



# Millennium Development Goals Campaign: time to help others!



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Poland  
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[www.onz.org.pl/rozwoj](http://www.onz.org.pl/rozwoj)

## Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted in a Millennium Declaration by leaders of 189 states at the Summit of the United Nations in 2000. The eight MDGs make a measurable commitment of the international community, including **Poland**, to reduce poverty and hunger, to promote gender equality, to improve health and the universal level of education, to combat HIV/AIDS, to ensure environmental sustainability, and to develop a global partnership between nations for development. The commitment to achieve the goals by 2015 equally applies to developing countries, countries under transformation, and well developed countries.

Millennium Declaration: [www.un.org/millennium](http://www.un.org/millennium)

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: [www.development.org](http://www.development.org)

More on the Goals: [www.undp.org/mdg](http://www.undp.org/mdg)

### Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



The first Millennium Development Goal is also a priority for the international community. Only in Asia, the number of people living on less than USD 1 a day dropped by 226 million in 1990 ÷ 1999. However, an increase in poverty was simultaneously recorded in some regions of the world. In the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, a half of the population lives in extreme poverty. Similarly, increasing poverty has been recorded in the former Soviet republics in the recent years. Key target: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people whose income does not exceed USD 1 a day.

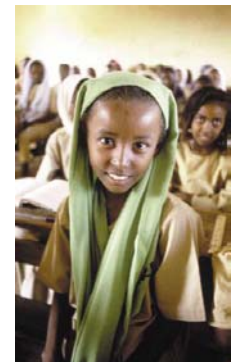
Facts: Do you know that 1.2 billion people live now on less than USD 1 a day?

Do you know that 800 million people suffer from hunger all over the world?

Do you know that a half of the population of sub-Saharan Africa lives in extreme poverty?

### Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

According to the Millennium Declaration, the right to education is a universal and basic human right and the universal education is essential for the reduction for extreme poverty. In the least developed countries, however, as little as 60 ÷ 80% of children at the school age attend primary schools. Most of States, except those of sub-Saharan Africa, are on track. Key target: Ensure that, by 2015, all boys and girls complete primary school.



Facts: Do you know that, in the poorest countries, one of every five children does not attend school?

Do you know that 114 million children at the school age do not go to school?

### Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women



In spite of a progress in improving education of girls, gender disparity in the access to education exists in every fourth country in the world. There are 18 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, where less than 80 girls per 100 boys go to school. In global terms, women hold less than 15% seats in national parliaments. Most of the gender equality indices are improving. However, negative trends are observed in some others, e.g. in the employment in non-agricultural sectors in Middle East or North America. Key target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

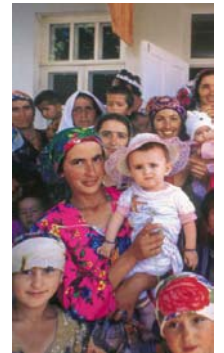
Facts: Do you know that over 63 million girls do not attend primary school?

Do you know that average women's earnings are lower by 1/3 than those of men?

Do you know that there are 575 million illiterate women in the world?

### Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

In 1990s, a very small progress was recorded in global terms in the reduction of child mortality, although this index was lowered from 1980 by 4 million deaths a year. There are 14 countries where an increase in the child mortality was recorded. This in particular applies to nine countries of sub-Saharan Africa, where about 4.5 million children under five die every year. A significant majority of these deaths could be easily avoided at small financial outlay and appropriate procedures. Key target: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.



Facts: Do you know that almost 11 million children die every year from curable diseases?

Do you know that the prolongation of the mother education process by one year reduces the child mortality by 5 ÷ 10%?

### Goal 5: Improve maternal health



As much as 99% of deaths of pregnant women are recorded in developing countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, the risk of maternal death in the whole mother's life is estimated at 1 in 16 as against the proportion of 1 in 2 800 in well developed countries. Women's deaths while pregnant and in childbirth chiefly occur because of insufficient health care system, in most cases in rural areas. Hospitals are inadequately equipped and the availability of skilled health personnel is far below the needs. Most of such deaths could be avoided if basic medical care were available. Alas, progress in this field is rather poor. In sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of pregnant deaths does not decline at all. Key target: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the ratio of women dying in childbirth.

Facts: Do you know that half a million pregnant women a year, i.e. one woman a minute, die in developing countries?

Do you know that only one of two pregnant women in developing countries may be under professional medical care?

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

About one million people a year die from malaria and another 1.6 million people die from tuberculosis. However, the most serious challenge is HIV/AIDS, which takes the heaviest toll in sub-Saharan Africa and poses a threat to other regions of the world. The progress towards this goal will be of critical importance for achievement of the other MDGs. In global terms, many developing countries (e.g. Brazil, Senegal, Thailand, or Uganda) effectively stem the spread of HIV, but there are still too many countries in the world where the

actions taken do not bring the desired effects. There are very few people infected with HIV that receive medicines in developing countries. A success in this field will depend to a significant degree on the involvement of governments, international organizations, and the business during the nearest years. As much as 95% of the people infected with HIV live in developing countries. Only in 2003, 5 million people became newly infected. At present, the fastest growth in the number of new infections is observed in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics. Key target: Halt and begin to reverse, by 2015, the spread of HIV/AIDS and reduce the incidence of new infections.



Facts: Do you know that over 40 million people live with HIV/AIDS in the world?  
Do you know that 14 thousand people in the world become infected with HIV every day?  
Do you know that HIV carriers make over 30% of the whole population in some African countries?  
Do you know that the HIV epidemic has lowered the average population age to 40 years in many African countries?

### Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability



Climate change and decline in biodiversity do not recognize border. MDG 7 shows in the best way the interrelations between the development of poor and rich countries. Environmental quality is extremely important for the reduction of poverty, development of agriculture, and improvement of food and water quality. This Goal is to ensure sustainable use of natural resources. For the time being, ongoing reduction of natural resources, increase in air and water pollution, and increase in the quantity of endangered species can be observed. Key target: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

Facts: Do you know that over a billion people lack sustainable access to drinking water?  
Do you know that 2.4 billion people in the world lack sanitation?  
Do you know that the global area of forests decreased by almost 100 million hectares during the recent decade?

### Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

MDG 8 is chiefly addressed to well developed countries and is a means to pursue the other seven Goals. Its essence is to establish a global agreement for development between the poor and rich countries. The former should be responsible, above all, for the improvement of democratic governance and management of aid funds. The latter, in turn, should be obliged to increase the aid and to aim it at achieving the MDGs. They also should solve the problem of heavy indebtedness of the developing countries and should create favorable environment for them to develop, e.g. by making the access to modern technologies easier for them. Trade barriers and subsidizing of domestic agriculture in highly developed countries have been considerably reduced in the recent years; nevertheless, they remain a serious obstacle in the development of trade with developing countries. Key target: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system and deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries.



Facts: Do you know that well developed countries assign USD 68 billion a year for the development of the poorer countries?  
Do you know that well developed countries assign about USD 300 billion a year for the subsidizing of their agriculture?