

A Sustainable World that We Build Together



A Mission for You, the Generation to Lead the World in the Year 2030

Poverty, disparities, conflicts, terrorism, climate change, depletion of natural resources..., the humankind living in the world today is faced with unprecedented challenges, more than ever before. If the current trend continues, its negative impacts on our planet and its lives will be unfathomable. From such pressing concerns, world leaders and citizens have come together, and through extensive processes of discussion and consultation, adopted the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, a set of common and ambitious goals to be achieved by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda is in a way a navigation system which will guide us towards building a more sustainable world, the world with a brighter prospect for everyone, everywhere. Are we on track? Let us join hands now.

It is a mission for you, the generation that will be leading the world in the year 2030. Let us learn about various challenges around us that are related to the SDGs. Explore the ways through which we can build a more sustainable world, and imagine how you can contribute to achieving the SDGs when you grow up.

Let's take the first step towards creating a sustainable world!

What are the SDGs?

- ◆ It is a set of 17 goals to be achieved by 2030, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.
- ◆ It calls for all parties, from the UN agencies, governments, business sector, academic institutions, to civil society and citizens including children, to take every action.
- ◆ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has at its heart a promise to leave no one behind.



unicef

UNICEF



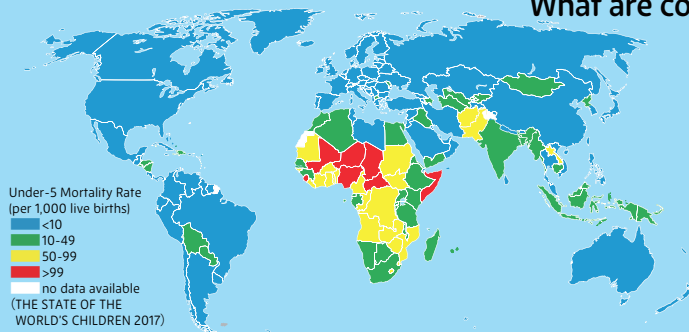
Nobody can choose one's birthplace.

Let us take a look at inequalities that exist in the world today.

Countries with a high ratio of under-5 mortality risks are marked in **red** and **yellow**.

What are common to these countries?

Every year, around 5.6 million children die before they celebrate their 5th birthday.*1 That means, one child under five is dying somewhere in the world every 5 seconds.



2.1 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water. 159 million people live with water directly collected from surface water sources such as ponds and rivers.*5



61 million primary-school-aged children are out of school*2, due to poverty, gender discrimination, disabilities, and many other reasons.



10.7% of the world's population live under extreme poverty, half of which, around 385 million, are children.*3 Extreme poverty is most widespread in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and children are most affected.*4



4.5 billion people do not have access to sanitary toilets, out of which 892 million people worldwide still practice open defecation.*6



*Living under the global poverty line. \$1.90 a day.

"Mother-Child Health Record Book" protects the lives of mothers and children



In Japan, one of the countries with the least child mortality rate, the booklet called "Mother-Child Health Record Book" has been serving as an effective tool for monitoring and ensuring the healthy growth of children. It is a booklet in which one can keep records of a child's growth, health checks and vaccinations until the child reaches 6 years of age.

Japan has been disseminating this booklet in countries in Africa and Asia for the last 20 years, as part of its governmental ODA. The booklet has been contributing to improve the health of mothers and the healthy growth of children in countries and regions where maternal and child mortality rates are still high. It is full of useful health-related information and can also serve as a learning tool for families. Nobody can choose a place to be born. This booklet, however, can help overcome inequality that a baby is born with.

Data on problems mothers and children in developing countries face:

Lack of pre-natal and post-natal care: estimated 289,000 women still die every year due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth.*7

Malnutrition: 22.2% of children under five are stunted due to lack of sufficient nutrients. Malnutrition during early childhood can cause life-long negative impacts.*8 Children suffering from stunting may never attain their full possible physical growth, and their brains may never develop to their full cognitive potential.



© Kenshiro Imamura/JICA
"Maternal and Child Health Handbook" in Palestine, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

High-income countries, including Japan, also face poverty and disparities



Gender inequality persists worldwide today. In some countries, boys have more access to education than girls. Globally, the percentage of female parliamentary members is still low. (In 2017, the global average was 23.6% and only 10.1% in Japan.*9) It is vital for both men and women to participate equally in politics to reflect diverse views and opinions in governmental policies. The Government of Japan, therefore, aims to increase the percentage of women in leadership positions in every part of society, up to at least 30% by 2020.



