



MDG Facts and Stats

In 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, Canada joined 189 world governments in the commitment to achieve the MDGs, a set of 8 goals aimed at improving the lives of the world's poorest by 2015.

The 8 Millennium Development Goals

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.

Each MDG Goal contains a specific set of targets. Goal 1, for example, has three targets:

- Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.
- Target 2: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
- Target 3: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

For a complete list of targets, see: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Quick Facts

- 1.2 billion people live on less than a \$1 a day.
- 800 million people are undernourished and 153 million children are underweight.
- Of the 680 million children of primary school age, 115 million are still not in school — 97% of them in developing countries.
- Poverty disproportionately affects women, who represent 70 percent of the world's poor and the current financial crisis is likely to affect women particularly severely. According to estimates, of the 771 million illiterate adults worldwide, 64 percent are women.
- Every year, more than 10 million children die of preventable causes – 30 000 per day. Immunizations in developing countries had levelled off at about 75% of children in 1990. In recent years, immunizations have fallen below 50% in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Every year, 536,000 women and girls die as a result of complications during pregnancy, childbirth or the six weeks following delivery - 99 percent of these deaths occur in developing countries.
- By the year 2000, almost 22 million people had died from AIDS, 13 million children had lost their mother or both parents to the disease and more than 40 million people were living with the HIV virus, 90% of them in developing countries, 75% in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Every year, there are more than 300 million cases of malaria, 90% of them in sub-Saharan Africa. And every year, 60 million people are infected with tuberculosis.
- In 2000, more than 1 billion people in developing countries (1 in 5) lacked access to safe drinking water, and 2.4 billion lacked access to adequate sanitation.
- \$100 billion minimum is needed per year to meet the Millennium Development Goals, or 0.5% of the gross national income of the Development Assistance Committee countries. Total official aid is less than half of this.

Facts about the MDGs and what Canada can do

For more information, visit: www.makepovertyhistory.ca/learn/issues/mdgs

Goal 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The Facts

Billions of people live in poverty all over the world. Poverty has many dimensions. 1.2 billion people live on less than a \$1 a day. Millions do not have access to land and housing. Millions more do not have access to basic services like water and sanitation.

800 million people are undernourished and 153 million children are underweight. The challenges include distributing food more equitably and increasing productivity.

What Canada can do

Canada has the means to move forward and reach the targets to eradicate poverty and hunger by 2015. The current crisis must not be used as an excuse to limit aid. It must be remembered that people living in developing countries are being hurt by the economic crisis the most, particularly due to rising costs of fuel and food.

The Canadian government should be open and transparent in reporting on how it has met its commitment to date. It needs to demonstrate leadership by providing a clear report on its delivery of aid to date, and ensure that aid is sufficient and implemented effectively through 2015.

Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education

The Facts

Worldwide, primary school enrolment has been improving, rising from 80% in 1990 to roughly 85% now. But this means that, of the 680 million children of primary school age, 115 million are still not in school — 97% of them in developing countries.

Ironically, countries can usually spend more on education as their economies grow. The poorest countries need to spend more on education to escape their poverty – but they do not have resources to make such an investment.

What Canada can do

We should continue to ask our government to keep its commitment on aid and to reach the 0.7% UN aid target. It should build a plan for more effective and better ways of financing for the education sector, and provide our fair share of the \$16 billion annual financing gap for education.

Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women

The Facts

64% of the world's estimated 876 million illiterate adults are women. 80 % of all refugees are women and 60% of the 113 million children not in primary schools are girls. Around the world, women's earned income is still significantly less than men's earned income. Only in nine countries in the world are a third or more of the seats in national parliaments held by women.

Poverty disproportionately affects women, who represent 70 percent of the world's poor and the current financial crisis is likely to affect women particularly severely. According to estimates, of the 771 million illiterate adults worldwide, 64 percent are women.

Gender equality in primary education, has not yet been achieved.

What Canada can do

Canada has the tools and the experience to continue making a positive contribution to gender equality and the empowerment of women thru our development aid. All development programs and policies should be examined from a gender perspective to ensure that they contribute to the empowerment of women and promote gender equality.

Goal 4 - Reduce child mortality

The Facts

Every year, more than 10 million children die of preventable causes – 30 000 per day. Immunizations in developing countries had levelled off at about 75% of children in 1990. In recent years, immunizations have fallen below 50% in sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa, ravaged by HIV/AIDS, saw life expectancy reverse in the 1990s from already low levels.

What Canada can do

Canada has played a leading role in helping achieve the reduction in child mortality rates through its work in vaccination and nutrition, and in addressing communicable diseases.

Consistent with a 10 year plan to increase Canadian ODA to achieve the 0.7% aid target, Canada should deepen the commitment to the global initiative by supporting a broader range of lifesaving newborn and maternal interventions, with a focus on community managed care, including training of local health workers and supporting publicly funded health systems.

Goal 5 - Improve maternal health

The Facts

Every year, 536,000 women and girls die as a result of complications during pregnancy, childbirth or the six weeks following delivery - 99 percent of these deaths occur in developing countries. Maternal mortality is among the health indicators that show the greatest gap between the rich and the poor — both between countries and within them. The WHO estimates that unsafe abortions account for about 13% of deaths related to pregnancy. Estimates show that fewer than half of pregnant women in developing countries receive adequate prenatal care and only 28 in 100 women are attended by trained health personnel during childbirth. Young adolescents are more likely to die or experience complications during pregnancy and childbirth than adult women.

What Canada can do

Canada made Maternal and Child Health a banner initiative at the 2010 G8 Summit. But it failed to gather support full G8 support by only coming up with \$5 billion dollars of new money as opposed to \$20 billion needed for interventions that support maternal, newborn and child health.

Based on a recent poll conducted by 61% of Canadian believe that more money should be spend on international aid with particular focus on child and maternal health.

Most Canadians believe that Canada should be a World leader in pressing the G8 to honour its commitment by investing on women and children and supporting the Financial Transaction Tax. A tiny fee on the trade in financial transactions – paid by banks, not by people – it would raise billions of dollars for fighting poverty and climate change at home and around the world.

Goal 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The Facts

By the year 2000, almost 22 million people had died from AIDS, 13 million children had lost their mother or both parents to the disease and more than 40 million people were living with the HIV virus, 90% of them in developing countries, 75% in sub-Saharan Africa.

Every year, there are more than 300 million cases of malaria, 90% of them in sub-Saharan Africa. And every year, 60 million people are infected with tuberculosis. Current medical technologies can prevent/cure these diseases from being fatal, but lack of access to healthcare means that tuberculosis kills 2 million people per year and malaria 1 million.

What Canada can do

Canada must ramp up efforts to achieve Universal Access for HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support beyond commitments.

Canada should make a multi-year commitment to fund 5% of the resources needed to meet the demand of the Global Fund and strengthen support for country health systems, consistent with a 10 year plan to achieve the 0.7% aid target for Canadian ODA.

Canada must improve access to life saving medicines by fixing Canada's Access to Medicines Regime.

Goal 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability

The Facts

In 2000, more than 1 billion people in developing countries (1 in 5) lacked access to safe drinking water, and 2.4 billion lacked access to adequate sanitation. Both can be life-or-death issues. Soil degradation affects nearly 2 billion hectares of land, damaging the livelihoods of up to 1 billion people. 70% of commercial fisheries are fully or over-exploited. 1.7 billion people (a third of the developing world) live in countries facing water stress, and more than 250 million people living off the land are directly affected by desertification. Global warming is a global concern and carbon dioxide emissions are one of its main causes. High-income countries with 14% of the world's population generate 44% of CO₂ emissions.

Canada is one of the greatest consumers of energy per capital, burning the equivalent of roughly 7,700 litres of oil per person each year. Canada makes up less than one half of one percent of the world's population, but is the world's eight largest producer of carbon dioxide.

What Canada can do

Canada has a long way to go to become a leader in environmental sustainability. However, despite our high consumption, research shows that Canadian are eager to adopt clean, renewable energy technologies.

The Canadian government can show leadership by adopting more stringent greenhouse gas reduction targets and regulations concerning the environment.

Canada has a responsibility as one of the major greenhouse gas polluters to contribute financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. At the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference an agreement was reached that developed countries would contribute \$30 billion for short term financing of adaptation and mitigation between 2010 and 2012. Canada's share is approximately CDN \$1 billion in

new and additional resources, based on an annual commitment of CDN \$320-\$420 million. Canada has yet to announce a specific amount that it will contribute for this purpose.

Goal 8 - Develop a global partnership for development

The Facts

\$100 billion minimum is needed per year to meet the goals, or 0.5% of the gross national income of the Development Assistance Committee countries. Total official aid is less than half of this. Unless rich countries keep their pledges to deliver financing for development, the Millennium Development Goals will not be met.

More aid alone is not enough. It also has to be more effective. Aid should not be tied, should be harmonized with local development priorities and should have its administration reduced as far as possible. New approaches to debt relief are needed, particularly in the face of collapsing produce markets. Current trade policies are highly discriminatory. For example, agricultural subsidies in rich countries lead to unfair competition, crippling developing countries' markets.

The average OECD tariff on manufactured goods from developing countries is four times those on goods from other OECD countries. There is significant scope to improve poor people's access to global technologies. For example, only 10% of global spending on medical research is directed at diseases of the poorest 90% of the world.

What Canada can do

Canada should develop a detailed plan outlining how it will achieve the promised 0.7% target within ten years. It should also consider other alternative financing mechanisms such as Financial Transaction Tax and press for actions on regulating tax havens and stopping tax evasion by multinational corporations.