

END POVERTY 2015

North America Millennium Development Goals Newsletter

**Covering Information from
Tuesday, June 1, 2010 – Monday, June 7, 2010**

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 becoming a fan 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 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 G(irls) 20 Summit Ambassadors are remarkable young women who are each capable of being catalysts for change. This is a unique opportunity for 21 girls to bring forward the views of millions of their peers and collectively come up with solutions that will change minds, change lives and quite literally, change the world."

- Belinda Stronach, founder of The Belinda Stronach Foundation

UNITED STATES

Focus on Food Security Forum: *US Chamber of Commerce*, June 4 (MDGs 1, 7 & 8)

The Business Civic Leadership Center has planned four Global Corporate Citizenship Issue Forums throughout 2010. The second forum focused on food security issues and showcased companies and their partners who have established integrated approaches to food security, sustainable agriculture and farmer training program. These companies shared their experience working in specific regions and provided perspectives on the challenges faced when working in the sector. Speakers included representatives from the World Food Program (WFP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Cargill and CARE.

Millennium Development Goals: 2015 & Beyond: *The Kojo Nnamdi Show*, June 3

Together with other panelists, Sering Falu Njie (Deputy Policy Director for the UN Millennium Campaign) discussed the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the Kojo Nnamdi Show. In light of the Obama Administration's [National Security Strategy](#) and poverty reduction initiatives, the live show was part of InterAction Forum 2010 that also featured Dr. Gloria Ekpo, World Vision; Mark Green, Malaria No More Policy Center; and, Joanna Rubinstein, Earth Institute, Columbia University.

Building Peace Through Food: *Politico*, June 3 (MDGs 1 & 8)

Samuel Berger, former national security advisor to President Clinton, argues that Congress has the opportunity to save countless lives by ensuring funding for emergency food assistance through the impending *War Supplemental Spending Bill*. Congress is considering a \$33 billion supplemental to support continuing efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Berger believes Congress should use this opportunity to provide an additional \$580 million in emergency food assistance to help address serious humanitarian crises around the world.

A New Day is Dawning for US Foreign Policy: *PR Newswire-US Newswire*, June 2 (MDG 8)

During InterAction's 2010 Forum opening plenary session, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah and Representative Gerald Connolly (D-VA) discussed the need for a new foreign aid strategy and vision.

Dr. Shah indicated that "we have the unique opportunity to frame what development should be for the next 50 years. ...President Obama believes deeply in development and sees development as a cornerstone of his national security strategy."

[Restoring United States Foreign Aid to Health](#): *The Hill*, June 1 (MDGs 6 & 8)

The United States is on the cusp of redefining how it approaches foreign assistance, promising to get serious about ensuring American funds are used wisely. The Steering Committee of the Global Health Technologies Coalition argues the best way to guarantee aid dollars deliver to those in need is to use them to develop innovative new tools for combating the health problems that plague the developing world.

[Ambassador Rice Discusses Millennium Development Goals at UNICEF Meeting](#): *Briefing Room*, June 1 (MDG 8)

Ambassador Susan Rice, US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, spoke at the UNICEF Board Meeting in New York about "the considerable progress that has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) over the past decade, but the gains are far from sufficient." Over the next six weeks, the Member States of the UN General Assembly will be negotiating the outcome document for MDG Review Summit in September. "This document needs to provide a concise and powerful statement of the global community's determination to make much more rapid progress on the MDGs over the next five years," insisted Ambassador Rice.

CANADA

[Eighty Percent of Maternal Deaths in Poor Countries Occur at Delivery and Childbirth](#): *CNW*, June 2 (MDG 5)

As the G8 approaches, and with 80% of maternal deaths in low-resource countries occurring during childbirth and delivery, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) is urging the Canadian government to recognize that a strategy on maternal and child health must focus on preventing deaths. "While clean water and nutritional supplements contribute to achieving maternal and child health, they do not save mothers and babies during childbirth. Since complications during labor and birth are the main reason mothers are dying, it seems clear that this should be the primary focus of any Maternal and Child Health Initiative," explained Dr. André Lalonde, Executive Vice-President of the SOGC.

[Former Prime Minister to G20: Confront Climate Change, Poverty](#): *The Canadian Press*, June 2 (MDGs 1, 7 & 8)

Canada's Former Prime Minister Paul Martin believes Ottawa has a responsibility to put climate change high on the agenda at the G20 Summit in Toronto. In a recent speech in Toronto, Martin remarked the G20 is the world's new "steering committee" and can't limit its actions to banking and economics, but must confront global poverty. Thus far, Martin notes that food security, which threatens much of Africa, has received only a slight nod from the G20.

