



The countdown towards achieving the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) has begun with fewer than 1,000 days left to meet the 2015 deadline. At the start of the new millennium, world leaders came together in an unprecedented manner to set specific targets for eradicating the scourge of poverty. Since then annual reports have chartered the success or failure of each country in relation to the eight goals identified as the key drivers of development: universal access to education, health services, sanitation and gender equality.

The MDGs have been called the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. Extreme poverty has been halved, more girls are now in primary school, there is a decline in infant and maternal mortality rates, and efforts have intensified to fight killer diseases such as malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Yet much remains to be done. For instance it is estimated that one billion of the seven billion on our planet are severely malnourished, over one billion have no access to sanitation, while the gap between rich and poor continues to increase both within nations and between them.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/mdgmomentum.shtml>



As a new set of global development goals will be drawn up post 2015, the United Nations is in the process of consulting widely with governments, civil society, development agencies and people living in poverty on what should be included in the next framework. In particular the UN wants to hear from you! For this purpose a short survey has been constructed so that you can join in the global conversation. Of sixteen items, you are asked to select **six** as your top priorities. There is a space at the bottom of the survey for you to include something that hasn't been listed. Just click on the following link to register your opinion.

<http://www.myworld2015.org/index.html>



The choices in the **My World Survey**

include political freedom, freedom from discrimination and persecution, affordable and nutritious food, support for people who can't work, equality between men and women, a good education, an honest and responsive government, better job opportunities, protection against crime and violence, phone and internet access, protecting forests, rivers and oceans, access to clean water and sanitation, action taken on climate change, reliable energy at home, better transport and roads, and better healthcare.

Early indications suggest that good education, better health care and honest government are high on the list to date, while adequate and affordable housing is emerging as one of the issues that needs to be added. I therefore encourage you to start the conversation with your friends and family and register your six top priorities for the post 2015 global development goals by completing the survey. You can see the latest results online at:

<http://www.results.myworld2015.org>

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