

# END POVERTY 2015

*North America Millennium Development Goals Newsletter*

**Covering Information from  
Monday, November 1 – Monday, November 8**

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“There is a straight line from the Human Development Report to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The concept of human development paved the way for the major global conferences of the 1990s on children, the environment, human rights, population, women and social development. These summits hammered out global targets which contributed to the MDGs.”

– *United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, UN Headquarters, November 4, 2010*

## UNITED STATES

[An Analysis of the International Affairs Budget Post 2010 Election](#): USGLC, Nov. 4 (MDG 8)

The United States Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) has released a post-election analysis, [Smart Vote 2010 Election: The Global Impact](#), examining how the election results will affect the International Affairs Budget (IAB). According to the analysis, the Republican House proposal to return the FY 2008 levels could result in a \$21 billion cut (38 percent decrease). The USGLC analysis also indicates that even though the Obama Administration has classified the IAB as part of the security funding, it is unlikely that the President will stay on track to meet his call to double foreign assistance by 2015.

[For President Obama, Foreign Policy May Offer Avenues for Success](#): *New York Times*, Nov. 4 (MDG 8)

In the wake of the election, *New York Times* columnist Helene Cooper writes that despite potential stalling of President Obama's domestic agenda for the next two years, national security remains his domain – no matter how unfriendly Congress may be. Cooper says that the United States' relations abroad may be the broadest avenue left for President Obama to accomplish anything during the remainder of his current term. According to George Friedman, Chief Executive of Stratfor, a geopolitical risk analysis company, “everyone is looking at what his response will be on domestic policy, but he's lost his ability to carry out anything domestically. The one place he's got left is foreign policy. After the midterm elections, foreign policy is where he can make his bones.”

## CANADA

[Liberal Party Leader Dissects Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Foreign Policy](#): *The Canadian Press*, Nov. 2 (MDG 8)

In a speech before the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations, Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff criticized the Harper government's foreign policy. According to Ignatieff, Prime Minister Harper believes defense is the only thing that matters when it comes to foreign policy and Ignatieff accuses the Prime Minister of ignoring foreign policy's other 'Ds': diplomacy and development. Ignatieff argued that Canada must commit to international climate-change targets, return to its roots as a peacekeeping nation and rejoin the fight against disease and poverty in Africa.

[Minister Oda Announces Global Health, Nutrition and Disease Prevention Initiatives](#): *CIDA*, Nov. 1 (MDGs 4, 5, 6 & 8)

In a speech before the Canadian Conference on Global Health, Minister of International Cooperation Beverly Oda announced further steps in Canada's commitment to improving the health of the most vulnerable people in developing countries. “Our government believes that improving the health of those living in poverty is key to achieving progress on all the Millennium Development Goals. It is also the foundation needed to realize sustainable results in all other development sectors such as education, economic growth and agriculture,” remarked Minister Oda. The new initiatives will contribute to the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. Of the \$1.1 billion in new funding from the Canadian government, 80 percent will go to sub-Saharan Africa.

## UNITED NATIONS AND AROUND THE WORLD

**[United Nations Climate Panel Calls for Carbon and Transport Taxes](#)**: *Agence France-Presse*, Nov. 5 (MDG 7)

A United Nations Climate Panel, led by Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of Norway and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, called for increased taxes on carbon emissions and air and sea transport to raise 100 billion dollars a year for poor nations to combat climate change. The group also proposed a tax on international financial transactions for a UN fund, which would be ready by 2020. The panel was set up at during last year's Copenhagen Climate Summit and its proposals will get a first international airing at the [UN Climate Conference in Cancun, Mexico](#) starting at the end of November. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called the proposals "financially feasible and politically viable."

**[Landmark UN Report Reveals Global Gains in Development Even in Poorer Nations](#)**: *UN News Center*, Nov. 4

According to the [2010 Human Development Report](#), the United Nations' flagship report on comprehensive human development released annually by the UN Development Program (UNDP), the majority of developing countries have made dramatic but underestimated gains in health and education in recent decades. The report assesses the state of human development on the basis of health, education and income indicators, as an alternative to purely macroeconomic assessments of national progress. In this 20th edition, the report reviews trends over the past four decades and concludes that people today are generally healthier, wealthier and better educated than they were in 1970.

**[Study Offers New Clues to Effective HIV Vaccine](#)**: *Reuters*, Nov. 4 (MDG 6)

A [study](#) by a US research team published online in the journal *Science* lends new clues about how to make a vaccine to prevent AIDS. According to the study, slight differences in five amino acids in a protein called HLA-B may explain why certain people resist the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The study's co-author Dr. Bruce Walker of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University indicated that "for a long time, we've known that some people progress extremely rapidly when they get infected, and others can stay well for three decades and never need treatment and still look entirely well." As a result of the study, "we've got a clearer indication of why people can survive in the face of HIV, and we've gotten more focused in terms of the research we need to do to get where we've got to go," remarked Dr. Walker.

