

Antigua & Barbuda Millennium Development Goals Report 2009



Our Goals ★ Our Development ★ Our Country

Summary Report

LETTER OF TRANSMISSION

*from the
Millennium Development Goals
National Task Force*

*Dr. The Honourable Winston Baldwin Spencer
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Drive
St. John's,
Antigua
ANTIGUA and BARBUDA*

Dear Honourable Prime Minister:

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) National Task Force is pleased to present to you the Millennium Development Goals Report.

*The Report, presented under the theme: “**Our Goals, Our Development, Our Country - Antigua and Barbuda**”, tracks the attainment of the Goals for the period 1990 to 2007.*

The Task Force expresses its sincere gratitude to you, through the Ministry of Finance, the Economy, and Public Administration for the appointment to serve in this important national development capacity.

*J. Yolanda Goodwin
Coordinator
MDGs National Task Force*

December 2009

FOREWORD

by

Honourable Harold E. Lovell
Minister of Finance, the Economy, and Public Administration
Antigua and Barbuda

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Initiative in Antigua and Barbuda is designed to identify and implement strategies and programmes for the achievement of the MDGs. The internationally agreed MDGs have been tailored to suit our national circumstances with an emphasis on practical results; placing priority on those Goals that remain unachieved in our country; giving recognition to national Objectives; and focusing on those Targets that are of immediate relevance to our people.

We are committed to placing the MDGs, locally adapted, within the framework of our national strategic development plan, using the MDGs to assist in the development and

implementation of our national programmes. The indicators of the MDGs will be used as a yardstick against which to measure our progress and monitor performance.

A critical aspect of this programme is the dissemination of information-hence the preparation of this monitoring and reporting tool. It is our hope that this will not only serve to raise public awareness but will also motivate us to each play our part in the localization of the Goals and the national effort to achieve them.

Each Endeavouring, **All** Achieving.

Honourable Harold E. Lovell
Minister of Finance, the Economy, and Public Administration

MESSAGE

by

Dr. the Honourable W. Baldwin Spencer
Prime Minister
Antigua and Barbuda

*Our Goals
Our Development
Our Country, Antigua and Barbuda*

As a Nation we have made commendable advancements in various areas of development, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

To be successful we must pledge to work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals - a model designed to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, reduce HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, promote a global partnership for development, and additionally, fight the scourge of crime and violence.

We have adapted these time-bound Goals to our local situation. Where we have already reached the Targets, we will endeavour to sustain them, while aggressive efforts are being made to stay on track with the other goals in an effort to achieve them on or before 2015.

Dr. the Honourable W. Baldwin Spencer
Prime Minister

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009 provides us with an account of our Country's status at the half way mark and points to the need for closer collaboration and coordination, because the Goals are interrelated and interdependent.

I must admit, however, that the global economic downturn will certainly stymie our rate of progress, but this impasse will, by no means, retard our efforts and political will as we proactively seek to achieve our goals.

We can only realise our vision if all of us take ownership of and commit ourselves to this national endeavour.

Therefore, in keeping with our Theme for this our 28th year of Political Independence, while at the same time localising the Millennium Development Goals, let us together, as **One Family**, continue to **Revive our National Pride**.

STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe, CMG
Ambassador to the United Nations**

By any yardstick Antigua and Barbuda has made tremendous progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the eight anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline. But given the challenges that still lie ahead, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

In 2008, at the invitation of the Secretary-General, world leaders, including Prime Minister Spencer, convened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for a high-level meeting to assess how to translate commitments into effective action to meet the MDGs. They pinpointed gaps and identified steps to take to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs.

2008 also marked the half-way point towards the target year of 2015. At this critical juncture the signs are not good. A recent UN report found that soaring food and fuel prices and the global economic downturn are impeding advances in such targets as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger,

achieving universal primary education, and reducing child mortality, jeopardizing the likelihood of achieving some of the Goals.

Seen against this backdrop our achievements to date, however modest, deserve commendation. Clearly then while it may appear to some that we may not be moving fast enough we are moving in the right direction towards our own national goals of slashing poverty, illiteracy, and other socio-economic ills by the target date of 2015.

Finally, it is instructive to note that most of our efforts to date have been largely self-financed. However, as we approach the half-way point for the implementation of the MDGs we call on the international community to honour its commitments towards strengthening the global partnership for development and funding initiatives that will inject new energy, resources, and hope into local, regional and global efforts to achieve the MDGs.

**H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe, CMG
Ambassador to the United Nations**

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA	Alcoholics Anonymous	HBS	Household Budget Survey
ABCD	Antigua and Barbuda Centre for Dyslexia Awareness	HFLE	Health and Family Life Education
ABDB	Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank	HIB	Haemophilus Influenza - Type B
ABICE	Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ABPPA	Antigua and Barbuda Planned Parenthood Association	IA	Institutional Analysis
ABWREC	Antigua and Barbuda Waste Recycling Centre	ICT	Information Communication Technology
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States	IMF	International Monetary Fund
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	IT	Information Technology
ABIIT	Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Natural Resources
APUA	Antigua Public Utilities Authority	LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas
ASC	Antigua State College	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection	MEM	Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism
ARV	Anti-retroviral	MMR	Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
BOE	Board of Education	NEMMA	North Eastern Marine Management Area
CAA	Caribbean AIDS Alliance	NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
CAC	Computer Access Centres	NCHS	National Centre for Health Statistics
CAREC	Caribbean Epidemiology Centre	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	NSWMA	National Solid Waste Management Authority
CBH	Central Board of Health	NTTC	National Technical Training Centre
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank	OAS	Organization of American States
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons	ODA	Official Development Assistance
CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute	OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
CICAD	Inter- American Drug Abuse Control Commission	ONDCP	Office of the National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency	PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	PANCAP	Pan Caribbean Partnership
CNCD	Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases	PLWHA	People living with HIV and AIDS
COTS	Caribbean Open Trade Support Programme	PMCT	Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS
CRN	Caribbean Regional Network	POWA	Professional Organization of Women in Antigua and Barbuda
CSM	CARICOM Single Market	PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
CTS	Provision of Care, Treatment and Support	PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
CXC	Caribbean Examinations Council	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
DAC	Development Assistance Committee	SLC	Survey of Living Conditions
DARE	Drug Abuse Resistance Education	STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
DCA	Development Control Authority	TB	Tuberculosis
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short course	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EAG	Environmental Awareness Group	UN AIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
EMIS	Education Management Information System	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
EU	European Union	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization	UN HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
GARDC	Gilbert Agricultural Research and Development Centre	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UWI	University of the West Indies
GNP	Gross National Product	UWI/SC	University of the West Indies School of Continuing Studies
GNI	Gross National Income	WHO	World Health Organization
		WTO	World Trade Organization

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Presented below is a Snapshot of the Goals showing Status and Trends, Challenges, and the Supportive Environment.

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Status and Trends

A joint Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budget Survey conducted in Antigua and Barbuda during 2005/2006 has provided an overview of the extent and location of poverty in Antigua and Barbuda and informs Government's policy on and strategies for poverty reduction. The National Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) Report of 2007 estimated the following:-

- Approximately 18 percent of the population were living in poverty - unable to afford the basic needs of life
- Among the poor, 4 percent of the population could be regarded as indigent, that is, they were unable to meet the cost of food required to maintain good bodily health
- An additional 10 percent of the population was vulnerable - at risk of falling into poverty in the event of an unanticipated catastrophe such as a natural or man-made disaster
- Large differences between incomes of the rich and the poor resulted in huge gaps in spending power.

Information from the Ministry of Health revealed that the incidence of low birth weight averaged approximately 5 percent between 1995 and 2006. Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age was approximately 1 percent during the same period.

Challenges

- A high prevalence of obesity and overweight in the population leading to chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension which are related to people's life style, and other ethnic/genetic factors
- Rising food prices

Supportive Environment

The Government has introduced several programmes for poverty reduction. Findings from the 2007 CPA and the Census of Agriculture are expected to inform policies for more targeted strategies. The promotion of healthy lifestyles through sporting programmes in communities and the proposal to introduce physical education in schools at all levels are other positive examples. Measures are also being implemented to improve food security.

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Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Status and Trends

Data from the Ministry of Education suggests that Antigua and Barbuda has attained this goal. The figures for 1990 to 2006 show:-

- Net enrolment in primary education has been consistently high
- Male net enrolment in primary education has been higher than female
- The literacy rate among 15 – 24 year olds was over 90 percent

Ministry officials are now working to expand this goal to include the achievement of universal early childhood and secondary education.

Challenges

The need to urgently address the following areas of concern:-

- The quality of education and its importance to life skills

- Low levels of performance
- The need for a literacy survey
- Measurement of functional literacy and numeracy
- The need to regularise enrolment in early childhood education
- Tracking of students from Grade 1 through to Grade 5.

Supportive Environment

Attendance at school is compulsory by law between the ages of 5 and 16 years. In addition, the Government has instituted programmes to assist in maintaining high levels of attendance and performance such as the provision of uniforms, text books, transportation, and school meals.

The private sector and other non-governmental organizations, particularly the church, are actively involved in providing education services and after school support programmes.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Status and Trends

Official figures reveal a higher enrolment of boys than girls in primary education. However, there was a higher enrolment of girls in both secondary and tertiary education. Performance levels were higher for females in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

Data from the 2001 population census estimated that 55 percent of females were employed in non-agricultural sectors. Participation of women in public and private sector initiatives for the support of small business ventures was comparable to male participation.

Officials seek to address the problem of domestic violence, which seriously limits efforts to empower both women and men.

The proportion of seats held by women in the national Parliament increased significantly from 3 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1995 and then to 17 percent in 2007. While this is below the recommended 30% minimum, women have been emerging in many supervisory, and managerial positions in the public and private sectors.

Challenges

- ❖ Lower attendance levels for males than for females in secondary and tertiary education
- ❖ Lower levels of performance for males at all levels of education
- ❖ Domestic abuse particularly in light of the culture of 'silence'

Supportive Environment

The Directorate of Gender Affairs was established in 1997 as the national machinery responsible for promoting the advancement of women in Antigua and Barbuda through research and education. In addition, men and women have benefited from programmes by local, regional and international non-governmental agencies providing skills training, loans and grants for small business development.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Status and Trends

There have been significant improvements in health care administration and the eradication of certain diseases. One aspect of the child health care management system is an aggressive immunization programme.

Challenges

- Increase in the cost of health care
- Fluctuating under five mortality rates

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Status and Trends

The maternal mortality rate has been consistently low throughout the period of review - 1990 to 2007. There were no recorded maternal deaths from 2004 to 2007.

Challenges

- Continuous monitoring, counselling, examining, and implementing new initiatives to improve and sustain the maternal health programme.

Supportive Environment

At the Government Hospital, health professionals operate a well-equipped children's ward including a unit for the care of premature babies.

There is a well managed immunization programme in operation at the hospital and at clinics throughout the island.

To strengthen surveillance, the child health records are being revised according to new WHO Child Growth Standards.

Supportive Environment

The Government Hospital and Clinics located throughout the country offer pre- and anti-natal care. Qualified health personnel attend all births.

A Perinatal Information System has been introduced to strengthen surveillance

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

Status and Trends

There is universal and free access to treatment for HIV/AIDS. However, the data from the National AIDS Secretariat continues to show an increase in cases notified. Issuance of free condoms and other contraceptives has increased although contraceptive usage has not been effectively monitored.

There have been significant strides in the Government health programme for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Considerable progress has been made in controlling communicable diseases such as acute respiratory infections, dengue, salmonellosis, gastroenteritis, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Challenges

- Increasing incidence of HIV/AIDS among females and youth
- Increasing incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, which are related to people's nutritional habits.

Supportive Environment

The national AIDS Secretariat in the Ministry of Health spearheads an all inclusive national campaign to reduce transmission and promote positive living among persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, in partnership with regional and international agencies

Free voluntary HIV/AIDS counselling, testing and distribution of anti retroviral drugs

Programme for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS offering voluntary counselling and testing of all pregnant women free of charge

Free distribution of condoms and other contraceptives

Health, Hope and HIV Network, an NGO with the goal to enhance the quality of life of People Living with HIV/AIDS

National Clinical Care Coordination Programme to implement clinical care and support for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

Health and Family Life Education Programme responsible for education awareness programmes for adolescents

Free immunization against communicable diseases.

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Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Status and Trends

Government has introduced a plan to manage the country's natural resources including forests, mangroves, and coral reefs. In addition to land areas that have been declared 'protected,' efforts are being made to safeguard national animals and birds.

The measure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per unit of Energy Use has fluctuated between 2000 and 2007. However, consumption of electricity has increased during this period. Carbon dioxide released into the air decreased with the phasing out of the use of certain substances that harm the atmosphere.

