

Millennium Development Goals: Kiribati

Progress to May 2015

Summary

There are 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs cease in 2015. Most of the data below refers to the period from 1990 to 2013, the year in which the latest information is available for Kiribati. Of these 8 goals, Kiribati has achieved none outright but according to FAO, Kiribati has reached one of the three targets for the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Another goal is close to achieving its targets (promote gender equality and empower women). Several targets have been substantially met (eg HIV/AIDS) although the poor results of other targets in that overall goal (Reduce HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) have diminished the performance of that goal. Similarly many other targets have been achieved, but not the overall goal. Some goals have a mixture of qualitative and quantitative information which make it difficult to assess the true progress. The goals of ensuring environmental stability (Goal 7) and developing a global partnership for development (Goal 8) are likely to be borderline.

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Result: The FAO has commended Kiribati for being one of 13 countries that have reached one of the three targets of this goal in 2014. According to the FAO, Kiribati achieved food security milestones ahead of the global 2015 deadline. Kiribati also passed the target of halving the proportion of people below the basic needs poverty line in 2006. The figure had fallen from 50% in 1996 to 22% in 2006. However, since the Global Financial Crisis, GDP per capita in Kiribati has declined by 8% between 2007 and 2012. A new Household Income and Expenditure Survey is required to provide updated figures on the level of poverty in Kiribati. The FAO data only concentrates on hunger and does not take into account the high unemployment in Kiribati. Unemployment at the 2010 Population Census was 30.6%. It would be difficult to achieve this goal overall.

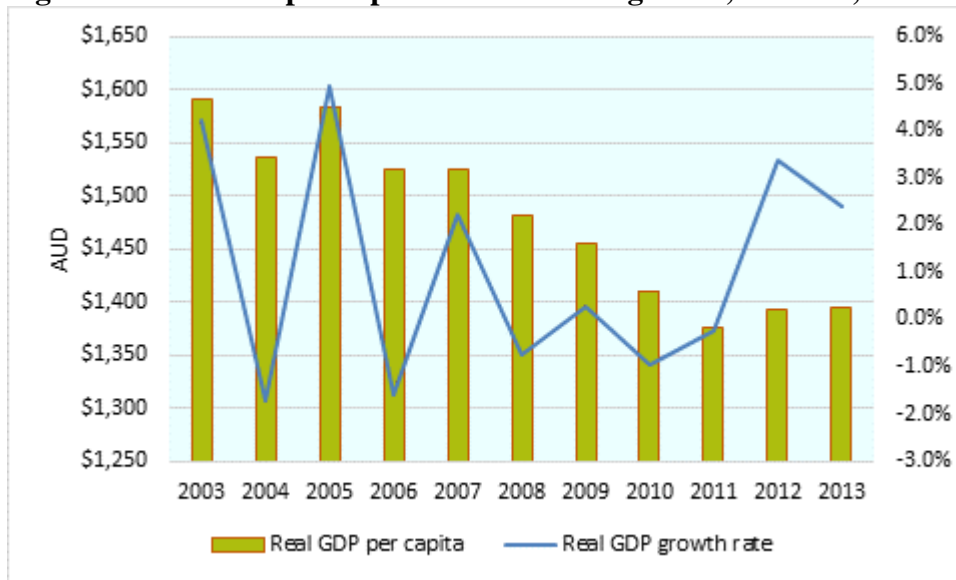
Target 1.A. Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is below the basic needs poverty line.

Achievement

- Based on the 1996 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Kiribati had 50% of people with per capita incomes below the National Basic Needs Poverty Line. In 2006, the proportion had fallen to 22%.
- There has been no Household Income and Expenditure Survey (which measures poverty levels) since 2006. The next survey has been scheduled for 2017.

- The poverty gap index in 2006 was 7.2% which means that the real incomes of those households falling below the poverty line would have to rise by 7.2% to move above the poverty line.
- However, since the Global Financial Crisis in 2007-08, GDP per capita in Kiribati declined every year until 2012 when GDP real growth was 3.4%. Real GDP per capita fell by 8.5% between 2006 and 2013.

Figure 1: Real GDP per capita and real GDP growth, Kiribati, 2002-13



Source: KNSO

Target 1 B. Achieve full and productive employment and decent employment for all, including women and young people.

Achievement

- From the 2010 population census, the labour force participation rate was 59.3% (66.8% males and 52.3% females) compared to 63.4% (71.3% males and 56% females) in 2005. In 2010, 30.6% of the population were unemployed. The youth unemployment rate was 54% in 2010.
- The private sector is small in relation to the size of government which has traditionally been the largest employer. Only 22% of employed paid workers in 2010 were in the private sector while 34% were employed in the public sector. Another 31% were producing goods for sale while 7% were self-employed and 6% were classified as employers.
- The actual number of posts in the public sector has risen from 4,288 in 2004 to 4,719 in 2015, an increase of only 10.1% whereas the population in the same period rose by 26%.

- Seafaring has been a vital source of employment for Kiribati. However, since the Global Financial Crisis, the number of seamen employed overseas steadily declined but has plateaued out in recent years. Besides economic conditions, changes in vessel technology, where ships have become larger, and increased competition from Asian nations has contributed to this decline. The number of seamen working overseas has declined from 1,067 in 2000 to 676 in 2014.

Target 1 C. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from Hunger

Achievement

- On 1 December 2014, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) commended Kiribati as one of 13 countries for achieving food security milestones ahead of the global 2015 MDGs. According to the FAO, the prevalence of undernourishment in Kiribati has decreased from 7.5% in 1990-92, to 3.5% in 2012-14. Over the same period, the number of undernourished has reduced from 5,400 to 3,600, thus reaching this MDG target.
- According to the 2006 HIES, 4.9% of the population had expenditure which would be insufficient to meet basic food needs as defined by the food poverty line. There has been no information produced since then which will provide an update on this indicator.

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

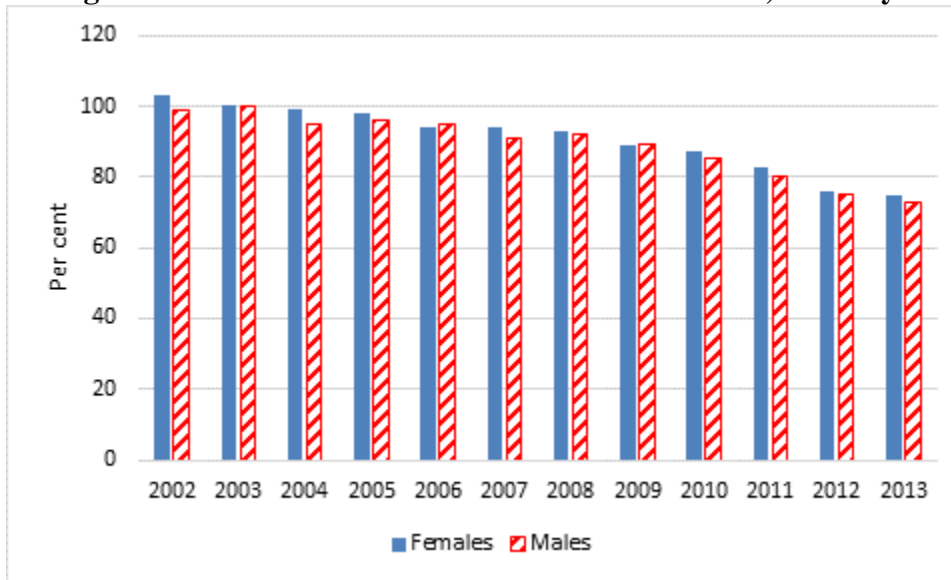
Result: Accurate data is a problem for earlier reporting, however the evidence suggests that this goal will not be entirely met although there are positive signs of improvement.

