

Millennium Development Goals Data

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

What It Means

The extremely poor suffer from hunger and malnutrition, are unable to afford essential medicines, lack access to clean water and sanitation, live in unsafe homes, do not have the time or money for education, and are politically and socially excluded from their societies.

Extreme poverty and chronic hunger make development much more difficult: Poverty leads to hunger and illness, which reduce incomes and economic productivity. This, in turn, exacerbates poverty and hunger because people cannot afford proper nutrition, health care, housing, etc. This “poverty trap” also impacts development prospects on the macro level: Without economic activity and a tax base, the government cannot invest in its people, and foreign investors are wary of financial commitments.

The Targets

- 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.

The Statistics

- About 1 billion people—1 in 6—suffer from extreme poverty, i.e., live on less than \$1 a day.¹
- A child born in a developing country has a 4 in 10 chance of living in extreme poverty.²
- The proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from 28% to 19% between 1990 and 2002.³

1. UN, “The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2007,” p. 6. At <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/mdg2007.pdf>.

2. UNESCO, “EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2007,” p. 12. At <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf>.

3. UN, “The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006,” p. 4. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

- Overall global progress has been too slow and uneven: Asia's achievement in lifting 250,000,000 people above the \$1-a-day mark is due primarily to India and China's economic advances. Between 1990 and 2002, 140 million more people in sub-Saharan Africa lived in poverty than between 1980 and 1990.⁴
- Chronic hunger—lacking the food needed to meet daily needs—affected approximately 824 million people in poor countries in 2003.⁵
- Sub-Saharan Africa has 204 million hungry and is the only region of the world where hunger is increasing.⁶
- Over 5.5 million children under five die annually from malnutrition-related causes.⁷
- An estimated 167 million children under five are underweight—the result of acute or chronic hunger. This means that 20% of all hungry people are children under five.⁸

Source: The Millennium Campaign at <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=185518> and the UN cyberschoolbus at <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=1&iLang=en&iKeyword=anim>

4. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 4. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.
5. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 5. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.
6. Sanchez, P., Swaminathan, M. S., Dobie, P. and N. Yuksel, *Halving Hunger: It Can Be Done*. United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger, 2005, p. 1. At <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Hunger-lowres-complete.pdf>.
7. Sanchez, P., Swaminathan, M. S., Dobie, P. and N. Yuksel, *Halving Hunger: It Can Be Done*. United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger, 2005, p. 18. <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Hunger-lowres-complete.pdf>.
8. World Food Programme, "Faces of the Hungry," At http://www.wfp.org/aboutwfp/introduction/hunger_who.asp?section=1&sub_section=1.

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Millennium Development Goals Data

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

What It Means

All human beings should have the opportunity to make a better life for themselves. Unfortunately, too many children grow up without this chance because they are denied their basic right to even attend primary school. A sustainable end to world poverty, as well as the path to peace and security, requires that citizens in every country are empowered to make positive choices and provide for themselves and their families. We can achieve this only if all of the world's children have the chance to learn.

The Target

- Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

The Statistics

- 77 million children were not in primary school in 2004—21 million less than in 1999.¹
- Net primary school enrollment rates in the developing world have increased to an average of 86%. Rates range from 95% in Latin America to 64% in sub-Saharan Africa.²
- Southern Asia's primary school enrollment rates increased from 72 to 89% between 1999 and 2004, largely a result of India's progress.³
- Sub-Saharan Africa needs between 2.4 and 4 million new teachers to achieve Goal 2.⁴

1. UNESCO, "EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2007," p. 1. At <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf>.

2. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 6. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

3. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 6. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

4. UNESCO, "EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2007," p. 2. At <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf>.

- Of the 77 million children not in school, 7 million dropped out, 23 million were likely to enroll late, and 47 million were unlikely to enroll without additional incentives.⁵
- One in five girls is not in school, compared to one in six boys.⁶
- Almost 80% of the world's out-of-school children live in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.
- Despite poor countries' desperate need for education aid, 50% of donor countries give more than 50% of their education aid to middle-income countries.⁷
- Achieving universal primary education will cost a minimum of \$3.7 billion annually through 2015, but overall education assistance to low-income countries is approximately \$2 billion annually.⁸
- Young people who have completed primary education are less than half as likely to contract HIV as those missing an education.⁹

Source: The Millennium Campaign at <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=185519> and the UN cyberschoolbus at <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=2&iLang=en&iKeyword=anim>.

