



Recommendations for a Post-2015 Development Agenda

Recapturing the vision of a “World Fit for Children”

OUR CONTEXT

- The human rights of millions of children were advanced and fulfilled following Governments' adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, and as a result of countries around the globe striving to meet the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) since they were first set in 2001. Unprecedented progress has been made in reducing poverty rates and child death rates, as well as improving access to clean water, health services and basic education for girls as well as boys.
- At the same time, millions of other children have been denied their rights. They were marginalized and faced discrimination because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, economic status, or because of where they lived. They still are.
- The two most immediate challenges to achieving the vision of *A World Fit for Children* in the years leading to 2015 and beyond are: **to build on the progress of the MDGs** – an unfinished and continuing agenda; and **to correct the key shortfalls and omissions from the MDG agenda**.
- Recognizing that there have been significant changes in the world since the MDGs and the *World Fit for Children* were first adopted by United Nations Member States, such as those related to climate change and urbanization, it will also be vital to address these changes and their impact on children's lives as we work to ensure a rights-based, people-centered agenda that explicitly includes children and young people in all its aspects.
- **Children's voice, choices and participation are critical for the sustainable future we want, and should be incorporated systematically in the design, implementation and monitoring stages of the Post-2015 process.**
- We believe that children are at the heart of sustainable development, and that the Post-2015 Development Agenda should place the rights and needs of all children as central to its goals: as a **moral imperative**, based on children's human rights; as a **legal obligation**, under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other legal instruments; and as a **practical necessity** for sustainable development.

OUR 4 ASKS FOR CHILDREN

We believe that the Post-2015 Development Agenda should focus on four inter-dependent priorities with the objective of building a sustainable world that is fit for all: (1) eradicating all forms of extreme poverty, (2) tackling inequalities, (3) stopping all forms of violence against children, and (4) ensuring locally-led and transparent mechanisms for monitoring progress and ensuring accountability.

1. **Eradicating all forms of extreme poverty:** Poverty – in all its reinforcing dimensions – social exclusion, discrimination, economic deprivation, unequal treatment by service providers and legal systems, violence, abuse and exploitation – cannot be decisively reduced and eliminated by targeted interventions and economic growth alone. The barriers that keep children and families in poverty cannot be dismantled piece by piece. They must be taken as a whole.
2. **Tackling inequalities:** Inequalities between and within countries remain wide and, in many places, have been growing. Inequalities disproportionately affect children, who experience exclusion directly and also face limited opportunities due to inequalities experienced by their parents. These inequalities harm not only the children and families who are deprived – but also their entire societies, by undermining prosperity and increasing the risks of instability. Inequalities threaten the development gains already made and those hoped for post-2015. The Post-2015 Development Agenda must explicitly identify the most vulnerable groups of children and address the root causes of the situations of inequality, discrimination, stigma and marginalization that they face.
3. **Stopping all forms of violence against children:** Violence against children takes place in every country, every region, and at every socio-economic level – in homes, schools and communities, in institutions, online in virtual communities, and through the use of mobile technologies. Yet, the MDGs did not address the universal right to live free from fear. The Post-2015 Development Agenda must not be silent on this issue and should seek to wholly eliminate all forms of violence against children and women in line with human rights standards.
4. **Ensuring locally-led and transparent mechanisms for monitoring progress and ensuring accountability:** The MDGs stumbled when it came to empowering and enabling citizens to hold their governments accountable for equitable progress at national and local levels. The Post-2015 Development Agenda must institute broad-based citizen-led reviews of progress and performance at each level, and make sustained efforts to democratize access to information.

The world now has the means, resources, and knowledge to create societies where extreme poverty is eradicated, where no child or mother will die from preventable causes, where child malnutrition will be dramatically reduced, where every child will go to and learn in safe schools, and where every child will be cared for and protected from violence. The Post-2015 Development Agenda provides an historic opportunity to “get to zero” on extreme poverty in all its forms. All efforts must be made to fulfill this potential.

We are committed to assist United Nations Member States in designing a Post-2015 Development Agenda that advances the rights of every child. We are committed to working with partners in advocating for, implementing and monitoring such an agenda.