

REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
Questionnaire on the achievement of MDGs addressed to Governments by the
Independent Expert

MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger)

1. Hunger

1) In assessing the population's income that cannot satisfy the minimum needs for food products, Lithuania is using the minimum food product consumption basket. In implementing the Action Plan of 2003-2010 of the State Food and Nutrition Strategy, the Ministry of Health adopted the Structure of the Minimum Food Ration (Official Gazette, 2006, 30-1053) which, on average, contains 86.2 g proteins, 59.1 g fat and 372.7 g carbohydrates; the energy value of one ration is 2,347.3 kcal; proteins constitute 14.7%, fat accounts for 22.7% and carbohydrates make up 63.5% of the daily energy of a food ration. That corresponds to the recommended daily amounts of nutrients and energy.

The amount and level of the population income depend on a number of factors: family composition, place of residence, and capacity to take part in the labour market, living manner. In Lithuania only small part of population (1-2 %) is experiencing a deep poverty, when their income does not satisfy the minimum needs for food products. The biggest part of this population contains of homeless people and people misusing alcohol, drugs or others hallucinogenic agents.

2) In early 2007, the Law on Social Assistance to Pupils came into effect which provided for pupils' free meals with a view to ensuring full nutrition of pupils at school. The law entitled all children from small income families studying under preschool education or general education (primary, basic, secondary or special) curricula in general education schools, also in vocational and preschool establishments as well as places adapted for children education to receive free meals. Seeking to develop healthy eating habits and to ensure that children nutrition and energy supply meet the daily requirements, the menu of free meals is drawn up pursuant to the List of Products Required for Preparing Breakfast and Lunch Meals according to Age Groups of Pupils approved by the Minister of Health.

Depending on family income, pupils are entitled to the following:

1. Free lunch, if the average monthly income per family member is lower than 1.5 State Support Income (hereinafter referred to as the SSI) (before 1 October 2007 it was LTL 307.5, from 1 October 2007 to 1 January 2008 it amounted to LTL 352.5, from 1 January 2008 it was LTL 427.5, and from 1 August 2008 it amounted to LTL 525).

2. Free lunch, if the average monthly income per family member is lower than 1 SSI (before 1 October 2007 it was LTL 205, from 1 October 2007 to 1 January 2008 it amounted to LTL 235, from 1 January 2008 it was LTL 285, and from 1 August 2008 it amounted to LTL 350).

3. Free lunch if the average monthly income per family member is lower than 1 SSI (before 1 October 2007 it was LTL 205, from 1 October 2007 to 1 January 2008 it amounted to LTL 235, from 1 January 2008 it was LTL 285, and from 1 August 2008 it amounted to LTL 350) and if the pupil has been raised in a social risk family.

In special cases and depending of the family living conditions free lunch has been provided to pupils if monthly income per one family member was lower than 2 SSI (before 1 October 2007 it was LTL 410, from 1 October 2007 to 1 January 2008 it amounted to LTL 470, from 1 January to 1 August 2008 it was LTL 570 and from 1

August 2008 it amounted to LTL 700), whereas free breakfast has been provided to pupils if family monthly income per family member is smaller than 1.5 SSI.

Seeking to ensure that children nutrition is in line with physiological standards, higher prices have been established for one day of free meals for the procurement of food products, with the amount of LTL 3.54 set for lunch, LTL 1.64 for breakfast, LTL 7.8 for meals at daytime summer camps organised at school.

Pupils are provided free meals in a school in which they are studying, irrespective of their place of residence. Pursuant to the procedure established by the founders of schools, free breakfast and lunch have been provided on rest days and holidays during the school year. The pupils, who received free meals during the last month of a school year, were provided free meals at daytime summer camps organized in schools during summer holidays. During 2008, free lunch was provided to approximately 43 % of pupils and free breakfast was provided to 12 % of pupils coming from low-income families.

