

Global Goals factsheet

The month, we are asking you to write to Secretary of State Penny Mordaunt about the UK's Voluntary National Review of our progress against the Global Goals.

These facts on overall progress towards achieving the Goals, and the UK's contribution, might help you with your letter.

- Since the 1990s, extreme poverty has more than halved, but progress on some Goals is stalling or even reversing.
- Globally, deaths of children under 5 have reduced from 87 per 1,000 births in 1990 to 39 in 2017. More effort is needed to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of fewer than 25 deaths per 1,000 births.
- The target to reduce cases of TB to fewer than 20 per 100,000 people is a long way off track – it's only reduced from 186 in 1990 to 147 in 2017.
- UK aid supported the immunisation of 37.4 million children against a range of diseases including measles, tetanus and malaria from 2015 to 2017, saving 610,000 lives.
- The UK has been a strong supporter of vital health partnerships such as Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, saving millions of lives. More financial support will be needed for these and other important global health partnerships from 2020.
- There remains a big education gap, with over 600 million students considered not minimally proficient. More countries need to gather data (especially on foundational learning in the early grades) so they can create evidence-based strategies for solving the learning crisis.
- The UK continues to meet its commitment to spending 0.7% of our national income on overseas aid. This is vital, and it must be spent in the most effective, transparent way possible, and focused on those most in need.

Case study: Why the Global Goals matter



“Countries like India have almost completed the first part of the equation: getting students in the door. Now they must turn to the second part.”

Ashish Dhawan, Chairman, Central Square Foundation, India

“In 2000, when the Government of India launched its Education for All movement (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), almost one in five children in the country wasn’t enrolled in primary school. It would be difficult to overstate the enormity of this challenge. If India’s 6–14-year olds made up their own country, it would be the seventh largest country in the world. But now, less than two decades later, virtually all of them (97 percent) are enrolled in school. Especially for the poorest families in the country, this is a revolution.”

“India’s achievement is unique because of its size, but many countries in the world have made similar progress. The number of children out of school has decreased in every single region in the world. Sub-Saharan Africa, which has the most children out of school of any region, has cut that number by almost one quarter since the turn of the millennium. Over the same span, the global gender gap in primary school has closed considerably, from 6 percentage points to 2 percentage points.”

“I celebrate these successes, but they are just the start of the work, not the end of it. Educated people are more prosperous, healthier, and even happier. Educated nations enjoy rapid economic growth, declining child mortality, and peace and security. However, these benefits accrue not when students enter the classroom but when they leave it having learned basic skills. Countries like India have almost completed the first part of this equation: getting students in the door. Now they must turn to the second part.”

Source: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. You can read more case studies in their [Goalkeepers Report](#).