

END POVERTY 2015

North America Millennium Development Goals Newsletter

Covering Information from Wednesday, May 26, 2010 – Tuesday, June 1, 2010

The United Nations Millennium Campaign, North America has launched a [Facebook page](#) to serve as a forum for discussion on the MDGs in the United States and Canada. Please become a fan, share important information on what your organizations are doing and keep up-to-date regarding efforts in the United States and Canada in the lead up to the UN MDG Review Summit in September.

Please forward this newsletter to your networks and listservs. With the UN MDG Review Summit quickly approaching, it is increasingly important to 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

"The Freedom that America stands for includes freedom from want. Basic human rights cannot thrive in places where human beings do not have access to enough food, or clean water, or the medicine they need to survive. The United States has embraced the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals [MDGs] and is working with others in pursuit of the eradication of extreme poverty -efforts that are particularly critical to the future of nations and peoples of Africa."

- President Barack Obama, National Security Strategy, May 2010

UNITED STATES

[President Obama's National Security Strategy](#): *Kaiser Family Foundation, May 28 (MDGs 1, 4, 5 & 6)*

In the introduction to [the strategy](#), President Obama writes that the Armed Forces "will always be a cornerstone of our security, but...our security depends on Diplomats [and]...development experts who can strengthen governance and support human dignity." Noting the US role in assisting with efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – and that global health and related issues promote national security – the document states, "Basic human rights cannot thrive in places where human beings do not have access to enough food, or clean water, or the medicine they need to survive."

[Food Security at Risk Without Policy Coordination – US](#): *Reuters, May 27 (MDGs 1, 7 & 8)*

Ertharin Cousin, US ambassador to UN food agencies in Rome, said global food prices could soar again if countries don't cooperate to increase food production especially in developing countries. Cousin argued that factors such as continued use of land for biofuels and food scarcity, which led to a spike in global food prices and sparked riots in several countries in 2008, are still present.

[US Commitment to Saving Lives in the Developing World](#): *US Department of State Blog, May 27 (MDGs 4, 5 & 6)*

In a recent blog, US Global AIDS Coordinator Ambassador Eric Goosby stated that the United States is committed to saving lives in the developing world and that it is important to accurately reflect the impact the US is making - and has committed to continue to make – when discussing [PEPFAR](#) (Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief).

President Obama has undertaken a comprehensive Global Health Initiative (GHI) - investing \$63 billion over six years to help partner countries improve the health of their people through an integrated approach.

[Investing in Women and Girls: Focus on Health, Advocacy, Innovation](#): *The Huffington Post*, May 26 (MDGs 3 & 5)
The world's leading voices on advancing the lives and livelihoods of women and girls around the world will come together in Washington, DC for the 2010 [Women Deliver Summit](#) (June 7 – 9). Women Deliver is focusing on the fact that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved without investing in women, and if we act now, we can still achieve MDG 5: reducing the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters and providing universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

CANADA

[G\(irls\)20 Summit Founder on Why Girls Need Their Own Summit](#): *Globe and Mail*, May 31 (MDG 3)
Before the world's most powerful leaders convene in Toronto for the G20 meeting, young women from around the globe will get a head start discussing issues that matter most to them. Hosted by [The Belinda Stronach Foundation](#), G(irls)20 Summit, a meeting of 21 girls from around the world, will gather June 15 to 18 at the University of Toronto to discuss and raise awareness of the most pressing issues that affect girls and women internationally.

[Canada Ready to Spend \\$1 Billion on Maternal Health](#): *Winnipeg Free Press*, May 30 (MDGs 4 & 5)
The Canadian government has indicated to other G8 countries that, if other countries contribute, it is willing to put approximately \$1 billion toward maternal and child health. The Canadian funding will likely target poor countries with the worst records of maternal and child mortality and malnutrition. Despite being far less than the \$2 billion over five years that the United Nations says is needed for Canada to make an impact, insiders say it's generous enough to persuade other G8 countries that Canada is serious about its maternal health initiative.

[Groups Urge G8 to Improve Health of Women, Children](#): *The Canadian Press*, May 27 (MDGs 4 & 5)
The Royal Society of Canada (the country's senior national body of distinguished scholars, artists and scientists) and its counterparts in the other G8 countries indicated that one out of seven women are at risk from dying from pregnancy or childbirth in the poorest parts of the world. Up to 40 percent of maternal and infant deaths could be averted with improved access to contraception services and measures to reduce unsafe abortion.

