

ONE SPIRIT
ONE WILL
ZERO
POVERTY

The Millennium Development Goals

Background:

In September 2000, at the UN Millennium Summit, 189 nations, including the United States, affirmed a set of international development goals in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Known as the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**, they have helped focus the energy and resources of the nations of the world on a common strategy to address the issues of poverty, hunger and health. Specific, achievable targets of the year 2015 have been set, and are provided below.

The Millennium Development Goals: By 2015...

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Targets:

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

2. Achieve universal primary education

Target:

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

3. Promote Gender equality and empower woman

Target:

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

4. Reduce child mortality

Target:

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

5. Improve maternal health

Target:

- Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Targets:

- 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

Targets:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse the 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

8. Develop a global partnership for development

Targets:

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non discriminatory
- Address the least-developed countries' special needs
- Address the special needs of landlocked and small-island developing states
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems
- Develop decent and productive work for youth
- Provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- Make available the benefits of new technologies

Bread for the World
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LETTER WRITING TO CONGRESS
BREAD FOR THE WORLD

The United States has joined other nations in a commitment to cut global hunger and poverty in half by 2015. Now we can translate our nation's commitment into effective anti-poverty measures that reach those most in need. You are invited to take part in Bread for the World's 2006 Offering of Letters. Please write our elected leaders to urge them to fulfill their promises to the world's hungry people.

SAMPLE LETTER

Your name

Your address

Date

Rep: _____ OR Sen. _____
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Rep (or Sen): _____

Poverty-focused development assistance from the United States strengthens communities around the world and helps poor people overcome hunger and poverty. I urge you to make progress toward the Millennium Development Goals by significantly increasing poverty-focused development assistance in fiscal year 2007 and work towards devoting an additional 1 percent of the federal budget to poverty-focused development assistance by 2010.

Increasing development assistance to poor countries will underscore our commitment to democracy and strengthen our ties to people and nations around the world. We have a monumental opportunity in the coming decade to cut global poverty in half. Let's not waste it.

Sincerely,

Your Name

ADDRESSES OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Carl Levin
SR-269
Washington, DC 20510-2203

Senator Debbie A Stabenow
SH-133
Washington, DC 20510-2204

Representative John Conyers, Jr (Riverview)
2426 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515-2214

Representative Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (Wyandotte)
1610 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515-2213

Representative Sander M. Levin (District 12)
2300 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515-2212

Representative John D Dingel (District 15)
2328 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515-2215