

END POVERTY 2015

North America Millennium Development Goals Newsletter

Covering Information from

Friday, April 9 – Monday, April 19, 2010



FROM THE DESK OF THE NORTH AMERICA COORDINATOR

It was a busy week for the UN Millennium Campaign in Washington, DC. We had Director Salil Shetty in town so we organized a series of Administration and Congressional meetings for him as well a community partners meeting attended by some fifty organizations, [a bloggers breakfast](#), and [discussion of the 2010 MDG Summit](#) sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the University of Miami's Knight School of International Media.

Our meetings discussed progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ways to work with the United Nations and other partners, and explored the US's plans to promote the achievement of the MDGs.

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, world leaders will convene again at the United Nations in September for the MDG Review Summit September to discuss progress, challenges and work to accelerate MDG achievement. During his historic September 2009 speech before the UN General Assembly, President Barack Obama stated that the MDGs were "America's Goals", and that the United States would approach the MDG Review Summit "with a global plan to make them a reality."

Congress and the Obama Administration have since supported several groundbreaking initiatives designed to improve the effectiveness and coordination of assistance to the developing world, including: (a) the Global Health Initiative; (b) the Presidential Study Directive (PSI); (c) the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR); (d) the Hunger/Food Security Initiative; and, (e) the FY 2011 Budget Request. The success of these initiatives will directly impact the ability of the United States to play an even stronger role in the innovative implementation of the MDGs in the years ahead.

UNITED STATES

["Smartnering" for the Millennium Development Goals](#): CSRwire, April 19 (MDG 8)

"Smartnerships," according to Tim Dubel, Senior Director of Corporate Affairs at Microsoft, are what you call a public-private partnership that achieves the most effective time and scale, awareness of a target issue, and methods of partnering. Dubel coined the term while participating with 30 other experts and more than 100 participants at ["Investing in the Millennium Development Goals,"](#) a conference convened by the Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) and the UN Office for Partnerships in New York.

[International farm aid in the works](#): *DesMoinesRegister*, April 16 (MDGs 1, 7, & 8)

The Obama administration is in talks with lawmakers on a plan to boost agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions faced with rising populations, climate changes and stagnant farm output. Legislation pending in the Senate is expected to authorize about \$5 billion in aid over three years, according to a Senate aide familiar with the talks.

[Praise for Passage of Water for the World Act](#): *News Room*, April 13 (MDG 7)

Sen. Corker (R-TN), along with co-sponsor Sen. Durbin (D-IL), praised the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passage of the Water for the World Act, which sets a goal of reaching 100 million people with first-time, sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015. The Water for the World Act implements recommendations made in the Center for Strategic & International Studies report, "Global Water Futures" and will expand safe water and sanitation efforts in priority countries, promote research and technology development, and improve training and technical assistance to help meet the water needs of the world's poor.

[US Seeks to Rein in AIDS Program](#): *The Boston Globe*, April 11 (MDG 6)

US officials have asked some AIDS clinics overseas to stop enrolling new patients in a US-sponsored program that provides lifesaving antiretroviral drugs, in a bid to stem the rising costs of one of the most ambitious US assistance programs. AIDS advocates fear that the Obama administration is curtailing its commitment to a program that provides lifesaving drugs for 2.4 million people.

CANADA

[G8 Shortchanges Poor Countries – Canada Can Fix](#): *Canadian Press*, April 15 (MDG 8)

New figures show G8 countries fall short of their aid commitments - but according to aid advocates Canada can change that. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released numbers showing the G8 countries are US \$18 billion behind on their promise to double aid to poor countries. Canada has largely lived up to its promises, said a spokeswoman for International Development, Minister Bev Oda. "We come out looking better than most," agreed Dennis Howlett, national co-coordinator of Make Poverty History, adding, "Canada should use its control of the agenda as host of the G8 summit to pressure other countries to pay up."

