Sustainable Development Goals

What are the SDGs?
These are 17 steps to change the world by 2030. They are a set of global goals to end poverty and protect the planet, adopted in 2015 by all 193 countries of the United Nations. They replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). All of us need to know about them.

A better world by 2030
The 17 goals are a new global plan for how to protect people and the planet over the next 15 years. World leaders have promised to:
› wipe out extreme poverty
› fight inequality
› tackle climate change, and
› achieve lasting development for everyone.

From MDGs to SDGs – what’s new?
The last goals – the MDGs – set in 2000, saw many successes. Fewer people now live in extreme poverty, more girls and boys than ever before are in primary school and far more people have access to clean water, better food and essential medicines.

What happens now?
The world’s leaders have made 17 big promises. Now they have to keep them. So we must make sure our governments are taking the right steps to reach the goals. They need to:
› Set out a national strategy to meet the goals.
› Get the right ministries onto the job, make sure they’re talking to each other, and give them the resources they need.
› Address the goals together, don’t pick them off one by one.
› Work together with civil society groups like charities.
› Set up ways of monitoring how it’s going.
› Contribute fairly to global efforts to achieve the goals.

The SDGs are designed to leave no-one behind. Underlying them are four key principles:

1. UNIVERSALITY: We’re in this together
Most of the MDG targets were set for action in low-income countries. These new goals are for all countries and include challenging targets – like not pumping too much CO2 into our atmosphere.

2. SUSTAINABILITY: We need an all-round approach
It’s no good helping a sick person get better, if they are still too poor to eat. Solving the world’s problems in a lasting way requires an all-round approach. The SDGs aim not just at social needs like health and education, but also economic issues and, vitally, the environment.

3. LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND
World leaders cannot claim to have met a goal unless it is met for everyone.

4. PARTICIPATION: Everyone is involved
Most governments barely got a look-in when the MDGs were decided, let alone normal citizens. CAFOD helped ensure that people in poor countries had a say in fixing the new goals.

FACT
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO DIE BEFORE THEIR 5TH BIRTHDAY IS DOWN BY MORE THAN HALF SINCE THE MDGs WERE INTRODUCED.

However, progress has been mixed. Many hard-to-reach people have not felt the benefits; they may be disabled, indigenous, living in a remote place – or they are young, or women. They were simply left out.

TRY THIS
Group activity: Choose one goal and find the list of targets set to reach it. Pick out one that you think is especially important and present it to the rest of the class. Write a tweet that sums it up.

This little girl is drinking from a CAFOD-funded water filter. She lives in a heavily-bombed area of Gaza. She needs the SDGs.
**The 17 global goals**

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation, infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption, production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

**What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?**

**Can I help?**

- Find out all about the goals.
- Spread the word: tell your friends and family about them.
- Find your own ways of meeting the goals: stick up for people who aren’t treated fairly; don’t waste food or water; look after the world around you (use your ideas from the next activity, top right).
- Let your MP know you care. Ask them if the government is taking the steps listed overleaf.

**FACT**

**NEVER BEFORE HAVE WORLD LEADERS PLEDGED TO ACT TOGETHER TOWARDS SUCH A BROAD AND UNIVERSAL HUMAN ENDEAVOUR.**

**What is CAFOD doing?**

- In the field, CAFOD is funding projects across many of the goals. Better nutrition, access to health services, support for people with HIV, clean water supplies: these are our day-to-day business.
- In the UK and through partners overseas, CAFOD helped influence the SDGs during their formation. We will continue to seek to influence governments to ensure they are fully implemented.
- CAFOD is supporting communities around the world to use our faith and the teaching of *Laudato Si’* to ensure that the SDGs are met for all of us.

**“The new agenda is a promise by leaders to all people everywhere... Above all, it pledges to leave no-one behind.”**

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

**Useful resources**

Sustainable development goals – Action towards 2030, CAFOD booklet explaining the SDGs, how they can be seen in the light of *Laudato Si’*, and next steps. Included is an attractive graphic poster.

cafod.org.uk for animations on *Laudato Si’* and *What are the SDGs?*
beyond2015.org
worldwewant2015.org
sustainabledevelopment.un.org
globalgoals.org

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