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'The Sustainable Development Goals'

A member of Humana People to People

www.planetaid-uk.org

In 2000 the leaders of 189 countries in the world came together to face the future. They created a plan called 'The Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs). They set out 8 goals to be achieved by 2015, an ambitious plan to end hunger and poverty, educate the next generation and secure health care for all. The progress in those 15 years has been tremendous. Hunger has been cut in half. Extreme poverty is down by nearly half, many more children in the world are going to school and fewer are dying, and health care has improved in many countries.

As the MDG's era comes to an end in 2015, 2016 ushers in the official launch of the bold and transformative 2030 Agenda for 'The Sustainable Development Goals' adopted by the world's leaders in September 2015 at the United Nations.

This new Agenda calls for all countries to begin efforts to achieve 17 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) over the next 15 years. "It is the world's shared vision of humanity and a contract between the world's leaders and the people" said UN Secretary– general Ban Ki-moon. "They are a TO-DO list for the people and the planet we live on, and a blueprint for success."

" Development cannot be sustainable if it does not address the challenge of Climate Change ." Ban Ki-moon also expressed.

Different from the 8 Millennium Goals, you will see that 'The Sustainable Development Goal' agreed upon last year focuses on this important fact.

Since we started our work in the early seventies, Humana People to People (of which Planet Aid UK is a member) has had as our main obligation: To 'Fight Shoulder to Shoulder' with the poorest people on the planet. Part of this fight has been our educational programmes. Humana People to People's teacher training colleges educate more than 5,000 primary school teachers every year, preparing them to work in the rural areas of Africa and India where basic primary education is lacking.

Humana People to People's 'Farmers Clubs ' - more than 300—train farmers for sustainable farming in an increasingly harsh environment. Our tree planting action in which we planted more than 12 million trees in 2014 are both examples of our contribution to mitigate Climate Change.

In this context it is also important to mention the thousands of tonnes of second hand clothes that are collected by our organisation all over Europe and America from more than 50,000 clothing banks. To give second-hand clothes a new life saves the world's limited resources and reduces CO_2 emissions.
Visit www.humna.org to learn more.

The Climate Change Conference in Paris

2015 is set to be the warmest year since records began. In November 2015, cyclone Chapala hit Yemen. Such heavy wind has never been seen before. Over 48 hours the area got as much rain as it normally gets in 10 years. The month before, the largest hurricane ever formed off the Mexican west coast. Here in the UK we have experienced heavy rainfall and flooding in many parts of the country.

2016 is set to be the warmest year ever recorded according to a forecast issued by the UK Met office in December. This forecast came just 5 days after 195 nations agreed a historic deal to fight global warming at the UN summit in Paris by keeping the world's temperature under 2 degrees.

The climate change march in London in November 2015. All over the world people expressed their concerns.

Governments have signalled an end to the fossil fuel era, committing for the first time to a universal agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the most dangerous effects of climate change. Government and business leaders said the agreement, which set a new goal to reach net zero emissions in the second half of the century, sent a powerful signal to global markets, hastening the transition away from fossil fuels and to a clean energy economy.

Rich countries agreed to raise $100bn (£66bn) a year by 2020 to help poor countries transform their economies. The overall agreement is legally binding, but some elements – including the pledges to curb emissions by individual countries and the climate finance elements – are not.

All the countries also agreed on demands from the US and European Union for five-year reviews of their emissions reductions.

It is easy to forget what an extraordinary event these UN talks were. The UNFCCC is one of the last remaining forums in the world where every country, however small, is represented on the same basis and has equal say with the biggest economies. All states have a seat and a say. Agreement can only be accepted by consensus. The poorest countries of the world, so often left out of international consideration, are those which have done least to create climate change, but will suffer the most from it. Only at the UN are they heard.

We should congratulate what happened in Paris in December, but we should be aware that this is only a very small part of the whole story, the story of mankind's struggle for a liveable planet, a planet for all people.

Arianna's and Oskars' volunteer work

Oskars returned from India in October 2015, where he had spent 6 month as a volunteer working in Humana People to People India's educational program ' Academy for Working Children' in Jaipur.

With six educational centres the program aims to provide basic education to street and working children, who have either never gone to school or have dropped out. After two years the students are re-integrated into mainstream government schools. The children learn the academic curriculum of the government schools, but activities are carefully designed so that the children work in smaller groups and on tasks that they solve at their own speed. Together the six centres have educated more than 1,300 children in 2015.

Arianna spent 6 months in Malawi working in one of DAPP Malawi's teacher training programmes and primary schools. In the teacher training programme the students build up their commitment, knowledge, skills and experiences in a carefully organised program. The students carry out extensive teaching practices in primary schools in the local communities close to the teacher training college. Arianna says:*"Sometimes things are moving so slowly that you feel you are not doing enough, but in the end you realise; how much you gave– how much you got."*

Humana People to People in Europe

Europe

The main part of the clothes collection takes place in Western Europe from more than 20,000 clothing banks.

Humana People to People is a worldwide federation of members operating over 600 projects within education, health, food security and environment. In Europe the 26 members main activities are to raise funds for aid projects in the poorer parts of the world. Since the federation started the collection and selling of second hand clothes has been at the heart of our activities. Today a large part of the funds comes from donors like UNICEF, UNESCO, Global Funds, USAID, European Commission and many governments like DFID in the UK to name just a few.

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Thank you to all our site hosts and councils.

2015 saw a further decline in the price of UK second-hand clothes. meaning it has fallen by 40% over the last two years. This, of course, has a big effect on our collection. The main reason for this fall is our strong currency. Our customers, who mainly pay in euros, will have to pay much more per kg. Another reason is the unrest in the Ukraine, which used to be a big market for the UK's second-hand clothes .

We have had to cut the frequency of our collection service , and delay our reporting to all the councils. In this context it is even more important that all our good site hosts and councils keep supporting our work. Many site hosts are doing the little extra it takes to keep the clothes dry,- putting the clothing bags into the container if a donor has left them outside . Many councils have expressed their understanding for the delay in our reporting .

We are looking forward to working together with you in 2016 and to increasing our collection and improving our service.

Our smallest bank at local shops

Our community bank at local shops

Our new theft-proof bank