Population Census figures for 1991 indicate that approximately 79 percent of households had water piped into their homes while the other 21 percent had access to water through standpipes. The 2007 CPA Report estimated 77 percent of households with flush toilets.

Challenges

- Effects of overall climate change
- Vulnerability to natural disasters including drought
- Increasing number of fires including grass, bush, and rubbish
- Increasing fuel prices and related energy costs
- Developing the tourism product while at the same time preserving the country's natural resources

Supportive Environment

Agencies involved in caring for the environment include the following:-

- o The National Solid Waste Management Authority and the Central Board of Health
- o The Antigua and Barbuda Waste Recycling Centre operated by an NGO in partnership with the National Solid Waste Management Authority
- o Environment Division with the overall responsibility for managing the country's natural resources
- o Environmental Awareness Group, an NGO
- o Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Marine Resources, Agro Industries
- o Development Control Authority
- o Barbuda Council
- o Ministry of Housing and Social Transformation, which organizes low income housing schemes and assists the elderly with housing repair and maintenance.



Goal 8: A Global Partnership for Development

Status and Trends

Antigua and Barbuda is signatory to many trade agreements which provide for duty free access to its agricultural and manufacturing products. However contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by these two sectors has been low.

Although figures have not been compiled for Official Development Assistance (ODA), Antigua and Barbuda has benefited from various programmes.

The Government has adopted a debt-management strategy. Negotiations with certain creditors have resulted in partial debt reduction, debt relief, debt rescheduling, as well as some interest rate adjustments.

Data from the National Poverty Assessment Report 2007 shows a high unemployment rate among the youth.

Prescription drugs for nine of the major diseases are distributed free of cost to residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

There is high access to telephone services through land lines, cellular phones, and telephone booths located all over the country. In addition to personal computers and Internet cafes at business places, the Government IT Centre offers free Internet service at schools, empowerment and community computer access centres throughout the country. Communities that do not yet have a centre are serviced by coaster buses, retrofitted as mobile classrooms featuring 17 high speed touch screen computers with wireless Internet connections.

Challenges

- A high debt burden, vulnerability to natural disasters, and a narrow export base
- Difficulty in accessing development assistance because the country is regarded as a high income country by most international agencies based on its GDP per capita
- Unemployment among the youth.

Supportive Environment

Free computer classes offered by the Government IT Centre

Availability of prescription drugs at the Government Hospital and Medical Benefits pharmacies located around the country

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Studies skills training programme at reasonable prices

External assistance in the development of a debt management strategy

Bulk purchasing of prescription drugs by the OECS countries through the Pharmaceutical Procurement System.

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Additional Goal: Fight the Scourge of Crime and Violence

Status and Trends

Between 1990 and 2007, crime against persons, property and other related crimes, all increased. The number of youth offenders also increased. Figures on arrests for the use of cannabis and cocaine have been fluctuating. The number of persons receiving treatment for substance abuse is on the increase.

Challenges

- Increased incidence of crime and violence among the youth
- Need to improve the efficiency of the legal, judicial and law enforcement systems
- Impact of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and rising food prices on crime and violence
- Illicit drug use and resultant drug trade

Supportive Environment

The fight against crime and violence is a joint effort of all national law enforcing authorities, including the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Division, the Coast Guard services, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, and the Office of the National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy.

The Crossroads Centre was established in 1998 by members of the Hourglass Foundation to provide treatment, education and counselling to chemically dependent persons from all over the world. The service is available free of charge to Antiguan and Barbudans.

The newly established Government Probation and Counselling Unit seeks to reduce repeat offences through rehabilitation programmes. Other initiatives include the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), an international programme coordinated by the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda. This programme strives to provide children with the information and skills necessary to live drug free and violence free lives.

The Government Substance Abuse Prevention Division organizes educational and other support programmes.

The Directorate of Gender Affairs with its empowerment programme, crisis hot line, and walk-in facility.

Other departments within the Ministries of Justice and Legal Affairs, Social Transformation, Finance & the Economy, Health, Education, Sport and Youth Affairs.

Faith-based, non-governmental, and community-based organisations, and families.

Service clubs, other interest groups, and associations.

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ASSESSMENT OF MONITORING ENVIRONMENT

In assessing the monitoring environment the standards adapted below provide a useful yardstick, comparable to standards adopted by other Country Reports on the Millennium Development Goals prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team:-

III **Data gathering capacity**

rated as "strong" if there is capacity for periodic, regular and endogenous collection of nationally representative data with respect to a particular MDG.

