

END POVERTY 2015

North America Millennium Development Goals Newsletter

Covering Information from

Tuesday, April 20 – Sunday, April 25, 2010



FROM THE DESK OF THE NORTH AMERICA COORDINATOR

Last week UN Millennium Campaign staff crisscrossed North America to present in MDG related conferences. Leanne Rios, Advocacy and Communications Associate, spoke at the [“Point 7 Now: One Voice of Faith”](#) conference in San Francisco, which brought together hundreds of Americans from various faiths to discuss progress on the Millennium Development Goals and chart an action plan to advocate for strong US engagement at the upcoming UN MDG Summit in September. She and Salil Shetty, UN Millennium Campaign Director, traveled to Montreal, Canada to participate in the [Montreal Millennium Summit](#), where the theme was climate change and global poverty. The event, which was streamed live on [Goodness TV](#), drew several thousand people, many of them whom signed the online petition, [OK to 0.7](#), through which Canadian citizens will demand that their government keep its promises to allocate 0.7 percent of Gross National Income to foreign aid. The petition was developed by Montreal-based communications firm Cossette.

UNITED STATES

[EU-US Development Dialogue: Joint Action on Millennium Development Goals](#): *PR Newswire*, April 25

The EU-US dialogue on development, providing a framework for cooperation between the two largest donors in their efforts to tackle poverty worldwide, was relaunched in Washington. The initiative has been a priority for EU Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah in the first few months since they both took office. During the meeting, the EU and the US agreed on three roadmaps for cooperation in the next two years covering the MDGs, Food Security and Climate Change. With five years remaining to achieve the MDGs, the relaunch is a sign of new political will to work together in the fight against poverty.

[To the Chagrin of Many, Senate Budget Committee Approves Cuts To Foreign Aid](#): *Kaiser Family Foundation*, April 23 (MDG 8)

The Senate Budget Committee has approved a budget resolution that adheres to President Barack Obama's "proposal to freeze non-defense spending, then goes a bit further" with cuts to "the State Department and other international programs." In a [statement](#) about the budget resolution, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair John Kerry (D-MA) called the foreign aid cuts "an enormous mistake" asserting, "these funds have saved millions." "In this difficult budget climate, we all have to make tough choices, but the international affairs account is a smart, cost-effective investment that should be funded appropriately. Short-changing these programs delivers very little budget relief at enormous cost to our global efforts and America's leadership in the world," added Kerry.

[President Obama's Development Reviews Still at Odds After High-Level Meeting:](#) *The Cable*, April 22 (MDG 8)

After the highest-level meeting yet on President Obama's development policy, there is still no resolution of key differences between the State Department's Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) and the National Security Council's Presidential Study Directive on Global Development Policy (PSD-7). The meeting came as some in the development community expressed a mix of encouragement at the high-level attention and frustration at the Administration's failure to express a clear vision laying out the overarching goals of US development policy. There is still no firm schedule for releasing the QDDR interim report.

[Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development \(QDDR\) Review FAQs:](#) *US Department of State* (MDG 8)

The QDDR Interim Review has not yet been released, but new FAQs providing insight on the purpose, process and scope of the Review are available. The QDDR was launched in July 2009 with the goal of providing the short-, medium-, and long-term blueprint for US diplomatic and development efforts.

[Millions Sought for Global Fund to Aid Farms:](#) *The NY Times*, April 22 (MDGs 1, 7 & 8)

The Obama Administration proposes adding \$408 million to a global fund to boost food production and encourage good farming practices in the developing world. The fund, created after the 2009 G20 meeting in Pittsburgh, will be initially funded by contributions from the governments of the US, Canada, Spain and South Korea and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program will provide money to poorer countries, particularly in Africa, to invest in local farming programs and agricultural development to increase crop yields.

[US to Blame for Climate Summit Failure: Gore:](#) *CBC News*, April 22 (MDG 7)

During a speech given at the Montreal Millennium Summit, former Vice President Al Gore indicated that the US deserves much of the blame for the failure of the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December 2009 after it rejected a little-known offer from China. Last fall, the US Senate failed to pass sweeping environmental reforms that would have included a law to drastically cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions. According to Gore, this action sent the wrong signal to a potential ally heading into the climate talks.

