

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger

The UN SDG 2 states that *'With more than a quarter of a billion people potentially at the brink of starvation, swift action needs to be taken to provide food and humanitarian relief to the most at-risk regions.'*

The United Nations Development Programme note that the SDG's aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people, and especially children, have sufficient and nutritious food all year, and that *'this involved promoting sustainable agriculture, supporting small scale farmers and equal access to land, technology and markets.'*

Further to this, the UN advises that whilst progress has been made, unfortunately extreme hunger and malnutrition remain a huge barrier to development in many countries.

Statistics

- The number of undernourished people reached 821 million in 2017
- More than 1 in 8 adults are obese
- Nearly 151 million children under 5 (22%) were stunted in 2017.
- 1 in 3 women of reproductive age are anemic.

Goals

Some of the UN SDG2 Goals are:

- By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
- By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
- Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

For further information on the Goals - <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

SDG 3 - Global Health & Well Being

The UN SDG 3 states that *'Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development'*.

Good health is essential to sustainable development, and the UN Development Programme note that the 2030 Agenda reflects the *'complexity and interconnectedness of the two, as it takes into account widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanisation, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, and emerging challenges such as non communicable diseases'*. The UN establishes that Universal health coverage will be integral to achieving SDG 3, ending poverty and reducing inequalities.

Further to this, the UN advises that globally nations are not on track to meet the health related SDG's by 2030, with progress currently uneven, highlighted by a 31 year gap between the countries with the shortest and longest expectancies.

Statistics

- At least 400 million people have no basic health care, and 40% lack social protection
- More than 1.6 billion people live in fragile settings where protracted crises, combined with weak national capacity to deliver basic health services, present a significant challenge to global health.
- Every 2 seconds someone aged 30 to 70 years dies prematurely from non-communicable diseases - cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, diabetes or cancer.
- More than one in every three women have experienced either physical or sexual violence at some point in their life, resulting in both short and long term consequences for their physical, mental, and sexual and reproductive health.

Goals

Some of the UN SDG3 Goals are:

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

For further information on the Goals - <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

SDG 6 - Water & Sanitation

The UN SDG 6 states that *'Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential.'*

Access to clean drinking water and sanitation is essential to sustainable development, and the UN Development Programme note that *'water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people, an alarming figure that is projected to rise as temperatures do. Although 2.1 billion people have improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling drinking water supplies are affecting every continent. More and more countries are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is already worsening these trends. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages.'*

Further to this, the UN advises that to achieve the SDG Goal of safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires that there is a Global investment in adequate infrastructure, the provision of sanitation facilities, and global encouragement for hygiene practices.

Statistics

- Water stress affects 2 billion people, with this figure expected to increase.
- 71% of the global population, 5.2 billion people, had safely-managed drinking water in 2015, but 844 million people still lacked even basic drinking water.
- 39 percent of the global population, 2.9 billion people, had safe sanitation in 2015, but 2.3 billion people still lacked basic sanitation. 892 million people practiced open defecation.
- The world has lost 70 percent of its natural wetlands over the last century.

Goals

Some of the UN SDG6 Goals are:

- By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

For further information on the Goals -

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report 2019 -

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>