



United
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Association
of Australia

THE UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND BEYOND

“ There is no global project more worthwhile.
... Let us keep the promise.”

– SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON, IN HIS OPENING REMARKS TO THE MDG SUMMIT, 20 SEPTEMBER 2010

> BACKGROUND TO THE UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

During the Millennium Summit, held in September of 2000, world leaders unanimously agreed to the Millennium Declaration, representing a commitment to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable improve their living standards by the end of 2015. This declaration stated that all nation state signatories recognise that they “have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level.” It was from this declaration that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) emerged.

Given that the Millennium Development Goals expired at the end of 2015, it has provided a unique opportunity to build on the success of the MDG's in the creation of a new development agenda, known as the Sustainable Development Goals.

> SUCCESS OF THE MDG'S:



GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

This goal sought to halve the percentage of people living on less than \$1.25 a day and the percentage suffering from extreme hunger, based on 1990 levels. This target has been met as extreme poverty rates in developing countries fell from 47% in 1990 to 14% in 2015. The number of people globally living in extreme poverty has also halved, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015.



GOAL 2: TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION:

This goal sought to ensure that by 2015 both boys and girls are able to fully complete their primary education. In developing areas, the percentage of children in primary education has risen to 91% in 2015. Although the number of primary aged children out of school has almost halved since 2000, there still remains 57 million children still not attending school.



GOAL 3: TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Along with children not attending school, there still remains a gender gap in school attendance. The developing regions as a whole have achieved the target to eliminate gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education. Women's employment prospects and representation in national parliaments have also improved yet still only one in five members are women. There still remains significant inequality with women more likely to hold less secure jobs.



GOAL 4: TO REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

The number of deaths in children under five has declined from 12.7 million in 1990 to almost 6 million in 2015, equating to almost 20,000 fewer children dying each day. Measles vaccines alone have prevented over 15.6 million deaths between 2000 and 2013. Despite significant progress being made, efforts to reduce child mortality have fallen short of their goal of a two-thirds reduction, with many children still dying due to preventable causes.



GOAL 5: TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Maternal mortality rates have fallen by 45% since 1990, an impressive effort but falling short of the 75% target by 2015. More women are receiving birthing assistance by skilled health personnel, up from 59% in 1990 to 71% in 2014. However, in developing regions only half of women receive the recommended level of care, well short of the goal for universal access by 2015.



GOAL 6: TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER DISEASES

Rates of HIV infection has been steadily falling in most regions with new infections falling by approximately 40% between 2000 and 2013. Access to antiretroviral therapy has saved 7.6 million lives since 1995 with a record 13.6 million people receiving therapy in June 2014, achieving the MDG target of reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Between 2000 and 2015, global deaths due to malaria fell by 58%. Tuberculosis mortality rate has also seen a decline by 45% and the prevalence rate by 41% between 1990 and 2013.



GOAL 7: TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This goal has numerous separate targets: improving sustainable development, reducing biodiversity loss, halving the number without access to basic sanitation and improving the lives of at least 100 million people living in slums. Progress in achieving this goal has been mixed. 2.6 billion people have gained access to improved water supplies, exceeding the MDG target. The number of slum dwellers living in improved conditions was 200 million, twice the MDG target. However the number of slums in absolute terms has in fact risen, with an estimated 863 million still residing in slums. Significantly, since 1990 global carbon emissions have increased by 50 percent. Global emission growth has been accelerating, requiring immediate action to prevent irreversible damage.



GOAL 8: TO DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Developing countries have made great gains in improving their financial and trading situation. In 2012 the developing country share of world trade grew to 44.4 percent. A reduction in debt service ratios has also lessened the financial burden on developing states. In 2015, global development assistance from developed countries totalled \$135.2, the highest ever figure. It is worth noting with concern however that aid is becoming increasingly concentrated with the top 20 aid receivers accounting for 55 percent of all aid. The MDG commitment to addressing the needs of small landlocked states has fallen away, with aid to small island nations greatly increasing.

> THE FUTURE: UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)

“World leaders have an unprecedented opportunity this year to shift the world onto a path of inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development”

– HELEN CLARK, UNDP ADMINISTRATOR, JANUARY 2015.

With the MDGs having ended in 2015, the UN has in place plans for the future of international development. The Rio+20 summit, held in July 2012 marked the beginning of this journey, with countries agreeing to the development of Sustainable Development Goals that build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals. In their current form, the SDGs encompasses 17 ambitious goals, covering poverty and food security to ocean conservation and climate change. See our fact sheet on the UN Sustainable Development Goals for more details.



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