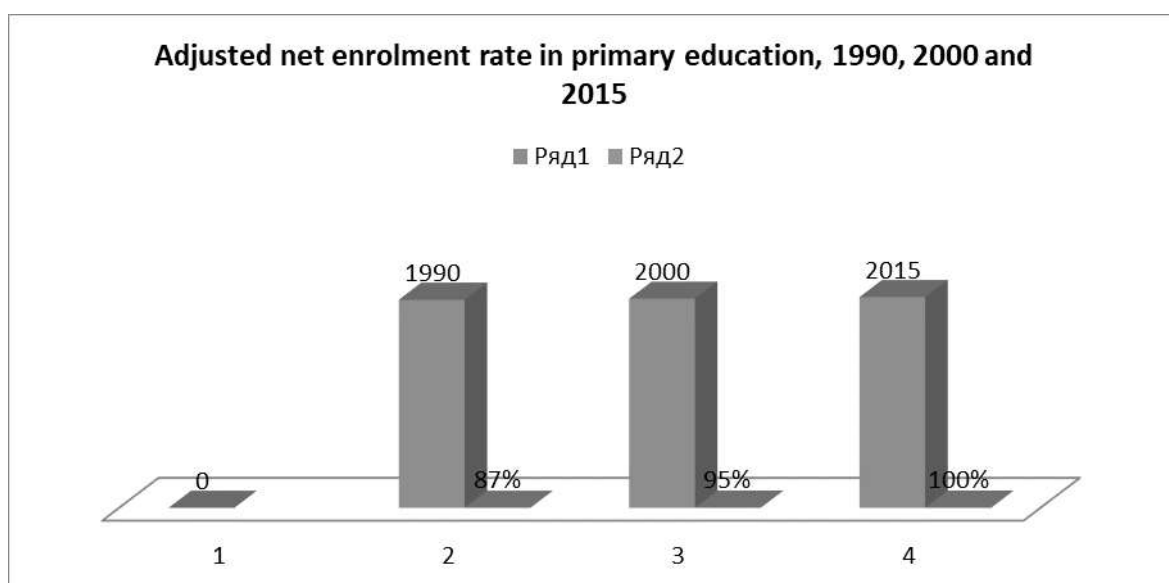
The achievement of Latin America is enormous in poverty reduction and gain the food security. During 2000-2010 the region went through its highest economic growth period in the last four decades. This economic boom, along with job creations and some of the world's most innovates social policies brought almost a third of the total population in the region into the middle class status. For the first time, the size of the Latin American middle class (29%) is very close to the size of the region's population living in poverty (31%).

Moreover, the entire region has made significant gains towards eradicating hunger, since the proportion of people suffering from hunger in the region reduced from 15.3% to 6.1% between 1992 and 2014. Within the same period, the total number of people living with hunger has declined in the region, from 68.5 million to 37 million. In other words, more than 31 million women, children, and men overcame undernourishment in those 20 years.

### Universal Primary Education

Latin America has made impressive strides towards increasing access to primary education, with adjusted net enrolment rate. By 2015, over 95% of primary-age children were in primary or secondary school. However, universal primary education would be a hollow achievement if the focus were simply on enrolment rather than on the completion of primary education. In 2015, the global primary completion rate (measured by the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education) reached 100 per cent in Latin America.

Figure1: Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate in Primary Education



Source: UNDP 2015

### Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

### ***Equal opportunities in education & employment***

Achieving parity in education is an important step toward equal opportunity for men and women in the social, political and economic domains. And Latin America, as a whole, is performing well. In the developing world, girls face greater barriers at the secondary level of education than at the primary level. But in Latin America, enrolment rates in secondary school were actually higher for girls than for boys, with a Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 108.

Women in the region take part in paid employment nearly as much as men, with women holding 45 out of every 100 wage-earning jobs in the non-agricultural sector in 2015: this is the highest proportion among all developing regions.

### ***Women in politics***

The proportion of women in politics and parliament in Latin America is also the highest among the developing regions, and even higher than the average proportion in developed regions. The share of seats held by women in single or lower houses of national parliament increased from 15% to 27% between 2000 and 2015 whereas the average share in developed regions is 26 %.

## **Health**

The achievement of Latin America in health care is mixed. Under-five mortality in the region has been reduced by about 69% between 1990 and 2015, dropping from 54 deaths per 1,000 live births to 17, though maternal mortality remains high in the region.

2013 data indicates that there were 77 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in Latin America, which is significantly lower in the region compared with developing regions. The proportion of pregnant women in the region with access to at least four antenatal care visits increased from 75% in 1990 to 97%, making it one of the highest among all developing regions.

But the region is still lagging behind in reducing adolescent childbearing and HIV infections, with a high adolescent birth rate of 73 births per 1,000 girls in 2015 and 44% of the population living with HIV – the highest among all developing regions.

## **Environment**

Despite the establishment of forest laws and policies, the region continues to suffer massive deforestation, with the largest net loss occurring in South America between 2005 and 2010, when 3.6 million hectares were lost per year.

However, the percentage of protected areas increased from 8.8 in 1990 to 23.4 in 2014.

The region reached the drinking water MDG target in 2010, with the proportion of the population with access to improved water source increasing from 85% in 1990 to 95% in 2015.

The proportion with access to improved sanitation facilities increased from 67% to 83% between 1990 and 2015, bringing it very close to reaching the target.

### **Develop a global partnership for development**

Latin America recorded significant advances in its international integration from 2005 to 2009. Its exports grew, mostly thanks to a favorable external context which was due to high commodity prices. The growth of those exports slowed, however, from the second half of 2008, and in 2009 they fell sharply as a result of the world economic crisis, in line with the falls experienced by trade worldwide.

The most recent figures show that almost 95% of the region's exports to the developed countries enter those markets free of duty, a much higher proportion than that for the developing countries as a whole; higher even than that for the group of least developed countries. Nonetheless, the developed countries still practice high levels of tariff protection in sectors of particular importance for the region's exports, especially agriculture. Non-tariff barriers such as rules of origin or strict sanitary and technical standards can, in many cases, prevent the region's exporters from benefiting from the tariff preferences available to them.

Since the adoption in 2000 of the Millennium Development Goals, there has been a sustained increase in the proportion of imports by the developed economies from both the developing countries and the least developed countries. In 2007, those proportions stood at 83 percent and 89 percent, respectively. If petroleum — which tends to be subject to very low import duty, or even exempt, in the industrialized countries— is excluded from the calculation, those proportions fall to 79 percent and 80 percent, respectively.

### **Conclusion**

Almost all indicators of Millennium Development Goals in Latin America have been promoted significantly. Despite the fact that 32 million Latin Americans continued to live on less than US\$ 2 a day, the region managed to reduce the percentage of people living in extreme poverty from 12% (in 1990) to 6% (in 2010). Seventy-two million people escaped from poverty and 50 million joined the ranks of the middle class.

At a country level, the most urbanized nations – such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Peru – have made the most progress toward meeting the MDGs.

No country has achieved the goal regarding maternal health and only Peru has achieved the required reduction in child mortality. Today, 14 countries have met targets for access to safe drinking water whereas just 10 have achieved targets associated with access to sanitation. This is mainly due to limited progress in recent years.

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## LATIN AMERICA AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG): SUCCESS AND FAILURES

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### ABSTRACT

*This article makes a brief assessment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that have become the parameters for developing countries to determine the critical challenges of their development. The purpose of this article is to show the achievements and failures of the Latin American region in the implementation of policies*