

END POVERTY 2015

North America Millennium Development Goals Newsletter

Covering Information from
Monday, August 2, 2010 – Monday, August 9, 2010



Only **37 days** to go! Register your Stand Up event:
www.standagainstopoverty.org. See what events are happening
in your area: [http://www.meetup.com/Stand-against-poverty/!](http://www.meetup.com/Stand-against-poverty/)



The United Nations Millennium Campaign, North America has created a page on [Facebook](#) to serve as a forum for discussion on progress towards the MDGs in the United States and Canada. Keep up-to-date on information in the lead-up to the UN MDG Review Summit in September by “liking” us and sharing information on what your organization is doing.

Please forward this newsletter to your networks and listservs. With the UN MDG Review Summit quickly approaching, it is increasingly important for our community to share information on the MDGs. Should you have content and/or events to highlight, please email Alison Gemgnani at agemgnani@unfoundation.org.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“In Africa, empowering women is going to be critical to reducing the transmission rate because so often women, not having any control over sexual practices and their own body, end up having extremely high transmission rates.”

– President Barack Obama

UNITED STATES

[Women Play Critical Role in AIDS Fight, Says President Obama](#): Daily Monitor, August 5 (MDGs 3 & 6)

President Obama, while recently held hosting a forum with 115 young African leaders at the White House, blamed the upswing in new HIV/AIDS infections in Africa on retrogressive culture that makes females satisfy the pleasure of men. President Obama maintained that empowering women is critical to reducing HIV/AIDS transmission, emphasizing the need to alter behavior to prevent further outbreaks. He also emphasized his Global Health Initiative, which focuses on developing workable preventive programs and greater public health infrastructure.

[US official: Poor Nations Must Learn to Grow Food](#): Associated Press, August 5 (MDGs 1, 7 & 8)

At the International Food Aid and Development Conference, Agriculture Department Under Secretary James Miller urged governments and aid organizations to help the world's hungry develop sustainable agriculture systems to help them feed themselves. Miller argued that it wasn't enough to just send emergency aid and promoted the United States' food security initiative [Feed the Future](#), which aims to boost productivity and improve markets where regional trade may be limited and much of what is grown spoils before it can reach people.

[United States Calls for Faster Action on Development Ahead of United Nations Summit](#): *The Cable*, August 2

Ahead of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Review Summit in September, Rajiv Shah – US Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator, Gayle Smith – National Security Council's Senior Director for Global Development, and Rick Barton – US Representative to the UN's Economic and Social Council – unveiled the US' plan for accelerating progress toward the MDGs. "The document states very clearly that the US takes the MDGs very seriously," indicated Ben Hubbard, Deputy

Chief of Staff at USAID. "We're very clear that we're embracing them and thinking hard about the kind of investments and engagement we need in terms of working toward meeting them."

CANADA

[Canada a Big Player in United Nations Aid](#): *Toronto Sun*, August 7 (MDG 8)

Canada has become one of the most generous donors to the United Nations, pouring hundreds of millions of dollars each year to promote peace, fight child poverty and advance human rights. With donations like the \$305 million to the World Food Program (WFP), Canada is now one of the biggest contributors among the UN's 192 members. "We are proud of Canada's strong track record at the UN and our substantial contributions to international peace, security and human rights," remarked Andrew MacDougall, spokesman for Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

[Canadian Premiers Differing Solutions to Climate Change](#): *Montreal Gazette*, August 7 (MDG 7)

While meeting in Winnipeg for the annual Council of the Federation meeting, Premiers of Canada's 13 provinces and territories agreed to a pan-Canadian water charter to protect and conserve the resource; however, they disagreed on how best to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba favor a cap-and-trade emissions reduction program that would compel companies that miss their targets to purchase carbon credits from greener firms. Alberta and Saskatchewan argue technology is the key to slashing Canada's carbon footprint, and are committed to costly carbon capture and storage programs.

UNITED NATIONS AND AROUND THE WORLD

[The Role of Businesses in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals](#): *Thunderbird School of Global Management* (MDG 8)

In an interview with Thunderbird School of Global Management, Leanne Rios, Communications and Advocacy Associate at the UN Millennium Campaign discussed the role of businesses in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Rios shared five questions business leaders should ask themselves if they want to engage in a sustainable and inclusive world economy: 1) Are we able to generate jobs for the poor in a safe, healthy environment?; 2) Are we able to create wealth for the poor? Do we buy from them, produce with them and sell to them at a lower cost?; 3) Are we increasing the capacity of the poor through training and exposure to locally relevant technology?; 4) Are we sure that the tax revenue we generate is being used by the government judiciously to support the poor? Do we challenge corruption?; and, 5) Are we influencing public policy and practice to ensure they benefit the poor?

[Life on the Edge Film Series Highlights Millennium Development Goals Success Stories](#): *BBC News*, August 6 (MDGs 2 & 3)

A new five-part *Life on the Edge* film series produced for the BBC takes a look at what's happening with the Millennium Development Goals in countries across Africa. The current episode highlights the story of Johanna Kwedhi, Namibia's first female trawler captain – a living example of the empowerment of women in Namibia. As captain of the *Kanus*, one of the largest trawlers operating from Luderitz Harbor, Johanna Kwedhi credits education as the key to her success. "Without education, your life is behind, it's meaningless," Kwedhi argues. *Life on the Edge* is broadcast on BBC World News on Saturdays at 7:30 PM EST.

