



UNITED NATIONS

WE CAN END POVERTY

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND BEYOND 2015

FACT SHEET

GOAL 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

TARGETS

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

FAST FACTS

- ✧ The proportion of people living in extreme poverty declined by half at the global level.
- ✧ In developing regions, the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day fell from 47 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2010, five years ahead of schedule.
- ✧ While the proportion of undernourished people globally decreased from 23.2 per cent in 1990-1992 to 14.9 per cent in 2010-2012, this still leaves 870 million people—one in eight worldwide—going hungry.

WHERE WE STAND

Extreme poverty rates have fallen in every developing region. Globally, the MDG target on the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has been met five years ahead of the target date. About 700 million fewer people lived in extreme poverty conditions in 2010 than in 1990. Despite this impressive achievement at the global level, 1.2 billion people are still living in extreme poverty.

The target of halving the percentage of people suffering from hunger is within reach. Numbers of people going hungry remain disturbingly high—one in eight worldwide—and globally an estimated one in six children under five is underweight. However, the proportion of undernourished people has decreased from 23 per cent in 1990-1992 to 15 per cent in 2010-2012, and with concerted action by national governments and international partners, the hunger target can be achieved.

South-eastern Asia is the first developing region to reach the hunger reduction target ahead of 2015. The proportion of undernourished people in the total population of the region has decreased from 29.6 per cent in 1990-1992 to 10.9 per cent in 2010-2012.

The slowing of economic growth spells continued job losses, with young people bearing the brunt of the crisis. The number of unemployed people has increased by 28 million since 2007, and an estimated 39 million people have dropped out of the labour market, leaving a gap of 67 million people without jobs as a result of the global economic and financial crisis. Though the number of workers living with their families in extreme poverty—on less than \$1.25 a day—has declined dramatically over the past decade, by 294 million, new estimates show that 60.9 per cent of workers in the developing world still live on less than \$4 a day.

WHAT'S WORKING?

Bosnia and Herzegovina: A brighter future for young people. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN agencies partnered with the Government of Spain to establish 16 centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide career counselling to unemployed youth. In the first 14 months of operation, the centres provided skills training to more than 6,800 young people, of whom almost 1,800 gained their first work experience.

[Cambodia: Farmers' incomes climb](#). Income rose to \$1.40 from \$0.47 a day among the 915 farmers, mostly women, in 15 villages in the Krakor district reached by the Food and Agriculture Organization's training project on literacy, gender awareness, health and nutrition and natural resource management. Participants improved food security and income generation by increasing off-farm production and improving quality, management and marketing.

Yemen: Food keeps girls in school. Since 2007, the World Food Programme's (WFP) [Food For Girls' Education Programme](#) has been tackling hunger and enrolment challenges in Yemen, where more than 60 per cent of primary school-aged children who are not in school are girls. As a result of the programme, families who send their girls to school are eligible to receive an annual ration of wheat and fortified vegetable oil. Despite funding shortfalls, since 2010 the programme has reached almost 200,000 girls, benefiting almost 1 million family members.

Malawi: Winter cropping saves families from hunger. Some 2,800 people are currently benefiting from the Namasalima Irrigation Project in Zomba, Malawi, which is funded by WFP and implemented by Emmanuel International. The project, launched in August 2012, targets smallholder farmers affected by flash floods and aims to improve their livelihoods and increase their crop yields. The farmers are trained in best agricultural production practices, improved quality seed systems and conservation agriculture. The project ensures that families harvest enough food, saving many from hunger.

India: Right to paid work benefits millions. UNDP is supporting the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Program, promoting the law passed in 2005 guaranteeing the right to a minimum of 100 days of paid work a year for landless labourers and marginal farmers. Implementation of the scheme is now providing 50 days of work a year to around 50 million households. Almost half of the beneficiaries are women.

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Through the [Zero Hunger Challenge](#), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon invites all countries to be boldly ambitious as they work for a future where every individual has adequate nutrition and where all food systems are resilient. Since the Challenge's launch in 2012, a broad range of countries, groups and individuals have taken action to eliminate hunger.

The Zero Hunger Challenge aims to achieve: 100 per cent access to adequate food all year round; zero stunted children less than 2 years old; all food systems are sustainable; 100 per cent increase in smallholder productivity and income; and zero loss or waste of food.

Programmes in line with the Zero Hunger Challenge are taking shape in 20 countries around the world. Antigua and Barbuda, Mexico and Pakistan announced plans to launch Zero Hunger Challenge programmes with the help of national and international partners. Politicians in Mexico City and London have declared their intention to become "Zero Hunger Cities."

The [Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\) Movement](#) is an effort led by national governments dedicated to making an investment in nutrition as an investment in the future. With countries leading the way in establishing nutrition plans, policies and programmes, global partners across civil society, business, donors and others align to support action to improve the nutrition of all—especially women and children. Since its launch in 2010, the SUN Movement has expanded to 40 countries that together are home to 80 million stunted children. This is equivalent to about half of all stunted children in the world.

In Uttar Pradesh, India, 50,000 women are benefiting from a joint [UNDP-IKEA Foundation](#) pilot launched in 2009. Through financial literacy training, 9,000 dairy producers formed a company in 2011. Profits doubled in a year as members eliminated brokers and managed all steps for supplying the state's milk grid. An expanded project will reach 2.2 million women.

UNDP and Brazil's Natura Cosméticos are partnering to provide strategic planning, direct sales, computer skills, customer service, accounting and project management training to 74,300 beauty advisers. Helping low-income sales representatives is part of a commitment to the UNDP-supported global anti-poverty initiative, [Business Call to Action](#).

Sources: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, United Nations, 2013; Scaling Up Nutrition; UNDP; UNDP-IKEA, FAO (The State of Food and Agriculture 2013); UNICEF; ILO; WFP, Zero Hunger Challenge.

* The international poverty line was set at \$1 a day at the time the MDGs were established, but since 2008, the World Bank has defined people living in extreme poverty as those living on less than \$1.25 a day, reflecting higher price levels in many developing countries than previously estimated.



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