

Millennium Development Goals

**The Eight MDGs
Learn More**

**SSNDs Contribution
Prayer for MDGs**

Action

“As members of an international congregation, we recognize our obligation and opportunities to develop a world vision and a sense of global responsibility.”
You Are Sent, C 26, Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Poverty, hunger, disease and environmental degradation affect hundreds of millions of people and kill a child every three seconds. But there is a plan to change all that. In September 2000, the heads of government of 189 countries signed the [United Nations Millennium Declaration](#) and committed the nations of the world to an agenda for action designed to establish a world free from want, a world free from fear, a world where all people are free to live in dignity.

That agenda is articulated in the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs), a set of eight measurable, time-bound objectives aimed at combating poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, environmental degradation and discrimination against women, and for establishing human rights, good governance, and democracy.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) commit countries to join together to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and to develop real partnerships for development—partnerships which require rich nations to relieve debt, increase aid, and give poor countries fair access to their markets and technology, and in turn require the poorer countries of the world to end corruption and implement transparent sustainable development plans.

The Eight Millennium Development

[Albanian](#), [Belarusian](#), [Czech](#), [English](#), [German](#), [Hungarian](#), [Italian](#), [Japanese](#), [Kiswahili](#), [Polish](#),
[Portuguese](#), [Slovenian](#), [Spanish](#)

***Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger**

- Target 1: Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
- Target 2: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

***Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**

- Target 3: Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

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

- Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

***Goal 4. Reduce child mortality**

- Target 5: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

***Goal 5. Improve maternal health**

- Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
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***Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

- Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

***Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

- Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

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

- Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally
- Target 13: Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes: tariff and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced program of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction
- Target 14: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)
- Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
- Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

What makes the Millennium Development Goals different?

- ❖ The Millennium Development Goals are people-centered, time-bound and measurable.
- ❖ They are based on a global partnership, stressing the responsibilities of developing countries for getting their own house in order, and of developed countries for supporting those efforts.
- ❖ They have unprecedented political support, embraced at the highest levels by developed and developing countries, civil society and major development institutions alike.
- ❖ They are achievable!

What do SSNDs contribute to the achievement of the MDGs?

“We call ourselves to embody gospel values and to live the social teachings of the church. Working toward the enablement of persons and the promotion of human dignity, we contribute to positive systemic change in society.”
You Are Sent, GD33a, General Directory of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

The [School Sisters of Notre Dame](#) have long supported the goals of the United Nations and the objectives outlined in the [MDGs](#). Their work in a wide variety of formal and non-formal education programs in more than 32 countries helps to ensure that all people enjoy the right to develop their full potential and have the opportunity to use their gifts for the common good.

SSNDs, their colleagues, and friends contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through their various ministries directed toward education. Their work with homeless children in Honduras, HIV/AIDS patients in Kenya, neglected middle school girls in the United States, young people in Slovenia and the children of rural Nepal all helps to accomplish the MDGs. Education, both formal and non-formal, is their contribution to the global effort to eradicate poverty and to enable children to develop their full potential. Education for justice is the way that SSNDs empower women and ensure the health and well-being of children. It is how they fight disease and heal the Earth. It is through education that does justice that members of the SSND family contribute to the MDGs.

What can you do?

- *Join SSNDs, their colleagues, and friends as they*
 - *Take [action for justice](#) and sustainable development.*
 - *Learn more about [issues](#) that challenge the global community.*
- *Campaign for the MDGs*
 - Add your voice to the [UN Millennium Campaign \(Spanish\)](#) and connect with the millions of citizens worldwide, who are asking our leaders to be accountable for their promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Sign the [Friends of the Campaign Pledge](#).
 - The [Global Call to Action against Poverty](#) is active in countries around the world. Check out your local campaign [Albania](#), [Argentina](#), [Austria](#), [Belarus](#), [Bolivia](#), [Brazil](#), [Chile](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Germany](#), [Ghana](#), [Guam](#), [Guatemala](#), [Honduras](#), [Hungary](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Kenya](#), [Micronesia](#), [Nepal](#), [Nigeria](#), [Paraguay](#), [Peru](#), [Poland](#), [Puerto Rico](#), [Romania](#), [Serbia](#), [Slovenia](#), [South Korea](#), [Sweden](#), [United Kingdom](#), [United States](#).
- *Stay up to date*

