

COP21, SDGS, RECOMMENDATION NO.1: TARGET BOTTOM 20%

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Here we present the first of ATD Fourth World's five videos for the COP21 Paris Climate Conference. Xavier Godinot, ATD's Director of International Advocacy, explains in the introduction to each video:

What ATD Fourth World seeks is that sustainable development fully integrate the components of economic development, efforts to end poverty, and protection of the environment. These three aspects must absolutely be interlinked and coordinated. Now, we hear that a lot in international discourse. We see that it's a lot harder to put into practice on the ground.

Each video illustrates with grassroots examples one of ATD Fourth World's five recommendations that are key for tailoring development and climate action to the needs of the most vulnerable. In this video, **Recommendation 1: all development projects should use as a starting point the 20% of the population that is deepest in poverty.**



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You can read more about our five climate change solutions linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and poverty eradication in [Taking seriously the commitment to “leave no one behind” in the SDGs and the fight against climate disruption](#).

CONCLUSION: SOME MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Among our many recommendations for the post-2015 agenda, these are key for tailoring development and climate action to the needs of the most vulnerable:

- Place a special emphasis on the bottom 20% to make sure that no one is left behind. In other words, targets should be considered achieved only if they are met for all relevant income and social groups, including the most vulnerable.
- Tackle climate change together with people in poverty and as part of an effort to eradicate extreme poverty.
- Ensure that climate change finance is directed at the most vulnerable populations, in order to foster climate justice.
- Implement social protection floors.
- Ensure that people in poverty are able to benefit from training and job creation in the context of transitioning to a green economy.

From ATD’s memorandum, “Taking seriously the commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ in the SDGs and the fight against climate disruption”

Video Summary

ATD Fourth World’s first proposal is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (#SDGs) recently adopted by the UN General Assembly for the period 2015 to 2030. This

was a large gathering of heads of state who decided, for the period 2015 to 2030, “to leave no one behind.” This breaks with the thinking around the 2000 – 2015 [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\) that ATD found marginalized further](#) those most crushed by poverty. ATD believes that all development projects must use as a benchmark the most-impooverished 20% of the population.

UNICEF concluded the same and found that their infant mortality reduction programs are more effective if they target those families most entrenched in poverty, rather than the average. This demonstrates that not only is this idea ethically right, but it is also more efficient.

ATD Fourth World put this principle to work in Madagascar and created a successful partnership with local high-tech businesses and youth from extremely impoverished areas. Such a project shows the solidarity possible between the most disadvantaged and those who have more opportunities. It also demonstrates that people thought to be unemployable or unqualified are indeed capable of working in large companies and/or creating their own jobs by starting businesses.