

# MDG YOUTH BRIEFING KIT

A PRACTICAL  
GUIDE  
FOR STUDENTS

## FOREWORD



The United Nations Organization strives for peace and development around the world, to free the world from poverty and diseases so that the younger generations have a better place to live in and greater opportunities. Young people are not only at the core of the development agenda, but are also its main agents. They have energy, talent and enthusiasm to bring a change and be the change. Therefore, it is our duty to support and invest in the young generation today, so that they become future leaders in order to continue our work tomorrow.

We live in a very young planet, where young people comprise almost a quarter of the total population and reaching 1.3 billion. In Uzbekistan, the youth comprise more than 60 percent of the total population, which shows the scale of a rich resource that the country possesses. We need to ensure this resource is used in the best possible way for a knowledge-based society to develop and flourish. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted by 189 world leaders, set a number of priorities calling the Governments to make appropriate investments to health care, education and other spheres of life aiming to enhance the living conditions and expand opportunities for all people and youth in particular. It is especially encouraging to witness that the Government of Uzbekistan pays great attention to young people, through a number of Government programs and initiatives. I have had many opportunities to meet and communicate with the young citizens of Uzbekistan, which strengthened my belief in the future of this country.

With a view to supporting the youth realize their potential fully, United Nations has expanded its youth activities in the framework of achieving the national MDGs. More and more young people in the country are getting to know about the proper development priorities and their responsibilities in sharing this task.

To support the youth actions, the spirit of community service and volunteerism, the United Nations Office in Uzbekistan prepared a special **Millennium Development Goals Youth Briefing Kit: a Practical Guide for Students**. The Briefing Kit will increase the awareness of young people in Uzbekistan on the MDGs and facilitate their participation in Uzbekistan's development as a peaceful, productive nation which ensures high standards of life for all its citizens. It is my sincere hope that this Briefing Kit will inform the young people about the right development directions globally, regionally and nationally. And provide guidance for their actions at the national and local levels to precipitate changes in the right direction.

**Fikret Akcura**  
**UN Resident Coordinator**  
**Uzbekistan**

## WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT?

**Global Development is the journey the world must take in order for poor countries to become prosperous countries. It is about making sure that the most basic things that we take for granted can also be taken for granted by everyone else in the world. People in all countries should have food on their plate every day; a roof over their heads at night; schools for their children; doctors, nurses and medicines when they are sick; jobs which bring money into the home.**

**Development doesn't take place by accident. All sorts of things contribute to development-from the setting of long-lasting conflicts to boosting opportunities for trade, or helping improve people's health and education.**

## IT IS ABOUT LIFE

**"The basic purpose of development is to enlarge people's choices. In principle, these choices can be infinite and can change over time. People often value achievements that do not show up at all, or not immediately, in income or growth figures: greater access to knowledge, better nutrition and health services, more secure livelihoods, security against crime and physical violence, satisfying leisure hours, political and cultural freedoms and sense of participation in community activities. The objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives."**

***Mahbub ul Haq, Pakistani economist  
who pioneered the annual  
Human Development Report***

## **WHAT ARE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?**

**Millennium Development Goals emanate from the Millennium Declaration adopted by UN member states during the Millennium Summit in September 2000. They represent a set of concrete, time-bound goals aimed at eliminating poverty and improving living conditions of people around the world.**

**“The Millennium Development Goals represent our common vision—a partnership between rich and poor countries for building a better future. In this era of globalization, the international community needs to make balanced economic and social development and needs to have a common prosperity.**

**The Millennium Development Goals are the commitment of all world leaders. The international community must smoothly implement them so that we will be able to hit the target by the year 2015. The international community, particularly led by the United Nations, should address this issue. We must work together and generate political will to have a smooth implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and I will work very closely, and harder than before.”**

***Ban Ki- moon,  
Secretary General of the United Nations***

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Young people always played a central role in determining the public policy and addressing development needs. Most of the development policies address the challenges, which may be solved with joint efforts and aspirations of young people and policy-makers. Decisions about developing life skills don't come independently; they are consulted by adults and implemented in free choice by young people. Young People always strive for new challenges and their engagement in community development will have long-lasting effects that have repercussions far beyond them and their families.

The current Millennium Development Goals Youth Briefing Kit has been prepared by the United Nations Office in Uzbekistan to expand youth involvement and youth initiatives in Uzbekistan in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It is primarily aimed at young people between the ages of 18–25.

Generally, the Briefing Kit provides students with interesting facts and information on the Millennium Development Goals, both on global and national levels. It is designed to inform about and describe the nature of the MDGs worldwide and what young people can do to achieve them by 2015. First of all, it contains information on what the development is and how it relates to young people. Moreover, it signifies youth participation in MDG campaign with relevant facts and statements.

### **World MDGs:**

1. **What is it?** In this part young people will learn about the global trends in relation to each MDG and the interesting data that not many people know about.
2. **What is UN doing?** Young people will learn what UN agencies are doing worldwide to achieve MDGs and what their primary objectives are.
3. **Youth Action** section provides information on achievements made by young people in other parts of the world and how they act to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.
4. **Practical Task** section provides a more practical approach to the MDGs from global perspectives and a value of understanding what the core elements of the Millennium Development Goals are.
5. **Let's learn** section contains valuable information related to the Millennium Development Goals, which can further be used in conducting peer-to-peer activities on MDGs.

### **MDGs in Uzbekistan:**

1. **What is it?** Overall information regarding the national Millennium Development Goals in Uzbekistan with relevant statistics and statements that not many people know about.
2. **MDG Quiz.** You can test your knowledge by answering questions on the MDGs. These questions can also be used during MDG presentations and other advocacy initiatives.
3. **Suggested Youth Action.** Examples of practical projects, initiatives and events on the Millennium Development Goals, which are or can be implemented by young people and are aimed to guide them in their efforts to design the youth projects on MDGs.
4. **Keep in Mind.** Here you will get the answers to your curious questions on each Millennium Development Goals and they are valuable to remember and disseminate among peers.

**The MDG Youth Briefing Kit can be useful when:**

- You look for an information in order to raise awareness on the MDGs from global and national perspectives;
- You need a background information for your studies;
- You are involved in organizing trainings, propose mini projects, deliver presentations, and write articles or brief notes for media;
- You organize community events;
- You wish to prepare information materials to advocate for MDGs;
- You plan to help develop policies, guidelines, procedures, and training materials on issues related to MDGs.

As you read this MDG Youth Briefing Kit, you should keep in mind the multiplicity of linkages among all aspects of the development processes. You will also learn what kind of activities UN agencies are implementing with young people residing in Uzbekistan. Moreover, the MDG Youth Briefing Kit contains information on the Millennium Declaration and why MDGs came about. It will also be useful for you to refer to the MDG Glossary which explains terms and definitions used throughout this Briefing Kit. At the end, you will be introduced to useful links and the list of international youth organizations, which support youth and their efforts in promoting for MDGs.

Many young people can learn and benefit from this book. Authors hope that the ideas generated in this book will help readers understand how global and national development relates to the lives of each of us, and that this understanding will lead to practical actions at the local levels. Teachers and other educators can use this book to build discussion about local development challenges not only among their students but also among parents and other community members. Students can use the knowledge gained to make better choices in their lives and become more active and educated citizens of our country.

## TEN REASONS WHY MDGS MATTER!

1. **MDGs** are important because they represent a major step toward improving the effectiveness of national and international development efforts. By signing the Declaration, UN member-states have committed themselves to the achievement of the MDGs.
2. **MDGs** are important because they are the first ever global goals accepted by the entire international community, to be reached by a target year of 2015.
3. **MDGs** are important because the North and South divide has left many countries in an unfavorable situation, where inequality persists for less developed countries, in terms of access to education and health services, access to sanitation and water, opportunities for employment, gender inequalities and other areas.
4. **MDGs** are important because the developed world, with 20 per cent of the world's population, controls over 80 per cent of the world's resources. This trend has to change if countries want to ensure peace, stability and development.
5. **MDGs** are important for the developed and developing world alike. Boundaries do not exist for diseases, nor for environmental pollution. Only by joining efforts can we ensure sustainable development for future generations.
6. **MDGs** are important because they give an opportunity for grassroots communities to participate in development processes and can potentially bring many stakeholders together in cooperation.
7. **MDGs** are important because they are meant for people and for improving their lives.
8. **MDGs** are important because they commit the developed world to increase aid and accountability for many who are left behind. They call for a global partnership to address the most critical issues of our time.
9. **MDGs** are important because the time has come to make a real change in the lives of millions of people who die of hunger, poor health and lack of sanitation.
10. **MDGs** are important because they can help you on a personal level, to learn, think, reflect, spread knowledge and take action, in making your own contribution to the achievement of the goals.

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND YOUTH

- Young people make up the fastest growing proportion of the world's population. At present, they constitute 18 per cent of the total population.
- There are 1.5 billion young people between the ages of 13–24 around the world and they represent a tremendous opportunity to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty worldwide.
- More than 100 million jobs for young people need to be created to stabilize the employment situation in the world. Young people create work opportunities through their active participation in social life.
- Some 130 million 15–24 year old young people in the world, cannot read or write. Young people can act as teachers to other young people and contribute to the development of curriculums.
- It is estimated that nearly 60 million young girls have no access to primary education. Young people are strongly capable of contributing to the elimination of gender disparity in education, by commitment and deep understanding of gender issues.
- Young people are effective leaders of social and environmental enterprises and can help to fight against manmade ecological hazards. They understand that after 10–20 years, their own children will breath air full of toxins, if appropriate actions are not taken now.
- Young people can initiate and lead projects to increase availability and people's access to clean water, through community projects.
- In recognition of our crucial role in addressing global challenges, such as access to universal education, poverty elimination, health care services, employment, and environmental protection, young people are the best form of investment.
- Young people are a powerful resource who can deliver innovative shared ideas for accelerating development within country boundaries.
- Young people have spare time and applicable resources for mobilizing their peers in peer-to-peer educational trainings.

# WORLD POVERTY

Of 1 billion people living in conditions of extreme poverty conditions, 238 million are young people. Consequently, Goal 1 is about lifting people out of extreme poverty by providing them with the basic things they need to sustain themselves: nutritious food, clothes, clean water, shelter and adequate health care. Young people are the most vulnerable to the effects of hunger and poverty.

- Every year more than 10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases—that's over 30,000 per day and one every three seconds.
- 600 million children live in absolute poverty.
- 74 million young people were out of work in 2002.
- Between 38 to 110 million young people are undernourished, 238 million live on less than USD 1 a day and 462 million live on less than USD 2 a day
- Every year nearly 11 million children die before their fifth birthday.

## UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN



### The United Nations Millennium Campaign

for Youth encourages young people to actively participate in poverty reduction and in actions for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals worldwide. The Millennium Campaign supports various youth-led movements

around the world and works closely with international non-governmental organizations. For more information visit:

<http://www.millenniumcampaign.org>

*“Better one coin earned with hard work than the gift of an unearned treasure.”*

*Alisher Navoi,  
Famous Uzbek poet from the 15th century*

## YOUTH ACTION

**Learning for life.** Karla, a 17 year-old former street child from Cusco, Peru, has been helping others rise out of the poverty trap. She managed to escape a life on the streets thanks to the education she received from a walk-in centre. Now she is working with other street children to teach them how to make batik T-shirts. This experience has given them a sense of pride and purpose that they didn't have before. The Hacienda now serves as a place for kids to learn agricultural skills, grow their own food and get an education. Thanks to this bold initiative by one highly courageous girl, the project has transformed the lives of over 100 children and will, in the future, help many more.

## PRACTICAL TASK

Choose one UN member state and study one of the Millennium Development Goals in terms of how young people are practically involved.

For example, **Albania, MDG 1—Eradicate extreme poverty. What activities have been implemented by young people to fight against poverty in Albania?**

Try to analyze the achievements of youth-led projects and their impact on youth.

Pay particular attention to the achievements made since 2000.

## HOW TO MEASURE POVERTY?

In many ways poverty line is taken as basis for measuring poverty. According to the World Bank the global measurement for extreme poverty is calculated as less than USD 1 per day.

There are two types of poverty lines: absolute and relative.

**Absolute poverty line:** an absolute minimum standard of living and is typically based on fixed basket of food (nutritional intake) plus allowances for other expenditures.

**Relative poverty line:** may be observed when people consider themselves poor when their living standards are substantially below those of others in their country.

# LIVING STANDARDS IN UZBEKISTAN

Improving the living standards of the population is one of the main priorities for the country. Living standards are a complex concept representing a combination and interaction of all socio-economic benefits that are available to people.

In Uzbekistan young people comprise more than 60 per cent of the total population and the average age is 25 years. Consequently, there is a strong need to mobilize resources for youth development, in terms of providing additional workplaces and opportunities for a better life, free from hunger and poverty.

- According to the official statistics, the youth unemployment rate in 2005, was 42.2 per cent
- Total life expectancy for both men and women increased by 0.9 per cent to reach an average of 72.5 years.
- For Uzbek families with an average size of five persons, an income per month of USD 250 will make them better off than a single person having to live on USD 50 per month, because of economies of scale in consumption. Economies of scale mean sharing expenditures on housing, utilities, and so forth.
- A recent state survey revealed that “income-poor” in Uzbekistan can be “asset rich”, as, for example, over 98 per cent of the population owns a house or flat, 86 per cent have plots of land, 87 per cent have a TV set, 38 per cent have a refrigerator and 12 per cent have a car.
- The 2002 Demographic and Health Survey reports that overall underweight status among young children, has decreased from 18 per cent in 1996 to 8 per cent in 2002.

## MDG QUIZ

1. How is poverty measured in Uzbekistan?
2. What is the poverty target for Uzbekistan in 2015 according to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?
3. What national programs have been elaborated in Uzbekistan to improve living conditions?
4. In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea?

## SUGGESTED YOUTH ACTION

- **Food and nutrition in maintaining good health**—Organize a lecture/presentation with a professional nutritionist. Ask him/her to deliver an informative speech on good and bad eating habits.
- Have a **Healthy Food Party** where students will prepare healthy meals for parents, journalists, local food producers and other invited guests. Include some music and dance into the program.
- Organize a **Market event**, where your peers bring items such as cakes, hand-made toys, wood and metal crafts, which can be sold during the event. Invite adults to join in your action and make them aware of the market. You can also invite journalists and spread information about this kind of action through media coverage.
- Launch **MDG art contest**. Find a gallery or a space that will allow you to showcase your MDG theme. An art contest can include photographs and/or paintings by students from the Universities of Uzbekistan. You could name it **Vision of Youth on MDGs**.
- Organize a meeting with your peers and exchange views on how the MDGs are interrelated, in what ways your community is affected and how young people can be involved in improving living standards in local communities. You can obtain information from UN-supported youth links:  
[www.un.org/cyberschoolbus](http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus)  
[www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org)

## KEEP IN MIND

**Tea and coffee are powerful inhibitors of iron absorption as they contain tannin.** It is important to note that the high intake of tea among the Uzbek population is likely to be a key factor in causing iron deficiency (anemia) among women. Tea is also commonly given to babies as early as 2 months after birth, thereby clearly inhibiting iron absorption, in addition to depriving them of the essential nutrients, energy and protein to grow optimally. All **iodine deficiency disorders** can be prevented by just one teaspoon of iodine—consumed in tiny amounts on a regular basis, over a lifetime—at very little cost, through **universal salt iodization**.

# WORLD EDUCATION

Every child should have **equal access to education**. Many families, however, cannot afford to pay for their children's education and in the majority of cases it is girls who remain out of primary schools. Providing children with a basic education is the best investment for the future security of nations. Education reduces poverty by providing everyone with choices and opportunities to create a better life for themselves. Without universal primary education, no real progress can be made on the other Goals. Educated women have fewer children, get medical help sooner and provide better care and nutrition for their children. This reduces hunger, infant and maternal mortality, the spread of HIV/AIDS and environmental damage.

- 133 million youth in the world are illiterate, most of who are in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- 100 million children who are enrolled in school will be forced to leave before they learn to read and write.
- 115 million children do not attend primary school, of whom 3/5 are girls.
- 46 per cent of girls in the world's poorest countries have no access to primary education.
- Universal primary education would cost USD 10 billion a year—that's half what Americans spend on ice cream every year.

## UNESCO



**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**—works with national governments and development partners to achieve universal free primary education and gender equality by 2015. One of the main areas is to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to, and achievement of good quality in, basic education.

For more information visit:

<http://www.unesco.org/education>

## YOUTH ACTION

**Education for All.** In Karnataka, South India, primary education is free and widely available. However, 90 million street kids have no access to education or health care. Most street children preferred earning money to studying and buying books. Having observed this, 21-year-old Vimi Pinto decided to produce a comic book illustrating the lifelong value of education. With the help of a cartoonist, some friends and children from a local slum, the comic-book was produced and distributed to 5000 children in slums in Bangalore. The story is told through pictures, so it can be understood by children and parents who cannot read or write.

## PRACTICAL TASK

Search for statistical information on literacy rates of young people aged 15–24 years, in different UN member states. Compare the educational enrollment in several countries. Or, you may choose to make a comparative analysis between different regions, such as South Asia and Africa. For example, your task could be: **“Literacy rate of young people aged 15–24 years in Asia-Pacific countries”**

## WHAT IS DISTANCE LEARNING?

Distance learning, sometimes called flexible or open learning, is a programme of study that consists of video, printed or online materials that allow students to study at home. Distance-learning programmes have become increasingly popular over the last few years, as the Internet has developed into a reliable channel of tuition. However, it remains with fee-payment, there is a strong hope to make it available for all the young people and for those with physical disabilities around the world.

*“The road to good education is through active interest and interaction with scientists.”*

*Abu Ali Ibn Sino (Avicenna)  
Famous Uzbek Scientist of the 10th century*

# EDUCATION IN UZBEKISTAN

While in many CIS countries, enrollment in basic education declined and school attendance rates fell, Uzbekistan managed to overcome certain transitional constraints and keep the indicators at a reasonably high level. Universal access to education is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and was achieved by 1990, the baseline year for global MDGs. The literacy level of the population was reported to be over 99 per cent in 2003.

Social and economic development depends on the participation of young people in education and employment. Only high quality education can provide youth with adequate job opportunities in national and global markets.

- In 1997, the government launched the National Program for Personnel Training, which aims to extend compulsory education from 9 to 12 years by 2009.
- Since 2002, government programs have ensured that low-income families get free-textbooks from school libraries.
- The literacy rate among the population increased from 97.7 per cent in 1991 to 99.3 per cent in 2003.
- General education schools for intellectually or physically retarded children remain unchanged since 2001—0.9 percent of the total number of schools in the country.

## MDG QUIZ

1. What does “inclusive education” mean?
2. What is the main document for increasing the quality of education, adopted by the government?
3. What do you know about the Dakar Framework for Action?
4. What do you know about the Bologna process?

## SUGGESTED YOUTH ACTION

- Begin your action by raising awareness about the MDGs and the importance of education in Uzbekistan. Educate your peers and deliver presentations on the MDGs, in particular, **Goal 2: Improving the quality of education**. Spread your message by writing brochures and give your own suggestions on how to improve the quality of education.
- Organize an educational forum focused on the positive links between **literacy, employment challenges, HIV prevention education and women’s empowerment**.
- Organize a photo and poster competition on the theme: **“What needs to be done to increase the quality of education?”**
- Organize a learning hour for children in orphanages with the help of your friends. The theme of the training could be **“The importance of education in reaching the Millennium Development Goals in Uzbekistan”**. Prepare an interactive quiz and other tasks and give children the opportunity to be involved in the process.
- Organize an open MDG Student Forum and invite experts in health, education, environment, etc. Learn about current issues in these areas and compare the situation in different countries. Provide your own recommendations to the experts.

## KEEP IN MIND

**Non-formal education is usually defined as “learning by doing”.** The learning methodology lies in the interaction between learners and the ‘real-life’ situations they are experiencing. There are usually no teachers or lecturers providing knowledge, instead learners and facilitators construct the knowledge and skills together, in a horizontal relationship. The facilitator may be more or less active in setting up learning experiences for the benefit of the learner. This is typical of youth work. It is possible to maximise non-formal education benefits for young people through the use of different methodologies, such as peer-to-peer education, project work, mobility projects, and more.

# WORLD GENDER



Gender equality means to have equal rights for boys and girls at all levels of education and in all areas of work, access to equal control over resources and equal representation in public and political life.

By educating girls, we give them an opportunity to assess social and family issues independently, to know more about hygiene and sanitation, to bear and nourish a healthy future generation of children and to understand all the valuable elements of culture and aesthetics. The participation of women in public and political life will contribute to its further development, thus contributing to world development as a whole. Young people are able to recognize gender disparity in education, thus expanding formal and non-formal education to young girls.

- Two-thirds of children left out of primary educations are girls and 75 per cent of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women.
- Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, and yet earn only 10 per cent of the world's income and own less than 1 per cent of the world's property.
- In Western and Central Africa, 24 million children are out of primary school, 13 million of them girls.
- In South-Asia, 42.8 million children are not in school, 23.5 million of them are girls.

## UNGEI



**The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)** is the "Education For All" flagship program for girls' education and the principal movement to narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005. UNGEI works to ensure that by 2015, all

children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete primary schooling and also by then, boys and girls will have equal access to all levels of education.

For more information visit: <http://www.ungei.org>

## YOUTH ACTION



**Women and Ethnic Minority Leadership Programme.** Two young girls from New Zealand implemented a project which aims to develop the leadership skills of young girls, through their active involvement in knowledge-sharing activities. This activity was conducted in four areas of the country; named "Women Leadership Workshop", where 100 young girls attended from different communities.

## PRACTICAL TASK



Carry out research on international Treaties/Conventions/Declarations, related to Gender empowerment in political, economic and social life. For example: **CEDAW Convention.** Consult various UN web sites and collect international documents. **Hold a debate on the need for and usefulness of such instruments.**

## HOW CAN WE MEASURE GENDER EMPOWERMENT?



**Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)**—a measure of gender inequality, in economic and political terms. It has two dimensions: economic participation and decision-making measured by the percentage of female administrators, managers, professionals, technical workers and political participation and decision-making measured by the percentage of seats in parliament held by women.

