

How ICTs can help achieve the Millennium Development Goals

The following goals and targets were adopted in the Millennium Declaration at the General Assembly of the UN in September 2000.

Goal 8 includes a target to make available the benefits of ICTs to all the world's inhabitants. As well as this commitment, ICT can play a major role in achieving most of the other goals. The role of ICT for each goal is suggested in column 2. This text is designed to be used to compile information on best practices in using ICT to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that would help development practitioners identify what works and replicate success stories.

Goals	Role of ICT	Best Practices
Goal 1:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase access to market information and lower transaction costs for poor farmers and traders; ▪ Increase efficiency, competitiveness and market access of developing country firms; ▪ Enhance ability of developing countries to participate in global economy and to exploit comparative advantage in factor costs (particularly skilled labour). 	
Goals 2 and 3:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achieve universal primary education ▪ Promote gender equality and empower women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase supply of trained teachers through ICT-enhanced and distance training of teachers and networks that link teachers to their colleagues; ▪ Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education ministries and related bodies through strategic application of technologies and ICT-enabled skill development; ▪ Broaden availability of quality educational materials/resources through ICTs; ▪ Deliver educational and literacy programmes specifically targeted to poor girls & women using appropriate technologies; ▪ Influence public opinion on gender equality through information/communication programmes using a range of ICTs. 	
Goals 4, 5, 6:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce child mortality ▪ Improve maternal health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance delivery of basic and in-service training for health workers; 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase monitoring and information-sharing on disease and famine; ▪ Increase access of rural care-givers to specialist support and remote diagnosis; ▪ Increase access to reproductive health information, including information on AIDS prevention, through locally-appropriate content in local languages. 	
Goal 7:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure environmental sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remote sensing technologies and communications networks permit more effective monitoring, resource management, mitigation of environmental risks; ▪ Increase access to/awareness of sustainable development strategies, in areas such as agriculture, sanitation and water management, mining, etc.; ▪ Greater transparency and monitoring of environmental abuses/enforcement of environmental regulations; ▪ Facilitate knowledge exchange and networking among policy makers, practitioners and advocacy groups. 	
Goal 8:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a global partnership for development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Address the special needs of the least developed countries (LDCs) ▫ Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states ▫ In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enable LDCs, landlocked countries and small islands to link up with the global market to accelerate their progression and full integration into the world economy. ▪ Distance working facilitated by ICT opens up opportunities to create service-sector jobs in developing countries in such industries as call centres, data entry and processing, and software development; ▪ Telecentres do not only provide access to telecommunications, they also create direct employment for men and women; ▪ Improve youth learning skills, employability to meet the challenges of the knowledge-based global economy of the 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries ▫ In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies especially information and communications 	<p>21st century.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide online drugs databases. ▪ Combine low and high technology to achieve relative ubiquity of access to effective and affordable information and communication technology tools; ▪ Promote digital literacy through e-learning; ▪ Develop a critical mass of knowledge workers with the technical capabilities to provide and maintain ICT infrastructure. 	
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Source: adapted from United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), *The significance of information and communication technologies for reducing poverty*, January 2002.