III **Quality of recent survey information**

rated as "strong" if the most recent data set is evaluated to be valid, reliable, replicable and consonant with other recent allied data sets and trends. Educated public judgment forms the primary basis of such an evaluation. There is no requirement here for the capacity to be endogenous.

III **Statistical tracking capacity**

rated as "strong" if there exists a fairly longstanding mechanism, already implemented in at least two episodes, to collect relevant information and to process it in a preliminary and descriptive manner.

III **Statistical analysis capacity**

rated as "strong" if there exists a fairly longstanding mechanism, already implemented in at least two episodes, to analyse information and to engage in a multivariable analysis in a sustained manner.

III **Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy planning and resource allocation mechanism**

rated as "strong" if new information and analysis is systematically fed into policy making, planning and resource allocation. Clearly, this capacity will be weak to the extent that the preceding capacities remain relatively undeveloped. On the other hand, this capacity can be weak even if the preceding capacities are relatively strong.

III **Monitoring and evaluation mechanism**

rated to be "strong" if a tradition of systematic, information-based review and re-planning is a constituent component within a program. To a considerable extent, this mechanism is contingent on the strength of the preceding capacities.

~ Adapted from the Millennium Development Goals Report – UN Guidance Note

An overall assessment of the monitoring environment is hereby presented based on the above standards.

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MDGs Status at a Glance 1990-2007: Assessment of Monitoring Environment

GOALS/TARGETS	EXISTING CAPACITY FOR						OVERALL ASSESSMENT
	Data Gathering	Quality of (Survey) Information	Statistical Tracking	Statistical Analysis	Statistics into Policy, Planning, & Resource Allocation	Monitoring and Evaluation	
<i>POVERTY</i>	Fair	Strong	Weak, but Improving	Fair	Weak, but Improving	Weak, but Improving	Fair
<i>HUNGER</i>	Fair	Strong	Weak, but Improving	Fair	Weak, but Improving	Weak, but Improving	Fair
<i>UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</i>	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
<i>GENDER EQUITY</i>	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Weak, but Improving	Weak, but Improving	Fair
<i>CHILD MORTALITY</i>	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Strong	Strong	Fair
<i>MATERNAL HEALTH</i>	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
<i>HIV and AIDS</i>	Strong	Fair	Strong	Fair	Strong	Strong	Strong
<i>MALARIA AND OTHER MAJOR DISEASES</i>	Fair	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
<i>ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</i>	Strong	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Strong	Fair
<i>SAFE DRINKING WATER</i>	Strong	Strong	Fair	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
OTHER COUNTRY SPECIFIC							
<i>AFFORDABLE HOUSING</i>	Strong	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Weak, but Improving	Fair
<i>DEBT REDUCTION</i>	Fair	Fair	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
<i>CRIME REDUCTION</i>	Strong	Fair	Fair	Fair	Strong	Fair	Fair
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Strong	Strong	FAIR

MDGs Status at a Glance 1990-2007: Reaching the Goals and Targets

GOALS/TARGETS	WILL THE GOAL OR TARGET BE REACHED?			NATIONAL SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT		
	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
EXTREME POVERTY Halve the proportion of people living below the national poverty line by 2015	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
HUNGER Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
GENDER EQUITY Achieve equal access for boys and girls to primary & secondary schooling by 2005 Increase women in Parliament to 30% of all members	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
CHILD MORTALITY Reduce under-five mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
MATERNAL HEALTH Reduce maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters by 2015	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
HIV and AIDS Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS by 2015	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
MALARIA AND OTHER MAJOR DISEASES Halt and reverse the incidence of Malaria and other diseases by 2015	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES Reverse loss of environmental resources	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER Halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
OTHER COUNTRY SPECIFIC GOALS/TARGETS						
ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING Significant improvement in housing accommodation	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
DEBT REDUCTION Reduce the debt burden	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
CRIME REDUCTION Reduce the incidence of criminal offences	Likely	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Fair	Weak
OVERALL STATUS →	POTENTIALLY			STRONG		

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Global Conference agreed, in 1990, to a set of eight key development goals to address and monitor the critical elements of human development. In this connection, the Millennium Declaration was adopted.

The 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are as follows:-

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Promote a Global Partnership for Development

In 2002, a review coordinated by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recommended the inclusion of the following additional goals for the OECS Member States and Barbados: -

To take concerted action against international terrorism and to accede as soon as possible to all relevant conventions; and

To intensify efforts to fight trans-national crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking in and smuggling of human beings and money laundering.

