



Millennium Development Goals

THE WAY FORWARD

United Nations Development Programme

In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. Placed at the heart of the global agenda, they are now called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Summit's Millennium Declaration also outlined a consensus on how to proceed, with a stronger focus on human rights, good governance and democracy as well as conflict prevention and peace-building.

Two years later, the MDGs are more important than ever. At the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, leaders from both developed and developing countries started to match their MDG commitments with resources and action, signalling a global deal in which sustained political and economic reform by developing countries will be matched by direct support from the developed world in the form of aid, trade, debt relief and investment. This goal deal was reaffirmed at the World Summit for Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2002.

In developing countries, the MDGs are proving their potential to bring a wide range of decision and opinion-makers—government officials, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, religious groups—together in support of a common development agenda. Government leaders in Africa and Asia are making them a focus of political debate, and Finance Ministers are using them to give priority to development issues as never before. Regional initiatives, such as the New

The World's Track Record in Achieving Goals

- Over the last decades, ambitious development goals have been defined by governments in the United Nations and, later, achieved on the ground.
- Smallpox eradication: Achieved in 1977, 11 years after the goal was adopted.
- Access to improved sources of drinking water: Increased from 71 percent in 1990 to 78 percent in 2000.

Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), have also embraced the MDGs and are starting to do their own reporting on progress towards them.

As the UN's global development network, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working to ensure that the MDGs continue to gain momentum. On the ground in 166 countries as a trusted development partner, UNDP is uniquely positioned to advocate for change, connect countries to knowledge and resources, and help coordinate broader efforts.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown, in his capacity as chair of the UN Development Group, to be the "scorekeeper" and "campaign manager" for the MDGs—spreading awareness within the system and across the world and making them an integral part of the UN system's work in the field. The MDGs provide a framework for the entire UN system to work coherently together toward a common end, and a number of UN country teams are already working with host governments to do detailed monitoring, analysis and reporting on them.

Most nations will achieve the MDGs only if they get substantial support—advocacy, expertise and resources—from outside. The challenges for the global community, in both the developed and developing world, are to mobilize financial support and political will, re-engage governments, re-orient development priorities and policies, build capacity and reach out to partners in civil society and the private sector. UNDP is working on four key dimensions of these challenges.

Reduction of infant mortality to below 120 per 1,000 live births by 2000: Achieved in all but 12 developing countries.

Reduction of childhood deaths from diarrhoea by half: Achieved in the 1990s.

Immunization: Increased from 30 percent of all infants in 1980 to nearly 80 percent in 2000.

ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS MEANS THAT BY 2015:

- the proportion of people suffering from extreme poverty and hunger will be halved;
- all children will be in primary school;
- girls will have the same educational opportunities as boys;
- the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water will be halved;
- the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria will be stopped;
- a child's risk of dying before the age of five will be reduced by two-thirds;
- a mother's risk of dying while pregnant will be reduced by three-quarters;
- the world's ecosystems and biodiversity will be better protected from destruction;
- at least 100 million slum dwellers will get better housing, health care, and new opportunities for education;
- people in developing countries will have greater access to essential drugs;
- the benefits of new technologies—especially information technologies—will flow to more countries and more people; and
- wealthy countries will support developing countries with debt relief, more financial aid, and greater market access.



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For further information, visit www.undp.org/mdg,
www.undg.org or www.un.org.