*"To ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men"*

*Article 3, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*

# GENDER EQUALITY IN UZBEKISTAN



The Government of Uzbekistan recognizes the importance of **equal access to education for boys and girls** and promotes gender equality and empowerment of women in the social, political and economic life of the country. The Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was ratified by the Uzbek Government in 1995 and led to it incorporating many commitments into national laws and emphasizing the importance of women's participation in social and political life. The special emphasis on women can be observed with the new national prize, "Zulfiya", for the most talented young girls in the spheres of education, science, literature and art.

- The gender disparity in elementary and secondary education is all but closed in Uzbekistan. In higher education, the proportion of female students enrolled at post-graduate level was 25 per cent in 1995 and rose to 45.3 per cent by 2005.
- At Doctoral level, enrollment has increased from 12 per cent female candidates in 1995 to 37.1 per cent in 2005.
- The proportion of women participating in parliament's political decision-making process, has increased from 6 per cent in 1994 to 16 per cent in 2005.
- The head of the Women's Committee also acts as a Deputy Prime Minister. The representatives of the Women's Committee in regions also act as Deputy Khokims and are responsible for promoting the interests of women at local levels.

## MDG QUIZ

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1. What do you understand by "Gender"? Please explain.
  2. What is the percentage of women participating in the social and political life of Uzbekistan?
  3. What do you know about the Women's Committee in Uzbekistan?

## SUGGESTED YOUTH ACTION

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- Cooperate with other university students and put on a theatrical performance on **Gender equality**.
  - Organize a learning hour for students on "**Gender equality in Uzbekistan**", involving gender experts from the government and/or international organizations.
  - Organize and initiate training on "**Leadership skills for young women in Uzbekistan**". Try to cover issues related to women's political and economic participation within society. Include sessions on presentation skills, leadership skills and others.
  - Organize learning hours on "**Gender equality in education**" for children in orphanages and schools. Explain the need to involve girls in the education process and promote their participation at all levels.
  - Talk to your university administrators and organize a **University students assembly** on MDGs. In the framework of this network, organize presentations and Youth-Led Development projects on MDG themes in your university and communities. Write relevant articles about your achievements and send them to the UN Office in Uzbekistan.
  - Organize a theatrical show on the theme "**Our vision of gender equality in Uzbekistan.**" Talk to drama students or theater directors and get their support for the show.
  - Announce a competition to design a postage stamp with a theme of "**Gender equality in education**" and invite your friends and local post offices to become involved with this initiative. Organize a fund-raising event to secure funds to print the postage stamps. Distribute the stamps to your friends as promotional materials.

## KEEP IN MIND



**Gender mainstreaming** is about making sure that all policy makers and practitioners understand that gender really matters. The commitment to "mainstream" gender marks a profound transition in the UN approach to tackling issues related to the welfare of women. Women's issues are now no longer considered a "separate" aspect of development.

# WORLD CHILD MORTALITY

Without a healthy future generation we will not be able to realize the future of the country. The health of a child during mother's pregnancy has a great impact on his/her future condition and likelihood of survival after birth. One of the characteristics of poverty is that it seems to prey on the vulnerable and defenseless. Moreover, not everybody realizes that pregnant women have to be cared with great attention to their health.

In countries where the poverty rate is very high, the child's survival prospects are significantly reduced. For example, in low-income countries, one out of every 10 children dies before the age of five, whereas in wealthier nations, the figure is only one out of every 143 children.

- Nearly 11 million children die each year before they reach the age of five. Over 1,200 every hour die from treatable or easily preventable causes, such as diarrhea, malaria, neonatal infection, pneumonia, premature birth or lack of oxygen at birth.
- Malnutrition is associated with 54 per cent of deaths.
- 99 per cent of deaths are in low and middle-income countries, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- Measles deaths world-wide dropped by nearly 40 per cent between 1999 and 2003, with the largest reduction in Africa.

## UNICEF



**United Nations Children's Fund** focuses on the areas of child survival and further development, basic children's education and gender equality. Moreover, UNICEF works with children to protect their rights from violence and exploitation, and to make all the resources available throughout their transition from childhood to adulthood.

For more information visit:

<http://www.unicef.org/whatwedo/index/html>

## YOUTH ACTION

**Vaccination campaign.** Young people around the world have an opportunity to contribute to preventing child diseases, through involvement with campaigns. The Measles-vaccination campaign took place in 36 Sub-Saharan countries in 2003. The goal of this initiative was to raise awareness, build understanding of what disease is and collect the necessary funds to increase the availability of vaccinations. Young people from African countries organized several presentations in their communities on the prevention of child diseases, especially targeting parents of children. These projects were co-sponsored by the United Nations funds, Red Cross, WHO and UNICEF.

## PRACTICAL TASK

Consult WHO, UNICEF and other health-related websites and find relevant materials on **child-centered diseases, such as measles, diarrhea** and others. Organize a session for your peers, with the help of health workers. Try to mobilize and involve more medical students in your trainings.

## WHAT IS CHILD MORTALITY RATE?

**Under five mortality rate (U5MR)**—measures the probability of dying between birth and age 5 as the annual number of deaths of children under age 5 per 1000 live births.

**Infant mortality**—the infant mortality rate (IMR) measures the probability of dying between birth and age 1 in a given period of time per 1000 live births.

*“If mothers are tall trees, then children are their most precious fruits”*

*Sheikh Saadi,  
Famous Persian poet from the 13th century*

# CHILD HEALTH IN UZBEKISTAN

The birth of a child in an Uzbek family exemplifies the wealth of the family and the nation. Having a child is seen as an important step in the continuation of the family tree and the formation of a new generation. The Government of Uzbekistan emphasizes the significance of bringing up a healthy and educated generation and puts much effort into providing appropriate child health care. As in many developing or transitional countries, Uzbekistan aims to reduce the infant and under-five mortality rates and has set a national goal to reduce child mortality by two thirds, by 2015.

Young people can be active partners in decreasing the rate of child mortality, by acting as health service providers in their communities, mobilizing and spreading awareness on child diseases, reproductive health, sanitation and hygiene.

- Official data reports a steady decline in infant mortality rates over the last decade, from 26 per 1,000 live births in 1995 to 15.2 in 2005.
- Prenatal care defines the period from five months before birth to one month after.
- More than 53 per cent of children in Uzbekistan are being raised with a deficiency of vitamin A. Since 2003, Uzbekistan has provided vitamin A supplementation nationwide, with approximately 2.2 million children under five, receiving vitamin A capsules twice a year.
- More than 4 million women of fertile age and children under two years of age, in seven viloyats, have been provided with iron and folic acid supplementation, since 1999.
- Malnutrition is considered to have a negative impact on the growth of the society. Currently, 20 per cent of children in Uzbekistan aged under-five, are malnourished. Iodine deficiency in particular, has been revealed to have negative consequences for the intellectual growth and development of children.

## MDG QUIZ

1. What preventable child diseases do you know?
2. Why do children die before the age of five in Central Asia? Name some of the causes and make relevant recommendations that would decrease the mortality rate.
3. Why do the infant mortality rates in Uzbekistan differ according to various sources?
4. What does a child need during his/her first year of life to provide protection from diseases?

## SUGGESTED YOUTH ACTION

- Establish a **small-health consultancy service** for children in your local area. Disseminate information on vaccinations and hold interactive peer-to-peer education sessions on basic sanitation facilities and hygiene.
- Invite friends and peers with similar interests and with a desire to help make a change in your local community. Organize the cleaning and **repair of children's playgrounds nearby**, with your own resources. Mobilize others to become involved in your actions.
- Initiate an educational radio-show on **"Improving the health of children through eating habits"**, by involving local journalists. Explain the idea to local media representatives.
- Organize **music, poem and painting competitions** for schoolchildren on the theme "Children's creative life". Involve your peers to help advocate for a healthy life style.
- Organize a game that would relate MDGs to sports.

## KEEP IN MIND

Breastfeeding is one of the oldest and healthiest practices in the world. For the first 6 months give the baby breast milk and nothing else. It is better than any baby food or milks you can buy. Breast milk helps to protect the baby against diarrhea and many infections. It is best not to give extra water or teas, even in hot weather.

Here are the breastfeeding recommendations for young mothers:

- Initiation of breastfeeding within about one hour of birth;
- Frequent, on-demand feeding (including night-time feeds);
- Exclusive breastfeeding (defined as breast milk only, with no other foods or liquids until the infant is about six months of age);
- Breastfeeding complemented with hygienically prepared, appropriate local foods, starting at about six months of age;
- Increased breastfeeding during periods of illness and recovery;
- Continued breastfeeding, well into the second year of life and beyond.

### Checking Children for Malnutrition: The Sign of the Upper Arm.

After 1 year of age, any child whose middle upper arm measures less than 13 1/2 cm. around is defined to be malnourished. If the arm measures less than 12 1/2 cm, he is severely malnourished. Another good way to tell if a child is well nourished or poorly nourished is to weigh him regularly: once a month in the first year, then once every 3 months. A healthy, well nourished child gains weight regularly.

Source: "Facts for Life"—UNICEF, 2002

# WORLD MATERNAL HEALTH

The future of all countries and societies is dependent on the future generation of healthy children. Thus, mothers are the absolute power and who create the beautiful moments of people's lives. They are the ones who bear the child during pregnancy and give life. Many people consider the day their child was born to be the happiest day of their life. It is especially so in the world's wealthier countries. In poorer countries, mothers often die when delivering their babies. By taking care of maternal health, we establish a safe and healthy future generation. In high-fertility countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, women have a 1 in 16 chance of dying in childbirth, whereas in low-fertility countries in Europe, the figure is 1 in 2,000 and in North America, one in 3,500.

- More than half a million young women die in pregnancy and childbirth every year—that's one death every minute. Of these deaths, 99 per cent are in developing countries.
- Only 28 of every 100 women giving birth in the least developed countries, are attended by trained health personnel.
- A mother's death can be devastating to the children left behind. They are more vulnerable to poor health, poverty and exploitation without a mother's love and protection.
- A mother's disability can diminish her contribution to both the family and the economy, in the struggle against poverty.
- 99 per cent of maternal deaths occur in developing countries, almost all—95 per cent—in Africa and Asia.

## UNFPA



**Peer-education network of UNFPA** for young people in the areas of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. The mission of the network is to provide peer-to-peer education for all young people around the world. The main focus areas are reproductive health issues and the building of partnerships between young people and adults. For more information visit:

<http://www.youthpeer.org>

## YOUTH ACTION

**Healthy Generations.** In Rwanda, 8,000 young women were trained by young trainers, with the help of health workers. They targeted issues in community health, nutrition and how to avoid communicable diseases. Of these, 850 young women are working on a volunteer basis, as health trainers in their own communities. As a result, the malnutrition rate has dropped from 30 per cent to 15 per cent in a year. These local women worked on a peer-to-peer basis to create a birth registry system and community pharmacies. They organized a network to find suitable medication for sick people who are in need of help.

