



going

for

goals

Can the aims of the UN Millennium Summit be achieved?

Marie Stopes International, Camfed International, HelpAge International, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Malaria Consortium, Plan UK, Sightsavers International and WaterAid

The Millennium Development Goals

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were agreed at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. Nearly 190 nations have signed up to them.

The eight MDGs and their targets to be achieved by 2015 are:

Goal 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.
- Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Goal 2

Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Goal 3

Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education.

Goal 4

Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two-thirds the under-five mortality rate.

Goal 5

Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio.
- Achieve universal access to reproductive health.

Goal 6

Combat HIV and Aids, malaria and other diseases

- Have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/Aids.
- Have halted and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Goal 7

Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- Halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Goal 8

Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.
- Address the special needs of the least-developed countries, including tariff and quota-free access, debt relief and more generous aid.
- Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
- Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures.

For more information on the Millennium Development Goals visit:
www.mdgmonitor.org



Dear reader,

This publication, *going for goals*, is designed to help you find out more about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and what you can do to ensure the race to meet them is won.

The MDGs are a set of eight goals drawn up at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 which were adopted by 189 countries. They are designed to tackle the world's main development challenges, from climate change to reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty, from tackling HIV/Aids to gender inequality.

The focus of the MDGs is not the result of the developed world dictating to the majority, but has been agreed by countries across the world. The goals are supposed to be achieved by 2015 but, while some will be met in some countries, in other cases progress is way off track.

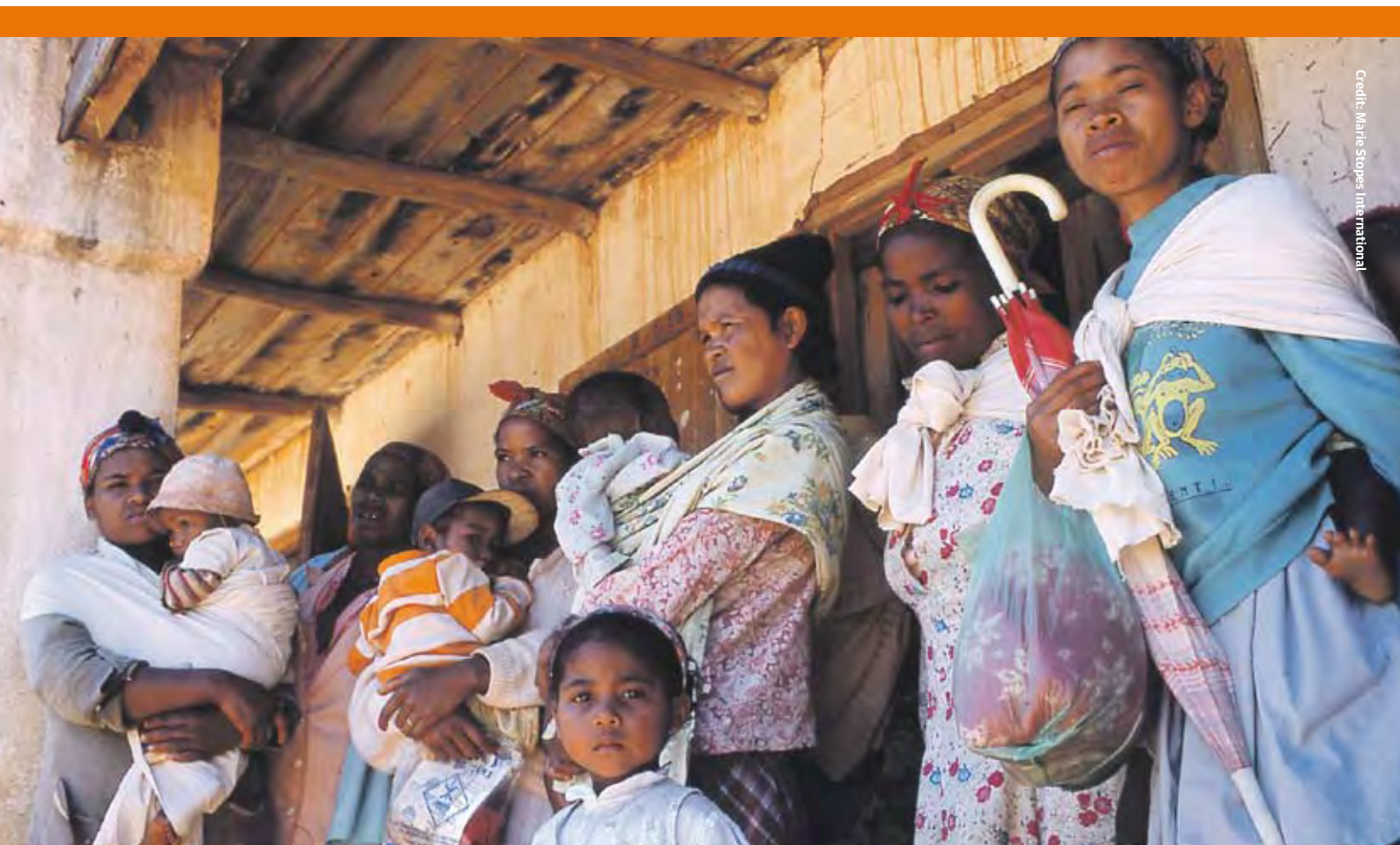
In this booklet, you'll find out specific information about each of the eight MDGs: what they're about, the serious and pervasive problems they aim to tackle, and how achieving them could make specific improvements to the lives of millions. To find out more about each goal, follow the links at the foot of each page.