[WHO Chief Sides With US Over Abortion Access and Maternal Health](#): *The Vancouver Sun*, April 15 (MDG 5)

The head of the World Health Organization, Dr. Margaret Chan, signaled that the US — not Canada — was on the right track over the question of supporting access to abortion services amid an international bid to improve child and maternal health. Dr. Chan and Canadian Development International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda, along with other dignitaries, joined UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in announcing the launch of the world body's new push to reduce maternal childbirth and pregnancy deaths at a news conference at the UN.

[G8 Focus On Maternal, Child Health Should Include Efforts to Improve Sanitation](#): *Kaiser Family Foundation*, April 14 (MDGs 4, 5 & 7)

Part of Canada's push to make maternal and child health a focal point of the upcoming G8 Summit in June should include an emphasis on efforts to improve sanitation in the world's poorest countries, according to a [report](#) by Zafar Adeel, Director of the Institute for Water, Environment and Health at the United Nations University. The report argues that sanitation investments offer "simple" and "inexpensive solutions" in saving lives.

[Letter Sent by Canada to G20 on Financial Reforms](#): *Reuters*, April 14 (MDG 8)

Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty released a letter to the G20 nations which stated, "We are committed to develop by [the] end [of] 2010, internationally agreed rules to improve both the quantity and quality of bank capital, strengthen liquidity standards and to discourage excessive leverage, which includes a cap on leverage."

UNITED NATIONS AND AROUND THE WORLD

[UN: Rich Nations Must Keep Climate Pledges](#): *Taiwan News*, April 15 (MDG 7)

Yvo de Boer, the head of the UN's Climate Change Secretariat, said rich countries must follow through on climate change aid pledges for developing nations in order to win their trust and make progress on a global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The European Union, the United States and others have promised to donate \$30 billion over the next three years to help poorer nations fight global warming and adapt to it.

[Press Conference Launches the Joint Effort on Women's and Children's Health](#): *Off the Cuff*, April 14 (MDGs 4 & 5)

At a press conference in New York, UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon launched a Joint Effort on Women's and Children's Health. "Too many women die around the world from pregnancy or childbirth-related injuries...one preventable maternal death is still too many. Hundreds of thousands of deaths are a disgrace, a disgrace we need not tolerate. We know women are the drivers of progress. Women deliver - and not just babies. And if we deliver for women, we can change the world for the better."

[End of "Third World"](#): *IPS News*, April 14 (MDG 8)

Speaking on the eve of the annual spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the President of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, said that the global financial crisis marked the end of long-standing North-South paradigms of the global economy and development. He also declared the world needs a new geopolitics for a multi-polar economy where all fairly represented.

[Fragile Nations Speak Up to Donors](#): *IPS*, April 10 (MDG 8)

The April 9-10 Dili International Dialogue on Statebuilding and Peacebuilding broke new ground as a group of fragile States, collectively known as the G7+, united to tell international donors where mistakes have been made in giving aid.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

[Lancet: Sharp Drop in Maternal Deaths Worldwide](#): *The Associated Press*, April 14 (MDG 5)

Maternal mortality has dropped dramatically, [The Lancet](#) reports. Author Christopher Murray and colleagues at the Institute for Health Metrics at the University of Washington found that maternal deaths have fallen from about 500,000 deaths in 1980 to about 343,000 in 2008. The study in the Lancet was based on more data than was previously available in addition to statistical modeling and was paid for by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A new, separate report by a group headed by the UN reached a very different conclusion on maternal mortality, saying the figure remains as high as 500,000 deaths a year.

[Development Aid Rose in 2009 and Most Donors Will Meet 2010 Aid Targets](#): *OECD*, April 14 (MDG 8)

The report issued by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) offers new figures that show continuing growth in development aid in 2009, despite the financial crisis. The OECD Secretary General, Angel Gurría, welcomed news of the further increase in overseas development assistance (ODA) and urged donors to keep the momentum going in future years, despite their fiscal challenges.

[Making the Millennium Development Goals Work Better for Women](#): *UNIFEM-UNDP* (MDG 3)

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) jointly published a report that argues achieving the MDGs by 2015 hinges on making tangible progress in gender equality and women's empowerment; not only as a goal in itself, but also in the achievement of all the other goals.

