

The Millennium Development Goals

IN SEPTEMBER 2000 GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD SIGNED UP TO THE EIGHT MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS. THE GOALS PROMISE ACTION TO LIFT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OUT OF DESPERATE POVERTY.

The goals

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

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

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

For more information:
www.millenniumcampaign.org

The indicators

Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger by 2015.

Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school by 2015.

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

Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five by 2015.

Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio by 2015.

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases by 2015.

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

Rich countries are responsible for establishing equitable access to their markets and technology and for creating a favourable financial environment. Good governance and a focus on social needs and human capital are essential for developing countries to achieve the goals within their own territories.

Achieving the goals – the role of unions

The relevance of the goals to workers can be seen in some of the detailed indicators of success:

- > income levels (Goal 1 indicator);
- > employment levels for women (Goal 3 indicator);
- > lower unemployment rates for different groups (Goal 8 indicator).

Unions already help achieve the goals by:

- > Bargaining on issues such as national budgets, reforms, and protection of workers
- > Collective bargaining with employers
- > Defending workers' rights
- > Fighting HIV/AIDS in the world of work
- > Organising poor and vulnerable workers

Unions can also be involved in fighting for the goals by campaigning:

- > against child labour and forced labour
- > for debt cancellation
- > for quality public services
- > for democracy, and accountability, and against corruption
- > for active labour market policies
- > for effective social protection
- > for women's empowerment and decent work for young people
- > as part of national coalitions to get governments to keep their promises

Join the Global
Call to Action
Against Poverty
and make
poverty history!



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Global unions is backing the Global Call to Action Against Poverty along with a broad alliance of civil society organisations. For more information, see www.whiteband.org.