So how will all this be paid for? There has been commitment from both national governments and international donors. Rich countries have committed to spending 0.7% of their gross national income on development, yet most of them still fall short of this amount.

Tackling world poverty – and the many problems that result from it – are issues important to those of us who live in the developed world too. All of us can play our part, in some small way, to make sure that the world is a more equitable place. You can start by sending the enclosed postcard to your MP.

Sue George

Sue George
Editor, Guardian Creative



Credit: Marie Stopes International

end
hunger

Credit: Marie Stopes International



Credit: HelpAge International/Kate Holt

Mary lives with her two sons, daughter and 13 grandchildren in Kenya. She makes some money by collecting firewood in the bush and selling it in the market. "Sometimes we eat once a day, sometimes twice, and on days like today, nothing. My biggest worry is my three children; one is sick and the other two have no proper jobs. And then I have the orphans to look after. Everyone looks to me for their daily needs." HelpAge International provides direct support to older people like Mary, and campaigns worldwide for universal non-contributory social pensions so that older people can better support themselves and those in their care.

Goal 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Chronic poverty in the developing world goes beyond having a low income. It means walking miles each day just to collect water and firewood, and living with diseases that were eradicated from richer countries decades ago. It means suffering from malnutrition. It means a lack of basic education and access to basic health services. It means dying in pregnancy or childbirth. It means social and political exclusion because of disability or gender.

The eradication of poverty and hunger will not be achieved without an immediate and major increase in international aid. Developed countries have promised to dedicate 0.7% of their annual national income to overseas development aid, but most still fall far short of this commitment.

The way that aid is delivered also needs drastic revision, so that it focuses

on the real needs of poor people. Aid should also not be conditional on developing countries promising economic change such as privatisation, cutting health and education spending, or opening up their markets. It should support developing countries' own efforts to reduce poverty.

On top of this, the world's poorest countries pay almost \$100 million every day in debt repayments to international financial institutions and rich governments. These repayments are crippling their ability to provide employment, healthcare, education and social protection schemes, such as social pensions and child grants to help alleviate poverty. Although the UK has written off the debts of the poorest 20 countries, many others are in need of debt relief and other national governments are yet to act.

We must continue to apply pressure on our government and the international

community to address the root causes of poverty and hunger if this goal is to be reached.

FACTS:

- 1.4 billion people live on less than \$1.25 a day.
- Each night, over 850 million people go to bed hungry.
- Every 3.6 seconds another person dies of starvation. The large majority are children under the age of five.
- The link between hunger and poverty is clear, with 90% of those experiencing hunger also living in poverty.
- Hunger and malnutrition are the number one risks to health worldwide: greater than Aids, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

LINKS:

www.chronicpoverty.org
www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/poverty
www.endpoverty2015.org
www.undp-povertycentre.org

Goal 2

Achieve universal primary education



In 2000, world leaders agreed that all children – both boys and girls – should receive a full course of primary school education by 2015. In spite of this ambitious target, 75 million children are still missing out on a primary school education today.