Approximately 18 targets and over 40 indicators have been set for the MDGs and these are to be realized over the twenty-five year period: 1990-2015.

MDG monitoring and assessment are expected to be conducted at the national, regional and global levels. This initiative will require a national response involving ownership, commitment, and partnership among all stakeholders – the public and private sectors, community-based and non-governmental organizations and the wider civil society.

In this regard, each country is expected to prepare status reports from time to time.

Work is also in progress at the regional level to make the related Indicators more Caribbean-specific. This will be addressed in subsequent reports.

This Review outlines the status of the MDGs programme in Antigua and Barbuda and its level of achievement. The indicators have been analysed from 1990-2007. Section 2 introduces the National Development Context; Section 3 describes the MDGs Local Programme; An Assessment of the Goals is provided in Section 4, followed by a Conclusion, and Appendices.

SECTION 2

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

The national development agenda has been designed on a platform of Sustainable Development, upon which the following thematic areas are pillars securing the foundation of “Sound Policies Sure Success”:

Fiscal Stabilization; Economic Growth; Services; Social Development; Physical & Human Resource Development; Information Communication Technology; and Public Sector Transformation.

Recognizing that these issues are cross-cutting and inter-sectoral, the integrated development process (IDP) guides the overall national vision ...

A sustainable services economy that improves quality of life, ensures social stability, and balances environmental integrity.

The goals for national development are closely associated with on-the-ground-policies, programmes and projects that concentrate on alleviating poverty, reforming health, providing quality education, generating employment, protecting the environment, and preventing crime.

Achieving success within each thematic area will automatically result in the attainment of the MDGs or at least position Antigua and Barbuda on track

towards the respective targets, but not without its share of developmental challenges such as global demands, climate change, and other external shocks.

Manifestation of this success is critically dependent on Goal 8 – a global partnership for development – as a result, fiscal stabilisation, market access, and debt management are high on the development agenda, in order to attract more Foreign Direct Investment and international aid.

Stakeholder engagement is considered important in “providing feedback and achieving public acceptance”. Government ministries, agencies and departments; community based and non-governmental organisations; and private sector enterprises are afforded the opportunity to participate in shaping strategies for national development through a highly involved consultative process.

Feedback has shown that, not only are the MDGs viewed as an ‘end’ since they are time-bound, but they are also evidence-based and process-driven in that they encourage a level of sustainability after attainment. It is for this reason that the review has been set within the overall context of...

Our Goals, Our Development, Our Country Antigua and Barbuda

SECTION 3

THE MDGs LOCAL PROGRAMME

In October 2005, under the coordination of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through the Ministry of Finance, officially launched the national MDGs programme and established a MDGs National Task Force to spearhead this initiative. Members were drawn from various ministries, civil society, and the private sector to ensure a coordinated approach and to encourage ownership of this programme by a wide cross section of stakeholders. The members are listed at **Appendix A**.

At the first meeting of the Task Force, it was agreed to establish a Working Group to review the MDGs, Targets and Indicators, examine the required Data Sets with respect to relevance, quality and timeliness and work in a coordinated manner to ensure collaboration and cooperation within and between the agencies responsible for the data sources. This Working Group assisted in the drafting process leading up to production of the report.

In an effort to sensitise the public about the MDGs, the role of the Media was considered critical to the process and in this connection a Public Awareness Committee was also appointed and a public relations programme was prepared aimed at full-scale national 'buy-in' to this process. To solicit support for this programme, in February of 2006, a meeting was organized with representatives from all the media houses, which was followed by a series of media presentations (**Appendix B**).

A set of public service announcements was later designed and aired on radio and television on a regular basis. Samples of these are presented in Section 4, at the beginning of each goal assessment.

Consultations were also held with several stakeholders including technicians of the Ministries of Education and Health, and senior public servants from other ministries, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the wider civil society (**Appendix C**). From these consultations, it was clear that local chapters of certain international agencies such as the Girl Guides Association and the Anglican Mothers' Union have already organized programmes geared towards achievement of the MDGs. In addition many other organizations, albeit without a stated MDGs focus, have been working towards the achievement of the goals. These include church groups, the Scout Association, Big Brother/Big Sister, and several Government departments.

