

The Millennium Development Goals Report



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Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT ARE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

- ▶ At the beginning of the new millennium, world leaders gathered at the UN to shape a broad vision to fight poverty in its many dimensions. That vision—which translated into eight goals, ranging from halving extreme poverty rates, to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education—has remained the overarching development framework for the world for the last 15 years.
- ▶ Progress towards the eight goals is measured through 21 targets and 60 official indicators.
- ▶ The complete list of goals, targets and indicators are available at <http://mdgs.un.org>.

WHEN ARE THE MDGs EXPECTED TO END?

- ▶ The MDGs are expected to conclude on 31 December 2015.

WERE THE MDGs A SUCCESS?

- ▶ The MDGs have produced the most successful anti-poverty movement in history.
- ▶ Among their accomplishments, the MDGs have lifted millions out of poverty, the world has achieved equality in primary education between boys and girls and investments in health have produced positive results to name a few accomplishments.
- ▶ The experience of the MDGs proves that even the poorest countries can make progress with targeted interventions, sound strategies, adequate resources and political will.
- ▶ While shortfalls remain in achieving all MDGs, undoubtedly they have proven that targets work.

WHAT HAVE THE MDGs ACCOMPLISHED?

- ▶ The MDGs have proven that goal-setting can lift millions out of poverty, empower women and girls, improve health and well-being and provide vast new opportunities for better lives.
- ▶ The number of people now living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015.
- ▶ The primary school net enrolment rate in developing regions has reached 91 per cent in 2015, up from 83 per cent in 2000.
- ▶ The developing regions, as a whole, have achieved the target to eliminate gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education.
- ▶ Women have gained ground in parliamentary representation in nearly 90 per cent of the 174 countries with data over the past 20 years.
- ▶ The global under-five mortality rate has declined by more than half, dropping from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2015.
- ▶ Since 1990, the maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45 per cent worldwide and most of the reduction occurred since 2000.



- ▶ New HIV infections fell by approximately 40 per cent between 2000 and 2013.
- ▶ Over 6.2 million malaria deaths were averted between 2000 and 2015.
- ▶ Between 2000 and 2013, tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions saved an estimated 37 million lives.
- ▶ In 2015, 95 per cent of the global population is using an improved drinking water source, compared to 76 per cent in 1990.
- ▶ Official development assistance from developed countries increased by 66 per cent in real terms between 2000 and 2014, reaching 135.2 billion.

WHICH GOALS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED?

- ▶ Significant and substantial progress has been made in meeting many of the goals and targets.
- ▶ The target of halving the extreme poverty rate has been achieved five years ahead of the deadline.
- ▶ The world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys.
- ▶ The world has met the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water, five years ahead of schedule.
- ▶ Remarkable gains have been made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis.

WHICH GOALS LAG BEHIND?

- ▶ Some MDG targets may not be reached even though huge progress has been made.
- ▶ Between 2000 and 2012 the number of children out of school declined by almost half—from 102 million to 57 million. Still, too many children are denied their right to primary education.
- ▶ Worldwide, the mortality rate for children under five dropped by 53 per cent, and child deaths are increasingly concentrated in the poorest regions and in the first month of life. Yet, the decrease was not enough to meet the MDG target of reducing the child mortality rate by two-thirds.
- ▶ Globally, the maternal mortality ratio declined by 45 per cent over the last two decades, but accelerated action is needed to meet the target of reducing the ratio by three-quarters.

IN WHAT AREAS DO INEQUALITIES PERSIST AND WHY?

- ▶ Despite progress, women continue to face discrimination in access to work, economic assets and participation in private and public decision making. Gender parity in education still has a long way to go in some countries. Wide gaps remain in women's access to paid work in at least half of the developing regions. Gender parity in politics also remains a distant target.
- ▶ About 800 million people still live in extreme poverty and suffer from hunger. Children from the poorest 20 per cent of households are more than twice as likely to be stunted as those from the wealthiest 20 per cent and are also four times as likely to be out of school.
- ▶ Approximately 50 per cent of people living in rural areas lack improved sanitation facilities, compared to only 18 per cent of people in urban areas.
- ▶ Conflicts remain the biggest threat to human development, with fragile and conflict-affected countries typically experiencing the highest poverty rates.

WHAT ARE THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MDG EXPERIENCE?

- ▶ The MDGs show that a clear vision and targeted international efforts through coordinated partnerships with all engaged stakeholders can really work. The MDGs are making a real difference in people's lives.
- ▶ The MDG experience has underscored the need to ensure future development efforts are based on a universal and inclusive agenda that places people and planet at the center.



- ▶ The MDG monitoring experience has clearly demonstrated that effective use of data can help to galvanize development efforts, implement successful targeted interventions, track performance and improve accountability. Using reliable data to monitor progress towards the MDGs also allowed governments at national and subnational levels to effectively focus their development policies, programmes and interventions.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE GOALS EXPIRE IN 2015?

- ▶ World leaders have called for an ambitious long-term sustainability agenda to succeed the MDGs.
- ▶ Decisions taken in 2015 will form the bedrock of a new development agenda that can set the world on a course of action to end poverty, transform all lives and protect the planet.
- ▶ This new development agenda will include 17 sustainable development goals that will build on the successes of the MDGs.

IN WHAT WAY ARE THE SDGs DIFFERENT FROM THE MDGs?

- ▶ Building on the success and momentum of the MDGs, new global goals will break fresh ground with ambitions to address inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice.
- ▶ With new, interconnected sustainable development goals that apply to all, we can go much further to end all forms of poverty, ensure no one is left behind, tackle unsustainable practices and chart a dignified future for all people in all countries.
- ▶ The new goals will encompass social, economic and environmental dimensions. Tackling climate change and fostering sustainable development are two mutually reinforcing sides of the same coin; sustainable development cannot be achieved without climate action.

HOW WILL THE MDGs REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS INFLUENCE THE SDGs?

- ▶ There are many lessons from the experience of the MDGs and they serve as a springboard for our next steps.
- ▶ The efforts to achieve the MDGs which have been documented in the Report provide a framework for the necessary action to be undertaken in the context of the SDGs. We now know that we need to tackle root causes and do more to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- ▶ Building on the success and momentum of the MDGs, the new post-2015 development agenda will guide our efforts to ensure sustainable development for all. The new goals and targets will reach further to ensure that sustainable development reaches all people and that no one is left behind.
- ▶ We must ensure that endeavours made by governments, the international community, civil society and the private sector reach those who are most vulnerable, are not counted and have not shared the improvements over the last 15 years.

WON'T THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA SUFFER FROM SIMILAR SHORTCOMINGS TO THE MDGs?

- ▶ A major lesson learned from the MDGs is the importance of an inclusive process to create the new sustainable development agenda.
- ▶ Global consultations indicate that people want a global development agenda, backed by national policy action that can empower them to realize the future they want. The MDGs have shown the importance of national ownership of the development agenda and a participatory approach to goal setting.
- ▶ In September 2015, world leaders will gather to adopt a set of new ambitious goals for the post-2015 development agenda. All of the world will work to implement the Agenda within their own countries and at the regional and global levels. They will at the same time take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development.
- ▶ Engaging all relevant stakeholders in implementation of the new Agenda is critically important.
- ▶ The mobilization of financial resources (both public and private, domestic and international) as well as capacity-building, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and a wide range of other supportive policies and measures will be required.



HOW WILL THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BE FUNDED?

- ▶ To promote prosperity and well-being, we need to invest ahead for people and planet.
- ▶ The Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, from 13 to 16 July, will launch a renewed and strengthened global partnership for financing people-centred sustainable development.
- ▶ With the right financing and the right policies, we can achieve our aspirations to end extreme poverty by 2030 and achieve sustainable development for all. The knowledge, technology and money exist, and we must use them for good.

WHY IS 2015 SO IMPORTANT?

- ▶ This year, the UN is hosting three global conferences—the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July, the Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September and the Climate Change Conference in Paris in December—that will determine how we work together to promote shared prosperity and well-being for all, while protecting the environment over the next 15 years.
- ▶ Poverty and climate change are not inevitable. Proven, affordable solutions exist that can be easily scaled up, but we need political will.
- ▶ We need new partnerships between governments, business and people from all parts of society to achieve the future we want.
- ▶ It's time to use our technology, money and ingenuity to address the major obstacles to a sustainable future.
- ▶ Success in this global agenda will be driven by the voices of the people, working in partnership with global leaders, because we all have a shared responsibility for our future. This is the time for global action.