Poverty is a huge obstacle to education for many children in the developing world. Boys and girls from poor households and those living in rural areas are most likely to miss out on the chance of going to school. Nearly one-third of children in rural areas in developing countries are out of school, compared with 18% of children of the same age living in cities.

Girls are also far more likely to miss out on a primary education than boys. There are 18 million girls out of school in sub-Saharan Africa alone. Many are forced to drop out of school for want of something as simple as a pair of shoes or an exercise book.

Yet quality education has been recognised as one of the most effective ways to tackle poverty and disease across the developing world. Education provides young people with skills and opportunities that can help to break the cycle of poverty.

FACTS:

- 75 million children around the world are missing out on a primary education
- 57% of these children are girls
- 33% of these are children with disabilities
- Half of these children live in countries that are affected by conflict

LINKS:

- www.campaignforeducation.org
- www.sendmyfriend.org
- www.sightsavers.org/education
- www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/education.asp
- www.unicef.org



Credit: Plan UK

Sunita is 15 years old and an ex-Kamalari; one of the 20,000 girls exploited in Nepal as bonded labour. "I was helping to take care of children, cooking, washing dishes and grazing cattle. I had no rights at all."

Plan's Kamalari Abolition Project

helped her leave the family she was working for and enter primary school via an alternative rapid education scheme.

"If I had not been rescued, I would still be working like a slave now and would not have had the chance to go to school," she says.



Credit: Camfed International/Mark Head

“Education is the fundamental birthright of every child – empowering them for the future, putting opportunity directly into their hands – but it is also the very best anti-poverty strategy, the best economic development programme.”

Gordon Brown, prime minister



Credit: Jill Mead

Goal 3

Promote gender equality and empower woman

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is an essential step towards achieving the key development goals set by world leaders in 2000: eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV and Aids, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

For every additional year of education beyond primary school, a woman is likely to increase her future income by 10-15%; significantly lower her vulnerability to HIV/Aids; marry later and have a smaller, healthier family; lower her risk of dying in childbirth; and ensure the education of her children.

World leaders recognised the importance of empowering women when they agreed that equal numbers of boys and girls should be able to attend primary and secondary school by 2015. Yet only one-third of the 171 countries with data on secondary education have achieved this goal so far. In sub-Saharan Africa, only one in four girls is enrolled in secondary school.

FACTS:

- 70% of the 1.5 billion people worldwide living on \$1 a day or less, are female.
- Of 780 million people estimated to be illiterate, nearly two-thirds are women.
- Nearly 50% of all sexual assaults are against girls aged 15 or younger.
- Three-quarters of 15-24 year olds with HIV/Aids in sub-Saharan Africa are female.

LINKS:

- www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/gender-equality.pdf
- www.undp.org/mdg/goal3.shtml
- www.plan-uk.org/becauseiamagirl/
- <http://us.camfed.org/what>
- www.ungei.org/index.php



Credit: Camfed International/Mark Read

When Abigail's parents died, she was forced to drop out of school. She went to live with her elderly grandmother in rural Zambia. Abigail's future seemed bleak until the charity Camfed International stepped in to support her through school. Today the 20-year-old is studying at business school. Educating Abigail has not only changed her life, it will also transform the future of her children and ensure that she can contribute to the economic growth of her community. "When I start working, I want to help other orphaned children and put them through school," says Abigail. "Teaching a girl is a very beautiful thing."



Goal 4

Reduce child mortality

Worldwide, just under 10 million children currently die every year before they reach their fifth birthday. Nowhere is the need for life-saving strategies more apparent than in sub-Saharan Africa where this equates to one child in every six on average. In industrialised countries, this figure is only one in 167.

While the target of reducing child mortality by two thirds is ambitious, it is not impossible to achieve. However, it cannot be achieved without more funding for medicines, training for healthcare staff, improved health

Child health



Credit: Marie Stopes International

infrastructure, safe water supplies and effective hygiene and sanitation facilities. Stronger health systems must cater for children's needs.

Money already available needs to be better spent so the services and products reach those who need them most: poor people in the poorest countries, who often live in communities which are isolated, under-educated and marginalised.

At the current slow rate of progress, 8.7 million children under five will still die in 2015 if we don't meet this target. However 3.8 million lives will be saved if MDG 4 is met.

FACTS:

- In 2008, 10 million children will die before they reach the age of five, four million in their first month.
- Almost half of all under-five deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria account for almost half of all child deaths globally.
- Malnutrition is an underlying factor in over half of all child deaths.
- Over half of children who go blind in the developing world die within two years.