According to an SDG-related survey conducted by UNICEF in 2017 on the situation of children in high-income countries, Japan was ranked 23rd among 37 countries on its efforts to eliminate poverty, and only 32nd among 41 countries on disparity reduction.*10

The terms 'relative poverty' and 'absolute poverty' are generally used to measure the poverty rates in developed countries and less developed countries respectively. Do you know their differences?



Business sector's roles in resolving social issues:

Inequalities exist even in such basic areas like medical care, nutrition, access to safe water and sanitation, which are all essential for living decent lives.

The business sector, with its expertise and skills, has a potential role to play. Some Japanese companies, for example, are contributing in a variety of areas, such as the development and distribution of sanitary facilities, safe drinking water systems, medicines, mosquito nets and nutrient supplements, all at affordable prices.

New technologies like portable phones, drones and satellite systems can also be useful tools to address inequalities.



© UNICEF/UN070530/Brown
UNICEF, in partnership with the companies, has been trialing how drones can be used to speed-up HIV diagnosis in Malawi.

*1 Levels and Trends in Child Mortality 2017, UNICEF *2 Reducing global poverty through universal primary and secondary education, UNESCO, 2017 *3 Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016 - World Bank Group *4 Ending Extreme Poverty: a Focus on Children, UNICEF, 2016 *5,6 Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 update and SDG baselines, 2017, WHO, UNICEF *7 Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2015, 2015, WHO, UNICEF *8 Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates - 2018 edition, UNICEF, WHO, The World Bank *9 Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office, 2017 *10 UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 14, "Building the Future - Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries"

02 End Violence and Discriminations!

Goal



The SDGs aim to achieve a world without violence and discrimination.

What are the pressing challenges children are facing today?

Child labour

Estimated 152 million children are currently exposed to child labor.*1 Many of them are deprived of educational opportunities. Lack of education keeps them away from a chance to lift themselves out of the poverty cycle.



© UNICEF/UN067752/Sokhin

Child marriage

In today's world, around 250 million women get married before they reach 15 years of age.*2 The early marriage increases risks during pregnancy and delivery. It also prevents girls from access to education, imposing negative impacts throughout their lives and even to the next generation.

Violence against children

Child abuse: A survey revealed that 3 out of 4 children aged 2 to 4 worldwide experience some sorts of violent discipline, physical and psychological, by their caregivers at home.*3 Japan is no exception, where incidents of domestic child abuse are often reported.

Online risks and harms: The internet can be easily used for harassment and slandering. In Japan, over 1,500 children are exposed to sexual exploitation through SNS every year.*4

Bullying: A survey reported that 1 out of 3 children between the ages of 13 and 15 had experienced some sorts of bullying.*5

Children affected by conflicts

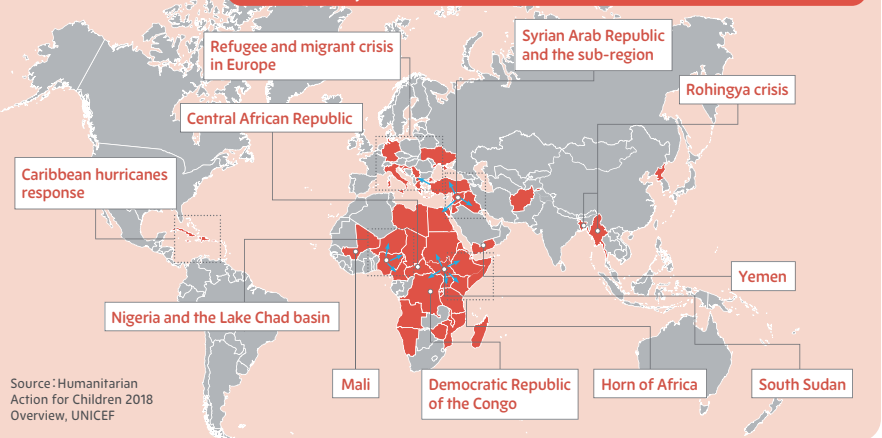
Living in conflicts: Children living under armed conflicts are constantly exposed to violence, insecurity and fear. They are deprived of opportunities to grow healthy and access to education. Currently, some 27 million children living in conflict-affected areas are not attending school.*6

Children involved in conflicts: Tens of thousands of children are estimated to be directly involved in armed forces, as child soldiers, cooks, spies and messengers.