5. UNESCO, "EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2007," p. 31. At <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf>.

6. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 7. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

7. UNESCO, "EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2007," pp. 86–87. At <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf>.

8. World Bank, "Education for All—Fast Track Initiative," p. 1. At http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efaiti/documents/factsheet_factsfigures.pdf.

9. Global Campaign for Education, "Deadly Inertia—A Cross-Country Study of Educational Responses to HIV/AIDS", p. 12. At <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/resources/Nov2005/ENGLISHdeadlyinertia.pdf>.

Millennium Development Goals Data

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

What It Means

Poverty has a woman's face. Global prosperity and peace will only be achieved once all of the world's people are empowered to control their own lives and provide for themselves and their families. Unequal treatment of women—by the state, in the market, and by their communities and families—puts them at a disadvantage throughout their lives and stifles their countries' development prospects.¹ For example, women are the major food producers in Africa, but in some countries, discriminatory laws prevent many from inheriting or owning land, thus robbing women of financial independence. Further, such laws make it difficult for women to get loans to start a small business. Educated women are healthier and tend to have fewer, but healthier children. Women who can read are more likely to get safer, higher-paying jobs. Where women have been given the chance to succeed through small business loans or increased educational opportunities, families are stronger, economies grow, and societies flourish. Societies in which women do not have equal rights can never achieve sustainable development.

The Target

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

The Statistics

- 70% of those living in poverty are women.²
- Women account for approximately two-thirds of the world's estimated 771 million illiterate adults.³

1. The World Bank Group, "World Development Indicators, 2006," http://devdata.worldbank.org/wdi2006/contents/Section1_1_3.htm.

2. Amnesty International, Economic, "Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) and Women: A Fact Sheet," <http://www.amnestyusa.org/women/economicrights.html>.

3. UNESCO, Institute for Statistics, http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev.php?ID=6265_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC.

- Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours and produce half of the world's food. Yet, they earn only 10% of the world's income and own less than 1% of the world's property.⁴
- Although female political representation has increased—more than 80 countries now have parliamentary quotas for women—parliamentary representation still averages only 17% worldwide.⁵

Source: The Millennium Campaign at <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=186382> and the UN cyberschoolbus at <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=3&iLang=en&iKeyword=anim>.

4. The World Revolution, "The State of the World," <http://www.worldrevolution.org/projects/globalissuesoverview/overview2/BriefOverview.htm>.

5. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 9. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

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Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

What It Means

One of the darkest characteristics of poverty is that it seems to prey on the vulnerable and defenseless. More than 10 million children under the age of 5 die every year. Most of these deaths are from easily preventable or treatable causes. Simple interventions like vaccination, clean water to ward off diarrhea, and insecticide-treated bed nets to fight malaria can save millions of innocent lives.

Despite these challenges, the world has made progress in saving children's lives. Child mortality has declined by more than 3% annually in Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeastern and Eastern Asia, and Northern Africa. Latin America and the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa have made significant progress in childhood vaccinations, and sub-Saharan Africa achieved the greatest proportional reduction in deaths (nearly 60% between 1999 and 2004). However, over 450,000 children still died from measles in 2004. Moreover, the overall global success masks regional and demographic disparities. Two-thirds of the unvaccinated children live in six countries: China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Pakistan.¹

Investing in children's health not only saves innocent lives, but also is crucial for achieving all of the MDGs and lifting countries out of poverty. Investing in children's health today yields greater returns in the future. For example, the World Bank estimates that investments in children's health initiatives yield a seven-fold return because of reduced spending on social welfare and increased productivity of young people and adults.

The Target

- Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

1. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 11. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

The Statistics

- In 2003, the UN reported that 4 million newborn babies die each year before they are a month old, mostly due to severe infection, birth asphyxia, low birth weight and complications of prematurity, and tetanus.²
- In 2006, the UN reported that ten million of the deaths of children under five years old occur in lower-income countries, a death toll that was more than twice the total number of children born annually in the United States and Canada combined.³
- In 2006, only six countries accounted for half of all child deaths: India (2.4 million), Nigeria (834,000), China (784,000), Pakistan (565,000), the Democratic Republic of Congo (484,000), and Ethiopia (472,000).⁴
- 90% of all under-five deaths reported in 2006 occurred in 42 countries, 39 of which were in sub-Saharan Africa. In Niger, Sierra Leone, and Angola, one in four children could be expected to die before their fifth birthday. In rich countries, less than 1 in 150 children died before they were five.⁵
- In 2006, the UN reported that diarrheal diseases accounted for 17% of under-five deaths and pneumonia and other acute respiratory infections accounted for about 19% of under-five deaths.⁶
- In the same year, in developing countries, poor nutrition contributed to more than one out of two deaths (53%) associated with infectious diseases among children aged under five.⁷
- As of 2006, in poor countries, the wealthiest 20% of children were twice as likely to survive as the poorest 20%, and children whose mothers had at least a secondary education were twice as likely to survive as children of less educated mothers.⁸

