

FAO AND THE EIGHT MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER
- 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION
- 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN
- 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY
- 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH
- 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES
- 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with the international community for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These eight goals are based on the United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed by world leaders in September 2000. This Declaration brought together the major goals that emerged from international conferences and summits during the 1990s. The MDGs commit the international community to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.

FAO's vision is of a world free of hunger and malnutrition for present and future generations, where agriculture contributes to improving the living standards of all in an environmentally sustainable way. The Organization is a world centre of food and agriculture information and knowledge, a forum for policy dialogue and forging agreements among nations, as well as advocacy and resource mobilization.



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In keeping with its mandate and expertise, FAO's main contribution is to Goal 1, which combines the reduction of poverty with that of hunger. The Organization also makes a significant contribution to Goal 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability. It directs resources towards achieving Goal 3 of promoting gender equality and empowering women and to Goal 8 for the global partnership for development. In addition, FAO's work of reducing hunger and malnutrition has important indirect effects on goals covering primary education (Goal 2), child mortality (Goal 4), maternal health (Goal 5), and combating diseases (Goal 6).

1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

FAO focuses on poverty and hunger reduction in many ways, including improving agricultural productivity; promoting better nutrition; improving access to food by the neediest; promoting gender equality; and addressing inequality at all levels. FAO assists countries to manage their forests, fisheries and natural resources in a sustainable way and mobilizes resources to increase financing for agriculture and food security.

2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

The learning ability of children is compromised by hunger and malnutrition. School gardens and school-feeding programmes can encourage school attendance and bring direct nutritional benefits to children. FAO supports countries in establishing school gardens and school-feeding programmes and coordinates with other UN agencies to support improved access to primary education.

3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

FAO recognizes that the MDGs cannot be achieved without gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Organization raises awareness of the important roles of rural women in agriculture, natural resource management and food security and has developed instruments to ensure that both men's and women's concerns are addressed in its work. FAO helps countries to formulate agricultural policies that promote gender equality.

4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Approximately 200 million children under five years of age suffer from acute or chronic malnutrition, which is a contributing factor in the deaths each year of nearly 13 million children under five from preventable diseases and infections. FAO in partnership with UN agencies, civil society, donors, and the private sector supports countries to take action to reduce child malnutrition.

5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Improving maternal health is key both to saving the lives of more than half a million women each year and breaking the vicious cycle that perpetuates poverty, hunger and malnutrition from one generation to the next. FAO promotes nutrition awareness among women, especially in rural areas, introducing labour-saving technologies and ensuring greater household food security, which contributes to better maternal health.

6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has a significant impact on food security and nutrition. FAO is working to raise awareness among policy makers, programme planners and development specialists to incorporate HIV/AIDS considerations into food security policies and programmes.

7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

FAO supports sustainable natural resource management and conservation. The Organization assists countries to manage their land, water, fisheries, forests and genetic resources in ways that sustain their populations and meet the food requirements and environmental, social and economic needs of present and future generations. FAO supports the implementation of the major UN environmental conventions.

8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

FAO works with UN agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector to promote food security and agricultural development. FAO is an active partner in efforts to create an open and fair multilateral trading system through support for food, agricultural and overall trade policies conducive to food security.

