

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations needs your help to achieve the Global Goals and build a better future for all.

In 2000, representatives from the United Nations (UN) set eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to meet by 2015. Great strides were made in ending extreme poverty and fighting inequality and injustice. But there is still work to be done.

The UN is meeting the challenge with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, also known as Global Goals) for 2015–2030. There are 17 goals that continue the work of the

MDGs and add one more area of concern: sustainability. The SDGs aspire to protect the Earth’s ecosystems and create long-lasting prosperity. Such sustainability improves life for all now, while also preserving the resources that people will need in the future.

None of this can be accomplished without your help. The young people of today will inherit the Earth of tomorrow, so making your voices heard is key in realizing the Global Goals. ■



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Did You Know?
During the 15-year period of the MDGs, extreme poverty was halved. The SDGs aim to reduce it to zero by 2030.

What Are the Global Goals?

Click on the icons below at globalgoals.org and learn more about each goal.

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>
<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>16 PEACE AND JUSTICE</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development</p>

Can you speak the language of the Global Goals? Find the words and their definitions in our word search puzzle at teachunicef.org/sdgs-word-search-puzzle.



The World You Want

Achieving the SDGs means a better future for everyone—and no one is more affected by global changes than today’s children. That is why the UN included young people from across the globe in planning the Global Goals. The UN wanted to learn about challenges they face and obtain their ideas for sustainable growth.

Read these quotes from two students on what they want in one important area: education. Answer the questions that follow on another sheet of paper.

“While school is free, notebooks and uniforms are not. Many of our peers come to class with only some gari [food made from tapioca] that they can eat for lunch. It’s too much, we are poor.”

—Young child from Togo (West Africa)

“We don’t want to be educated to be employees and obey orders, but to be entrepreneurs, creators, and agents of change.”

—Older youth from Colombia (South America)

For Discussion, Thought, and Debate

- UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund) is working toward building “a world fit for children.” What do you think such a world looks like?
- How can young people make sure their governments and leaders are actively working to accomplish the SDGs?
- The SDGs emphasize that they apply to all, even the most disadvantaged and powerless. How can we make sure that everyone benefits from the Global Goals?

1. In your own words, what is the main concern of the child from Togo and the youth from Colombia? In each case, what might be the long-term consequences for the country if this concern is not addressed?
2. Write a paragraph in which you set a goal on education for all the countries of the world. First introduce the goal, and then describe ways that it can be achieved. ■

Unlock Your Power

Young people everywhere are key to achieving the Global Goals. You can

- Discover ways to tell everyone about the SDGs at globalgoals.org/tell-everyone.
- Contact Members of Congress about supporting the SDGs at unicefusa.org/help/advocate.
- Make a better world by creating positive change in your lives, school, or community. Visit designforchange.us for resources.

Your voice and action have power! ■