
UN: Millions Still Hungry and Poor Despite Millennium Development Goals

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Millennium development goal one, which was implemented to reduce extreme poverty and hunger by the end of 2015, has been fulfilled, the United Nations said Tuesday.

Almost 800 million people are still living in dire poverty and suffer from hunger, the U.N. reported, which means that the number of poor people has been halved from the 1.9 billion figure recorded in 1990.

According to the goals set by world leaders in 2000, the percentage of impoverished people – defined by the World Bank as those living on less than US\$1.25 a day – must fall to 25 percent by the end of this year, while the proportion of people without adequate food security must be reduced to 12.5 percent.

The U.N. says that World Bank standard has been fulfilled, after it analyzed eight development goals set out in the Millennium Declaration in 2000.

Last year the U.N. said that Latin America had already met some of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals prior to the 2015 deadline, thanks to the region's substantial progress in the areas of poverty reduction, gender equality and health.

However, the organization highlights that progress has been uneven, especially in war zones and areas affected by outbreaks of diseases.

This information comes as most of the world's governments are preparing to attend the United Nations September summit on the sustainable development goals, with member states now discussing the 17 goals that will help guide policies for the next 15 years. The new goals aim to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030.