

MDG Snapshot: **Where Are We on Hunger?**

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger

The nations of the world committed to reducing by half the percent of people suffering from hunger by 2015 (from 1990's numbers).

Progress: Some, but insufficient

The nations of the world have made some progress toward ending hunger, reducing the percent of undernourished children under five, for example, from 33% in 1990 to 26% in 2006. This still leaves more than 140 million children in developing countries underweight in 2006, though, and some of this hard-won progress is being eroded by today's higher food prices. Bottom line: The current rate of progress is insufficient to achieve the MDG target.¹

What else is needed

It would take only \$30 billion USD a year to eradicate the scourge of hunger² – about what the world spends every year on Disney merchandise.³

Success story: MALAWI

In 2005, Malawi suffered a major famine, requiring food aid for some 5 million of its people. Since then, a targeted government subsidy program has so strengthened the country's agricultural situation that the 2008 maize harvest of 2.6 million metric tons was the highest on record—improving hunger and income for more than 1.7 million farming families.⁴

The Malawi government, with support from donor agencies, distributed hybrid maize seed and fertilizer vouchers to poor small farmers, allowing them to buy two bags of fertilizer for 20% of their market price.

The program has enabled Malawi's farmers to double their average yield per hectare, and it immediately tripled national grain production from 1.2 million metric tons in 2005 to 3.4 million metric tons in 2006 and 2007—a surplus of more than one million metric tons.⁵ This has allowed Malawi to become a net food exporter and save the country millions of dollars in imported food aid. Even the Seed Traders Association has benefited from the program, selling 40% more seed since the start of the program. The program is so successful the government is budgeting approximately \$14 million for it this year, expanding it to provide pesticides and storage space.



¹ "2008 Millennium Development Goals Report," (United Nations Millennium Campaign: 11 Sep 2008)

² "The world only needs 30 billion dollars a year to eradicate the scourge of hunger," (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: 3 June 2008), <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000853/index.html>

³ "Walt Disney Co. expects retail sales of licensed merchandise to top \$30 billion worldwide in fiscal 2008," (Reuters: 10 June, 2008), <http://www.reuters.com/article/industryNews/idUSN1034177720080611>

⁴ Except where noted, the facts in the Malawi success story are from Busani Bafana, "AGRICULTURE-MALAWI: Going Against the Grain on Subsidies," (IPS News: 5 Sep 2008), <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43815>

⁵ Lameck Masina Blantyre, "Action Aid International-Malawi Launches Hunger Free Campaign," (Voice of America: 22 Jan 2008), <http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2008-01/2008-01-22-voa24.cfm>

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MDG Snapshot: **Where Are We on Education?**

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

The nations of the world vowed that, by 2015, boys and girls everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Progress: Widespread progress

School enrollment exceeded 90% in almost all regions in 2006, and many countries were close to achieving universal primary enrolment. The number of children of primary school age who were out of school fell from 103 million in 1999 to 73 million in 2006, despite an overall increase in the number of children in this age group. In developing countries, the percentage of children who have completed primary education rose from 79% in 1999 to 85% in 2006. Progress varies, however, with only 71% of children in sub-Saharan Africa enrolled in school.¹

What else is needed

\$11 billion USD a year is needed to make sure all children in the world can go to school—about half of what Americans spend on ice cream.²

Success story: INDIA

India has more people without access to education than any other country in the world. But between 2003 and 2006, it was able to reduce the number of out-of-school children from 25 million to 7 million by investing in schools, teachers, and textbooks.³



The Indian government launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan ("Education for All") in 2002 to provide universal primary education for school-age children—192 million of them in some 1.1 million households. Under the program, the government worked with state governments, private institutions, and international aid agencies to build 700,000 new classrooms and hire nearly that many teachers. Today, almost 98% of the country's school-age children have a primary school within a kilometer of their home.⁴

India's efforts have enabled the country to reduce its number of out-of-school children by almost five million per year since 2003, so that 90% of children now attend primary school—92% of boys and 87% of girls.⁵ Progress can also be measured in the population's overall literacy, which has increased from 20% to more than 60% between 1948 and 2008.⁶

¹ "2008 Millennium Development Goals Report," (United Nations Millennium Campaign: 11 Sep 2008)

