

CHECK OUT

CCJP

December, 2006

Millennium Development Goals

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: 2006

The world decided in the year 2000 to launch a concerted attack on extreme poverty and the problems of illiteracy, hunger, discrimination against women, unsafe drinking water and a degraded environment. Meeting at the United Nations at the dawn of the new Millennium, leaders from virtually all countries agreed to a set of eight ambitious Goals. Developing countries, the most highly victimized by poverty, have been taking the lead in this campaign, especially regarding the first seven Goals concerning direct improvements in human well-being. The eighth Goal includes steps that developed countries need to take in support of the campaigns of developing countries to win the first round in the fight to ultimately eradicate poverty.

WHAT IS EXTREME POVERTY?

The UN defines **extreme** poverty as where more than a quarter of the population lives on less than \$1 a day. 1.2 billion people are in this category:

moderate poverty refers to situations where more than a quarter of the population lives on less than \$2 per day. Approximately another 2.8 billion people endure this:

relative poverty refers to groups within a normal population whose income and circumstances are below the norm for the rest of the population.

The Goals

- 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
- 8 Develop a global partnership for development

THE REALITY OF EXTREME POVERTY

- ◆ One third of deaths - some 18 million people a year or 50,000 per day - are due to poverty-related causes. That's 270 million people since 1990, the majority women and children, roughly equal to the population of the US. (Reality of Aid 2004)
- ◆ Every year more than 10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases - that's over 30,000 per day and one every 3 seconds. (80 Million Lives, 2003 / Bread for the World / UNICEF / World Health Organization)
- ◆ The three richest people in the world control more wealth than all 600 million people living in the world's poorest countries. (Source: [ChristianAid](#))
- ◆ 800 million people go to bed hungry every day. (Source: [FAO](#))
- ◆ Every year nearly 11million children die before their fifth birthday. (Source: [UNICEF](#))

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals - worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries - but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

*United Nations Secretary-General
Kofi A. Annan*

*We are the first
generation in
history
that can eradicate
poverty.*

The annual World Bank publication, African Development Indicators (ADI) 2006, finds that after decades of setbacks, an increasing number of African countries are lifting a good fraction of their citizens above the poverty line and sending more children to school. But the region still needs help from wealthy nations to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by improving governance, accelerating and sustaining growth and job creation, delivering services, and fighting poverty.

WHAT ABOUT AUSTRALIA?

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, world leaders including Australia, committed themselves to the achievement of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

Poor countries pledged to reform policies, improve governance, and to channel resources to development objectives, as embodied in the first 7 Goals. Rich countries, for their part, promised to deliver more and more effective aid, faster and deeper debt relief, and fairer trade rules as embodied in the 8th Goal.

So how well is Australia doing in meeting its part of the Global Deal?

- ◆ In 2005, Australian overseas development assistance (ODA) represented only 0.27% of GNI. This leaves Australia among the worst performing of the OECD DAC donor countries, with an aid level that is far behind the average OECD donor country effort of 0.47%.
- ◆ In absolute terms, the Australian aid budget in 2005 was \$1.7 billion. This is less than small countries like Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway and far behind Sweden and the Netherlands.
- ◆ Australia is one of the few countries that did not make a commitment to increase ODA at the Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey in 2002. Nor has such a commitment been made since.
- ◆ Australia does not show any signs of meeting its longstanding commitment to the international target of providing 0.7% of GNI as ODA, despite having signed up to this target in 1970.
- ◆ While Australia's development policy framework highlights poverty and sustainable development, it does not make the Millennium Development Goals the overarching framework for development cooperation efforts. Indeed, the policy framework does not make any reference to the Goals.
- ◆ The pattern of Australia's ODA reflects a strong focus on Australia's neighbours in Asia and the Pacific. Less than 4% of Australia's ODA goes to sub-Saharan Africa.
- ◆ Australia's new level of engagement in its immediate region is absorbing a larger share of its aid, particularly as the new focus on governance is costly where it implies police contingents and the secondment of Australian public servants.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

What will it take to lift 1.2 billion people out of extreme poverty? Governments in the North and South have promised to do their part to accomplish all eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. We must hold them to those promises. We must make it clear to them that we refuse to miss this historic opportunity.

Send a Christmas card to our politicians asking that they increase our aid to developing nations: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au>

The following are websites that give good information and further actions you can take:

<http://www.millenniumcampaign.org>

<http://www.takingitglobal.org>

<http://www.caritas.org.au/education/mph.htm>

Borrow the DVD "Yesterday" - a beautiful African film showing a mother's love and courage in the face of HIV/Aids. Available in local video shops.

Support Make Indigenous Poverty History:

http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/indigenous_poverty

Read a remarkable bestselling book
"The End of Poverty"
by Jeffrey Sachs.