

The U.N. Millennium Goals: Purpose, History, and Contributions

The U.N. Millennium Goals

The U.N. Millennium Goals are a series of eight different developmental goals that have been set by the United Nations to further the betterment of the world.

These goals are:

1. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal and primary education.
3. Promote gender equality for the empowerment of women.
4. Reduce child mortality rates.
5. Improve maternal health (reduce maternal mortality).
6. Combat HIV/AIDS and other major diseases
7. Create environmental stability.
8. Develop global partnership to promote development.

History of the Eight Goals

The Millennium Goals was commissioned by Ban Ki-Moon in 2002 as a concrete plan for the world to achieve maximum development. In 2005, the independent advisory body headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, presented its final recommendations to the Secretary-General in a synthesis volume titled: Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The bulk of the introduced project's work was carried out by the 10 Thematic Task Forces, each of which also presented its own detailed recommendations in January 2005. These Task Forces were comprised of a total of more than 250 experts from around the world.

Even since 2000, Canada and various other countries have committed themselves to the Millennium Development Goals through a number of major initiatives, still on the way to being accomplished.

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Notable Contributions

1. Food Aid is the most effective, the UN feeds about 104 million people a year in 80 countries.
2. Aid to Refugees helps refugees directly to work and to ensure that the government meets their responsibilities. However, there have been allegations regarded sexual harassment against the head of the program, who was later forced to resign.
3. Peace Keeping: The UN has 16 active peacekeeping missions in various countries, and has made real progress since 2000.

Fun Facts

1. The percentage of underweight children in developing countries dropped from 28% to 17% since the introduction of the Eight Goals.
2. Since the Goals have been introduced, cases of tuberculosis are declining.
3. The U.N. has accomplished a goal to allow access to drinking water for countries lacking water, but is still working on sanitation.