Target 2. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Achievement:

- There is some conjecture about the accuracy of early statistics on education. Work is on-going to try to improve statistical reporting.
- Nevertheless the current data shows that the net enrolment rate for males and females in primary education has continued to decline in 2013. The net enrolment rate in primary education fell from 101% in 2002 to 74% in 2013.
- Net enrolment rates for females has fallen from 103% in 2002 to 75% in 2013 and net enrolment rates for males has dropped from 99% in 2002 to 73% in 2013.

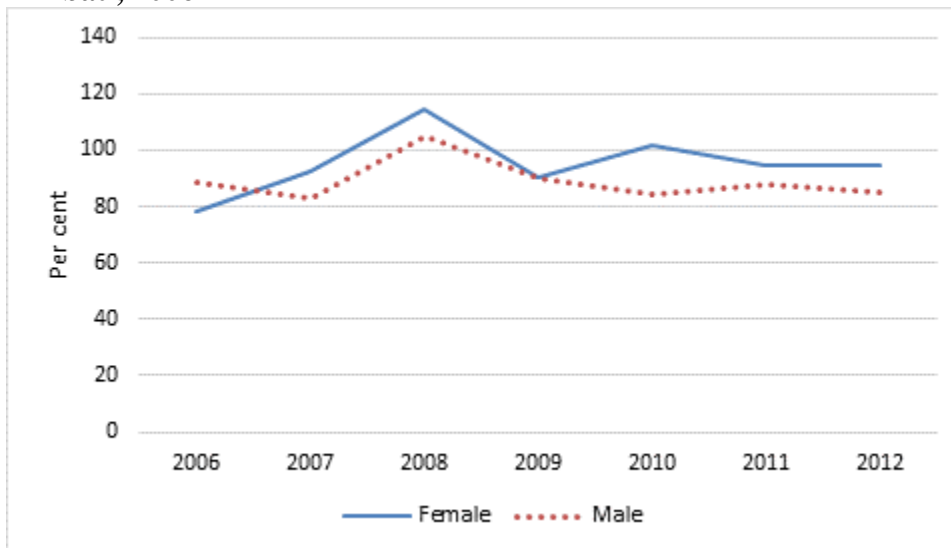
Figure 2: Net enrolment rates for females and males, Primary School, Kiribati, 2006-13



Source: MOE

- The proportion of students starting year 1 and reaching year 5 has risen since 2006. In 2006 the proportion was 83.3%. This climbed to a most likely inaccurate figure of 109.5% in 2008 but dropped to 89.5% in 2012.
- For females and males, the proportion of pupils starting Year 1 and reaching Year 5 was 78.4 and 88.4 respectively in 2006. In 2008 the figures rose to 114.4% of females and 107.4% of males. In 2012 the rates had declined to 94.5% and 85% respectively. Notably females now were the dominant gender reaching Year 5.

Figure 3: Proportion of female and male students starting year 1 and reaching year 5, Kiribati, 2006-12



Source: MOE

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

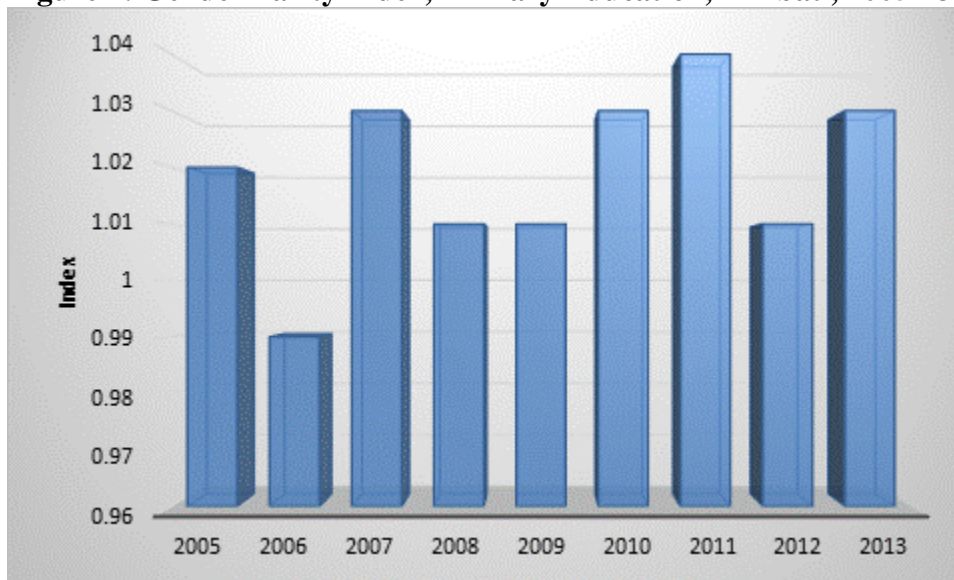
Result: Gender disparity has been eliminated for women in education but there is becoming an increasing gulf between the proportion of boys attending school and the proportion of girls. Female cash workers (outside of agricultural industries) are on a par with males. There is at least gender equality in the proportion of women in the public sector with a high proportion of females in Executive positions. However, the number of females who are Parliamentarians is low. Domestic violence is high.

Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015

Achievement:

- Kiribati has achieved gender parity in primary education. In 2013 the gender parity index for primary education was 1.03. This follows a similar trend since 2006.

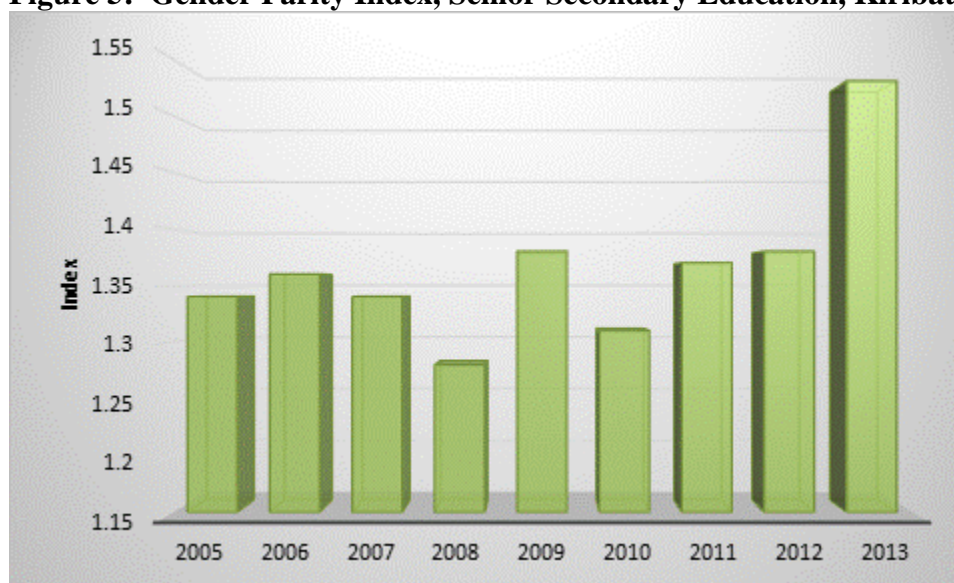
Figure 4: Gender Parity Index, Primary Education, Kiribati, 2005-13



Source: MOE

- For secondary education, the gap is much wider with females outstripping the number of males attending school. For senior secondary education in 2005 the index was 1.34 while in 2013 it had increased to 1.53.

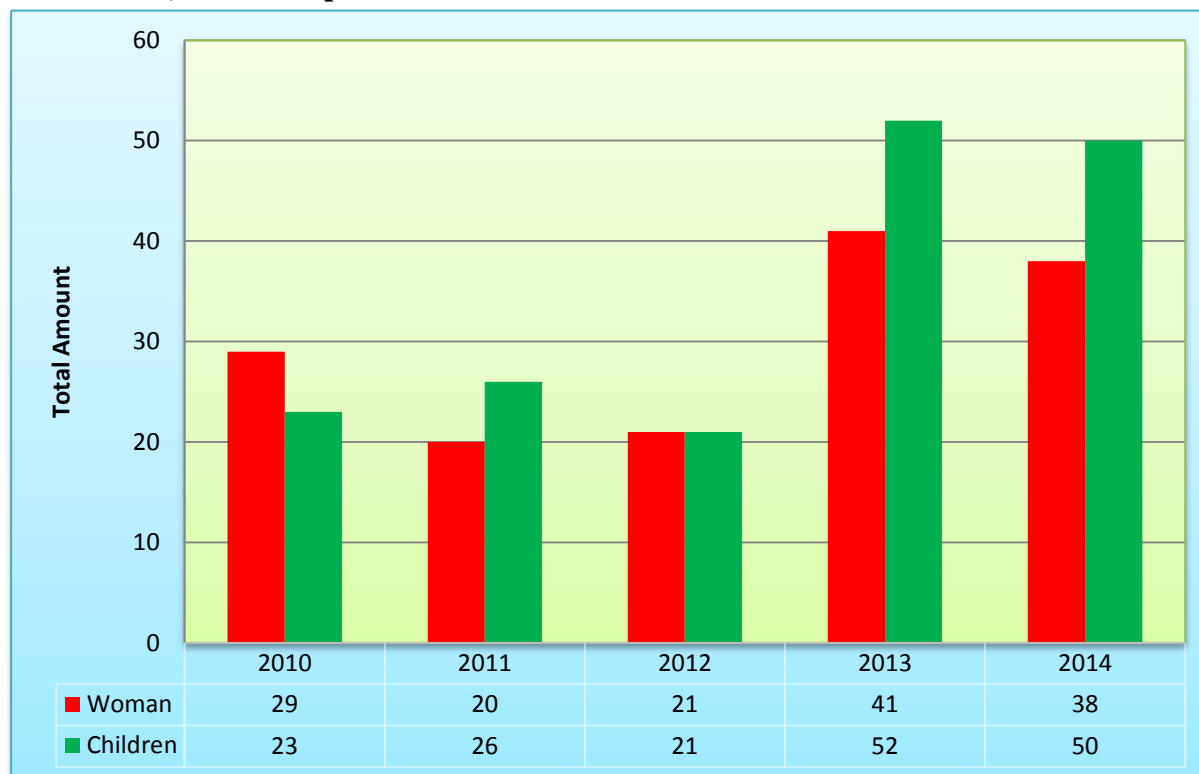
Figure 5: Gender Parity Index, Senior Secondary Education, Kiribati, 2005-12



Source: MOE

- In 2005, there were 4,423 women cash workers employed in non-agricultural industries or 39.6% of the total (11,201). In 2010, the figure had risen to a total of 10,709 or 50.7% of the total (21,113)
- Out of a total of 45 MPs, currently four women (8.9%) hold seats in the Parliament. Of these four women, three are Ministers and one also holds the position of Vice President. All three heads of diplomatic missions for Kiribati are currently women. A very high proportion of women are employed at Senior Executive level in the public service including at Secretary level.
- The Kiribati Family Health and Support Study published in 2010 shows that violence against women is prevalent. According to the study, 68% ever-partnered women aged 15–49 reported experiencing physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner. The number of women and children going through the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Crisis Centre has increased in recent years (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Number of Women and Children going through the OLSH Crisis Centre at Nowerewere, 2010 to September 2014



Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

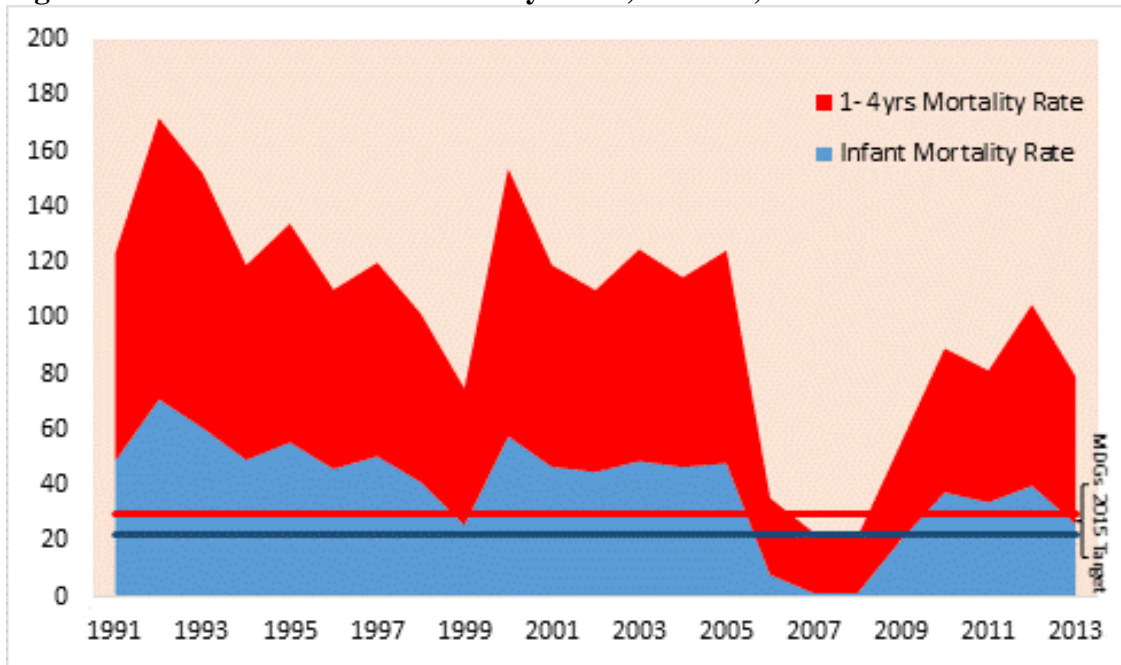
Result: This goal is unlikely to be met. Mortality rates are growing in recent years which has offset earlier gains. The 2015 target for child mortality is 30. 38.8 was achieved in 2010 but the current rate (2013) is 52.9.

Target 5. Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Achievement

- The MDG target for Kiribati is an under-five mortality rate of 30. The under 5 mortality rate dropped from a high of 101 in 1992 to 20.1 in 2008 but rose again to 52.9 in 2013.
- The infant mortality rate is an important component of under-five mortality and assists in monitoring this target. It measures child survival and reflects social, economic and environmental conditions under which children live. The infant mortality rate has fallen from 49 in 1991 to as low as 1 in 2007 but since has climbed significantly to 37.6 in 2010. The rate was 26.2 in 2013.

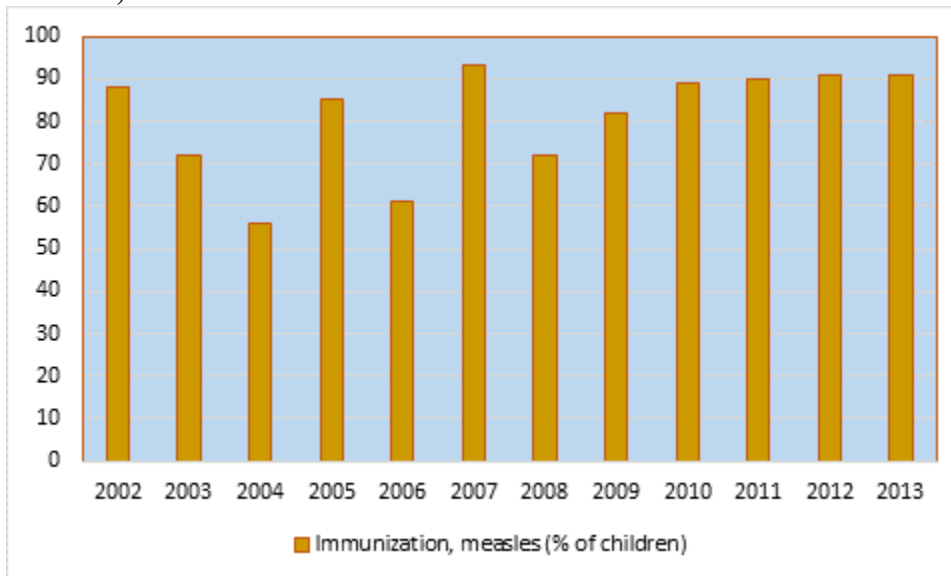
Figure 7: Infant and Under 5 Mortality Rates, Kiribati, 1991-2013



Source: MHMS

- Measles is regarded as a key indicator of child mortality since it is one of the most commonly supported childhood preventable diseases as part of the basic health care package. As well, measles is a leading cause of child mortality. The proportion of children immunised against measles has risen from a low of 56% in 2004 to 91% in 2013.