[UN Millennium Campaign Hosts Discussion on 'Keeping the Promise':](#) *MFAN*, April 19

The UN Millennium Campaign hosted a strategy session in Washington DC with high-level civil society members. The discussion, lead by UN Millennium Campaign Director Salil Shetty, with remarks from Peter Yeo, Executive Director, Better World Campaign and Vice President for Public Policy, United Nations Foundation; Lindsey Coates, Vice President, Policy & Communications, InterAction; Mark Brinkmoeller, US Community Partnerships, ONE; and Anita Sharma, North America Coordinator for the UN Millennium Campaign centered on the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and plans for the MDG Review Summit in September. Participants also used the occasion to discuss actions their organizations are undertaking in support of the MDGs this year leading up to the Summit.

[Media Roundtable with UN Millennium Campaign Director:](#) *MFAN*, April 16

UN Millennium Campaign Director, Salil Shetty, hosted a media roundtable to discuss progress made on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to date and noted how the MDGs have served as a rallying cry and basis for successful grassroots efforts across the globe. President Obama – who publically embraced the MDGs upon entering office – is due to present an action plan at the Summit in September, offering an opportunity for the Administration to articulate their vision for foreign assistance and poverty alleviation. The roundtable comes at an opportune time as momentum builds for the UN MDG Review Summit in September.

[The Millennium Development Goals & the United States: A Discussion of the 2010 MDG Summit:](#) *CSIS*, April 14

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the University of Miami's Knight School of International Media hosted a panel discussion on MDG progress and the US' role in their achievement. The distinguished panel of speakers included Salil Shetty, UN Millennium Campaign Director; George Ingram, Co-chair of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN) and Executive Director, Education Policy and Data Center,

Academy for Educational Development; J. Stephen Morrison, Senior Vice President, CSIS *and* Director, CSIS Global Health Policy Center; and Jyotika Ramaprasad, Professor, University of Miami School of Communication. The discussion was moderated by Mariam Atash Nawabi, Anchor, America Abroad Media. During his presentation, Mr. Shetty spoke about the significant MDG progress that has been made thus far, but warned this success “doesn’t mean that there’s any case for complacency and there is much more we need to do.”

CANADA

[Canada Says “No” to 'Robin Hood' Tax](#): *Winnipeg Free Press*, April 23 (MDG 8)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is recommending G20 countries tax financial institutions in order to pay for their bailouts. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have repeatedly spoken out against imposing taxes or levies on banks, arguing that Canada's banks prevailed during the global financial crisis because they were prudent and conservative. Anti-poverty groups and non-governmental organizations are banding together to encourage the G20 to adopt a so-called "Robin Hood" tax that would tax banks and give the money to the poor.

[Farm-Aid Plan Gets a Modest Start](#): *The Globe and Mail*, April 22 (MDGs 1, 7 & 8)

For the world’s poorest farmers, it was hardly the US \$22 billion in aid promised by rich world’s leaders last year, but a rather more modest start of US \$880 million from four countries – including Canada – and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. “Canada is pleased to be among the first to help fund such a valuable program,” Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said in a statement. “Our US \$230 million contribution builds on Canada’s ongoing efforts to improve sustainable agriculture for the world’s poorest.”

[‘A Big Voice’ for Children](#): *The Montreal Gazette*, April 21

The Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, served as one of the guest speakers at the Montreal Millennium Summit. In her capacity as an ambassador for children's charities, Ferguson spoke about bringing together people and organizations working to improve conditions for the poor around the world. "She's an unbelievable activist and we've become friends in the battle to bring the message everywhere," organizer Daniel Germain said of the conference goals to promote the Millennium Development Goals.

UNITED NATIONS AND AROUND THE WORLD

[Interview: “Millennium Development Goals: Are We There Yet?”\(French version\)](#): *France 24*, April 22

The Africa UN Millennium Campaign Deputy Director Charles Abugre Akelyira and the France UN Millennium Campaign Coordinator Fabrice Ferrier provided interviews for the news program, *France 24*. With only five years left to achieve the MDGs, the debate centered on whether or not these global challenges could be met, specifically in Africa. The debate also highlighted [1 Goal Campaign](#), a partnership between the Global Campaign for Education and 2010 FIFA World Cup, to push governments to bring “Education for All.”