LINKS:

- www.undp.org/mdg/goal4.shtml
- www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/mdg-factsheets/childmortalityfactsheet.pdf
- www.unicef.org/mdg/childmortality.html
- www.wateraid.org/caseforsanitation



Credit: Malaria Consortium/Pedro Sa da Bandeira

Isaura Paulina lost her first child to malaria and her second child, Belinda, is now also sick. She says, "I also had two miscarriages before, each time I had malaria." Malaria Consortium are working in Mozambique in partnership with the health authorities to distribute over 400,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets through antenatal clinics. Gradually women are becoming more aware of their availability and are being trained to use the nets properly.



Financing for the MDGs

Credit: Marie Stopes International/Diana Thomas

If the MDGs are to be achieved more money is required from all available sources, including developing countries' own resources, aid from rich countries, international trade, and foreign direct investment. However, most developing country governments cannot mobilise enough domestic resources from taxation to fund the MDGs in their country. Trade exports and private funds can make up some of the shortfall, but overseas aid is a crucial source of financing.

- Back in 1970, rich countries committed to give 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) in aid. They reaffirmed this target in 2002, but most are still giving less than they promised. Only the Scandinavian countries have met the target.

- International trade has the potential to dramatically reduce poverty. If Africa, east Asia, south Asia, and Latin America were each to increase their share of world exports by just 1%, the resulting gains in income could lift 128 million people out of poverty. In Africa alone, this would generate \$70 billion: five times what the continent receives in aid. For poor people to benefit from global trade, the rules need to be reformed so that they guarantee fair access for poor people to national and international markets.

- Over \$1 trillion in private funds was invested in developing countries in 2007, up from \$174 billion in 2002. However, some relatively better-off countries, such as Brazil and China,

received the bulk of private funds, while very poor countries in sub-Saharan Africa received little.

- The total external debt of low-income countries was \$379 billion in 2005. During 2005, these countries paid nearly \$43 billion to the rich world in debt service – that is \$118 million a day. Despite some debt cancellation in 2006 and 2007, there also has been new debt taken on.

- When developing countries export to richer country markets, they often face tariffs that can be four times higher than those paid by developed countries. These tariffs can cost poor countries \$100 billion a year: twice as much as they receive in aid.



FACTS:

- Unfair trade rules deny developing countries \$700 billion every year.
- For every £1 in grant aid to developing countries, more than £13 comes back in debt repayments.
- One-third of the world's population lack access to the drugs they need to fight illness.
- 82% of disabled people in developing countries live below the poverty line, yet disability isn't mentioned in the MDGs.
- If the UK government met the agreed target of spending 0.7% of national income on aid by the end of 2008, an extra 1.5 million people could beat poverty this year.

LINKS:

www.worldbank.org
(see Global Monitoring Report)

www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats

www.millenniumpromise.org

Older people in the developing world

- 100 million older people in developing countries live on less than one dollar a day.
- Four-fifths of older people in developing countries have no regular income.
- Throughout the world, and particularly in low-income countries, more older people die from malnutrition, respiratory diseases and TB than any other age group, including children 0-14 years.
- By 2050, one in five people will be over the age of 60.

● In 2005, the G8 committed to increase aid to developing countries by around \$50 billion a year by 2010, of which at least \$25 billion would go to Africa. This commitment has still not been met, and total overseas development aid actually fell in 2007.

● Rich countries also need to recognise that the current trade system is detrimental to the world's poor, and soften their negotiating positions during international trade talks. Unfortunately, the heavily government-subsidised interests of agribusiness in the European Union and the United States consistently take precedence over the livelihoods of poor farmers in developing countries.



Credit: Marie Stopes International/Susan Schuman

maternal
health

Goal 5

Improve maternal health



Credit: Marie Stopes International/Diana Thomas

MDG 5 is the most off-track of all the Millennium Development Goals. Over 500,000 women die each year from either being pregnant or giving birth, almost all of them in the developing world. The tragedy is that almost all of these deaths could be prevented through the provision of some of the most basic healthcare measures.

Unsafe motherhood is caused by a number of factors, including poor health and nutrition prior to pregnancy; inadequate, inaccessible or unaffordable health care; and poor hygiene and care during childbirth. Social, economic and cultural issues can also increase the risks, including poverty, heavy physical work and women's unequal status when it comes to accessing resources such as food, income and health services.