## PRACTICAL TASK

Search for materials on the **Reproductive health of young mothers**. Prepare handouts and distribute to your peers in the local community and in your University. Help health workers to organize training sessions on reproductive health for young women living nearby.

## WHAT IS MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE?

**Maternal mortality** is death of a woman while pregnancy or within 42 days of termination of the pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.

**Maternal mortality rate (MMR)** is the most commonly used measure of maternal mortality, and it is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1,000 live births per year.

*“Use each and every opportunity to make your mother happy.”*

*Abdulla Oripov,  
Contemporary Uzbek poet*

# MATERNAL HEALTH IN UZBEKISTAN

The health of women and mothers is crucially important for the nation, because they bear children and give birth. Having healthy children demands suitable care for women of reproductive age. However, there are cases of maternal mortality in Uzbekistan that are closely linked with living conditions, and imply inadequate access to quality health-care services and sanitation. Anemia remains among the most frequent ailments that affect women and has a strong influence on maternal health in Uzbekistan. In Uzbekistan, for both biological and social reasons, young mothers represent a vulnerable group. It is estimated that young women in Uzbekistan give birth for the first time, between the ages of 19–21. Thus, young mothers should become involved in programs on sexual and reproductive health education, thereby contributing to both community development and safe motherhood.

- In 1991, the maternal mortality rate was 65.4 per 100,000 live births, but by 2004 it had dropped by half, to 30.2 per 100,000 live births in Uzbekistan.
- According to UNFPA world population data, in 2005 there were 34 births per 1,000 women between the ages of 15–19 years, in Uzbekistan.
- Fertility among young people between the ages of 19–24 is relatively high in Uzbekistan. In 2004, there were 239 births per 1,000 women.
- The indicators on abortion showed a decline, from 11.2 per 100 live births in 1991 to 9.1 in 2005.
- Anemia remains the leading factor affecting women's health. According to the Ministry of Health, 74.4 per cent of all women in Uzbekistan suffered from anemia in 2005. The highest rate of anemia is observed in Karakalpakstan, where it affected 99.3 per cent of women in 2004.
- Several deaths of young mothers in Uzbekistan have occurred because of severe iron deficiency.

## MDG QUIZ

1. How would you define maternal mortality?
2. What are the factors affecting maternal mortality in Uzbekistan?
3. What can be done to improve maternal health in Uzbekistan?
4. Which country in Central Asia has the highest anemia rates among children and women of reproductive age? Why?

## SUGGESTED YOUTH ACTION

- Organize an event on youth **reproductive and sexual health education** in rural and urban areas, through interactive and non-formal activities. Invite an expert, in order to get additional comments and help.
- With the assistance of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA experts in Uzbekistan, launch a campaign on **Reproductive health and rights**. Focus on girls under the age of 15. The campaign should promote awareness about adolescent health and hygiene and its impact on future mothers' health. Organize a live video discussion, mobilizing your peers to start a dialogue.
- Organize a campaign under the slogan **"This is our country! This is our future! These are our Development Goals"** and involve community leaders in Mahallas. Spread information on the MDGs in Uzbekistan.
- Organize **"MDGs bicycle informational tour"** and distribute informational brochures on reproductive and maternal health in local Mahallas.
- Held a promotional campaign entitled **"We are against ANEMIA"** with the help of your peers. Involve local community representatives and organize training sessions to increase young mother's awareness about iron-rich food sources and proper feeding of young children, to prevent anemia in the early stages of their lives.
- Promote **"exclusive breastfeeding"** and inform your peers at university, in the Mahalla, and elsewhere. Explain the recommendations of WHO and UNICEF about exclusive breastfeeding. If necessary, consult with WHO and UNICEF experts in this field.

## KEEP IN MIND

Family Planning is the responsibility of both men and women; everyone needs to know about the health benefits. Men as well as women must take responsibility for preventing unplanned pregnancies. They should have access to information and advice from a health worker so that they are aware of the various methods of family planning that are available.

The health of women and children can be significantly improved when births are spaced at least two years apart, when pregnancy is avoided before the age of 18 and after 35, and when women have no more than 4 pregnancies during their lives.

**Source: "Facts for life"—UNICEF, 2002**

# WORLD HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

The world is suffering from the spread of HIV/AIDS, a disease, which does not have any cure in modern medicine. For a variety of reasons—cultural, political and economic—some young people are more vulnerable to this infection than others. For example, girls are at a higher risk in some parts of the world. Although, many medical treatments are being created; they are not widely available. Most developing countries are affected by this devastating illness.

Malaria and tuberculosis are regarded as being the result of living conditions of poverty and a lack of sanitation and hygiene. Malaria, together with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, is one of the major public health challenges that is undermining development in the poorest countries in the world. Pregnant women and their unborn children are particularly vulnerable to malaria, which is a major cause of prenatal mortality, low birth weight and maternal anemia.

- In 2005, AIDS claimed the lives of 2.8 million people and over 4 million people were newly infected with HIV.
- An estimated 11.8 million young people (aged 15–24) are living with HIV today.
- Each day, nearly 15,000 more are infected, as are 1,800 infants who contract the virus from their mothers during pregnancy or birth, or through breastfeeding.
- 15 million children worldwide have lost one or both parents because of AIDS.
- In 2001, 7.3 million young women and 4.5 million young men were living with HIV/AIDS,
- Every day, 6,000 young people become infected with the virus. Young African women aged between 15–24 are three times more likely to be infected than are their male counterparts.

## UNAIDS



**UNAIDS**, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, brings together the efforts and resources of ten UN system organizations in the global response to HIV/AIDS.

Co-sponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and

the World Bank. They mainly target young people, in advocating for HIV prevention around the world. For more information visit:

<http://www.unaids.org/en/youth>

## YOUTH ACTION

**Thinking about safe motherhood!** This program was devoted to the training of young girls in Chile and aimed to prevent teenage pregnancy and transmission of HIV/AIDS. Young women were selected from middle and low economic sectors in Valparaiso. The objective of the training was to prepare 25 young women to become trainers in the field of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. The young women came from 5 sectors of the city of Valparaiso. They were trained over a period of four months, in two-week sessions, with a total of 32 sessions. After training, participants were asked to lead follow-up activities in their own communities. The main issue was to elaborate a strategy for training of trainers. These young female trainers will concentrate their efforts on addressing the issues of sexual and reproductive health.

## PRACTICAL TASK

Organize a forum under the themes: **“HIV awareness by youth”, “Tuberculosis can be cured”, “Causes of malaria”**. Involve medical workers in your discussion. You can match these events with UN international days.

## WHAT IS HIV/AIDS?

HIV/AIDS is a complex and fatal disease that arises from the destroyed immune system of the body. It can be slowed down by medicine called antiretroviral therapy, but it cannot be cured. The medicine is still too expensive for the majority of affected people. As a result, the majority of those affected by AIDS die.

*“A healthy person is always beautiful and intelligent”*

*Lukmoni Khakim,  
Asian philosopher, 14th century*

# HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA IN UZBEKISTAN

Currently, there is no known cure for HIV in the world. Uzbekistan faces the threat of HIV spread, which emerged in the country at the end of the 20th century. The cumulative number of registered HIV/AIDS cases in Uzbekistan is the highest in Central Asia. A total of 7,810 HIV cases were registered in 2005.

Tuberculosis (TB) in Uzbekistan largely affects teenagers, young people and women of fertile age. The morbidity rate in these groups increased by 23 per cent during the period 1999–2003. The Aral Sea region has the highest rates of tuberculosis.

Malaria was widespread in Uzbekistan until the middle of the 20th century. Since the late 1950s, due to improved sanitation, health promotion, medical treatment, draining of stagnant water reservoirs and chemical and biological eradication of mosquitoes, the disease has become under control. However, since 1995, there has been an increase in the number of registered cases, due to insufficient malaria control measures. Additional measures to eliminate cases of infection are now required.

- According to official statistics, sexual activity among young people begins at the age of 20 for females and 18 for males. This may put them at a high risk, due to their lack of knowledge and information on HIV/AIDS.
- Official statistics state that 54 per cent of HIV cases in 2005 were among injecting drug users, many of whom are young people between the ages of 16–23.
- During the period 1999–2003, the TB mortality rate in Karakalpakstan increased by 34 per cent and in 2004 it was twice the national average.
- During the period 1999–2004, the malaria rate in Surkhandarya region has steadily declined from 66 cases in 2000 to 30 cases in 2004. Surkhandarya region has the highest prevalence of malaria cases in the country.

## MDG QUIZ

1. When was the first incidence of HIV registered in Uzbekistan?
2. What are the modes of HIV transmission?
3. How many people are presently living with HIV/AIDS in Uzbekistan?
4. What effective treatment for tuberculosis do you know?

## SUGGESTED YOUTH ACTION

- Use your expertise to create innovative and effective strategies for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other communicable diseases. Involve medical students in the campaign.
- Create teams of young peer educators on HIV, TB and malaria. Make **“Healthy tours”** to schools, universities and other youth organizations. Disseminate information on HIV prevention, TB and malaria.
- Be creative! Write a story or a poem, perform a play or paint a picture about the causes of HIV/AIDS. This is an effective way of getting the message across.
- Organize a campaign entitled **“Hope and Joy”** to inform your peers about the causes of and means of prevention for tuberculosis. Provide full information on tuberculosis, by consulting WHO experts. You can put on a performance to make the message more accessible.
- Participate in UNICEF discussions and in the campaign **“Unite for children—Unite against AIDS”**. You can find more information through this link:  
<http://www.unicef.org/uniteforchildren/youth/>

## KEEP IN MIND

Those living with HIV are often stigmatized, as many people believe that the causes of HIV infection are associated with behavior that may be considered socially unacceptable. People living with the virus are frequently subject to discrimination and human rights abuses.

While HIV in Uzbekistan had been largely confined to drug users, it is now spreading slowly to the general public and there are cases where the infection has come from blood transfusions. HIV is not transmitted through air, by a handshake or by working in an office with an HIV-infected person. All people, irrespective of their HIV status, have a right to be respected. We need to show support to people living with HIV.

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT

We will not have successful economies, sustainable societies and healthy people, without a healthy planet. Uncontrolled usage of natural resources such as forests, land, water and fisheries, has a tremendous impact upon the environment and nature. People do not always realize the consequences that their actions have on their environment and on the surrounding world in general, hence a lot of damage is made to forests, land, air and water. The amount of fresh water for human consumption cannot be increased and yet, we are polluting the little water we have!

- Around 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation and some 1.2 billion people do not have access to an improved source of water.
- More than 5,000 items are made from trees, including houses, furniture, pencils, utensils, fences, books, newspapers, movie tickets and even clothing and toothpaste.
- During the last century, carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere increased by more than 25 per cent.
- Scientists predict that in 50 years, the planet will be 3–5 degrees hotter than it is today, leading to the melting of polar ice caps and a rise by up to 4 meters, in global sea levels. This could cause some islands to disappear.
- More than seven children die each minute as a result of water pollution.
- Every year, 25 million young people die from diseases caused by polluted water and an unhealthy environment.
- Over 6 billion people live on the planet. This figure could increase to 8 billion in 20 years time and it is anticipated that the demand for water will increase by 40 per cent.

## UNEP



**UNEP provides** leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life, without compromising that of future generations. Under the overall concept of TUNZA (Treat your planet with care), there is a UNEP strategy for the engagement of young people in environmental issues.

For more information visit:

<http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth>

## YOUTH ACTION

**Youth creativity—to secure a healthy environment.** A Group of students in Bhutan organized the “Sherubtse nature club” in their University. The club cleaned water tanks and monitored and cleaned water sources in the local vicinity.

In 2002, club members made a significant contribution to the health of local people. Their cleaning of a water tank, resulted in a substantial decrease in the number of typhoid cases in the community.

Another important activity was the cleaning of a pond that attracted many campers to spend leisure time there. The club members dug a pit, which served as place for visitors to throw rubbish away. This had a positive impact for the people living nearby.

## PRACTICAL TASK

**“Man-made chemicals and their effect on nature”.** Conduct a survey among students to learn what chemicals are used in their home and at University. Report your results and start a campaign for students and by students that will influence the University and young people, to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals.

## HOW MUCH WATER DO WE CONSUME?

Water covers 75% of the Earth’s surface: 97.5% of this water is salty, while the remaining 2.5 % is fresh water. This fresh water is divided into:

87.5% ice; 12% subterranean water (found in springs); 0.04% atmospheric water vapor and humidity; 0.5% surface water (this is the water we use daily).

Therefore, only 0.008% of the world’s water is easily available and could be used by humans.

***“It is our shared duty to save for the future the beauty of river oases, valleys, steppes, mountains and hills and to take care of all the wildlife inhabiting Uzbek lands”***

***Islam Karimov,  
President of Uzbekistan***

# ENVIRONMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

Environmental sustainability is one of the pressing issues in Uzbekistan. This is as a result of inappropriate usage of water resources and usage of chemically active substances in irrigation. Our country is known as a land of abundant fruits and vegetables, but the use of agrochemicals and pesticides causes contamination of food products. This in turn causes illnesses, especially among children.

Many young people are trying to address these serious environmental problems by getting involved in projects supported by governmental and international organizations, to improve the ecological situation in the country.

MDGs provide a benchmark for measuring progress towards the human right to clean water. When people are denied access to clean water at home or when they lack access to water as a productive resource, their choices and freedoms are constrained by poor health, poverty and vulnerability.

- The biggest environmental challenge for Uzbekistan is the problem of the Aral Sea. During the period 1960–1990, the Aral Sea was reduced in size from 66,900 to 36,500 square kilometers. By the late 1990s, the sea had reportedly lost 90 per cent of its volume.
- The Aral Sea disaster zone extends to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- Currently, 301 plants and 184 animals are included in the Red Book of Uzbekistan.
- The largest proportion of atmospheric pollution in Uzbekistan is made up of Carbonic oxide (53 per cent) and Sulphurous anhydride (15 per cent).
- According to national statistics, high atmospheric pollution is observed in Andijan city and relatively high atmospheric pollution is identified in Kokand, Navoiy and Tashkent city.
- Abnormally dangerous industrial waste was gathered in Samarkand and Tashkent regions in 2004.

## MDG QUIZ

1. What is sustainable development?
2. Name some environmental problems existing in Uzbekistan and their causes.
3. Does the problem of a lack of access to safe drinking water exist in Uzbekistan?
4. What is sustainable consumption and how does it relate to a secure environment?

## SUGGESTED YOUTH ACTION

- Find regional and international youth networks, in order to facilitate global cooperation and information exchange on youth empowerment towards sustainable development. Organize a learning session on **“Nature and the use of plants for first aid in emergency situations”**. Make the session interactive.
- Organize a **“Water Ceremony”** day for students in your University. Perform a scene or make speeches on the value of water and what you can do to preserve it.
- Join international campaigns on environmental protection. One of them is the **“Billion Tree Campaign”** organized by the United Nations Environmental Programme. By signing a pledge, you can participate by planting trees in your community, university and elsewhere. Visit:  
<http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/>
- Can you make **video films or video spots**? If yes, you can develop a film to advocate for a clean environment.
- Visit [www.youthxchange.net](http://www.youthxchange.net) and find useful tips that you can use during presentations, projects and articles. Spread the information among your peers.

## KEEP IN MIND

- If you have a choice, walk through a park rather than along the main road.
- To make water safe, let the water settle for a few hours and pour it into a clean container or filter it.
- When water security is respected as a human right, the most vulnerable people in the community will have their needs met and everyone will be safer and healthier.
- Remember to exercise regularly; you can't store up fitness for your old age.
- Avoid eating genetically modified foods, until their full impact is known.
- Refuse to accept unnecessary packaging and encourage manufacturers to stop over-packaging their products.

# WORLD GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

It is the primary responsibility of poor countries to work towards achieving the first seven goals. They must do their best to ensure greater accountability to citizens and efficient use of resources. To make this happen, it is absolutely critical that rich countries deliver on their side of the bargain, with more and more effective aid, more sustainable debt relief and fairer trade rules, well in advance of 2015.

Who will benefit more from a better world in 2015? The youth of the present day!

MDG 8 focuses on fair trade, youth employment and entrepreneurship and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

- The poorest 49 countries make up 10 per cent of the world's population but account for only 0.4 per cent of world trade. Their share has halved since 1980.
- The prices of many poor countries' key exports are at a 150-year low.
- Rich countries spend \$100 billion a year to protect their markets with tariffs, quotas and subsidies—this is twice as much as they provide in aid for developing countries.
- In 1970, 22 of the world's richest countries pledged to spend 0.7 per cent of their national income on aid. 34 years later, only five countries have kept that promise.
- Seven million children die each year as a result of the debt crisis.
- The money spent on debt repayments could provide water for around 1.3 billion people.

## UNDP



**UNDP** is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources, to help people build a better life. It is active in 166 countries around the world, working with governments on solutions to global and national development challenges.

For more information visit:

<http://www.undp.org>

## YOUTH ACTION

The **Youth Employment Spark (YES)** project, a multi-country youth employment-entrepreneurship partnership led by the Dutch National Youth Council, aims to raise awareness and increase understanding of international youth unemployment issues among young people, in a positive and entertaining way. Five young entrepreneurs, aged 18 to 26, in Guyana, the Netherlands, the Philippines, South Africa and Turkey, after having been selected in a business plan competition, will simultaneously start their own businesses, under the guidance of a youth organization and a mentor from the business community. Their experiences will be followed and presented to a youth audience through an interactive website, national and international youth networks and media channels, and potentially a TV program or documentary.

## PRACTICAL TASK

Search for examples on **Global partnership** and make notes on successful achievements in **trade, debt relief and ICTs**, implemented by UN member states around the world. Make notes on the commitments made by donor/developed countries to improve the lives of people living in extreme poverty conditions and whether those commitments were fulfilled.

## HOW DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CAN HELP POOR COUNTRIES?

Rich countries should increase development assistance from 0.25% of gross national income in 2003 to about 0.44% in 2006 and 0.54 in 2015 to support the MDGs.

If we are to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people living on less than one dollar a day by 2015, we must cancel all the debts of the poorest countries.

*“We have entered the third millennium through a gate of fire. If today we see better, and we see further—we will realize that humanity is indivisible.”*

*Kofi Annan,  
former UN Secretary-General*

# UZBEKISTAN AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Uzbekistan is a member of many international organizations which provide development assistance, in terms of social and economic reforms in the country. The Government of Uzbekistan promotes regional cooperation on issues related to security, drug control, human trafficking, terrorism and the creation of a single economic and information area, within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), United Nations (UN), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and many others. For young people living in Uzbekistan, the promotion of a global partnership is a long term priority, as Goal 8 explicitly stresses the importance of youth employment and the creation of job opportunities. Through accelerated international assistance to developing countries, national employment policies will ensure and guarantee meaningful job opportunities for young people.

- The sectors of social development, health, education and science received over 60 per cent of total technical assistance in 2004.
- In partnership with the United Nations Country Office in Uzbekistan, government agencies expand and promote information and communication technologies (ICTs), as well as coordinate external assistance.
- Since 1996, ADB has approved 21 loans for 19 projects, totaling US\$ 914.7 million and technical assistance grants amounting to US\$ 32 million, for 62 projects in Uzbekistan.
- The Government of Uzbekistan will receive about US\$ 240 million from multilateral and bilateral development partners, to implement its National Program for Basic Education Development, during the period 2004–2009.
- According to official statistics, in 2006 cellular communication subscribers amounted to 4.42 per 100 residents in Uzbekistan.

## MDG QUIZ

1. What is the UN target for industrialized countries to reach GOAL 8?
2. What is the difference between multilateral and bilateral donor agencies?
3. Which sectors are considered to be of the highest priority for Uzbekistan's economy?
4. What are the benefits of global partnership for young people in Uzbekistan?

## SUGGESTED YOUTH ACTION

- Imitate the meeting of stakeholders in discussing the social and economic regional cooperation. For example, **Model UN, meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) representatives, EurAsEC and other regional meetings.** Be sure to reflect youth involvement in fostering the country's development.
- Organize a fair dedicated to **"ICT Development in Uzbekistan"** at your University. Involve local ICT providers to help you and organize learning sessions. Describe the new technologies to your peers and motivate them to learn more about computer technologies.
- Contact experts in radio-technologies. Ask them to help organize a workshop where students can learn **how to use communication equipment** and how to fix old cell phones, TV-sets and radios. At the end of the workshop, announce a competition to highlight achievements and success in the field of communication technologies.
- If you have ICT skills, you can create **digital games and quizzes on MDGs**, which could be useful during MDG learning sessions.

## KEEP IN MIND

The benefits and advantages of utilizing ICTs are becoming increasingly apparent and they are regarded as a powerful instrument in creating new opportunities for social and economic development. Facilitating and improving access to information resources may be helpful in achieving some of the objectives identified in the MDGs. Moreover, wide-scale use of modern, innovative educational technologies (distance learning, information and telecommunication technologies) that enable tens or hundreds of thousands of people to receive training, is recommended to improve the educational process.

**Source:** [www.undp.uz/publications](http://www.undp.uz/publications)

# UNITED NATIONS AND YOUTH IN UZBEKISTAN



**The United Nations** is a multilateral organization, that provides ground for establishing mutual understanding among the nations and increasing the role of human dignity worldwide. The UN is working to make the world a better place to live. The UN has played a crucial role in building international consensus on action for development. The UN continues formulating new development objectives in such kind of areas as sustainable development, the advancement of women, human rights, environmental protection and economic and good governance—along with programmes to make them a reality.

## UN FOCUS ON YOUTH

The United Nations has long recognized that the imagination, ideals and energies of young women and men are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which they live. Since its formation, the UN has increasingly called for active participation of youth worldwide. By now, the voice of youth and their participation are observed in all levels of the UN. The UN program on youth also provides avenues through which young people can participate in the UN system. The UN program on Youth is frequently an ally; it is not appropriate or possible for all youth organizations around the world to engage with them, due to their limited size and resources.

## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN UZBEKISTAN

While the **MDG awareness** campaign among the population in Uzbekistan has been taking place in various forms since 2003, the UN turned its attention on introducing the **MDGs to Youth**. A number of student conferences were organized by the United Nations Country Team in cooperation with different universities and national experts. These conferences enabled many students to come up and implement their own projects and engage in community service initiatives.

## SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES

- An additional impetus to the MDG Youth voluntarism was provided by students who participated in the **3<sup>rd</sup> World Youth Congress**, held in Stirling, Scotland, in 2005. Three Uzbek delegates participated in the congress and shared their ideas and experiences on youth activities worldwide to support the MDGs. The slogan **“Be the Change”** was used by youth in Scotland and has since made its way to Uzbekistan and is reaching local universities and colleges.
- A year later, in 2006, two Uzbek delegates participated in the first ever **United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit** held at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit was dedicated to **“Achieving the Millennium Development Goals through Sports and Culture”** and brought together outstanding young community activists from UN member states around the world.
- In late 2006, Model **UN “MDG+6”** was organized by the United Nations Office in Uzbekistan. Students represented both developed and developing countries to discuss challenges of combating HIV/AIDS and the role of global partnership in addressing this issue.

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# UNDP AND YOUTH IN UZBEKISTAN



**UNDP** is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of: Economic Development and Welfare Improvement, Good Governance, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Energy and Environment, and HIV/AIDS. It also encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women.

## UNDP FOCUS ON YOUTH

UNDP aims at reaching a younger audience by special initiatives and projects.

UNDP helps law students enhance their theoretical knowledge by practicing at the **"Legal Clinic"** which was established in 2000 as a joint initiative with the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. The two-year training program is designed to strengthen capacity of the participating students by offering them a unique opportunity to deal with real people and real legal cases on voluntary base, helping the most vulnerable in need.

The joint UNDP project with Special Olympics in Uzbekistan which is targeting and supporting young disabled individuals and promotes **equal opportunities through sports**. We help to increase understanding that children with disabilities must have equal rights to improve health, raise self-esteem and actively participate in social activities. Various sports and cultural events organized under this project help children with intellectual disabilities break the barriers that exclude them from social and cultural life.

## UNDP IN UZBEKISTAN

UNDP opened its representative office in Uzbekistan in January 1993. UNDP has worked intensively to support the Government, civil society and people in Uzbekistan to overcome the numerous challenges of transition. UNDP has assisted governmental and non-governmental institutions in obtaining the knowledge, experience and resources needed to successfully pursue economic and social reforms to ensure a good and promising future for the Uzbek people.

## SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES

- Students of Legal Clinic helped to train more than one hundred school children on the **rights and responsibilities of juveniles according to the "UN Convention of the Rights of Child"** ratified by Uzbekistan. Most recently, in March 2007 students together with legal experts organized training for children of SOS Children's Village.
- Since its opening in Uzbekistan in 2001, more than 6,000 Uzbek citizens including children and young people are enrolled in the Special Olympics movement.
- During the International Day of Peace in September 2006 UNDP and Special Olympics organized a number of sports and cultural events for children and representatives from various public organizations including **"Soglom Avlod Uchun", "Mejrjon sport", "Sen Yolg'iz Emassan"**, and others. The day's events culminated in a football match, played by teams made up of Special Olympics athletes, employees of UN agencies and other international and national organizations.

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# UNFPA AND YOUTH IN UZBEKISTAN



**The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programs to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

## UNFPA'S FOCUS ON YOUTH

Half of the world's population are under the age of 25. This includes the largest-ever generation of adolescents, who are approaching adulthood in a rapidly changing world. UNFPA places a high priority on protecting young people's rights, promoting gender equality and equity and supporting their successful transition to adulthood. UNFPA places particular emphasis on reaching out to those who are living in poverty or in other harsh circumstances. It recognizes that opportunities for learning and for protecting the health of young people (including sexual and reproductive health) are crucial to reaching their full potential. In the era of HIV/AIDS, this can also be a matter of life and death.

## UNFPA IN UZBEKISTAN

Adolescents and young people are a critical group, whose sexual and reproductive health needs a lot of attention from the Uzbek health system. Partnering with the Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health (UARH), UNFPA has established multi-purpose youth centers in several provinces, including Samarkand and Khorezm. The centers offer sexual and reproductive health information and services, including counseling, together with training sessions for peer educators, skills development and income generating activities, such as carpet weaving.

## SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES

- In the province of Khorezm, the Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health (UARH) has set up a **"Hot line" to provide information and advice** on various reproductive and sexual health issues for adolescents. Established in 2004, it has assisted some 300 adolescents and young people. In Samarkand, the local branch of UARH launched a special outreach program for commercial sex workers, to prevent sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; some 5,000 have been helped through this initiative.
- So far, some 80 **peer educators have been trained** by the Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health. They, in turn have reached upwards of 50,000 young people in their communities, promoting reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- In 2006, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Public Education in revising the **secondary school course, "Healthy Life Style and Family"**, to better incorporate reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention issues. UNFPA funded printing of a teaching manual for this course and supported training for teachers.

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# UNODC AND YOUTH IN UZBEKISTAN



**The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** is a United Nations agency which was established to fight against drugs usage and crime on an international level. UNODC has three main functions: to carry out research; lobby governments to adopt various crime and drug-based laws and treaties; and to provide assistance to governments on the ground level.

## UNODC FOCUS ON YOUTH

In addition to undertaking a wide range of activities aimed at increasing awareness on drugs among youth around the world, UNODC has created a Global Youth Network project, designed to increase youth involvement with the international community in developing drug abuse prevention policies and programs. The network aims to increase communication between youth groups and UNODC; collect and disseminate information on good practices; and build the capacity of youth groups around the world to successfully design and implement drug abuse prevention projects.

## UNODC IN UZBEKISTAN

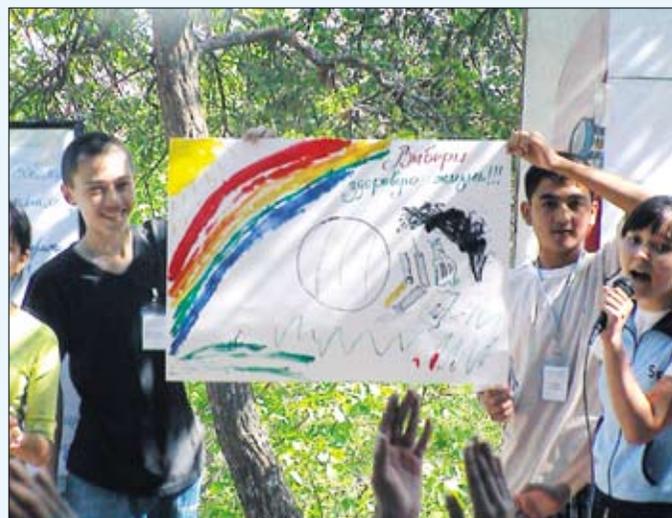
UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organizes activities for young people in Uzbekistan aimed at drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention. These include interactive youth seminars at summer camps, training workshops for aspiring journalists and drug abuse and HIV/AIDS awareness-raising campaigns. Future plans include the development of mass media campaigns on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, for young people in the four Central Asian countries, including Uzbekistan.

## SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES

- On May 10–11, 2006, UNODC organized a two-day seminar in Tashkent for journalism students, focusing on **coverage of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS issues in the media**. The seminar drew on international best practices and practical experience, in order to increase the students' knowledge and reporting skills on the topic, as well as to encourage young journalists to cover issues related to drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, fairly and objectively.
- To mark the International Day against Drugs and Illicit Drug Trafficking on June 26, 2006, the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia, together with volunteers, organized several training workshops at orphanages in Tashkent. The workshops raised awareness among young people aged 13–17 on drug abuse, **HIV/AIDS and healthy lifestyle promotion** through interactive games, information dissemination and peer-led discussions. Over 60 teenagers have been trained.

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# WORLD BANK AND YOUTH IN UZBEKISTAN



**The World Bank** is also one of the world's largest research centers in development economics, which includes the study of poverty, trade, globalization, and the environment. It has specialized departments that use this knowledge to advise countries in such areas as health, education, nutrition, finance, justice, law and environment. Another part of the Bank, the World Bank Institute, offers training to government and other officials in the world through local research and teaching institutions.

## THE WORLD BANK'S FOCUS ON YOUTH

Why the focus on youth? The majority of the world's people are under the age of 25. Many live in the world's poorest countries. Youth can be powerful agents for change if given the opportunity to voice their views and develop and test their capabilities and creativity.

The World Bank works in an integrated way to meet the challenges of young people in developing countries and make sure that young people's views and challenges are included when decisions are made.

## WORLD BANK IN UZBEKISTAN

Over the past two years, the World Bank country office in Uzbekistan has stepped up its work with young people and organizes a wide variety of youth-targeted activities and events. The facilities of a **Public Information Center (PIC)** are widely used for raising young people's awareness about development in general and the World Bank in particular. Events arranged for youth include: country manager's meetings and lectures for students, learning events and presentations at universities, contests and competitions and PIC visits.

## SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES

- During the period August 3–10, 2006, the **Central Asia Regional Youth Summer Camp "Youth Participation in Country and Regional Development"** took place in a mountain resort near Almaty, Kazakhstan. 117 youth leaders from various youth organizations and movements of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, participated in the event, together with representatives from the World Bank, donor institutions, government agencies from five Central Asian countries, and guests from Russia, Turkey and Macedonia. The aim of the camp was to provide a forum for young people to exchange ideas and discuss ways and mechanisms for youth participation in the development and decision-making processes for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Central Asian countries.
- **Youth for Development and Peace (YDP) local network**—The main objectives are: to exchange information and invite members of the group to events in various institutions.
- **Youth Media Center group**—A group of journalists-volunteers, who provide input to YDP pages on the [www.worldbank.org.uz](http://www.worldbank.org.uz) website. The website provides a space for discussing topics which are regarded as a priority for the young generation by YDP, including HIV/AIDS, education, employment, conflict resolution and prevention, and many others.

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# THE UN WORLD AND YOUTH

## **International Labour Organization Youth Employment Network**

The International Labour organization estimates that around 88.2 million young women and men are unemployed throughout the world, accounting for 47 per cent of all the 185.9 million unemployed persons globally, and many more young people are working long hours for low pay, struggling to eke out a living in the informal economy. <http://www.ilo.org>

## **UN–HABITAT’s Partners and Youth Section**

UN–HABITAT has long campaigned for closer relations with civil society, parliamentarians, and the private sector around the world and within the United Nations System.

<http://www.unhabitat.org>

## **United Nations Cyberschoolbus**

The United Nations Cyberschoolbus was created in 1996 as the online education component of the Global Teaching and Learning Project, whose mission is to promote education about international issues and the United Nations. The Global Teaching and Learning Project produces high quality teaching materials and activities designed for educational use (at primary, intermediate and secondary school levels) and for teacher training.

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev>

## **UNICEF Adolescence**

Adolescents are getting increasing attention in the news, in speeches of politicians, on the agendas of development agencies and in the concerns of religious leaders.