² ActionAid, <http://endpoverty2015.org/goals/universal-education>

³ "Universal Access to Elementary Education in India," (The International Development Association: June 2007), <http://go.worldbank.org/IQUCPDQFF0>

⁴ India Voice, "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan helps enroll children of commercial sex workers of Kolkata," (Ground Report : 23 July 2008), http://www.groundreport.com/Arts_and_Culture/Sarva-Shiksha-Abhiyan-helps-enrol-children-of-comm

⁵ "India Factsheet," (Department for International Development: Apr 2008), <http://www2.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/india-factsheet.pdf>

⁶ "Country Profiles: India," (Department for International Development: 28 Apr 2008), <http://www2.dfid.gov.uk/countries/asia/india.asp>

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MDG Snapshot: **Where Are We on Maternal Mortality?**

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

The nations of the world promised to reduce the ratio of maternal mortality by three quarters by 2015.

Progress: None

The United Nations reports that there has been no noticeable improvement in maternal mortality in the past eight years. Even though more than 90% of maternal deaths are preventable, in developing countries pregnancy remains the leading killer of women in their reproductive years, killing more than 500,000 women a year. In some countries, the problem is actually getting worse.¹ In Liberia, for example, while infant mortality rates have improved in past 5 years, maternal mortality rates have gone up by 71%.² But change is possible. Egypt, Honduras, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand were all able to slash their maternal mortality rates in less than 10 years.

What else is needed

Each additional midwife hired can save the lives of 219 women.³ \$1.83 million USD invested in family planning could do all this:⁴

- prevent 720,000 unwanted pregnancies
- prevent 300,000 abortions
- save the lives of 1,600 mothers
- save the lives of 22,000 infants



Success story: NEPAL

Nepal has been able to nearly halve the number of maternal deaths between 1996 and 2006—from 539 to 281 per 100,000 live births—by providing its poorest people improved access to sex education, family planning, and safe, legal abortions.⁵

Nepal Ministry of Health administered its health aid as part of the government's health budget because it found that a functioning overall health system was critical in supporting its safe motherhood efforts. As part of the improved access to health systems, Nepal introduced a voucher scheme that covered transport costs for all pregnant women and provided free services for women in 25 of the poorest districts. As a result, 600,000 more women are now able to deliver their babies in a health facility, and the percentage of deliveries made with a skilled birth attendant, midwife, or doctor have increased from 9% to 19%.

¹ "2008 Millennium Development Goals Report," (United Nations Millennium Campaign: 11 Sep 2008)

² "2007 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Final Report" (June 2008), http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pub_details.cfm?id=791.

³ WHO 2005 estimates 700,000 more midwives are needed over 10 years to achieve this goal: that's 3,825,000 deaths prevented (75% of 510,000 annual deaths over 10 years). That's 5.46 deaths prevented per midwife. Assuming working lifetime is 40 years, that's 218.57 lives.

⁴ "Putting women's health at the top of the political agenda" (Department for International Development: 18 Oct 2007), <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/maternal-deaths.asp>

⁵ Facts in the Nepal success story are from Carol E Barker et al., "Support to the Safe Motherhood Programme in Nepal: An Integrated Approach," (Reproductive Health Matters, 2007)

in my name

MDG Snapshot: **Where Are We on Health?**

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

The nations of the world promised to reverse the incidence of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other major diseases by 2015.

Progress: Big gains are but a drop in the bucket

- HIV/AIDS – The number of deaths from AIDS fell from 2.2 million in 2005 to 2.0 million in 2007, and the number of people newly infected declined from 3.0 million in 2001 to 2.7 million in 2007. Even so, 33 million people are infected with HIV and 2 million die of AIDS each year. That amounts to nearly 7,500 new infections and 5,500 deaths every day, mostly due to a lack of HIV prevention and treatment services.
- Malaria – Malaria prevention has made great strides due to widespread increases in insecticide-treated net use among children under five in sub-Saharan Africa: in 16 out of 20 countries use has at least tripled since 2000.¹ As a result, the number of cases and deaths from the disease have declined as much as 50% in parts of Africa and other regions since 2000.² Still, Malaria causes more than 300 million acute illnesses and at least one million deaths annually.³

What else is needed

It would cost just \$16.3 billion USD to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide universal access to treatment in Africa⁴—just over half of what the pharmaceutical industry spends annually on promoting and marketing prescription drugs.⁵

