

# END POVERTY 2015

*North America Millennium Development Goals Newsletter*

**Covering Information from**

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE NORTH AMERICA COORDINATOR**

2010 is a critical year Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, world leaders will convene this September at the United Nations to discuss progress, challenges and work to accelerate achievement to combat poverty, hunger and disease.

Many countries have achieved major successes in combating extreme poverty and hunger, improving school enrollment and child health, expanding access to clean water, strengthening control of malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases, and providing increased access to HIV treatment. These successes demonstrate that the MDGs are indeed achievable with the right policies, adequate levels of investment and international support.

Despite these successes, however, progress has been uneven and – without additional efforts – several Goals are likely to be missed in many countries. With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, there is no time to lose in the fight against global poverty.

We are restarting this weekly newsletter in an effort to provide you with MDG news, publications, events, and to spotlight the work of partners in the United States and Canada. We welcome your comments and hope you find it useful.

## **UN MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN**

The UN Millennium Campaign and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Services have launched a new [MDG Review Summit website](#), MDG at 10, containing up-to-date information on events, conferences and publication releases leading up to the MDG Review Summit September 20 – 22 in New York.

**Now Online:** Nomination form for a speaking role at the Information Interactive hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society organization and the private sector. The event will take place at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY from June 14 – 15, 2010.

**We're hiring!** The UN Millennium Campaign is recruiting a North America Campaign Senior Advisor from early May to the end of September to supplement our capacity. Deadline is April 15. [Apply here](#).

The Campaign Advisor will energize and help mobilize diverse constituencies by supporting advocacy efforts of national organizations in the U.S. and Canada with their respective publics and governments to adopt more supportive policies that will help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. S/he will report to the Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign and be supported by the Campaign teams in Washington D.C. and New York. The Campaigns Advisor will also work in close collaboration with the U.N. Foundation and other key partners.

[Sharma Speaks to BBC about the Female Face of Poverty:](#) (MDGs 2, 3, & 5)

Anita Sharma, North American Coordinator for the UN Millennium Campaign, spoke during the BBC program World News Today, and indicated that gender focused goals are the linchpin to achieving all of the MDGs.

[Millennium Campaign Director Tells BBC World Today Radio that Goals are Still Achievable:](#) March 30

Salil Shetty says that, after a decade of enormous progress on every Millennium Development Goal (even in the poorest countries), there is empirical evidence to show that the Goals are still achievable in most countries.

## UNITED STATES

[On the Phone with Melinda Gates and Melanne Vermeer:](#) One Campaign, March 30 (MDG 3)

Melinda Gates and Melanne Vermeer, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, praised the ONEZONE initiative, a campaign aimed at increasing the opportunity for women who live in extreme poverty, pointing out that women are one of the best investments in global development.

[Take a Global View of Climate Change \(Op-Ed\):](#) Politico, March 24 (MDG 7)

Raymond C. Offenheiser, President of Oxfam America, and Mark Tercek, President and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, indicated that as the Senate prepares to unveil a bipartisan climate and energy package, lawmakers must not lose sight of the vital connection between people and nature. Numerous studies detail how climate change could wreak havoc on developing nations.

[Water Crisis High on Policy Agenda, Clinton Says:](#) IPS, March 23 (MDG 7)

Addressing the world's water challenges is central to US Foreign Policy, said Clinton, in honor of World Water Day, celebrated on March 22 to focus attention on water crises and their solutions.

[US Sees Food Security as Next Big Africa Push:](#) Reuters, March 23 (MDG 2)

As the US seeks to enhance ongoing US efforts on trade, investment and HIV/AIDS, Assistant Secretary of State Carson, the top official for Africa, indicated that the Obama Administration places food security at the heart of its Africa policy.

[Where Does Foreign Aid Go?:](#) NY Times, March 18 (MDG 8)

AidWatch produced a pie chart, using Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) data, to illustrate which countries have received the most aid from the US.