<http://www.unicef.org/adolescence>

## **UNICEF Voices of Youth**

Voices of Youth has been around since 1995! It started as a way for more than 3,000 young people from 81 countries to send messages to world leaders at the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in the spring of 1995. It was also developed as part of the celebrations for UNICEF’s 50th Anniversary. <http://www.unicef.org/voy>

## **United Nations Environment Programme: Tunza for Youth**

The overall TUNZA concept, therefore, is built around this theme. It is an initiative that is meant to develop activities in the areas of capacity building, environmental awareness, and information exchange, with a vision to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens, capable of positive action.

<http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth>

## **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Global Youth Network**

The Global Youth Network project is run by UNODC to increase youth involvement with the international community in developing drug abuse prevention policies and programmes. We hope to create a community of interest among youth and youth workers in the field of drug abuse prevention.

<http://www.unodc.org/youthnet>

## **United Nations Population Fund Global Youth Partners**

Young people need to be placed at the centre of the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. There is no age restriction for leadership. Young people are assets, not liabilities, their voices need to be heard and their talents cultivated so they can be instruments for change.

<http://www.unfpa.org/hiv/gyp>

## **UN Food and Agricultural Organization’s Rural Youth web site**

A primary role of the FAO Rural Youth Programme is to provide research and experience-based knowledge, information and technical assistance to help governmental and non-governmental organizations in member states to strengthen and expand rural youth programming. <http://www.fao.org>

## **UN Volunteers**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that supports human development globally by promoting volunteerism and by mobilizing volunteers.

<http://www.unv.org>

## **UN Global Youth Leadership Summit**

The United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit (GYLS) seeks to strengthen the worldwide movement to engage young people in decisions about the future of their communities, regions, and our emerging global society.

<http://www.un.org/youthsummit>

## **World Bank—Children and Youth**

The World Bank is the world’s largest lender for education and health: the two sectors most directly related to children and youth outcomes. Moreover, it has contributed significantly to addressing the issues of poverty, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, social protection and social development, all sectors affecting the lives of young people.

<http://www.worldbank.org/children-youth>

# JOURNEY TO YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

## **Arab Youth Directory**

The idea of establishing a specialized website on Arab youth NGOs was raised in view of the shortage in communication and cooperation among NGOs at the national and regional levels, with concerned official bodies, and with the United Nations System in general. <http://www.escwa.org.lb>

## **Changemakers**

Our vision is to see young people realize their capacity to play a positive and valued role in community change. “The future is not what older people think, but what younger people do”.

<http://www.changemakers.org.uk>

## **Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service**

Founded by UNESCO in 1948, CCSVI acts as a coordinating link between voluntary service organizations all over the world.

<http://www.unesco.org/ccivs>

## **Council of Europe—Youth**

The principle of youth participation finds its full expression in a system of co-management through which the Council of Europe develops its youth policy. Representatives of non-governmental youth bodies and government officials sit together in committees which set priorities for the youth sector and make proposals for the budget and programme. <http://www.coe.int>

## **Global Youth Action Network**

While acknowledged as being the future, the majority of young people believe their voices have little or no impact in society. Thousands of youth organizations have been created, but there is inefficient sharing of information between them, resulting in duplication of effort. GYAN provides the necessary framework for international collaboration and cooperative youth-adult partnerships. <http://www.youthlink.org>

## **Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA)**

GYCA is a UNAIDS and UNFPA supported, youth-managed alliance of close to 600 youth leaders in HIV/AIDS representing over 66 countries. <http://www.youthaidcoalition.org>

## **International Confederation of Free Trade Unions—Youth Section**

628 million young people between 15–24 years work. They make up 22% of the total labour force in the world.

<http://www.icftu.org>

## **International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People**

IFHOHYP is an international non-governmental federation for national and regional youth organizations that are dedicated to hard of hearing young people throughout the world and is independent of sex, race, religion, nationality and politics.

<http://www.ifhohyp.org>

## **Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD)**

The LEAD Program, is a non-profit organization that trains mid-career professionals to carry forth a vision of sustainable development using a combination of interdisciplinary methods, interactive skills building for selected future leaders whose actions will contribute to the decisions made about environment and development issues in most parts of the world. Information is available in English at <http://www.lead.org/>

## **Oxfam International Youth Parliament**

The Oxfam International Youth Parliament supports a network of young leaders in 150 countries to work for positive and lasting change in their communities. <http://www.iyp.oxfam.org>

## **TakingITGlobal**

TakingITGlobal (TIG) is an international organization—led by youth and enabled by technology. TIG connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action to improve their local and global communities.

<http://www.takingitglobal.org>

## **Youth Action For Change**

Inspires and helps young people empower themselves while tackling the issues affecting their communities and the world at large. They have developed a global network of conscious and self-reliant youth in 83 countries worldwide. Their programs, provided free of charge, include online courses, mentoring, youth-led programs advice and guidance.

<http://www.youthactionforchange.org>

## **Youthink—World Bank**

Here you'll find information about global issues that matter to young people today. Explore the research, knowledge and experience gathered by World Bank experts on issues like poverty, development, and conflict.

<http://youthink.worldbank.org>

# HOW TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER

A Volunteer is someone who serves in community primarily because they choose to do so. Many serve through non-profit organizations, sometimes referred to as formal volunteering, but a significant number also serve less formally, either individually or as a part of a group.

One of innovative mechanisms of society development is youth volunteerism. Youth volunteerism is when a young person aged 12 to 21 do voluntary works that is of benefit to their community. Youth volunteering as young people are seen as the future input for country development.

Youth volunteering for development is good way to engage young men and women in a range of activities that can improve youth participation in society development and positively harness the energy, vigour and innovation of young people to contribute to the achievement of national and global goals, in particular the MDGs.

United Nations agencies broadly support young people's initiatives in achieving the MDGs and improving living standards; fostering democratic governance; promoting environmental policies; strengthening global partnership and fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases.

More importantly, whatever role a volunteer chooses to fulfil, their name, talent and passion add value to the work of UN agencies in countless ways. While volunteers expect nothing in return for services rendered, many have testified to the rewards they have experienced through their work. Most of them gain new skills or a growth in self-confidence. Volunteering gives a chance to learn from experts in the field, to meet people with firsthand experience and in some cases to have the opportunity to travel.

If you are just beginning to think about volunteering, you could ask yourself:

- Is there a particular issue I'd like to support?
- Are there particular tasks or activities I'd like to undertake, or skills that I would like to offer or learn?
- How much time do I have to offer?

When you know what to do, either search for additional information from UN agencies' websites or see links given below. You can apply to be national or international volunteer programs on a chosen field. Volunteering experience can enrich your CV if you are interested in an international development and more importantly you will receive a great satisfaction from helping people.

## **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

The UNV programme supports human development globally by promoting volunteerism and mobilizing volunteers in initiatives around the world.

<http://www.unvolunteers.org>

## **Do-it.org**

Do-it.org is a national database of volunteering opportunities, which allows you to search by interests such as international aid, disaster relief, human rights etc.

<http://www.do-it.org.uk>

## **Millennium Volunteers**

Millennium Volunteers (MVs) are young people who give up their free time to help their local communities. You might find them coaching a school football team, working at a community radio station or helping create a garden for local residents. MV allows young people to build on their interests, develop themselves and make a difference in their communities.

[www.millenniumvolunteers.gov.uk](http://www.millenniumvolunteers.gov.uk)

## **Online Volunteering**

This is a UN website for virtual volunteers who can serve communities in developing countries without leaving home (translating documents, writing articles, etc).

<http://www.onlinevolunteering.org>

## **Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)**

VSO is an international development charity combating poverty in the developing world. VSO was voted top international development charity in the International Aid and Development category at the Charity Awards 2004 for its work in promoting innovative approaches to globalising volunteering.

[www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk)

## **World Volunteer Web**

Provides a directory of volunteer organizations around the world. The World Volunteer Web supports the volunteer community by serving as a global clearinghouse for information and resources linked to volunteerism that can be used for campaigning, advocacy and networking. It is an online hub where the community can meet, share resources and coordinate activities to mobilize volunteer action in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org>

# ANNEX I

## UN MILLENNIUM DECLARATION



United Nations Millennium Declaration outlines the following:

**Freedom:** Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic

and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.

**Equality:** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.

**Solidarity:** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.

**Tolerance:** Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.

**Respect for nature:** Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.

**Shared responsibility:** Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.

To put core values into action the declaration has identified the following key objectives:

- Peace, security and disarmament
- Development and poverty eradication
- Protecting our common environment
- Human rights, democracy and good governance.
- Protecting the vulnerable

## DEVELOPMENT

“We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for the entire world’s people”. The world leaders identified global poverty as the most daunting of all the problems facing the world in the new century, one that they resolved to tackle by creating “an environment — at the national and global levels alike — which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty”.

To help drive this effort, they included a series of clear, time-bound, development targets in the Declaration, targets which were subsequently consolidated as the Millennium Development Goals. The first seven Goals range from stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS to providing universal primary education, with the overarching aim of halving extreme poverty, all by the deadline of 2015. The eighth — “a global partnership for development” — comprises a set of commitments by developed countries to support these efforts through increased aid, a non-discriminatory trading system and debt relief.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGS

The Millennium Development Goals are outcomes rather than inputs. The Millennium Declaration explicitly recognizes the importance of factors not mentioned in the Goals themselves — such as good governance, the role of the private sector and civil society and the importance of “decent and productive work”, especially for young people — in achieving broader development. Nevertheless, while the Goals may not by themselves constitute a comprehensive development vision, they are a measurable set of human development benchmarks that can provide clear indications of whether the world is managing to build the more “inclusive and equitable” globalization called for in the Declaration.

## CONCLUSION

For the first time in human history, we have the resources, the knowledge and the expertise to eradicate human poverty — and to do it within the lifetime of a child born at the time when the Millennium Declaration was adopted. Reaching the Millennium Development Goals, which are an essential part of the Declaration, would be a critical step towards achieving that end. The Goals are thus the best hope for the world’s poor. They can be reached if, during the 8 years we still have before 2015, we maintain and increase the momentum that has been generated during the first three years of the new century.

# ANNEX II

## MDG GLOSSARY

**Accountability**—The requirement that officials answer to stakeholders on the disposal of their powers and duties, act on criticisms made of them, and accept responsibility for failure, incompetence or deceit. Accountability cannot be enforced without transparency and the rule of law. Obligation to demonstrate and take responsibility for the performance in light of agreed expectations.

**Advocacy**—The act of persuasion, that is, of trying to convince others or of trying to create a shift in public opinion, and/or to mobilize resources and support for an issue, action, policy or constituency.

**AIDS**—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome: the medical diagnosis given when someone with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) has developed illnesses recognized as associated with the HIV infection.

**Antiretroviral drugs**—A combination of drugs often prescribed to people who are HIV positive, which restrain the HIV virus at different stages in its life cycle. The drugs are given in various combinations of three or four drugs, known as Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy or HAART. These prevent HIV from mutating into forms that are resistant to the antiretroviral drugs.

