



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

- In September 2000, leaders from all 191 United Nations member states developed and adopted the Millennium Declaration, a written commitment to end extreme poverty worldwide by 2015.
- The Millennium Development Goals are eight development objectives that comprise the Millennium Declaration. These specific objectives will help achieve the overall goal of ending extreme global poverty. See below for a list of the goals.

Progress on the MDGs: The 2005 World Summit

- It is evident that unless progress is accelerated, these goals will not be met by 2015. Poverty and hunger continue to take their toll on developing nations, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to spread worldwide.
- In September 2005, leaders from all UN member states reconvened to discuss the progress on the Millennium Development Goals and renew their commitment to achieving them.
- The leaders agreed to intensify their commitment on a variety of issues related to poverty reduction, including a pledge to scale up response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria through prevention, treatment, care, and support. Additionally, they pledged increased support from unilateral, bilateral, multilateral and private funding sources.

How the MDGs relate to HIV/AIDS

- Although there is a goal that specifically addresses the HIV/AIDS pandemic, all of the MDGs play an important role in halting and reversing the spread of this disease. Conversely, the continuing spread of HIV/AIDS undermines progress towards reaching the MDGs.
- Global HIV/AIDS often goes hand-in-hand with poverty. People who lack basic resources and education are at a higher risk for contracting HIV because they are forced to make survival choices that may compromise their health. Therefore, by increasing primary education, empowering women, and reducing hunger and sickness, we create an environment in which people are less susceptible to becoming infected with HIV/AIDS as well as other infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria.
 - GAA, along with many other organizations, is working to eliminate school fees, which would not only accelerate progress towards Goal Two ("Achieve universal primary education"), but help increase the quality of life for at-risk individuals and reduce their risks of disease.
- Additionally, access to resources will help improve the quality of life for those already infected with HIV/AIDS. Decreasing the incidence of tuberculosis is vital to protecting HIV-positive individuals, as TB is the number one killer for people with HIV/AIDS. Access to a safe, nutritious, and consistent food supply is also critical, as good nutrition affects a person's ability to stay healthy once infected with HIV.

The eight goals and their targets

1. *Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2. *Achieve universal primary education*
 - Ensure that all boys and girls 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 the mortality rate of children under five
5. *Improve maternal health*
 - Reduce by three-quarters 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
7. *Ensure environmental sustainability*
 - Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
 - Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020
8. *Develop a global partnership for development*
 - Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory, includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally
 - Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction
 - Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states
 - Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term
 - In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth
 - In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
 - In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies—especially information and communications technologies

Accountability for Achieving Goal Six: The UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

In June 2001, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS produced a Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which was adopted by the governments present at the Special Session. In the Declaration, governments outline what they plan to do to halt and reverse the pandemic, often with specific deadlines. While not a legally binding document, the Declaration is a powerful tool to guide and secure action, commitment, and resources to fight the pandemic. It is a way for citizens to hold governments accountable for their promises to fight HIV/AIDS.

To get involved in ending global poverty and diseases of poverty like HIV/AIDS, and helping the world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, join the Global AIDS Alliance Grassroots Network. Sign up at <http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/getinvolved.cfm> or email grassroots@globalaidsalliance.org.

References

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