Children on the move (refugee and migrant children): In 2015, around 50 million children were uprooted from their homes, out of which 28 million were due to conflicts, violence, and insecurity.*7 There is an increasing number of children undertaking journeys on their own. During 2015-16, 300,000 children were detected in 80 countries, unaccompanied by adult guardians.*8 Unaccompanied children can be particularly vulnerable to dangers including exploitation, human trafficking and violence.

CHILDREN IN CRISIS, as of end-2017

Many conflicts exist today around the world, due to various causes. Let us look at some of the current and recent conflicts, and find out what the major causes behind those confrontations are.



Source: Humanitarian Action for Children 2018 Overview, UNICEF

Discriminations

In the world today, many kinds of discrimination persist due to many factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities and social status. Discrimination can easily lead to violence. The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that no child should be discriminated for any reason, and efforts have been made globally to enhance treaties and laws to ban discriminations.

A soccer team in Japan, whose supporters were once criticized for their discriminatory attitudes towards foreigners, has declared to "eradicate discrimination", and now the team and the supporters are working together to eliminate discriminations.

Solutions through innovation

Today, one out of 4 children under 5 years of age are not registered at their birth. Without a birth certificate, a child may not have access to medical care or education. It can even expose a child to exploitation.

In Uganda, with the support of UNICEF, a birth registration system with the use of mobile phones has been introduced, thanks to which the birth-registration rate rose from 30% in 2011 to around 69% by 2016.*9 Mobile phones are also used for protecting children separated from their families during their flight from conflict, and for reuniting them.



© UNICEF/UN012562/Adriko

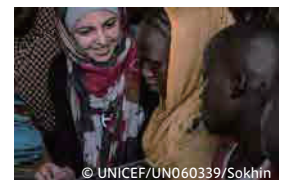


© UNICEF/UNI145732/Esiebo

A story of a refugee girl

It was in 2013 when Muzoon Almellehan fled war-torn Syria for Jordan with her family. "Because I knew that nothing would be more important than education, the only thing I brought with me were textbooks," she says. As she witnessed many girls being forced to work or to marry in a refugee camp, she tirelessly talked to parents, convincing them on the importance of education.

Muzoon, then 19 years of age, was appointed as the youngest UNICEF Ambassador and continues to advocate for the importance of girls education especially in war-affected situations.



© UNICEF/UN060339/Sokhin

Peace, security and safety

In its reconstruction and development cooperation, Japan focuses on the following areas which are vital to building a safe and sound society:

1. reconstruction of social infrastructure;
2. recovery of economic activities;
3. restoration of governance, and
4. strengthening of security measures.

In the Philippines, for example, Japan has played a leading role in the peace-building process of Mindanao Island where conflicts lasted for 40 years. It continues to assist the establishment of autonomous government and the reconstruction of society in mid-to-long terms.

*1 Global Estimates of Child Labour - RESULTS AND TRENDS, 2012-2016, ILO, 2017 *2 Ending Child Marriage: Progress and prospects, 2014, UNICEF *3.5 A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents, 2017, UNICEF (Data covers 94 and 149 countries respectively, neither includes Japan.) *4 National Police Agency, "The present situation and countermeasures of victimized children caused by SNS in 2017" *6 Education Uprooted, 2017, UNICEF *7 Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children, 2016, UNICEF *8 A Child is a Child: Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation, 2017, UNICEF *9 Situation Analysis of Children in Uganda, 2015, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and UNICEF Uganda

03 Preserve the Global Environment!

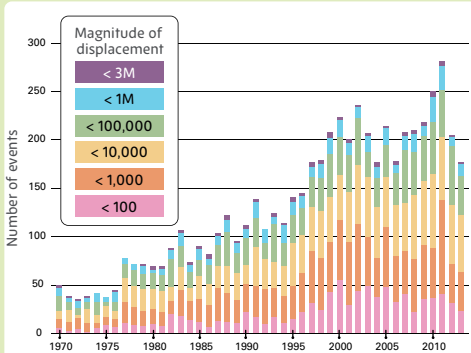
Goal



Climate change and environmental issues are threatening the sustainability of our planet.

