

Is access to decent dwelling improving?

In order to reduce disparities in our societies, it is necessary to deal with the problem of unhealthy dwellings.

One of the consequences of the rapid growth in town development in the Mediterranean countries is the difficulty of access to adequate accommodation. The building of accommodation has been short of expectations and does not match demand. Besides this, the high price of accommodation makes it inaccessible to those for whom it was intended.

About one third of urban population in the world is currently living in slums (about 1 billion people). In developing countries, that proportion reduced from 46% in 1990 to 36% in 2005.

In the Mediterranean, in the 7 countries available data in 1990 and 2001 the proportion of urban population living in slums decreased from 31 to 24% between 1990 and 2001, i.e. 32 million people.

For the 5 Mediterranean countries with available data in 2005, this proportion decreased from 36 to 16 % between 1990 and 2005.

In these countries, there is real progress in terms of percentage. In absolute values, the reduction between 1990 and 2005 in Egypt is significant (8.6 million). In Morocco, this value decreased from 2001 (3.2 million).

Definition

This indicator measures the proportion of the population with access to decent accommodation.

Adequate accommodation should not show obvious risks of being physically unsafe or able to be a health hazard and should be equipped with facilities in conformity with its use as accommodation.

Precautions / Notes

Information about decent dwelling is not currently available in all of the Mediterranean countries.

This indicator is approximated by the proportion of urban population living in slum. This data was collected in the framework of the UN programme for human dwellings. This indicator is one of the Millennium Development Goals indicators.

This programme defines a household living in slum conditions as a group of people living together but not disposing of one or several (in some towns two or more) of the following facilities: safety of the accommodation, well constructed accommodation intended to last, access to healthy water, access to waste water facilities and adequate living space.

Sources / References

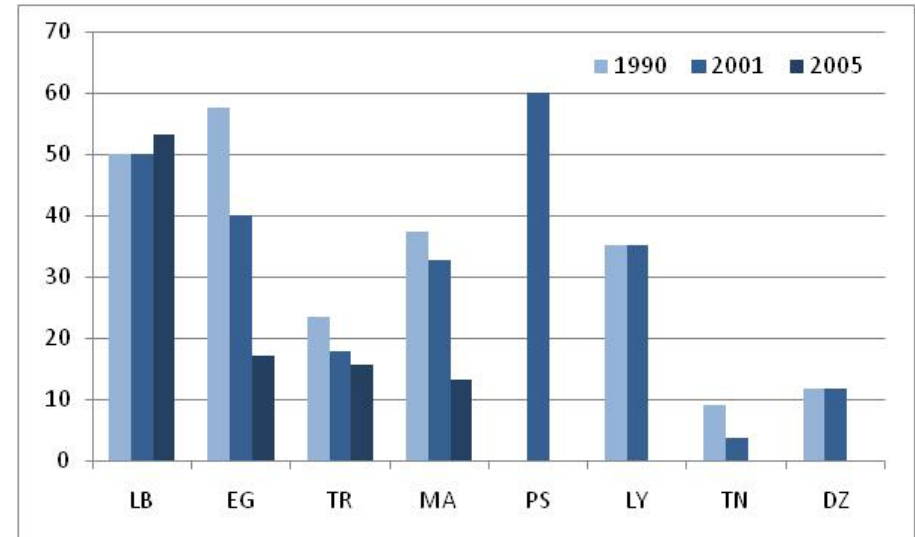
United Nations Statistical Division, The Millennium Indicators Database.

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008, United Nations, 2009

UN-HABITAT: United Nations agency for human settlements

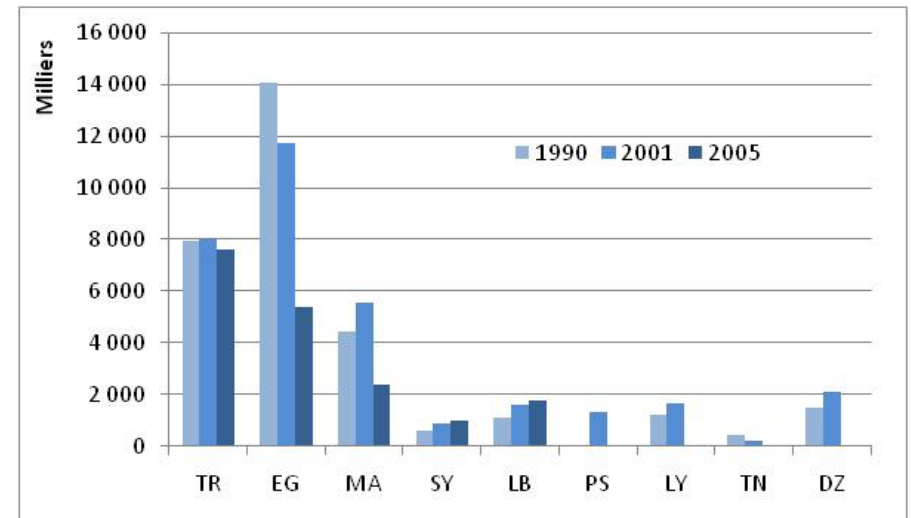
20. Proportion of urban population with access to a decent dwelling

Proportion of urban population living in slums (%)



Source : UNSD

Urban population living in slums



Source : UNSD