Not only pupils are provided free meals. People in need are fed at charitable lunchrooms established in the municipalities. In 2009 more than 64 thousand people (about 2 percent of population) had lunch there, in some circumstances the food was provided to those people's homes. NGO's have tradition not only to feed people in need at charitable lunchrooms, but also to provide food for children of families in need in day care centres during rests days and holiday time, for instance "Caritas" took care of 240 children in 8 parishes in 2009.

In Lithuania there are two main non-contributory schemes for guaranteeing minimum resources:

- Cash social assistance, which is provided to families and single residents unable to provide themselves with sufficient resources for living. Applicants for cash social assistance are required to first and foremost provide themselves with all possible income that they can obtain on their own. Cash social assistance is paid by municipalities from targeted subsidies allocated to them from the national budget. It comprises both Social Benefit and Reimbursement for the Cost of House Heating and Hot and Cold Water. Both benefits are means-tested. Their amount is differential.

- Social assistance pension, which is aimed at ensuring a minimum standard of living for people who are at particular social risk, i.e. disabled persons, persons who have reached retirement age, disabled or retired mothers with multiple children and disabled or retired persons taking care of their disabled relatives. Social assistance pensions are paid to persons who are not entitled to benefits from the budget of the State Social Insurance Fund or for whom these benefits are very small. Social assistance pensions are paid by municipalities. The claimant is guaranteed entitlement to the benefit if s/he satisfies the conditions laid down by law. Each recipient receives a fixed amount unrelated to their income.

3) Since 2005, Lithuania implements the Programme of Provision of Food from Intervention Stocks to the Most Deprived Persons in the Community. Under the programme, state institutions are closely cooperating with municipal authorities and non-governmental organisations: traditional religion community Lithuanian Caritas, association Lithuanian Red Cross Society, Charity and Support Fund "Maisto bankas" ('Food Bank'). The representatives of non-governmental organisations are involved in the discussion about the range of supplied food products, the number of supplies to low-income residents, supply of food products to charity canteens offering food to residents of shelter houses.

2. Decent work

1) The highest probability of working and getting poor is among low qualification persons, having no experience, performing unskilled labour part-time, living in households with a huge number of dependent persons and in need for additional care. In Lithuania, about 10% of the employed are exposed to poverty risk and about 14% of persons are living in poor households. According to statistics data, about 9 % of employed persons are without qualification. More than 7% of full-time employees received minimum monthly wage.

2) Vocational rehabilitation programme. Seeking to restore or increase the working capacity, occupational competence and ability to take part in the labour market of the disabled, they are provided vocational rehabilitation services. The responsibility for provision of vocational rehabilitation services lies with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The Ministry performs the function together with the Lithuanian Labour Exchange; it organises and coordinates provision of vocational rehabilitation services in territorial labour exchange offices, performs supervision of provision of vocational rehabilitation services and involvement of persons in vocational rehabilitation programme, closely co-operates with the stakeholders of the vocational rehabilitation system. During 2008, vocational rehabilitation services were provided by 9 bodies rendering vocational rehabilitation services. These bodies offered professions to the disabled under 139 training programmes. The average duration of vocational rehabilitation is 5.4 months. Therefore the number of people involved in vocational rehabilitation is increasing every year. Along with that, the number of the disabled who get employed after vocational rehabilitation is also growing.

There should be also mentioned Measure No 2.1 *Development of Employability Skills* of the Single Programming Document, which is implemented with the help of EU Structural Funds. The key objective of this measure is to reduce unemployment and combat long-term unemployment, improve employability skills of the unemployed as well as their integration into the labour market. The Lithuania Labour Exchange had implemented 5 projects under this measure by the end of 2009. Considerably higher results than it was planned were achieved – the number of participants trained during the implementation of the projects exceeded the provisional number by 75 percent. Unemployed persons attended trainings aimed at increase of encouragement and motivation; they acquired vocational qualifications most demanded in the labour market, acquired computer skills, attended driving courses and participated in other employment support measures. Employees of labour exchanges had the opportunity to improve their qualifications and skills necessary in their everyday work. More than 17 thousand persons have been employed after those encouragement activities.

