

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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 \$1.25 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

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 drop out, leaving school without basic literacy and numeracy skills.**
- **Women hold 19 per cent of seats in parliament.**
- **In developing regions, children of mothers with no education are more than twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday as compared with children of mothers with secondary education or higher.**
- **Worldwide 34 per cent of maternal deaths are caused by haemorrhage.**
- **Two thirds of those living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa. Most of them are women.**
- **Worldwide 1.1 billion people are forced to practice open defecation because they have no other choice.**
- **Nearly one in five child deaths worldwide is due to diarrhoea.**
- **Aid to the poorest countries fell short of the 2010 target.**

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.

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. In short, substantial inroads have been made toward achieving the MDGs, but critical challenges and gaps remain.

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. Much has been achieved, but we need intensified efforts for the final stretch.

Turning knowledge into practice

The 2010 MDG Summit recognised the vital role of the UN in supporting governments to achieve the MDGs. Focusing on pragmatic steps that can be taken in the next years, UNDP developed, and undg endorsed, an MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) drawing on the past decade's evidence base. The MAF provides a systematic way for countries to develop their own action plan based on existing processes to pursue their priorities. It helps governments to focus on disparities and inequalities, two 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.

UNDP 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. Some examples in which UNDP played a key role:

- In **Togo**, the MDG acceleration framework (MAF) helped to focus the existing national investment plan on agriculture and food security. The resulting Action Plan is now being implemented by the government with domestic and World Bank funds.
- In **Colombia**, the MAF has now been implemented at three different levels: regional, sub-regional and municipal. Following the first phase of MAF action plan development in the country – the private sector has come forward to partner in developing these action plans for municipalities and help in their implementation.
- In **Niger** acceleration solutions are being implemented to remove bottlenecks constraining achievement of targets to eradicate poverty and hunger. For example, inadequate rural credit is being addressed through new programmes of the Banque Agricole, the Regional Solidarity Bank of Niger and an established micro finance institution, Asusu Cigaba. Improving the livelihoods of pastoralists by securing and improving sustainable management of soils and livestock against weather hazards is being taken forward in three priority regions. The Government has demonstrated its commitment by pledging 30 million USD to the implementation of the Action Plan over five years. The European Commission and Japan International Cooperation Agency are providing strong donor support to implement the Acceleration Plan.
- In **Belize**, the MAF helped the government to identify why rural areas, primarily populated by Mayan communities, were not receiving adequate water and sanitation services. Lack of representation and participation by stakeholders in local water boards and lack of accountability were identified as key bottlenecks. Specific measures were then agreed upon to improve the governance of water boards – making them more inclusive and accountable.

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