[Global Preparatory Meeting for the ECOSOC High-level Segment in June](#)

In preparation for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) discussions in June, the Council will organize two preparatory meetings on April 22. The focus will be on the role of rural women in achieving the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs), in particular the Millennium Development Goals and strengthening the dialogue among Member States and UN system organizations on concrete actions needed to support

rural women's contribution to reducing poverty, improving food security and the right to food, and promoting economic and social development.

MDG COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

[Millennium Campus Network Launches "Commit in September" Online Petition](#)

Commit in September, a national advocacy campaign demonstrating young Americans' grassroots commitment to global development, features an online petition to President Obama and Congress on the Millennium Development Goals with a goal to get thousands of signatures by the end of July which will be delivered to the White House and Congress in early August, in the lead up to the September MDG Review Summit.

[Jubilee Goes on Tour to Get to the Roots of Global Poverty](#)

Join Jubilee USA this April 2010 on its Roots of Global Poverty Speaking Tour in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. Renowned Kenyan educator, activist, and campaigner for social justice, Wahu Kaara joins Jubilee USA Network over the next three weeks to bring the message of debt cancellation and economic justice to these communities.

[37th Annual Global Health Conference, Washington, DC, June 14-18, 2010](#)

The theme of the world's largest global health conference not devoted to a single disease or health area is "Dateline 2010: Global Health Goals and Metrics." It will examine the various goals set over the last 15 years, how we are doing in meeting them and what we have learned, and it will lay a foundation for the United Nations Special Session on the Millennium Development Goals in September. The conference provides an unparalleled opportunity to look at all global health areas and emphasize the importance of integration and the interdependence between them.

[UN Online Consultation Continues Until May 7 for the UN MDG Review Summit](#)

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) and the UN Millennium Campaign are undertaking a consultation with civil society groups across the globe and to compile their views into a single report that will be presented to Member States and other interested stakeholders. They want to hear your views!

[The UN Millennium Campaign and Its Partners Launch Online Petition "OK to 0.7"](#)

The online petition allows Canadians to demand that their government keep its promises to allocate 0.7 percent of Gross National Income to foreign aid. The petition, available at www.endpoverty2015.org, was developed by Montreal-based communications firm Cossette. Launched at the Montreal Millennium Summit, it demands that Canada deliver on commitments which are critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals – the set of promises made by rich and poor countries to work together to eradicate extreme poverty by the year 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20 – 21: [National Interfaith Conference on Global Poverty](#), San Francisco, CA

April 20 – 22: [Montreal Millennium Summit](#), Montreal, Québec

April 22: [Global Preparatory Meeting](#), New York

April 22: [Earth Day](#), Worldwide

April 24 – 25: [Spring Meetings: International Monetary Fund & World Bank Group](#), Washington, DC

April 25 – [World Malaria Day](#), Worldwide

April 27 – [Roundtable 3: Millennium Development Goals](#), Parliamentary Roundtables on the G8/G20 Agenda, Ottawa, Canada

April 26 – 28: [G8 Development Ministers Meeting](#), Halifax, Canada

On the Horizon

May 5 – 7: [World Economic Forum on Africa 2010](#), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

June 7 – 9: [Women Deliver](#), Washington DC

June 14 – 15: [Interactive Hearings on the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit](#), New York, New York

June 14 – 18: [37th Annual Global Health Alliance Conference](#), Washington DC

June 16 – 24: [G\(irls\)20 Summit](#), Toronto, Canada

June 21 – 23: [World Religions Summit](#), Winnipeg, Canada

June 25 – 26: [G8 Summit](#), Muskoka, Canada

June 26 – 27: [G20 Summit](#), Toronto, Canada

June 24 – 25: [UN Global Compact Leaders Summit](#), New York, New York

September 17 – 19: [Stand Up, Take Action: Make a Noise for the MDGs](#), Worldwide

September 20 – 22: [United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit](#), New York, New York



The 8 Millennium Development Goals

www.standupagainstopoverty.org and www.endpoverty2015.org