

UN Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000 world leaders at the United Nations adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This was a seminal event in the history of the United Nations. It constituted an unprecedented promise by world leaders to address as a single package, peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms. By 2015 all 191 United Nations Member States have pledged to meet the MDGs.

What are the 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*

They form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading institutions to meet the needs of the world's poorest people.

The MDGs are people-centred, time bound and measurable. They are achievable.

We are the first generation that can eradicate poverty in the world.

'Let us be clear about the cost of missing this opportunity: millions of lives that could have been saved will be lost. Many freedoms that could have been secured will be denied and we shall inhabit a more dangerous and unstable world!'

- *United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi A. Annan*

- *From the foreword to Millennium Goals Report 2005.*

- For further information see website:
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>



Make a future possible for these children and succeeding generations.

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual.

We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

- *Kofi A. Annan*

To give more attention to the MDGs *The Far East* will be running a more in-depth look at each goal separately. Millennium goal 1 begins in the next issue. Goals 2-7 will appear in upcoming issues until June 2007.

To make poverty history