[UN Calls for Joint Actions to Fight Against Climate Change](#): *International Business Time*, August 3 (MDG 7)

Christina Figueres, the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), told delegates at a climate conference in Bonn, Germany that world governments must take essential steps to protect the environment and urged the international community to take firm measures to overcome the potential effects of climate change. According to Figueres, governments now need to resolve what to do with their public pledges to cut emissions. All industrialized countries have made public pledges to cut emissions by 2020 and 38 developing countries have submitted plans to limit their emissions growth.

[Experts Roll Out Malaria Map, Urge Mosquito Study](#): *Reuters*, August 3 (MDG 6)

According to two reports published in the journal, [PLoS Medicine](#), nearly 3 billion people were at risk of contracting malaria in 2009 and closer study of the mosquito's life cycle is needed to combat the disease. In [the first study](#), scientists mapped out the geographical spread of the *Plasmodium vivax* - the most common parasite that causes malaria. "P. vivax remains the most widely distributed human malaria parasite even after a century of development and control," remarked co-author Simon Hay, a zoologist at the University of Oxford. In [the second paper](#), another team of researchers said vector control measures such as insecticide-treated nets and sprays have not been able to break the transmission cycle of the *Plasmodium falciparum*, a dangerous parasite with the highest rates of complications and death.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

[UN Women to Spearhead New Drive for Gender Equality](#): *The Lancet World Report*, August 7 (MDG 3)

The Lancet World Report examines the role of UN Women, the new UN agency tasked with advancing women's equality and rights, in helping to improve the health of women in developing countries. According to the journal, UN Women "merges several organizations previously charged with advancing gender equality and female empowerment." The article discusses the operations of the new body, which "codifies international policy on issues such as gender mainstreaming, violence against women, and reproductive rights," and the role it will play in "holding the UN to account over its work on gender equality and female empowerment."

MDG COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

[CARE International Launches Microlending Website](#): *Devex*, August 5 (MDG 8)

CARE International has created a [website](#) to help boost lending to entrepreneurs in the developing world. The website invites people to lend 15 pounds (nearly \$24 USD) or more to entrepreneurs in 70 countries to help finance projects such as putting up market stalls and tailoring businesses. Once the loan is repaid, lenders can loan the money again or donate it to CARE. Tracey Holder, head of donor marketing at CARE, expects the initiative to attract new supporters who would not have given donations but would be willing to lend money. "It's potentially more sustainable than donations, because the money can be lent again and again," Holder indicated.

[FAO Anti-Hunger Petition Urges People to Get "Mad", Push for Action](#): *FAO* (MDG 1)

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has launched an online campaign calling on national and international leaders to make the elimination of hunger their top priority. "[The 1 Billion Hungry Project](#)" aims to attract one million signatures to a petition that will be presented to world leaders during an official ceremony at the UN in October. "We should be extremely angry for the outrageous fact that that our fellow human beings continue to suffer from hunger," declared FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf.

REMINDERS

[Local Authorities in Action for the Millennium Development Goals](#): *United Cities, Local Governments*

On 17-19 September, the weekend prior to the United Nations MDG Review Summit (also known as the High-Level Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)), millions of people around the world will mobilize to demand concrete actions for the achievement of the MDGs. Because local and regional authorities are in a position to raise understanding among their citizens and to mobilize their communities, United Cities and Local Governments and the United Nations Millennium Campaign are calling on them around the world to join this global movement. They are being provided with [a toolkit](#) with information that will ensure that their commitment to the MDGs – and the voice of their citizens – are visible before the Summit. Please follow-up with your local authorities to ensure action is being taken.

[Partnership Events Surrounding the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Review Summit](#): *United Nations*

Events by UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, Permanent Missions, the private sector and other partners are expected to be held in and around the United Nations in New York before and during the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 20-22 September 2010. You are invited to submit information on your proposed event using the [online form](#). The information you provide will enable information sharing among partners and with the public on all planned partnership events associated with the Summit and facilitate a coordinated approach. At the conclusion of the Summit, a compilation of partnership events, together with a brief description of outcomes and any commitments, based on the submissions using the online form, will be issued.

[Millennium Development Goals iPhone Application - Available Soon](#): *United Nations Publications*

The United Nations will launch a free iPhone application allowing you to check the progress towards meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2000 world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty by 2015. This September, world leaders will reconvene to establish a plan of action to accelerate progress.

[Join the Conversation: Making the Millennium Development Goals Happen](#): *UN Foundation and Devex*

The [United Nations Foundation](#) and [Devex](#) teamed up to launch a global dialogue on "Making the Millennium Development Goals Happen." The current discussion focuses on MDG 6: Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases. The forum is intended to serve as a resource for development professionals around the world to discuss, debate, and celebrate progress to date on the MDGs, and to facilitate recommendations for the achievement of the Goals over the next five years. Development professionals are encouraged to join the MDG-related discussion.

[Day1 National Radio Begins "Faith & Global Hunger" Series](#) (MDG 1)

The "Day 1" national radio program hosted by Peter Wallace aired a special four-part series examining global hunger through a Christian social justice perspective, in order to spark increased awareness and support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) among people of faith. The four series aired on June 13th (Hodding Carter III), 20th (Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad), 27th (David Beckmann) and July 4th (Right Rev Michael Curry). A special capstone address with President Jimmy Carter will air on September 12th.

[UN Foundation and Better World Campaign Journalism Fellowship: The MDGs in 2010](#): Deadline – August 9

[LinkTV Online Film Contest for MDG Stories](#): Deadline – August 31

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 23 – 27: [World Youth Conference Mexico 2010](#), León Guanajuato, Mexico

August 30 – September 1: [63rd Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference](#), Melbourne, Australia

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

November 11 – 12: [G20 Summit](#), Seoul, South Korea



The 8 Millennium Development Goals

www.endpoverty2015.org and www.standagainstopoverty.org

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