

Millennium Development Goals: Eight Steps Towards Healing a Hurting World

What are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established to halve, by the year 2015, the number of people who live in extreme poverty. Developed by the international community including leaders from 191 countries, the eight goals were endorsed by the United Nations, development institutions and religious bodies, and have galvanized unprecedented energy and effort.

Each goal works toward alleviating poverty and disease by establishing targets that will directly improve people's lives.

Millennium Development Goals	Challenges	Targets
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	One billion people live on less than \$1 USD per day 854 million people are chronically hungry and one child dies from hunger every 5 seconds	Cut in half the number of people who live on less than \$1 per day Cut in half the number of hungry people
2. Achieve universal primary education	Approximately 77 million children do not attend primary school	Ensure that girls and boys everywhere are able to complete primary school
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	96 million young women aged 15-24 in developing countries cannot read or write	Eliminate discrimination against women in education
4. Reduce child mortality	26,000 children under five die every day, many from preventable illnesses	Reduce by two-thirds the number of children who die before age five
5. Improve maternal health	Approximately 500,000 women die every year from complications due to pregnancy and childbirth	Reduce by 75% the number of women who die as a result of pregnancy and childbirth
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	One million people die each year from malaria—an easily preventable disease 14,000 new HIV/AIDS infections are diagnosed every day	Stop the spread of these diseases and see a decline in death rates
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	1 billion people—one-fifth of the world's population—do not have access to clean water within a 15 minute walk from their home Forests worldwide are shrinking at an unprecedented rate	Cut in half the number of people without access to safe drinking water Reverse the loss of natural resources by practicing sustainable development
8. Develop a global partnership for development	Unfair trade systems, crippling debt, and limited access to markets prevent growth and opportunity for all people	Improve levels of development assistance, promote good governance, provide access to markets, offer solutions for indebted countries

Why does Episcopal Relief & Development work toward achieving the MDGs?

The MDGs challenge us to fulfill our mandate, found in the words of Jesus in Matthew 25. In this passage, Jesus portrayed himself as a person suffering from the conditions associated with poverty, and blessed those who responded to his needs.

In Jesus' story, people didn't remember helping him. They asked, "Lord, when did we see **you** hungry...or thirsty...or sick?" His response was clear: when we serve others, we serve him. "Just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Episcopal Relief & Development invites Episcopalians to answer the call set forth in Matthew 25—to meet the needs of the hungry, the sick and the suffering. Giving to Episcopal Relief & Development to help achieve the MDGs is a powerful and practical way to live out the promise made in our Baptismal Covenant to "seek and serve Christ in all persons."

Episcopal Relief & Development Mandate and the MDGs Side by Side

Lord, when was it that we
Saw you **hungry** and gave you food,
Or **thirsty** and gave you something to drink,
Or a **stranger** and welcomed you,
Or **naked** and gave you clothing,
Or **sick** or in **prison** and visited you?
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of
the least of these who are members of
my family, you did it to me.'

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 Episcopal Church and the MDGs

This church has said that our larger vision will be framed and shaped in the coming years by the vision of shalom embedded in the Millennium Development Goals – a world where the hungry are fed, the ill are healed, the young educated, women and men treated equally, and where all have access to clean water and adequate sanitation, basic health care, and the promise of development that does not endanger the rest of creation. That vision of abundant life is achievable in our own day, but only with the passionate commitment of each and every one of us. It is God's vision of homecoming for all humanity.

From the Investiture Sermon of the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church
November 2006

The Episcopal Church has committed itself to working towards achieving the MDGs. At the 74th General Convention in 2003, the Episcopal Church formally endorsed the MDGs. In 2006, at the 75th Convention, the Church voted to make the MDGs a mission priority. The Church also established a budget line item of 0.7% to support the achievement of the MDGs, and has encouraged all dioceses to pledge a minimum of their budget to ministries focused on the MDGs.

Episcopal Relief & Development along with the Episcopal Church's ONE Episcopalian campaign and Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation have issued a joint statement about their response to the MDGs.

How does Episcopal Relief & Development work toward achieving the MDGs?

Each of Episcopal Relief & Development's programs addresses the MDGs. We use the MDGs as benchmarks to monitor our progress and the impact we're making with our partners. Because the MDGs are so inextricably linked, working to achieve one MDG in a community often leads to the fulfillment of others, as Mariama's story demonstrates.

Mariama and the MDGs

Mariama, a 48-year-old mother of six, lives in a rural community in northern Ghana, the region with the highest malnutrition, child and maternal mortality rates in the country. Malaria is rampant in the region, killing almost one-quarter of children under five each year. For years she and her neighbors struggled to feed their families by farming small plots in this drought-prone area. Traditionally, crops were only planted during the very short rainy season, which often led to shortages of food during the long dry season.

Thankfully, life has changed for Mariama and her neighbors since the beginning of a partnership between Episcopal Relief & Development, the Anglican Diocese of Tamale (which serves northern Ghana) and its development agency, ADDRO.

With Episcopal Relief & Development's support, a women's farming cooperative was formed, where Mariama learned new farming methods including dry season vegetable gardening. Each woman in the cooperative also received \$100 in start-up capital and training in basic accounting and bookkeeping. Within one year, the group earned a profit of over \$3,000—more than tripling their initial total investment of \$1,000. They used the profit to expand their farming activities.

"Before the program, we could hardly feed ourselves and our families. Now we can feed, clothe and educate our children and still have some money with which to expand our business each year," said Mariama.

Additionally, Episcopal Relief & Development is the managing partner in Ghana for *NetsforLife*[®], a malaria prevention program partnership comprised of individual, foundation, and corporate sponsors. Episcopal Relief & Development is working with ADDRO to distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and educate communities in prevention and treatment methods.

By focusing our programs towards achieving the MDGs, Episcopal Relief & Development's work in northern Ghana has transformed life for Mariama, her children and her community. They are no longer hungry (MDG 1). The children aren't needed to work the farm any longer, and Mariama can afford to send them to school (MDG 2). Mariama and her women's cooperative are empowered to provide for themselves and their families (MDG 3). Effective malaria prevention is saving children and pregnant women (MDGs 4,5,6). Improved farming methods help to sustain the environment (MDG 7). By working through partnerships, we are investing in people and communities to achieve lasting development in struggling areas (MDG 8).

What You Can Do to Help Achieve the MDGs: The MDG Inspiration Fund

The MDG Inspiration Fund provides an opportunity to join Episcopal Relief & Development's efforts to achieve the MDGs.

The MDG Inspiration Fund was launched in 2007 by Episcopal Relief & Development, Jubilee Ministries and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. It seeks to raise \$3 million by 2009 to save thousands of lives by focusing specifically on achieving MDGs 4, 5, and 6.

MDG 4:	Reduce Child Mortality
MDG 5:	Improve Maternal Health
MDG 6:	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

You can fulfill your own 0.7% commitment by giving to the MDG Inspiration Fund today. Make a donation by visiting our website at www.er-d.org.

Get your church involved in working toward achieving the MDGs by holding an MDG Inspiration Fund campaign. Learn more on our website www.er-d.org by clicking on Congregational Tools and choosing "Special Church Campaigns" from the drop-down menu.

Your help will make a difference in ensuring the success of the MDGs. Join us in healing a hurting world.

Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States. As an independent 501(c) (3) organization, Episcopal Relief & Development takes its mandate from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25. Its programs work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Together with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners, Episcopal Relief & Development strengthens communities today to meet tomorrow's challenges. We rebuild after disasters and empower people by offering lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease, including HIV/AIDS and malaria.



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