What are their causes and challenges?

Annual numbers of disaster-related displacements 1970-2013



Natural disasters – droughts, desertification, typhoons, and heavy rains – are increasing both in number and magnitude, forcing more people to flee and causing food crisis.

Source: Unless we act now: The impact of climate change on children, UNICEF, The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Disaster-related displacement risk: measuring the risk and addressing its drivers, 2015

The population growth, industry, use of hydroelectric power, increasing demand for water and climate change are all contributing to the **excessive use of water**, and can even trigger conflicts over water resources.

Big cities, especially in developing countries, are facing severe **air pollution**.

We continue to produce **greenhouse gases**, and the rise in sea level caused by global warming is severely affecting island countries and coastal regions. Infectious diseases, such as **malaria, zika, and dengue fevers**, can get widespread as mosquitoes carrying those viruses expand their habitats with global warming.

While **nuclear** power generation can be CO₂-emission free and eco-friendly, a big challenge lies in the **handling of its wastes**.

Wide-spread **deforestation** is **exposing wild fauna and flora to extinction** and putting biodiversity at risk.



Japan's ability in disaster prevention, swift recovery and reconstruction has been attracting global attention

With its long history and vast experiences of combatting natural disasters, Japan has an important role to play and has been actively participating in global efforts on the prevention, preparedness, and reduction of natural disasters. As part of such endeavor, it has so far hosted three World Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Yokohama, Kobe, and Sendai.

In Soma City of Fukushima Prefecture, a city severely affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, a reconstruction conference was held among children to learn about their home city Soma, its natural disaster risks and preparedness. The participating children then presented their findings and recommendations in one of the public forums held at the World Conference in Sendai.



©Japan Committee for UNICEF



Gifts from the ocean

The ocean occupies 70% of our planet surface. While it at times causes devastating harms like typhoons and tsunamis, the healthy marine ecosystem with rich marine products is essential to sustaining the global climate.

In recent years, however, the increasing outflow of trash and polluted products into the sea, overuse of marine resources, ocean acidification, the decrease of coral reefs and mangrove forests, and the rise of sea temperatures, are all seriously affecting the marine ecosystem.

Let us see which of the SDG goals are related to the preservation of a sound marine ecosystem.



Public-private partnership for building an eco-friendly and sustainable society



The Paris Agreement is an international framework through which we strive to reduce CO₂ emission and greenhouse gases. Japan, a member of this agreement, is promoting public-private partnerships for building a more sustainable society, through the promotion of renewable energy such as solar power and the development of energy-saving, eco-friendly technologies.



An increasing number of companies is joining efforts to reduce wastes and CO₂ as well as to save energy and resources, in order to minimize the harmful impacts of industry on the environment.



Let us look at websites of companies and find out what kinds of efforts and projects are being undertaken by the private sector to achieve the SDGs.



Do you know these logos?

Have you seen any merchandises with such logos? Let us check and find out what they represent.



A story of palm oil



Palm oil is widely used in snacks, processed foods and detergents. It is little known, however, that the palm oil production is threatening tropical rainforests and their inhabitants.

Tropical rainforests in Malaysia and Indonesia, for example, are precious habitats for diverse animals, such as elephants and orangutans, and plants. Those forests, however, are increasingly replaced by palm oil plantations, putting their inhabitants and ecological diversity in danger of extinction.

Increasing efforts have therefore been made since the 2000s among palm oil producers, buyers and sellers, together with NGOs, to explore ways to consume palm oil more sustainably.

Let us take a moment to see what kinds of products we are consuming in our daily lives.



©SARAYA_Takerani

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
















17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Your mission!

Now it is the time for you to act.
What can you do for building a more sustainable world?

Let us work on Stages 1 to 4

STAGE 1 Here is the list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. From what you have learned so far, prioritize three goals which you think are most important and which you wish to work on. Also, write the reasons.