[Support of Funding to Cancel Poor Country Debts:](#) March 15 (MDG 8)

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) has circulated a letter asking the Appropriations Committee to provide at least \$1.285 billion for the International Development Association (IDA) and at least \$50 million for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) fund for the World Bank in order to meet debt cancellation commitments for the world's poorest countries.

## CANADA

[Letter from G20 Steering Group Leaders:](#) Reuters, March 30 (MDG 8)

In a letter signed by the US President and the Canadian Prime Minister, the five-member steering group committed to make the G20 the premier forum for international economic cooperation and emphasized the need to continue regulatory reform to strengthen the international financial system.

[Contraception a Part of Maternal-Health Plan, Harper Says:](#) The Globe and Mail, March 26 (MDG 5)

Prime Minister Harper promised that the federal government would include contraception programs in its maternal health foreign-aid initiative, as slight reversal to previous statements by other Government officials

[Birth Control Won't be in G8 Plan to Protect Mothers, Tories Say:](#) The Globe and Mail, March 17

Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon has ruled out the inclusion of family-planning programs in the country's "signature" initiative. Maternal health advocates, however, worry that steering clear of the abortion issue will rule out other family planning programs such as contraception.

[G8 Struggles with Trade, Aid Promises: Canada Ranks 3rd Best:](#) The Canadian Press, March 23 (MDG 8) Canada has slipped to third place in keeping its G8 promises NoG8 countries are fulfilling commitments on trade and aid effectiveness made in at the 2009 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy.

[The Frozen North](#): *The Globe and Mail*, March 14 (MDG8)

Canada announced that it will freeze Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) levels from 2011 on, ending a previous commitment to increase ODA by 8 percent annually. This will cost developing countries \$4.4 billion in missed ODA by 2015.

## UNITED NATIONS AND AROUND THE WORLD

[UN Secretary-General Ban Outlines Steps to Reach Development Targets](#): UN News Center, March 23

With just five years before the 2015 deadline, Secretary General Ban unveiled a new action plan aimed at governments, civil society actors, private businesses, philanthropies and the multilateral system to act “efficiently, effectively and collectively” to achieve the MDGs.

[MDGs: Sub-Saharan Africa Lags Behind Other Regions](#): Business Day, March 26

Keeping the Promise, the SG’s report on the MDGs, found that Sub-Saharan African countries lag behind other regions. Some factors that have hindered the achievement of the MDGs are poor governance, neglect for critical infrastructure, poor leadership and policy inconsistency.

[Sony, UNDP & JICA Join Forces to Fight AIDS](#): Goal.com, March 26 (MDG 6)

This summer, Sony will team up with UNDP and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in a campaign to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. During the World Cup from between June 13<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>, Sony will provide screens, video projectors and other viewing equipment in 12 cities in Cameroon and Ghana as well as HIV/AIDS testing, free condoms and counseling.

[Mobile a Gateway to Social Change](#): ITWeb, March 26 (MDGs 1, 7, & 8)

Access to mobile communications is critical in breaking the cycle of poverty in developing countries, said Hans Vestberg Ericsson CEO, at the Earth Institute’s State of the Planet conference in New York. With 2010 marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MDGs, the ICT sector is poised as a key player in fighting poverty and climate change, as well as accelerating economic recovery.

[The GAVI Alliance High-Level Meeting on Financing Country Demand](#): March 25-26 2010 (MDG 4 & 6)

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) donors met in The Hague, Netherlands for the first High-Level Meeting on Financing Country Demand. GAVI gave new evidence showing the cost-effectiveness of immunization to improve health and achieve the MDGs. GAVI has the potential to avert an additional 4.2 million premature deaths by 2015.

[New Aid Database Spotlights "Small Donors"](#): IRIN, March 24 (MDG 8)

The largest database to track donor aid flows has been launched, spotlighting funds provided by 36 under-reported bilateral and multilateral donors. [AidData](#) brings the amount of aid being tracked from \$2.3 trillion through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to \$4 trillion.