Success story: MALAWI

Almost one million people in Malawi are living with HIV/AIDS—14% percent of the nation's adults—and the disease is responsible for 59% of adult deaths. The Malawi government, however, was able to triple its spending on health and reduce AIDS-related deaths by 75% in four years.⁶



With help from aid to Malawi's health sector, the government increased health spending from \$15 million to \$46 million USD between 2000 and 2005. Government officials say most of their success was due to providing increased access to free medicine: 159,111 people were put on free antiretroviral drugs; 106,547 of them (67%) are still alive. In addition, testing for the virus was almost tripled: from about 150,000 people in 2002 to 440,000 in 2005. But testing and medication don't administer themselves, so Malawi has recruited 1,812 health workers since 2004.

¹ "2008 Millennium Development Goals Report," (United Nations Millennium Campaign: 11 Sep 2008)

² "World Malaria Report 2008," (World Health Organization: 18 Sep 2008), <http://www.who.int/malaria/wmr2008>

³ "2008 Millennium Development Goals Report"

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ "Control Pharmaceutical Marketing to Improve Health Care Quality and Cost Recommendations for State Policymakers," (The Prescription Project: 7 Sep 2007), http://www.prescriptionproject.org/tools/solutions_resources/files/0004.pdf

⁶ "Adult deaths" = death of those aged 15 to 59. Facts in the Malawi success story are from Mabvuto Banda and Dina Kyriakidou, "Free AIDS drugs reduce Malawi rates," (Reuters: 25 Aug 2008), <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSLP63775420080825>.

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MDG Snapshot: **Where Are We on Climate Change?**

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

The nations of the world vowed to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015.

Progress: Scant

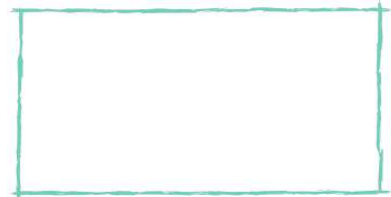
Over 96% of all ozone-depleting substances have been eliminated. Through the Kyoto Protocol, many developed countries have agreed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5% by 2012.¹ China and India have each adopted ambitious goals of their own for the years 2006-2010.² But much needs to be done. Global carbon dioxide emissions increased by 30% from 1990 to 2005, actually accelerating in the last five years.³ The effects of climate change have already begun to take effect in the past 20 years:

- The number of heat waves has increased from 29 in 1987-1996 to 76 in 1997-2006.⁴
- The number of people affected by climate-related disasters has grown from 174 million to 250 million a year.

What else is needed

The worst effects of global warming can still be staved off, at a cost of 1% of global GDP by 2050—which sounds like a lot until you compare it with the likely cost of doing nothing: 5-10% loss in global GDP.⁵ How much is 1% of GDP?

- 1/9 of what is spent on health care
- 1/7 of what is spent on oil
- 1/2 of what is spent on defense⁶



Success story: PORTLAND, USA

Portland, Oregon (USA) shows what the developed world can achieve with enough political will, reducing its per capita emissions of greenhouse gases by 13%—achieving pre-1990 levels in just 11 years.

Starting in 1993, America's 30th largest city significantly increased its public transit system and added 750 miles of bicycle paths. It used financial incentives to encourage energy-efficient building, home weatherization, car pooling, and bus use. It even replaced the bulbs in its traffic lights with light-emitting diodes and cut their electricity use by 80%—and saved nearly \$500,000 a year. Ten percent more of Portland's 550,396 residents began walking and/or bicycling to work. Far from costing a fortune, these measures actually saved the city money.⁷

¹ "2008 Millennium Development Goals Report," (United Nations Millennium Campaign: 11 Sep 2008)

² Sir Nicholas Stern, "STERN REVIEW: The Economics of Climate Change," (30 Oct 2006), http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/30_10_06_exec_sum.pdf

³ "2008 Millennium Development Goals Report," (United Nations Millennium Campaign: 11 Sep 2008)

⁴ Climate Alarm," (Oxfam: Nov 2007),

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/bp108_weather_alert.html.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Elizabeth Kolbert, "The Island in the Wind: A Danish community's victory over carbon emissions." (The New Yorker:), 7 July, 2008 http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/07/07/080707fa_fact_kolbert

⁷ Nicholas D. Kristof, "A Livable Shade of Green" (The New York Times: July 3, 2005),

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/03/opinion/03kristof.html>