



HELPING HAND
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

There has been little progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the last 15 years.



In 1972, the first conference of the United Nations dedicated to the environment took place in Stockholm. The message was clear. For too long, humanity had prioritized economy over the environment, leading to cost cutting measures that polluted the atmosphere, waterways and communities. It was clear as early as fifty years ago that our progress was not sustainable. While no one promoted the idea of halting economic progress, we needed to find a way to conduct business and government without damaging the planet. This was the first indication of what would later be termed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The working definition of sustainable development is progress that meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet



HELPING HAND

FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

their own needs. SDGs are divided into 17 categories with items such as zero hunger, quality education and gender equality. Water and Sanitation are identified as SDG #6, with the goal being availability of clean drinking water and sanitary facilities for all human beings.

Since 2010, little to no progress has been made to deliver clean drinking water solutions to much of the world. While other SDGs such as infant mortality and healthcare have seen improvements, water and sanitation are falling behind. These ambitious goals were meant to be achieved by 2030, but as the end of the decade approaches, we are no closer to bridging the gap than we were fifteen years ago. In fact, according to this report by the United Nations, even developed countries have made little impact on the availability of drinking water and sanitation. This must change if we are to protect the health of children and families world wide.

Please see this report for a detailed breakdown of progress made on the 17 SDGs.

[Progress-Chart-2022.pdf \(un.org\)](#)