



United Nations (UN) Aid-Funded Business Factfile



Overview

The United Nations is an international organisation founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

The UN has 4 main purposes:

- To keep peace throughout the world;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms;
- To be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations to achieve these goals.

Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organisation can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 193 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.

Reports

Click [here](#) to read the UN charter

Click [here](#) for a list of the UN agencies

Click [here](#) for a list of the specialised UN agencies

Click [here](#) to read about the United Nations development efforts

Click [here](#) to read about the United Nations in humanitarian relief efforts

Source: <http://www.un.org>

Key Facts

Secretary-General:	Ban Ki-moon
Offices:	New York City (HQ), Geneva, Vienna and Worldwide
Founded:	1945
Member states:	193



Millennium Development Goals

The United Nations has eight [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) that it aims to achieve by 2015:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability; and
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

These are being superseded by the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) for post-2015.

Aid-Funded Business Service Contact

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