**Asset**—A valuable item such as property, land, capital, money, a share in ownership or a claim on others for future payment, such as a bond or a bank deposit.

**Basic needs**—Basic human needs including foodstuff, their caloric value, housing, clothing, health care and education.

**Bilateral Assistance**—The international transfer of public funds in the form of loans or grants directly from one government to another.

**Biodiversity**—The variety of life forms occurring in both land and aquatic ecosystems. Diversity is the key to ensuring the continuance of life on Earth. It is also a fundamental requirement.

**Birth rate, crude**—The number of children born alive each year, per thousand of population. A crude birth rate of 20 per 1000 is the same as a 2 percent increase.

**Campaigning**—A set of continued, focused, integrated and measured set of actions with a defined goal(s) and timeframe.

**Capacity Building**—The development of an organization's core skills, such as leadership, management and fundraising.

**Communications**—A process by which people share information, knowledge, values and norms.

**Common Country Assessment (CCA)**—The CCA is the common instrument of the UN system to analyse the national development situation and to identify key development issues. It is prepared by the UN Country Team in consultation with the government.

**Common Market**—A form of economic integration between states. Both people and money are able to move freely between

the partner states; there is also free trade between them. The European Union is one example.

**Costing**—Procedures used for rationally classifying, recording, and allocating current or predicted costs that relate to a certain production or service process. MDG costing provides a quantitative basis for defining anti-poverty strategies and programmes, as well as for forecasting needs and gaps and for mobilising additional resources.

**Country Assistance Strategy**—The World Bank's business plan to support the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

**Conservation**—The management of the natural world and its resources. Conservationist aim for sustainable benefit without inflicting damage to the environment.

**Debt relief**—A term used variously to refer to rescheduling and refinancing; debt reduction and debt service reduction; or both.

**Deforestation**—The process of clearing of forests. This is seen generally as a negative action due to the fact that forests and trees protect soil, regulate the climate and contain the greatest biodiversity.

**Demography**—The statistical study of human population, especially with reference to size and density, distribution and vital statistics

**Desertification**—The process of land becoming desert due to climate change or human action, especially in arid or semi-arid regions bordering existing deserts.

**Development**—The process of improving the quality of human lives around the world. Development includes three aspects: Raising people's living standards—incomes and consumption levels of food, medical services, education; the growth of people's self-esteem through systems and institutions which promote human dignity and respect; increasing people's freedom to choose by enlarging the range of their choice, for example, a greater variety of consumer goods and services.

**Development Assistance Committee (DAC)**—This committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), consists of 21 donor countries and the European Commission, decides on ways to increase the level and effectiveness of development aid.

**Developing countries**—Countries liberated from colonial dependence that pursue an independent development policy. Generally, these are low and middle income countries, in which people have access to fewer goods and services than do people in high income countries. Today, there are about 125 developing countries with a combined population of over 4.9 billion people.

**Discrimination**—Humiliation and persecution of persons or social groups on grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality, social origin and sex.

**Donor Country**—The country that provides its financial, material or other resources to another country.

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**DOTS strategy**—Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course to cure tuberculosis.

**Economic development**—The process of improving the quality of human life through increasing per capita income, reducing poverty and enhancement of individual economic opportunities. It is also sometimes defined to include better education, improved health and nutrition, conservation of natural resources, a cleaner environment and a richer cultural life.

**Economic growth**—An increase in the nation's capacity to produce goods and services over a long period. This is calculated by using Gross National Product (GNP), which is the combined total of a country's goods and services in a year.

**Economies of scale**—The economic principle states that as the volume of production increases, the cost of producing each unit decreases.

**Environment**—The complex set of physical, geographical, biological, social, cultural and political conditions that surround individuals or organisms and that ultimately determines its form and nature of survival.

**Fertility rate**—The number of children born alive annually, per 1,000 women within the childbearing age bracket (normally between the ages of 15 and 49 years)

**Focus Group**—A method of collecting information for research and evaluation where, typically, a small group of people is assembled for the purpose of obtaining perceptions or opinions, suggesting ideas, or recommending actions.

**G7/G8 Group**—The G7 Group of major industrialised democracies comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States. The Group of Eight (G8) includes Russia as well as the Heads of Governments meet annually at the G7/G8 Summit to discuss areas of global concern.

**Gender**—The sexual identity and relations of men and women in society. Gender relations often change in response to altering circumstances. This contrasts with sex which identifies the biological difference between women and men and does not alter over time.

**Gender analysis**—The systematic way of looking at the different impacts of development on women and men. This includes looking at sexual division of labour, the access and control men and women have over inputs required for their labour and the benefits of their labour. It also takes into account how factors of class, race, ethnicity or other factors interact with gender to produce discriminatory results.

**Gender equality**—Gender equality occurs when women and men have equal access to socially valued goods and resources.

**Gender equity**—The fair treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. A gender equity goal often requires built-in measures to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages of women.

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**—Measures the total final outputs of goods and services produced by the country's economy, i.e within the country's territory.

**Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries (HiPCs)**—Forty-one low-income countries whose external debt level is deemed to be unsustainable.

**Human Development Report (HDR)**—UNDP's annual publication ranks countries world-wide by a range of social and economic factors. In 2003, the HDR also presented national data on the Millennium Development Goals and targets. While commissioned by UNDP, the report is produced by an independent team of experts.

**Impact**—The extent to which a program or project has made a long-term change.

**International Development Association (IDA)**—Offers assistance to the poorest countries, providing them with interest free loans, technical assistance and policy advice. The IDA is funded by wealthier nations and accounts for around 25 per cent of all World Bank lending. IDA lends only to those countries that have a per capita income of less than US\$ 885 (1999 figures) and lack the financial ability to borrow from World Bank.

**Indicator**—Indicators are the specific numerical measures of the quality of life in a country. They are used to illustrate progress of a country in meeting a range of economic, social and environmental goals.

**Industrial waste**—Material that is left over from a manufacturing process. It may be harmful and cause pollution if not treated and/or disposed properly.

**Infant mortality**—The number of deaths among children aged 0–12 months per 1,000 live births in a given year.

**Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**—Forty-eight poor and vulnerable countries, defined by the UN, with an annual per capita income of less than US\$ 1 per day.

**Life expectancy at birth**—Indicates the number of years newborn children will be expected to live if subject to the mortality risks prevailing for a cross section of the population at the time of their birth.

**Malnutrition**—Not having enough nourishing food with adequate amounts of protein, vitamins, minerals, calories, etc, to support human growth and development.

**Maternal mortality**—Death occurring during or within 42 days of a pregnancy from causes related to pregnancy. The maternal mortality rate is the number of women who die as a result of childbearing in a given year per 100,000 births.

**Millennium Campaign**—A public information and advocacy campaign that aims to help create the conditions necessary for achievement of the MDGs. UNDP, on behalf of the UNDG, established the Campaign at the request of the Secretary General. Campaigning and mobilisation is one of four key components of the UN's Core Strategy on the MDGs.

**Millennium Declaration**—189 nations adopted this declaration at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The Declaration

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sets forth values and principles, and key objectives to translate these values into action. These key objectives and values are necessary foundations for attainment of any MDG.

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**—The MDGs are eight ambitious goals to be achieved by 2015, for example, Goal 1: “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.” The 8 MDGs were drawn directly from the actions and values contained in the Millennium Declaration, and build on goals identified in the global summits of the 1990s.

**Millennium Development Goals Report (MDGR)**—The MDGR is primarily a tool to raise awareness and for public advocacy. Its audience is the general public, parliamentarians, the media, CSO representatives, professional associations and schoolteachers. The MDGR is a user-friendly presentation of the current status and trends toward each nationally defined target.

**MDG Indicators**—An indicator is the measurable, quantifiable agreed upon statistic used alone or with others to monitor progress toward an MDG. For example, Indicator 1, associated with Target 1 and Goal 1 is: the proportion of population below US\$ 1 per day in income level. There are 48 indicators in total assigned to the MDGs.

**MDG Support Programme**—Following UNDG’s adoption of a Core Strategy on the MDGs on 1 July 2002, UNDP prepared an MDG Support Programme for an initial period of three years (2002-05). The Programme document serves to mobilize resources for three of the four pillars of the core strategy: analytical work (the Millennium Project); campaigning (the Millennium Campaign); and country monitoring (coordinated by the UNDP/BDP/Poverty Group).

**MDG Targets**—A target is the measurable, quantified outcome to be achieved in order to meet an MDG, for example, Target 1 associated with MDG 1: “halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day by 2015.”

**Millennium Project**—An independent advisory project commissioned by the Secretary-General to propose and to recommend operational frameworks for achieving the MDGs, by bringing together the best current thinking and research on these issues. Analysis is one of four key components of the UN’s Core Strategy on the MDGs.

**Millennium Summit**—Leaders of 189 nations met in New York from 6-8 September 2000, under the overall “Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century”. It was the largest meeting of heads of state ever. The Millennium Declaration was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during this summit.

**Millennium Trust Fund (MTF)**—Resources for the MDGs Support Programme are channelled through this new trust fund and managed by the MDG Unit of Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships (BRSP). Special features of the MTF are that it provides resources

directly only to the Millennium Project, the Millennium Campaign and the Bureau for Development Policy/Poverty Group; and that only two of these beneficiary units have funding windows that can be accessed by UNDP Country Offices: the Millennium Campaign and BDP/Poverty Group, and are meant to be spent in consultation with and on behalf of the UN Country Team.

**National Human Development Report (NHDR)**—The NHDR is primarily a tool for policy advocacy and debate. It gives an in-depth analysis of options for fostering human development, and a source of detailed and disaggregated data on MDG targets. It targets experts and specialists in government, civil society organizations, educational institutions and officials in donor and international agencies.

**Natural Resources**—Materials that occur in nature and are essential or useful to humans, such as water, air, land, forests, fish and wildlife, topsoil and minerals.

**Needs Assessment**—Detailed quantitative assessment of necessary interventions (inputs) and corresponding targets to achieve the MDGs (outcomes), human resource requirements, infrastructure, financial resource requirements, and financing strategy.

**Official Development Assistance (ODA)**—Assistance on concessional terms (with a grant element of at least 25 per cent), provided by member countries of the Development Assistance Committee, to promote economic development in developing countries.

**Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)**—The medium-term ‘action plan’ for reaching longer-term MDG targets through policy reforms, budget restructuring and international support. Nationally-agreed MDG targets must form the central objectives of a nationally-owned PRSP.

**Poverty line**—The level of income below which a person is considered not to be able to satisfy their basic needs. This level varies across time and societies, and each country bases its line on what is appropriate to its level of development and its social values.

**Primary Health Care**—Health services such as clean water supply, sanitation, immunization and nutrition education. They are designed to be affordable for both those in poverty who receive them and the governments that provide them. They stress preventing disease as well as curing it.

**Scaling up**—In the MDG context, is expanding or extending current programmes, activities, capacities, and pilot initiatives throughout a country to a national scale, while maintaining the quality or impact of the approach. This implies expanding activities and abilities to a degree in which the country is able to achieve the MDGs.

**Stakeholder**—An individual, group or organization that has something to gain or lose from involvement in a given project, policy, initiative, etc.

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