Some gains have been made and more women than ever are receiving antenatal care at least once during pregnancy. This is a key point of entry for the provision of maternal health services. Also, improved training of midwives and birth attendants has meant an increasing number of births are being attended by skilled staff.

Access to family planning services is also a critical factor in helping to prevent maternal deaths by preventing

unintended and high-risk pregnancies, and reducing the need for unsafe abortions. Where data is available, more countries are showing greater use of modern contraceptive measures, which indicates increased access to and availability of contraceptives. However, an estimated 200 million women still have no such access.

Despite significant improvements in some countries, there are huge differences across the world. If women in many developing countries are to stop viewing pregnancy and motherhood as a lottery as far as their health and lives are concerned, national governments, development agencies and international donors need to keep support for safe motherhood and reproductive health initiatives at the top of their agendas.

FACTS:

- A woman dies every minute from pregnancy or childbirth.
- In sub-Saharan Africa the chances of dying in pregnancy or childbirth can be as high as 1 in 8, compared with just 1 in 8,000 in western Europe.
- 67,000 women die from unsafe abortions every year.
- Pregnancy and childbirth are the primary cause of death among women of childbearing age.
- For every maternal death, at least 20 additional women suffer serious pregnancy-related complications that can cause lifelong disabilities.

LINKS:

www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/health.asp

www.unfpa.org/index.htm

<http://mariestopes.org/documents/safe%20motherhood.pdf>



Credit: Marie Stopes International/Fiona Cair

This is Grace who lives in Sierra Leone, the country with the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Her daughter had three young children. She had never had antenatal care and when she suffered from an obstructive labour in her third pregnancy, only the child survived. Grace now looks after all three young children on her own. Marie Stopes Society Sierra Leone is working hard expanding its services nationwide to provide ante and postnatal services, so that other women do not die unnecessarily.

Goal 6

Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases

Combat
HIV/AIDS

Credit: Malaria Consortium/William Daniels



The governments that signed up to MDG 6 agreed to provide HIV treatment to all who need it by 2010, and to ensure that people are able to protect themselves from becoming infected. Those already affected by HIV/Aids should be cared for and supported. Malaria mortality in Africa should be halved by 2010 as advocated by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. While for TB, the global targets are to detect 70% of new cases and to successfully treat 85% of existing patients.

Funding for HIV has increased, but real political leadership from every government around the world is required. That includes working to break down HIV-related stigma and discrimination, which continues to undermine efforts to tackle the epidemic.

The challenge for TB is to closely integrate TB and HIV services, as there are still high rates of co-infection. To prevent further spread of drug resistant forms

of TB, new drugs and ultimately a vaccine need to be developed.

Despite the tools, strategies and funding available for malaria, many people at risk are still not being reached with lifesaving nets, sprays and medicines. Sustained funding, used effectively to get the best impact, is crucial.

If these diseases are to be held in check over the long term, national health systems have to work more efficiently and effectively. Money must be available for staff training and paying salaries of health workers; establishing health centres and ensuring reliable supplies. Effective home-based care services and support are also essential.

Access to treatment and prevention for all three diseases is still not as widespread as it should be, but there have been significant successes. Botswana now provides HIV treatment to 90% of those who need it, and Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda have seen dramatic decreases in the number of malaria cases and deaths. India, which has the greatest TB burden in the world, has achieved full nationwide coverage with its national TB programme.

FACTS:

- 33 million people were living with HIV in 2007, over two-thirds of them in sub-Saharan Africa.
- In countries severely affected by HIV, up to 60% of children orphaned by Aids are being cared for by their grandparents.



Credit: HIV/AIDS Alliance

In Uganda, HIV/AIDS Alliance is training and deploying people openly living with HIV as network support agents to strengthen available healthcare. Based at health facilities and in communities, the agents are getting local communities involved in the HIV response. Emily Katamujuna believes her role is crucial to bringing services to the people: "Putting people most affected by HIV at the forefront of the response has reduced stigma and discrimination."

- Malaria causes up to three million deaths a year.
- Each year, an estimated 8-10 million people contract TB and 2-3 million die from it.
- Existing HIV funding needs to be doubled to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment care and support.