3) The Tripartite Council advises the Parliament and the Government on socio-economic and labour matters. It was set up on 5 May 1995 following an agreement on tripartite partnership between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, trade unions and employers' organisations for the purpose of solving social, economic and labour problems and promoting social harmony. From January 2003, the social dialogue and partnership in Lithuania has been regulated by the Labour Code.

MDG 2 (Achieve universal primary education)

1. Although school drop-out rates in Lithuania are quite good in the context of European countries, further efforts are made to prevent the number of such children from growing and encourage children who have withdrawn from the education system for one reason or another to return to school.

There are two types of school drop-outs: children expelled from school and those leaving school voluntarily. The number of children expelled from comprehensive schools fluctuates between some 3,000 and 4,000. Secondary school pupils account for over a half of all children expelled from school. Approximately 15–20 children per academic year are expelled from primary school for underachievement or failure to attend school. Such pupils are suggested to go to special or youth schools.

A total of 8,521 primary school pupils withdrew from Lithuanian educational institutions in 2009–2010, i.e. left school and were not transferred to other schools of the same type. A part of them withdrew from school as they left to live abroad with their parents. Some of them are returning to the education system next academic year or later, but there are no precise data available to establish the return rate.

2. Pursuant to the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania, the municipal council organises and keeps records of children living within the municipal territory and ensures that all children study according to compulsory (primary and basic) education programmes. The keeping of records of school-age children aged between 7 and 16 years is organised and controlled according to the Procedure for Keeping Records of School-Age Children Aged between 7 and 16 Years approved by Resolution No 889 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 4 August 1997. Based on this procedure, children aged between 7 and 16 years who, according to data available to municipalities and schools, must attend school but do not do this are included in the records.

According to data available to municipalities, 572 children did not attend school in 2003, 505 in 2004, 631 in 2005, 357 in 2006, and 259 in 2007. According to the analysis of studies carried out in Lithuania, children do not attend school for the following reasons: a) inability to master learning content and failure to provide educational assistance on time; b) personal psychological characteristics, emotional and behavioural problems, conflicts with teachers and peers; c) unsatisfactory socioeconomic conditions of pupils and their families; d) insufficient competence of teachers in working with unmotivated children who do not attend school, as well as a negative attitude of teachers towards pupils with learning difficulties.

The following measures are being implemented in order to solve the problems of pupils not attending school and draw the attention of the society to them:

a) Since 2005, the Ministry of Education and Science has been organising a campaign entitled “Mokyklon? Pakeliui!” (“On the Way to School”) aimed at encouraging the public to help to return children not in education or not attending school back to schools.

b) Youth schools intended for solving the problems of children who have lost motivation for learning and do not attend school have operated since 1993. However, there are too few of them. The Concept of Youth Schools was approved by Order No ISAK-2549 of the Minister of Education and Science of 12 December 2005.

c) Social educators were hired by most schools within the framework of the 2001–2005 Programme for the Establishment of Social Educator Offices in Educational Institutions approved by Resolution No 471 of the Government of the

Republic of Lithuania of 24 April 2001. The main purpose of their professional activity is to take timely notice, evaluate and tackle the problems of school non-attendance, failure to learn, misbehaviour and other problems.

d) A total of 53 educational psychological agencies were established within the framework of introduction of the Educational and Psychological Assistance Model approved by Order ISAK-897 of the Minister of Education and Science of 25 June 2003. The availability of educational assistance to children has been improved, but the material, technical and methodical facilities of these agencies are still insufficient and lack specialists with the required qualifications in smaller municipalities.