[UN’s High-Level Forum on Financing for Development](#): March 23-24, (MDG 8)

The General Assembly convened its Fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The meeting will produce a report summarizing the discussions, which will feed into the MDG Review Summit in September.

[Unsafe Water Kills More People than War](#): UN News Center, March 22 (MDG 7)

More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war, said UN Secretary-General Ban, calling for better protection and sustainable management of one of the earth’s most precious resources.

[Lack of Basic Services for Slum Dwellers a Form of Rights Violation](#): UN News, March 22 (MDG 7)

At the Fifth World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, UN Secretary-General Ban described appalling living conditions in slums as a violation of human rights. He stated that helping the urban poor reclaim their rights strengthened societies and stemmed environmental degradation.

[DFID Conference](#): March 11 (Goal 1)

The UK brought together experts from across the globe to discuss the actions needed to achieve the MDGs. The final report from that meeting will provide clear, concrete recommendations that will be sent to Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General, for consideration ahead of September’s UN MDG Summit.

[Antonio Banderas Named UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for the MDGs](#): UN News Center, March 17

The Spanish actor has been appointed a Goodwill Ambassador by UNDP to advocate for the poor and push for the achievement of the MDGs. Banderas hopes to raise the profile of the [MDG Achievement Fund](#), set up in 2006 with a \$700 million contribution by Spain to accelerate progress on reaching the Goals.

## REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

[Keeping the Promise](#): UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

The report highlights gaps, emerging challenges, opportunities, and lays out specific recommendations for action to boost progress towards the MDGs over the remaining five years. From September 20-23, 2010 world leaders will convene at the UN for a high-level summit on the MDGs that must produce a "concrete, comprehensive, result-based plan," said the Secretary-General.

[Bond Launches Millennium Development Goals Position Paper](#)

Together with the European platform, CONCORD, Bond has launched its position paper on European Civil Society Recommendations for the UN MDG Review Summit in September. The paper sets out asks for the EU, individual member states, and to the Summit itself.

[The 2010 G8 Summit: An Agenda for Global Development](#): OXFAM Canada (MDGs 7 & 8)

The report by OXFAM asks the Canadian government to build a G8 agenda addressing the global economic crisis and climate change within a context of sustainable development. With just five years left to reach the targets, the Summit is a critical moment for G8 government to address the gaps in reaching MDG targets.

[Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2010 Update](#): WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (MDG 7)

This report addresses the most recent data for sanitation and drinking water, along with the implications and trends the new data reveal in reaching the MDG 7 targets.

[The Global Fund 2010: Innovation and Impact](#): *The Global Fund* (MDG 6)

The report highlights progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and a forecast of future global health progress. Programs supported by the Global Fund have saved an estimated 4.9 million lives since its creation in 2002.

## MDG COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

[Canadian Coalition Launches "At the Table" Campaign](#)

"At the Table" is a coalition of Canadian and global civil society organizations who want world leaders to make bold decisions on poverty, climate change and economic justice. The campaign aims to mobilize citizens around the world to "take their place" at the G8 and G20 summit tables in June.

[World's Longest Toilet Queue](#) (MDG 7)

Recent figures from the World Health Organization (WHO) suggest that 87 percent of the world's population (5.9 billion) are now using safe drinking water sources, but almost 39 percent of the world's population (over 2.6 billion people) are still lacking improved sanitation facilities.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1 – April 30: [Launch of World Development Indicators and Global Monitoring Report](#) Washington, DC

April 7 – April 8: [Business Civic Leadership Center & UN Office for Partnerships: Investing in the MDGs Forum](#), New York, New York

April 9: [EU-US High Level Consultative Group on Development Cooperation](#), Madrid, Spain

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

### On the Horizon:

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

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

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

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](http://www.standupagainstopoverty.org) and [www.endpoverty2015.org](http://www.endpoverty2015.org)