



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GLOBAL GOALS FROM EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

# FAQS



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## What is the overall point of the Goals ?

To eliminate extreme poverty, to reduce inequalities and to combat the threat of climate change by 2030 .

## Who agreed on the Goals, when and where?

The leaders of all 193 member states of the United Nations agreed on the Goals, on 25 September 2015, in a ceremony at its headquarters in New York.

## Why are they called both the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs is the real name for the Goals as agreed by the member states of the UN. The Global Goals is a nickname for the SDGs. It is easier to say and more "friendly" so it is used to help connect and engage people with them.

## Why are there 17 Goals?

The United Nations conducted [the biggest public consultation](#) in its history to ask which issues should be included in the Goals. It was agreed that 17 Goals were needed in order to accommodate people's views . That way the correct focus will be placed on the areas that are essential for creating a sustainable future for all.

## Why are the Goals numbers and is the order significant?

The Goals begin with Goal 1 – No Poverty, to mark the continuation of the MDGs ambition to eliminate extreme poverty,. They end with Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals - to emphasise a continued commitment to work together in order to achieve progress for all. The order of the other goals does not signify any priority as all are critical and interdependent.

## Are the colours for the Goals significant and how were they chosen?

It was a creative challenge to find 17 colours, that looked good together and to make sure similar colours weren't next to each other. It was also important to keep certain colour associations – like making the two Goals about water blue and the Energy goal yellow like the sun. The designer himself said: "in the end it was like a big color-puzzle!"



## Why are young people important to the Goals?

There are 1.8 billion people aged 10 – 24 in the world, the largest youth population in history. Young people can be a powerful in holding their governments accountable to their Global Goals promise by speaking publicly in their support for the Goals now, buying from businesses that are working to support the Goals (and challenging those that are not) and through their voting power in the near future. Young people can also use their education to take specific action in support of the Goals. They can invent, they can innovate and they can campaign for causes or to solve problems that they care about. View our [film here](#).

## Can I support just one Goal?

Choosing one Goal to support is a good way to start, and to take specific action. However, all the Goals are interlinked, so by supporting one Goal your actions will have positive impacts on other Goals. For example, promoting gender equality (Goal 5) in your school will help support a growing economy (Goal 8) and quality education for all (Goal 4).

## Does every country have to achieve all the Goals?

Yes though some Goals will be more urgent in some countries than others and so that will determine the efforts made and in what order.

## How much will it cost to achieve the Goals?

There is no definitive answer – however economist Jeffrey Sachs calculated that the total cost to eliminate extreme poverty would be \$175bn per year. This represents less than one percent of the combined income of the richest countries in the world. To achieve all the Goals [recent estimates](#) suggest 2% world GDP would be sufficient. While these sums are large, they are far outweighed by the cost of *not* investing in the Goals including increased impacts of climate change, effects of inequality and poor health on the world economy.

## How will we know if the Goals are being achieved?

All 193 countries at the United Nations committed to achieving all the Goals, by developing a plan of action for their own national context. Once a year countries are invited to come together to discuss their progress at a UN summit (the [High Level Political Forum](#)). To make it easier the Goals are broken down into a set of targets and indicators that countries can work towards.

## What happens if the Goals aren't achieved?

Although unanimously agreed, the Goals are not legally binding. The Goal are a promise made by all countries to each other to work together on a plan. No one can enforce that they are achieved but by working together, urging businesses to play their part and holding governments accountable they can be.