UNITED NATIONS AND AROUND THE WORLD

[Disaster Risk Reduction Key in Fighting Climate Change, Aiding Development](#): *UN News Center*, May 30 (MDG 7)
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland, and highlighted the importance of disaster risk reduction in countering the challenges of climate change and attaining the ambitious goals of moving developing states out of poverty. "Disaster risk reduction can help to advance progress across this agenda. By focusing on the linkages, we can achieve a triple win by reducing the impact of disasters, adapting to climate change and safeguarding our development gains."

[Swimmer Tackles Shark Infested Waters for the Millennium Development Goals](#): *Dominican Today*, May 27
Dominican Republic swimming champion Marcos Diaz will swim across shark infested waters of the Red Sea as the second leg of four continental crossings to raise awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Diaz, who completed the first stage from Papua New Guinea to Indonesia, visited United Nations programs in schools, hospitals and orphanages during his stay in both countries.

[TIGER: Tracking the Global Economic Recovery](#): *The Brookings Institution*, May 26, (MDG 8)

In a new index and interactive map from the Brookings Institution and the Financial Times, Eswar Prasad and Karim Foda track the global economy recovery for the G-20 economies. The interactive map displays how fast individual G-20 economies are recovering and how they are being affected by the crisis.

[Sport Can Help Achieve Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#): *Paralympics Movement*, May 26

Representatives from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) met in Lausanne, Switzerland, for the first joint forum between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United Nations. Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, Wilfried Lemke, stated that the forum serves as an important venue for discussing approaches to achieving the MDGs: "through collaboration and partnerships between the UN System and the IOC, we can use sport to play a crucial role in achieving each of these important goals."

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

[Harvests of Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Millennium Villages at Three Years](#): *Millennium Promise*, May 30

The first midterm report from five of the Millennium Villages affirms the impact of integrated, low-cost interventions and documents significant gains. The goal of the Millennium Villages Project is to show how an integrated approach to community-level development can translate the international agreement to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into ground-level breakthroughs throughout rural Sub-Saharan Africa. The projects are locally led by host communities and governments, which receive their main support from the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Millennium Promise and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

[Amnesty International Report 2010: State of the World's Human Rights](#): *Amnesty International*, May 27

The 2010 report stresses the need for urgency and accountability when tackling the abuses that affect poverty. "Governments should be held accountable for the human rights abuses that drive and deepen poverty. The UN review meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in New York this September is an opportunity for world leaders to move from promises to legally enforceable commitments," argues Interim Secretary General Claudio Cordone, adding "governments must promote women's equality and address discrimination against women if they are going to make progress on the MDGs."

MDG COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

[Join the Conversation: Making the Millennium Development Goals Happen](#): *United Nations Foundation-Devex*

The [United Nations Foundation](#) and [Devex](#) have teamed up to launch a global dialogue on "Making the Millennium Development Goals Happen." Development professionals are encouraged to join the MDG-related discussion over the coming months. This forum is intended to serve as a resource for development professionals around the world to discuss, debate, celebrate and challenge the progress to date on the MDGs. It will also serve as a forum to discuss recommendations for the achievement of the goals over the next five years. The site will go live Thursday, June 3.

[Don't Drop the Ball on Aid](#): *Oxfam International*

Oxfam International is attempting to turn the world's passion for football into something world-changing. The "keepy-uppys" will form part of an amazing video chain, linking people worldwide who care enough to kick off and fight poverty. These videos will be shown to world leaders at the September United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Review Summit in New York.

REMINDERS

[Interactive Hearings on the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit](#) – June 14-15

As a part of the process leading to the [MDG Review Summit](#), the General Assembly will convene interactive hearings with representatives of NGOs, civil society and the private sector from June 14-15 at the UN Headquarters

in New York. The outcomes of these hearings will provide an input to the preparatory process for the MDG Summit and be issued as an Assembly document. (See Attached Themes and Active Participants)

[UNDP/Olympus/AFP Foundation Photo Contest: 'Picture This: We Can End Poverty'](#): Deadline – July 16

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 18 – 20: [The 2010 People's Summit: Building a Movement for a Just World](#): Toronto, Canada

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

June 24 – 25: [UN Global Compact Leaders Summit](#): New York, New York

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

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

On the Horizon

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

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