e) Order ISAK-1462 of the Minister of Education and Science of 17 September 2004 on the prevention of offences, school non-attendance, use of narcotic and psychotropic substances, HIV/AIDS, violence and crime is aimed at ensuring a safe and healthy environment for pupils in schools, creating appropriate child welfare conditions and eliminating reasons for school non-attendance. STEBIS, a computer-based child behaviour monitoring programme installed in schools, stores data on the expression and development of negative behaviour of pupils.

f) The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Social Assistance for Pupils came into force on 1 January 2007. It provides two types of social assistance for pupils: free meals for pupils and provision of school supplies at the start of a new academic year. Approximately 85,000 children from families in need have recently received free meals in preschool or general education programmes. Some 57,000 pupils were provided with school supplies at the start of the academic year 2007–2008.

g) Pursuant to Article 8(1)(5) of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Child Care, minimum care may be given to a child who refuses to learn or does not attend school. According to the Law, one of the means of minimum child care is the obligation of children to study primary and basic education programmes until they reach the age of h) It is also sought to reduce the number of children not studying compulsory education programmes as well as organise consistent work and provide educational assistance to children not attending school or having other behavioural problems.

h) European Union Structural Fund assistance for 2004–2006 (LTL 27.5 mln) has been used to finance 20 projects aimed at tackling the problem of school non-attendance: ensuring an appropriate infrastructure, creating new teaching programmes (modules), special classes for work with children who do not learn or do not attend school, prevention (return) models, providing assistance to children with learning problems, improving the competences of educators and educational assistance specialists, analysing problems, effectiveness of applied programmes, etc.

By its Resolution No 1261 of 24 November 2008, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the Programme for Returning Children who do not Attend School back to Schools. The purpose of this programme is to reduce the number of children not studying compulsory education programmes in comprehensive schools. Twelve occupation groups for pupils who have lost motivation for learning, do not attend school or attend school irregularly and four education groups for pupils with special needs have been established within the framework of this programme in municipalities.

A project entitled Return of School Drop-Outs is being implemented by the National Centre for Special Needs Education and Psychology using European Union Structural Fund assistance for 2007–2013. The purpose of this project is to improve and coordinate preventive activities in tackling the school drop-out problem and

increasing the number of persons with basic education. An information system of children who do not learn and do not attend school is being created within the framework of this project, with its regulations approved by Order No V-515 of the Minister of Education and Science of 13 April 2010.

3. The implementation of school drop-out prevention measures is underway and therefore it is difficult to predict which of them will be more or less effective.

MDG 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women)

1. The issue of gender equality is not very widely discussed in Lithuanian society. Meanwhile, an opposite tendency is observed in the education system of Lithuania, just like in most post-industrial countries. The expected duration of study of girls (15.2 years) is longer than that of boys (14.3 years). In 2008–2009, there were 94 girls per 100 boys in educational institutions at the primary and basic education level, 118 girls at the secondary education level, 64 girls in vocational training, 137 girls in higher non-university education and 149 girls in higher university education. The average education level of women in Lithuania is slightly higher than that of men.

2. According to official documents, the education system is open to Lithuanian residents and must satisfy the needs of different age groups and sexes.

The Law on Education (2003) defines equal opportunities as one of the key principles of the education system. According to the Law, the education system is socially just, it ensures equality for individuals irrespective of gender, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, religion, beliefs or convictions; it ensures access to education for every individual, attainment of general education and a primary qualification and creates conditions for improving an acquired qualification or gaining a new qualification.

Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (1998) is entitled “The Obligation of Educational Institutions, Science and Study Institutions to Implement Equal Rights for Women and Men”. According to Paragraph 2 of Article 4 “... 2. Education and science institutions shall, within the limits of their competence, ensure that curricula and textbooks do not propagate discrimination of women and men.”