Source: The Millennium Campaign at <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=186382> and the UN cyberschoolbus at <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=3&iLang=en&iKeyword=anim>.

2. Millennium Project Task Force on Child and Maternal Health, "Who's Got the Power? Transforming Health Systems for Women and Children," Summary version, p. 4. At <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/TF4Childandmaternalhealth.pdf>.

3. Global Health Council, "Child Health," http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=226.

4. Global Health Council, "Child Health," http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=226.

5. Global Health Council, "Child Health," http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=226.

6. Global Health Council, "Child Health," http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=226.

7. WHO, "Nutrition," <http://www.who.int/nutrition/challenges/en/index.html>.

8. UNICEF, "State of the World's Children, 2006," p. 6. At [http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2006_English_Report_rev\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2006_English_Report_rev(1).pdf).

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Goal 5: Improve maternal health

What It Means

For many women, the joy of motherhood is too often accompanied by acute health risks. Each year, more than 500,000 women die of pregnancy related complications, and thousands more are physically impaired; 99% of these women live in the developing world. Most maternal deaths are preventable. For example, drugs or a blood transfusion can prevent death from infection or hemorrhaging. However, many women in the developing world do not have access to such standard medical care. Not only are most women unable to access medical facilities during pregnancy, but most also lack access to medically skilled birth attendants and reproductive health services.

Fortunately, access to medically skilled attendants has increased almost everywhere since 1990, especially in Southeastern Asia, Eastern Asia, and Northern Africa. However, despite the importance of skilled attendants and rising awareness in poor countries of the risks during pregnancy, the two regions with the most maternal deaths—sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia—have made little progress. Poor and rural women are much less likely to have access to maternal health services. The rich–poor and urban–rural inequities are especially severe in sub-Saharan Africa, where urban women are more than three times as likely to have their births attended by skilled healthcare personnel as are rural women, and women in the wealthiest fifth of the population are six times more likely to have access to skilled attendants than women in the poorest fifth.

The Target

- Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

The Statistics

- 1,600 women and over 10,000 newborns die every day due to preventable complications.¹

1. United Nations Association of the United States of America, “Maternal Health & Well-Being: A Cornerstone of the Millennium Development,” p. 37. At <http://www.unausa.org/atf/cf/%7B49C555AC-20C8-4B43-8483-A2D4C1808E4E%7D/2006%20UN%20Day%20Guide.pdf>.

- For every woman who dies in childbirth, approximately 20 more suffer injury, infection or disease—affecting some 10 million women each year.²
- Africa and Asia account for 95% of all maternal deaths.³
- The leading cause of death for women aged 15 to 19 is complications from childbirth and unsafe abortions. Because of physiological differences and social reasons, girls aged 15 to 19 are twice as likely to die in childbirth as women in their 20s. Girls under 15 are five times as likely to die as women in their 20s.⁴
- Almost two-thirds of maternal deaths have five direct causes: hemorrhage, obstructed labor, eclampsia (pregnancy-induced hypertension), sepsis, and complications from unsafe abortion.⁵
- Less than half—46%—of deliveries in sub-Saharan Africa are attended by a skilled healthcare worker.⁶
- To meet the target of reducing HIV and infant and maternal mortality by 2015, sub-Saharan Africa will require 1 million more health workers—including 620,000 nurses.⁷

Source: The Millennium Campaign at <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=186382> and the UN cyberschoolbus at <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=3&iLang=en&iKeyword=anim>.