Figure 8: Immunisation against Measles, Proportion of Children aged 12-23 months, Kiribati, 2002-2013



Source: WHO and UNICEF

Goal 5. Improve Maternal Health

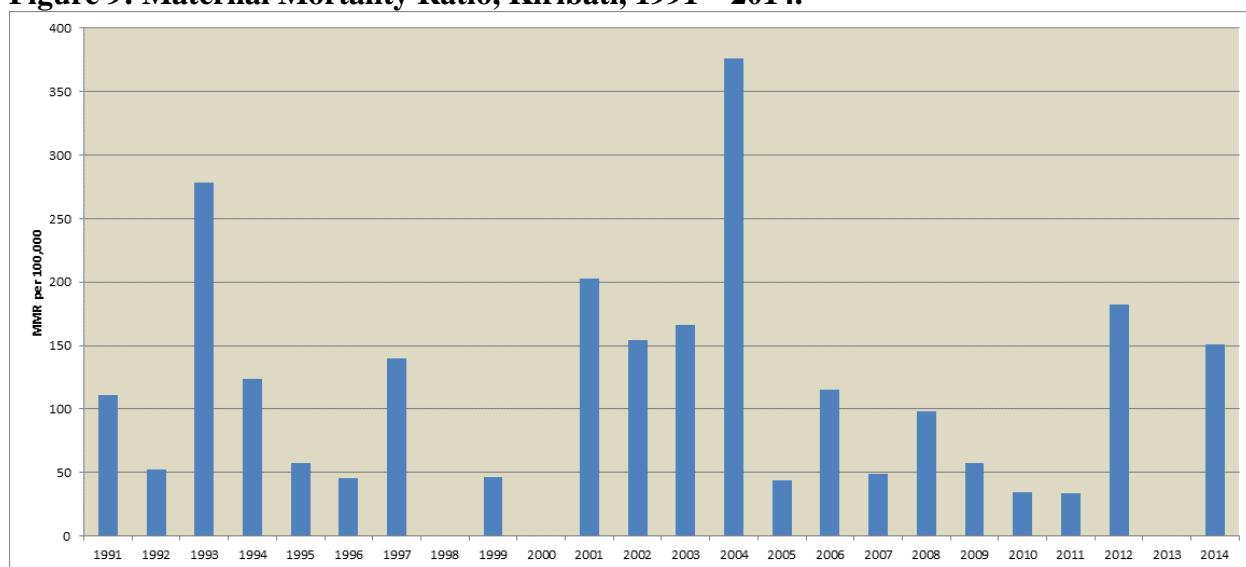
Result: This goal is unlikely to be met. The maternal mortality rate in Kiribati was zero in 2013 with no maternal deaths recorded. However the number of deaths climbed again in 2014 with a maternal mortality rate of 150.6, well above the target of 25. However other trends (proportion of skilled birth attendant deliveries) suggest that there has been significant improvement.

Target 6. Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Achievement

- The maternal mortality ratio is the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. The target is to reduce maternal mortality in Kiribati to 25 by 2015. In 2013, the figure was nil because there were no maternal deaths that year. However, the figure was 150.6 in 2014, a significant variance from the target. The actual number of maternal deaths in Kiribati is quite low (5 in 2012 and 4 in 2014), but due to the small population and relatively low number of live births annually, the figure is multiplied up to calculate a ratio per 100,000 live births, magnifying small variations.

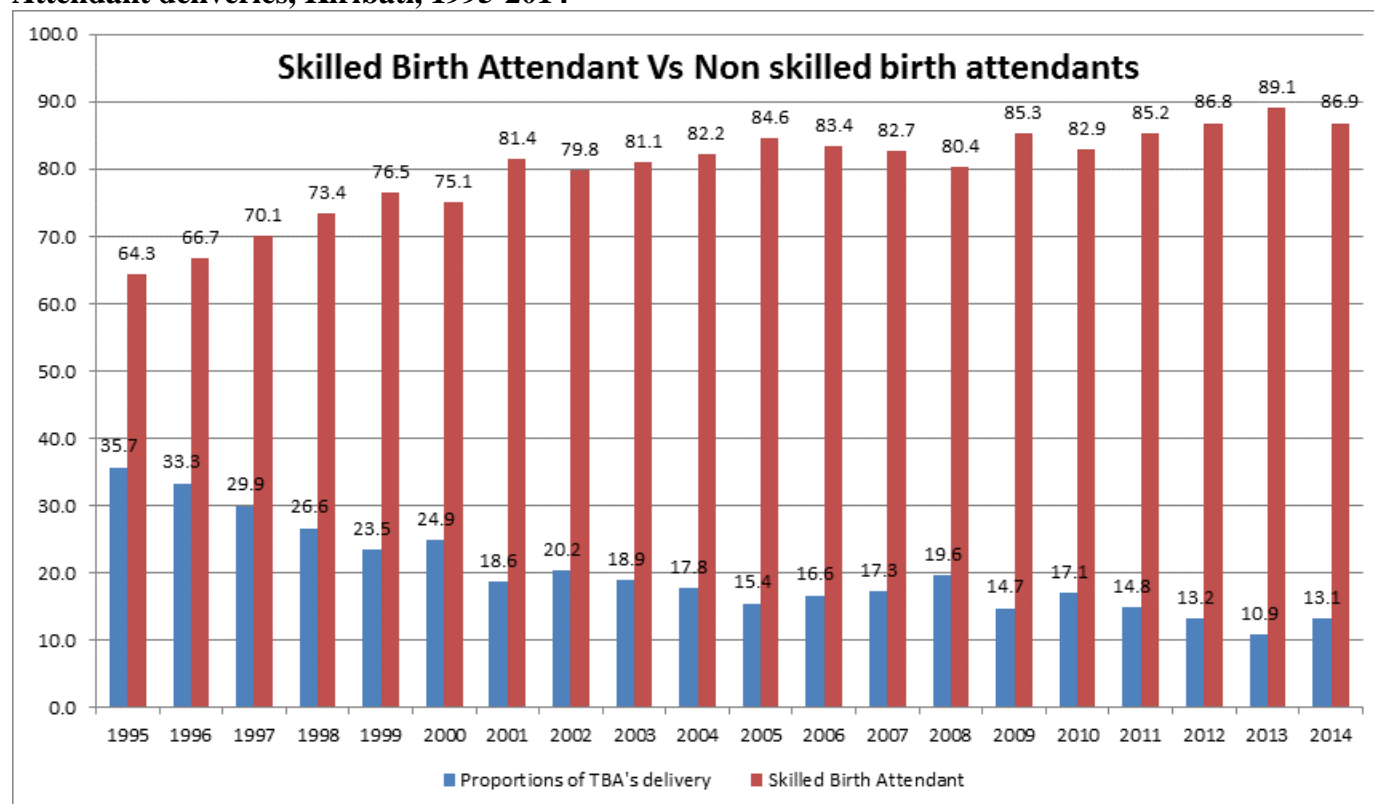
Figure 9: Maternal Mortality Ratio, Kiribati, 1991 – 2014.



Source: MHMS

- Births attended by skilled health personnel has improved from 64.3% in 1995 to 86.9% in 2014. In the same period the proportion of pregnant women who were still being delivered by Traditional Birth Attendants rather than skilled health personnel declined from 35.7% to 13.1%.

Figure 10: Proportions of Traditional Birth Attendant deliveries and Skilled Birth Attendant deliveries, Kiribati, 1995-2014



Source: MHMS

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

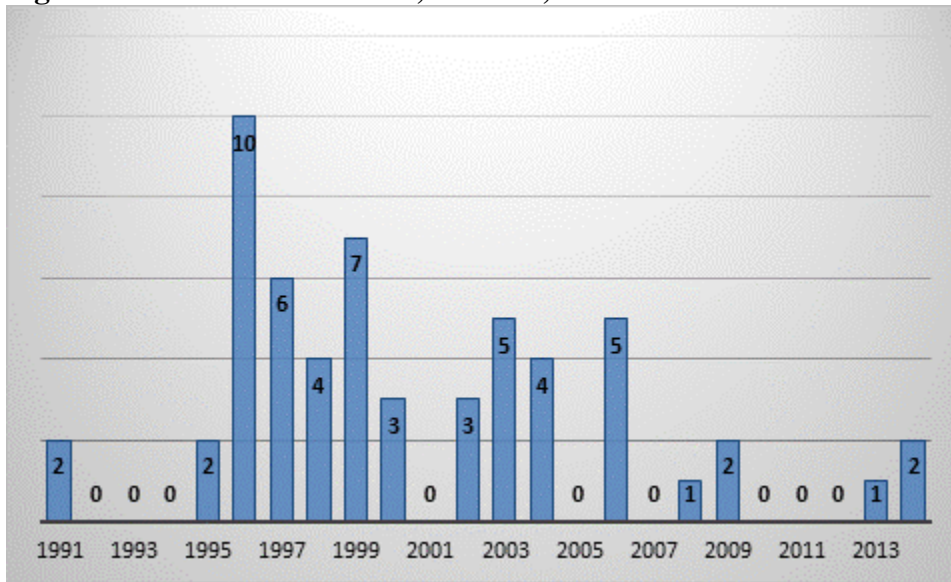
Result: New cases of HIV/AIDS have fallen in recent years with none reported in 2010, 2011 or 2012. One was reported in 2013 and two were reported in 2014. However, other diseases such as tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases are still at alarmingly high levels. Because of the growth of these other diseases, it is unlikely that this goal will be met.

Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Achievement

- The first case of HIV was diagnosed in 1991 and since then the number steadily increased but has dropped off in more recent years. Kiribati's incidence of HIV/AIDS was one of the highest in the Pacific. The total number of people ever diagnosed with HIV in Kiribati is 58. No new cases were detected in 2010, 2011 or 2012. There was one new case in 2013 and two new cases in 2014.

Figure 11: HIV Positive Cases, Kiribati, 1991 to 2014

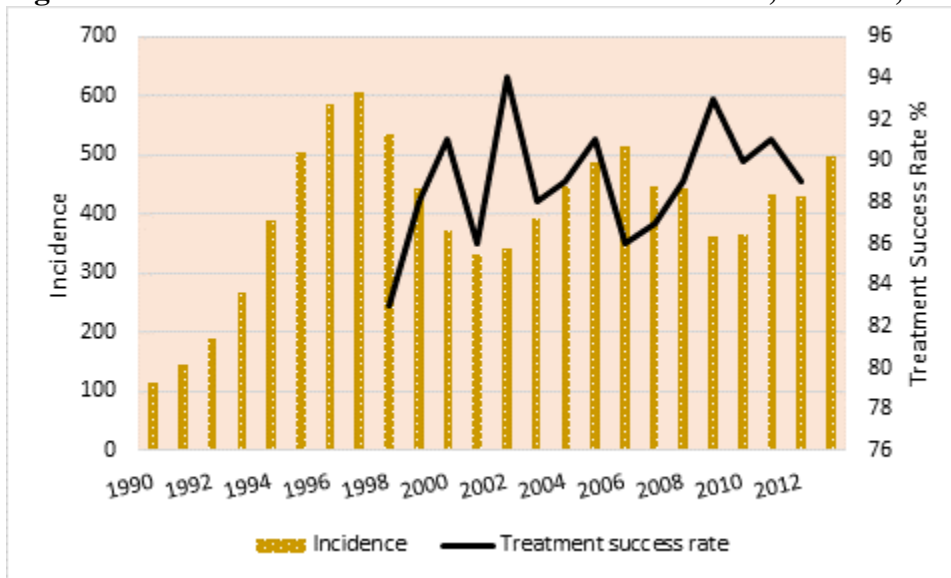


Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of tuberculosis

Achievement

- The incidence of tuberculosis is the highest in the Pacific. It has risen from 116 per 100,000 population in 1990 to a high of 605 in 1997 but has declined steadily since then until 2009. The incidence in 2013 was 497. Treatment rates have been declining from 2009 at 93% to 89% in 2012.

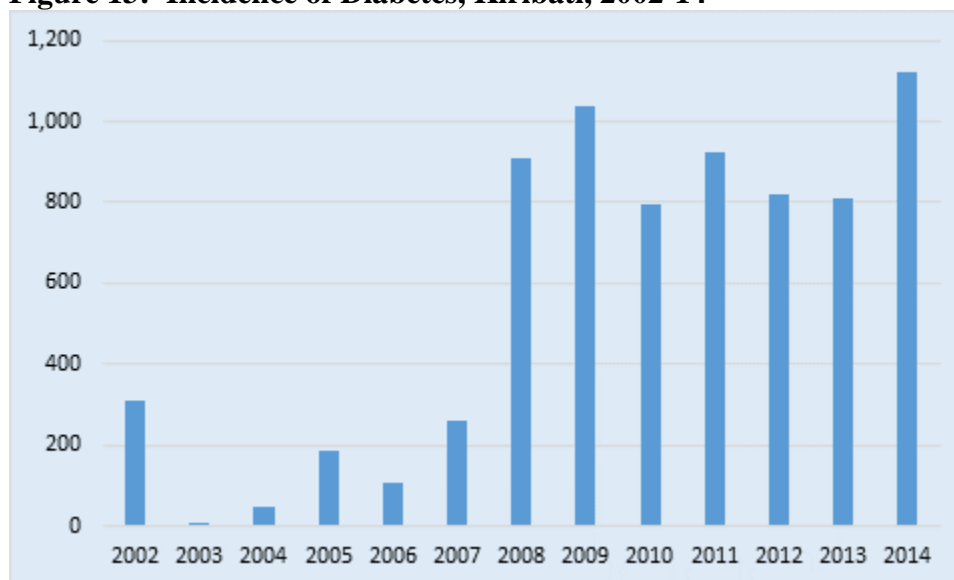
Figure 12: Incidence of TB and Treatment Success Rate, Kiribati, 1990-2013



Source: MHMS

Non-communicative diseases such as diabetes are also a high determinate of death in the Pacific Islands and Kiribati is no exception. Data on the incidence of diabetes has not been recorded well in the past but recent information suggests that diabetes continues to be a major health issue. The number of new cases of diabetes fell from 1,036 in 2009 to 809 in 2013 but has risen to an all-time high of 1,123 in 2014.