[Safeguarding Earth is Crucial to Development, Human Well-Being](#): *UN News Center*, April 22 (MDG 7)

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed the need to respect and care for the Earth, noting that safeguarding the environment will impact efforts to achieve development goals, and ensure the health and well-being of its inhabitants. He noted that protecting the Earth must be an integral component of the strategy to achieve the MDGs. Environmental sustainability is one of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that world leaders have pledged to try to achieve by 2015.

[UN Chief Terms Bangladesh a Model Country](#): *The Daily Star*, April 22

At a parliamentary delegation meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said many countries around the world have many things to learn from Bangladesh for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Praising Bangladesh's achievement in MDGs and micro-credit schemes, Ban said

Bangladesh has gained landmark progress in the disaster preparedness, poverty alleviation, education and women's empowerment.

[United Nations Calls for More Investment on Women](#): *Afrique en ligne*, April 20 (MDGs 3 & 5)

The UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro called for greater investment to ensure the health and well-being of women, stressing that healthy women could lead to better families and societies and help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the 2015 deadline. "We need to tell people that it pays to invest in women - that investing in the health and rights of women triggers greater progress for all," Migiro said at a working dinner on maternal health in New York City.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

[Poverty Reduction Goal Will Be Met, but Serious Long-Term Toll on Development](#): *World Bank-IMF*, April 23

The global economic crisis has slowed the pace of poverty reduction in developing countries, and is hampering progress toward the other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a new report from the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund indicates. The crisis is having an impact in several key areas of the MDGs, including those related to hunger, child and maternal health, gender equality, access to clean water, and disease control and will continue to affect long-term development prospects well beyond 2015, says the [Global Monitoring Report 2010: The MDGs after the Crisis](#).

[World Development Indicators \(WDI\) 2010 Released](#): *The World Bank*, April 20

With a focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the [World Development Indicators \(WDI\) 2010](#) shows that considerable progress has been made in reaching the Goals. Despite the economic and financial crisis, the target to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half is still within reach in several developing regions. "The WDI provides a valuable statistical picture of the world and how far we've come in advancing development," said Justin Yifu Lin, the World Bank's Chief Economist and the Senior Vice President for Development Economics.

[World Malaria Day 2010: Africa Update](#): *UNICEF and Roll Back Malaria* (MDG 6)

UNICEF and the Roll Back Malaria partnership launched the World Malaria Day 2010 Africa Update, a report highlighting progress towards curbing the deadly mosquito-borne disease in Africa. According to the report, efforts to fight malaria on the continent are accelerating, but more needs to be done. Funding still falls US \$-6 billion short of the annual target required by the Global Malaria Action Plan (GMAP) to ensure universal coverage of malaria control interventions.

[Report: Foreign Aid Reform, National Strategy, and the Quadrennial Review](#) (MDG 8)

The Congressional Research Service report follows the activities in both Congress and the Executive Branch on foreign aid reform, by examining the national strategy for development, the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) and the Presidential Study Directive on Global Development Policy (PSD). The Obama Administration, with support from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, announced action to seek solutions to the problems associated with foreign aid and begin the process of reform. The QDDR and the PSD are both scheduled to be concluded in 2010.

MDG COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

[1 Goal Campaign: 2010 FIFA World Cup to Ensure 'Education for All'](#) (MDG 2)

The 1GOAL Campaign seizes the power of football to ensure that universal education is a lasting impact of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. By raising voices around the world, the Campaign aims to make education a reality for the millions of boys and girls who remain out of school. 1GOAL is collecting names and support from the public, footballers and celebrities to make a united plea to all governments to meet their target on 'Education for All'.

[Helios Foundation: Energy Solutions to Help Meet the Millennium Development Goals](#)

The Helios Foundation for Sustainable Development, a new not-for-profit venture, has been established by former executives of Scottish Power and Shell to improve access to affordable and sustainable energy for low-income communities in developing countries. Providing access to modern energy helps both to tackle climate change and to meet the MDGs. Modern energy reduces poverty and fosters economic growth by improving food production, income potential, education, health, and quality of life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

On the Horizon

June 2 – 4: [InterAction Forum 2010](#), Washington DC

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 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

August 4 – 6: [7th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations](#), 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