

The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight specific goals to be met by 2015 that aim to combat extreme poverty across the world. These goals were created at the UN Millennium Summit in New York in 2000, the largest gathering of world leaders in history. They help focus the world community on improving the lives of millions of people by, for example, aiming to half the number of people living in absolute poverty by 2015, and reduce by two-thirds the proportion of children dying before the age of five.

The Millennium Declaration (from which the eight goals are drawn), was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state, and promised to 'free all men, women, and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.

The eight goals:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

To cut by half the number of people living on less than a dollar a day by 2015.

To cut by half the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

To ensure that all children complete primary school by 2015.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

To ensure that girls have the same chance to go to school as boys by 2015, but preferably by 2005.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

To cut by two-thirds the number of deaths of children under the age of five by 2015.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

To cut by three-quarters the number of women who die when giving birth.

Goal 6: Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases

To begin to reduce the spread of HIV / Aids by 2015.

To begin to reduce the number of people catching major diseases, including malaria, by 2015.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

To cut by half the number of people who do not have access to safe, clean water by 2015.

To reduce the number of people who live in slums by 2010.

To end loss and start to increase the world's natural resources by 2015.

Goal 8: To secure a global partnership for development

For the world to have a fair trading system within and between countries that leads to economic development and less poverty.

[From *Young Lives, Global Goals*, Save the Children, 2004]