

# Factsheet

KS4 – Behind the scene at UN General Assembly



World leaders will gather at the United Nations General Assembly in New York during August and September 2015. They will decide how to tackle global poverty over the next 15 years. We can influence these decisions if we speak up NOW! If leaders make the right decisions ALL children will receive a good quality education.

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN General Assembly lasts several weeks and takes place once a year. It is an opportunity for world leaders from United Nations member states to propose, debate, and agree on new goals. Leaders hope to agree a new set of SDGs for 2030. They will debate the SDGs and take a vote on whether or not to accept them – a 2/3 majority is needed.

SDGs will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000. Although, a few of the MDGs have been met, most – including the goal of achieving primary education for all children – have not.

### TIMELINE

**2000** – World leaders set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

**2012** – World leaders decide to replace MDGs with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They set up an Open Working Group to discuss SDGs.

**2014** – The Open Working Group announces 17 draft SDG goals.

**2015** – SDG goals for the next 15 years will be finalised.

At the moment, world leaders and campaigners are meeting to figure out what the SDGs should include. In July 2014, an Open Working Group came up with 17 draft goals which included education, hunger, conflict, and climate change. Goal number 4 is about education. It aims to make sure that everyone will have a good quality education by 2030: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.



## The time to act is NOW!

Between now and August, many Open Working Group meetings are taking place behind the scenes. So now – while the SDGs are being worked out – is the time to tell world leaders what you think.

Be clear, because as Yasir Yeahia, former Send My Friend to School Young Ambassador, reminds us: “Political solutions aren’t quite as simple as you might hope – instead you have to understand that there are a lot of competing interests and issues to consider.”

### 3D world leaders

Send My Friend to School 2015 came up with the idea of making 3D world leaders to catch the attention of real world leaders.



Their message is clear too: Now is the time to speak up and tell world leaders why education must be a top priority!

#### **A GOOD DEAL for education will be one that tackles many issues at the same time:**

- Deliver what was promised in 2000 and make sure primary education is available for all children.
- Focus on children most at risk of missing out – girls, children living with disabilities, children living in conflict, and children living in rural areas.
- Make sure everyone has a quality education. 1.7 million more teachers are needed, and at present millions of children go to school every day without learning to read and write.
- Schools must be safe spaces where girls and boys are treated equally.
- Remove school fees.
- More money is needed - rich countries must agree to deliver all the aid they promise, and many governments in poorer countries must spend more of their national budget on education.



## If I were a world leader ...



Let's end with another quote from Yasir Yeahia (left of photo):

“If I were a world leader I’d make sure that the Sustainable Development Goals are enforced. The main problem with the Millennium Development Goals of 2000 was that they didn’t have any way of monitoring success and then holding countries to account.

“I think this time they should have targets for every couple of years, for example, they should reduce the number of children out of school from 58 million in 2015 to 50 in 2017, and 40 by 2020. I think they should also be able to find ways of putting pressure on countries that aren’t living up to their promises. I think this time round enforcement is the most important issue!”

**What would you say if you were a world leader?**

Photos: Send My Friend to School 2015; Mark Chilvers/ActionAid

*This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of ActionAid UK and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.*

**This project is  
funded by the  
European  
Union**