Figure 13: Incidence of Diabetes, Kiribati, 2002-14



Source: MHMS

Goal 7. Ensure environmental stability

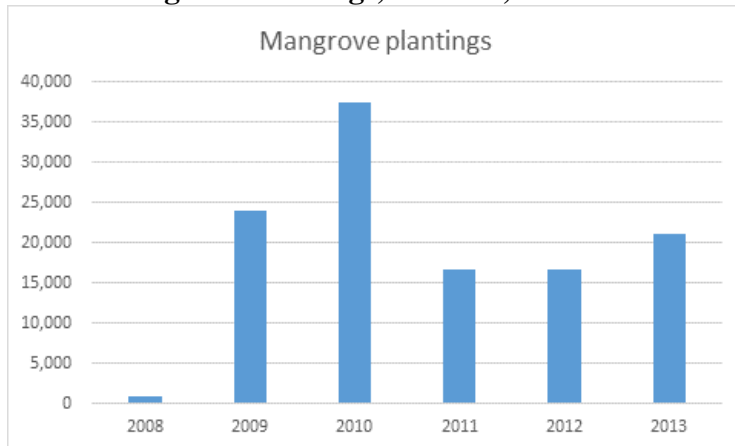
Result: This is a difficult goal to actually measure empirically. There have been several initiatives to improve policy and some major gains in the proportion of protected land and marine areas. Carbon dioxide emissions are low compared to westernised countries and there have been improvements in sanitation and water supply. This goal is likely to be borderline.

Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Achievement

- Kiribati has been moving for greater environmental protection with the launch of the Key Biodiversity Area Analysis report for Kiribati in August 2013. Protection of marine resources has occurred under the Phoenix Islands Protected Area in 2006. The Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy (KIEP) was launched in August 2013.
- The proportion of land area covered by forest according to the FAO is 15% and this has not changed since 1990. However, projects have been undertaken to increase forest protection including the replanting of coconut trees and the planting of mangroves.

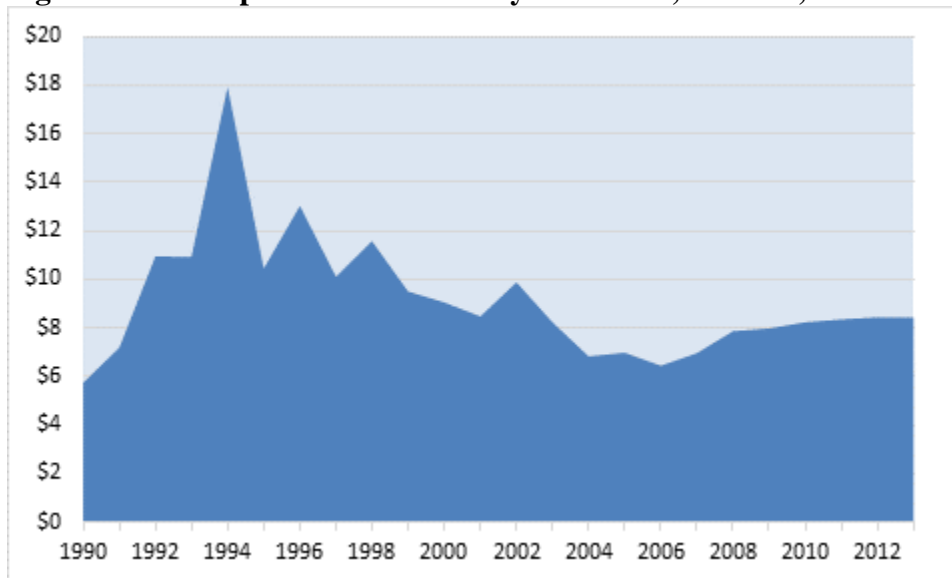
Figure 14: Mangrove Plantings, Kiribati, 2008-2013



Source: MELAD

- The proportion of the land area protected to maintain diversity is currently only 1% of the total terrestrial area. This is part of Kiritimati Island which is a wildlife sanctuary. The marine protected area is 11% of the total marine area and this is the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) which was totally closed to commercial fishing on 1 January 2015.
- GDP per unit of energy used (as a proxy for energy efficiency) has actually been declining since 1994 but the trend has plateaued out in recent years (figure 13) suggesting that energy efficiency has actually improved in the past decade.

Figure 15: GDP per unit of electricity consumed, Kiribati, 1990 to 2013

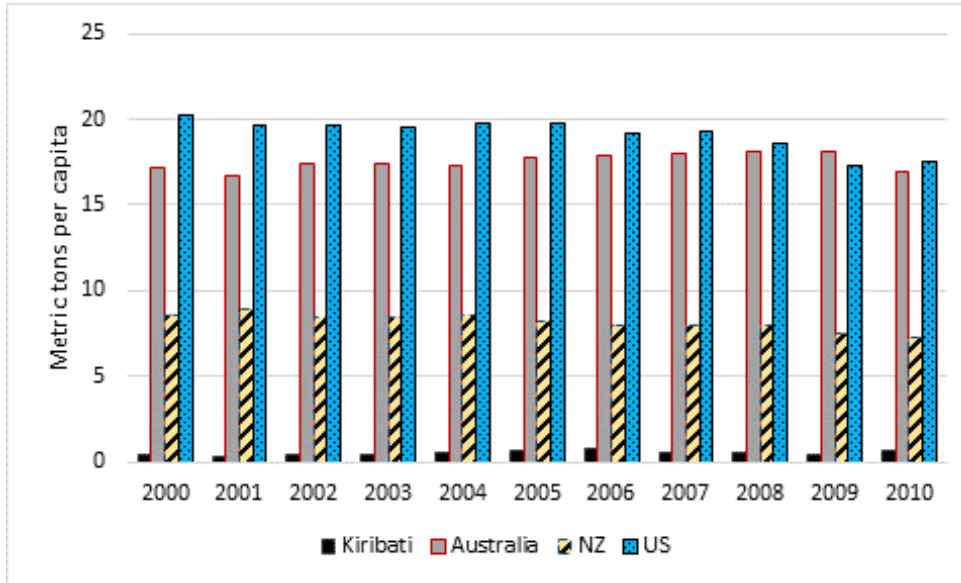


Source: PUB and KNSO

- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita in Kiribati are low by international standards (see figure 12). CO₂ emissions were 0.64 metric tonnes per capita in 2010 in Kiribati compared with 17.6 for the US and 16.9 for Australia. For Kiribati, CO₂

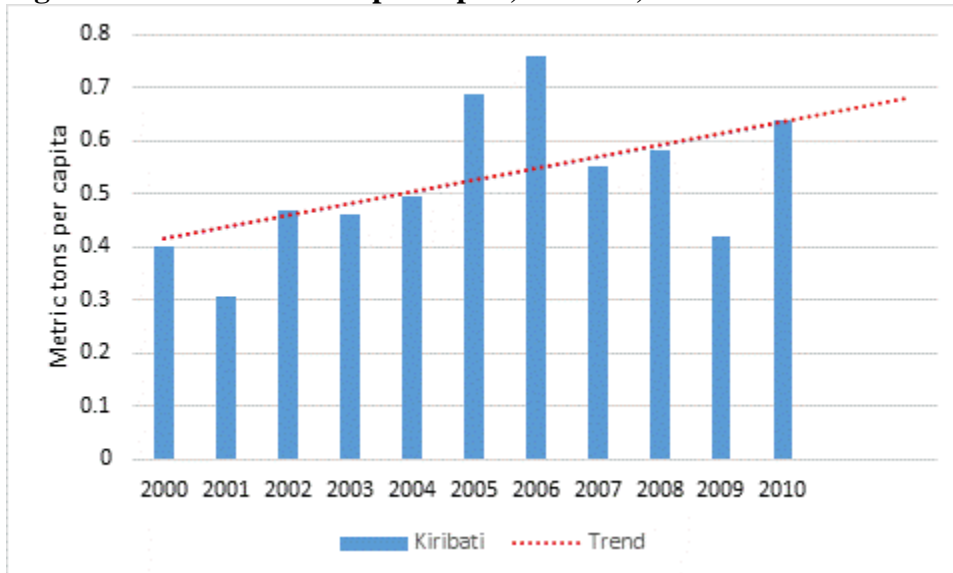
emissions have remained reasonably low over the period 2000 to 2010 (figure 13) although the trend is rising steadily. There are no data on the consumption of ozone-depleting Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) in Kiribati.