[Putting Girls, Women on G20 Agenda](#): *CTV News*, June 1 (MDG 3)

Days before the G20 Summit convenes in Toronto, [The G\(irls\) 20 Summit](#), led by The Belinda Stronach Foundation, will take place on June 15 in Toronto. It will bring together young delegates from each of the G20 countries - and one from Malawi - to discuss the issues in the lives of girls and women around the world. This is the first event of its kind, but the organization plans to hold a summit every year to spark what the organization describes as "a global conversation about the economic prowess of girls and women and our commitment to creating a space where girls' voices can be heard globally."

UNITED NATIONS AND AROUND THE WORLD

[G8 Summit Communique Drops Gleneagles Pledge on Aid to Africa](#): *The Guardian*, June 4 (MDG 8)

G8 countries are planning to abandon their Gleneagles' pledge to double aid to the poorest countries in Africa by 2010. A leaked draft communiqué dated May 26 contains no mention of the commitment made at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit to provide Africa an extra \$25 billion a year as part of a \$50 billion increase in financial assistance. At last year's L'Aquila Summit the communiqué said "G8 countries reiterated their commitments, including those made at Gleneagles and more recently at the G20 London Summit, to support African efforts towards promoting development good governance and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)."

[Marcos Diaz 'Swims Across the Continents' for the Millennium Development Goals](#): *Jordan Times*, June 4

Dominican swimmer Marcos Diaz will visit Jordan as part of the "Swim Across the Continents" initiative to remind world leaders of their obligations to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Diaz will connect five continents through his swimming – Oceania, Asia, Africa, Europe and America – bringing, according to the [Swim Across the Continents](#) website, attention to the MDGs and urging people demand that leaders deliver on their promises.

[Development Aid is Working](#): *The Huffington Post*, June 3 (MDG 8)

While issues from the global economic crisis remain urgent, Mark Suzman, Acting President of the Global Development Program at the Gates Foundation, argues that the world has witnessed greater improvements in health, wealth and education in the past decade than any other time in history. He notes that it is critical that donor countries do not pull their support; aid contributions help millions transform their lives for the better.

[Severe Drought Causes Hunger for 10 Million in West Africa](#): *The Guardian*, June 3 (MDGs 1 & 7)

Aid agencies warned of a severe drought causing hunger across West Africa and affecting 10 million people in four countries. In Niger – the worst-affected country – 7.1 million people are hungry, nearly half of whom are highly food insecure due a surge in prices and the loss of livestock and crops. The World Food Program (WFP), who will assist 3.6 million people in the coming months, has described the humanitarian situation in the affected countries as "critical" and indicates that the hunger season is expected to last at least until the next harvest in September.

[Linking Maternal and Child Health to AIDS Ahead of G8 Summit](#): *UNAIDS*, June 1 (MDGs 4, 5 & 6)

Jan Beagle, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director for Management and External Relations, delivered the keynote address before the Canadian Parliamentarians in Ottawa. She highlighted the link between the G8 focus on maternal and child health and previous G8 commitments to the AIDS response and called for an integrated approach to all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Beagle indicated that MDG's 4 and 5 cannot be accomplished without a strong commitment and real action on universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

[Themed Issue Focuses on Maternal and Child Health](#): *The Lancet*, June 4 (MDGs 4 & 5)

Released on the eve of the Women Deliver Conference (June 7-9), *The Lancet* covers a range of global issues on maternal, child and newborn health. The aim of the themed publication is to raise awareness about the health issues facing women and children; with education and empowerment, women can lead healthy lives and lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Women and girls currently make up 60% of the world's poorest and two-thirds of the world's illiterate.

MDG COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

[Girl Up: Uniting Girls to Change the World](#): *United Nations Foundation*, June 1 (MDGs 2, 3 & 5)

[Girl Up](#) is the newest global campaign launched by the [United Nations Foundation](#). The aim of the Girl Up campaign is to educate and inspire girls in North America about the stories of some of the world's hardest-to-reach adolescent girls. Easy, engaging tools motivate them to give a "High Five" to girls around the globe. It doesn't take much - donating \$5, telling 5 friends, learning 5 facts - to make a big impact. A movement of High Fives across North America will provide girls who share their dreams with basic needs like access to school supplies, clean water, life-saving health services, safety from violence and more.

[Global Leaders Unite at the Women Deliver Conference](#): June 7-9 (MDGs 3 & 5)

On the eve of the G8/G20 summits, global leaders are gathering at the Women Deliver 2010 Conference in Washington, DC 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 Hilary Clinton, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, First Lady Michelle Obama, Gates Foundation Co-Chair Melinda Gates and World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan, *Huffington Post* founder Arianna Huffington and *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof.

[Join the Conversation: Making the Millennium Development Goals Happen](#): June 3, *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 first discussion is focusing on MDG1: Eradicating Hunger and Extreme Poverty. 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.

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 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