

Scoring Goals



Aim

to highlight the Millennium Development Goals

Age

10 years and older

Time

20 – 30 minutes

Materials

chairs/cushions/boxes to mark the health issues/MDGs, labels, ball

Action Idea

One major way that the Government can show its commitment to achieving the MDGs is to make sure Ireland fulfils its obligation to spend 0.7% of national wealth on overseas aid. The Irish Government has committed to reaching this target by 2012. Contact your local TD to ask what the position of their party is on the 0.7% target. Ask them how much of the overseas aid target they think should be spent on health. Tell them that any future Government should introduce legislation that binds them to achieving the target. For contact details on your local TDs, contact www.rte.ie/news/oireachtas

What to do

Option 1

Mark out your pitch with a goal at each end. Use chairs or other suitable objects to create obstacles in front of the goals. These represent global health issues that have to be overcome. Each obstacle should be labelled with the health issue on one side and the relevant Millennium Development Goal on the other.

Form two teams and explain that you are going to play a game of crab football. Players sit on the ground and move around using their hands and feet. The object of the game is to put the ball in the opposition goal. They can use any part of their body to score except their hands or arms. Each time they score a goal, one of the obstacles in front of the opposition goal is removed. A person from the scoring team reads out the associated MDG. Keep playing until all the obstacles have been removed.

Alternatively, players can be joined together, as in a 3 legged race. This adds an extra level of difficulty in trying to score goals.

In the large group ask the following:

- Was it difficult to get a goal with the obstacles in the way?
- Which of the health issues were relevant to developing countries and which were relevant to Ireland?
- What action could we take to try and achieve/highlight these goals?

Option 2

If you do water sports in a swimming pool, you could run the same activity using floating objects to represent the relevant health issues/MDGs. Again, each time a goal is scored, one of the objects can be removed. This variation was suggested by Ballyfermot Youth Service who developed it as part of a programme exploring the MDGs.

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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

These are a set of Goals, which aim to combat hunger and poverty and improve education and health, especially for women, and protect the environment by 2015. The Goals were adopted by all the countries of the UN in 2000. Ireland was one of the first countries to sign up to the Goals.

Goals

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- 2. Achieve universal primary education**
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women (includes the target of achieving gender equality at all levels of education by 2005)**
- 4. Reduce child mortality**
- 5. Improve maternal health**
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability (including access to safe drinking water)**
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development (including dealing comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems)**

All the Goals are equally important and they are all interrelated.

Progress has been made on achieving the Goals in some parts of the world, but other areas, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, are falling behind.

For many people in the world, life conditions are worse than they were at the beginning of the 1990s.

If we continue at the current rate of progress, hunger and poverty will not be halved in Africa until 2147.