2. WHO, “Millennium Development Goals—Goal 5: Improving Maternal Health,” <http://www.who.int/mdg/goals/goal5/en/index.html>.
3. UNFPA, “Maternal Mortality Update, 2004,” p. 11. At http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/381_filename_mmupdate05_eng21.pdf.
4. UNFPA, “Maternal Mortality Update, 2004,” p. 13. At http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/381_filename_mmupdate05_eng21.pdf.
5. UNFPA, “Maternal Mortality Update, 2004,” p. 5. At http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/381_filename_mmupdate05_eng21.pdf.
6. UN, “The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006,” p. 12. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.
7. UN Population Fund, “The State of the World Population, 2006,” p. 27. At http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2006/pdf/en_sowp06.pdf.

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Millennium Development Goals Data

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

What It Means

HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis (TB) are major public health challenges, claiming 6 million lives a year. These epidemics undermine development in poor countries. Ill health reduces productivity and income, further exacerbating health problems since people cannot afford proper nutrition, housing, and treatment. AIDS, in particular, has far-reaching impacts, altering the social and economic fabric of African society, as its victims often are in their most productive years.

Every day, 8,000 people are newly infected with HIV, and the number of people living with HIV/AIDS continues to rise, from 36.2 million in 2003 to 38.6 million in 2005. HIV/AIDS also claims victims by weakening the immune system, leaving people more vulnerable to malaria and TB. In fact, TB is a leading cause of death among people who are HIV-positive, accounting for about 13% of AIDS deaths.

Malaria, which is transmitted by infected mosquitoes, kills an African child every 30 seconds, and those who survive may suffer brain damage. Pregnant women and their unborn children are particularly vulnerable to malaria, which is a major cause of perinatal mortality, low birth weight, and maternal anemia. Growing awareness of malaria's impact has led to greater international commitment to fight it, including the increased distribution of bed nets.

TB, which is transmitted when an infected person coughs or sneezes, infects someone every second. TB claims 1.7 million lives a year, and infection rates are increasing by nearly 1% annually. TB remains difficult to treat because new drug-resistant strains continuously emerge, HIV/AIDS reduces resistance, and displaced persons and refugees accelerate the spread. But there is hope: The World Health Organization estimates that its treatment strategy has a potential cure rate of 95%, even in poor countries.

The Targets

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

The Statistics

HIV/AIDS

- 4.1 million people became infected with HIV in 2005.¹
- AIDS has orphaned more than 15 million children under age 18; 80% live in sub-Saharan Africa.²
- Approximately 9% of the children in sub-Saharan Africa have lost at least one parent to AIDS, and one in six families care for at least one orphan.³
- Although only 10% of the world's population lives in sub-Saharan Africa, the region accounts for 64% of all HIV-positive people and 90% of all HIV-positive children.⁴
- 59% of HIV-positive adults in Africa are women.⁵
- 6 of 11 heavily-infected African countries reported at least a 25% decline in prevalence rates among 15–24-year-olds living in capital cities.⁶
- 74% of primary schools and 81% of secondary schools now provide HIV and AIDS education (in the 58 countries providing data).⁷
- 400,000 more people in low- and middle-income countries were using antiretroviral therapy than two years earlier. Treatment in sub-Saharan countries increased more than eight-fold between 2003 to 2005, (from 100,000 to 810,000), doubling in 2005 alone.⁸
- Over the next 10 years, the UN estimates that every income earner in Botswana will acquire one additional dependent due to the loss of caretakers from AIDS, and the number of destitute families will increase dramatically.⁹
- HIV/AIDS accounts for 60% of the reason Zambian teachers are absent—they are either sick themselves or must care for sick family members.¹⁰
- Tanzania needs 45,000 new teachers to replace those who have died or left because of AIDS, many of whom were experienced teachers.¹¹

1. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 14. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

2. UNESCO, "EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2007." p. 12. At <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf>.

3. UNAIDS, "Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2006," p. 92. At http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH04_en.pdf.

4. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p.14. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

5. UN, "The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006," p. 14. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

6. Unite for Children Unite Against AIDS, "Global Statistics," http://www.uniteforchildren.org/knowmore/knowmore_29012.htm.

7. Unite for Children Unite Against AIDS, "Global Statistics," http://www.uniteforchildren.org/knowmore/knowmore_29012.htm.

8. UNAIDS, "Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2006," p. 9. At http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH02_en.pdf.

9. United Nations, "Botswana Country Profile: The Programme of Action for Sustainable Development in Botswana with Specific Reference to the Cross-Cutting Issues," p. 20. At http://www.un.org/jsummit/html/prep_process/national_reports/botswana_natl_assess.doc.

10. UNAIDS, "Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2006," p. 97. At http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH04_en.pdf.

11. UNAIDS, "Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2006," p. 97. At http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_CH04_en.pdf.

Malaria

- Each year, 300 to 500 million people are infected with malaria and 1 million die.¹²
- Malaria is responsible for one in five of all childhood deaths in Africa.¹³
- Between 1993 and 2004, the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets increased ten-fold in sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁴
- Bed nets are 6 times more likely to be used in urban than rural areas, and the richest fifth of the population are 11 times more likely to use them than the poorest fifth.¹⁵
- The economic costs of malaria are high: Economists warn that malaria may weaken some African countries growth by 1.3% a year. In some heavily infected countries, the disease may absorb as much as 40% of public health expenditure and account for 30–50% of inpatient admissions and up to 50% of outpatient visits.¹⁶

Tuberculosis

- In 2004, TB rates per capita were stable or falling in many regions. But they were increasing in sub-Saharan Africa, and the global rate is rising 0.6% annually.¹⁷

Source: The Millennium Campaign at <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&b=186382> and the UN cyberschoolbus at <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=3&iLang=en&iKeyword=anim>.

12. Roll Back Malaria, “Children and Malaria Fact Sheet,” http://www.rbm.who.int/cmc_upload/0/000/015/367/RBMInfosheet_6.htm.
13. Roll Back Malaria, “Children and Malaria Fact Sheet,” http://www.rbm.who.int/cmc_upload/0/000/015/367/RBMInfosheet_6.htm.
14. UN, “The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006,” p. 15. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.
15. UN, “The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006,” p. 15. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.
16. Roll Back Malaria, “Economic Costs of Malaria Fact Sheet,” http://www.rbm.who.int/cmc_upload/0/000/015/363/RBMInfosheet_10.htm.
17. WHO, “Tuberculosis,” <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs104/en/#infection>.

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Millennium Development Goals

Data

Goal 7: Ensure environmental stability

What It Means

We cannot have sound economies, sustainable societies, and healthy people without a healthy planet. Uncontrolled and rampant use of natural resources such as forests, land, water, and fisheries has caused alarming changes in our natural world in recent decades. Too many people live without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, with even less access in rural areas than in urban areas. Rapid urbanization has increased slum populations, and overcrowding and lack of water and sanitation is leading to an increase in disease, especially in Africa.

Science has provided strong evidence that the earth's rising temperature is predominantly the result of the release of human-produced carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere on an unprecedented scale. These gases are the byproducts of industrial activities, fossil fuel consumption, and deforestation. As temperatures rise, weather patterns change, resulting in stronger hurricanes and more droughts and flooding, as well as rising sea levels and melting polar ice. Not only do these changes severely impact biodiversity as plants and animals struggle to adapt to new habitats, but human health and well-being also suffer. Stronger hurricanes and rising sea levels threaten coastal areas and islands, droughts and floods alter agricultural production, and a worsening of air and water quality increases illness and the spread of disease. Moreover, the destruction of forests for agricultural and industrial purposes is exacerbating the impact of greenhouse gases and negatively impacting biodiversity.

Unfortunately, climate change may exacerbate poverty. The poor in developing countries are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change, because they have greater exposure to its consequences and have less ability to adapt to the new environment. A disproportionate number of the world's poor live in tropical climates where they live in poorly constructed homes that are vulnerable to natural disasters like tsunamis, floods, or earthquakes. In addition, many people have no food reserves, so when a natural disaster destroys their crops, they suffer from undernourishment until the following year's harvest hopefully provides sustenance.

The rural poor account for over 70% of the population in developing countries. They rely predominantly on agriculture for food and wages, so they face the challenge of adapting to new crops as changing weather patterns make growing traditional staples more difficult. The poor have few resources to help them make the costly changes necessary to protect them from violent and extreme weather or to switch to different

agricultural techniques. Poor governments often lack the resources to help their people recover from natural disasters.

