

Press centre

Press releases

by date

by subject

by region

Hot topics

UNICEF's positions

Tools for journalists

Facts on children

Register for E-Alerts

Contact the team

Press centre

Press release

UNICEF welcomes UN millennium project "investing in development" report

NEW YORK, 17 January 2005 – UNICEF today welcomed the UN Millennium Project report directed by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs and his team, calling it an "indispensable road map to reaching the Millennium Development Goals."

The report, Investing in Development, calls for affordable interventions with long term benefits for development. These "quick wins" include bed-nets to fight malaria, vaccinations to fight infectious disease, bore wells for safe drinking water and antiretroviral therapies to fight AIDS. If implemented on a wide scale, many of its recommendations could make a measurable difference in the lives of children, UNICEF said.

Launched at the UN Headquarters, the report calls for governments and the international community to commit resources and take urgent and sustained actions to the universal achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNICEF welcomed this focus and encouraged its government counterparts to do their part in investing in development.

"The MDGs are all about investing in children, and this report is fundamental to the global effort to create a world that is fit for children," said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy. "We could not support it more strongly."

The Millennium Goals present a series of time-bound, quantifiable development targets, many of them focused directly on children. Some examples of how UNICEF is working with governments to achieve the goals include:

- Providing an expanded set of immunizations against childhood diseases, as well as basic health care for children
- Efforts to ensure that all boys and girls have a quality basic education
- Raising awareness about HIV/AIDS to give young people the knowledge, skills and support they need to protect themselves
- Working to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination
- Providing children in their earliest years with services they need to survive and thrive, including sound nutrition and clean water

The Millennium Project report was presented to Secretary-General Kofi Annan today.

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[<<Previous page](#)

Search

Links

[Child Survival](#)

The Report: [Investing in development](#)