LINKS:

www.unaids.org
www.rbm.who.int
www.stoptb.org
www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/hivaids.asp



Credit: Malaria Consortium/William Daniels

environmental
sustainability

Goal 7

Ensure environmental sustainability

Credit: WaterAid/Marco Betti

The poor are highly dependent on the environment and its resources: fresh water, crops, fish, wood, etc. These provide about two-thirds of household income for the rural poor. Sustainable development means using resources such as these in a way that meets vital human needs while preserving the environment for the indefinite future. Environmental sustainability is therefore vital for alleviating poverty.

Climate change poses additional challenges to this goal. The knock-on consequences of climate change include greater variability in rainfall, less security when it comes to food and livelihood, spread of disease, damage to infrastructure, and more frequent natural disasters. Deforestation, pollution and the loss of biodiversity are also affecting sustainability.

Most countries have adopted principles of sustainable development and signed international agreements on environmental protection. But signed accords are not enough; they need to be implemented.

Climate change requires action at the global, national and local levels. Governments need to prioritise climate change adaptation and mitigation within their national policy, and also work together through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to prevent dangerous climate change.

The developed world has a significant role to play in preserving environmental resources, reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and demonstrating a commitment to sustainable consumption and production. This will set an example to developing countries that green growth is achievable.

If we don't meet this target, there will be additional knock-on consequences to environmental degradation including increased poverty, livelihood insecurity and migration. These can interact with and exacerbate existing stresses, such as ethnic tensions, bad governance and a history of recent violent conflict, helping to make the poorest communities across the world even more vulnerable. Not only will this put pressure on already stretched governments to provide basic needs for their most vulnerable citizens, but in some cases can fuel the risk of violent conflict.

FACTS:

- About 60% of ecosystem resources are being degraded or used unsustainably.
- Climate change disproportionately affects the poorest countries as they are less able to adapt quickly.
- It is estimated that 150,000 people die every year as a result of climate change.
- 884 million people are without access to safe drinking water.
- 2.5 billion people are without access to somewhere safe to go to the toilet.

LINKS:

www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/water.asp
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2006>
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007>



Credit: WaterAid/Suzanne Porter

Sawadogo Talato, from Burkina Faso, stands in the old water source used by the village before the well was installed. During the seasons when this pond dried up the villagers, including small children, had to walk five kilometres to get water every day at least once a day.

Goal 8

Develop a global partnership for development



The Millennium Development Goals represent a global partnership for development. But for developing countries to be able to achieve the first seven goals it is crucial that richer countries deliver their side of the bargain well in advance of 2015.

So what's still needed? To begin with, more aid and in particular more effective aid that's spent properly. Also, a fairer, more open trading system; sustainable debt relief; a commitment to good governance; ensuring access to affordable and essential drugs; and making available the benefits of new technologies.

Partnerships are vital to achieving the MDGs

- The fight against HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and malaria has generated an unprecedented movement of global solidarity, bringing together affected communities, activists, NGOs, scientists, industry and the public sector.

- The Education for All Fast Track Initiative between donors and developing countries offers support to low-income countries that demonstrate serious commitment to achieve universal primary education by 2015.

- Last year Gordon Brown announced a new International Health Partnership to build national health systems, initially in seven countries in Africa and Asia, to combat diseases like TB, polio, malaria and HIV, reduce infant mortality, and improve maternal health.

- Successful public-private partnerships are also focusing efforts on eradicating neglected tropical diseases like river blindness and trachoma. However, efforts need to be stepped up considerably if MDG 8 is to be met. As members of a global community, we need to hold governments across the world to their millennium promises. Only then will we end world poverty.

LINKS:

<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/goal8.cfm>

www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/aid.asp

www.efasttrack.org/

www.includeeverybody.org/disability.php



Credit: HelpAge International/
Sarah Packwood



Credit: Sightsavers International/ Suzanne Porter

Djokolou Coulibaly from Mali being guided by his granddaughter Nianamba, aged eight. Unable to see due to the condition known as river blindness, Djokolou relies on his granddaughter to take care of him, which in turn lessens her chances of receiving an education. Sightsavers International is working in global partnership with communities, local NGOs, relevant ministries and other international organisations to try and eliminate river blindness as a public health threat across Africa.

