

Many parts of the world struggle with poverty, hunger, and a lack of basic resources like clean water and sanitation. The World Bank found that 10% of the world’s population lives on less than \$1.90 per day.¹ Other global challenges include social inequality, human rights violations, climate change, and pollution. The list of social and environmental issues is enormous and daunting. In 2015, the United Nations established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which form the framework of their plan to end hunger, increase economic growth, tackle climate change, and reverse pollution by 2030. The United Nations is calling for all countries to partner together to combat these problems. Achieving these goals is not only the work of governments, but also the business community, nonprofit foundations, and individuals.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	
GOAL 1: No Poverty	GOAL 10: Reduced Inequalities
GOAL 2: Zero Hunger	GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-Being	GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
GOAL 4: Quality Education	GOAL 13: Climate Action
GOAL 5: Gender Equality	GOAL 14: Life Below Water
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	GOAL 15: Life on Land
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	GOAL 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	GOAL 17: Partnerships for the Goals
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	

How Can Investors Help?

Investors can help the United Nations achieve these social and environmental goals by building responsible investment portfolios that support these initiatives. The Sustainable Development Goals not only form a concrete way to galvanize action, but can also be used as a way to evaluate whether investments are aligned with these principles. Using an SDG aligned index or environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics, impact investors can assess how well investments promote their values and the Sustainable Development Goals.



1. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty>