

Review

Contributions of the Guinea Worm Disease Eradication Campaign toward Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

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Introduction

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The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight international development goals that were adopted by the United Nations in 2000. The goals are to be achieved by 2015. The goals are: 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2. Achieve universal primary education; 3. Promote gender equality and empower women; 4. Reduce child mortality; 5. Improve maternal health; 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; 7. Ensure environmental sustainability; 8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Guinea worm disease (GWD) is a parasitic infection caused by the Guinea worm (*Dracunculus medinensis*). It is a debilitating disease that causes severe pain and disability. GWD is endemic in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. The Carter Center, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has led a successful campaign to eradicate GWD. The campaign has resulted in the elimination of GWD from 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

The eradication of GWD has made significant contributions to the achievement of the MDGs. The elimination of GWD has reduced the burden of disease and disability, improved the health and well-being of affected communities, and contributed to the achievement of MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases). The eradication of GWD has also contributed to the achievement of MDG 4 (Reduce child mortality) and MDG 5 (Improve maternal health). The eradication of GWD has also contributed to the achievement of MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and MDG 2 (Achieve universal primary education).

The eradication of GWD has also contributed to the achievement of MDG 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) and MDG 8 (Develop a global partnership for development). The eradication of GWD has helped to protect the environment and has contributed to the development of a global partnership for development.

The eradication of GWD is a testament to the power of international cooperation and the commitment of the Carter Center, the CDC, and the people of the affected countries. The eradication of GWD is a model for the eradication of other neglected tropical diseases.

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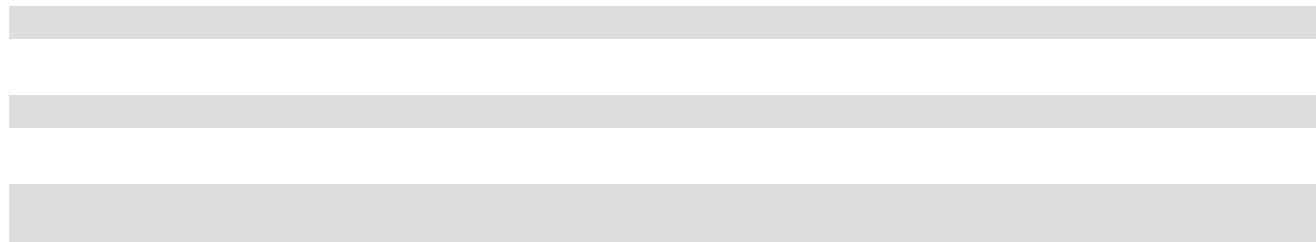
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Table 1. The Millennium Development Goals and Targets.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	Targets
Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty	Target A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than US \$1 a day Target B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people Target C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education	Target A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women	Target A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015
Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality	Target A: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health	Target A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio Target B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases	Target A: Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS Target B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it Target C: Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability	Target A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources Target B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss Target C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation Target D: By 2020, achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers



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