

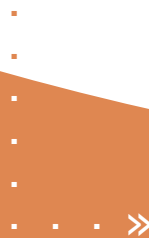
getting people out of poverty

In 2000, most of the countries of the world agreed to cut world poverty in half by the year 2015. Development experts looked at different problems that make and keep people poor. They came up with eight targets that would help most people meet basic needs. They are called the Millennium Development Goals.

If met, these goals will help poor people become more self-sufficient and contribute to their society in a more productive way.

The goals also help development experts measure how much progress has been made in reducing poverty.

How can you get involved?



THE EIGHT MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger**
People must have the basics to live, including food, shelter and healthcare.
- 2 Achieve universal primary education**
Children must go to school. Education significantly improves a person's life.
- 3 Empower women, promote gender equality**
Girls and women must be allowed to do the same things as boys and men—like go to school. And they must be valued as much as men.
- 4 Reduce child mortality**
Babies and small children need nutritious food, clean water, sanitary living conditions, healthcare and vaccines against childhood diseases.
- 5 Improve maternal health**
Pregnant women need good medical care to deliver healthy babies.
- 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases**
Infectious diseases shouldn't kill or make as many people sick as they do today. All people need access to healthcare.
- 7 Ensure environmental sustainability**
Land, water, animals and plants are natural resources that people need to live. Too often many of these resources are overused or polluted.
- 8 Develop global partnerships**
Everybody must work together to make the other goals happen. This means the United Nations, other development institutions (like the World Bank), governments, communities and families.

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talking about development

Think about it...

A village wants to build a school for local children...

What needs to be done to build the school and send the kids to class?

But what if this same village wants to build a health clinic...

There isn't enough money to build both the school and the clinic...

What should the village do?

What's more important the school or the health clinic?

WHAT'S DEVELOPMENT?



Development is helping poor people improve their lives by making sure they have the basic things they need to live, including food, housing, jobs, health services, education, safety and security. It's also giving poor people in developing countries a choice of how to live their lives and contribute to society.

When people are healthy and able to be productive, a country is better able to trade with other countries to get more of the goods and services its people need.

Because people are always trying to improve the quality of their lives, development is ongoing. Development involves many different groups:

- Poor people work hard to provide for themselves and their families.
- Developing countries work to improve local conditions by building their economies and improving public services.
- Most rich countries can help poor countries by trading with them. They can also offer financial aid and advice on how to grow their economies.
- International institutions, like the World Bank, offer advice and money to help poor countries build roads, schools and hospitals.
- Charitable groups also work with poor people by helping deprived communities educate their children, open health clinics and provide other resources.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

All countries are linked by trade, finance, environment, drugs, crime, migration, diseases/epidemics, ... Problems in one country affect other countries.

There are six billion people alive today. One billion live in developed countries and five billion live in developing countries.

The one billion who live in developed countries control 80% of the global resources. This leaves some five billion people to get by on 20% of the world's resources.

Populations in poor countries are growing much faster than populations in rich countries. Some 2 more billion people will be born, mostly to developing countries, over the next 25 years.

Poor countries need help to develop so that nobody goes hungry anymore, so that everyone can live in stability and peace, have an acceptable standard of living and choose how to live his or her life.

INSIDE THE WORLD BANK

You can't deposit or withdraw money at the World Bank. It's an international development organization owned by more than 180 countries.

The Bank lends money to the governments of its poorer members—called developing countries—to improve their economies and raise living standards. It offers expert help to handle projects that improve local living conditions and publishes the latest research on poverty and development.

Who works at the World Bank?

More than 10,000 people from 165 nations work at the World Bank. They are experts in different fields, such as anthropology, economics, education, engineering, health, law and science. Many of them live and work in the countries they're trying to help.

Have you thought about this...

With limited resources, it appears the community must decide what to do first: build a school or a clinic.

Could the community change its plans and have both? How? Could a creative solution be found to increase resources? For instance, could one building house the school and clinic? Could the community build a school and arrange for regular visits from a mobile health clinic?

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