Partners



Globally, Marie Stopes International manages sexual and

reproductive health programmes in 43 countries. In 2007 alone, MSI programmes protected the equivalent of 12.5 million couples from unwanted pregnancy. A majority of MSI's family planning impact is in rural, under-served areas where women are particularly vulnerable and lives are most at risk from unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion. The organisation has gained a global reputation as a provider of safe motherhood and quality family planning services – including obstetrics and pre- and postnatal care, safe abortion, education, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections – and HIV/Aids education, counselling and testing. Programmes designed specifically to benefit marginalised and vulnerable communities such as adolescents, refugees and internally displaced people are a major focus of MSI's work.

www.mariestopes.org



The Alliance is a global partnership of nationally based

organisations working to support community action on Aids in developing countries. The Alliance believes that central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals is the need to place communities at the centre of any action taken. Despite expertise in the HIV response and direct links to those that we must reach, too often civil society has to fight for its place in national responses in HIV. Communities and civil society must be supported to have a major role in ensuring sustained access to HIV prevention, treatment and care.

www.aidsalliance.org



Sightsavers International works

in partnership to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people in some of the world's most disadvantaged countries. Sightsavers is currently campaigning to highlight the urgent need to include disabled people in the action plans to achieve the Millennium Development Goals set by world leaders. As well as working to combat blindness and restore sight through specialist treatment and eye care, Sightsavers also supports people who are irreversibly blind by providing education, counselling and training. Sightsavers believes that everyone, including those in the world's poorest countries, should have access to the treatment and healthcare they need.

www.sightsavers.org



Camfed is dedicated to fighting poverty and HIV/Aids in

rural communities in Africa by educating girls and investing in economic and leadership opportunities for them once they leave school. Camfed began in 1993 by supporting 32 girls in rural Zimbabwe. In 2007, more than 408,000 children in some of the poorest regions of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana and Tanzania benefited from Camfed's education programme. When world leaders agreed on the MDGs, they recognised that educating girls is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of poverty and disease in the developing world. In 2007, the young women Camfed supported through school, in partnership with their communities, in turn helped more than 47,000 children to secure an education, setting the next generation on the path to success.

www.camfed.org



Malaria Consortium is an organisation dedicated to improving delivery of prevention and treatment

to combat malaria and other communicable diseases in Africa and Asia. It particularly works around MDGs 4, 5 and 6 as malaria primarily affects vulnerable groups, in particular children under five, pregnant women in Africa and marginalised populations of all ages in Asia. Malaria Consortium work with communities, health systems, government and non-government agencies, academic institutions, and local and international organisations, to ensure good evidence supports delivery of effective services. More than 90% of our human and technical resources are based in Africa and Asia supporting Ministries of Health and partners in more than 20 countries.

www.malariaconsortium.org



WaterAid enables the world's poorest

people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. These basic human rights underpin health, education and livelihoods, and form the first, essential step in overcoming poverty. WaterAid works with local partners, who understand local issues, and provide them with the skills and support to help communities set up and manage practical and sustainable projects that meet their real needs. WaterAid also campaigns locally and internationally to change policy and practice and ensure water and sanitation's vital role in reducing poverty is recognised.

www.wateraid.org



age helps

HelpAge International is a global network striving for the rights of older people to healthcare, social services and the

economic and physical security they need. As part of its Age Demands Action campaign, HelpAge International is calling for the inclusion of older people in international development policy, including the Millennium Development Goals. HelpAge International believes that social security systems to protect the most vulnerable, such as children, disabled people and older people, must be included in poverty reduction strategies undertaken to achieve the MDGs. HelpAge International is also calling for greater recognition and support for older people who are at the frontline of the battle against HIV and Aids, caring for the sick and the orphaned.

www.helpage.org



Be a part of it.

Plan is an international children's development agency. Plan works with children, families and communities in the world's poorest countries, aiming to overcome poverty and injustice by encouraging children to claim

their rights. Millions of children across the world are locked in a cycle of extreme poverty. Plan enables poor communities to take action together to achieve children's rights to an education, decent healthcare, clean drinking water and more. Children themselves can be powerful advocates for change, so Plan encourage them to speak out. And because children will be the leaders of tomorrow, we believe that strengthening their voices now will create a fairer, better world.

www.plan-international.org

To find out more about the Guardian International Development Journalism Competition 2008 which inspired this publication, go to www.guardian.co.uk/journalismcompetition

Take action now

Need to find out who your MP is?

Go to <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/aristotle>



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