



UNA-USA: Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by all UN member states in 2000, are a set of clearly-defined, measurable and broadly-endorsed development objectives that are the focus of an unprecedented global effort to alleviate poverty, hunger, and environmental degradation. International organizations, governments, and private sector groups have all coordinated their development work around the MDGs.

The resulting increased cooperation is expected to produce significant development gains, however, the Secretary-General has said that a major push will be needed by developed and developing countries if they are to fulfill their commitments to achieve the MDGs by 2015. This is the impetus behind an effort to implement the MDGs that will be intertwined with the UN reform process in 2005 and will include the release of reports by the UN's Millennium Project in January and the Secretary-General in March and culminate in a five-year review conference at the heads of state summit in September.

The Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

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. Develop a global partnership for development

Goal #1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Statistics

- In 2003, 1.2 billion people were living in poverty (surviving on less than \$1 a day).
- More than 800 million people are malnourished.
- Malnutrition causes more than half of all child deaths.

Goal #2

Achieve universal primary education

Statistics

- In 2003, 115 million children were not enrolled in primary school.
- Three-fifths of the 115 million children not enrolled in primary school are girls.
- Children enrolled in primary school have a one in three chance of completion.
- The youth literacy rate (of people aged 15 to 24) is 85% in developing countries.

Goal #3

Promote gender equality and empower women

Statistics

- There are 876 million illiterate adults in the world; two-thirds of them are women.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa the ratio of boys to girls enrollment in primary and secondary schools is 8 to 1.
- The number of literate women increased from 390 million to 432 million in 2000 (a global increase of 3%, raising the rate to 83%).
- In 2003 the number of women holding seats in national parliaments was 15%.

Goal #4

Reduce child mortality

Statistics

- 11 million children die each year before they reach the age of five, in most cases by easily treatable diseases.
- 20% of child deaths in developing countries were caused by preventable acute respiratory infections.
- Child mortality rates have only fallen by 12% since 1990.
- The infant mortality rate in 2001 in the developing world was 61 deaths per 1,000 births.
- 30 million children worldwide do not receive vaccinations for easily preventable diseases.
- In the developing world only 78% of children are immunized against tuberculosis and 69% against measles.
- If progress is not dramatically accelerated in sub-Saharan Africa, this goal will not be achieved until the year 2165.

Goal #5

Improve maternal health

Statistics

- 500,000 women died during pregnancy or childbirth in 2000, 99% of them in developing countries.
- Only 58% of women in developing countries give birth with a trained doctor or midwife.
- More than 80% of deliveries occur in areas without proper emergency obstetric care facilities.
- 78,000 women, 13% of all maternal deaths, die from unsafe abortions.
- Every year more than 2.2 million pregnant women, who are infected with HIV, give birth.
- Approximately 700,000 newborn babies contract the HIV virus from their mothers on an annual basis.
- Women are 175 times more likely to die during childbirth in sub-Saharan Africa than in a developed country.

Goal #6

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases

Statistics

- In 2002, 42 million adults and 5 million children were living with HIV/AIDS, over 95% of them in developing countries (70% of them in sub-Saharan Africa).
- In 2003 alone, 3 million people died from AIDS; since 1996 over 20 million people have died.
- 14 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS; by 2010 the number is expected to reach 25 million.
- Tuberculosis is the leading infectious killer of adults and kills almost 2 million people a year; malaria kills more than 1 million people a year.
- People with HIV/AIDS are seven times more likely to develop tuberculosis.
- In 2000, 17 million people in Africa were affected with both HIV and tuberculosis simultaneously.

Goal #7

Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Statistics

- In 2000, more than 1.1 billion people lacked access to clean and safe water.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, only 57% of the population has access to safe water.
- People suffering from water-borne diseases occupy half of all hospital beds in the world.
- In 1990, diarrhea led to 3 million deaths.
- Six to seven billion tons of carbon dioxide produced by human activity is released into the atmosphere each year.
- Total forestland shrank by 94 million hectares (232 million acres) in the last decade and now covers only about 30% of all land.
- 1.2 million people in poverty depend on forests to provide jobs and food.

- There are an estimated 924 million slum dwellers. The number is expected to rise to 1.5 billion by 2020
- 94% of slum dwellers live in developing countries.
- In 2001 more than 70% of the urban population of developing countries lived in slums.
- 2.4 billion people lack access to improved sanitation.

Goal #8

Develop a global partnership for development

Statistics

- In 2001 landlocked countries received only 6% of all official development assistance.
- In 2002, 74 million young people (15 to 24) were unemployed. They account for 41% of unemployed people globally. Between 1995 and 2002 the number of unemployed 15-24 year olds rose by 16 million.
- Latin America has the best availability to technology, of all the developing regions, but with only 60 per 1,000 people with access to a computer. In developing countries there are 87 telephone mainlines per 1,000 people.
- Assistance from developed countries decreased by a third in the 1990s.

Target: Develop an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally.

Target: Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports, enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries, cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction.

Target: Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states.

Target:

In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth.

Target:

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

Target:

In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies—especially information and communication technologies.