Article 5 of the Law states, that when implementing equal rights for women and men, the employer must apply uniform selection criteria when recruiting or promoting, provide equal conditions and opportunities to improve qualifications, re-qualify and acquire practical work experience and provide equal benefits, provide equal pay for the same work or for the work of equivalent value, including all the additional remuneration paid by the employer to employees for performed work. Furthermore, Article 2(4)(6) of the Law states that direct discrimination shall mean treating of one person less favourably than another on the grounds of sex than that person is, has been or would be treated in a comparable situation, except for specific temporary measures set forth in laws aimed at accelerating the guaranteeing of factual equal rights for women and men and which must be repealed upon enforcement of equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

Much attention to equal opportunities is given in the provisions of the National Education Strategy 2003–2012 (2003): “Education in Lithuania is based on the key values of the nation, Europe and global culture: the unrivalled value and dignity of an

individual, love of our fellow, the natural equality of people, human rights and freedoms, tolerance, and declaration of democratic relations in the society.” However, these documents do not directly consider the adjustment of the content of education in the view of pupils’ gender. One of the key objectives of education in Lithuania specified in the provisions of the Strategy is as follows: “the relative difference between the number of boys and girls graduating from mathematics, informatics, natural science and technology studies has reduced at least by half.”

There is a general system of admission to higher education institutions in Lithuania, which ensures equal conditions of admission both for women and men. Taking into account maternity or social status, women are enabled to continue studies and improve their qualification.

Seeking to ensure a practical implementation of the Law, the National Programme of Equal Opportunities and Women and Men has been put into effect since 2003. Republic of Lithuania Government Resolution No. 1042 of 26 September 2005 (Official Gazette, 2005, No. 116-4202) approved the National Programme of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of 2005-2009. The objective of it was to address the issues of gender equality in a consistent, holistic and systemic manner in all areas, ensure gender mainstreaming, identify special female and male issues and solve them. Among other matters, the programme addressed the following tasks: offering more favourable conditions for women to seek education, carrier, improve vocational skills; increasing the opportunities for women to take leading positions and those related to decision-making; changing stereotypes of men and women in local economic activities; creating conditions for women and men to reconcile work, professional military service and family obligations; improving employment conditions for women returning to the labour market after a longer break and senior women; increasing opportunities for women to start and develop business, promoting economic activity of women; encouraging employers to set up equal pay for women and men for the work of equal value; including gender mainstreaming issues into formal and non-formal education.

In implementing one of the tasks provided for in the National Programme of Equal Opportunities of Women and Men of 2005-2009, the aim was to encourage women’s determination to take part in social and political life. To attain the task, every year seminars were organised in the entire Lithuania under the title ‘Equal Representation of Genders in Local Decision-Making’ and a project, ‘Encouragement of Women to Take Part in Economic and Political Decision-Making’ was implemented.

Republic of Lithuania Government Resolution No. 530 of 4 May 2010 (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 56-2757) approved a new National Programme of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of 2010-2014. It has the same objective as the previous programme. The tasks of the new programme in the employment area are the following; improvement of opportunities for reintegration and staying in the labour market by women and men returning to the labour market after the child care leave as well as senior women; increasing opportunities for women, and rural women in particular, to start and develop business and promote the economic activity of rural residents, both women and men; creating more favourable conditions for rural residents, both women and men, to improve their vocational skills; improving conditions for women and men to reconcile their family and work duties (promotion of family friendly job development, dialogue between women and men, relations based on respect and understanding) and seeking to reduce work pay differences for women and men and promoting equal attitude towards women and men in the labour

market, equal recognition and assessment, reducing labour market sector and vocational exclusion based on gender. In the area of education and science, the tasks are the following: ensuring monitoring of gender mainstreaming in education and scientific establishments; promotion of women to attain highest degrees in education.

A national study of pupils' achievements carried out in 2003–2008 has revealed some gender-specific differences. According to the results of the study, learning achievements of pupils depend on their gender: the average overall learning score of boys was markedly lower than that of girls both in the IV and VIII form. However, an analysis of different subjects has shown differences in this dependence. The biggest differences between the achievements of girls and boys have been observed in the area of the native Lithuanian language (reading and writing), with no statistically relevant difference established in the results of girls and boys in other subjects. There is a more marked difference in mathematics: the achievements of boys in the VI form are higher than those of girls, but are lower in the VIII form (see the annex). International studies (e.g. PISA) have shown that a similar phenomenon is observed not only in Lithuania but also in many other countries.

Both boys and girls account for 50% of all pupils in comprehensive schools. According to the analysis, the number of boys is slightly higher than that of girls at the levels of primary and basic education, but the number of girls in secondary and higher education is higher than that of boys (female students account for over 60% of all students at all levels of education). It is obvious that most boys go to primary and vocational schools, while the number of girls in colleges is twice as high as that of boys (over 63%). Girls seeking secondary and higher education also account for three-fifths of all students. In terms of vocational training, a higher number of boys orientate themselves towards worker professions, while a higher number of girls choose official professions. Teacher's profession is considered the most feminine profession. Female teachers make up over 86% of teachers in comprehensive schools and over 68% of teachers in colleges. Women account for over 76.5% of the total number of staff in the country's education system (state and non-state institutions). However, men hold managerial posts in schools more often than women: male principals of comprehensive schools make up an average of 60%.

Such a situation reveals latent problems related to teaching and learning strategies, environmental factors, and socio-cultural factors supporting gender stereotypes. Nevertheless, increasingly explicit specification of the gender equality objective facilitates a positive evaluation of changes in education in Lithuania in terms of gender equality.

3. In implementing one of the tasks provided for in the National Programme of Equal Opportunities of Women and Men of 2005-2009, the aim was to encourage women's determination to take part in social and political life. To attain the task, every year seminars were organised in the entire Lithuania under the title 'Equal Representation of Genders in Local Decision-Making' and a project, 'Encouragement of Women to Take Part in Economic and Political Decision-Making' was implemented.

MDG 4 (Reduce child mortality).

Child mortality rate (per 1000 live births) in Lithuania (2000-2009)

Mortality rate per 1000 live births	Year									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Under-five	11,6	10,8	10,4	8,7	9,7	8,6	8,5	7,1	6,2	5,8
Infant	8,5	7,8	7,9	6,8	7,9	6,9	6,8	5,9	5,0	4,9
Neonatal	4,8	4,2	4,3	3,7	4,8	4,1	3,9	3,3	2,9	N/A

The child (under-five) mortality rate per 1000 live births in Lithuania has declined two times since 2000 and was 5,8 in 2009. The leading causes of children deaths were congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities, diseases of the perinatal period and external causes of death.

We don't collect information about child mortality rates in different population groups. The only disposable information related to this issue is child mortality rates in the urban and rural areas. Higher child mortality rate was in rural areas till 2005. Situation has changed in 2006 and from this year till now child mortality rate in Lithuania is higher in urban areas.

Child (under-five) mortality in Lithuania by place of residence (2000-2009)

Year	Number of deaths			Mortality rate per 1000 live births		
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	General
2000	222	174	396	10,6	13,2	11,6
2001	194	148	342	9,9	12,5	10,8
2002	173	139	312	9,3	12,3	10,4
2003	141	125	266	7,4	10,9	8,7
2004	160	134	294	8,2	12,2	9,7
2005	158	103	261	7,9	9,7	8,6
2006	197	68	265	9,5	6,4	8,5
2007	179	50	229	8,3	4,7	7,1
2008	151	65	216	6,3	5,8	6,2

Maternal mortality in Lithuania (2000-2009)

	Year									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of deaths	3	4	6	1	5	4	0	2	3	0
Mortality rate per 100 000 live births	11,8	12,6	20,4	3,3	16,4	13,1	0	6,2	8,6	0

From 1992 to 2008, maternal mortality rate per 100 000 live births in Lithuania declined five times and in 2008 was 8,6 (cf. with 44 in 1992). Moreover Lithuania has no maternal deaths in 2006 and 2009. The biggest part of maternal deaths in Lithuania was caused by pre-existing or concurrent systemic diseases. The second most frequent cause of maternal deaths is sepsis. There are only single cases of maternal deaths in Lithuania in the last 15

years, therefore it is impossible to distinguish any regularities of maternal deaths in different population groups.

