



## Millennium Development Goal 8: Global Partnership for Development

Updated: November 2010



### Background

In 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, the United States joined 189 world governments in the commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight goals aimed at improving the lives of the world's poorest by 2015.

The target of *MDG 8: Global Partnership for Development* is to further develop an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system, which includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally. In addition, *MDG 8* addresses the needs of the least developed countries through tariff and quota free access exports, debt relief and generous aid for countries committed to poverty reduction.

### The US' Role in Achieving MDG 8

The US supports MDG 8 by: (a) providing development assistance; (b) helping the developing countries reduce excessive debt burden; and, (c) forging trade agreements that benefit the least developed countries. In terms of volume, the US is the leading donor of Official Development Aid (ODA). The US' strategy to meet the MDGs, [Celebrate, Innovate and Sustain Toward 2015 and Beyond](#), released in September 2010, outlines the government's plan for a new framework on aid effectiveness. The US will launch an inter-agency aid transparency initiative to identify appropriate timelines and channels to disseminate country-level information about aid flows. An Aid Dashboard will also be developed (expected December 2010) allowing stakeholders to visualize US foreign assistance investments by geographic area or sector, see the details of specific projects, and track trends over time.

Together with other G8 countries, the US has agreed to cancel 100% of qualified debts for the poorest countries: first through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and then through the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The US was the primary architect of MDRI at the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles, which pledged to provide \$60 billion in debt relief to HIPCs. By January 2008, 25 countries had received over \$38 billion in debt relief.<sup>1</sup> The US also provides technical assistance to developing countries to help them to construct sustainable debt structure and build a rule-based, predictable and transparent fiscal system.

Through the Treasury International Affairs Technical Assistance (TIATA) program, the US has provided \$19.8 million in 2006, \$23.7 million in 2007, and \$25 million in 2009 to support the economic policy and financial management reforms in developing countries, focusing on the functional disciplines of budget, taxation, government debt, financial institutions and financial enforcement.<sup>2</sup> The US will also provide \$90.1 million to the Export-Import Bank and \$55.5 million for the Trade and Development Agency in 2011 to boost trade in developing countries.

### How You Can Help Achieve MDG 8

You and your community play a vital role in helping the poorest countries break the cycle of poverty. Action can be taken to raise awareness of the MDGs and press the US government to fulfill its commitment to cancel the debt of the poorest countries and help them to construct healthy fiscal structure by 2015. Encourage your friends, colleagues and family to reach out to their members of Congress to raise awareness of the MDGs. Consider participating in member organizations that work to make extreme poverty an issue of the past. There are a number of organizations – local, national and internationally based – that work on issues related to aid effectiveness, fair trade policies and debt relief.

Every year, the United Nations Millennium Campaign holds a Stand Up, Take Action weekend offering a unique opportunity for citizens around the world to come together to voice their support of the MDGs and demand that leaders take action to fulfill their commitments to the world's poorest! Join the millions who refuse to stay seated or silent in the face of poverty. To learn more about how you and your community can participate, visit [www.standagainstopoverty.org](http://www.standagainstopoverty.org).

<sup>1</sup> USAID, *The US Commitment to the MDGs* (Washington, DC: USAID, 2008)

<sup>2</sup> State Department, USAID, *Congressional Budget Justification*, FY2007, FY2008 and FY2010.



The Eight Millennium Development Goals

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