- Stay informed on all the [latest news](#) from the Millennium Campaign. Sign up to receive their news bulletin.
 - Learn about the work of the [United Nations Development Program](#) in your country and read [MDG Country Reports](#).
 - [Inter Press Service \(IPS\)](#) offers a section of its website that provides independent news reporting on how the Millennium Development Goals are influencing policy decisions and making a difference on the ground.
- *Mobilize*
 - Join people around the world September 16, 2006 to October 17, 2006 mobilize to make poverty history. Activities will culminate in a global white band day on October 17. Learn more about the [Month of Mobilization \(Spanish\)](#) and what is planned for your area at GCAP.
 - [STAND UP Against Poverty](#) and for the Millennium Development Goals on October 15-16, 2006 and help to set a Guinness World Record.
 - Demonstrate your solidarity with those who are living in poverty and those who have pledged to make poverty history.—wear a [white band](#). By wearing a white band, you're making a statement that you support the MDGs!
- *Walk the World to end hunger*
 - [Fight Hunger: Walk the World](#) has one goal – to end child hunger by 2015. The World Food Program’s annual walk helps to raise consciousness about the 300 million hungry children in this world and to raise funds to finance projects to assist hungry children. In 2006 members of the [SSND family walked](#) with over 760,000 people in 118 countries and 420 locations. Next year the walk is on Sunday 13 May. [Join the mailing list](#) now to find out how you can help end child hunger or find out more about [Walk the World 2006](#).
 - Read the SSND 2006 invitation from the General Council to *Walk the World*.
[English](#), [Spanish](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#),
- *Make your voice heard*
 - Tell your national leaders to implement the Millennium Development Goals. Write call, fax, and email your president, prime minister, secretary of state, foreign minister and UN ambassador. Make sure they know that you know about the MDG promises that they must keep.
 - Tell your neighbors, friends, and family that we are all responsible for achieving the MDGs. Write to your local newspaper, give a lecture, or sponsor a party to rally support for the MDGs.
 - Start a local campaign with your organization, church, or university to raise awareness about the MDGs. The [Millennium Campaign](#) and [Civicus](#) have compiled a comprehensive [campaigning toolkit](#) with everything you need to organize a campaign in your community.
- *Involve Youth*
 - The United Nations’ [CyberSchoolBus](#) has created a new interactive [Millennium Development Goals web site web site for youth](#). It includes basic information about the goals, videos, activities, and even an action guide for youth. [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#)

- [Taking it Global \(Spanish\)](#) recognizes the importance of enlisting youth in the campaign to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Their site is full of games, campaign materials, blogs, and lots of resources. You will find [MDGs Youth Action Guide](#)—[German](#), [Spanish](#) very helpful when planning activities. Check out their colorful brochure, with ideas on how you can raise awareness and put pressure on your government, whether you live in a [rich country](#) or a [poor country](#). The site also includes a Millennium Development Goals [bookmark](#), postcard ([front](#) and [back](#)) and [poster](#).
 - Learn more about the MDGs, discuss their impact, and find out how to take action today to make the world a better place by 2015 at UNICEF’s [Voices of Youth MDG site](#). The site features audio and video messages from young people around the world, sample MDG project plans, real life stories about Voices of Youth members who are contributing to the fight against poverty, downloadable advocacy materials, and lively discussions in in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#) about how we can all help make the MDGs a reality.
 - [CAFOD](#), [Christian Aid](#) and [SCIAF](#) have developed a [Youth Activity](#) that helps young people to explore the MDGs in some depth.
- *Pray*
 - Stand in solidarity with those who are suffering around the world. Organize a prayer service or sponsor a peaceful reflection in support of MDGs.
 - Pray that the world leaders keep to their millennium pledge and together we can make poverty history once and for all.
 - [Pray the Prayer for the Millennium Goals.](#)

Learn More

[Millennium Project Report](#)

The report of the Millennium Project, commissioned by the UN Secretary-General and led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, makes it clear that the Millennium Development Goals can and must be accomplished. The goals can be met in every part of the world if nations follow through on their commitments to work together to meet them. The report notes the progress that has been made; provides explanations for why countries are still falling short; and suggests a path forward. The full report is available in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#). An overview is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [German](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Russian](#).

[Millennium Goals Report 2006](#)

This progress report is the most comprehensive accounting to date on how far we have come, and how far we have to go, in each of the world’s regions. It reflects a collaborative effort among a large number of agencies and organizations within and outside the United Nations system. All have provided the most up-to-date data possible in their areas of responsibility, helping thereby to achieve clarity and consistency in the report. Above all, the report shows us how much progress has been made in some areas, and how large an effort is needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals in others.

[Millennium Development Goals: 2006 Progress Chart](#)

Most of the targets set for progress on the Millennium Development Goals are benchmarked for the period 1990 to 2015 – promising clear and measurable improvement on standards prevailing in 1990 by

the end of 2015. The chart shows progress up to June 2006, drawing on the latest information from all countries of the world and from the UN family of operational agencies

[Country Reports—UN Millennium Development Goals](#)

UN Country Teams have been helping national governments to prepare country reports that measure progress towards the MDGs. The emphasis is on national ownership so wherever possible these are done in collaboration with government as well as civil society groups. It is hoped that reporting will lead to better policy analysis, a sharper focus on priorities, and ultimately to improved national economic and social policies.

[Albania](#), [Argentina](#), [Belarus](#), [Bolivia](#), [Chile](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Germany](#) [Ghana](#), [Guatemala](#), [Honduras](#), [Hungary](#), [Japan](#), [Kenya](#), [Nepal](#), [Nigeria](#), [Pakistan](#), [Paraguay](#), [Peru](#), [Poland](#), [Romania](#), [Slovenia](#), [Sweden](#)

[Africa 2015 Campaign](#)

Find out more about the campaign to address the spread of AIDS and how those efforts can help to achieve the other development goals as well. Includes [Facts about Poverty in Africa](#).

Prayer for the Millennium Goals

**In a world where so many go hungry,
Let us make the fruits of creation available for all.
In a world where one billion of our brothers and sisters do not have
safe drinking water,
Let us help the waters run clear.
In a world where so many die so young,
And so many mothers die in childbirth,
And so many families are ravaged by disease,
Let us bring health and healing.
In a world where women carry such heavy burdens,
Let us recognize and restore the rights of all.
Let us join together, with a new sense of global community,
A new awareness of our need for one another,
And for this fragile planet,
To meet the clear challenge of the Millennium Goals,
To bring hope as substantial as bread,
To make human dignity as visible as wheat in the fields.
Amen**

(Center of Concern, www.coc.org)