Climate change may also increase mortality and sickness as people are subjected to extreme temperatures, droughts, and the spread of warm-weather illnesses such as malaria. Moreover, as food production falls and prices rise, malnutrition will increase. Deforestation and declining agriculture will drive the rural poor to seek shelter and employment in cities, slums will become even more crowded, and worsening water and sanitation conditions will spread disease.¹

The Targets

- 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 and basic sanitation.
- Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

The Statistics

- The world is on track to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water but at current rates will fall short of the target of halving the proportion of people without basic sanitation.²
- 1.1 billion people do not have access to improved sources of drinking water—84% live in rural areas.³
- 73% of rural people have improved access to drinking water, but only 30% of rural people have water pumped to their homes.⁴
- 2.6 billion people—more than 40% of the world’s population—don’t have access to basic sanitation.⁵
- Between 1990 and 2004, sanitation coverage in the developing world increased from 35 to 50%, so that 1.2 billion people gained access in this period.
- In Kibera, a slum in Nairobi, Kenya, there is only one toilet for every 150 inhabitants.⁶
- Urban sanitation coverage (the number of households equipped with proper sanitation facilities such as a toilet and running water) is more than double rural sanitation coverage.

1. For more information, read the 2006 Stern Review Report on the Economics of Climate Change, at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm

2. UN, “The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006,” p. 18. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

3. WHO, “Meeting the MDG Drinking-Water and Sanitation Target: The Urban and Rural Challenge of the Decade,” p. 8. At http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/jmpfinal.pdf.

4. WHO, “Meeting the MDG Drinking-Water and Sanitation Target: The Urban and Rural Challenge of the Decade,” n.p. At http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/jmpfinal.pdf.

5. WHO, “Meeting the MDG Drinking-Water and Sanitation Target: The Urban and Rural Challenge of the Decade,” n.p. At http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/jmpfinal.pdf.

6. UNEP, TUNZA for Youth, “Key Facts about Urbanization,” http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/What_you_always_wanted_to_know/State_of_%20Environment/urbanization/key-facts_urbanization.asp.

- Unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation kills at least 1.6 million children under the age of five—more than eight times as many people as were killed by the 2004 Asian tsunami.⁷
- While deforestation is slowing, it is still continuing at a staggering rate of 13 million hectares per year, an area the size of Greece or Nicaragua.⁸
- Almost half of the forest lost in Africa is due to deforestation for wood fuel. Asia has gained forest in the last five years, mostly due to advances in China.⁹
- An area of rainforest the size of a football field is destroyed every second.¹⁰
- Central African forests are home to more than 8,000 different plant species.¹¹
- More than 5,000 products—houses, furniture, pencils, utensils, fences, books, newspaper, movie tickets, even clothing and toothpaste—are made from trees.¹²
- Between 150 and 200 species become extinct every day.¹³
- Poor people derive much of their income from the sale of natural products. In Tanzania, for example, as much as half the money earned by the poor comes from the sale of forest products such as charcoal, honey, firewood, and wild fruits.
- Some 1.7 billion people live in countries that are water-stressed, where the water supply is decreasing faster than it can be replaced. This number could increase to 5 billion people by 2025.
- In 2007, the majority of the world’s population will live in urban areas for the first time in history.¹⁴ With more people living closer together, the potential for pollution increases.
- Carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere have increased by more than 25% in the last 100 years.¹⁵

Source: The Millennium Campaign at <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/site/pp.asp?c=grKVL2NLE&cb=186388> and the UN cyberschoolbus at <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/goal.asp?iGoal=7&iLang=en&iKeyword=anim>.

7. WHO, “Meeting the MDG Drinking-Water and Sanitation Target: The Urban and Rural Challenge of the Decade,” n.p. At http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/jmpfinal.pdf.

8. UNEP, “The Billion Tree Campaign, Questions and Answers,” <http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/FactsFigures/>.

9. UNEP, “The Billion Tree Campaign, Questions and Answers,” <http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/FactsFigures/>.

10. UNEP, TUNZA for Youth, “Key Facts about Forests,” http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/What_you_always_wanted_to_know/State_of_%20Environment/forest/key-facts_forest.asp.

11. UNEP, TUNZA for Youth, “Key Facts about Forests,” http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/What_you_always_wanted_to_know/State_of_%20Environment/forest/key-facts_forest.asp.

12. UNEP, TUNZA for Youth, “Key Facts about Forests,” http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/What_you_always_wanted_to_know/State_of_%20Environment/forest/key-facts_forest.asp.

13. UNEP, TUNZA for Youth, “Key Facts about Biodiversity,” http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/What_you_always_wanted_to_know/State_of_%20Environment/biodiversity/key-facts_biodiversity.asp.

14. UN, “The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2006,” p. 20. At <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>.

15. UNEP, TUNZA for Youth, “Key Facts about Climate Change,” http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/What_you_always_wanted_to_know/State_of_%20Environment/climate_change/key-facts_climate-change.asp.