**[The G20 Seoul 2010 Summit: Strengthening the Global Recovery](#)**: *Brookings*, Nov. 2 (MDG 8)

On November 11th-12th, heads of state and government of the Group of Twenty (G-20) will meet for the fifth time since they started convening two years ago to deal with the global financial crisis and the ongoing recovery. This year's G20 Summit in Seoul, South Korea will be the first time a non-G8 and newly-industrialized country hosts a G20 Summit, demonstrating the increased representation of new political and economic actors in international policy coordination and global governance. Joining the debate on the challenges and expectations for the G20 Seoul Summit, experts from the Brookings Global Economy and Development program explore a range of critical issues and offer [policy recommendations](#) for G20 leaders to consider in order to strengthen the global economic recovery.

## REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

**[2010 Human Development Report: The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development](#)**: *UNDP*, Nov. 4

Launched November 4th by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, the Human Development Report 20th anniversary edition [The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development](#) celebrates the contributions of the human development approach. The report introduces three measures to its family of indices—the [Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index](#), the [Gender Inequality Index](#) and the [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#). According to the report, the past 20 years have seen substantial progress in many aspects of human development – most people today are healthier, live longer, are more educated and have more access to goods and services.

**[Aid Transparency Assessment](#)**: *Publish What You Fund*, Nov. 2010 (MDG 8)

Publish What You Fund, a London-based campaign for aid transparency, has launched an [Aid Transparency Assessment](#) to compare the transparency of 30 major donors in three categories: (1) high level commitment to transparency; (2) transparency to recipient government; and, (3) transparency to civil society. According to the assessment, a wide variation in levels of donor aid transparency exists with donors showing significant weaknesses across the seven indicators. The highest performing donor (the World Bank) achieved more than double the transparency score (85.4%) of the lowest (Japan, 41.9%). The US scored below the average (58.9%) with 58.5% and Canada scored above average with 60.3%.

## MDG COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### [Five Years Left Vignettes](#): *United Nations Millennium Campaign*

The *Five Years Left* vignettes project sets out to discover how the lives of 10 ordinary people around the world are impacted in profound and powerful ways by the level of progress that their countries have made toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The project compares the lives of men, women and children in Rwanda/ Kenya, Egypt/United States, Papua New Guinea/Canada, India/Germany and the Philippines/Spain. These stories powerfully illustrate why the achievement of the MDGs is critical to the lives of millions of people across the planet.

### [UNDP Washington Roundtable: A Discussion of the 2010 Human Development Report](#): *Washington, DC, Nov. 17*

On November 17th, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Washington will host a panel discussion on the 20th anniversary edition of the Human Development Report, [Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development](#). The discussion will be led by Jeni Klugman, Director, UNDP Human Development Report Office. Other panelists include: Donald K. Steinberg, Deputy Administrator, US Agency for International Development (USAID); Kemal Dervis, Vice President and Director of Global Economy & Development, Brookings Institution (Former UNDP Administrator) and; Nancy Birdsall, President, Center for Global Development. The event will take place from 12:00 – 2:00 PM (EST) at the Academy of Educational Development's Academy Hall (1825 Connecticut Ave, NW). [Register](#)

### [Exhibition: From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Transforming the Human Spirit](#): *Washington, DC, Nov. 10-12*

From November 10th-12th, Georgetown University will host an [exhibition](#), *From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Transforming the Human Spirit*. Created in 2007 by Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist movement of over 12 million people around the world, the exhibit examines issues related to nuclear disarmament, human security (including the Millennium Development Goals), and creating a culture of peace. Since its launch, the exhibition has been shown in a total of 200 venues in 24 countries. [Event details](#)

## REMINDERS

### [2010 mHealth Summit](#): *Washington, DC, Nov. 8-10 (MDGs 4, 5, 6 & 8)*

The 2010 mHealth Summit, hosted in partnership by the mHealth Alliance, Foundation for the National Institutes for Health and National Institute for Health, brings together innovators and users of mobile healthcare technology to advance this new and growing industry. The ubiquity of wireless phones makes them an attractive option for collecting data, such as a patient's vital signs, and for monitoring patients efficiently – particularly in remote locations. Conference sessions will examine and debate the ways mobile technology can transform health care delivery, research, business and policy in underserved communities, including the developing world. Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Aneesh Chopra, the US' first Chief Technology Officer and UN Foundation Chairman Ted Turner will be among the mHealth Summit speakers.

### [Online Course: The Human Development Journey](#): *UNDP*

As part of the ongoing series of materials marking the [20th anniversary of the Human Development Report](#), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is sharing a free public online course entitled, [The Human Development Journey](#). The 3-4 hour course highlights the fundamentals of the human development approach and explains how it is applied to development work. The course also covers topics on measuring human development, policy advocacy, and application of the approach across such topics as poverty reduction, democratic governance, the environment and climate change.

### [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 4: Reduce Child Mortality*. 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8 – 10: [2010 mHealth Summit](#), *Washington, DC*

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

November 17: [UNDP Washington Roundtable: A Discussion of the 2010 Human Development Report](#): *Washington, DC*

November 25: [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#), *Worldwide*

November 29 – December 10: [United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 16 & CMP 6](#), *Cancun, Mexico*



“Like” the United Nations Millennium Campaign, North America on [Facebook](#). Discuss progress towards the MDGs in the United States and Canada and keep up-to-date on information in the lead-up to the UN MDG Review Summit in September.

Should you have content and/or events to highlight, please email the [United Nations Millennium Campaign](#).



The Eight Millennium Development Goals

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

[Click here to Unsubscribe](#)