

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



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DP

The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Declaration, endorsed by 189 world leaders at the UN in September 2000, is a commitment to work together to build a safer, more prosperous and equitable world. The Declaration was translated into a roadmap setting out eight time-bound and measurable goals to be reached by 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Reduce by half the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

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

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two thirds the mortality of children under-five.

Goal 5 Improve maternal health

- Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters.

Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Halt and reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- Halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020



Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.
- Address special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing States.
- Deal with developing countries' debt.
- In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent work for youth.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

MATTERS OF FACT

- 1.2 billion people across the world are hungry. Seven out of 10 of them are women and girls.
- Millions of children start school but eventually drop out — leaving school without basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- Women hold 18 per cent of seats in parliament.
- Every year, 536,000 women and girls die as a result of complications during pregnancy, childbirth or the six weeks following delivery. 99 per cent of them occur in developing countries.
- Two thirds of those living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa. Most of them are women.
- 1.2 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. The vast majority of them live in rural areas.
- Aid to the poorest countries falls far short of the 2010 target.

Progress

A decade after the Millennium Declaration, there have been noticeable reductions in poverty globally, significant improvements in enrolment and gender parity in schools, reductions in child and maternal mortality and increasing HIV treatments. Steps have been taken towards ensuring environmental sustainability and developing countries are incorporating the MDGs into their development strategies.

Challenges

The challenges facing the MDGs are numerous.

- While the share of poor people is declining, the absolute number of the poor in South Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa is increasing.
- Rapid reductions in poverty are not necessarily addressing gender equality and environmental sustainability.
- Lack of progress in reducing HIV is curtailing improvements in both maternal and child mortality.
- The expansion of health and education services is not being matched by quality.

MDG progress is also threatened by the combination of high food prices and the impact of the international financial and economic crisis. Sustained poverty and hunger reduction is at risk because of vulnerability to climate change, particularly in the area of agricultural production. Weak institutional capacity in conflict and post-conflict countries also slows MDG progress, and rapid urbanisation is putting pressure on social services.

The MDGs in Action

Progress across the MDGs is being achieved where strong government leadership, effective policies and institutional capacity for expanding public investments are complemented by financial and technical support from the international community. There are important synergies among the MDGs — acceleration in one Goal often speeds up progress in others. Recent examples include:

- **Malawi's** national fertiliser subsidy programme has been associated with a 25% increase in total cultivation area. Maize production reached 3.2 million tonnes in 2007.
- Debt relief through **Nigeria's** Virtual Poverty Fund was directed to agriculture and contributed to doubling agricultural production and farmers' income.
- Abolition of school fees at the primary level contributed to surges of enrolment in **Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal** and **Tanzania**.

- **Afghanistan's** Basic Package of Health Services focused on construction of health centres and hospitals, training of health workers, and large-scale vaccinations. Amidst conflicts, under-five mortality declined significantly between 2002 and 2004.
- **Cambodia's** 100 per cent Condom Use Programme contributed to twice as much as condom use among sex workers. HIV prevalence declined from 1.2 to 0.7 per cent between 2003 and 2008.
- **Panama's** conditional cash transfer programme provided free primary care services, vaccinations and reproductive healthcare to 70,599 households, or 95% of people living under the poverty line in 2007 – 2008.
- **Ethiopia** promoted small- and medium-scale enterprises, community-based urban works programmes and constructed over 80,000 homes to address the 60 per cent rise in slum dwellers between 1990 and 2008.
- Small-scale micro projects such as provision of low-cost electricity in the form of bio-fuel multi-functional platforms in **Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali** and **Senegal** have created income-generating opportunities for women and reduced time poverty up to six hours a day.

Turning Knowledge into Practice

The 2010 MDG Summit was an opportunity to recognise the vital role of the UN in supporting governments to achieve the MDGs. Focusing on the pragmatic steps that can be taken in the next five years, UNDP has developed an MDG Acceleration Framework drawing on the past decade's evidence base. The framework provides a systematic way for countries to develop their own action plan based on existing processes to pursue their MDG priorities. It also helps governments to focus on disparities and inequalities, two of the major causes of uneven progress, by particularly responding to the needs of the vulnerable.

This framework lies at the heart of UNDP's strategy that puts the entire organisation and its existing resources behind the UN effort to accelerate MDG progress.

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