Goal	Rank	Reason
 End poverty in all its forms everywhere		
 End hunger , achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture		
 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages		
 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all		
 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls		
 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all		
 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all		
 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth , full and productive employment and decent work for all		
 Build resilient infrastructure , promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation		
 Reduce inequality within and among countries		
 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable		
 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns		
 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts		
 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development		
 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems , sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss		
 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels		
 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development		

STAGE 2 Share your thoughts on the goals you have selected, and discuss with your classmates.

What can we do to build a more sustainable society? Based on discussions with your classmates, list some challenges for which you wish to find solutions.

The goals and challenges that you wish to work on.

Write a report on the goals and challenges that you wish to work on.

Research on the topics which interest you most and write a report, attached with your Plan of Action at its end. Look at the challenges and solutions from wide angles. For example, when listing the challenges, think which problems you can solve by yourself, and which require efforts of society as a whole. When reflecting on the solutions, imagine what you can do now, and what you need to work in the future. Then share your thoughts also with your peers through presentation and discussion.



Elif Bilgin is a 16-year-old girl from Turkey with great curiosity for environmental issues, especially petroleum-based plastic. After spending two years researching and testing, she succeeded in making the first sample of bio-plastic made from banana peels.

"After finishing studies, I want to move on to work with technology that benefits humankind," she says.



High school students in Hokkaido, Japan, have introduced **recyclable agriculture and cattle-feeding structure to the region, which is both eco-friendly and cost-effective.**

They first worked on producing cattle-feed for pigs from locally harvested, however imperfect, vegetables which otherwise are thrown away as wastes. The students then developed a recyclable pig-farming system by producing compost from pig excrement.



Anang, a secondary school student in India, has invented goggles for the blind, "G4B". The G4B, made solely from discarded materials, enables blind people to navigate entirely independently and hands-free, by using ultrasound sensors on eyeglasses. "Blind people wear goggles, but unfortunately they wear them to hide their eyes. Now I have created something to make the goggles more useful," Anang explains. He continues to work with university professors to improve the G4B quality.



Ingrid Soto, a 14-years-old girl from Brazil, runs campaigns every year that bring young people together to donate toys and books for refugee children arriving in Brazil, to help them realize their rights to life and play. Her passion is to build the world a better place for children. She uses social media to promote her work and to connect with other young people who want to make a change.



Melati and Isabel Wijsen, then 10 and 12, living in Bali, took on a mission to stop plastic bags from suffocating their beautiful island. They galvanized support from their classmates, and their courageous actions, including petitions, beach cleanups, and even a hunger strike, paid off when they convinced their governor to commit to a plastic bag-free Bali by 2018. "Don't ever let anyone tell you that you're too young" – an inspiring message from the Wijsen sisters.



Many children and youth are already taking actions and making changes around the world. Here are some examples:



Your Plan of Action: What I can do toward 2030

Action Plan

Circle the icons which are related to your Action Plan.



Further More

Share and discuss your Action Plan with your classmates.

Experts' Committee for the development of learning material on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Yukihiko OIKAWA Principal Researcher of UT Ocean Alliance Research Center for Marine Education
Makoto TAKEHARA Chairman of Kanto Block Junior High School Social Studies Education Research Group Principal, Fukagawa-Daiyori J.H.S.

Mikiko OTANI Attorney-at-Law, A member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
Haruhiko TANAKA Professor, Faculty of Human Sciences, Sophia University

Jun KUKITA Visiting Professor of Kwansei Gakuin University, Former Representative of UNICEF Kazakhstan
Toru NAITO Former Director, Global Plaza Division, Office of Media and Public Relations, JICA

Ken HAYAMI Executive Director, Japan Committee for UNICEF
Masao HIGUCHI Former Senior Specialist for Curriculum, Department for Curriculum Development, Curriculum Research Center, National Institution for Educational Policy Research (NIER), MEXT

Kotaro KATSUKI Director, Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau, MOFA

Working group for the learning material on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Chairman Makoto TAKEHARA

Kazuhide KINJO Teacher, Houyounomori Gakuen J.H.S. (Civics expert) Hidemizu NAKANO Teacher, Akatsuka-Daini J.H.S. (Geography expert) Takuji FUJITA Teacher, Ootsumi Gakuen J.H.S. (Civics expert)

Secretariat : Japan Committee for UNICEF UNICEF House, 4-6-12 Takanawa, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan 108-8607

03-5789-2014