With respect to the methodology, data was collected from census and survey reports in addition to administrative records. The quantitative data was supplemented with qualitative information, and the review of each goal was submitted to key stakeholders for feedback.

There are still data gaps in some critical areas and these have affected the statistical tracking capabilities for any significant trend analysis, but with the strong supportive stakeholder environment this is expected to improve with the assistance of the OECS Localisation programme.

Acknowledgements and sincere appreciation are accorded to the many local agencies, Government departments, and individuals directly involved in the preparation of this report, or through the sharing of comments, or general information. (**Appendix D**).

Within the Ministry of Finance the National Statistics Division is the focal point to the MDGs initiative while the Economic Policy and Planning Unit (EPPU) serves as the Secretariat to the Task Force. The members of the Secretariat can be read at **Appendix E**.

SECTION 4

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE MDGs

This is detailed in the Main Report

SECTION 5

CONCLUSION

The interdependence and interrelatedness of the Millennium Development Goals, Targets, Indicators, and required Data Sets have enforced the critical need for closer communication, collaboration, and data-sharing among stakeholders within and between sectors.

The national statistical system continues to be institutionally strengthened to manage the data gathering and tracking processes, thereby enabling a more effective monitoring system to facilitate policy decisions.

From this Assessment there is potential for the attainment of the Goals and respective Targets. This is possible given the strong national supportive environment that exists in Antigua and Barbuda. Despite the challenges identified an integrated and concerted effort towards improving the existing capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals will continue.

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Appendix A

Millennium Development Goals Members of National Task Force:

No.	Name	Designation	Agency/Department
1	Ms. J. Yolanda Goodwin	Director (<i>Coordinator</i>)	Economic Policy & Planning Unit
2	Mr. Hesketh H.A. Williams	Labour Commissioner	Ministry of Labour
3	Ms. Janet Weston	Programme Manager	National AIDS Secretariat, Ministry of Health
4	Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas	Chief Medical Officer	Ministry of Health
5	Mr. Lincoln Burton	Chairman	Barbuda Council
6	Mr. Colin James	President	Antigua and Barbuda Media Congress
7	Ms. Brenda Lee-Browne	Secretary	Antigua and Barbuda Media Congress
8	Ms. Jacintha Pringle	Chief Education Officer	Ministry of Education
9	Mr. Franck Jacobs	Chief Statistician	Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance
10	Mr. Ato Lewis	Chief Environment Officer Ag.	Environment Division, Ministry of Tourism
11	Ms. Almira Henry	Director Ag.	Social Policy Unit, Ministry of Social Transformation
12	Mr. Lionel Michael	Chief Health Inspector	Central Board of Health, Ministry of Health
13	Ms. Roberta Williams	Director	Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre
14	Ms. Sheila Roseau	Director	Directorate of Gender Affairs
15	Mr. Charlesworth Davis	Director	Public Works Department
16	Mr. Lyndon Francis	Manager	Water Division, Antigua Public Utilities Authority
17	Dr. Ermina Osoba	Resident Tutor	UWI School of Continuing Studies

Appendix B

Millennium Development Goals

Schedule of Media Programmes, Meetings, and Consultations:

Schedule of Media Programmes:

- ABS TV/Radio – Issues Live
- Observer Radio – Without Limits
- Grenville Radio (Radio ZDK) – Expressions
- Crusader Radio – Moving On
- Crusader Radio – Teenage Information Programme
- Antigua Sun News
- Observer News

Series of Meetings and Consultations:

- Senior Civil Servants
- Technicians – Ministry of Health
- Technicians – Ministry of Education
- Non Governmental and Community-Based Organisations
- National Youth Policy
- Barbuda Council
- Media Station Managers and News Editors
- Media Sub-Committee

Appendix C

Millennium Development Goals:

Main Contributors and Secretariat to the National MDGs Task Force:

Main Contributors:

- Government Ministries
- Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Community-Based Organisations
- Faith-Based Organisations
- Statutory Bodies
- Private Sector Agencies
- Private Individuals

Secretariat to the National MDGs Task Force:

Economic Policy and Planning Unit

Ministry of Finance and the Economy

J. Yolanda Goodwin Director

Hortensia Brookes PSIP Coordinator

Sean Cenac Senior Development Planner

Sharon James Senior Economist Ag.

Sharon Herbert Sector Planner

Charmaine Simon Sector Planner

Samantha Cummings Secretary

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