Figure 16: CO2 Emissions (Metric Tonnes per Capita), Kiribati, Australia, NZ and US, 2000-2010



Source: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, United States.

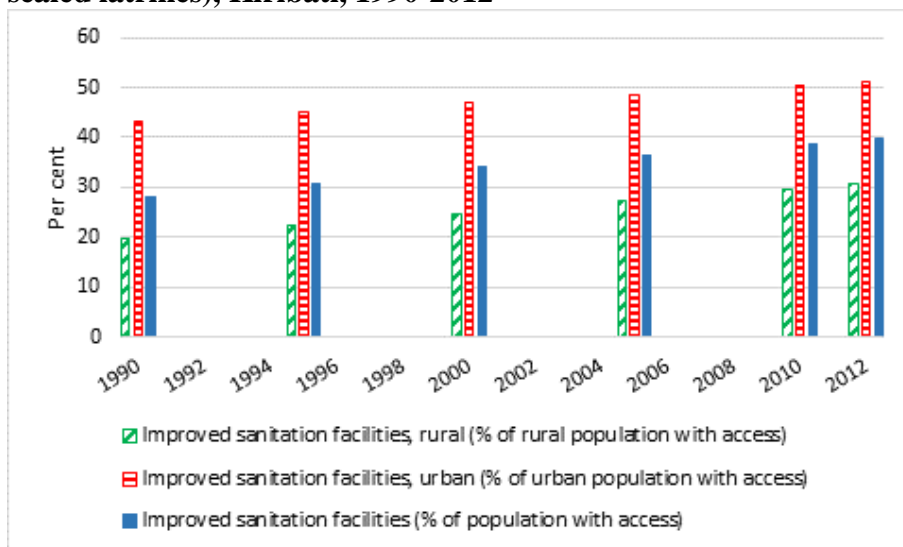
Figure 17: CO2 Emissions per capita, Kiribati, 1990-2010



Source: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, United States.

- The proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation has steadily grown in Kiribati since 1990. Although some gains have been made, however, the figure remains at only 39.7% in 2012 up from 29.0% in 1990 (see figure 14).

Figure 18: Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation (flush or water sealed latrines), Kiribati, 1990-2012



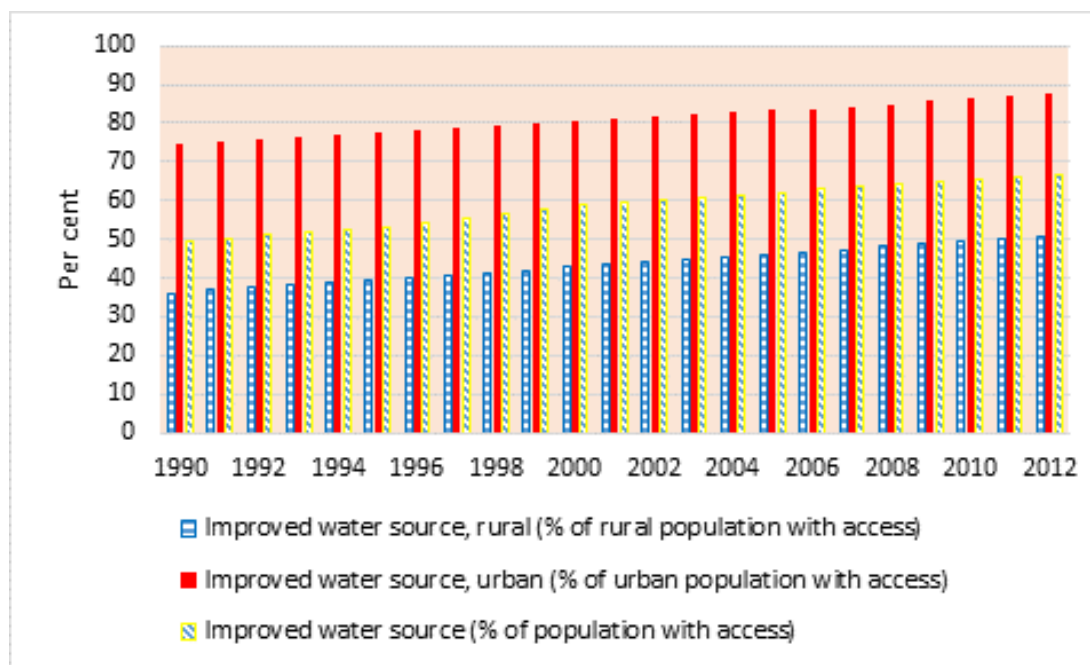
Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation

Target 10. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Achievement

- The proportion of the population with sustainable access to an improved water source urban and rural (piped to household or standpipe) has grown from 49.6% in 1990 to 66.1% in 2011. This means that the proportion without sustainable access to safe drinking was 33.9% in 2011, whereas the target is 25.4% in 2015. On current trends, this target will not be reached in 2015.

Figure 19: Proportion of the population with sustainable access to an improved water source, Kiribati, 1990 to 2011



Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation

Target 11. By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Achievement

- The measure of this target is the proportion of households with access to secure tenure but accurate information is not available in Kiribati. Continued migration from the outer islands has led to squatter communities on South Tarawa and resulted in a high level of population density. The population density in Betio from the 2010 Population Census was 9,434 people per km² which is high by international standards.

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

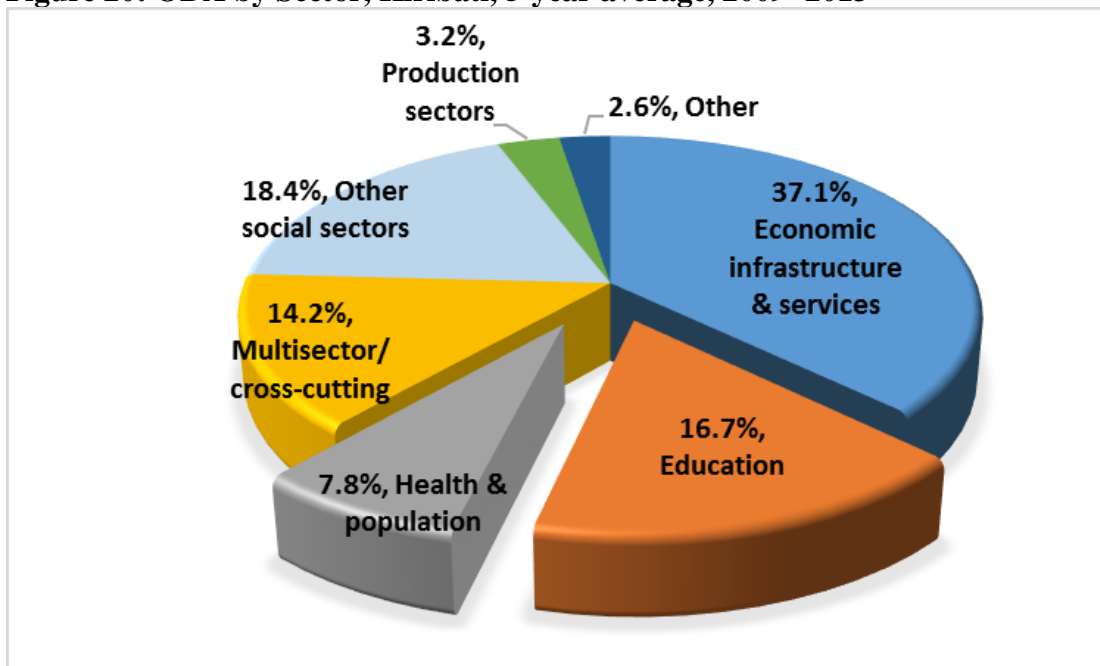
Result: Again, this goal is difficult to measure but likely to be borderline. However several indicators suggest that there has been some progress. Education is the predominant sector in the distribution of Official Development Assistance (ODA). The levels of ODA to Kiribati have risen substantially in the past few years. Kiribati receives special trade preferences because of its LDC status with countries such as Japan so therefore the levels of tariffs that the exports of Kiribati faces are very low. Kiribati has ratified regional trade agreements to support the free movement of goods and services in the South Pacific. Customs duties were abolished in Kiribati in April 2014. Debt service payments in Kiribati are relatively low. Youth unemployment is a pervasive problem but the Government has a wide variety of programs to attempt to deal with the high numbers of unemployed youth.

Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial systems, including a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally

Achievement

- The first measurement of this target is the proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation). However, due to lack of information on these sectors in official information published by the World Bank and the OECD, it is not possible to reproduce these figures accurately for Kiribati. However OECD information does exist for education and health which suggests that the five year average between 2009 and 2013 was nearly a quarter (24.6%) with education one of the highest sectors at 16.7%.

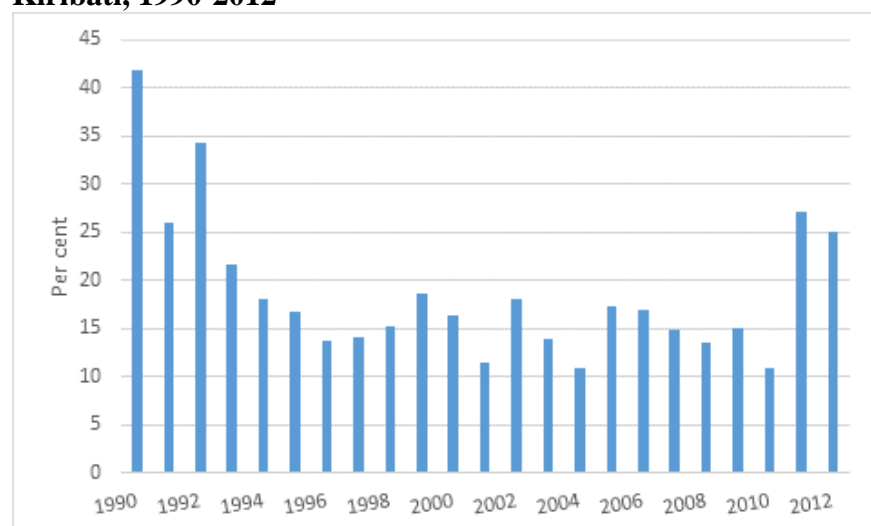
Figure 20: ODA by Sector, Kiribati, 5-year average, 2009 -2013



Source: OECD

- The levels of ODA received in Kiribati as a proportion of its Gross National Income fell off sharply from its early levels in the 1990s but has risen significantly since 2010 (see figure 19).

Figure 21: Proportion of Official Development Assistance to Gross National Income, Kiribati, 1990-2012



Source: World Bank

Target 14. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and Small Island developing States

Achievement

- The first measure of this target is the proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas for Kiribati. Kiribati has ratified the Pacific Island Country Trade Agreement (PICTA) where Forum island countries have committed to remove tariffs on most goods by 2021. In August 2009, leaders of the Pacific Island Forum agreed to start negotiating PACER plus, a free trade agreement that would include Australia and New Zealand as well as the Forum Island Countries and that would cover goods, services, and investment. Because Kiribati is an LDC it receives special trade preferences with the EU and Japan. The EU is currently negotiating a comprehensive regional Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with all 14 signatories of PICTA. Kiribati abolished Customs Duties from 1 April 2014.
- The second measure is the average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products, textiles and clothing. The same comments above apply here.

Target 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long run.

Achievement

- Debt sustainability is currently not a large issue for Kiribati. Debt service as percentage of exports of goods and services was 8.4% in 2011 and 11.4% in 2012. With repayments of large SOE debts in 2014 the figure is expected to drop substantially in 2015 to less than 10%.

Target 16. In cooperation with developing countries develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Achievement

- At the 2010 Population Census the unemployment rate of 15-24 year olds was 47.6% for males and 61.8% for females making a total of 54%. Young people accounted for more than a half (51.7%) of all the unemployed in 2010. Currently roughly 2,000 youth enter the labour force each year. Of these about 150 become students at the Kiribati Institute of Technology and 90 go overseas on scholarships. About 35 become students at the Australia Pacific Technical College annually. About 90 new recruits are made each year into the public sector. The Marine Training Centre takes 100 additional students annually. Most of the remaining labour force entrants must find employment in the private sector or become self-employed. The Government has introduced a Private Sector Development Strategy to increase employment activities in the private sector.

Target 17. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Achievement

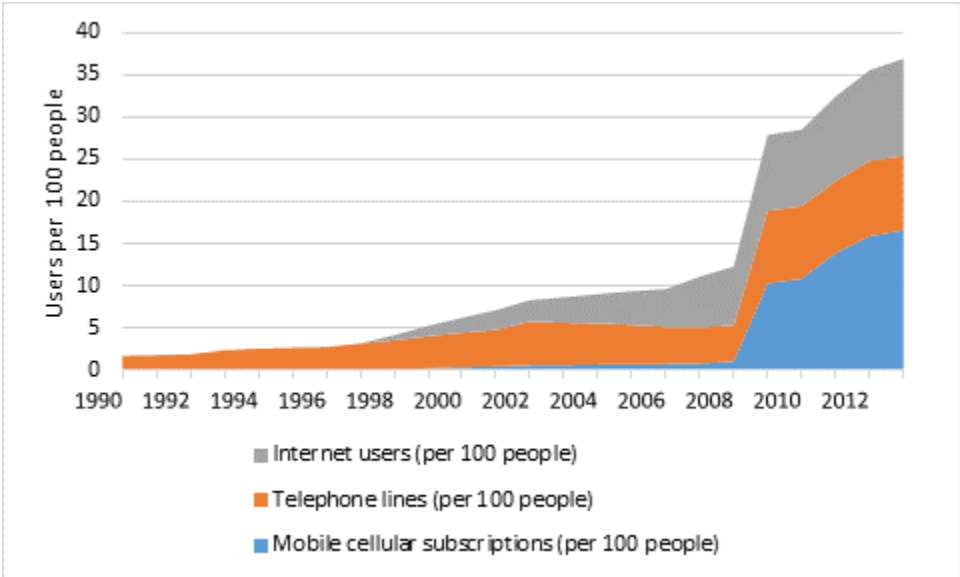
- The measure of this target is the proportion of the population with access to affordable, essential drugs on a sustainable basis. In Kiribati, all drugs supplied through the hospital services are free. Nevertheless, access to medical facilities is limited in the outer islands. There are no privately run pharmacies in Kiribati.

Target 18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Achievement

- The number of telephone lines per 100 people has doubled from 2008 to 2009 (4.2 to 8.6) but since then usage has plateaued out. The figure is 8.8 in 2013. The number of cellular subscribers per 100 people has risen substantially between 2008 and 2013 rising from 1.1 to 16.6 respectively. The number of internet users per 100 people has multiplied dramatically from 4.5 in 2006 to 11.5 in 2013 (see figure 20). The Government has opened the telecommunications sector to competition and has recently privatised the State-Owned TSKL.

Figure 22: Mobile Cellular Subscriptions, Telephone Lines and Internet Users, Kiribati, 1990 to 2013.



Source: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report and database, and World Bank estimates.