

END POVERTY 2015

US MDG Newsletter

Covering News from

Wednesday, March 31 – Friday, April 9



FROM THE DESK OF THE NORTH AMERICA COORDINATOR

The United Nations is often criticized for being difficult to navigate or influence unless you are a member state. In an effort to provide more access and participation in the UN MDG Review summit, the UN Millennium Campaign recently launched a web portal to serve as a vital link. For instance we are hosting a [civil society online consultation](#), that along with the civil society hearings in New York in June, will feed into a single report to be presented to Member States and other interested stakeholders towards the MDG Review in September. The consultation seeks to address several themes:

- Theme 1: Why are we so far behind in key areas?
- Theme 2: Emerging issues and challenges
- Theme 3: Proposals to accelerate progress
- Theme 4: An action- and accountability-oriented agenda for all stakeholders

The consultation is open until May 7th and we encourage your participation.

UNITED STATES

[Business Community Discusses the MDGs](#): *BCLCblog.com*, April 8

At the Business Civic Leadership Center's (BCLC) "[Investing in the Millennium Development Goals](#)" forum, hosted in coordination with the UN Office for Partnerships, participants focused on the role of the private sector in philanthropy and the future of corporate social responsibility (CSR). The UN Millennium Campaign Director, Salil Shetty, spoke about the significant progress made toward the achievement of the MDGs.

[World Health Day Renews Resolve to Meet Global Health Challenges](#): *DipNote*, April 7 (MDGs 4, 5, & 6)

The US joined the World Health Organization (WHO) and countries around the world in commemorating World Health Day. In line with this year's theme "Urbanization and Health," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remarked that "the rapid rise in the number of people living in cities will be among the top global health issues of the 21st century".

[US State Department opens a new office on hunger and food security](#): *Politico*, April 7 (MDG 1)

Ambassador Patricia Haslach, a former Assistant Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, will serve as the deputy coordinator for diplomacy, and William Garvelink, US Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo, will serve as the Deputy Coordinator for Development, in the new office, starting in May.

[Foreign Aid Reform: The Road Ahead](#): *The Huffington Post*, April 6 (MDG 8)

Among development experts, the consensus is that the current system for managing US foreign aid lacks an overarching strategy and is outdated. President of the Center for Development and Population Services, Carol Peasley argued that USAID must play a stronger leadership role. If not, says Peasley, "I fear we will lose sight of our ultimate goal: to alleviate extreme poverty, create opportunities for growth, and advance human rights."

[Women's Progress is Human Progress, Says Clinton](#): *The Globe and Mail*, March 30 (MDG 3)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton argued that "when women are free to develop their talents and contribute fully to their societies, everyone benefits". Clinton outlined recent initiatives that put women at the focus, including global health, global food security and the challenge of climate change.

[G20 Must Recommit to Financial Reforms](#): *Reuters*, March 30 (MDG 8)

President Obama along with his fellow G20 steering group leaders from Canada, France, South Korea and Britain, sent a letter to their G20 peers urging them to recommit and deliver on financial reforms they have already agreed to.

CANADA

[Price Tag for Maternal Health: \\$12 Billion](#): *Toronto Star*, April 5 (MDG 5)

Prime Minister Stephen Harper declared new foreign-aid priority for maternal health that will cost the world another \$12 billion a year, according to experts. During her visit to Canada, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke in favor of birth control and abortion as part of any maternal-health initiative.

[8.8 Million Children Die as World Spends Billions on Pet Food](#): *Toronto Star*, April 2 (MDG 4)

Despite global commitments to reduce child mortality, 8.8 million children a year still die from preventable diseases. World Vision's vice-president points out that it is unclear how the Canadian Prime Minister will keep the promise to aid mothers and children when he has frozen foreign aid.

[Canadian Faith Communities Come Together to Fight Malaria](#): *Iqra*, April 8 (MDG 6)

Faith communities across Canada are taking and proving their commitment to achieving the MDGs by coming together and donating their time, energy and money to ending deaths from malaria. "Specifically we are asking congregations to include an educational announcement in worship bulletins during the week of April 25th to May 1st, and consider raising \$100 for 10 life saving bed nets," Erica Spracklin, a Faiths Act Fellow, told Iqra.ca.

UNITED NATIONS AND AROUND THE WORLD

[Hasten Development of Broadband](#): *Next*, April 6 (MDG 8)

Following the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) report that broadband network will facilitate the achievement of the MDGs, Nigerian experts are canvassing for the quick deployment of broadband in Nigeria so that it is in tune with current developments.

[Global Leaders to Unite at the Women Deliver Conference](#): *Women Deliver*, April 6 (MDGs 3 & 5)

On the eve of the G8 summit in June, global leaders will gather in Washington to call on governments to invest at least an additional US \$12 billion in women's health and family planning services. Headliners include Secretary of State Clinton, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, First Lady Michelle Obama, UK First Lady Sarah Brown, Gates Foundation Co-Chair Melinda Gates and World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan.

