

Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



What is Goal 3?

Increasing progress in overcoming child mortality, improving maternal health for both mother and child and tackling diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS has been seen worldwide. Since 1990, 17,000 fewer children die each day, but more than 6 million children still die before they reach their fifth birthday every year. With Sustainable Development Goal 3, the United Nations, alongside international organizations and national governments, strives to continue this progress in a more dramatic fashion that will require increasing investments in global health. Increasing the quality and impact of human health is a critical factor within sustainable development that can eventually lead to not only increases in human capital but also increasing economic improvements within society.

The third goal of the Sustainable Development Goals is wide reaching and includes tackling not only communicable diseases but also non-communicable diseases, mental health diseases, disease prevention, health problems that may come from natural disasters, tobacco control, and intellectual property. SDG 3 is a crucial goal worldwide due to its impact and interconnectedness with all other Sustainable Development Goals. Children born into poverty are almost two times as likely to die before reaching age 5 compared to children of wealthier families. Life expectancy for those living in poverty is significantly less than for affluent people even in the most developed states. It is important to set realistic goals for each state in issues of health care and prevention of disease, reduction of infant and maternal mortality, and health education. States and organizations from around the world should contribute to helping national governments that may not have the resources or funding required for increasing their citizens' health.

What are the Targets?

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well being
- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic incidents
- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs
- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Means of Implementation

- Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.
- Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
- Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks



Is this Possible?

The implementation of Goal 3 will depend on several factors to ensure that those who are in most desperate need are reached and given the health care which is a basic human right. SDG 3 recognizes that access to health care is not evenly distributed around the world. Even some of the most developed states lack access to universal health care for their citizens. In order for health care and disease prevention to reach those in both developed and developing countries, there will need to be a collaborative partnership between the public and private sector working alongside non-profit organizations that focus on providing health care to those in high-need areas. Also, due to the vagueness of some of the targets within Goal 3, it is expected that over the next 15 years we will see trial and error methods being the most effective way of ensuring that all people gain access to adequate health care by the year 2030.

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