

7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources.
- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

8. Develop a global partnership for development.

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.
- Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries.
- Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states.
- Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.
- In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.
- In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries.
- In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.



Are the MDGs affordable? The answer is: yes, they are financially affordable and technically feasible. An extra \$50 billion in donor resources per year will go a long way towards reaching the MDGs at the global level. Although this figure may appear large in absolute terms, it represents around one-fifth of one percent of annual donor income. The Millennium Declaration offers a great opportunity to coordinate action at the national and international levels and to draw resources towards achieving the MDGs -- as long as we are able to keep focused on the targets, accountable for results, and be able to design consistent economic and social policies.



The Office of the Resident Coordinator

Address: UNDP, Phonekheng Rd. P.O. BOX 345

Vientiane, Lao PDR

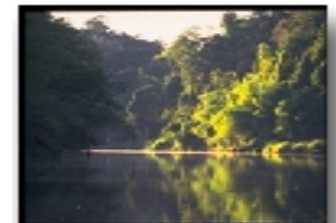
Phone: (856-21) 213390/213391/213394-7

Fax: (856-21) 212029

E-mail: fo.lao@undp.org

website: <http://www.unlao.org>

Millennium Development Goals



Millennium Development Goals Background

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent the ambitious global targets set by the world's leaders at the Millennium Summit in New York. They include halving extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education and gender equality, reducing under-five mortality and maternal mortality rates by two thirds and three quarters respectively, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Most of these global targets are to be achieved by 2015 using 1990 as the baseline.

The MDGs summarize the international development goals agreed upon at world conferences and global summits during the 1990s. In September 2000, 147 heads of State and Government, and 191 nations in total, adopted the *Millennium Declaration*. The Declaration outlines peace, security, development and poverty eradication goals and also focuses on environmental protection, promotion of human rights, democracy and good governance.

The list of 8 goals, 18 targets and 40+ indicators, prepared in collaboration between the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), will help ensure a common understanding and assessment of the MDGs at global, regional and national levels. Numerical targets have been set for each goal, and measurable indicators selected to monitor progress on each of the targets.

For example, the MDG #2 is to achieve universal primary education.

The target is to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

The three indicators are:

- Net enrolment ratio in primary education;
- Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5; and
- Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds.

The MDGs also take into account the national development priorities. This means that the MDGs need to be adapted to the country-specific situation, and mainstreamed by the Government into the national development policies and programmes.

The MDGs represent a partnership between developed and developing countries to “create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty” (Millennium Declaration). The MDGs help to set priorities around some of the most pressing issues of human development, and to focus national and international priority-setting on a limited number of goals/targets, keeping them stable over time and easy to communicate to a broad audience.

So far, progress towards the MDGs has been mixed. While some countries are on track for some goals, none of the MDGs is likely to be reached at the current rate of global progress. The sad truth is that global progress has actually slowed down in the 1990s compared with earlier decades. The reasons are many, and they are often country-specific; but often they include: insufficient and inefficient public spending, crippling debt burdens, inadequate market access in developed countries, and declining official development assistance.

For example, in 1990 the *Education for All* goal was set for the year 2000. While the gender gap in education was effectively reduced, the 1990s saw only a tenth of the progress needed. The goalpost was then moved to 2015, but at the current rate this promise may not be kept either. The progress will have to accelerate fourfold if the universal education goal is to be achieved.

The MDG reporting (MDGR) can help to accelerate progress.

At the global level, the UN Secretary-General will report annually to the General Assembly on progress towards a selected set of the MDGs, and report more comprehensively every five years. At the country level, the UN Country Team will support the Government in monitoring progress and preparing the national MDG Reports. By the end of 2004, every programme country will have produced at least one such report in time for the Secretary-General's global report on the MDG progress in 2005.

The MDGs can be achieved but a large majority of countries are unlikely to reach them without concerted support from the Government and international community, including resources, policy advice and advocacy.

Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than a dollar a day.
- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education.

- Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women.

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

4. Reduce child mortality.

- Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

5. Improve maternal health.

- Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.