[Connect to Learn: Global Initiative to Support Education](#): *PRNewswire*, April 6 (MDG 2)

Madonna joined the Earth Institute, Ericsson and Millennium Promise to announce a new global education initiative. "Connect to Learn" will provide secondary school scholarships, with a special focus on girls, and implement information and communications technology in schools, enhancing the overall quality and availability of education.

[AIDS 'Next Big Thing' Rests on Study of Gilead Prevention Pill](#): *Bloomberg*, April 1 (MDG 6)

US-based Pharmaceutical Company, Gilead Sciences Inc., is working to develop a new medication that may help to curb the AIDS pandemic in developing countries by preventing people from contracting the virus.

[Recovery Could Leave Behind World's Poorest](#): *IPS News*, March 31 (MDG 8)

According to the UN Under-Secretary-General and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Cheick Sidi Diarra, the world's 49 least developed countries could feel the effects of the global economic crisis for decades. He pointed out that if the international community does not live up to pledges under the Brussel Program of Action the gains made from 2000-2008 could be reversed.

[South Africa to Launch Massive HIV/AIDS Campaign](#): *sifynews*, March 31 (MDG 6)

South Africa will launch a large nationwide campaign with a target of reaching 15 million people by 2011. The HIV Counseling and Testing campaign will perform tests for rape victims, male circumcisions and will distribute of condoms on a massive scale, the country's Health Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, told BuaNews, the state-owned news agency.

[Rural Poor Still Suffer From Hunger despite Agriculture Strides](#): *IPS*, March 31 (MDG 1)

Speakers at this week's Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) in Montpellier, France warned that while agricultural research has made massive strides in helping the world produce more food, around 1.02 billion – one in six people – are still going unnoticed.

[Economic Crisis Puts Millions More Africans in Poverty](#): *Bloomberg*, March 31 (MDG 1)

The African Union published a report which stated that the global economic crisis pushed 27 million more people into poverty in Africa, with the proportion of African workers earning less than \$2 a day increasing from 82.2 percent in 2007 to 86.6 percent in 2009.

[ONE Urges Donors to Fully Fund the Global Fund and GAVI](#): *One Campaign*, March 30 (MDG 6)

Donors met in The Hague to discuss the impacts, efficacy, and future resource needs for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (the Global Fund) and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI). The Global Fund and GAVI are not fully financed during the next three years and the MDGs will not be met if countries do not increase contribution.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

[UN Agencies Launch Factbook for Taking Care of Children](#): *UN News Center*, April 7 (MDGs 4 & 5)

Six United Nations agencies and the World Bank launched a revised fourth edition of [Facts for Life](#), a book that provides vital messages and information for mothers, fathers, other family members and caregivers and communities to use in changing behaviors and practices that can save and protect the lives of children and help them grow and develop to their full potential.

[Open Markets for the Poorest Countries](#): *Center for Global Development*, April 1 (MDG 8)

The Center for Global Development convened a working group made up of members from the academic, nongovernmental, and business communities, as well as observers from key governments, to study the weaknesses in existing trade preference programs and suggest improvements.

[Economic Report on Africa 2010](#): *United Nations Economic Commission of Africa*, March 30 (MDG 1)

Economic Report on Africa 2010 claims that African countries must prioritize the creation of decent jobs as a central pillar of macroeconomic policy in order to attain the MDGs and eradicate poverty.

MDG COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

[Day1 Announces Special "Faith & Global Hunger" Series](#) (MDG 1)

As a way to commemorate its 65th anniversary of weekly broadcasts, the "Day 1" national radio program hosted by Peter Wallace will air a special four-part series beginning June 13 and supporting resources will examine global hunger through a Christian social justice perspective, in order to spark increased awareness and support of the MDGs among people of faith.

[Girls and Women Website Launch: 3.3 Billion Ways to Change the World](#) (MDG 3)

The viral global campaign to solicit grassroots ideas on how to reach the MDGs that most impact women and girls will culminate in the inaugural, ground-breaking G(irls)20 Summit. The Summit will bring together one girl from each of the G20 countries to Toronto 10 days before the official G20 Summit. The campaign demonstrates the prowess of girls and women and shows how they can be agents of change.

[Roots of Global Poverty Speaking Tour](#) (MDG 8)

Join Jubilee USA on its Roots of Global Poverty Speaking Tour in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. Each event will explore the roots of global poverty and the economic & political systems that keep the people of the Global South rooted in poverty.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14: [CSIS Meeting: The Millennium Development Goals and the MDGs](#), Washington DC

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

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

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 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 MDG Summit](#), New York, New York

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 MDG Summit](#), New York, New York



The 8 Millennium Development Goals

www.standupagainstopoverty.org and www.endpoverty2015.org