

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the ambitious, global push to continue to reduce extreme poverty and address inequality around the world. They follow on from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were agreed to by world leaders at the United Nations (UN) in September 2000, and were set to last until 2015. They were a coordinated global plan for reducing poverty, and addressing issues like access to health care, education, gender equality, hunger, environmental sustainability, and so on. They successfully reduced extreme poverty, meeting the target of halving the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day. Unfortunately not all of the targets were met. The global economic crisis in 2008-09, for example, negatively impacted the number of people who had “full and productive employment and decent work”.<sup>1</sup>

The MDGs were the starting point, and in 2016 were replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals. At the global meeting in September 2015, UN members including Australia agreed to 17 goals “to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all”.<sup>2</sup> The timeframe for meeting these goals is 15 years, ending in 2030. While governments sign up to the SDGs, they do so on behalf of their citizens. The United Nations notes “for the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: government, the private sector [for example: businesses and corporations], civil society [for example: non-government organisations and advocacy groups] and people like you”.<sup>3</sup>

At the centre of Fairtrade’s work is the idea of partnering globally to help reduce poverty through fair prices and wages for producers, helping producers connect with global markets, and investing back into communities to address issues related to wellbeing, development, and environmental sustainability.



©Nathalie Bertrams. A Fairtrade producer organisation in Indonesia runs a tree nursery as part of their climate action program.



©Didier Gentilhomme. Fairtrade Premium funds helped set up this computer learning centre for girls in India.



©Sean Hawkey. Fairtrade Standards require decent working conditions



©Nathalie Bertrams. School children benefit from a Fairtrade Premium funded clean water project in Kenya

<sup>1</sup> UN, Millennium Development Goals: Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger, available at: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/poverty.shtml> [accessed March 2017]

<sup>2</sup> UN, Sustainable Development Goals: Goals, available at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> [accessed March 2017]

<sup>3</sup> ibid

1. Read the list of Sustainable Development Goals below. With a partner, indicate which goals you think relate to the work of the Fairtrade organisation and their partners. Note down a few dot points explaining why you think each goal is or isn't related to the work of Fairtrade. Keep in mind – some of the goals might directly relate to Fairtrade, and some might be indirectly related (for example: with higher incomes, producers can buy more and better quality food for their family to eat, which helps to reduce hunger).
2. As you read the *Fairtrade Producer Case Studies* about the work of Fairtrade and their partners, the methods they use and their impact, go back over each of the SDGs. Does this change your opinion? Update your notes – you may have changed your mind about if you think a goal is or isn't related to the work of Fairtrade. Add to your notes any new examples you have that support your opinion.

Sustainable Development Goal	Opinion: Does the goal relate (directly or indirectly) to Fairtrade?	Notes: Reasons why you believe this goal does or does not relate (either directly or indirectly) to the work of Fairtrade and their partners
Goal 1: No poverty		
Goal 2: Zero hunger		
Goal 3: Good health and well-being		
Goal 4: Quality education		
Goal 5: Gender equality		
Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation		
Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy		
Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth		
Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure		
Goal 10: Reduced inequalities		
Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities		
Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production		
Goal 13: Climate action		
Goal 14: Life below water		
Goal 15: Life on land		
Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions		
Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals		

You can find out more about each of the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN's website: [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/)