

About the MDGs: Basics


What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the **Millennium Declaration** that was adopted by 189 nations-and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the [UN Millennium Summit](#) in September 2000.

The eight MDGs break down into **21 quantifiable targets** that are measured by **60 indicators**.

- [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](#)

The MDGs:

- synthesise, in a single package, many of the most important commitments made separately at the international conferences and summits of the 1990s;
- recognise explicitly the interdependence between growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development;
-  acknowledge that development rests on the foundations of democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights and peace and security;
- are based on time-bound and measurable targets accompanied by indicators for monitoring progress; and
- bring together, in the eighth Goal, the responsibilities of developing countries with those of developed countries, founded on a global partnership endorsed at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, and again at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002.



Implementation of the MDGs

In 2001, in response to the world leaders' request, UN Secretary General presented the [Road Map Towards the Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration](#), an integrated and comprehensive overview of the situation, outlining potential strategies for action designed to meet the goals and commitments of the Millennium Declaration.

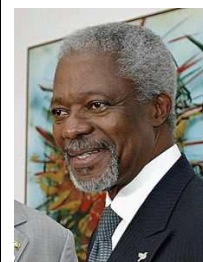
The road map has been followed up since then with annual reports. In 2002, the annual report focused on progress made in the prevention of armed conflict and the treatment and prevention of diseases, including HIV/AIDS and Malaria. In 2003, emphasis was placed on strategies for development and strategies for sustainable development. In 2004, it was on bridging the digital divide and curbing transnational crime.

- In 2005, the Secretary-General prepared the first comprehensive five-yearly report on progress toward achieving the MDGs. The report reviews the implementation of decisions taken at the international conferences and special sessions on the least developed countries, progress on HIV/AIDS and financing for development and sustainable development.



The **United Nations (UN)** is an [international organization](#) whose stated aims are to facilitate cooperation in [international law](#), [international security](#), [economic development](#), [social progress](#), [human rights](#) and achieving [world peace](#). The UN was founded in 1945 after [World War II](#) to replace the [League of Nations](#), to stop [wars](#) between [countries](#) and to provide a platform for dialogue.

There are currently [192 member states](#), including nearly every recognized independent [state](#) in the world. From its [headquarters](#) on international territory in [New York City](#), the UN and its specialized agencies decide on substantive and administrative issues in regular meetings held throughout the year. The organization is divided into administrative bodies, primarily:



Kofi Atta Annan, [GCMG](#) (born 8 April 1938) is a [Ghanaian diplomat](#) who served as the seventh [Secretary-General](#) of the [United Nations](#) from 1 January 1997 to 1 January 2007. Annan and the United Nations were the co-recipients of the 2001 [Nobel Peace Prize](#).

-
- The [General Assembly](#) (the main [deliberative assembly](#));
- The [Security Council](#) (decides certain resolutions for peace and security);
- The [Economic and Social Council](#) (assists in promoting international economic and social cooperation and development);
- The [Secretariat](#) (provides studies, information and facilities needed by the UN);
- The [International Court of Justice](#) (the primary judicial organ).

Additional bodies deal with the governance of all other [UN System](#) agencies, such as the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) and [United Nations Children's Fund](#) (UNICEF). The UN's most visible public figure is the [Secretary-General](#), currently [Ban Ki-moon](#) of [South Korea](#), who attained the post in 2007. The organization is financed from assessed and voluntary contributions from its member states, and has six official languages: [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).^[1]



United Nations Headquarters in New York City, viewed from the East River.



[Ban Ki-moon](#), the eighth and current Secretary-General of the United Nations

Write an essay, answering all these questions...

Can you translate "The Millennium Development Goals" ...

How many are they?

Who established them and Why, what is, in your opinion, their main final objective?

What is the UNO, What does it do?

What is the 8th millennium goal about?

In what way is the implementation of these goals followed? How often the reports have have been written...

What's your opinion on all that... are optimistic or pessimistic... on this matter...

In what way can we help to achieve these goals.