Up to the 2010, one mother-to-child transmission case was identified in Lithuania. We have not registered death cases among HIV infected children and HIV positive pregnant women. The HIV prevalence among pregnant women was 0,035 % (2008 data).

2) MDG 5 (Improve maternal health)

According to the Law on Health Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania, women who are granted a maternity leave and unemployed women during the period of pregnancy 70 days before child birth (after 28 pregnancy weeks and further) and 56 days after child birth and persons under the age of 18 years are insured by Obligatory Health Insurance from state budget. The same health insurance has one of the parents raising a child under 8 years of age, as well as one of the parents raising two or more children under 18 years.

Several programmes related to improvement of mother and child health care have been implemented in Lithuania during the last two decades:

- The Perinatology Programme (1992-1996)
- The National Mother and Child Programme (2004-2006)
- The National Family Health Programme (2008-2010).

Implementation of the Perinatology Programme strongly affected reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates in Lithuania: in 1992 infant mortality per 1000 live births was 16,46, in 1996 – 10,02, maternal mortality per 100 000 live births was 44 and 17,9 respectively. The Programme created new perinatal and neonatal health care system in Lithuania. Taking into consideration a degree of risk for a fetus, pregnant women were sent for examination and childbirth to hospitals of different level. The Programme also included procurement of modern medical equipment and staff training activities in the hospitals providing perinatal and neonatal health care services.

The National Mother and Child Programme continued strengthening of the mother and child health care system, modernization of medical equipment in respective departments and enhancement of professional skills of medical staff. The big part of the National Family Health Programme is also intended to improve quality and accessibility of mother and child health care, including elaboration of legal documents on mother and child health care, development of diagnostics and correction of inherited diseases and congenital abnormalities, implementation of Baby Friendly Hospital initiative.

The first AIDS Prevention and Control Programme in Lithuania was adopted in 1990. Seven programmes of this kind were implemented during the period 1990-2009. The draft new National HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prophylaxis and Control Programme for 2010-2012 is passed to the Lithuanian Government for adoption.

Antenatal care is regulated by the Order of the Minister of Health approved in 2006. According to the Order, pregnant women should be tested for HIV twice during the pregnancy: first time during the 1st trimester and second time during the 2nd or 3rd trimester. The Order assures available and free of charge voluntary HIV testing and counselling to all pregnant women. Testing expenses are covered by the Obligatory Health Insurance Fund. Total about 90 % of pregnant women were tested for HIV in 2007-2009. Perinatal HIV Prophylaxis means provide an opportunity for pregnant women to get tested on HIV, to receive counselling support, information on breast feeding and HIV transmission risk; training of health care personnel on counselling and treatment of pregnant women with HIV; information on voluntary HIV testing in maternity clinics and

hospitals; for security of safe delivery; availability of antiviral therapy to pregnant, delivering women and the newborns. All people with HIV are insured in Lithuania by Obligatory Health Insurance Fund, therefore health care services are free of charge. Perinatal HIV transmission reduction means are available to the pregnant and delivering women with HIV and to the newborns, and are compensated by the Obligatory Health Insurance Fund. Antiretroviral drugs and other perinatal prophylaxis approaches are applied according to the Standard of the Diagnostics and Treatment of HIV Disease approved by the Minister of Health in 2010. Coverage of the perinatal HIV transmission prophylaxis was 92 percent in 2009.

MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases)

Participation of beneficiaries in decision-making processes as well as transparency and accountability is ensured through the involvement of non-governmental organizations in programmes preparation and control process.

MDG 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability)

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania dont have any information on the specific policies or programmes.

MDG 8 (Global partnership for development)

Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman of the Republic of Lithuania dont have any information on the examinations or assessments.