

Poor people tend to have insecure rights to environmental resources and inadequate access to markets, decision-making and environmental information.

Poor people's livelihoods and food security often depend on ecosystem goods and services.

Lack of access to energy services also limits productive opportunities, especially in rural areas.

Time spent collecting water and fuel wood reduces time available for schooling.

In addition, the lack of energy, water and sanitation services in rural areas discourages qualified teachers from working in poor villages.

Women and girls are especially burdened by water and fuel collection, reducing their time and opportunities for education, literacy and income-generating activities.

Women often have unequal rights and insecure access to land and other natural resources, limiting their opportunities and ability to access other productive assets.

Diseases (such as diarrhoea) tied to unclean water and inadequate sanitation, and respiratory infections related to pollution are among the leading killers of children under five.

Lack of fuel for boiling water also contributes to preventable waterborne diseases.

Inhaling polluted indoor air and carrying heavy loads of water and fuel wood hurt women's health and can make them less fit to bear children, with greater risks of complications during pregnancy.

Lack of energy for illumination and refrigeration, as well as inadequate sanitation, undermine healthcare, especially in rural areas.

Up to 20 per cent of the disease burden in developing countries may be due to environmental risk factors (as with malaria and parasitic infections).

Reverse the loss of forests.

Preventive measures to reduce such hazards are as important as treatment – and often more cost-effective.

New biodiversity-derived medicines hold promise for fighting major diseases.

Halve the proportion of people without drinking water or sanitation.

Improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2010.

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Reduce child mortality

Ensure environmental sustainability

Achieve universal primary education

Improve maternal health

Develop global partnership for development

Promote gender equality and empower women

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases