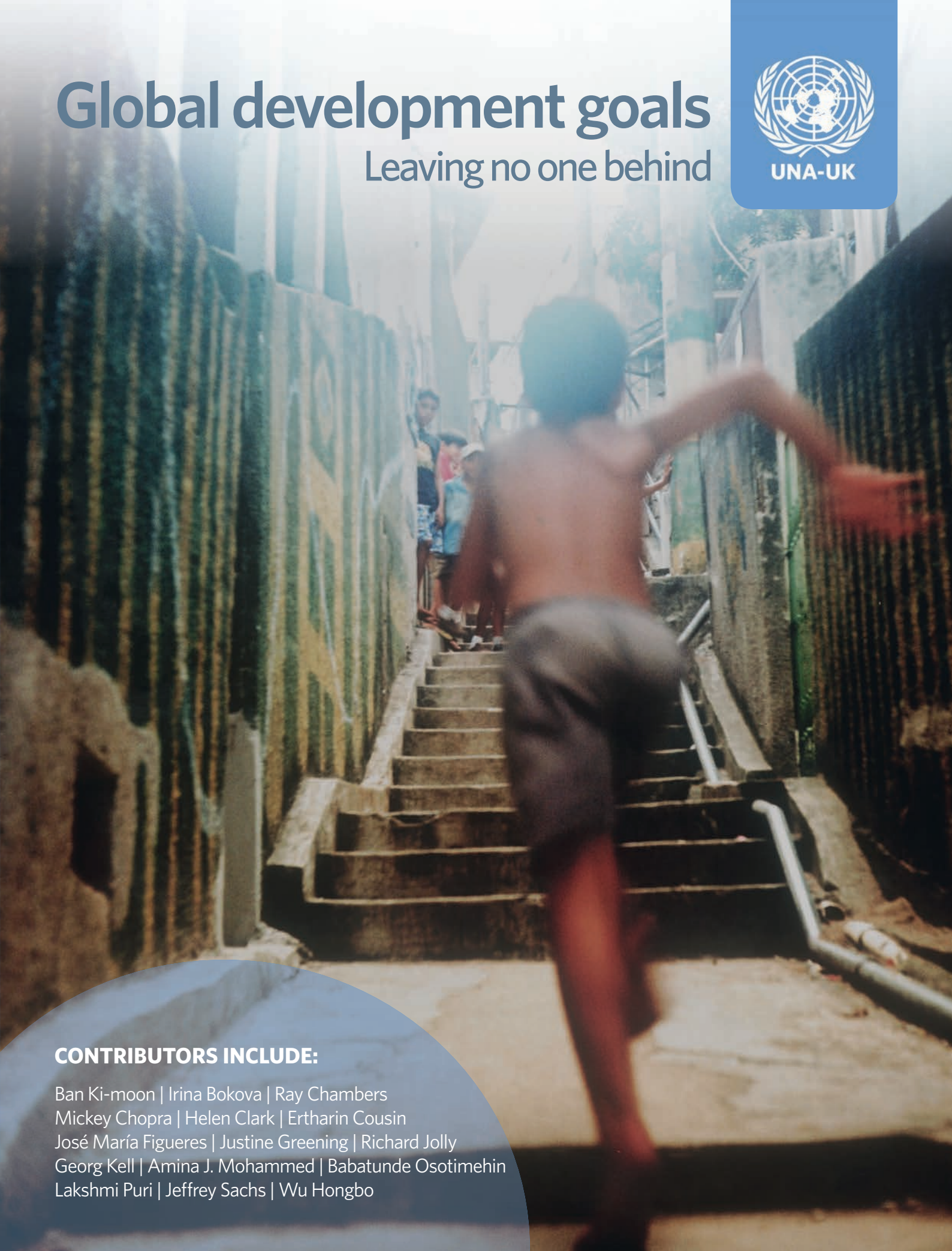
Global development goals

Leaving no one behind

UNA-UK



CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE:

Ban Ki-moon | Irina Bokova | Ray Chambers
Mickey Chopra | Helen Clark | Ertharin Cousin
José María Figueres | Justine Greening | Richard Jolly
Georg Kell | Amina J. Mohammed | Babatunde Osotimehin
Lakshmi Puri | Jeffrey Sachs | Wu Hongbo

THE WORLD BANK GROUP GOALS

Two ambitious goals, achieved in a sustainable way, will anchor our mission of a world free of poverty

GOAL 1 END EXTREME POVERTY

2010
2030

$1.25 A DAY

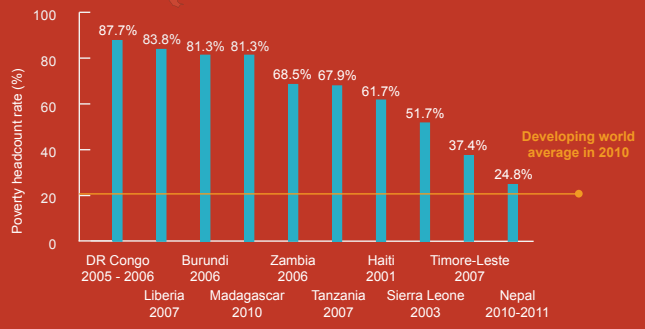
TARGET

To reduce the percentage of people in this world living with less than US $1.25 a day to 3 percent by 2030

POOR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE MATTER

regardless of their country's size, income level, or location

More than 1 billion people in the world live in desperate conditions suffering in extreme poverty with less than $1.25 a day



REDUCING THE GLOBAL EXTREME POVERTY RATE TO NO MORE THAN 3 PERCENT IN 2030 IS NOT A PREDICTION — IT IS A DIFFICULT BUT ACHIEVABLE TARGET

GOAL 2 PROMOTE SHARED PROSPERITY

BOTTOM 40%

To promote income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population in every developing nation

HOW PROSPERITY IS SHARED

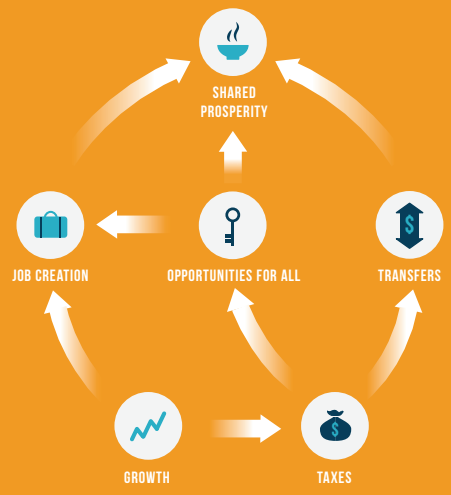
Improving welfare of the less well-off is almost impossible without growing the economy. This growth must be inclusive of the lower segment of the population and sustainable over time.

GROWTH

Economic growth is essential to reduce poverty and boost shared prosperity. The private sector plays a leading role. The government ensures an enabling environment through a suitable regulatory regime, sound macro policies, and good governance.

JOB CREATION

Creating more and better-paying jobs is the most important way in which economic growth raises incomes of the less well-off. Jobs are mainly created by the private sector. The government plays a key supporting role by promoting a healthy business climate and investing to build the skills of its labor force.



JOB CREATION

Governments play an important role in expanding opportunities among people by investing in infrastructure, social programs, education, health initiatives, and other societal benefits.

TAXES

Taxes raise resources to finance public investments, creating opportunities, and safety net programs for the poor and the vulnerable.

TRANSFERS

Programs that provide cash or in-kind benefits to the poor and the vulnerable; examples are conditional cash transfers, social pensions, and public works.

SUSTAINABILITY

A sustainable path to development and poverty reduction is one that

MANAGES OUR PLANET FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS ENSURING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG

SOURCE: WORLD BANK GROUP
UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

Contents



P14

FOREWORDS

8 **Needed: a bold vision for the future**
By **Ban Ki-moon**, UN Secretary-General

10 **Accelerating progress**
By **Helen Clark**, Administrator of the UN Development Programme and former Prime Minister of New Zealand

12 **A UK perspective on the post-2015 development agenda**
By **Justine Greening**, UK Secretary of State for International Development

INTRODUCTION

14 **The future of international development**
What can be done to maintain the momentum established by the MDGs and revive support for international development? By **Jeremy Greenstock,** Chairman, UNA-UK



P10

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

17 **Setting goals**
The creation of the MDGs.
By **Mark Malloch Brown**

18 **Conflict and poverty: a vicious cycle**
A post-2015 development agenda needs to implement effective conflict prevention and diplomacy tools.
By **Abiodun Williams**

20 **Panel: The role of local peacebuilders in conflict areas**
By **Carolyn Hayman**

22 **Economic growth must be equitable**
Economic growth has driven much of the success of the MDGs, but growth on its own is not sufficient. By **Jaime Saavedra Chanduvi** and **Jeffrey D. Lewis**

26 **Development as freedom**
The glaring omission of human rights from the MDG framework has contributed to inequitable development in many countries. By **David Mepham**

30 **The relationship between governance and progress**
Why the UN High-Level Panel places governance at the heart of the post-2015 framework.
By **Alina Rocha Menocal** and **Leni Wild**

31 **Panel: The Ibrahim Index of African Governance**

34 **The end of the line**
Population growth and increasing consumption are straining the planet's physical limits. By **Jeffrey D. Sachs**

36 **Panel: Clean water, key to health and the alleviation of poverty**
By **Mark Dearn** and **Lis Martin**

40 **Location matters**
What role does geography play in constraining the world's least developed countries? By **Gyan Chandra Acharya**

44 **Why population matters for sustainable development**
With the help of government policies and planning, future demographic trends can be shaped to enhance wellbeing, education and earning potential.
By **Babatunde Osotimehin**

45 **Panel: Suffering in slums**
By **Samuel Ogallah Samson**

48 **Goals, plans, partners and measurement**
Basic principles that are key to success in business have proven transferable to the achievement of the MDGs.
By **Ray Chambers**







52 **Listening to the grassroots**
The top-down approach of the MDGs has left many socially and economically excluded.
By **Fazle Hasan Abed**

56 **Innovation and philanthropy**
Profiles of some of the most outstanding initiatives that have contributed to the success of the MDGs.
By **Mrinalini Singh**

THE GOALS >

POVERTY AND HUNGER

60 **A long-term view of poverty reduction**
The MDGs have yielded massive gains in human development. The UN and the Bretton Woods institutions must now work together to maintain social progress.
By **Richard Jolly**

66 **The cost of hunger**
Hunger destabilises societies, causing lasting damage. A concerted global push can eliminate hunger in our lifetime.
By **Ertharin Cousin**

68 **Escaping poverty**
Extreme poverty reduction: an MDGs success story?
By **Hayley Richardson**

EDUCATION

72 **The power of education**
Radical progress has been made in enrolment, but major inequalities must be addressed – not least the 57 million children who are still not in school.
By **Irina Bokova**

76 **Reconsidering the MDG approach to education**
An effective education framework will need to look beyond access and consider poverty, gender inequality and local environments.
By **Elaine Unterhalter**

80 **An emphasis on skills and competencies**
With rising global unemployment, education must focus on effectively equipping young people for the workplace. By **Nicholas Burnett**, **Shubha Jayaram** and **Milan Thomas**

GENDER EQUALITY

84 **Gender – is one goal enough?**
What should a new development agenda for women look like? By **Sylvia Chant**

90 **Equality and empowerment**
Gender equality will benefit families, societies, economies and governments. By **Lakshmi Puri**

HEALTH

92 **Health at a crossroads**
Massive increases in aid have yielded results but inequalities persist. What route should the international community now follow? By **Gorik Ooms**

96 **Financing a post-2015 health agenda**
Significant progress has been made on MDG health targets. However, funding mechanisms need to develop so that both disease-specific and health system intervention can be addressed. By **Temitope Foloranmi** and **Devi Sridhar**

100 **Community engagement**
Engaging communities in the post-2015 global health agenda is a necessity for human rights and social legitimacy. By **Eric A. Friedman et al**

104 **Reducing child mortality**
Of the 6.9 million child deaths in 2011, 5.2 million were treatable by proven, affordable commodities. By **Mickey Chopra**

107 **The prescription for women's health: the MDGs and beyond**
Maternal health can not be tackled in isolation. It requires society to value women and respect their rights. By **Albrecht Jahn, Claudia Beiersmann** and **Olaf Müller**



112 **Don't forget malaria**
The promising progress made on controlling this disease should inspire more, not less, action. By **Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré**

114 **Panel: HIV/AIDS at a glance**

ENVIRONMENT

118 **Time to heed environmental limits**
Where should environment sit within the post-2015 framework? By **Alex Evans**

122 **Setting a course within the boundaries**
How can planetary boundaries be captured in a post-2015 sustainable development goal framework? By **Johan Rockström**

126 **The planet's lifeblood**
Ignored up until now, the oceans are critical to the development agenda. By **José María Figueres**

128 **The pressures of resource scarcity**
More constructive international cooperation is needed to tackle unequal access to resources. By **Rob Bailey**

132 **Nurturing green growth**
While an agreed definition remains elusive, developed and developing countries alike can still push forward the green agenda. By **Varad Pande**

135 **Panel: Botswana's perspective on the MDGs**
By **Charles T. Ntwaagae**



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

136 **Renewing global partnership for development**
How can financial mechanisms foster sustainable and equitable growth? By **Wu Hongbo**

142 **Private sector responsibility and potential**
A sustainable approach to business and finance can extend the reach of the MDGs. By **Georg Kell**

THE FUTURE

146 **A just and sustainable world**
The post-2015 development agenda must address the unmet challenges and combat the more complex threats facing the world. By **Amina J. Mohammed**

149 **A transformative agenda for 2015-2030**
Ensuring that no one is left behind will require a profound change in lifestyles and mindsets. By **Natalie Samarasinghe**

152 **Universal goals, national targets**
The illustrative goals proposed by the UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

154 **Glossary**

155 **About us**



P149

P146



SPONSORED FEATURES

38 **A global partnership for understanding the Earth**
Group on Earth Observations

43 **The universal right to development**
IberoAmerican Foundation for Development

47 **Sex, equality and the MDGs**
High-Level Task Force for ICPD

64 **Farming to reduce poverty and hunger**
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

70 **Should we be burying the MDGs?**
University of Manchester

75 **A child's right to education**
Qatar Foundation for Child and Woman Protection

79 **Quality education is a public good and a basic human right**
Education International

99 **Healthcare innovation: a vital part of the post-2015 development agenda**
Philips

110 **Johnson & Johnson and the MDGs: Our commitment continues**
Johnson & Johnson

116 **Helping society to develop**
Anglo American

131 **Safeguarding cotton, an essential natural resource**
Better Cotton Initiative

139 **MANGO's commitment to corporate social responsibility**
MANGO

140 **The social and economic potential of gold and gold-mining**
World Gold Council

143 **Brewing a better future**
HEINEKEN

145 **A UNDP regional project transforms Africa's private sector**
African Management Services Company

1.7 million households and counting

Combining business, training, and investment to drive access to energy

Through its access-to-energy programme, Schneider Electric™ partners with organizations around the globe to help meet the needs of the world's poorest communities. That means improving healthcare, education, environmental conditions, and overall quality of life. And our approach is truly comprehensive. We not only offer energy management expertise and innovative products and solutions, we also provide the training essential to developing sustainable local economies and the funding that enables energy entrepreneurs to innovate and grow. Through June 2013, our efforts have provided energy access to 1.7 million households, trained more than 25,000 people, and supported six investment funds dedicated to sustainable development. We share your commitment to improving lives and strengthening communities, and invite you to leverage our capabilities.

Transforming efficiency together.℠



Learn how our access-to-energy programme and others are helping bridge the energy gap.

Download the FREE white paper about sustainable energy project best practices in Africa. Plus, enter to win an iPad Mini!

Visit www.SEreply.com Key Code 36946p

Providing access-to-energy solutions worldwide

Through our BipBop Programme, we are committed to providing access to energy to those who need it most. BipBop is an acronym that stands for Business, Innovation, and People at the Base of the Pyramid.



Innovating in Nigeria

Villasol, our solar-powered micro off-grid facility for decentralized rural electrification, provides basic electricity for up to 100 households in Asore.



Training in Cambodia

Through vocational training, we are introducing electrical and automation trades in Cambodia to help bring electricity to 70 per cent of its villages.



Investing in Africa

The Schneider Electric Energy Access Fund is helping to establish a network of franchised communications centres in Africa, creating opportunities for 1 million people.



* Schneider Electric provided safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to the Senegalese villages of Dar es Salaam, Thiasky, and Kak.

Schneider Electric™

©2013 Schneider Electric. All Rights Reserved. Schneider Electric and Transforming efficiency together are trademarks owned by Schneider Electric Industries SAS or its affiliated companies. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. 998-1208857_GMA-GB

Needed: a bold vision for the future

By **Ban Ki-moon,** UN Secretary-General

At the turn of this century, United Nations Member States agreed on a bold vision for the future that reaffirmed the fundamental values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for the planet and shared responsibility. That vision, enshrined in the Millennium Declaration and rooted in the UN Charter, recognised the need to combine efforts to advance simultaneously on three fronts: development, peace and security, and human rights.

Among the promises in the Millennium Declaration was the pledge to free all women, men, girls and boys from the abject and dehumanising conditions of poverty and make the right to development a reality for all. The call itself was not new; the commitment to better standards of life is a core objective of the United Nations. But what was new was the sense of possibility that, through a combination of targets, tangible investments, genuine action and political will, countries and people working together could end poverty in all its forms.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) gave expression to this resolve. Since their adoption, governments, partners and an inspiring constellation of groups and individuals around the world have mobilised to tackle the many dimensions of poverty and advance human development. Substantial progress has been achieved towards specific MDG targets globally as well as in individual countries.

However, the prospects for achieving all of the MDGs differ sharply across and within countries and regions. More than one billion people still live in extreme poverty. Far too many people face serious deprivations in health and education, with progress hampered by large inequalities related to income, gender, ethnicity, disability, age and location. The prolonged global economic downturn and violent conflicts of recent years have exacerbated poverty, inequality and exclusion. Biodiversity loss, the degradation of water, drylands and forests, and the intensifying risks of climate change threaten to reverse achievements and undermine future gains.

We must do everything we can to achieve the MDGs by the end of 2015 to secure the well-being, dignity and rights of those still on the margins. Meeting existing commitments will also provide



the best possible starting point for agreeing and implementing a universal sustainable development agenda after 2015.

New vision and framework

The world has changed radically since the turn of the millennium. New economic powers have emerged, new technologies are reshaping our societies, and new patterns of human settlement and activity are heightening pressures on the planet. Inequalities are rising in rich and poor countries alike. This new era demands a new vision and a responsive framework to implement it. Sustainable development – enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice and environmental stewardship – must become our global guiding principle and operational standard.

The transition to sustainable development must not mean any diminishment in commitment to ending poverty. It is an indispensable requirement – a matter of basic justice and human rights. In a world of great wealth and technological advances, no person anywhere should be left behind. No person should go hungry, lack shelter or clean water and sanitation, face social and economic exclusion, or live without access to basic health services and education, human rights



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon surveys the area for expansion during his visit to Al Zaatri refugee camp in the Jordanian city of Mafraq, near the border with Syria. 7 December 2012

© Reuters

and the foundations for a decent life. People also need to be freed of the burden of armed conflict, violence, insecurity and injustice. These ills often have roots in social and economic deprivation and inequalities. Upholding human rights and freeing people from fear and want are inseparable.

Collective effort

United Nations Member States are engaged in defining a post-2015 development agenda with poverty reduction and sustainable development at its core. Through a dynamic UN-led process, more than 1.4 million people have shared views on the world they want.

Member States can also draw on the insights of a number of reports, including that of my High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by President Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Sirleaf of Liberia and Prime Minister Cameron of the United Kingdom; the Sustainable Development Solutions Network; the UN Global Compact; and the UN System Task Team. The UN Regional Commissions and our partners in civil society and academia have also provided important recommendations.

The common ground in these contributions far outweighs any differences. The emerging outlines of a new sustainable development agenda are becoming apparent: universal in nature yet responsive to the complexities, needs and capacities of individual countries; bold in ambition yet simple in design; combining economic, social and environmental dimensions, while putting the highest priority on ending poverty and reducing inequalities; protective of the planet; rights-based, with particular emphasis on women, young people and marginalised groups; open to new and innovative partnerships; and supported by pioneering approaches to data and rigorous accountability mechanisms.

Guided by this far-reaching vision, a concise set of goals with sustainable development at the core, as called for at the 2012 Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, can be constructed to encapsulate current challenges and the priorities of the new agenda and to guide the transformation we need.

I look forward to a rich process of consultation and debate as the crucial year of 2015 draws near. I am confident that, collectively, we can seize the opportunities for long-term change that will benefit people and the planet for generations to come. ■

Collectively, we can seize the opportunities for long-term change that will benefit people and the planet for generations to come



© UNICEF/Noorani

Jamuna Saud and her children in impoverished Biraltoli Village in Nepal's Achham District. Nepal is one of more than 45 countries to adopt the UNDP-developed MDG Acceleration Framework, which is designed to identify pragmatic solutions to speed up progress on lagging MDGs

Accelerating progress

A renewed effort is needed to meet the 2015 deadline, with a particular focus on marginalised elements of society

By **Helen Clark**, Administrator of the UN Development Programme and former Prime Minister of New Zealand

Since their adoption in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have provided a unifying vision for policymakers, development experts and civil society.

Their clarity, conciseness and measurability brought diverse actors together around a common cause and inspired many to take action against poverty in all its dimensions.

The MDGs place the well-being of people at the centre of development efforts. Many countries have internalised the MDG framework within their planning, budgetary and sectoral policies.

There has been progress on many of the indicators targeted by the MDGs. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty, on under $1.25



per day, is now less than half of what it was in 1990. MDG targets for improving access to safe drinking water and improving the lives of 200 million slum dwellers have been met.

The world is within reach of seeing every child enrolled in primary school, and has achieved parity in primary education between girls and boys. Some of the lowest-income countries have made the greatest strides. Targeted investments in fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis have saved millions of lives.

While these are remarkable improvements, progress has been uneven across and within countries. Many millions of people are being left behind – particularly the poorest and most marginalised, minorities, and women and girls. Disparities between urban and rural areas remain daunting.

We have now rather fewer than 1,000 days to fulfil the commitments embodied in the Millennium Declaration of 2000, and to lay the foundation for a renewed development agenda. This is the time to accelerate progress on the MDGs, including by promoting sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth. A focus on women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality will have multiplier effects across the MDGs.

Previous assessments of MDG progress have shown that national ownership and local champions are indispensable for MDG success. As countries get closer to reaching the MDG targets, dedicated policies and actions are needed to reach the last mile and benefit those still excluded. Extraordinary partnerships have been formed to advance this agenda, bringing together governments, the business community, academic institutions, NGOs and other parts of civil society.

A broader scope

The post-2015 development framework needs to build on the lessons learned from the MDG experience. While continuing to focus on the core issues covered by the MDGs, a post-2015 framework also needs to refine, deepen and broaden the scope of the global agenda.

Inclusive growth and jobs, effective governance, environmental sustainability, and peace and security are some of the recurring themes highlighted by people around the world in the global conversation on post-2015 facilitated by the United Nations. People have also emphasised the importance of quality of services and the links between development priorities.

So far, more than a million people have expressed their priorities and ideas in the UN-led consultations on the post-2015 agenda – the largest public outreach exercise the UN has ever facilitated.

The key messages from the global public response have been echoed by the High-Level Panel on the Post–2015 Development Agenda appointed by the UN Secretary-General, and by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a UN initiative mobilising scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society and the private sector.

Global promise

It is to be hoped that the UN's Member States will agree on a renewed global development agenda, which can inspire action and get results as the MDGs have since 2000. A new global promise, however, will have more meaning if more can be achieved on the MDG targets by the end of 2015.

As the conversation on post-2015 continues, the UN Development Programme will do its utmost to support countries and communities to accelerate progress on the MDGs. We call on all other development actors to commit to that too. ■

As countries get closer to reaching the MDG targets, dedicated policies and actions are needed to reach the last mile

A UK perspective on the post-2015 development agenda

By **Justine Greening**,
UK Secretary of State for International Development

Almost 15 years ago, the international community came together to agree some simple, powerful objectives. No one should live on under $1.25 a day. Denying girls an education isn't acceptable. The terrible scale of deaths from malaria and HIV/AIDS must be addressed. These were things we could agree to tackle together, and the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were born.

These goals drove more than a decade of remarkable progress. Today the international community faces a renewed test. 2015 is the end date for the MDGs, by which time we will judge huge progress on the commitments we made in the Millennium Declaration. I'm really proud of the contribution the British government is making, first and foremost through dedicating 0.7 per cent of our GNI to overseas development assistance, and also with our development programmes all over the world. For example, the UK has helped to eradicate smallpox and reduce polio cases from 350,000 a year in 1988 to just 1,500 last year. This is a huge achievement. To keep building on this progress after 2015 means asking: what comes next?

The international community now has to agree which challenges are the most important, most transformational in tackling extreme poverty and deserve our combined effort. We have to decide new goals, new targets and new ways of working together in global partnership.

With one in eight people still hungry, one in three women beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime and four billion people lacking access to fair and functioning justice systems, it is simply not an option to fail to agree a new development framework. Nor is agreeing 'lowest common denominator' goals on 'easy' or less contentious topics, rather than tackling the issues that really make a difference. Bringing the international community together to one view on development will be tough, but is a test we must meet.

Tackling the challenges that matter

Our starting point should be looking at what the MDGs didn't tackle, addressing the issues most important to people living in poverty and how the world has changed since with fresh debates on



© Noor Khamis/Department for International Development

UK Development Secretary Justine Greening meets schoolchildren in the Turkana region of northern Kenya

sustainability. The issues that I heard raised time and again are those of violence and insecurity, lack of voice, poor governance, human rights violations, and people's drive for jobs and employment.

The rule of law, safety, having a say in political processes, freedom from violence and corruption – these issues are often called 'enablers' of development. And it's true that without them, development is far harder to make happen. We can see this in the fact that fragile and conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and South Sudan are the furthest off track from achieving the MDGs.

But when we ask poor people themselves what they value most, it's a job; it's knowing that their families are safe in their own homes; that their children can get to school in safety; that they have a voice in political processes; that their governments listen; that they won't be asked for bribes by local officials and police. These messages have rung out loud and clear from projects like 'MYWorld' and 'Participate' that have been gathering views from around the world on what the post-2015 development framework should look like. Clearly, freedom from violence, from corruption, transparent government, accountable public services and access to justice are vitally important in their own right as well as important enablers. These are the things that those in poverty really care about.

The UK Prime Minister has called these issues the 'golden thread' of development – the conditions that enable open economies and open societies to thrive. The crucial building blocks of accountable and transparent governments, the absence of conflict and corruption, and the presence of rights and freedoms, build the platform for the eradication of poverty.

This was at the heart of the Millennium Declaration. In 2000, we declared that "we are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world" and resolved to give everyone a life free from "the fear of violence, oppression or injustice". Likewise, the importance of peace for sustainable development was underlined at the Rio+20 conference in 2012, when we reaffirmed "the importance of freedom, peace and security" in the outcome document, entitled *The Future We Want*. The time is now ripe to take the next big step with the post-2015 framework to translate these ambitions into a reality for people in poverty the world over.

Goals and indicators

Some have argued that these vitally important issues are not measurable, and that we cannot develop concrete indicators by which to track our progress.

However, the UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which the Prime Minister co-chaired alongside President Sirleaf of Liberia and President Yudhoyono of Indonesia, has demonstrated that we can form clear, measurable goals, targets and indicators with which to measure progress and hold ourselves to account.

The international community now has to agree which challenges are the most important, the most transformational

In its recent bold report, the Panel recommended 12 goals, two of which were 'ensure good governance and effective institutions,' and 'ensure stable and peaceful societies'. With targets on reducing violent deaths, eliminating violence against children, building accessible and independent justice institutions, stemming the stressors that lead to conflict, and enhancing security forces, police and judiciary, the Panel put paid to the argument that these issues cannot be measured. We know that these issues are measurable, and can be tracked and followed just as today we track how many kids attend school and how many people live on under $1.25 a day.

Girls and women

I am also personally committed to securing a strong focus on gender equality in the new development framework. Violence against girls and women is a global pandemic, with one in three girls and women in the developing world beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime. And while women perform 66 per cent of the world's work, they earn only 10 per cent of the income. These statistics are stark reminders of the extent to which girls and women are locked out of development. I believe that only if we address issues of voice, choice and control for girls and women in the post-2015 framework will it have the potential to end poverty in our lifetime.

The High-Level Panel set a high bar of ambition for girls and women, recommending targets on child marriage, violence against women and equal rights to open bank accounts and own property. I will be working hard with partners around the world to secure a similarly strong message in the final development framework agreed for 2015 onwards.

Our highest common ambition

In shaping the new development framework, we have a serious responsibility – to stretch for our highest common ambition, rather than the lowest common denominator. The High-Level Panel showed the way in this approach. The question is whether UN Member States can come together again and address the difficult challenges of development. It can be done, it must be done, and the UK will play its part. ■



© UNICEF/Pirozzi

The future of international development

Development is at risk of slipping from the top of the international agenda, crowded out by more headline-grabbing events. What can be done to maintain the momentum established by the MDGs and revive international support?

By **Sir Jeremy Greenstock** GCMG, Chairman, UNA-UK

2015 is looming, and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are fighting for attention in a crisis-ridden world. We have become used to watching long-term programmes and well-worn themes gradually slipping below the waves of public apathy, because modern communications channels favour the new, the dramatic and the short-term. Witness the efforts to reform the UN Security Council or to generate urgency on climate change responses. Yet nothing has greater relevance to global

The degree to which some governments have already started to pay no more than lip service to the present Goals illustrates the depth of the challenge

peace and justice than the huge gap between the world's richest and poorest communities. How can we keep up the momentum?

It is important to recognise what the first 13 years of the MDGs have and have not achieved. Throughout this publication, experts and practitioners from around the world assess progress, best practices and lessons learnt. The summary picture is clearly mixed.

Uneven progress

On the whole, the programme has been ambitious, relevant and inspiring, scoring measurable successes which might not have been there if the Goals had not existed. Great strides have been made, for instance, towards increasing primary school enrolment, rolling back malaria and tuberculosis deaths and improving access to safe drinking water.

Inevitably, though, the disappointments have mounted. Far too many women still die from complications during and after childbirth. Environmental sustainability is under severe threat and gender inequalities persist in the public and private spheres. Across the board, progress on the MDGs has been uneven, not just between countries, but within them, among rural and urban communities, for example.

Some of our contributors argue that this is in part a consequence of the bar being set so high in 2000. Others maintain that the Goals were not ambitious enough, focusing on existing trends and prioritising quantitative over qualitative outcomes.

Is it right to go for a repeat set of goals, or should the UN and the international community try something new?

This is not an easy question. The period since 1945, when the UN was founded, has seen a remarkable rise in global prosperity and a significant decline in inter-state conflict. The institutions set up to manage international cooperation and problem-solving have performed better than those of any previous era, because we seemed, albeit with certain exceptions, to have learnt the importance of avoiding the scourge of war. Yet the very length of this period of relative global stability also means that the institutions increasingly struggle for impact and relevance. The nature of international politics changes, different values assert themselves, new leading players emerge and the institutions find it hard to reform.

In this context of constant change, the capacity of an unrefreshed UN system to promote and manage a complex programme like the MDGs is bound to be lower in 2015-30 than it has been to date.

On the other hand, the UN is the only global institution we have. International agreement on development targets has a greater value than no programme at all.

A further set of Goals for the next 10 or 15 years must be expected to exert a slightly lower popular impact than the original set, because of the diminishing return from an ageing concept. Nevertheless the importance of relieving global poverty and reducing the wealth distribution gap will continue to resonate, and the interest of leading donor countries in running an effective development policy will encourage them to make an effort to supplement the MDGs programme. The argument for continuing with the Goals seems to me to be compelling.

That raises the issue of designing the second decade agenda. Lessons learnt from the successes and failures of the first decade need to be absorbed, and fresh ideas and approaches generated. Public support will be all the more essential as the people's voice gains strength everywhere, and that means catching the public imagination some years after 'Make Poverty History' and other campaigns have faded. The degree to which some governments have already started to pay no more than lip service to the present Goals illustrates the depth of the challenge.

The post-2015 geopolitical context for a new set of MDGs also appears daunting. Several articles in this collection describe the catastrophic impact of conflict on development; and conflict will become more, not less, likely in future, especially within poorly governed states, unless the international community creates better instruments for preventing and containing it. Indeed, the number of people uprooted by conflict or persecution is at its highest level in 18 years.

Local identity

The circumstances have changed. Politics has become much more local in a world of greater freedom of choice and people fight to defend their local identity and promote their subjective ambitions. Big wars are much less likely now, but smaller wars do just as much damage to their particular area.

The institutional approach to conflict is showing some weaknesses. The UN Charter was predicated on the absolute need to prevent the recurrence of the 20th century's worst experiences. It also gives the primary responsibility for managing the

Opposite: a toddler stands near a pile of debris in Ampefiloha Ambodirano, one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Antananarivo, Madagascar's capital. The Madagascan people continue to suffer the effects of concurrent droughts, cyclones and political upheaval. Efforts are being made to hold elections and return Madagascar to democracy

The next set of Goals has to be accompanied by a public awareness campaign of considerable sophistication

business of a nation to its own properly constituted leadership. The constraints on outside interference in an internal crisis are strong enough in the wording of the Charter, but even more formidable in practice now that the will of the people in a specific locality carries so much moral and political force.

What has come to be the most damaging obstacle to economic and social progress in both the national and the international context, localised conflict, turns out to be the hardest thing to address through international cooperation.

Although development assistance is only partly concerned with conflict or post-conflict situations, the continuation of conflict is dispiriting for donor nations and organisations when the volume and quality of aid given seems so quickly to be cancelled out by the cost of unprevented conflicts.

At the same time, the trend towards localisation has an impact upon public opinion in the richer nations as well, diminishing support for development funding – which has fallen by 6 per cent in real terms since 2010 – if taxpayers are more likely to give priority to spending on their own needs. Many developed states see the point of helping the less fortunate parts of the world, but the policy has to be explained as achieving something directly for domestic interests.

Engaging the public

This means that the next set of Goals has to be accompanied by a public awareness campaign of considerable sophistication. How best to engage as many people as possible with a genuine sense of responsibility and convince them that development funding is a necessary part of their choices on resource distribution?

There are several areas of thinking and action which might be relevant to a good answer to this:

- What part should the UN play in this, to produce both the most effective management of an MDGs programme and the greatest impact on public opinion? Even a support organisation like UNA-UK recognises that the UN cannot carry the full burden, but needs accompanying action from governments, civil society, the corporate sector and individuals for the most ambitious targets to be met. How can a broad collective approach be organised?
- What is the NGO community contributing, and how is their work translatable into scale? One of the brightest parts of the picture over the past decade has been the increase in effectiveness and reach of civil society on the ground, including within developing countries themselves. But it still appears to be the case that, while their detailed work is often flawed, only governments and the largest international institutions can deliver catalytic change. What is the secret to tapping both micro and macro capabilities?
- Who else should be engaged in promoting and supporting a fresh MDG programme? Is there scope for more celebrity ambassadors? Should all multinational companies be approached? Who or what are the best role models for a campaign of this magnitude?
- What are the inspiring success stories? This volume includes a number of them, but how can they be used to breathe dynamism into the next stage?
- How to instil a sense of accountability at both the government and individual level? The 2000 MDGs received the commitment of all UN Member States at the level of Head of State or Government, but converting that commitment into active and effective support fell at a number of hurdles in both donor and receiving countries. The task will be that much harder second time around.
- What effect will the evolving relationships at the world's top tables have on MDG delivery? Should the G20 be given the primary responsibility for holding all governments to account, or is that forum already showing signs of unwieldiness? Are there core groupings that will need to inject energy into the programme, such as the US-China relationship, or the G8, or a new ad hoc format for the new decade? Those with the greatest power tend to have such a crowded agenda of national concerns that they do not give development policy the necessary weight, while those with the greatest motivation do not own the instruments for delivery. There are parallels with the climate change issue here: so far the urgency has not struck the most capable countries, while the resources and the convening power are missing from the most vulnerable. How can the compelling interest for everyone best be formulated?
- Finally, what new ideas will carry resonance with the younger generation? Increasingly, not least because of their moral position as inheritors and their skill in utilising the social media, younger people project the strongest advocacy for issues such as development. A youth movement for MDG support, perhaps with a new name and image, could be an effective addition to the next programme. Educational curricula and civic responsibility agendas could also be adapted to support the new MDGs.

As so often, it will be no good hoping that the intrinsic worth of the development agenda over the next decade will sell itself. An enormous amount of hard work and coordinated organisation will be needed. A careful balance will also have to be struck between ambition and realism.

The most significant achievement would be to convince everyone that a new set of development goals is sensible self-interest. The contributors to this publication have made a strong start to that task. ■

Setting goals

Lord Mark Malloch-Brown was Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and coordinator of UN development activities when the MDGs were drawn up

The long drawn-out process of agreeing a set of successors to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is off to a much better start than anybody had a right to expect. A heavy process of consultation and political negotiation by the panel chaired by three national leaders, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia and David Cameron of the UK risked sinking under its own weight.

There was a danger that such a broad process might have caught everybody's pet cause in its net and created an unmanageable list of goals and aspirations. Instead, rather succinctly, it has added the issues of governance, conflict, inequality, environment and sustainability while steering away at this stage from proposing specific language for the goals themselves.

So far so good, but now the report will be subjected to several competing UN processes which could undo its admirable compactness and focus. And this is where the vulnerability of this exercise lies compared to the almost casual drafting of the first MDGs in 2000. Then, we had the advantage of obscurity. It was almost literally a handful of UN staffers locked away and drafting against a printer's deadline purloining from a set of International Development Goals that others had developed from the big international development conferences of the 1990s. The trouble was these goals were seen as very donor-centric. So we made some very UN additions, and omissions, to give them a more universal flavour.

In general though, our labours were complacently amateur. We did not foresee the weight of global expectations and policy ambition that our simple development tablets would subsequently carry. A few days after their adoption, I wrote an op-ed for the *International Herald Tribune* rather bravely claiming these goals would matter. I had to write it because the immediate wisdom was they wouldn't.

The general reaction was 'there they go again': the UN producing from deep inside some smoke-filled room its own top-down development edicts that did not have any popular legitimacy or even much development logic. Civil society was initially very opposed, as was the World Bank, a later adopter, worried about an attack on its own preferred ways of measuring outcomes.

But rather quickly it dawned on the early critics that these goals had quickly fulfilled a real need. Suddenly the development conversation moved from bickering about rival approaches and settled into a discussion of results. What best achieved the desired impacts in a particular country: more kids in school, less poverty and hunger or better healthcare? Debating about levels of state spending or user fees for health and education services did not end, but they became secondary as the debate moved to results.

And it was a debate that everybody could join in: from a poor citizen not getting these services, to his or her government prioritising their spending plans, to negotiations about the uses for debt relief or donor countries' cases to their own publics about more spending on aid. The acrimony and disagreement between countries, development organisations and academics that had dogged development discussions, together with a fundamental winter gloominess about progress, gave way to summer uplands where suddenly remarkable things seemed possible: where almost overnight the talk was not of aid failures but of development successes.

Very quickly the early informality of sketching out the goals – where we had almost at one point even forgotten to include an environmental goal – quickly started to gather official attention and get more formal. Groups of academics and policy-makers started to cost the goals and UN officials and diplomats started to negotiate more detailed targets and indicators to measure progress. The MDGs had started to gather an industry of conferences, reports and dedicated funds around them. The simple early days of their creation by stealth were gone.

But it remained pretty straightforward compared to the veritable labyrinth of processes that the development of the successor MDGs must now follow. Little point perhaps in my very un-UN advice to today's drafters: keep it simple. ■

Suddenly the development conversation moved from bickering about rival approaches and settled into a discussion of results



■ **US President Bill Clinton addresses the UN General Assembly in September 2000, during the UN Millennium Summit**

© Reuters



© UNICEF/Grarup

Children play on the ruins of a building in Badbado, the largest camp for displaced people in Mogadishu, the Somalian capital. The devastation rendered by decades of conflict and insecurity has reached debilitating proportions

Conflict and poverty: a vicious cycle

Fragile states have struggled to make progress on the Millennium Development Goals. A post-2015 development agenda needs to implement the conflict prevention and diplomacy tools that will be essential in ensuring that these states can work towards long-term peace and prosperity

By **Dr Abiodun Williams**,
President, The Hague Institute for Global Justice

Since the Millennium Summit 13 years ago, significant progress has been made towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that world leaders established. Improvements in access to education, dramatic reductions in child and maternal mortality and decreased poverty and hunger are a credit to the vision of the framers of the MDGs.

Yet one of the major impediments to development was largely unaddressed by these goals. As the 2015 deadline for the original goals looms, and as states, development organisations and civil society consider the framework that will replace them, violent conflict remains the major impediment to development progress in many countries.

Persistent insecurity has increased the gap between 'fragile states', caught in vicious cycles of conflict and underdevelopment, and countries whose



progress towards the MDGs reflects their ascent to middle income status. Although progress has been made since the World Bank's observation, in its 2011 World Development Report, that no fragile state was on track to meet a single MDG, the gap between conflict-affected countries and the 'rising rest' remains stark. Across the eight goals, achievement rates in conflict-affected and fragile states lag between 40 and 60 per cent behind middle-income countries (with conflict-affected states accounting, for example, for 72 per cent of the deficit towards achieving the goal on child mortality).[1]

Conflict has a corrosive effect on development. Indeed, it has famously been framed as 'development in reverse',[2] eradicating decades of progress in a short span of time. Although the causal linkages between conflict and development are complex and contested, there is widespread agreement that the outbreak, or even the risk, of conflict inhibits development and that poverty in turn exacerbates the risk of conflict.[3]

The direct costs of conflict are enormous. One influential study estimates the cost of an average civil war at around $54 billion,[4] while the Geneva Declaration puts the costs of conflict in Africa between 1990 and 2005 at $300 billion, a figure equivalent to

Conflict has a corrosive effect on development... eradicating decades of progress in a short time

the flows of international aid to the region during the same period.[5] The effects of such economic losses on human development are enormous: conflicts cost 7.9 million lives each year[6] and, according to the 2005 Human Development Report: "Violent conflict is one of the surest and fastest routes to the bottom of the Human Development Index – and one of the strongest indicators of a protracted stay there."[7]

Recent scholarship suggests that a medium-sized conflict will increase undernourishment by 3.3 per cent, increase infant mortality by 10 per cent and deprive an additional 1.8 per cent of the population from access to potable water.[8]

Conflicts do not only incur direct developmental losses by fanning the flames of hunger, poverty and disease, they have structural effects which stymie development in the longer term. State capacity is devastated, preventing governments from delivering basic services and investing in the future, and encouraging reliance on primary commodities.

Private investment is also likely to dry up. Furthering the cyclical relationship between poverty and conflict, poor levels of human capital can increase conflict risks, while conflict is likely to degrade vital health and education infrastructure.[9] Moreover, perhaps the most grievous legacy of conflict is the extent to which it increases the likelihood of future hostilities. Prior incidence of conflict is a major determinant of future violence, with half of all post-conflict countries relapsing within a decade.[10]

Effective engagement

The international community has made important strides in enhancing the conflict-sensitivity of development programming, as well as investing in conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

Progress has been made at the normative level, fuelled by enhanced empirical data on the effects of conflict on development, and driven by a generation of political will. A 'culture of prevention'[11] has, for example, increasingly been translated from a UN aspiration to a proactive policy of Member States, regional organisations and civil society organisations. The recognition, in the 2005 World Summit, of a 'Responsibility to Protect', was also an important step towards a human security basis for both peace and development.

The role of local peacebuilders in conflict areas

By Carolyn Hayman OBE, Chief Executive, Peace Direct

Abiodun Williams admirably lays out the costs of conflict and the impact conflict has had on the failure to achieve MDGs. Importantly, he draws attention to the need for genuine local ownership of development and peacebuilding strategies, and for "broad-based participation of local actors". In this context it is worth considering the role of local peacebuilders in conflict areas.

Most conflicts now have a very strong local dimension. Conflicts are about local issues such as identity (ethnic, religious or political); resources (land and water); the bumpy transition from dictatorship, which may be viewed differently in different parts of a country; or the return of refugees – there are 45 million refugees and displaced people across the world.[1] So dealing with conflict also needs to recognise the essential role played by local peacebuilding organisations, in civilian protection, mediation, reconciliation, rapid response or reintegration of ex-combatants. These are just some of the tasks undertaken by local peacebuilders daily, at great personal risk, in different conflicts.

Their work is often regarded, if noticed at all, as 'well-meaning, but too small to count'. Peace Direct's experience refutes this. Our partner in North Kivu, DRC, the Centre Résolution Conflits, has pioneered a model of community-based reintegration of ex-combatants which has dealt with thousands of former fighters over the last four years, and has been recognised as the model for a large-scale reintegration project linked to the newly created UN Intervention Brigade. The link with development is clear, through long-term sustainable livelihoods and a host of community development initiatives.[2]

Such organisations exist everywhere where there is conflict. Peace Direct's recent competition for 'Tomorrow's Peacebuilders' drew 245 entries from 54 countries, from Azerbaijan to Zambia.[3] While they cannot stand against a politician bent on making war on his own people, they can and do train people to resist the incitement to violence that is the principal tool in such situations. The largest number of entries came from Kenya, a country where many local initiatives to counter violence helped to prevent the recurrence of election-related violence in the 2013 elections.

To reduce the level of violence in the world, and give development a chance, we need to recognise and support the best of these local peacebuilding initiatives. We need a large quantum of funding, provided in small packets, that meets the needs of the organisations themselves as well as of donors: long-term, consistent, encouraging collaboration, not competition, and locally led.

If a significant commitment of this kind forms part of the next generation of global development goals, there is a chance that they will succeed. Without it, they will likely continue to fail.

1 Message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, on World Refugee Day, 20 June 2013.
2 See *Coming Home: A Case Study of Community Led Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration in DR Congo*, Peace Direct, London 2011.
3 Tomorrow's Peacebuilders, www.insightonconflict.org/2013/08/competition-shortlist.

To be effective, conflict prevention must be a priority for all actors in conflict environments at all stages in the conflict cycle. As conflicts are increasingly viewed in terms of complex systems, with any intervention affecting the incentives of warring factions, there is increasing acknowledgment that the boundaries between primary prevention (preventing onset) and secondary prevention (preventing continuation or relapse) have blurred. The field of peacebuilding, traditionally seen in terms of post-conflict reconstruction, is, for example, building on the insights of conflict prevention, especially by enhancing its focus on the *politics* of prevention, rather than viewing activities in narrow technical terms.

Preventive initiatives

Greater understanding of the devastating toll that violent conflicts wreak on societies and their developmental aspirations has encouraged the international community to invest in tools that have long been underutilised. Preventive diplomacy, conceived initially by Dag Hammarskjöld, is one such instrument and was the centrepiece of an international preventive effort to head off violence during the referendum on South Sudanese independence in January 2011.

The qualified success in Sudan rested on three factors: a discrete event that risked triggering major violence; the history of conflict in Sudan, which raised fears of a long and bloody war; and the atrocities in Sudan's Darfur region, which had generated sufficient public outcry to force the situation onto the international political agenda. Preventive initiatives can also involve limited deployments of a UN force, as in the case of the UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) mission in Macedonia, in which I served. By leveraging political resolve, sharing knowledge in a timely way and coordinating international efforts, UNPREDEP provides a model for forestalling conflict in a high-risk environment.

The deployment and renewal of a preventive mission requires substantial political will. More often, peacekeeping forces are deployed to oversee post-conflict peacebuilding with the aim of preventing a recurrence of hostilities. Here, too, the ledger of success is increasing. Following the failure of an earlier observer mission in Sierra Leone, the deployment of the UN Mission there, in 1999, was instrumental in the implementation of the Lomé Peace Accord. The peacekeeping force took a leading role in the demobilisation and disarmament of former combatants and in rebuilding trust in a society long fractured by war.

Although any intervention must be context-specific, there is growing understanding of the factors necessary to prevent conflict and its recurrence. Alongside physical security, fostering the rule of law is particularly important to ensure inclusion of all parties in a post-conflict environment and to regenerate trust

in state institutions, an imperative recognised by the former representative of the international community in Bosnia, Paddy Ashdown, who observed: "In hindsight, we should have put the establishment of the rule of law first, for everything else depends on it: a functioning economy, a free and fair political system, the development of civil society, public confidence in police and the courts."[12]

Addressing future conflicts

Notwithstanding the progress many countries have made towards realising the MDGs, the glaring current gaps in performance are due in large part to the devastating role conflict plays in frustrating development and in reversing gains. Any successor regime to the MDGs must, therefore, have conflict-sensitivity at its core.

While an agenda for conflict prevention has gathered steam over the past decade, this has largely been a separate imperative to pursuit of the MDGs. Indeed, despite recognition of the importance of peace and security in the Millennium Declaration, the goals themselves eschewed a focus on conflict. There is growing recognition that any new framework must not repeat this error. The recent High-Level Panel Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda calls for direct action, recognising that "freedom from conflict is the most fundamental human entitlement, and the essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies."[13]

This vision is in keeping with the founding principles of the United Nations. Indeed, the imperative of preventing deadly conflict is as urgent now as in 1945. To cultivate the conditions necessary for sustainable development, further investment is necessary in conflict prevention tools that recognise the multi-dimensional drivers of contemporary conflicts. Such tools include early warning mechanisms, regulation of conflict commodities and the international arms trade. At the same time, the wealth of actors involved in fragile and conflict-affected states must show greater awareness of the 'politics of prevention'. Development actors whose programmes have significant local political impacts have too often viewed their activities technocratically. Political understanding also stems from genuine local ownership, an imperative that has gained traction as a result of the New Deal for Fragile States, driven by the g7+ group of countries.

Just as the New Deal recognises the need for more accountability from donors to host country governments, so must authorities in fragile states increasingly ensure the broad-based participation of local actors. As well as building more stable societies, such approaches address the root causes of conflicts, including by ensuring equal access to the rule of law.

Regardless of its economic implications, a more peaceful world is an aspiration worth pursuing. That peace is intricately linked to prosperity, which makes the prevention of deadly conflict an even more pressing aim. ■



© Reuters

■ A girl waits to get water from a well in El-Halaba, on the rural desert outskirts of the White Nile, Sudan. The atrocities in Sudan's Darfur region generated sufficient public outcry to force the situation onto the international political agenda

1 *Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Dialogue*, *Conflict, Fragility and Armed Violence are the Major Factors Preventing the Achievement of the MDGs* (undated). Accessed via www.pbsbdialogue.org/documentupload/46006119.pdf

2 Collier, Paul, *Development and Conflict*. Paper for the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Department of Economics, Oxford University, 1 October, 2004.

3 Research by Paul Collier suggests a 1 per cent chance of a country with per capita GDP of $5,000 experiencing civil war within five years compared to a 15 per cent chance for a country with $250 per capita GDP

4 Ibid.

5 Geneva Declaration, *Armed Violence Prevention and Reduction: A challenge for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, Background paper, June 2008.

6 World Bank, World Development Report: *Conflict, Security and Development*, 2011.

7 United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report: *International cooperation at a crossroads: aid, trade and security in an unequal world*, 2005.

8 Gates, Scott et al., *Development Consequences of Armed Conflict*. World Development Report 40(9), 2012.

9 Humphreys, Mccartan and Varshney, Ashutosh, *Violent Conflict and the Millennium Development Goals; Diagnosis and Recommendations*. Draft report prepared for the meeting of the MDG Poverty Task Force Workshop, Bangkok, 2004.

10 World Bank, World Development Report, 2011.

11 Report of the Secretary-General on Preventing Deadly Conflict, 2001.

12 Ashdown, Paddy, 'What I Learned in Bosnia'. *New York Times*, 28 October, 2002.

13 *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development:* Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, May 2013, p.9.



© Alex Craig/Getty

Opposite: slums sit in the shadow of new high-rise developments in the Indian city of Mumbai

Economic growth must be equitable

Economic growth has driven much of the success of the MDGs, but growth on its own is not sufficient. Inequality undermines progress and reducing it must be an essential pillar of the new framework

By **Jaime Saavedra Chanduvi**, Director, Poverty Reduction & Equity and **Jeffrey D. Lewis**, Director, Economic Policy, Debt & Trade, World Bank

The Millennium Declaration endorsed by 189 world leaders at the UN in 2000 committed both developed and developing countries to working in partnership towards a set of critical development outcomes. Those commitments were embodied in the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015, supported by quantified targets and indicators measuring progress since 1990. Since then, tremendous global progress has been made on the MDGs. Already MDG 1 on halving the 1990 extreme poverty rate has been met.

While recognising the importance of the substantive progress that has been made toward the MDGs, it is important to also acknowledge how broadly they have affected the economic development paradigm.

First, they aligned the development community's efforts to eradicate poverty, reducing fragmentation in donor and government programmes, which had long stymied the effectiveness of their efforts.

Second, the MDGs were bold in their level of commitment – rather than just a collection of abstract goals, they represent instead a set of quantified promises, historic in their range and in the challenge of reaching them.

The MDGs also reflected an evolution in the relevance of sustained economic growth. Though economic growth does not feature explicitly in the MDGs, it arguably underpins many of the Goals, generating income earning opportunities through jobs, and creating the financial support for social programmes needed for both poverty alleviation and for creating opportunities for all, such as improved education, health and access to other vital services. The domestic resources that are generated through strong economic growth are essential to reach MDG commitments, such as improving maternal health, combating infectious disease and reducing child mortality. Achievement of the MDGs is impossible without strong and sustained economic growth.

Ending poverty, boosting prosperity

However, while broad-based economic growth is essential for reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs, it is not a sufficient way to end poverty in all its dimensions. Indeed, the evidence on growth and poverty reduction worldwide shows a relationship that is strong but not deterministic, with similar growth outcomes leading to widely divergent impacts on disadvantaged and impoverished groups. Consequently, policy prescriptions aimed primarily at raising economic growth as the key strategy for reducing poverty will not be uniformly effective.

Looking ahead, it is important for the development community to focus its efforts not only on promoting economic growth, but also on the twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. Indeed, shared prosperity should be viewed as an equally important essential and totally intertwined with the goal of ending extreme poverty.

These goals are a reminder of the fact that the empirical relationship between growth and equity remains unclear. Even in countries where rapid growth has lowered overall poverty rates, income inequality has often widened substantially.

In fact, 75 per cent of the world's poverty reduction in the last two decades has come from countries where income inequality has grown.[1] This demonstrates that rapid growth has contributed substantially to the past poverty reduction.

Though economic growth does not feature explicitly in the MDGs, it arguably underpins many of the Goals



© Getty

Istanbul: A Kurdish child flashes a victory sign while demonstrators wave a flag picturing jailed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan, during a demonstration for women rights and education in their mother language. A determined focus is needed to ensure that sections of the population are not excluded from economic and social opportunities based on their gender, ethnicity or socio-economic background

However, World Bank research shows that even if growth rates remain high in developing countries, their effect on poverty levels will diminish over time, as those who have traditionally been unable to benefit from growth in the past become even less likely to do so in the future.

It should be noted that no country has yet transitioned to high-income status while maintaining high levels of inequality. Furthermore, uneven growth from which large swathes of the population are excluded has led to political instability and upheaval in many areas of the world, with governments being held accountable by their citizens for the continued inequality of opportunity faced by the least advantaged.

It seems clear therefore that for growth to be sustainable and truly effective in reducing poverty in the long-term, it has to be inclusive in nature.

Moral imperative

Without a determined focus on shared prosperity, the economic and social opportunities of some will continue to be limited by accident of birth, based on their gender, ethnicity or socio-economic background. Therefore, there is a moral imperative to level the playing field for these people. Inclusive growth should be promoted and inequality of opportunities should be addressed, thereby ensuring that all people are offered the same chances to make the most of their lives, unlimited by social status, race or gender.

These efforts will allow disadvantaged people to finally escape the hold of the inter-generational poverty trap, creating a virtuous cycle of inclusive growth, beneficial to all levels of society. Furthermore, those who have recently been lifted from below the poverty line by new growth remain extremely vulnerable to national and global shocks and downturns.

In order to ensure that the needs of those who remain below or perilously close to the poverty line are met and that the cycle of poverty is destroyed, inequality reduction must be an essential pillar of the post-2015 agenda.

To ensure that the cycle of poverty is destroyed, inequality reduction must be an essential pillar of the post-2015 agenda

This pledge to combat inequity will require new ways of thinking about measuring progress toward the MDGs. Monitoring averages is not enough. It is necessary to consider not only average rates, but more specifically what is the progress on the MDGs among specific disadvantaged groups, or among, say, the bottom 40 per cent.

This measure is a proxy for gauging improvements in welfare of the less well-off. For instance, though it is a positive outcome if average maternal mortality rates fall, there is no assurance that inequality has been reduced if rates remain stagnant among the bottom 40 per cent or if there is a large variance among ethnic groups, regions or children from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

If the welfare of the bottom 40 per cent rises, whether in terms of reduced child mortality, lowered HIV rates, improved education or income growth, this ensures that growth and poverty reduction are both inclusive and sustainable. Therefore it is vital that equity considerations are included as a development goal in the discussion of the post-2015 agenda.

Efforts underway to define the post-2015 development framework offer a unique opportunity for the global community to address the dual goals of poverty reduction and shared prosperity. By drawing together the post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals processes, the ongoing UN-led effort can create a single agenda around which stakeholders can coalesce.

With commitment to the updated focus of the post-2015 framework, huge strides can be made toward the goals of sustainable extreme poverty reduction and shared prosperity. ■

1 Olinto, Pedro; Saavedra, Jaime; and Lara-Ibarra, Gabriel 2013. *Accelerating Poverty Reduction in a Less Poor World: The Roles of Growth and Inequality*. Paper Prepared for the IARIW-IBGE Conference on Income, Wealth and Well-Being in Latin America. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11-14 September, 2013. www.iariw.org/papers/2013/OlintoPaper.pdf.



KARL BUTT
Anglo American, Australia

We have always believed one of the greatest contributions a mining company can make is to fulfil the ambitions of the communities around our mines.

So each year, all around the world, we help thousands of local entrepreneurs realise their dreams.

From engineers to artists, florists to fruit farmers; they don't have to come with a grand plan, just plenty of passion.

And it's not simply finance we provide; we mentor, support and encourage them, so they have the best opportunity to make their business a success.

It's smart mining that benefits all.

www.angloamerican.com

FRESH BREAD, FRESH FLOWERS, FRESH FRUIT, JUST A FEW BY-PRODUCTS OF MINING

AngloAmerican

Real Mining. Real People. Real Difference.

Development as freedom

The glaring omission of human rights from the MDG framework has contributed to inequitable development in many countries. Human rights must be integral to the post-2015 agenda

By **David Mepham**, UK Director of Human Rights Watch

The UN-led process to agree a post-2015 development agenda and new global development goals should be used to build support for a broader conception of development, defined not as economic growth per se or even as progress against education and health indicators, but rather as the creation of conditions in which people everywhere can realise their basic rights and fundamental freedoms – economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political ones.

Despite real development progress over the last few decades, to which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have contributed, the neglect and marginalisation of human rights in the MDG framework and in many development programmes and strategies has had harmful consequences.

A lack of focus on human rights is one explanation for why development progress has not been more inclusive and equitable in many countries. Poor people are frequently denied the benefits of economic progress or access to resources or services because of discrimination linked to their gender, ethnicity,



Children of the Karo tribe play in an area overlooking the Omo River, near the village of Kolcho in South Omo Zone in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region of Ethiopia. The Karo, semi-nomadic agro-pastoralists, have suffered abuse under the government's 'villagisation' programme

© UNICEF/Getachew

religion, caste, political opinion, HIV status, sexual orientation or disability. For example, the original MDG targets made no reference to disability, although work has since been undertaken to include it in reporting and data collection. Human Rights Watch's research on education in Nepal has documented widespread discrimination experienced by children with disabilities, who are prevented from getting access to school and realising their right to education. Similarly, the Overseas Development Institute has produced a recent report suggesting that two-thirds of the world's poorest people live in households headed by members of an ethnic minority. Of course, this unwillingness to address sensitive and politically charged human rights issues could have existed even in the absence of any MDG framework. But because the MDGs set no goals or targets on these types of issues, there has been no accountability or incentive for national governments, bilateral donors or international financial institutions to address them.

Poor people are also often harmed by policies carried out in the name of economic modernisation and development. Human Rights Watch has uncovered some clear examples of this. For instance, in the Gambella region of Ethiopia we have documented serious human rights abuses associated with the government's so-called villagisation programme. This programme is justified by the government in development terms – transferring 1.5 million people in five regions from their existing homes to new villages, where they are promised improved infrastructure and better services. The scheme is also described as a voluntary one. However, our research on the first year of the programme in the Gambella region found that people were forced to move against their will and that government security forces beat and abused those who objected. Fear and intimidation were widespread among affected populations. Moreover, in the new villages, promised services were often not provided.

These examples illustrate some of the dangers of an overly narrow or technical approach to development, which ignores the rights dimension. Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa are also highly relevant in this respect. Up until the start of their popular uprising in early 2011, a country like Tunisia, for example, was viewed by many in development institutions as an international poster-child for the MDGs, a country making rapid progress against some of the MDG goals. But for many Tunisians, this progress was clearly not enough – higher incomes did not compensate for the ills and costs of corruption, repression, inequality and powerlessness, nor satisfy their aspirations for greater justice, freedom and dignity. There are important lessons here and elsewhere in the region that should be reflected in a post-2015 global development framework.



Poor people are often harmed by policies carried out in the name of economic modernisation and development

Making human rights more integral to development policy and practice, and to new global development goals and targets, would have several substantive benefits. Importantly, it would encourage a focus on the poorest and most marginalised communities – those overlooked by many mainstream development interventions – and help to promote more inclusive development outcomes. While most development indicators and the MDGs themselves measure development progress in terms of averages or aggregates, a human rights framework requires

policymakers to address the condition of those at the very bottom, as well as the reasons for their marginalisation, including formal and informal structures of inequality and discrimination. It would also facilitate the practical participation of poor and marginalised people in the development process itself, allowing them to help shape policy and programmatic responses that enhance their status, rights and opportunities.

A rights approach to development would strengthen accountability – another deficiency in the current MDG framework – by helping to clarify responsibilities for the delivery of economic and social change, as well as the creation of mechanisms through which the claims of the poor and the marginalised can be better addressed. And a development framework grounded in human rights – with an emphasis on transparency, access to information and media freedom – would make it easier to know what those with power are doing, allowing journalists and others to uncover abuses and creating space for public debate about better development outcomes.

A rights approach to development would strengthen accountability – another deficiency in the current MDG framework

■ **Workers protest after a devastating fire in a garment factory in Savar, Bangladesh in November 2012, which killed more than 100 people. On 24 April 2013, a fire swept through a garment workshop in Dhaka, killing more than 1,100 people in one of the world's worst-ever industrial disasters. Corporations must be made accountable for their impact on society and the environment**



© Reuters

Although the process for agreeing on a post-2015 development agenda has two years still to run, there are tentative grounds for optimism in respect of how human rights issues will be addressed in any new agreement. Support for rights has emerged as a high priority among civil society participants in the UN-sponsored global thematic consultations and the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, published in May 2013, contains some strong references to human rights, good governance and the rule of law. Over the next year, it will be important to build on this momentum, working for a new global development framework where human rights are given priority and fully integrated. This is particularly necessary in the following three areas.

First, a new global development framework should set goals and targets for eliminating discrimination against members of marginalised groups, alongside commitments to improve the conditions of the most vulnerable and marginalised. As a precondition for this, it will be necessary to fully disaggregate data on development, so as to measure the differential impact of development policies on different groups, for example women or ethnic minorities.

Second, the framework should commit national governments and donors to uphold key civil and political freedoms, including freedom of speech and association, the right to peaceful protest and access to independent media and information, with independent monitoring of their policies in this area by the UN human rights treaty bodies and relevant UN Special Rapporteurs.

Third, there should be a mandatory requirement on corporations to report on the human rights impact of their work and for governments to ensure that corporations registered in their jurisdiction act in accordance with international human rights law. To date, there has been a lot of discussion about the role of the private sector as the motor of growth and development, but almost none about corporate accountability.

Within the international human rights movement, there are some concerns about focusing too much on the instrumental value of human rights to development outcomes. Human rights are to be valued and advanced for their own sake, it is said, and governments have existing legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfil them. Indeed so. But it is also important to demonstrate to the wider development community how the fuller integration of human rights can contribute to improved outcomes, promoting a form of development that is more inclusive and sustainable, precisely because it is rights-respecting.

The lead-up to 2015, when the focus and parameters of the new development framework will be discussed at several meetings, offers a critical opportunity for making this case. ■



Fighting Hunger Worldwide

Last year, WFP reached more than 97 million people in 80 countries with food assistance.

As the UN's frontline agency fighting hunger, WFP bridges relief and recovery. We feed the hungry after disasters, then provide a nutritional safety net such as food for work or free school meals, which helps communities build a better future.

To learn more about our work, visit wfp.org

WFP
World Food Programme
wfp.org

Join us on Facebook

follow us @WFP

The relationship between governance and progress



© Reuters

Current measures of 'good governance' have shown only weak correlation with MDG progress. So why does the UN High-Level Panel place governance at the heart of the post-2015 framework?

By **Alina Rocha Menocal** and **Leni Wild**, Research Fellows, Politics and Governance Programme, Overseas Development Institute

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been an influential framework for global development cooperation, shaping the international discourse and driving the allocation of resources towards key global development priorities. They have received unprecedented political commitment and reflect a strong consensus for tackling poverty and other development problems.

An essential component of their strength and appeal is that they embody clear and concrete goals with measurable targets and indicators on social sectors like health and education. However, the MDG framework is silent on governance,[1] which today is widely considered as a critical factor in enabling development and making the attainment of the Goals possible in the first place.[2]

In recognition of this, the UN High-Level Panel's Report on the Post-2015 Development Framework places institutions at the centre of its analysis of what is needed to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. Arguing that good governance is a core element of well-being, and not an optional extra, the High-Level Panel went further than many had expected and proposed a standalone governance goal with range of possible indicators. This awareness goes hand in hand with the emerging debate on the role of peace and security for a post-2015 framework too. Again, attention is now being paid to the impacts of a lack of peace and security for MDG attainment, as most fragile states will not meet their MDG commitments.[3] Yet while the case for recognising the importance of governance for the post-2015 agenda has been well received, key questions – and tensions – remain in determining how to operationalise this within a future framework.

As a growing body of research suggests, governance structures and dynamics are essential in shaping development outcomes, and they help explain why countries with comparable resources or levels of development have made varying progress in meeting the MDGs. For instance, while it is a controversial

Masai wait to cast ballot papers outside a polling station during the presidential and parliamentary elections near the town of Magadi, south of Kenyan capital Nairobi, in March 2013. Democracy on its own has not demonstrated that it inevitably yields progress on the MDGs

case, Rwanda has made considerable strides in maternal health, linked to forms of governance that allow for both top-down and bottom-up monitoring, which build on existing local mechanisms for user feedback and redress. Conversely, governance gaps such as lack of policy coherence and accountability for performance have contributed to an under-provision of maternal health services in countries such as Malawi, Uganda and Niger.[4]

In addition, as some analysts have argued, the MDGs' blindness to politics and governance (including human rights) has reinforced a lack of attention to issues of inequality, power relations and gaps in reaching the most marginalised.[5] Indeed, the technocratic approach of the MDGs to targets and indicators has been recognised as masking wide inequalities on the ground, which are often identity-based and deeply entrenched in existing power structures and institutional dynamics.[6]

This makes addressing issues of social exclusion and the marginalisation of particular groups, communities and regions particularly challenging[7] – a concern highlighted by the High-Level Panel.

The good governance agenda

Effective and legitimate institutions therefore appear to be an integral part of development progress. Yet, there is much less agreement on exactly what 'effective' and 'legitimate' institutions might look like in different contexts and how they influence development. Indeed, current international measures of 'good governance' (such as the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators) show a weak causal relationship with progress on MDGs: countries ranging from Brazil to Indonesia, from China to Vietnam have all achieved significant improvements against the MDGs, yet they vary considerably on how they score on different elements of the 'good governance' agenda.[8]

This suggests that the good governance agenda may not necessarily capture those governance factors that seem most important to development [9, 10, 11]. Crucial institutional variables that have often been overlooked in international development policymaking circles include: the nature of the political settlement and political 'rules of the game' whether there is committed political leadership and well organised political parties (in both democratic and hegemonic party states); and accountability relationships that link citizens, service providers and political representatives, beyond just the holding of elections.[12]

Another key dimension is state capacity and capabilities. This includes whether policies are

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) provides an annual assessment of governance performance in Africa

Consisting of 88 indicators drawn from 23 independent international data providers, the IIAG is the most comprehensive collection of data on African governance.

The data are classified within four categories:

- Safety & Rule of Law
- Participation & Human Rights
- Sustainable Economic Opportunity
- Human Development

2012 IIAG country rankings

Rank		Score (out of 100)	Rank		Score (out of 100)
1st	Mauritius	83	28th	Niger	50
2nd	Cape Verde	78	29th	Djibouti	49
3rd	Botswana	77	30th	Sierra Leone	48
4th	Seychelles	73	31st	Comoros	48
5th	South Africa	71	32nd	Mauritania	48
6th	Namibia	70	33rd	Ethiopia	47
7th	Ghana	66	34th	Liberia	47
8th	Tunisia	63	35th	Madagascar	46
9th	Lesotho	61	36th	Cameroon	45
10th	Tanzania	59	37th	Burundi	45
11th	São Tomé & Príncipe	58	38th	Libya	44
			39th	Togo	44
12th	Zambia	58	40th	Angola	44
13th	Benin	58	41st	Congo	43
14th	Egypt	58	42nd	Guinea	43
15th	Morocco	57	43rd	Nigeria	42
16th	Senegal	56	44th	Equatorial Guinea	41
17th	Malawi	56			
18th	Burkina Faso	55	45th	Guinea-Bissau	40
19th	Uganda	55	46th	Côte d'Ivoire	39
20th	Mali	55	47th	Zimbabwe	34
21st	Mozambique	55	48th	Central African Republic	34
22nd	Gabon	54			
23rd	Rwanda	53	49th	Eritrea	33
24th	Algeria	53	50th	Chad	33
25th	Kenya	53	51st	Congo, . Democratic Rep	33
26th	Swaziland	52			
27th	Gambia	52	52nd	Somalia	7

A full list of sources can be found at www.moibrahimfoundation.org/iiag-methodology.

The 2013 rankings will be released on 14 October.



© UNICEF/Noorani

Rwandan women being vaccinated against maternal-neonatal tetanus. The effective combination of governance and monitoring has contributed to the considerable success Rwanda has had in improving maternal health

coherent and can be implemented, and whether there are effective systems for monitoring performance – and sanctioning poor performance.[13]

The need to identify measures which more closely reflect actual experience of governance and development is being recognised in some proposals for post-2015, although more conventional – and more normative – measures are also being put forward. These more grounded proposals aim to capture key governance functions and state-society dynamics, rather than being prescriptive about particular institutional forms.

For instance, one proposed target is the provision of free and individual legal identity. This does not specify a particular institutional form, but it serves as a good indicator of state capacity due to the complexity and organisational capacity needed to guarantee identity, and reveals a lot about the ability of citizens to count – in accessing services and being able to vote, for example.[14] Another is the focus on improving access to government data, which recognises the role that information can play in facilitating access to services, although its impact and relevance will depend on key contextual factors, including relative power dynamics. Improved tax regimes – not necessarily in terms of collection rates, but rather of how progressive or regressive the tax system is, and how it elicits compliance – is a third idea that focuses on the underlying drivers of state-society relations rather than being prescriptive about the form these should take, although concrete ideas on indicators have yet to emerge.

Lack of agreement

The High-Level Panel stresses that "goals and targets should reflect what people want, without dictating how they should get there." But for governance issues, this presents a paradox, as it has proved particularly difficult to separate the 'what' from the 'how'.[15] Indeed, the lack of agreement on what governance factors matter most when and where reflects that this is a very politically charged arena. Identifying a governance goal for the initial MDG process was not possible, in large part because of political reservations about encroaching on the domain of national governments, but also due to the perception that the governance agenda driven by the international development community is overly normative and prescriptive.[16]

New ideas are emerging that aim to set targets for particular functions or underlying drivers rather than offering prescriptions on what these should look like. But political sensitivities remain as relevant as they were when the MDGs were originally formulated. How these will play out in the political arena which will ultimately decide the post-2015 framework, and whether countries from around the world will be able to agree on questions of 'how' to set governance goals, remains to be seen. ■

1 While governance concerns were debated in the formulation of the MDGs – and are mentioned in the preamble – they were not included in specific targets.

2, 16 Bergh, G., Foresti, M., Rocha Menocal, A. and Wild, L. (2012) *Building governance into a post-2015 framework: Exploring transparency and accountability as an entry point*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

3 Denney, L (2013) *Consulting the evidence: How conflict and violence can best be included in the post-2015 development agenda*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

4 Chambers, V. and Booth, D. (2012) *Delivering maternal health: Why is Rwanda doing better than Malawi, Niger and Uganda?* ODI Briefing Paper. London: Overseas Development Institute.

5 Darrow, M. (2012) 'The Millennium Development Goals: Milestones or Millstones? Human Rights Priorities for the Post-2015 Agenda'. *Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal*, Vol. XV, March.

6 Stewart, F. and Brown, G. (2009) 'Fragile States'. *CRISE Policy Paper 51*. Oxford: Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE), Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.

7 Melamed, C. (2012) *Putting inequality in the post-2015 picture*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

8, 10, 15 Rocha Menocal, A. (2013) *Governance and Growth: Institutions, yes, but which ones*? Report prepared for the World Bank, London: Overseas Development Institute.

9 Booth, D. (2012) *Development as a collective action problem: Addressing the real challenges of African governance*. APPP Synthesis Paper. London: Africa Power and Politics Programme.

11, 12 Rocha Menocal, A. (2013b) 'Governance in post-2015: Squaring the circle?' *The Broker Online*, www.thebrokeronline.eu/Blogs/Post-2015-shaping-a-global-agenda/Squaring-the-circle.

13 Wild, L., Chambers, V., King, M. and Harris, D. (2012) *Common Constraints and Incentive Problems in Service Delivery*, Working Paper 351, London: Overseas Development Institute.

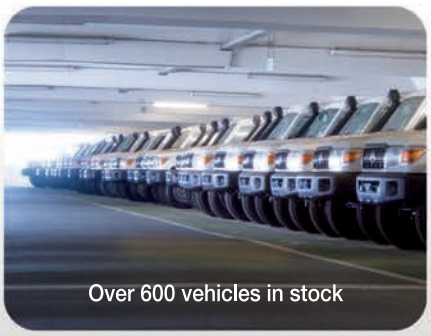
14 Andrews, M. (2012) *Birth registration rates as a governance indicator* (23 October) http://matthewandrews.typepad.com/mattandrews/2012/10/b.html

TOYOTA

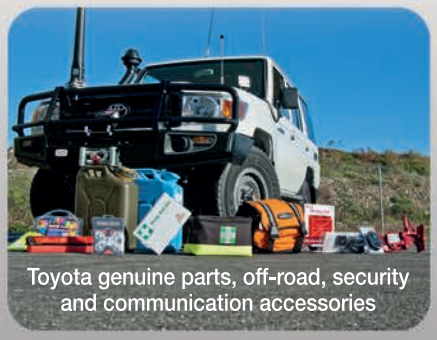
GIBRALTAR STOCKHOLDINGS LTD

Agents for
Toyota Motor Europe NV/SA





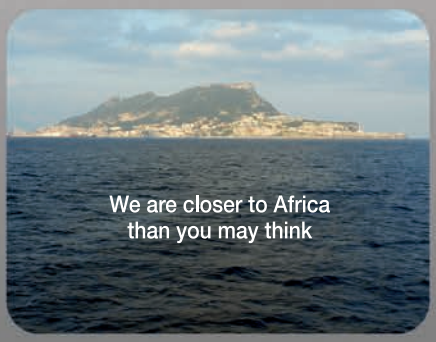














Toyota's official supplier of 4x4 ex-stock Toyota vehicles and spare parts to the UN and Aid and Humanitarian agencies working in rapid relief, emergency and development projects worldwide.

Toyota Gibraltar Stockholdings Ltd
PO Box 176, 40 Devil's Tower Road, Gibraltar
Tel: +350 200 59100 | Fax: +350 200 46262 | E-mail: sales@toyota-gib.com

Find us on YouTube **www.toyota-gib.com**

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

URS is a member of Registrar of Standards (Holdings) Ltd.



© Reuters

The end of the line

Population growth and increasing consumption due to rapid economic growth in developing countries are straining the planet's physical limits. Future development will have to follow a radically different course

By **Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs**, UN Special Advisor on the MDGs; Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network; Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University

Even in the age of bits, bytes and synthetic biology, human beings and human society owe our lives and livelihoods to the physical earth. While half the planet lives in cities, and may sometimes believe that food grows in supermarkets, our sustenance depends on soils, water, biodiversity and marine ecosystems. All are under unprecedented threat.

Humanity is on a long-foretold collision course with the planet. Thomas Robert Malthus warned us in 1798 to take care: improvements in productivity will only raise living standards if population increases do not absorb the higher production. When Malthus wrote his famous warning, the world population was around 900 million. Today it is eight times greater, at 7.2 billion. By the end of the century, according to the medium-fertility forecast of the UN, the population will rise to 10.8 billion. How will those people live?

Forty-one years ago, a momentous event occurred in the life of the planet, and another one occurred in the life of this author. The global event was the Stockholm Conference on Environment and Development, a watershed in modern geopolitics. The world was put on notice: we must manage the world economy in harmony with the natural



Children play soccer in a slum on the outskirts of São Paulo, Brazil

environment, or face dire threats in the future. The very local event was my personal entry into the field of economics as a freshman in college. Like many US students of my day, I was told about Malthus mainly to be informed that his pessimism had been vanquished by an unrelenting wave of technological advance. Man's ingenuity, we were told in full confidence, could overcome anything as simple as a natural resource limit.

Well, matters have gotten a lot more complicated since then. The planet's population continued to increase rapidly, albeit at a diminishing proportionate rate. The world economy also soared. Technological breakthroughs in the high-income world offered the opportunity for rapid growth for the developing countries as well. An era of convergence got underway, with many poorer countries growing much faster than richer countries as they narrowed the technology gap. These success stories, in growing numbers, have become known as the emerging economies.

All of this is exciting from the point of view of economic development, but it has become alarming from the point of view of the underlying physical systems of the planet. Massive fossil fuel use, industrial processes and deforestation have caused atmospheric CO_2 to soar. Other important greenhouse gases, notably methane and nitrous oxide, have risen as well. The planet is on a path of rapid and dangerous climate change, which is already giving rise to pervasive heatwaves, forest fires, extreme storms, floods and droughts.

Higher temperatures, lower soil moisture, bigger storms and more risk of droughts and floods will shake food security throughout the world

Threats and risks

Consider just the problem of the global food supply. Of the world's seven billion people, around three billion, or 40 per cent, are malnourished. Perhaps one billion are hungry, with chronic insufficiency of energy and protein, often exacerbated by infections. Another billion or so suffer from micronutrient deficiencies including iron, iodine, folate, zinc, omega-3 fatty acids and others. And a third billion or so are dangerously overweight or obese, with unbalanced diets and sedentary lifestyles undermining basic health.

If that were not enough, we have to anticipate more billions of people to come. And if that were not enough, even our current agricultural production systems are not sustainable in their current form. Groundwater is being pumped to the point of depletion; fertiliser runoff is poisoning groundwater, rivers and estuaries; soils are being degraded; and biodiversity is collapsing, which is not only driving other species to extinction but is also undermining human food production (such as with the rapidly declining populations of pollinators).

All of these threats to food security pale in comparison with the biggest risk of all: the effects of long-term climate change and CO_2 emissions on the food supply. Higher temperatures, lower soil moisture, bigger storms and more risk of droughts and floods will shake food security throughout the world.

Some places now growing food may pass into a climate state inhospitable to crop production (e.g. extreme drying). The acidification of the oceans, caused by some of the incremental atmospheric CO_2 dissolving into the ocean water, will do great damage to corals, shellfish and other marine species, in addition to the effects of climate change itself.

Many countries both rich and poor want to wish away the environmental threats. The US government, for example, is pressed by its very

Clean water: key to health and the alleviation of poverty

By Mark Dearn, Campaigns & Communications Officer, End Water Poverty and Lis Martin, Environmental Policy and Advocacy Officer, Progressio

There are few interventions that would have a greater impact on the world's poorest and most marginalised people than improving access to water and sanitation: without universal and sustainable access, poverty eradication is impossible, economic growth is constrained, and improved health and education outcomes, gender equality and a life of dignity become increasingly difficult to achieve.

The human right to access water and sanitation is "derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the right to life and human dignity".[1] Yet while many people around the world benefit from improved access to water, almost 800 million people, including almost 40 per cent of sub-Saharan Africans, do not. Some 2.6 billion people, about 40 per cent of the global population, do not have access to basic sanitation – more people have mobile phones. The consequences of this are immense. Estimated total economic losses from inadequate water supply and sanitation services are $260 billion a year.[2]

The central role water plays in agriculture is appreciated, but the importance of access to water for small-scale farming and livelihoods – the sector that provides the majority of the world's poor with subsistence and an income – has historically been a missing dimension of the water and development narrative.

For health, it has been estimated that half the hospital beds in developing countries are filled by people suffering from diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation.[3] Children and women are disproportionately impacted: unsafe water is the key cause of diarrhoea, the second biggest killer of children under five, causing 760,000 deaths in 2011,[4] while unsafe water and sanitation have negative impacts on women before, during and after they give birth, and, through trachoma, are a leading cause of blindness.[5]

Increasing investment to achieve universal access to water and sanitation is both a moral imperative and a prudent financial choice, with every $1 invested in water and sanitation returning $4 in increased productivity. Multiple financial commitments have been made by donor and partner country governments, yet many of these remain unmet, with the prices paid in poverty, disease and death. To ensure the human right to water and sanitation is met for all, any development framework must prioritise the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and include the voice of the poor and marginalised in decision-making to ensure that no one is left behind. It must recognise the impacts on the water sector of population growth and climate change, and the extra focus required to increase support for adaptation and sustainable and participatory water resources management.

End Water Poverty and Progressio are members of Beyond 2015, a global campaign pushing for an ambitious and legitimate post-2015 development framework

1 On 28 July 2012, through Resolution 64/292, the UN General Assembly explicitly recognised the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realisation of all human rights.

2 Ibid, pp5-6.

3 Human Development Report 2006, *Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis.* UN Development Programme.

4 *Everyone, Everywhere* WaterAid, 2013, p.20. Calculated from: Liu L.; Johnson, H. L.; Cousens, S.; Perin, J.; Scott, S; Lawn, J. E.; Rudan, I.; Campbell, H.; Cibulskis, R.; Li, M.; Mathers, C.; Black, R. E. (2010) *Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality: An updated systematic analysis for 2010 with time trends since 2000.* Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group of WHO and UNICEF; and UNICEF (2012) *Levels and trends in child mortality: Report 2012.* Available at: www.unicef.org.uk/Latest/Publications/Child-MortalityChild-Survival.

5 Gender and Water Alliance 2003.

If we continue as we are going, some countries may continue to improve their conditions for a while, but even more will succumb to rising hunger and instability

powerful oil lobby to allow for more drilling and use of fossil fuels. Middle-income countries don't want the costs of environmental controls to slow their catch up with the rich countries. And some poor countries suppose that their fight against poverty can be won whether or not the world gets climate change under control.

The truth is that the gains against poverty are highly vulnerable to reversal if food supplies, biodiversity and disasters undermine the foundations of the economy and social stability.

We are reaching the end of the line on economic growth in the old way. If we continue as we are going, some countries may continue to improve their conditions for a while, but even more will succumb to rising hunger and instability. The truth is that the world needs a new sustainable growth model, or it won't have growth at all.

Sustainable growth means economic development that respects planetary boundaries. Energy systems must make the transition to low-carbon sources and much greater efficiency. Agriculture systems must make the transition to precision farming and less impact on the physical environment. Urban infrastructure must emphasise climate resilience and much smarter systems for transport, energy, waste recycling and building standards. The time is short. Each of the transitions will take decades, but further delay in getting started decisively will close the remaining small margin of safety.

This vast course correction needs a framework of global action and cooperation. At the 2012 Rio+20 Summit, the world's governments committed to adopting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide and inspire the world in the post-2015, post-Millennium Development Goal era. By adopting clear SDGs, the world will give itself perhaps the last clear opportunity to prove Malthus wrong, to show that we are smart enough, moral enough, and far-sighted enough to protect the Earth, our only home.

Citizens around the world have no greater task in the period until 2015 than encouraging their governments to rise to the challenge of adopting SDGs that can guide the planet to a safe and prosperous harbour in this century. ■



SYRIA CRISIS URGENT APPEAL

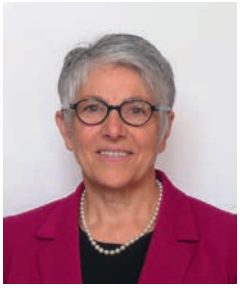
Innocent families need your help

DONATE NOW

donate.unhcr.org/syria

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

A global partnership for understanding the Earth



Barbara J. Ryan, Director, Secretariat Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Earth observation data and information, collected from both space and ground platforms are the basis for addressing a multitude of environmental issues (see figure below). A globally coordinated strategy for the collection, integration and sharing of these data and information must, therefore, play an essential role in the context of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda. The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is prepared to be a key partner in providing Earth observation data and information for developing and monitoring the goals that succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Earth's atmosphere, oceans and landscapes are being increasingly impacted by human activities. Monitoring and modeling these changes is critical for enabling governments and society to make informed decisions about water, energy, food security and any number of other global challenges facing humanity. Decision makers and program managers must have access to the environmental information they need, when they need it and in a format they can use.

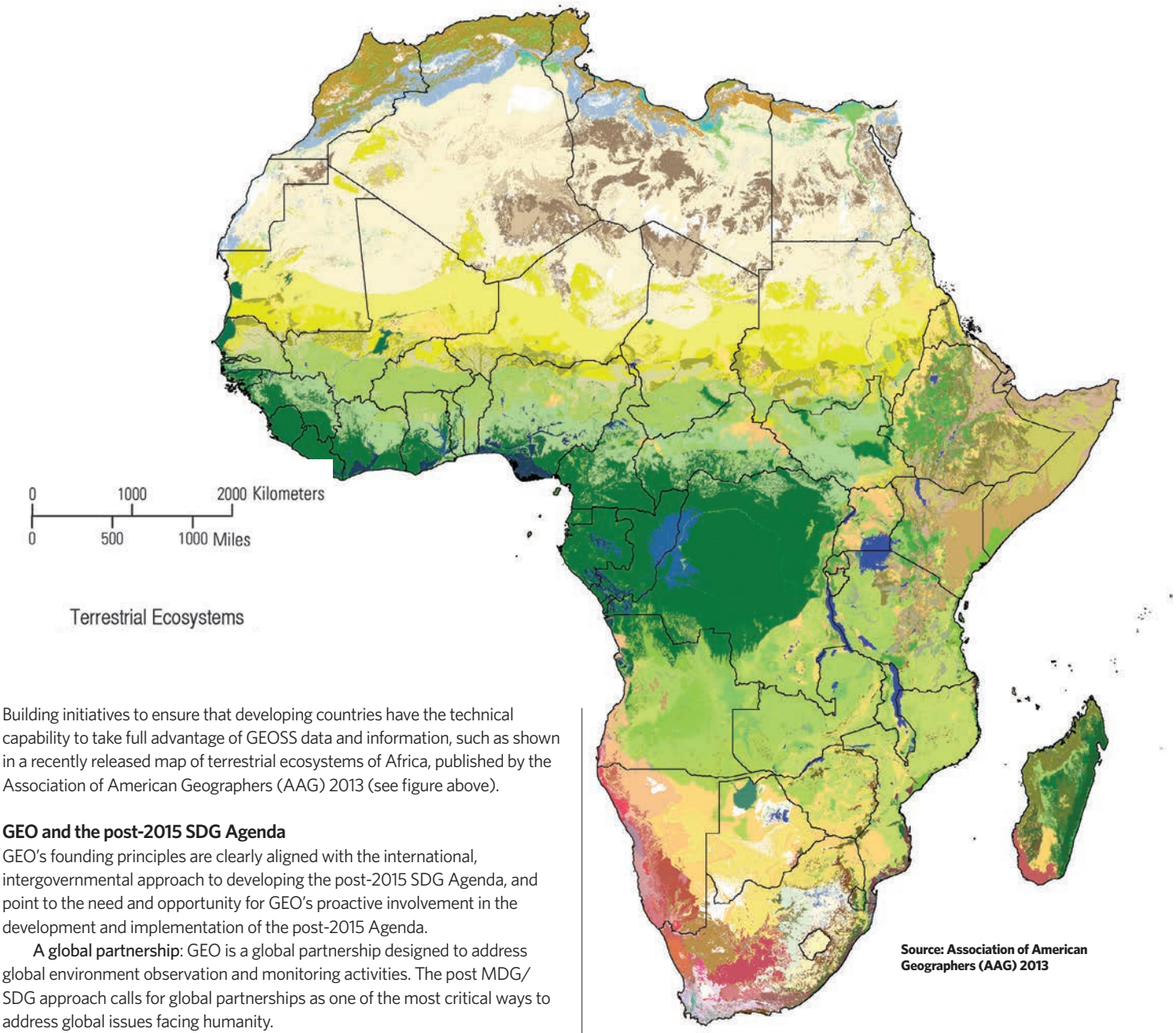
This translates into the vision that is the Group on Earth Observations (GEO): "... to realize a future wherein decisions and actions for the benefit of humankind are informed by coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information."

GEO, established in 2005 with an initial set of 10-year targets, is a global partnership that provides the framework for countries and international organizations to work together to link Earth observation systems, to ensure worldwide access to the resulting data and information through broad, open data policies, to promote their use for decision-making, and to build capacity where needed. More than 150 governments and leading international organizations are collaborating through GEO to build the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), and to promote its use as a global infrastructure for discovering and accessing Earth observation data and information.

GEO Members are ensuring access to GEOSS resources through a GEO Portal, providing an entry point to millions of Earth observation datasets, information products and services held by GEO Members and Participating Organizations. These entities are also developing global initiatives that increase the impact of Earth observation data and information to societal decision making, by addressing identified user needs, harmonizing methodologies, developing common technical standards, and by closing existing gaps in Earth observation data acquisition and information generation activities.

To date, the following global initiatives developed within GEO's framework include, the Water Cycle Coordination Initiative (WCCI), Oceans and Society (The Blue Planet), the GEO Biodiversity Observing Network (GEO BON), the GEO Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI), the GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOGLAM) initiative, the Global Mercury Observation System (GMOS), and the Global Carbon Observing System (GeoCarbon). The results of these initiatives comprise a knowledge base on the use of Earth observation data and information in support of decision-making at different geographical scales – global, regional, and national. GEO Members are also undertaking Capacity





Source: Association of American Geographers (AAG) 2013

Building initiatives to ensure that developing countries have the technical capability to take full advantage of GEOSS data and information, such as shown in a recently released map of terrestrial ecosystems of Africa, published by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) 2013 (see figure above).

GEO and the post-2015 SDG Agenda

GEO's founding principles are clearly aligned with the international, intergovernmental approach to developing the post-2015 SDG Agenda, and point to the need and opportunity for GEO's proactive involvement in the development and implementation of the post-2015 Agenda.

A global partnership: GEO is a global partnership designed to address global environment observation and monitoring activities. The post MDG/SDG approach calls for global partnerships as one of the most critical ways to address global issues facing humanity.

An integrated approach: A crosscutting, integrated approach, employed since its inception, GEO's working principle has been to address issues of how the sustainable development agenda is being addressed. GEO's result: a proven cooperation framework and worldwide network of expertise currently in place which delivers results.

A geographic focus from global to local: GEO's initiatives are multi-scale. While there is coordination and implementation at the global level, GEO's programmes are also implemented regionally, nationally and locally – the same objective around which the post-2015 SDGs are being consolidated.

A consistent timeframe: GEO is nearing the end of its first decade. Development of its objectives and activities for a second decade, up to 2025, is underway. A GEO Ministerial Summit, planned for January 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, has as an expected outcome the confirmation that GEO has advanced global Earth observations, and that it should be continued to 2025 with a mandate to develop a new Implementation Plan, which will take full account of the post-2015 Agenda and SDG process.

A unique opportunity for cooperation

GEO has demonstrated its capability to develop and augment global initiatives that improve the contribution of Earth observation data and information to societal decision making, by addressing user needs and by closing gaps in Earth observation data acquisition and information generation activities. The renewal of its mandate after 2015 will solidify Members' contributions to enable global leaders to address major environmental challenges flexibly and rapidly, thereby advancing global environmental governance.

The Rio+20 Conference affirmed the three interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection. The Conference also recognized the importance of space-based data, *in situ* monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policy making, and fully acknowledged GEO's efforts in developing GEOSS to address sustainable development goals.

GEO is prepared to be a key partner in developing the post-2015 SDG Agenda and supporting its implementation by ensuring access to essential environmental data and information.

Timely inclusion of GEO in the process defining the post-2015 Agenda and SDGs is an important step toward properly addressing the global challenges facing humanity. GEO stands ready to contribute its assets to this vitally important effort. ■

Location matters

What role does geography play in constraining the world's least-developed countries and what can be done to assist them in achieving the Millennium Development Goals?

By **Gyan Chandra Acharya**, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

In 1776, Adam Smith observed that the inland parts of Africa and Asia were the least economically developed areas of the world. He argued that, due to the difficulty of doing trade in a competitive manner, geographically remote areas fail to realise full gains from specialisation and the associated benefits.

Even today, despite unprecedented advances in science, communications and technology, high transportation costs typically place landlocked developing countries at a distinct disadvantage relative to their coastal neighbours. The current competitive global market puts a premium on just-in-time delivery, value chain management and efficiency in trade facilitation.

A recent study[1] by the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) on the development cost of being landlocked found that transport costs for LLDCs were 45 per cent higher than for a comparable coastal economy in 2010. Furthermore, according to data from the World Bank 2013 Doing Business Report, the costs of importing and exporting in LLDCs are more than double those of their transit neighbours. For example, landlocked developing countries spent, on average, $3,040 to export a container of cargo, as compared with $1,268 for transit developing countries.

Therefore it is no mere coincidence that LLDCs are some of the poorest countries in the world. The UN-OHRLLS study mentioned above concluded that because of landlockedness, the level of development in the LLDCs is around 20 per cent lower than it would be, were the countries not landlocked.

The UN recognises 31 landlocked developing countries, widely dispersed around the globe: 15 are located in Africa, 12 in Asia, two in Central and Eastern Europe, and two in Latin America. Despite their location on four different continents, all LLDCs share some common problems of geographic remoteness and no direct maritime access, implying dependence on trade and transport systems in neighbouring coastal countries. This has resulted in less specialisation, less marketisation and limited economic activities in these countries, leading to limited economic growth and persistent poverty.

Globalisation has triggered strong interlinkages among economies around the world. However,

Landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalised from the global markets



landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalised from the global markets. Although their share in world merchandise exports doubled between 2003 and 2011, coinciding with the commodity boom, it remains at just 1.2 per cent.

In addition to remoteness from major markets, cumbersome customs and border crossings procedures, limited infrastructure, missing links, inadequate transit facilities and inefficient logistics systems – among other things – result in higher transport and trade transaction costs. The structural vulnerabilities and limited productive capacities of LLDCs expose them disproportionately to the severe negative impacts of the current global economic crisis.

Since the crisis, value addition from agriculture, manufacturing and exports of goods and services continues to diminish in these 31 countries. The contribution of agriculture to their combined annual GDP is estimated to have declined from 22.8 per cent in 2001 to 18.2 per cent in 2011. The manufacturing value added, a basic indicator of the level of industrialisation developed by the World Bank, has



A witch doctor sits on Santa Barbara Hill during the inauguration of the statue of the Virgin of the Socavón, the patron saint of miners, on the outskirts of Oruro, some 200km (124 miles) south of La Paz, Bolivia. Bolivia is one of the poorest and least developed countries in Latin America, but high world commodity prices in recent years have sustained rapid economic growth

© Reuters

also declined precipitously from the peak of 18.1 per cent in 1992 to 11.5 per cent in 2011.

UN support to landlocked developing countries

The UN has long recognised LLDCs as a group of countries with special needs and challenges. As early as 1957, the UN General Assembly adopted a consensus resolution – GA Resolution 1028 (XI) – on this issue. Since then, it has consistently been on the UN's agenda, not just in the Assembly, but in a host of other UN bodies, regional organisations, development partners and international organisations.

In 2001, the UN Secretary-General established the UN-OHRLLS with the overall objective to assist and support the countries in special situations, including landlocked developing countries. In addition, to address the constraints facing LLDCs, the UN organised the first International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in August 2003. The Conference adopted the Almaty Programme of Action and the Almaty Ministerial Declaration.

The overarching goal of the Almaty Programme of Action is to foster the establishment of efficient transport systems in all LLDCs based on mutually beneficial collaboration with transit developing countries and with the support of the development partners. Five priority areas were identified, namely: 1) fundamental transit policy issues; 2) infrastructure development and maintenance; 3) international trade and trade facilitation; 4) international support measures; and 5) implementation and review.

Notable progress

The LLDCs continue to make some notable progress in the implementation of the priority areas of the Almaty Programme of Action, and the international community has strengthened its technical and financial support. LLDCs as a group recorded an average economic growth of 6.2 per cent during the period 2003-2011, despite growth dropping to 3.6 per cent in 2009 as a result of the global economic and financial crisis. Furthermore, merchandise exports increased from $43 billion to $224 billion from 2003 to 2011, and imports from $49 billion to $185 billion during the same period.

But a disaggregated analysis reveals that only a handful of the resource-rich LLDCs are responsible for this phenomenal increase in exports. Moreover, the export structure of LLDCs continues to be increasingly characterised by reliance on a limited number of products, in particular unprocessed agricultural goods and minerals, leaving LLDCs vulnerable to external shocks. Likewise, their import-export ratio is generally much higher than the average ratio of similar countries with coastal access.

On the plus side, international support to LLDCs is gradually increasing, although this too is heavily concentrated in a few countries. The UN system and other international and regional organisations and financial institutions also continue to provide financial and technical assistance to LLDCs.

Although there has been some progress in infrastructure development and maintenance, the percentage of paved roads, the principal mode of transport, remains low. Only nine LLDCs have more than 50 per cent of their roads paved and eight have only between 20 and 49 per cent of them paved. The challenges with regard to transport infrastructure are not only physical, but institutional and related to implementation. Inadequate soft infrastructure, mainly in logistics services, and inefficient border crossing procedures are some of the major challenges.

Many LLDCs and transit countries are implementing various measures that considerably reduce transaction costs and delays at border-crossing points. These include building better infrastructure,

and harmonising border and customs procedures, rules and documentation. But further efforts are required to ensure faster and cheaper trade across borders, along with improvements in transport and transit corridors. The early conclusion of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation at the World Trade Organization, with strong reflection of the interests of LLDCs, would have a salutary impact on expanding trade opportunities and competitiveness in these countries.

The road to the 10-year review conference

In its Resolutions 66/214 (2012) and 67/222 (2013), the General Assembly decided to hold a comprehensive 10-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014. The conference will be preceded by national, regional and global, as well as thematic preparations. In addition, two intergovernmental preparatory committee sessions will be organised prior to the conference.

The overall objectives of the conference will be to: undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action; identify effective international, regional, sub-regional and domestic policies in light of the outcome of the appraisal; reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special development needs and the challenges faced by the LLDCs; and mobilise additional international support measures and action in favour of the LLDCs.

Further efforts are required to ensure faster and cheaper trade across borders, along with improvements in transport and transit corridors

The General Assembly designated UN-OHRLLS as the UN system-wide focal point for the preparatory process. It has also invited other UN system organisations and regional organisations within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory review process and the comprehensive 10-year review conference.

Preparatory processes have already started. In particular, UN-OHRLLS has prepared a roadmap that highlights activities to be undertaken towards the conference along three main tracks: the intergovernmental track; the inter-agency track; and the private sector track.

As part of the intergovernmental track, LLDCs are preparing national reviews on the implementation of the Almaty Programme. At the regional level, the UN Regional Commissions, in close coordination with UN-OHRLLS, are organising regional preparatory review meetings in 2013. The Euro-Asia review meeting was held in Lao in March 2013, the African Regional Review Meeting was held in Ethiopia in July 2013. Preparations are ongoing for the Latin American regional review meeting to be held later this year. The national and regional preparations will provide crucial inputs into the global review process.

UN-OHRLLS, together with the UN system and other international organisations, is organising a number of thematic events to facilitate intergovernmental processes. A number of these pre-conference events have already been successfully held, including the High-Level Thematic Meeting on International Trade, Trade Facilitation and Aid-for-Trade in Almaty in September 2012; the Brainstorming Meeting on the Priorities of a New Development Agenda for the LLDCs in New York in March 2013; and an event on transport development and trade facilitation at the World Bank in June 2013. Other planned thematic events will look at issues of particular importance to LLDCs, including transport and logistics innovations, vulnerability to external shocks, implications of climate change, international support measures, including South-South cooperation, and enhancing productive capacities.

In addition, UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with partners, will ensure that private sector representatives from LLDCs and transit countries are involved in all stages of the preparatory process. An increased participation of LLDCs in international trade depends on a thriving private sector and the effective functioning of transit transport systems.

The upcoming UN Conference on LLDCs in 2014 will undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in order to build a development agenda that can enable LLDCs to integrate better into the global trading system, ensure efficient transit arrangements, promote infrastructure and connectivity, and move closer to achieving the internationally agreed development goals in the next decade.

Strong collaboration among LLDCs, transit countries, development partners and all other stakeholders, international organisations, civil society and the private sector will be crucial for the success of the conference. The conference will be an important global event to galvanise international support and partnerships in favour of LLDCs, especially as we all prepare ourselves for the post-2015 development agenda. ■

1 UN-OHRLLS (2013), *The Development Economics of Landlockedness: Understanding the development costs of being landlocked*

The universal right to development

Fundación Iberoamericana para el Desarrollo

The IberoAmerican Foundation for Development (FIDE) focuses its efforts on development cooperation in communities that find it difficult to exercise their basic rights

The IberoAmerican Foundation for Development (FIDE), founded in Guadalajara, Castilla, Spain in 1991, is realising its dream to equip people with the knowledge, methods and means to achieve development from below and from within.

We have drawn up an ideal for sustained action, explained in the 17 books written by Antonio Vereda del Abril, President of FIDE. We have applied this to cooperative projects in Latin America and Spain through programs of communication, education, citizen activism and awareness-raising for development aimed at children, young people and university students.

FIDE Foundation has been working for 22 years on the eradication of poverty, the promotion of democracy and the right of all people to develop.



From left: FIDE President Antonio Vereda del Abril, Queen Sofía of Spain and Dr Muhammad Yunus, Founder of Grameen Bank

The Foundation's mission coincides with the values that inspired the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and its achievements have supported the Goals:

MDG1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
With more than 160 cooperative projects for development, which have contributed to the eradication of poverty for more than 4.5 million people in Latin America.

MDG2: Achieve universal primary education
In the indigenous communities of Cochabamba in Bolivia and the Peruvian Amazon.

MDG3: Promote gender equality and empower women
With the strengthening of the political, social and individual capacities of more than 70,000 indigenous women in Bolivia and Peru.

MDG5: Improve maternal health
With the example of 'vertical births', which was awarded the global prize for good practice – mother and child by the World Health Organization.

MDG7: Ensure environmental sustainability
With a special focus on water: during the last 10 years we have developed an ambitious program for access to healthy drinking water in the districts of Copan and Santa Barbara in Honduras, for 32,000 inhabitants in 30 rural communities.

Don Antonio Vereda del Abril, president and founder of FIDE, has contributed significantly to the achievement of **MDG8: Develop a global framework for development** with 'development from below and from within,' which takes the wishes of the majority and 'Management Centers of R&D+i ' to configure networks of solidarity, knowledge, culture, communication, education, micro-credits, technology, entrepreneurs, access to markets and social benefits.

He conceived the initiative 'Debt for Development', a model for debt exchange that was adopted by the Spanish Government's official development program.

He began promoting micro-credit in Lima in 1988, he initiated 'communal banks' in Honduras and Bolivia, and has supported the formation of micro-finance institutions in El Salvador and Honduras.

In Spain, FIDE is promoting a micro-credit fund to tackle unemployment. ■

www.fundacionfide.org



© Reuters

Why population matters for sustainable development

With the help of government policies and planning, future demographic trends can be shaped to enhance well-being, education and earning potential

By **Dr Babatunde Osotimehin**, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund

The world's population is currently estimated at more than 7.2 billion. It is projected to increase by almost one billion people within the next 12 years, according to official UN population estimates.

The issue of population is a critical one for humanity and for the Earth. The challenge is to meet the increasing needs and expectations of a growing population while at the same time building a more sustainable development model.

Population trends today show an increasing divergence across countries and regions. In countries with high population growth and low incomes, many adolescent girls and women cannot determine their fertility, and population outstrips economic growth

■ **Residents of the slum community of Tondo, Manila, wait for a free meal from the South Korean Missionaries religious organisation. Philippine President Benigno Aquino has thrown his support behind a reproductive health bill that will, if passed, guarantee access to free birth control and promote sex education**

and the ability of health services to serve their people. In many middle-income countries where population growth has stabilised, issues of urbanisation and migration factor heavily into population dynamics. In many developed countries, fertility has fallen below the replacement level. Governments in these countries are challenged by shortages of labour and productivity, which potentially threaten the quality of life for their ageing populations.

But population dynamics not only pose challenges; they also provide important opportunities for more sustainable development. A fall in fertility levels and slower population growth, for example, lead to a proportionately larger working-age population, which can enable countries to reap a demographic dividend and jumpstart economic development.

Migration can spur social and economic development by enabling people to escape from poverty and conflict, adapt to environmental and economic shocks, and improve the income, health and education of their families. Today, more than one billion people rely on international and internal migration, and annual remittances to developing countries alone approach $500 billion – triple the amount of official development assistance. [1]

Population dynamics not only pose challenges; they also provide important opportunities for more sustainable development

Urbanisation can also be a powerful driver of sustainable development. Higher population density enables governments to more easily deliver essential infrastructure and services in urban areas at relatively low cost per capita. More liveable, sustainable cities can also provide rural populations with greater access to services such as education and healthcare, while empowering them economically.

However, the benefits of demographic transitions, urbanisation and migration do not materialise

Suffering in slums: a case study of Mathare in Nairobi, Kenya

By Samuel Ogallah Samson, Programme Manager, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance

With rapid urbanisation, cities throughout the developing world struggle to meet the basic needs of their growing populations. Today, some one billion urban residents live in slums, which lack basic infrastructure and services. More than half the urban population in sub-Saharan Africa and 40 per cent in South Asia lack access to basic sanitation.[1] In sub-Saharan Africa, close to 20 per cent of urban residents do not have access to safe water.[2] Many more live without access to proper drainage or wastewater removal.

While the urban economy provides many income and employment opportunities, the poor tend to be marginalised on many fronts and often face low incomes, limited sources of livelihood, lack of social insurance, and limited access to credit markets.[3] For some, especially those living in slums, accessing jobs is difficult. Climate change is also increasingly affecting the lives – and incomes – of slum dwellers.

Within urban areas, the impacts of climatic hazards are distributed unevenly among urban populations; generally speaking, lower-income slum dwellers tend to live in marginalised lands that face greater risk. Their capacity to respond is also lower; poorer residents tend to have less access to information, scant resources to withstand adverse impacts, and fewer safety nets.

In Kenya, there is an increasing growth of informal settlements in urban centres. As rapid urbanisation takes its toll, so has the development and growth of slums. More than 34 per cent of Kenya's total population lives in urban areas and of this, more than 71 per cent is confined to informal settlements such as slums.[4]

In Nairobi, Mathare is the second largest slum, home to nearly 500,000 people. Like many slums, Mathare is characterised by unsafe and overcrowded housing, elevated exposure to environmental hazards, high prevalence of communicable diseases, cases of malnutrition, and a lack of access to essential services. Residents in this slum frequently suffer from tenure insecurity, widespread poverty and violence, which further increase their vulnerabilities.[5]

Households living in this slum pay more for basic services and food, have poorer health status, poorer school performance, lower productivity and are vulnerable to crimes and violence. It is estimated that only 5 per cent of the adult population in the slum are legally employed at any one time. Nearly everyone subsists through the informal economy. For most, it is easier to survive working in the informal economy than through paid employment, since wages for unskilled labour are so low (about US$40 a month).[6] The situation has been exacerbated by climate change. Cases of climate-related disasters such as floods, landslides and fires are common nowadays and these have affected the income of the Matherians.

Little effort has been made thus far to address environmental and climate change impacts in Mathare, either by government, civil society organisations or the private sector, and it is against this backdrop that PACJA is advocating for a policy and strategies by government and other stakeholders that will address these challenges and increase the resilience of the slum dwellers.

The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) is a member of Beyond 2015 and the focal organisation for Beyond 2015 on Environmental Sustainability.

1, 2 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation.
3 World Bank 2012.
4 UN-Habitat 2009.
5, 6 Mathare Zonal Plan 2012.

Access to family planning is at the heart of sexual and reproductive health. It's also key to reaping the demographic dividend

automatically and inevitably. Whether population dynamics pose challenges or bring opportunities depends largely on the policies that are in force.

Fortunately, we have a roadmap to guide us. In 1994, world leaders from 179 countries came together in Cairo at the International Conference on Population and Development and established a strategy for countries to put the health, rights, dignity and well-being of people at the centre of development. This is the UN Population Fund's (UNFPA's) mission, and it is as critical today as it was in 1994.

The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and their modification in 2007 to put emphasis on reproductive health, has focused greater attention on the needs of adolescent girls and women, particularly in meeting their reproductive rights.

Universal access to reproductive healthcare

Access to family planning is at the heart of sexual and reproductive health. It's also key to reaping the demographic dividend. When women are empowered to exercise their reproductive rights and to decide freely the number, timing and spacing of their children, they are able to participate fully in their communities and economies, and their families and nations flourish.

But an estimated 222 million women of child-bearing age in developing countries who want access to family planning are not getting it. Moreover, millions of adolescent girls and boys in the developing world lack access to sex education and counselling, and information about how to prevent pregnancies or protect themselves from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Working with governments and other partners in more than 150 countries, UNFPA leads global efforts to promote universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and family planning. Enabling women to exercise these fundamental human rights will not only improve maternal and child health, which is the MDG most lagging behind, but will also help us to deliver on other MDGs.

UNFPA's support for providing essential reproductive health supplies has proved to be a practical and cost-effective means to achieve the vision echoed at the London Summit on Family Planning,[2] to reach an additional 120 million women and girls with family planning in the coming years.

Making family planning more widely available requires more than simply increasing the supply and quality of contraceptives. It requires building an enabling environment for women, men and young people, especially girls, to exercise their rights. And this requires greater efforts to build national capacity and to ensure that appropriate policies, legislation and resources are in place.

Today, we have the largest youth generation the world has ever seen, with more than 40 per cent of the world's population under the age of 25. UNFPA is committed to giving these young people the chance to reach their fullest potential. We see this as a moral obligation as well as a social, economic and political imperative.

That's why we've taken a leadership role in sexual and reproductive health for young people, reorienting health education and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents and providing age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education.

In our efforts we particularly focus on adolescent girls because if they are free from child marriage and gender-based violence and are able to delay childbearing, they can stay in school, have healthier children (if and when they decide to have them) and earn higher incomes.

There are more than 600 million girls in the world today, more than 500 million of them in developing countries. The opportunities and choices these girls have during adolescence will enable them to begin adulthood as empowered, active citizens contributing to the well-being of their families, and the prosperity of their communities and countries.

Greater investment in the health and education of the 1.8 billion people worldwide aged 10-25 will enable them to become entrepreneurs who foster sustainable development, yielding enormous returns in economic growth for generations to come.

Planning and investment

UNFPA remains committed to working to help countries better understand population dynamics so that they can develop forward-looking strategies and policies that take population trends – like changes in population size and age structures, and trends in migration and urbanisation – into consideration and proactively address emerging economic, social and environmental challenges. Demography is not destiny. Government policies and the choices individuals make today will shape future demographic trends.

With planning and the right investments in people – particularly young women and men – we can have thriving sustainable cities and communities, productive labour forces that fuel social and economic growth, youth populations that contribute to the well-being of their societies, and communities where the elderly are productive, healthy, economically secure and able to live with dignity.

We can have a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every child birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. ■

1 Incidentally, nearly three-quarters of all migrants move within their own country. (UN Development Programme's Human Development Report, 2009).

2 Convened in 2012 by the UK Government and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in partnership with UNFPA.



UN Photo/Martine Perret

Sex, equality and the MDGs

Happiness may not be the usual subject of heated debates in UN circles and summits. But maybe it should be. The World Happiness Report 2013 shows that some of the top-ranked 'happiest countries' are also those where people – especially women – enjoy more freedoms and individual choices in matters of sexuality, relationships and reproduction.

What does this have to do with the MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda? Everything. Whether or not adolescent girls and women can determine if, when and who they marry, how many children they have, and can exercise control over their own sexuality and bodies (too often used and abused), has everything to do with achieving sustainable development. Yet, the MDG targets related to sexual and reproductive health and rights are among those that have seen the least progress.

Globally, about 35 per cent of women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime. Many of the 16 million adolescent pregnancies around the world result from a lack of options for girls, early and forced marriage, sexual abuse and rape. Only about one-third of youth in the most highly impacted regions know how to prevent HIV. And 800 women and adolescent girls still die every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

A universal agenda

The costs in human suffering, health, lives, public budgets, productivity and forgone development prospects of failing to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health services are staggering. They undermine all dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. The disparities within and across countries undercut any notion of equity: sexual and reproductive health problems disproportionately afflict the poor and excluded. It is poor women and girls who die giving birth, who die from unsafe abortions, and who have more children than they would have wished or can afford. It is those who are most discriminated against who register the worst sexual and reproductive health indicators – indigenous peoples, migrants, ethnic and racial minorities, sex workers and sexual minorities, among others.

The empowerment of women and young people, gender equality, and the fulfillment of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all are prerequisites for eradicating poverty and achieving the MDGs and sustainable development.

These are fundamental human rights and freedoms for people everywhere, a universal agenda applicable to all countries, rich or poor. They must be foundations of a new post-2015 framework in which the well-being of all people is truly at the heart of sustainable development. ■

The High-Level Task Force for the ICPD is a group of distinguished individuals with a record of service as heads of state, ministers, parliamentarians, civil society, private sector and philanthropic leaders, co-chaired by former Presidents Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and Tarja Halonen of Finland (www.icpdtaskforce.org).

High-Level Task Force for **ICPD**

RIGHTS, DIGNITY & HEALTH FOR ALL

Goals, plans, partners and measurement

Basic principles that are key to success in business have proven transferable to the achievement of the MDGs

By **Ray Chambers**, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Financing the Health Millennium Development Goals and for Malaria

When I began to pursue my philanthropic interests nearly 30 years ago, my hope was that I would be able to apply the approaches that had served me well in business to making a difference in the world.

Over the years, my team and I have been privileged to advise leaders of so many inspiring organisations, often as they struggle to achieve their ambitious visions. We encourage young leaders to ask the questions that underlie every great business plan: What specific goals are you trying to achieve? What is your roadmap to achieving those goals? Which partners and individuals will most improve your likelihood of success? And how will you measure your progress to know whether you are on or off track? We encourage teams to appreciate the complexities of making change, but to look for clear and easily communicable approaches to solving problems.

This was particularly the case when, ten years ago, I turned my focus to global poverty. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) appealed to me, not just because they were an historic attempt to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty. I appreciated that they were quantifiable, time-bound and ready-made for solving with a business-inspired savvy. First as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Envoy for Malaria, and now as his Special Envoy for Financing the Health MDGs, I have tried to follow my own advice by setting clear goals, identifying essential partners, distilling complex solutions into easily understood communications, and developing tracking tools that serve as essential guides. And no small thing, I've focused on finding the most committed people and partners to help realise our ambitions.

With malaria, leadership at the highest level was essential. The Secretary-General's goal of protecting all of those at risk of malaria with nets and with

With strong leadership, clear goals, the right partners and in-country accountability, our success in malaria has been significant



treatment set the stage for the ambitious, some might say audacious, goal of reaching near-zero deaths by the end of 2015. This decisive leadership allowed partners like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the US and UK governments, the World Bank and key countries to step up and commit the funding needed to mobilise the commodities – bed nets, rapid diagnostic tests and treatment – that would save lives.

Collective approach

To maximise the value of secured funding and resources, we needed to ensure that planning, accountability and in-country leadership were all in place. In supporting the formation of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, better known as ALMA, a coalition of 49 African heads of state committed to defeating malaria was formed and has allowed those leaders to address malaria as a collective, not only as individuals. Its signature tool, the ALMA Scorecard for Accountability and Action, is a simple but powerful scorecard that tracks on a quarterly basis, country



A young woman sits under a mosquito net in an indigenous Baka settlement in the northern Likouala Province, the Republic of the Congo. Malaria is a major health concern in this remote community

© UNICEF/Williams

by country, key health indicators such as access to mosquito nets, and notes if countries are on track, stalling, or off track. More importantly, the tool guides and inspires leaders to remain focused on achieving their malaria goals, and provides a forum for them to discuss progress and overcome bottlenecks as they emerge – for instance, by sharing lessons across borders of how difficulties have been overcome or progress accelerated.

With strong leadership, clear goals, the right partners and in-country accountability, our success in malaria has been significant. Over the past five years, malaria-endemic countries and their partners have raised over $4 billion, distributed over 400 million mosquito nets, provided millions of courses of medical treatment and saved almost one million lives. Malaria deaths have fallen from 1.2 million a year to approximately 650,000, with the goal of zero deaths by 2015, which we have defined as being less than 100,000 per annum, realistically in reach.

In order to reach Goals 4, 5 and 6, which focus on decreasing the number of women and children who die of completely preventable causes and on lowering incidence and mortality related to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, we've identified where progress can realistically be made:

- child deaths must decline from seven million per year to four million;
- maternal deaths must decline from 260,000 per year to 140,000;
- transmission of HIV from mother to child must decline from 390,000 cases to near-zero;
- antiretroviral treatment must increase from roughly 10 million to all 26 million recipients;
- treatment for tuberculosis must increase from six million patients to nine million patients; and
- malaria deaths must decline from the current figure of 650,000 to near-zero.

Achieving any one of these goals will be impressive. But I truly believe that with the right leadership, plans, partners and accountability, all can be achieved. Fortunately, thanks to the tireless efforts of our partners, the foundation for success is solid.



© UNICEF/Asselin

Women wash the hands of children in the village of Nabitenga in Plateau-Central Region, Burkina Faso. Global Handwashing Day, which occurs annually on 15 October, underscores the importance of handwashing with soap – a life-saving, act of good hygiene. Handwashing with water alone is not sufficient to destroy many pathogens, including those causing diarrhoea and pneumonia, two leading killers of children

Since 1990, worldwide deaths of children under the age of five have declined from 12 million in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2011, which translates into roughly 14,000 fewer children dying each day. During the same period, maternal mortality has been nearly halved, falling from 540,000 deaths during pregnancy and childbirth to fewer than 230,000. These are major achievements, but in order to achieve MDGs 4 and 5, we will need to save 4.4 million children and 230,000 mothers during the final days of the MDGs – now fewer than 1,000 to go.

Effective planning

Our plan to avert these deaths begins by targeting the highest-burden countries and biggest contributors to mortality. Thanks to the work of the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities and the 'H4+' group of partners – a joint effort by UN and related agencies to accelerate progress towards achieving MDGs 4 and 5 – we have been able to develop a plan around the commodities and services that will have the greatest impact on child and maternal survival.

Today, pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and neonatal deaths are the cause of 75 per cent of child deaths. A few key commodities – including oral rehydration salts and zinc, amoxicillin, injectable antibiotics, chlorhexidine and antenatal steroids – cost far less than one US dollar and are immediately available. In the case of maternal health we see the same thing: a short list of causes of death (post-partum haemorrhage, hypertensive disorders and maternal sepsis) and a short-list of commodities essential to their treatment: misoprostol, oxytocin, magnesium sulfate and ampicillin.

Though many of these interventions are simple and affordable, we needed an effective plan to ensure that they could be delivered and used by the people who need them most, and a plan that was likely to be understood and embraced by country leadership.

After completion of a resource mapping exercise that focused on the countries with the highest maternal and child death burden and the greatest likelihood to support our quest for MDG achievement, we determined the additional financing needed to procure, drive demand and deliver the goods. We are now working hard to fully replenish the Global Fund by ensuring that it receives $15 billion, as well as to secure the estimated $1.05 billion in additional funds needed from both traditional and untraditional partners. Working with our partners, we are adapting the excellent ALMA malaria scorecard to help guide our path on maternal, child and newborn health.

Once the commodities are procured, we must track progress and be clear about where accountability lies. As with malaria, we will follow the accountability mechanism set up by the leaders of endemic countries; with buy-in from the Member heads of state, the African Leaders Malaria Scorecard will now be expanded to track child and maternal health in each of our key target countries.

We know that with clear goals, a comprehensive plan, and exceptional and accountable partners, millions of lives have been, and can be, saved. With the roadmap in hand, we have little choice but to work tirelessly over the next 27 months to save the lives of 4.6 million women and children, and in doing so, successfully meet the health MDGs. A healthier, more compassionate world is within reach. ■

To achieve MDGs 4 and 5, we will need to save 4.4 million children and 230,000 mothers during the final days of the MDGs

UNITAID SUPPLIES 94 COUNTRIES WITH TREATMENTS FOR HIV/AIDS, TB AND MALARIA





UNITAID

www.unitaid.org





AIR TRAVELLERS AND DONATIONS FROM 29 COUNTRIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO MILLIONS OF PATIENTS.



© UNICEF/Noorani

Listening to the grassroots

The top-down approach of the MDGs has left many socially and economically excluded. Initiatives to garner grassroot perspectives must shape the new framework

By **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG**, Founder and Chairperson, BRAC (formerly the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee)

The development of the current set of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) involved very little grassroots participation. Although the civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across the world have been quite critical of the process, they nevertheless embraced it as a first step in garnering global commitment to attain some agreed targets. Fortunately, in the implementation of the MDGs, many governments and international organisations promoting the goals emphasised active involvement of the CSOs and NGOs in achieving them, for without direct and active grassroots support, the MDGs would remain a far cry.

As a result, a few proactive efforts to include these organisations in supra bodies and partnerships were observed. These later initiatives included the Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; Global Call to Action Against Poverty; 'Education for All' Dakar Framework; Global Campaign for Education and many others. At the national level, CSOs have initiated several activities to support the MDGs.

NGOs in the forefront of development

The emergence of NGOs at the forefront of a movement for development is of recent origin. They are becoming important forces in most developing countries, and their contributions are increasingly being recognised. In the words of development thinker Anne Gordon Drabek: "The development failures of the past have revealed that to pour money into dealing with the symptoms of poverty is not enough – it is the underlying problems of poverty which require actions."

Over the past several years many countries have made impressive progress towards reaching the MDGs. Our own experience in Bangladesh is no exception. A key indicator of Bangladesh's success has been in the area of women's empowerment. Considered intractable, the country has been able to attain parity in enrolment of girls and boys in primary and secondary schools. Until the 1980s, Bangladesh was one of the few countries where women lived a shorter life than men. With improvement in life expectancy in general and women's in particular, this has been addressed, with women now living 1.5 years longer than men. The country has seen impressive changes in many other areas of development as well.

NGOs are becoming important forces in most developing countries, and their contributions are increasingly recognised

Bangladesh's commitment to attaining the MDGs is demonstrated by the various steps it has taken, and the debates and discussion that resulted. In this, the government and NGOs have worked in cohort. Like many developing countries, however, a review of the country's progress towards attaining the goals shows a mixed bag.

In a recent report, the People's Forum on MDGs (PFM), a civil society supra group coordinated by the Campaign for Popular Education, a Bangladeshi NGO, has reviewed MDG progress for the country. Based on the various statistics available from different groups, including the government, the report found that the country is on track to "achieve or surpass the overall goal of reducing poverty by half from the 1990 baseline". It goes on to report progress in several other fields such as primary school enrolment, removing gender disparity in primary and secondary education, lowering infant and child mortality, improving immunisation coverage of children, reducing incidence of children's communicable diseases, curtailing the maternal mortality ratio, and achieving targets for tuberculosis treatment. It also pointed out some of the remaining challenges.

Targets for hunger reduction are fraught with problems. So is attainment of targets for primary completion, literacy and gender parity at tertiary levels. The story in terms of attaining environmental sustainability is also challenging. In summary, of the 31 targets and indicators in terms of the first seven MDG goals, 10 are on track to be achieved by 2015 or are already achieved, 15 are not on track, and six others could be achieved with intensified and accelerated efforts. The review shows that Bangladesh has been able to reap well the 'low hanging fruits'. Those goals and targets that require more fundamental societal changes still appear intractable.

The positive role that NGOs play in Bangladesh's progress is well acknowledged. In a recent report on Bangladesh's development, *The Economist* credited NGOs for much of the recent gains in the country's social sector.

NGOs in post-MDG agenda setting

Civil society in Bangladesh has also been active in the discussion of what should be included in the next set of goals. BRAC, the world's largest NGO with its base in Bangladesh and programmes in 10 other countries, has initiated a multi-pronged effort to articulate a position that is based on both grassroots-level exploration and higher-level discussions. This includes:

- a survey of 30,000 villagers and slum-dwellers in Bangladesh;
- focus group discussions with different disadvantaged groups in three BRAC countries of operations: Afghanistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines;
- two background papers on health and education prepared as part of the work of the PFM and a BRAC position paper developed by its Research and Evaluation Division;
- participation in national and international consultations on the post-MDG agenda.

Based on outcomes from the above process we have come up with a new set of priorities. Many of these emphasised the unfinished agenda but we also came up with new goals that were left out of the current MDGs. They go beyond poverty and embrace more equitable, participatory and inclusive development. In many ways it reflected what was articulated in the Bali Declaration of Parliamentarians and CSOs. Below are the key points arising from our grassroots consultations.

Social and economic rights of women and the marginalised

The current MDGs have not adequately addressed empowerment issues such as freedom from violence, including sexual harassment, rape, rights to inheritance and property, sexual and

Opposite: The Unity Through Population Service, an NGO working with the Bangladesh government to reduce rates of malnutrition, hands out packets of micronutrient powder. NGOs play a significant role in Bangladesh's progress. A recent report in *The Economist* credited NGOs for much of the recent gains in the country's social sector

reproductive health rights, disability and gender-based discrimination in the workplace. These are usually structural issues that require longer-term, sustained and multi-faceted interventions in different sectors.

Legal empowerment, access to justice and rule of law

Lack of legal protection for poor people's rights and entitlements (of livelihoods, assets, security, health, education etc.) is recognised as a barrier to pro-poor growth and poverty reduction. Legal empowerment through use of legal rights, services, systems and reforms help the poor exercise increased control over their lives and livelihoods.

Health

While many countries have made good progress towards achieving MDGs 4 and 5, this progress has often been inequitable, with respect to socioeconomic status, gender and region. While consolidating the gains remains a challenge, new issues are arising. As the population ages so does the burden of non-communicable diseases, for example. But the current health system infrastructure is not designed for these conditions. Consumers should be protected from the income erosion effect of illnesses and from catastrophic health expenditure. Universal health coverage in its broader mandate offers much potential.

Education

Bangladesh has made good progress in universalising primary education, but this still remains the most important concern for the grassroots, as found in the large BRAC survey mentioned above. Quality education is still a far cry. There is inadequate provision for technical and vocational education and its links to industry and other service sectors. The potential of life-long learning is yet to be fully understood and brought into reality.

Governance

The need for good governance came out very prominently in our explorations. These included the importance of eliminating corruption, repealing discriminatory laws and promotion of respect for rule of law, practice of real democracy in every aspect of national decision-making, and judicial freedom and accountability. The rural power structure, monopolised by elites, dominates all formal and informal institutions including local governments. The consequences of this have been the denial of the rights and entitlements of poor people and delivery of poor-quality services.

Knowledge management and capacity

A critical input for taking evidence-based actions is the availability of accurate and relevant information and necessary capacity to manage it. The ICT revolution needs to be harnessed to facilitate this process and ensure participation of grassroots in decision-making and evaluation.

Conclusion

NGOs working on the ground are at the vanguard of development. They are able to represent the views of the grassroots in any agenda setting that affects them, and play a vital role in attaining the MDGs in different countries. What they need, however, is more inclusion in the development and implementation of programmes, and more investment in both the current and future goals. It is clear that the global and national investment in this regard is far from adequate. The global community should respect their commitments to allocate a decent portion of their national income to global development. ■



© Reuters

■ **A child jumps on the waste products that are used to make poultry feed as she plays in a tannery at Hazaribagh in Dhaka. The tanneries packed into the Hazaribagh neighbourhood do not treat their waste water, which contains animal flesh, sulphuric acid, chromium and lead, leaving it to spew into open gutters and eventually the city's main river**



INDIGENOUS FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: A HERITAGE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND STATES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Indigenous Peoples Fund is an international organization established to promote the development of self-management of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, in the long term and in a sustainable manner.

The Indigenous Peoples Fund aims to contribute to the creation of the legal, political, technical and financial conditions for the self-development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, through the recognition of their specific rights and the creation of appropriate mechanisms for channeling resources to their social, economic and cultural development. The Indigenous Fund was created and ratified by 22 countries in the II IberoAmerican Summit of Heads of State and Government (Madrid, July 1992).

The following states are members of the Indigenous Fund: Argentina, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Uruguay and Venezuela.

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

The Indigenous Peoples Fund differs from other organizations of international cooperation in three respects. First, its mandate is to create the necessary conditions so that indigenous peoples could formulate their own development programs oriented to living well.

Second, its strategic regional structure gives it a unique ability to develop inclusive and intercultural public policies in Latin America and the Caribbean for the benefit of indigenous peoples, that allows the Indigenous Peoples Fund to address the needs of those indigenous peoples living on the borders of two or more countries.

Third, it is distinct in its egalitarian structure, which allows the direct participation of both the indigenous peoples and the government of Member States in its administration and leadership, performing an important role as a forum for discussion and resolution of conflicts and the creation of policies.

KEY PROGRAMS

The following emblematic programs aim to create a greater impact and make the Fund more effective:

- Training and Preparation
- Development with Identity
- Consultation and Indigenous Peoples Rights
- Information and Communication
- Indigenous Women
- Organizational Strengthening

THE FUND, HERITAGE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND STATES OF THE REGION

Twenty-one years after its creation, at its 10th General Assembly, the Indigenous Peoples Fund was declared a Heritage of the Indigenous Communities and of the States of Latin America and the Caribbean, for the following reasons:

1. For linking the indigenous communities, the local countries and the international community.
2. For being the only international organization that specialises in indigenous peoples at a global level.
3. For the highly acclaimed training programs for indigenous leaders and professionals, which strengthen public and political influence in the region.
4. For the initiatives aimed at quality of life for the indigenous communities, that have created the “Development with Identity” paradigm that allows them to overcome the global crisis.

THE FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS
a platform that promotes dialogue and agreement

Teléfono (591 2) 2423233 Fax (591 2) 2423686
www.fondoindigena.org - fi@fondoindigena.org - La Paz, Bolivia

FONDO INDIGENA

Innovation and philanthropy

The creation of the MDGs was a unique historical event, when the world was united by a bold, philanthropic vision. Countless initiatives have contributed to their success, but there are some that stand out through the scale of their impact and the way that they have challenged the status quo, breaking the cycle that has kept billions in deprivation over generations. Here are a few outstanding examples

By **Mrinalini Singh,**
United Nations Association – UK

1.2 billion
live in extreme poverty

Breaking the poverty cycle: microfinance

Microfinance, commonly understood as the provision of financial services to low-income groups, is recognised as an important tool for economic development. A leading example of a successful microfinance initiative is the Bangladesh-based Grameen Bank. ('Grameen' is derived from 'gram', which means 'rural' or 'village' in Bengali.)

This unconventional banking institution was conceived of in 1976 by founder Dr Muhammad Yunus and institutionalised as a bank in 1983. As of 2011, the Grameen Bank had 2,565 branches and 8.35 million borrowers, and had disbursed over $11.35 billion since its inception.

It has inspired similar projects in more than 40 countries, such as Indonesia's Badan Kredit Kecamatan bank and Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia's microcredit schemes, as well as global initiatives like Kiva, which enables individuals around the world to lend to people in developing countries through its website. In 2006, Yunus and the Bank were awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for their pioneering efforts in aiding development "from below".

The Grameen Bank only lends to those with low incomes. It approves applications on the basis of ten indicators, such as whether the applicant has a latrine, or whether children in the applicant's family have received schooling, and is premised on the belief that the poor have the right to credit.

The vast majority – some 96 per cent – of its borrowers are women, in line with the Bank's philosophy that money lent to women is more likely to benefit their families and wider communities.

Unlike other lending institutions, the Bank does not insist on collateral against the loans it extends. Neither do the borrowers sign any legal instrument since no legal recourse is adopted in the event of default. Instead, all borrowers are part of five-member groups.

While the group does not assume joint liability for debts, it does encourage financial diligence amongst members since the repayment record of the group's first two members affects the loans made to the next three. Borrowers also comply with a mandatory savings component on loans.

Grameen's belief in the repayment abilities of the poor has to date been justified: the Bank boasts a loan recovery rate of nearly 97 per cent.

While the Bank's critics have questioned its broader impact on improving incomes and poverty rates, for the millions who rely on its loans for their basic needs, and the millions who have used them to create microbusinesses, the story is a different one.



© UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

"I saw a loan shark in the village and I got so upset, because he took control of people's lives. I wanted to know how much money was involved; when my list was complete, there were 42 people on that list [and the] total money borrowed was $27. So I said: "My God, for this money people have to suffer so much." I went to see if the bank will lend the money. The bank said: "No way, poor people are not creditworthy. They will eat up your money." I said, "No, you will see." I offered myself as a guarantor." ***Muhammad Yunus, founder, Grameen Bank***

"Women and girls in particular find themselves excluded from opportunities, with the poorest terribly vulnerable to exploitation, neglect and abuse. Women's work is denied recognition or proper pay. They face enormous obstacles in having their voices heard and in claiming rights and freedoms that are enshrined in our constitution and laws but denied in practice.

In some cases, this prejudice is open but in many cases it is subtle – although no less damaging... Any girl denied the chance to fulfil her potential and any woman exploited and repressed by unscrupulous moneylenders, landlords, traders or even their families is a loss to our country."

Dr Ela Bhatt, founder, Self Employed Women's Association of India



© UN Photo/Cia Pak

Empowering women through collective action

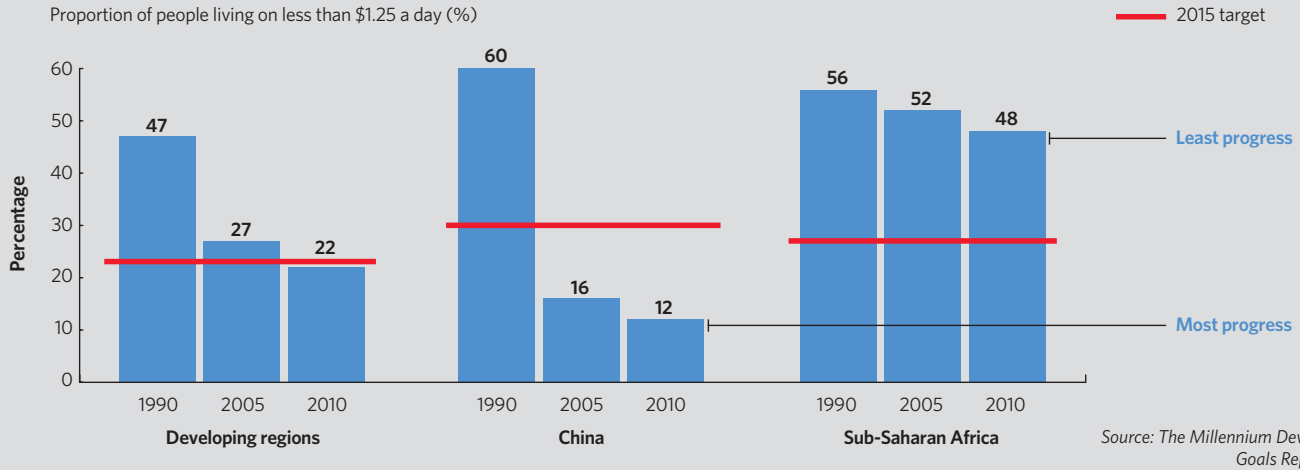
The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) was established in India in 1972. Aimed at female empowerment, this grassroots organisation is open to all women working in unorganised sectors. It is thought over 90 per cent of the Indian labour force – and some 94 per cent of women workers – are found in these sectors, which includes farmers, domestic workers and waste-pickers. By 2010, it had a membership of over 1.2 million, making it one of the largest trade unions in the country.

Due to the nature of their work, SEWA's members tend to have an irregular stream of income. They do not receive the employment benefits available to the organised workforce and many of them are illiterate.

SEWA mobilises and encourages them to strive for employment security. Its dual goals are securing 'full employment' and 'self-reliance' for its members, which it believes will strengthen their pursuit of economic justice. This includes greater autonomy and decision-making abilities. In addition to functioning as a union, SEWA has built cooperatives – for example for traders, vendors, dairy producers and domestic workers – which have proved extremely successful in generating income and jobs.

It also provides a range of services, provided by members for members, in areas such as healthcare, childcare, insurance, micro-credit and legal aid. In addition to serving as gainful employment avenues, these services also aid capacity building amongst members.

SEWA has had a tremendous impact on the lives of its members. Its founder, the renowned social activist Dr Ela Bhatt, who is a strong believer in Gandhian values, describes SEWA as a movement, rather than a programme. Its activities have helped hundreds of thousands of women become more skilled, more confident and more resilient – agents of change in their own lives and those of their families and communities. Through SEWA, their myriad contributions to the Indian economy and society are no longer invisible – a hurdle that Bhatt was determined to overcome.



Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2013

660,000
malaria deaths in 2010

8.7 million
new cases of TB in 2011

2.5 million
new HIV infections each year

The Global Fund has disbursed **>$21 billion** funding **340 million** mosquito nets & antiretroviral therapy for **5.3 million**

Health: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria (Global Fund) was set up in 2002 to provide financial resources to countries battling these three diseases. It now contributes 82 per cent of international funds to fight tuberculosis, half the global malaria spending and just over a fifth of aid targeted at HIV/AIDS worldwide.

The Global Fund was the culmination of several years of dedicated advocacy, which resulted in increasing global attention on these diseases from the late 1990s onwards, including in high-profile fora such as the G8 meeting in 2000 and the 2001 African Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB and infectious diseases.

Later that year, a UN Special Session on AIDS endorsed the need for a dedicated fund. A Transitional Working Group was established to determine the operations and structure of such a fund and a permanent Global Fund secretariat was set up in Geneva in 2002. Gro Harlem Brundtland, then Director-General of the UN World Health Organization, and Kofi Annan, then UN Secretary-General, were among the Global Fund's founders and driving forces.

Financed through voluntary contributions from a range of stakeholders – governments, the private sector, development agencies and individuals – the Global Fund provides crucial funding for programmes targeted at reducing the incidence, prevalence and mortality of these communicable diseases. It is not involved with the implementation of programmes. For this, it relies on its partners on the ground.

To access funding, 'country coordinating mechanisms', comprising public, private and other stakeholders, submit grant proposals. In recent years, the Global Fund has prioritised grants to the low-income states most affected by these diseases, including 20 'high impact' countries that account for 70 per cent of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria cases worldwide. To date, it has received over $27 billion in donations and has disbursed over $21 billion in funding.

By serving as a dependable source of finance, the Global Fund has enabled the detection and treatment of 11 million new smear-positive TB cases, the distribution of 340 million mosquito nets and the provision of antiretroviral therapy to 5.3 million persons. These interventions have prevented millions of deaths and improved the lives of those afflicted.

But much more remains to be done. Although the incidence of HIV is declining steadily in most regions, 2.5 million people are newly infected each year. In sub-Saharan Africa, nearly one in every 20 people has HIV.

Likewise, renewed commitments are needed to sustain gains in reducing deaths from malaria, which claimed some 660,000 lives in 2010. And while TB is also – haltingly – on the decline, around 8.7 million people worldwide were newly diagnosed in 2011. Funding remains of vital importance.

The Global Fund estimates that current contributions still fall far short of the $15 billion it needs between 2014 and 2016 to ensure that positive trends are maintained and accelerated.



© UN Photo/Greg Kinch

"AIDS was increasing, year by year; tuberculosis in many parts of the world was not dealt with in any reasonable way; malaria was a scourge, and very little was being done. We can be proud whenever the world is able to work together in such a way that we overcome misery and improve people's rights and people's opportunities in life."

Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Director-General, World Health Organization

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is one of the world's largest philanthropic organisations, established by Microsoft chairman Bill Gates and his wife Melinda in 2000.

The driving force behind the Foundation is the belief that all lives have equal value and everyone should be able to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. In order to fulfil this objective, the Foundation provides grants to partners to undertake development activities in different regions of the world.

The Foundation has four core programmes: global health, global development, global policy and advocacy, and the United States.

The Global Health Division works with partners to provide vaccines, drugs and other life-saving treatment. Priority areas include

"We're not giving out aid, we're providing people with the tools they need to improve their lives; seeds they can sow, access to better healthcare. And to be effective you have to understand the issues at a very deep level."

Melinda Gates, co-founder, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



© UN Photo/ Ky Chung

prevention of diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and polio, as well as improving child and maternal health, nutrition and family planning measures. The Global Development Division aims at reducing hunger and poverty worldwide. It funds programmes on improving agricultural productivity and providing microfinance. The US Program focuses on improving the quality of education and increasing access to the internet and libraries in the US and Pacific Northwest. The Global Policy and Advocacy Division partners with policy experts to develop key relationships and strategies for the other programmes.

Grants are the backbone of the Foundation's operations. It reaches out to organisations that have similar priorities, with strong focus on implementation and measurable impact.

The Foundation is particularly interested in partners that work at the grassroots level, and in the role of technological and scientific innovations in reducing hunger, poverty and disease. Recent projects include a challenge to 'reinvent the toilet', which encouraged designers and engineers to create an affordable, hygienic and environmentally-friendly latrine that could function without piped water, sewer or electrical connections.

Since its inception, the Foundation has disbursed grants of $27.6 billion. As a result of its significant contribution to development funding, particularly in terms of health spending, the Foundation is increasingly able to influence global policies and priorities. It is credited, for example, for its emphasis on monitoring and evaluation in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

At the same time, it has been lobbied by medical and non-profit groups to give as high a priority to non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, as it does to infectious diseases. Whichever priorities it chooses will help to inform the next decade of development.

Highlighting good governance

In 2006, Sudanese-born entrepreneur and businessman Dr Mo Ibrahim set up the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to support meaningful advances in leadership and governance on the African continent. The following year, the Foundation launched the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG).

With the help of expert inputs from different agencies in the region, the IIAG assesses and ranks each African country based on 14 categories and 88 indicators in four main areas: safety and rule of law; participation and human rights; sustainable economic opportunity; and human development.

Each indicator must be applicable to two-thirds of the countries, and have been assessed in each of them for at least two years between 2000 and 2011.

To compile the index, data supplied by 23 different institutions are checked and standardised. Missing figures are estimated using methods such as extrapolation or country mean substitution. A final score between 1 and 100 is then assigned to each country. In 2012, Mauritius topped the index.

Between 2000 and 2011, seven countries, including Sierra Leone, have been assessed as having made considerable improvement in their governance levels. Across the continent, countries have tended to perform better in the areas of sustainable economic opportunity and human development, although unequal growth continues to mar progress.

Along with the Mo Ibrahim Prize for leadership, which was expressly not awarded in 2009 and 2010 as the Foundation felt that no leader had met all the criteria, the IIAG serves as an important model for assessing performance on governance – a key theme in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

It also highlights the need for better, more reliable data. For instance, lack of data on poverty in several countries led to its exclusion from the IIAG indicator list. In order to overcome this challenge, the IIAG has partnered with institutions such as the 'Afrobarometer' and the 'Global Integrity Trust' in order to bolster its data through expanded citizen surveys and access to experts on the different indicators.

The 2012 rankings of the Ibrahim Index of African Governance can be found on page 31.



© UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Mo Ibrahim, founder, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation



© UNICEF/Noorani

A long-term view of poverty reduction

Also in this section:
The cost of hunger 66
Escaping poverty 68

The creation of the MDGs was a unique moment of global consensus and they have yielded massive gains in human development. The UN and the Bretton Woods institutions must now work together to maintain social progress

By **Sir Richard Jolly**, Honorary Professor and Research Associate, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were the first time in history that virtually every country in the world, led by the UN, agreed on specific time-bound goals to reduce poverty. One needs a sense of history to grasp the full significance of the MDGs – and to think with sufficient boldness about what should follow them in 2015, not merely for the next 10 or 15 years, but over the rest of the 21st century.

Think, for example, of the contrasts in Britain over the last century or two. (I leave it to those of other countries to present their own national perspectives.) In 1815, Britain was celebrating the victory over Napoleon at Waterloo but in parallel with the triumphalism, economic growth and industrialisation were about to create the dark days of workhouses as the cruel answer to squalid urban poverty. It took almost a hundred years for the country to establish the rudiments of a welfare system and put a leaky floor under poverty. And by 1915 Britain was plunged into the First World War, which was slaughtering millions, absorbing resources and adding to mounting debt.

Fast forward 50 more years, and by comparison, conditions in Britain in 1965 were very much better. By then, the country had taken action to tackle poverty within its own borders, created a welfare state, was running its economy with low unemployment (under 3 per cent) and poverty was falling. Internationally, the UN had been established and most colonies – British, French and of other powers – were independent or on the way towards it.

A Development Decade had been declared and adopted by the UN. Its Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization had set regional goals for expanding education and the World Health Organization was debating a ten-year plan to eradicate smallpox – which was adopted, proved successful and saved two million lives a year at a total cost of only $300 million. There was an international commitment to accelerate economic growth in developing countries, and donor states contributed a greater share of their income to aid back then than they do today.

The MDGs can be seen as a further step along this trajectory of commitments to international human advance, establishing a wider range of time-bound, people-focused goals and a more coherent system for monitoring progress towards them. Goals were set for halving poverty and hunger, reducing child and maternal mortality, expanding basic education with gender equality, tackling HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases and, just about, taking action towards environmental sustainability. All these goals are being monitored and progress in all parts of the world is reported on annually.

Underlying all this is a global consensus of support and commitment for the goals from countries in all parts of the world, far from perfect but impressive even by the standards of 1965, let alone of 1915 or the century before.

Like others, I am aware that not all about the MDGs is rosy and that historians warn against seeing progress as an inevitable upward path. Trend is not destiny. But for those committed to internationalism and the UN, the positive advances can and ought to rekindle our determinations to hold out for further advances. What might they be?

The post-2015 development agenda

Clearly, there ought to be a post-2015 agenda, with new commitments running to 2025 or 2030. These should obviously complete the unfulfilled parts of the MDGs, which includes special emphasis on and support for sub-Saharan Africa and the 48 Least Developed Countries of the world.

Progress in many of these countries has been substantial but, having had furthest to go, the gaps between where they have reached in human

Opposite: standing on a mound of debris, a boy burns garbage to expose discarded scrap metal, on the banks of the Buriganga River, in the central Dhaka District, Bangladesh

development and the rest of the world still remain considerable. Even for better-off countries, further progress is needed. After all, many of the MDGs were expressed as no more than reducing by half the proportions of those in poverty, experiencing hunger or lacking access to vital services in other ways.

The post-2015 agenda must also include some of the key issues omitted the first time round, notably commitments to human rights and to reductions of inequality within countries, which has been soaring in many parts of the world. In these areas, there is new and positive experience in many countries to build on. So what is needed is to extend the commitments and build on the lessons learned to date. The UN has already set out a 'human rights-based approach to development', which emphasises the need for participation of rights-holders, young and old, in formulating priorities, as well as the duties of governments and other obligation-holders (including international agencies and other governments abroad) to support and respond.

Reducing inequalities within countries also needs to be incorporated as a new and explicit goal. Whereas in 2000, this might have been more controversial, the adoption of such a goal today, though still challenging, deserves to gain greater support for three reasons. First, many parts of the UN – and indeed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – have recognised the negative effects of high levels of inequality.

Secondly, evidence has increasingly shown the human and economic costs of inequality, not only to those with lower incomes but to every section in a country, the better-off included. Countries with higher levels of inequality experience higher levels of child mortality, obesity, mental illness, teenage births, domestic violence, homicides and incarceration. They also have lower levels of life expectancy, educational performance, social mobility and trust. In other words, the better-off, as well as the poorer groups of a society, lose when inequality is greater.

But finally, inequality should now be included as a goal because much more is known about the diversity of actions needed to reduce it. Some 15 to 20 countries have demonstrated how inequalities can be reduced – often substantially over only a decade or two. There is experience to learn from.

Goals for the longer term

But what about the longer run? In a world of growing globalisation, with much of Europe still mired in austerity and growth slowing in China, India and other countries, it is time to consider once again international action and institutions to support moves towards a more balanced and sustainable global economy, underpinned by more effective and democratic international decision-making. At this point, many may well despair. "We have been here before, and nothing happens!"

Reducing inequalities within countries needs to be incorporated as a new and explicit goal

Certainly, there is much to discourage but there are also many examples of moves forward to build upon – in human rights, peace-building, human development and economic advance. As the eminent sociologist Barbara Wootton put it: "It is from the champions of the impossible rather than the slaves of the possible that evolution draws its creative force."

For me, three areas of international action need to be at the top of the long-run agenda for the 21st century:

- Actions to moderate and mitigate climate change and tackle climate chaos.
- Accelerated action towards sustainable energy use and production.
- Actions to strengthen the UN system, enabling it to play a fuller part in supporting humane global governance. Promoting free trade and global free markets in pursuit of economic efficiency is nowhere near enough.

Climate change is the biggest threat facing humankind. In spite of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluding that there is an urgent need for the world to act, international decisions and actions are largely in stalemate. At present, action has been left to individual countries: better than nothing but inadequate for the long run.

But with increasing evidence of the costs and damage being done, attitudes will change. And the positive examples of action being taken by countries like China and Germany will shift attitudes, if only through the pressures of competition. Monitoring must be used to increasingly challenge all countries to build on the best examples of mitigation and preventive action already being implemented. In short, climate change must remain high on the international agenda.

Closely related are the actions required to move towards sustainable production and use of energy. Economic growth in much of the world will continue to add exponentially to the demand for energy, as emerging and other countries of the South narrow the gaps between them and countries of the North. Fundamental challenges are posed for increasing efficiency in the use of energy as well as for the development of newer technologies – and researchers, private companies, the World Bank and the UN have important roles in support of all this. Again, dissemination of best practice as well as monitoring



© Reuters

must be used to push all countries towards building on the best examples.

Strengthening the UN is a third need – but in a more fundamental way than many seem to realise. Over the last three decades, global economic governance, led by the World Bank, the IMF and the World Trade Organization, has been focused on increasing economic efficiency, free markets, free trade and the free movement of capital internationally: in short the 'Washington Consensus'.

In contrast, the UN has pursued a different agenda – focused on human needs in health, education, employment, food and nutrition. Over the last two decades, the UN has given ever more emphasis to human rights and human development.

Given the dominance of the Bretton Woods institutions, backed by the strong support of the developed countries, global economic governance has thus been increasingly constructed worldwide along neo-liberal lines. In the years ahead, the balance must be shifted back toward the human side.

Economic efficiency is needed and some of the neo-liberal agenda has been useful. But it has often gone too far – and attention to human rights and human development has suffered as a result. It is time to bring actions towards humane global governance into the picture, as commentators like Richard Falk and David Held have suggested. This will require closer and more balanced relationships between the Bretton Woods institutions and the UN, as their founders had originally envisaged.

Global economic governance should now give more attention to human rights and to styles of national and international development focused on human needs. This includes the MDG agenda but also much more. Such an approach would involve fewer changes nationally than many might realise. Already, most countries, developed and developing, implement patterns of development that balance social and economic priorities and concerns for human rights far beyond a narrow focus on the values of neo-liberal economics. This approach now needs to be bought more clearly into the approaches and institutions of the international system.

In summary, the world has made enormous progress in tackling poverty, in spite of how much remains to be done. We now need to address our relations to the planet and to each other in a more humane world. ■

More information on the costs of inequality can be found in Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better* (London, Penguin Books, 2009); and David Held, *Global Covenant: The Social Democratic Alternative to the Washington Consensus* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2004).

■ High-rise residential towers under construction alongside slum housing in central Mumbai, India. Evidence has increasingly shown the human and economic costs of inequality, not only to those with lower incomes but to every section in a country



Reducing poverty and hunger

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) plays a critical role in sub-Saharan Africa

Above: Kofi Annan, Chairman of AGRA and former Secretary-General of the UN, and Melinda Gates, Co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, visit rural cassava farmers near Arusha, Tanzania

Agricultural investment in sub-Sahara Africa has great potential not only to trigger rapid growth, but also to reduce poverty and hunger among millions of people – promoting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1, which seeks to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. But it takes tactical and strategic investments and activities to achieve this.

The not so good news is that many African countries do not pay sufficient attention to the agricultural development sector of their economies – exacerbating the problem of hunger and poverty among vulnerable rural poor populations. The truth, though, is that governments cannot do it all alone, but can create the platform for agricultural transformation, which holds the key to eradicating poverty and hunger. So the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) comes in with its innovative approach to agricultural practices in Africa.

AGRA cannot agree more with Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary-General's statement that: "MDGs constitute the most effective anti-poverty campaign in history." Ban Ki-moon proposes that to meet the MDGs, we need action by African countries, development partners and the international community. Unlike other approaches, AGRA believes in generating home-grown solutions to Africa's food security challenges,

through building capacity across the whole agriculture value chain. Certainly the impact of this approach on poverty and hunger alleviation is immense. "We continue to see the impact of our approach and investments across AGRA's programs and the continent," says Jane Karuku, President of AGRA.

Education and training

Sub-Saharan Africa's agricultural sector is characterised by many challenges, but the world cannot afford to disappoint millions of poor people living in that region. Land scarcity, poor soils and seeds, poor private sector engagement in agriculture, unfavorable policy issues, low-level input use, lack of agriculture financing, among other things, worsen the situation.

AGRA's interventions complement the many attempts being made to transform agriculture in order to lift vulnerable groups out of extreme poverty and hunger as aimed for in MDG 1.

One major and strategic investment AGRA makes to support the UN's MDGs is in the area of education and training. Through innovative academic collaborations, AGRA supports the training of agricultural scientists, and works with accredited laboratories and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to develop seeds suited to Africa's soils and climates.

For instance, AGRA has facilitated the training of 56 PhD and 119 MSc graduates in crop sciences, 40 PhD graduates and 95 MSc graduates in soil health improvement. The organisation has also trained more than 10,000 farmer associations, and continues to train more in the use of integrated soil fertility management technologies. The training activities have already started yielding results. Thus, already, 440 new improved crop varieties have been developed, and nearly 142,000 tons of certified seed of key staple crops have been produced by African seed enterprises, with financial and technical support from AGRA.

The importance of innovation

Innovation is another strategy AGRA uses to promote African agriculture. AGRA's approach of linking farmers to new structured output markets and post-harvest handling systems, to sell their produce, is increasingly assuring and building the confidence of farmers across countries. As a result, about 36,942 farmers have had assistance in selling their produce to SMEs, receiving up to 10-15 per cent better prices, due to smallholder marketing systems. In doing this, AGRA has committed substantial investments across its programmes in 16 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, to improve agricultural practices which will impact lives now and in the future.

This brings to life Ban Ki-moon's sentiments that: "When we succeed in saving lives and supporting countries through the Millennium Development Goals, we give credibility and momentum to the post-2015 process."

Focusing its financial and technical support on the smallholder farmer in Africa, AGRA is contributing immensely to eradicating poverty and hunger to give dignity to these vulnerable populations. As reported in the progress report of MDGs, even though the poverty rates in sub-Saharan Africa have only decreased marginally, there are some successes. In the case of MDG 1, the region has started to eradicate poverty by strengthening the industry of rice and other staple production.

AGRA is playing a major role in this. For instance, as AGRA finds itself at the centre of training agricultural scientists to produce resilient new improved crop varieties in the region, including those of: rice, maize, millet, sorghum and cassava, the chronic challenge of finding well-adapted varieties is becoming a problem of the past. AGRA has supported postgraduate training programs in Plant Breeding that have contributed to the release of disease-resistant, insect-resistant, and drought- tolerant new crop varieties.

Engine for development

The targets of MDG 1 call for extensive collaboration. If the aim of the MDGs is to encourage development by improving social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries, then AGRA's interventions – to address problems of African seeds, soils, markets, policy and advocacy to increase productivity and profitability – provide platforms for contributing to achieve MDG 1. "Agriculture has the potential to transform Africa into a global leader, so we must explore every opportunity and start looking at farming in Africa as a business with the potential not to just feed our people, but to be an engine for development," says Karuku.

Innovative financing and investment in agriculture in Africa will go a long way in helping to eradicate poverty and hunger. One fact is clear – AGRA leads by example. AGRA and partners have used $17m in loan guarantees to leverage $100 million from commercial banks in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda, all in the bid to expand the horizon of agriculture in Africa to promote food security for millions of resource-poor Africans, because AGRA believes that growth in the agricultural sector has the best chance for reducing poverty and hunger. AGRA continues to develop innovative strategies and to work with partners to promote the UN's MDG 1 to improve the livelihood of millions of people living in sub-Saharan Africa. ■



Beneficiaries of AGRA grants include scientists developing improved varieties of cassava. For the Vita family in Namiovi village, Mozambique, improved cassava is planted on a large part of their farm. Here, Adelia Juliao carries harvested cassava in a basket home from the fields

www.agra.org

AGRA
Growing Africa's Agriculture

The cost of hunger

Hunger destabilises societies, causing lasting human and economic damage. However, a concerted global push can eliminate hunger in our lifetime

By **Ertharin Cousin,** Executive Director, UN World Food Programme

There is a common thread running through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that connects all our efforts to address poverty, lack of education, gender inequality, child and maternal mortality, and health. That thread is hunger. Without a comprehensive and sustainable push to address hunger, none of the other goals are likely to be achieved.

Ending hunger globally is achievable. As we look to the future, it is vitally important that we establish a new stand-alone goal for hunger and nutrition as one of the foundation stones for social stability, economic growth, peace and security.

Almost 870 million people are chronically undernourished around the world. It is unacceptable that so many people are unable on a daily basis to access sufficient and nutritious food to support a balanced diet. It should not, therefore, come as a surprise that the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda gave its support to a stand-alone goal for food security and nutrition.

The cost of ignoring the challenge of hunger is simply too high. A series of recent 'Cost of Hunger' studies in Africa revealed the staggering impact on a country's GDP if national policies fail to address the nutritional needs of hungry people. In Ethiopia, the annual costs associated with child under-nutrition were estimated at $4.7 billion, or 16.5 per cent of annual GDP. As the Director General of the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute said in the foreword of his nation's Cost of Hunger study: "We must invest not only in roads and bridges and enterprise, but also in the nutrition of the youngest Ethiopians."

The High-Level Panel has noted the devastating effects that conflict and violence can have on development. History has taught us that hungry, undernourished populations cannot provide a firm foundation for economic growth and prosperity.

As recently as 2008, when the world experienced a dramatic increase in food prices, riots erupted on the streets of nations that were vulnerable to the convulsions on the markets because of their dependence on food imports. As the world's population continues to grow and the pressure on the global food system increases, achieving food security for all is ever more important.

Almost 870 million people are chronically undernourished around the world



While the UN World Food Programme (WFP), with its strategic goal of ending global hunger, has an obvious interest in these discussions, we are not a lone voice in demanding that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda maintains a sharp focus on global food and nutrition security. Discussions about the post-2015 development agenda come at a time when the international community is engaged deeply in issues relating to nutrition and global food security.

Recent initiatives

Support for a renewed push on nutrition and food security is already strong and has been well reflected in a number of high-level initiatives in recent years:

- the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, announced at the Rio+20 conference, last year, calls for the elimination of hunger in



A soldier from the Transitional Federal Government monitors children and women who are waiting for food to be distributed in the Badbado camp in Mogadishu, the Somalian capital

© UNICEF/Holt

our lifetimes;

- the Istanbul Programme of Action, announced at the 2011 Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, calls for substantial progress towards eradicating hunger in our lifetimes;
- the 2012 World Health Assembly defined six global nutrition targets to be reached by 2025;
- the Joint Chairs Synthesis Report of the High-Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition calls for a "global goal on food and nutrition security";
- the "Nutrition for Growth" summit in London in June galvanised leaders from governments, the business sector, humanitarian agencies and civil society to mobilise resources and commit support for a sustained push to end child stunting in support of the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

The High-Level Panel has also noted that inadequate nutrition has left 165 million children stunted or smaller than they should be for their ages, preventing their brains from developing fully and ultimately limiting their ability to make a living. Working with partners, such as the UN Population Fund, WFP is striving to improve nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers as well as girls of reproductive age so we can further support the SUN movement and address nutritional needs during the first 1,000 days between conception and birth.

The combined momentum of all of these initiatives provides us with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to engineer a positive shift towards achieving global targets on nutrition and food security.

For all these reasons, that thread of hunger that runs through the MDGs must be used to bind together the fabric of the post-2015 development goals.

We must embed that thread in all of the appropriate targets as well as in a new stand-alone goal specifically targeting food security and nutrition, which will guide us in the decades ahead. Only then will we create a world where every child can live life to their full potential. ■



© Reuters

Escaping poverty

Extreme poverty reduction: an MDGs success story?

By **Hayley Richardson,** Policy & Advocacy Officer, United Nations Association – UK

The goal of extreme poverty reduction is surely the best-known of the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). On the face of it, target 1a – to halve, from 1990 levels, the proportion of people living on less than $1.25 a day by 2015 – is seen as a success story of the MDGs project, having been achieved five years ahead of schedule. But with two years to go until the goals expire and amid a growing global debate on what should replace them, this target warrants closer scrutiny.

What is extreme poverty?

Those living in 'extreme poverty' are the world's poorest people; those who are unable to meet the most basic of human needs, such as having a safe place to live and enough food to eat, and unable to cope with external shocks such as volatile food prices or natural disasters. Since 2000 these people have been the primary focus of the MDGs. However, counting their number is not as straightforward as it might seem.

Scant data for a number of countries hinders any truly comprehensive assessment, and without a clear picture of where we're starting from, deciding how to improve that picture is all the more difficult. Currently the World Bank has insufficient information to report on poverty reduction progress, or lack thereof, for 36 countries. Improvements to the timely and accurate collection of household surveys and other available data are badly needed.

There is also debate over the best method for measuring extreme poverty. The MDGs use the widely-recognised international poverty line of $1.25 a day (at 2005 purchasing power parity). However, critics of this absolute poverty line argue that its narrow focus diverts attention away from those who find themselves at or slightly above the $1.25 line. These people still suffer acute deprivation and require assistance if they are not to fall back into 'official' extreme poverty.

There are a raft of alternative poverty measurement options, including:

- using the higher $2 a day measure as a global baseline;
- setting both a 'low' and a 'high' poverty line, in a bid to capture the varying levels of poverty;
- using national poverty lines as well as an international poverty line;
- utilising complementary poverty indicators and statistics.

The final point has been particularly influential in shaping poverty reduction thinking, with calls for the debate to move on from a discussion simply about income. As the MDGs themselves implicitly recognise, poverty is multidimensional and borne out of a number of inter-related, complex factors. Therefore any analysis of extreme poverty should also

Children gather in a poor neighbourhood in the Mawzaa village of the southern Yemeni province of Taiz. Political turmoil has pushed Yemen to the brink of a humanitarian crisis and aid agencies estimate half the country's 24 million people are malnourished

include an assessment of these additional factors; such as unemployment rates or access to public services.

How have we done so far?

Progress over the last 20 years has been dramatic. In 1990, 47 per cent (1.9 billion) of the total population of developing countries lived on under $1.25 a day. The world celebrated in 2010 when, five years ahead of the MDGs deadline, the target to halve this percentage had been met and stood at 22 per cent (1.2 billion).[1] However, as with other MDGs, progress has been uneven. Despite gains in most regions of the world, the proportion of sub-Saharan Africa's population living on under $1.25 a day remains at just under 50 per cent.[2] And of the overall global reduction, China and India alone accounted for 75 per cent.[3]

Progress within countries has also been patchy.[4] Experience from the MDGs has shown that tackling inequality has proven a powerful force in reducing poverty. According to research, extreme poverty in a country with 2 per cent annual growth and income distribution close to the world's most equitable countries, could be halved in 10.5 years. Under the same conditions but in a country matching the most unequal, it would take 57 years.[5] Efforts to reduce poverty can ring hollow if they only benefit a particular section of society and ignore vulnerable marginalised groups.

Undoubtedly the MDGs have proven an incredibly useful tool for applying pressure on governments and holding them accountable for any lack of progress on the goals. The MDGs have also had an impact on aid levels, with an overall increase in overseas development assistance in recent decades, particularly to the poorest states (though few donor countries have met the target of spending 0.7 per cent of gross national income on aid).

Pulling 700 million out of extreme poverty is a major achievement. But the target was, by design, only partially addressing the problem. There remain today over a billion people living on under $1.25 a day.[6] The World Bank estimates that by 2015 this will reduce to 970 million, or 15.5 per cent of the developing world population.[7] The next step, reaching the remaining billion, will prove an even greater challenge.

In contrast to 20 years ago, the majority of the world's poorest can now be found in middle-income countries; referred to as 'the new bottom billion' by economist Andy Sumner. The political case for sending aid to these countries can be harder to make. In 2012 the UK announced it was ending its aid programme in India, despite being home to 456 million people living in extreme poverty – the largest number to be found in any country.[8] There is also concern over how to reach the vulnerable populations of fragile states, where progress on all MDG targets has been lagging and social safety nets are either non-existent or inadequate.

Compounding these factors, vital economic growth is declining or slowing down, including in China and India, whose remarkable reductions in extreme poverty were almost wholly due to an extraordinary period of sustained growth. This will remain crucial to any future gains.

An additional consequence of the slow-down has already been felt in aid levels. Although these have been on the increase, in real terms overseas development assistance has dropped for the last two years in a row.[9]

Uncertain outlook

Despite this, the eradication of extreme poverty remains firmly on the global agenda. In April this year World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced that the organisation would be aiming to reduce extreme poverty to no more than 3 per cent by 2030. Not to be outdone, the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released its report in June, which presented 12 possible new development goals, designed to eradicate extreme poverty entirely by 2030.

The debate is now on as to how and even if extreme poverty can be completely eradicated. Both the World Bank and the High-Level Panel make the important connection between raising incomes and improving public services, reducing inequality (though a standalone goal was notably absent from the High-Level Panel report) and strengthening resilience to external shocks. The High-Level Panel also recommends using an absolute international standard alongside national poverty lines, and requires that a target only be deemed to have been met if progress has been made by all social groups.

The outlook for 2030 is uncertain. Current poverty level predictions vary greatly depending on the forecast methods used. The international community now has two years until the 2015 MDGs deadline to decide how it will go about meeting the immense challenge it has set for itself. ■

Without a clear picture of where we're starting from, deciding how to improve that picture is all the more difficult

1 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2013/English2013.pdf
2 http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1327948020811/8401693-1355753354515/8980448-1366123749799/GMR_2013_Full_Report.pdf
3 www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/papers/2011/1/global%20poverty%20chandy/01_global_poverty_chandy.pdf
4 www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7599.pdf
5 http://cdi.mecon.gov.ar/biblio/doc/bm/wps/3677.pdf
6 www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/202
7 http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1327948020811/8401693-1355753354515/8980448-1366123749799/GMR_2013_Full_Report.pdf
8 www.ids.ac.uk/index.cfm?objectid=D840B908-E38D-82BD-A66A89123C11311F
9 www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/A%20Life%20of%20Dignity%20for%20All.pdf



Should we be burying the MDGs?

Professors David Hulme and Uma Kothari from the Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester, look at the post-2015 development agenda

The post-2015 development agenda (post-2015 DA) provides the global community with another chance to shift international social norms so that humanity can move closer to establishing economic and social relationships that can more effectively provide well-being and promote the aspirations of all the world's people – and that means for now and in the future.

At the Institute for Development Policy and Management at the University of Manchester we have long been concerned that international development discourse, policy and practice too often reacts to global change, rather than actively shaping that change. So, our students and staff have, for the last five years, been debating what should 'replace' the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While these discussions have been rich and diverse and there is reasonable agreement on what must 'not go in', there is no sign of consensus on what the content and focus of the post-2015 agenda should be.

Our students and staff have agreed that:

- The post-2015 DA must escape the MDG flaw of being an aid donor product. Indeed, aid is becoming less and less important for development and maybe it is already history.
- Whatever comes next must seek to shape national agendas (civil society debates, government plans and individual behaviours) and not impose goals, poverty reduction strategies and other rich world designed frameworks on developing countries.
- Reducing inequalities (in, for example, health, political influence, education levels as well as income and consumption) needs to be addressed alongside eradicating absolute poverty.

But there our agreements end. Here are our personal interpretations on where we differ.

First, some of our students argue that the MDGs should be buried in 2015. They make the case that the MDGs were the world's biggest confidence trick – allowing 'business as usual' (a capitalist system that exploits the poorest and increases human insecurity and vulnerability) while claiming that the third millennium would be an age of compassion and solidarity. What was the matter with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they argue?

■ **University of Manchester students' brick farm, Uganda**

Others take a very different tack, suggesting that the format of the MDGs are deeply flawed. They argue that while the lists of goals, targets and indicators may appeal to development planners and agencies, they do not fire the imagination of the public.

And, more worryingly, they have failed to fuel social action demanding that the moral outrage of extreme poverty in a rich world be stopped. These students propose a more popular approach – a slogan that will pull people into a global anti-poverty social movement. At Manchester, 'stop preventable child deaths now' was a favourite, but maybe we have been trumped by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria's inspirational Minister of Finance) who says that what Africa needs post-2015 fits into three little words – 'jobs for youth'... think about that.

Finally, there are differences between those who feel that the post-2015 DA should be normative, that is, focused on what is desirable, and those who advocate a less ambitious agenda, focusing instead on what is acceptable to those individuals, corporations and countries that have the most power. The question that emerges then is should the post-2015 DA accept the contemporary gross inequality of international and national relations or, should the UN General Assembly be expected to think in terms of transformation?

Next year we move beyond 2015 but these debates will continue at Manchester. We will look at post-2030 – what will the world look like then and what ideas should the UN be promoting today to ensure that in 2030 we have a fairer world? ■

Professor David Hulme and Professor Uma Kothari





MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

About the Institute

The Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), established in 1958, is the UK's largest university-based International Development Studies department. IDPM's objective is to promote social and economic development, particularly within lower-income countries and for disadvantaged groups, by enhancing the capabilities of individuals and organisations through education, training, consultancy, research and policy analysis.

In recent years it has been increasingly recognised that the quality of policy and institutional design represents a key constraint to development. The Institute offers, within a friendly and supportive atmosphere, the services of a wide range of staff specialising in the practical problems of policy formulation and implementation, organisational design and management, backed up by specialist library and computing facilities and by 50 years of institutional experience.

Quality and excellence in teaching and research

In the Research Assessment Exercise 2008, a periodic government review of the quality of research in UK universities, 65% of IDPM's research was assessed as 'world-class', and in significant areas was viewed as 'world-leading'. This means that not only is IDPM contributing at a global level to debates about poverty and development, but in some areas is setting the pace.

With the government having previously awarded its highest possible rating for the quality of IDPM's postgraduate teaching, IDPM has now achieved national recognition as the UK's leading centre for development research and teaching. This follows our achievement of "full marks" in the Government's Quality Assurance Agency's review of IDPM's postgraduate programmes, providing an external confirmation of the international quality standards being achieved by our postgraduate teaching work.

We offer a wide range of Masters degree courses tailored to the academic background and needs of our students. These courses are usually structured around the following elements:

- a number of core and optional modules, designed to enable participants to pursue specialist studies on topics of direct professional concern to themselves;
- skill-based workshops to strengthen study fellows' professional competencies;
- a field visit in the UK or overseas as part of most of our programmes.

Masters courses usually run for 12 months full-time or, in most cases, 24 months part-time commencing every September.

IDPM Masters

Development Economics and Public Policy:

- Competition, Regulation and Development (MSc)
- Development Economics and Policy (MSc)
- Development Finance (MSc)
- Globalisation and Development (MSc)
- International Development: Public Policy and Management (MA)
- Industry, Trade and Development (MSc)

Social Development:

- Development Studies (MA)
- Development Studies (Research Training) (MA-RT)
- Poverty and Development (MSc)
- International Development (MA/MSc):
- Politics and Governance (MA)
- Development Management (MA)
- Economics and Management of Rural Development (MS)
- Environment and Development (MSc)
- Poverty, Conflict and Reconstruction (MA)
- Social Policy and Social Development (MA)

Management and Governance of Development:

- Human Resource Development (International Development) (MSc)
- Human Resource Management (International Development) (MSc)
- Management and Implementation of Development Projects (MSc)
- Organisational Change and Development (MSc)

Development Informatics:

- ICTs for Development (MSc)
- Management and Information Systems: Change and Development (MSc)

Urban Development and Planning:

- Global Urban Development and Planning (MSc)

Distance Learning Masters:

- Human Resource Management and Development (HRM/D) (MSc)
- Management and Information Systems: Change and Development (MSc)



© UNICEF/Estey

Two children from an indigenous community stand arm-in-arm in a class in Ban Pho Preschool in Bac Ha District in remote Lao Cai Province, Vietnam. UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report shows that ethnic minority groups are more likely to be excluded from education

The power of education

Radical progress has been made in enrolment, but major inequalities must be addressed – not least the 57 million children who are still not in school

By **Irina Bokova**, Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

More children than ever are going to primary school – this is a fact we can celebrate. Since the world set out to improve access to education at the turn of the millennium, we have more than halved the number of children being denied an education. This includes millions of girls and young women, as there are today half as many girls out of school as there were in 1999. This shows what can be done with the right combination of political will, resources and effective policy.

But this is not enough. When the international community drafted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we promised that all children would be in school and would complete primary education by 2015. We also promised to eliminate gender disparities in both primary and secondary schools. We are not there yet.

Today, 57 million children are still not in school, and this number has barely changed over the past three years. Half of out-of-school children live in sub-Saharan Africa. Seventeen countries have not achieved gender parity in primary school, while 97 have not eliminated gender disparities in secondary education. Overall, the number of children not in



school – including those who never have a chance to go to school, who start late or who drop out before completing – represents one in ten children around the world.

The MDGs did catalyse a surge in national efforts and international support, producing quick progress across the world. South and west Asia have reduced their numbers of out-of-school children by two-thirds since 1999 and shown that continued progress is possible if momentum is maintained. India alone reduced its out-of-school children from a staggering 20 million to less than two million. Bangladesh has led the way in implementing policies to narrow gender disparities, helping girls overcome disadvantages to such an extent that there are now slightly more girls in school than boys.

But, in 2000, we made the promise to achieve global progress, not unequal progress. A serious barrier to achieving our goals has been the failure to respond to the needs of the disadvantaged. UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report shows that girls from poor rural families remain the most likely to be excluded. Inequalities are exacerbated for children with disabilities, or from ethnic minority groups. They are especially deep for children living in situations of conflict, which represent half of all children not in school. These children are being denied the chance to learn through no fault of their own.

Another obstacle is the slowing of financial resources. We estimate that there is now a financing gap of $26 billion to get all children into pre-primary and primary schools. In 2000, aid donors pledged that no country would be thwarted from achieving its education goals due to lack of resources – we need to meet this commitment.

Unfinished agenda

So, despite all progress, education remains an unfinished agenda. This is why the UN Secretary-General's new Global Education First Initiative, which UNESCO is helping to steer forward, is so important. Launched in September 2012, this Initiative is guided by three goals: to put every child in school, to improve the quality of learning, and to foster global citizenship. We need a global big push to reach the MDGs by 2015. We must also bring forward all unfinished business as we shape a new global development agenda to follow.

Education throughout life must feature prominently in this new agenda, given its importance for human dignity and its transformational power for development. It is pivotal to the success of other priority areas, such as poverty eradication, promoting health, individual empowerment and environmental sustainability – there is simply no more powerful force to bring sustainability to all development efforts.

For this, we must build on the experience that we have gained since 2000. For greatest impact, new goals must be tangible and relevant to national contexts. High-quality, universal primary education requires ambitious objectives that will inspire all stakeholders and hold them accountable. This means that national governments must develop goals with measurable targets, clear indicators and benchmarks that can be monitored. These goals must also reflect the challenges that education systems are facing. Had we put first the needs of the marginalised since 2000, we might be looking at a very different scorecard today. We need clear objectives as the basis for sharp and innovative interventions that reach the most vulnerable and marginalised groups of children and youth. There can be no excuse to repeat the mistakes of the past.

We must also combine equity with a focus on quality. The UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report estimated that a third of primary school-aged children today are not learning the basics whether they are in school or not. Some children are spending four years in school without learning to read and write. Quality must stand at the heart of the new education agenda. Governments need to be supported in developing better

Also in this section:

Filling educational gaps **76**

Skills and competencies **80**

Teachers are the single most important actors for quality learning

instruments to assess the quality and relevance of learning. We need new indicators that are clear and rigorous, and, at the same time, sensitive to cultural and local circumstances. It is essential that we develop indicators reflecting the full range of competencies that students need to succeed in life and work. We need to know that children and youth are receiving the learning that education systems are promising, and that learning is relevant to their needs and that of their societies.

Teachers are key to success, as the single most important actors for quality learning. At the global level, some 6.8 million teachers need to be recruited in order to reach the goal of universal primary education by 2015 – 1.7 million new recruits and 5.1 million to replace those leaving the profession. The challenge goes beyond numbers – more teachers must mean better quality teaching, through appropriate training and support. We must ensure that there are enough teachers in classrooms and that they are equipped with the right training to give children the best start in life, regardless of background.

There has been tremendous progress in education since 2000, including in some of the world's poorest countries. We need now a major push towards 2015 and to set an effective agenda to follow. No one questions the need for new goals that are ambitious, aspirational and inspirational – but they must also be universal, simple and measurable. In this respect, the education targets proposed by the Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, chaired by Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and David Cameron, provide a solid basis for shaping effective new commitments. Entitled *A New Global Partnership – Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*, the report calls for setting universal goals and national targets, including the provision of quality education and lifelong learning, with a focus on both access and quality of learning, for young learners and adults.

The world is getting younger every day, and the expectations of young people for decent jobs and dignified lives are rising. The world is changing – education must change too. Every woman and man today needs new skills to withstand the pressures of change and to make the most of all its opportunities. This requires education for creativity, education for solidarity and education for sustainability. It means including the millions of children we have not yet reached. These principles must guide us as we set a new global agenda for education. ■



Student-teachers attend a lecture at a teacher-training college in the town of Ramiro, about 50km from Luanda, the Angolan capital

© UNICEF/Nesbitt

A child's right to education

Qatar Foundation for Child and Woman Protection works to empower socially and economically marginalised citizens through the power of education

Qatar Foundation for Child and Woman Protection was established on 13 November 2002 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser in her capacity as President of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.*

In addition to her role at the national level, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser al-Missned plays a major role at the international level. In 2003, Her Highness was appointed by UNESCO as the Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education.

In her capacity as the Special Envoy, Her Highness Sheikha Moza actively promotes a number of international projects that aim to improve quality and accessibility of education around the world. In June 2003, Her Highness launched the International Fund for Higher Education in Iraq to provide support to the reconstruction of higher education in the country.

In line with her role as UNESCO's Special Envoy, Her Highness Sheikha Moza is actively involved in supporting and protecting the right to education in conflict-affected areas, namely Gaza, Iraq and Afghanistan. In February 2009, Her Highness launched a project to develop a new strategy for "education in conflict-affected areas".

Although the Foundation trusts the effectiveness of Qatar national policies aimed at ensuring access to compulsory education, it targets the special cases where children are deprived of the right to education. These cases remain rare; in the period January 2010 to March 2013, the Foundation detected 58 cases and ensured that these children were given access to education. During the same period, the education services provided by the Foundation reached 957 beneficiaries, of which 13 were girls and 944 were boys. The key issue that was addressed in these cases was repeated absence from schools.

The joint efforts of Qatar Foundation and the Supreme Council for Education to realise a child's right to education have led to the implementation of a policy targeting the behavioural aspects of education, which is considered an indispensable part of the learning and education process. This policy aims to create an attractive learning environment where a child's rights to education and to psychological health are realised.

According to article 49 of Qatar's constitution, "all citizens have the right to education; and the State shall endeavor to make general education compulsory and free of charge in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of the State". Therefore, all children have the right to education and they should not be deprived of that right under any circumstances. If custodians prevent children from accessing education, they will be subject to legal actions as per the law of compulsory education in Qatar, which was issued in 2001.

Raising awareness

Qatar Foundation for Child and Woman Protection is the authority that is responsible for monitoring and enforcing compulsory education in Qatar.

In addition, the Foundation liaises constantly with schools via students' visits to the Foundation and field visits by the Foundation's specialist team to schools. This provides the Foundation with the means to watch closely and detect issues that face children in educational institutions as well as assessing the impact of their home and family on their education. Consequently, the Foundation can intervene in a timely manner to address and solve any issues.



Qatar Foundation for Child and Woman Protection implements a large proportion of its programmes in partnership with schools, aiming to raise awareness about various education-related issues. There are 5-6 programmes annually, supporting around 180 schools.

One of the key projects that the Foundation has implemented is the programme of "Friends of Child Protection". The programme includes 149 schools, covering all levels of education and both boys' and girls' schools. The programme has created a network of child ambassadors who work on promoting and defending children's rights.

The State of Qatar reflected its interest in children's rights to education by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The convention was incorporated as part of the national constitution of Qatar. Moreover, the state created legal and administrative frameworks that ensure the realisations of these rights. This is reinforced by the continuous governmental support and by legal and political commitment to provide quality education for all citizens. Furthermore, the state continuously implements and monitors optimised education strategies. Education provides the means to alleviate both adult and child poverty and empower citizens who are socially and economically marginalised so they can participate as active citizens. ■

Helpline: 919
Telephone: 974-44679444
Fax: 974-44666607
info@qfcw.org.qa
www.qfcw.org.qa

** The Foundation was registered as a private organisation according to law no. 8 of 1998 on private associations and institutions. Following the decree no. 4 of 2007, the Foundation has become a private non-profit organisation and it is regulated by law no. 21 of 2006 on private non-profit organisations.*

Reconsidering the MDG approach to education

An effective education framework will need to look beyond access and consider poverty, gender inequality and local environments

By **Elaine Unterhalter**, Professor of Education and International Development, Institute of Education, University of London

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approach to education stressed the importance of all children in the world accessing and completing primary education. Considerable achievements resulted. The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimated the number of primary school-aged children out of school in 1999 to be 108 million. By 2010 this had fallen to 61 million.[1] In 1999, it was estimated that only 75 per cent of primary school children in developing countries remained to the last grade, but by 2009 this had increased to 81 per cent.[2] Through the actions of governments, supported by the UNESCO Education For All (EFA) movement, and the mobilising dynamic of the MDGs, more children have had the opportunity to enrol and progress through school than ever before.

The push for universal primary education (UPE) has meant more young people gaining knowledge, fewer illiterate young men and women, and less gender inequality with regard to literacy levels. In the mid-1990s an estimated 1.6 billion young people aged 15 to 25 were illiterate, with young women comprising nearly two-thirds. Projections for 2015

A girl makes bricks at a factory in the Shahdara neighbourhood, north of Lahore, capital of Pakistan's Punjab Province. School enrolment rates often mask inequalities associated with wealth, gender, ethnicity and locale



© UNICEF/Pirozzi

calculate the number of illiterates in this age cohort will be around 96 million, 56 per cent of whom will be young women.[3] The social transformation associated with these changes is profound. But in the celebration of these successes it is also important to attend to what the MDG approach in education and the prioritisation of UPE has neglected. There are key gaps associated with the limitations of the MDG indicator framework, and the over-narrow focus on UPE.

Masking inequalities

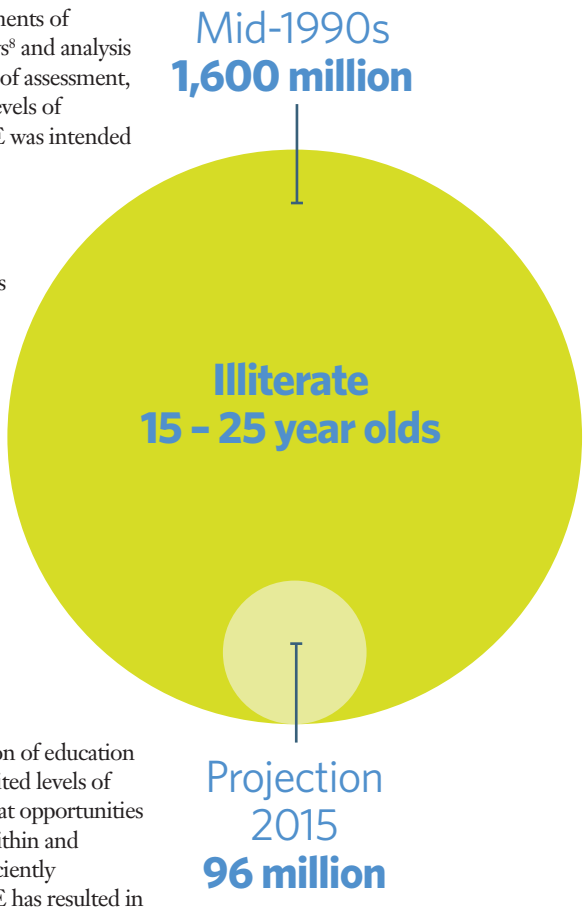
The MDG education framework was path-breaking in using measurable indicators (aggregated national enrolment ratios) to assess educational progress. However, governments, using these indicators and focusing on improvements in enrolment, often give inadequate attention to attendance, learning and progression. Inequalities associated with wealth, gender, ethnicity and locale are often masked by improving enrolment rates.

For example, in Ethiopia in 2005, despite impressive improvements in enrolment, the primary school attendance rate was 70 per cent amongst the richest quintile, but 25 per cent among the poorest. In India, the gaps were smaller, but still significant (75 per cent for the richest quintile and 50 per cent for the poorest).[4] In Nigeria, although aggregate enrolment improved, the survival rate between grade 1 and grade 6, in 2008, was 96 per cent for boys from the richest quintile and 98 per cent for girls, but 45 per cent for boys from the poorest quintile, and 30 per cent for girls.[5] Similarly in Yemen, where 90 per cent of girls and boys from the richest quintile complete a primary cycle, only 27 out of 100 poor girls, and 52 out of 100 poor boys did not drop out.[6]

In countries where a majority of rural people do not complete lower secondary school, UNESCO data on skill levels shows young women from these regions comprise the largest proportion of those who lack foundation skills. In Benin, Cameroon, Liberia and Sierra Leone, about 85 per cent of young women living in rural areas have not completed nine years of schooling, compared with 70 per cent of young men. In Turkey, 65 per cent of young rural women do not complete lower secondary school, compared to 36 per cent of young men.[7] The unequal provision is most glaring for those with the least or for those discriminated against – the poor, girls and young women, and those living in areas geographically or socially distant from centres of power. Aggregated indicators of increasing primary enrolment do not capture this discrimination.

A second problem associated with the strong focus on enrolment is that many children were enrolled in school, but learning little. Too often, access to education has been accorded higher priority than quality of education. In many countries, pass rates for examinations at the end of the primary phase are low, particularly for the poorest children and a high proportion of girls. Citizen assessments of learning carried out in mass surveys[8] and analysis of data from cross-country studies of assessment, such as SACMEQ,[9] indicate low levels of literacy and numeracy. While UPE was intended to expand every child's learning, in implementing it the focus has been on building schools and employing teachers. Deeper work remains to be done to give teachers adequate education and support to ensure children progress, however diverse their learning needs.

Thirdly, the narrow focus of the MDG approach has reduced attention to key components of the wider EFA platform. This comprises adult literacy, youth skills, gender equality in education, early childhood care and education, and education quality. All these areas have national and global advocates, but none have yet realised progress equivalent to UPE.



Fourthly, the narrow conception of education in the MDG approach and the limited levels of education it has delivered, mean that opportunities for synergies and feedback loops within and between the MDGs were not sufficiently recognised. Concentrating on UPE has resulted in many education systems underestimating the number of well-trained teachers required, resulting in limited levels of education that have, for example, inhibited training of birth attendants to contribute to MDG 5 or highly educated women to support women's political and economic participation as envisaged in MDG 3.

Four challenges

In thinking about education in a post-2015 agenda, how can we learn from the experience with the MDGs? The illustrative goals and national targets set out in the High-Level Panel Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda[10] address some, but not all, of the critiques I have made. The report advocates a longer time in education with a goal of all children completing lower secondary school. It also calls for an indicator of quality, measuring learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy, and an increase in the number of young people with the skills for work. However, it fails to pick up four important challenges for the education agenda and their connection with other areas of development.

The first concerns delivery. A key lesson from the education MDGs was that teachers are central to quality. There is nothing in the High-Level Panel report that gives a steer on attending to senior secondary and tertiary education where quality teachers will be developed. Without seeing education



© Reuters

Muslim girls participate in a French class at Al-Haramain madrassa at the Islamic Complex in Cameroon's capital Yaounde. In Benin, Cameroon, Liberia and Sierra Leone, some 85 per cent of young women living in rural areas have not completed nine years of schooling, compared with 70 per cent of young men

provision as a continuum where different phases link to each other, it is difficult to see how learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy will be realised.

The second concerns measurement. The enrolment indicators in the MDG education framework had perverse effects. Developing more nuanced indicators that go beyond learning metrics is acknowledged as an important project. Documenting the complexities of education inequalities in different locations is a key component that still needs considerable research and reflection.[11]

A third concerns the content of learning. Literacy and numeracy, recommended in the High-Level Panel report, are essentials. But does this demarcate too limited an area of common global knowledge? Many global frameworks express the importance of learning about equal dignity, toleration, peace and environmental sustainability,[12] but there is a reticence about global advocacy to teach these values, because they may contradict national priorities. Should post-2015 education discussions continue to use the MDG approach, which identifies a lowest common denominator of what is learned everywhere in the world? Or should a new seam of discussion open up regarding more extensive content all learners need to know?[13]

A broader and more ambitious remit for the basic phase of education and a greater scope for connecting with higher education would enable us to better address the transformative shifts outlined by the High-Level Panel.

These shifts include equity, sustainability, peace and accountability. Promotion of equity and sustainability would benefit from widespread and in-depth understanding generated through education of how conditions vary in particular countries and locales. Professional expertise needs to be further developed in order to engage more effectively with questions of poverty, gender inequality and the denial of rights. Formulating frameworks for critical reflection, debate and contestation will be crucial in achieving this. Better education is thus intrinsic to making these shifts.

The MDG approach to education has used a narrow range of indicators and achieved some significant results. But opportunities have been missed. The bar was set too low. In learning from that experience we need a bolder approach and much, much more education truly for all. ■

1 UNESCO, 2012, EFA Global Monitoring Report Paris: UNESCO, 355.
2 Ibid p.363
3 Ibid p.327
4 Ibid p.184
5, 6 Ibid p.110
7 Ibid. p.280
8 Eg. LARTES (2013) *Jangandoo, an instrument to measure the quality in the learning of children in Senegal* Dakar: Laboratoire de Recherche sur les transformations economiques et sociales, University Cheikh Anta Diop.
9 Southern and Eastern African Consortium for Measuring Educational Quality www.sacmeq.org/
10 Yudhoyono, S.B.; Sirleaf, E.J.; and Cameron, D. (2013) *A new global partnership*. Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. New York: United Nations Publications.
11 Fukuda-Parr, S.; Yamin, A.; and Greenstein, J. (2013) Synthesis Paper. *The Power of Numbers: A critical review of the MDG targets for human development and human rights*. Harvard School of Public Health Working Papers on line at http://harvardfxbcenter.org/files/2013/06/Synthesis-paper-PoN_Final1.pdf.
12 Eg. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on Women, Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development.
13 Approaches to this have been signalled in the work on the decade of education for sustainable development.

Quality education is a public good and a basic human right

An open letter to world leaders from teachers of the world



© Reporters

These words not only unite the more than 30 million educators in 170 nations in Education International, they link us to the hopes of the global community as represented more than a decade ago through the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Today we are reaching out to renew our commitment to the future; to agree that leading our young people from poverty to participation and leadership for sustainable development requires quality teachers, modern tools and resources and quality learning environments.

At EI, we are turning this commitment into a movement, mobilising and joining with parents and students, communities and governments, NGOs, international organisations and others, to demand access to a quality education for every student.

We saw that movement on display on July 12 at the United Nations Malala Day, named for the young Pakistani shot by the Taliban for defying ignorance and prejudice to seek her rightful place in the classroom.

The youth delegations included a contingent from EI. A young Egyptian teacher spoke, saying her union fights "for the right to education, especially for girls" and urged the UN "to create laws that make going to school an obligation for all children."

Across the world, this call for access matched to quality is changing the dialogue about our future. This young teacher from Egypt spoke for many who want more than just qualifications; they want the tools to participate and succeed in building the future.

Our aspirations for quality education must go beyond narrow measurable learning outcomes, be broad-based and contribute to the full development of the individual and society. Quality education provides young people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and creativity needed to solve problems locally and globally, and actively contributes to the sustainable and democratic development of societies.

Governments and global institutions have paid insufficient attention to education as a human right. The commitments made in the Millennium Declaration to ensure universal primary education and gender equality in primary and secondary education are yet to be achieved less than 1,000 days before 2015. Despite a significant reduction in the number of out-of-school children, progress has slowed and inequalities remain high. Those who tend to remain excluded are the poor, girls, disabled children, children in rural, conflict and post-conflict situations and migrants, among others.

Tuition fees and the indirect costs of education still form the single biggest barrier to equitable access to quality education. A renewed commitment to free education is urgently needed. Being a public good and a basic right, education must be publicly financed, and the long-term goal should be sustainable education financing sourced primarily from domestic revenue. No child should be excluded from quality education because of cost.

On 4 October this year, EI will be launching a year of action, a global initiative to raise awareness among governments, inter-governmental organisations, financial institutions, community leaders and the general public about the indomitable role quality education plays in the development of the individual and society.

We urge governments and international partners to join this movement by keeping faith with the future and the promise of the Millennium Development Goals and by placing universal free quality education at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda. We can take the next steps together to create and ensure quality educational opportunities for all young people. ■

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary

Susan Hopgood
President

Education International
Internationale de l'Education
Internacional de la Educación

■ **Education International is the voice of teachers and other education professionals across the globe. A federation of about 400 associations and unions in more than 170 countries and territories, it represents 30 million educators in education institutions from early childhood to university.**

An emphasis on skills and competencies

The MDGs have ignored educational outcomes. With rising global unemployment, education must focus on effectively equipping young people for the workplace

By **Professor Nicholas Burnett**, **Shubha Jayaram**, and **Milan Thomas**, Results for Development Institute

The need to invest in quality education to support dynamic, prosperous labour markets is more urgent than ever. With the world's youth unemployment standing at 12.6 per cent and projected to rise, the need to make education more relevant for employment opportunities is crucial.[1] The advances made toward achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2 mean that more students are transitioning to secondary school from primary education. Indeed, in all regions except sub-Saharan Africa, secondary school is now the level from which most people enter the labour market. Priority must, therefore, now be given to ensuring that job-relevant skills and competencies are developed at that level.

Skills, competencies and economic growth

Although the terms 'skills' and 'competencies' are frequently used interchangeably, there is a subtle difference between the two. The latter is broader in scope: competencies are more than just knowledge and skills, and include the ability to apply skills in a specific context to meet complex demands.[2] Key competencies are related to the ability of an individual to not only have access to tools and resources, but to use them in a context-appropriate manner.

Skills, on the other hand, fall into three categories: cognitive skills, non-cognitive (or 'soft') skills and technical skills. Cognitive skills encompass basic numeracy and literacy skills, and are referred to as 'foundation skills' in the 2012 Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report.[3] Non-cognitive skills (also termed as 'behavioural' or 'transferable' skills) are communication and leadership skills, and include entrepreneurism and reliability. The third type is technical skills, which are context or occupation-specific.



Access to high-quality education that imparts these skills and competencies is crucial for economic growth. The positive relationship between education and individual income is well established in economic literature, with studies finding an average of 10 per cent private return on individual earnings for each additional year of schooling.[4] Of course, the quality of education is paramount, and simply sending children to school without improving the quality of educational institutions and learning is not enough.[5] Conversely, not enrolling children in school is associated with high economic costs. Burnett et al project that if current rates of out-of-school children are not reduced, some countries will face an income gap as large as 7 per cent of GDP when today's youth enter the workforce.[6]



Unemployed graduates shout slogans as they protest against unemployment and the cost of living in Rabat, Morocco. The sign reads, "We have the phosphate and sea, but we live a miserable life."

© Reuters

The importance of ensuring a quality, relevant education that enhances the skills of youth is clear. The current MDGs do not recognise this, but there is an attempt to do so in the current EFA Goal 3: "Ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes." Although there has never been agreement on the interpretation and measurement of this goal, some limited progress has been made, as evidenced by the focus on youth and skills in the 2012 EFA Global Monitoring Report.[7]

The lesson of the current skills goal for any future one is the need to agree on a precise interpretation and measures of progress in advance of adopting the goal. Indeed, this also applies to some of the other current education MDGs and EFA goals, none of which had indicators defined at the time of their adoption.

There is a growing consensus that the post-2015 MDGs must somehow include both employment and learning outcomes. Both types of outcomes are reflected in the report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel (published on 30 May 2013) and in its annex of illustrative future goals and targets.

One of the five "big, transformative shifts" since the previous MDGs, for example, is to "transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth". Its illustrative Goal 3 is to "provide quality education and lifelong learning" with various targets, including to "increase the number of young and adult women and men with the skills, including technical and vocational, needed for work by x per cent" (Annex 1), along with some basic reading and learning targets at both primary and secondary level. Illustrative Goal 8 is to "create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth" with one target to "increase the number of good and decent jobs by x".[8]

The importance of ensuring a quality, relevant education that enhances the skills of youth is clear



© Reuters

■ **Skills training at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in Taguig City, Metro Manila**

While these developments are very positive, they also raise concerns that, like the current set of EFA goals, they are too vague.

First, despite apparent specificity, no precise definitions of either "skills" or "good and decent jobs" are proposed. Second, there is no explicit inclusion of the informal economy, where most of the new jobs are likely to emerge in the next 10 to 15 years. Third, there is a potentially worrying emphasis on technical and vocational skills, which, as we have seen, are not necessarily as important for employment as cognitive and non-cognitive skills. Unless these three concerns are further addressed in future MDG and EFA goals, there is a major risk of being saddled with yet another set of goals that can be interpreted too flexibly, hence becoming no more than useful exhortations rather than specific goals against which progress is measured.

Promising skills development initiatives

The growing potential for concrete skills goals or targets makes it worth briefly exploring three different mechanisms that have been successfully used to initiate effective skills development programmes, specifically public-private partnerships, large-scale initiatives undertaken by the government, and comprehensive in-school programmes to boost entrepreneurial skills. An example of an innovative public-private partnership is the National Skills Development Corporation in India, established by the government in 2008 to boost the skills of about 150 million people. Meanwhile, other countries have successfully implemented reforms to improve the quality of education in partnership with external implementers.

Successful initiatives are collaborative and require coordinated action by government, civil society and the private sector

For instance, the government of Senegal entered a partnership with Family Health International 360 and the United States Agency for International Development to launch Education de Base, a large-scale multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the quality of middle school. Reforms were made to a number of different components within the education system, including curricula and pedagogy. Industry partnerships were also developed to ensure that the material was demand-driven and relevant to the world of work. Lastly, Educate! is an example of a comprehensive entrepreneurship programme in Uganda that uses an experiential learning model with dedicated mentors to support students during the last two years of secondary school. Importantly, non-cognitive, transferable skills are developed, and the entrepreneurship curriculum has now been integrated into the national framework.

These diverse examples showcase the variety of ways that policymakers and other stakeholders can work together to strengthen the skill-sets of their youth. Indeed, the most successful initiatives are collaborative and require coordinated action by government, civil society and the private sector to tighten the connection between education and the needs of the labour market. ■

1 ILO (2013) *Global Unemployment Trends 2013*. Accessed from: www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_202326.pdf

2 OECD (2005) The definition and selection of key competencies. Accessed from: www.oecd.org dataoecd/47/61/35070367.pdf

3, 7 UNESCO (2012) *Youth and Skills: Putting Education to Work*. Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2012.

4 Psacharopoulos, G. and Patrinos, H.A. (2011) *Education: Past, Present and Future Global Challenges*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 5616.

5 Hanushek, E. and Woessman, L. (2007) *The Role of Education Quality for Economic Growth*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 4122.

6 Burnett, N., Guison-Dowdy, A., and Thomas, M. (2013) *A Moral Obligation, An Economic Priority: The Urgency of Enrolling Out-of-School Children*. Educate A Child Commissioned Paper.

8 United Nations (2013) *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development*. Accessed from: www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf

University of Leicester

Department of Criminology

MSc IN
Security, Conflict and International Development







> *"I cannot overemphasise how useful this development is to my study, especially as I often go on long-range patrols (as a peacekeeper) into remote areas where internet is non-existent."*
>
> Ishaq, current student

The world of international peace and security doesn't stand still – and neither do the professionals who work in this field. That's why the University of Leicester delivers our innovative MSc in Security, Conflict and International Development through technology that lets you study wherever you are.

We give you an iPad. You download the course app. We give you access to an online learning platform and a range of multimedia resources. You carry the course with you. Whether you are in the middle of a war zone, or relaxing at home, the expertise, support and encouragement of the University of Leicester is just a touch away.

You will study:

- Conflict Prevention, Response and Recovery
- Post-conflict Rule of Law and Security
- International Security Risks
- Security Sector Reform
- Human Rights, Justice and Security

Improve your professional standing and enhance your future career prospects with the University of Leicester.

Course Delivery Supported by Innovative iPad App

To download the Course App search for **'SCID'** in the iTunes Store (note access is limited to non-registered students)

Further Information

- To find out more and make an application visit the course website: **www.le.ac.uk/cssu-pg-dl**
- To discuss the course, including consulting opportunities, with a member of staff, please contact Dr Eleanor Gordon at: **eg132@le.ac.uk**
- Follow the course on Twitter **@SCID2012**

THE Awards Winner
2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

QS STARS RATED FOR EXCELLENCE 2013


चाहिए गरिमा
सुरक्षा, सम्मान
नहीं चाहिए
छेड़छाड़
अपमान
हमें चाहिए
न्याय
हमें चाहिए
सम्मान
हमें चाहिए
स्वतन्त्रता
हमें चाहिए
प्रतिष्ठा
भारत की
नारी
सम्मान की
अधिकारी
हिंसा नहीं
सम्मान चाहिए
जीवन का
आधार चाहिए
महिलाओं
की आवाज़ की
हिफाजत
हम सब बनाएं
पक्की आदत
बेटी, बहन
बहू, माता
परिवार की
विधाता

© Reuters

Gender – is one goal enough?

Critics argue that women's empowerment cannot be confined to a narrow set of targets. What should a new development agenda for women look like?

By **Sylvia Chant**, Professor of Development Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science

That the 'promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women' was incorporated as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the turn of this century gave rise to qualified celebration in feminist circles worldwide.

As articulated by the UN Millennium Project Taskforce on Education and Gender Equality:[1] "The inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the third Millennium Development Goal is a reminder that many promises have not been met, while simultaneously offering yet another international opportunity to implement them."

On a positive note, a dedicated goal on gender was interpreted as "…a powerful symbol of the success of the international feminist movement on international politics and development."[2] Moreover, that MDG 3 was not only "explicitly valued as an end in itself",[3] but deemed fundamental to realising all the objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration, was construed as signalling genuine commitment to "mainstreaming" gender.[4, 5]

Furthermore, that the MDG process required regular country reports (MDGRs) offered "…a new opportunity for gender advocates to enlarge the space for dialogue and build a broad national commitment to women's rights and gender equality,"[6] as well as to "catalyse gender-responsive policy-making and programming" and "facilitate more optimal resource allocation".[7]

Yet aside from some undoubted potential to advance gender equality, many feminists criticised the relatively limited grounds on which gender was included in the MDGs.[8, 9]

One criticism related to the fact that an explicit commitment to gender equality was confined to a separate goal, with Ashwani Saith,[10] among others, complaining that: "Gender empowerment cannot be corralled into a single goal or target – it is a profoundly cross-cutting force." Indeed, despite emphasis on gender in MDG 2 and MDG 5, no gender-specific targets or indicators were included in any other goals – although as of 2008, a new indicator was added to MDG 1 pertaining to access to decent work for all, including women and youth.

A second main criticism related to the rather limited nature of MDG 3 itself. Its principal target was to "eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education by 2015," and only four indicators were selected to map progress: the ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education, the ratio of literate women to men in 15-24 year age group, the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, and the proportion of seats in parliament held by women.

This was challenged as "remarkably narrow",[11] with one major consternation among women's groups being the lack of an explicit focus on reproductive rights.[12] Without guarantees of gender-equal sexual and reproductive rights it was hard to imagine women "…being able to expand their capabilities, to access economic and political opportunities and have any level of determination over their own lives,"[13, 14] (see also [15]).

Measures of equality

Other concerns included the preoccupation with male-female ratios, as in education, which could conceivably detract from the fact that: "…the empowerment of women does not just depend on the elimination of numerical gender disparities. It is possible to equalise the enrolment of boys and girls in school at a low level for both, a situation that empowers neither".[16]

The conspicuous absence of timeframes set for women's political and economic empowerment were also worrying.[17] Besides this, tracking change in formal workforce and parliamentary political

Opposite: mourners enter Raj Ghat to attend a prayer ceremony for a rape victim after a rally protesting for justice and security for women, in New Delhi, 2 January 2013. The death of the 23-year-old Indian student who died after being gang-raped prompted street protests across India, international outrage and promises from the government of tougher punishments for offenders

Also in this section:

Equality and empowerment **90**

representation arguably privileged a minority of elite women to the detriment of their majority low-income counterparts.[18] In light of such caveats, and because the MDGs were argued to divert attention not just from the Beijing Platform for Action agreed at the 1995 UN World Conference on Women, but other UN action plans too, such as the 1994 Cairo programme on population, the 1993 Vienna programme on human rights, the 1996 Istanbul programme on human settlements and the 1997 Copenhagen programme on social development. Peggy Antrobus[19, 20] went as far as to suggest that the acronym MDG might better refer to "Major Distracting Gimmick".

Insofar as the MDGs themselves may have been limited in respect of their gender objectives, the monitoring and reporting process also remained wanting. Despite lofty rhetoric about the significance of MDG 3 to all the other goals, a 2003 UN Development Programme (UNDP) review of the status of gender concerns in 13 MDGRs found that not one identified gender as a "cross-cutting" issue – MDG 3 being the only goal in which gender had been systematically addressed in all countries, even if gender and/or women often got a mention in relation to MDGs 1, 2 and 5. This led the UNDP to highlight a notable "'ghettoisation" of gender issues within women-specific sectors, along with a persistent portrayal of women "…in terms of their vulnerabilities, and cast in their traditional roles as mothers or victims rather than actors in development."

Although some progress had been made by 2005, when 78 MDGRs were reviewed by UNDP, only a handful of countries had gone 'outside the MDG box', with most concentrating only on the minimum indicators.[21]

In order to rectify such shortcomings the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, convened by former Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, offered suggestions for improving indicators and strategies. Aside from advocating the inclusion of gender-equality targets in every MDG, the Task Force recommended that MDG 3 might include strategic priorities aligned with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action, encompassing guaranteed sexual and reproductive rights, and an end to violence against women and girls, as further exemplified in a menu of desirable indicators[22] (see panel).

Achievements?

What the MDGs have actually achieved for women remains somewhat doubtful, with the World Bank's 2012 World Development Report (WDR) on Gender Equality and Development revealing a range of persistent gender inequalities and female disadvantage, in education, early/high fertility and maternal mortality, 'missing women' (due to sex selective abortion, female foeticide and excess female infant and child mortality), gender divisions in housework and caregiving labour, time use, 'voice and power', and resources (such as income, land and property), especially among the most severely deprived populations in the poorest countries.[23]

The UN's 2012 summary of progress in gender quality also shows a range of shortfalls, drawing attention not only to the fact that women still only represent 20 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide, and that at the present rate of change parity will not be achieved for another 40 years, but that stark gaps remain between wealthy/urban and poor/rural women in respect of early marriage and births assisted by skilled health professionals.[24] While there has been some improvement in terms of women and girls' education, and lessening shares of vulnerable employment, disadvantage in most walks of personal, community and public life remain decidedly feminised.

Discussions about the form of the prospective post-2015 development goals are taking place across a wide range of international fora, and it is clear that gender will have to feature as a major priority if more is to be done to improve the lot of women. In some respects there is evidence that feminist

Menu of indicators for MDG 3 proposed by the Task Force on Education and Gender Equality

Education
- Ratio of female to male gross enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary education
- Ratio of female to male completion rate in primary, secondary and tertiary education

Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Proportion of contraceptive demand satisfied
- Adolescent fertility rate

Infrastructure
- Hours per day (or year) spent by women and men in fetching water and collecting fuel

Property rights
- Land ownership by women, men or jointly held
- Housing title, disaggregated by women, men or jointly held

Employment
- Share of women in employment (wage and self-employment), by type
- Gender gaps in earnings in wage and self-employment

Participation in national parliaments and local government bodies
- Percentage of seats held by women in national parliament
- Percentage of seats held by women in local government bodies

Violence against women
- Prevalence of domestic violence

Sources: UNDP (2005:53), UNMP/TFEGE (2005: Box 1)



© Getty

■ Afghan women defy tradition to become midwives

critiques of the MDGs have come home to roost, with heartening signs from the High-Level Panel's Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that the new goals will embrace such issues as violence against women and girls, universal sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the importance of peace and stability in societies to guard against the disproportionate outcomes for women and girls from armed conflict.[25]

That there will be a 'standalone' goal for gender equality and women's empowerment as well as a 'twin track' approach in which gender will be mainstreamed in the other goals is also welcomed. The UK-based Gender and Development Network (GADN) insists that particular attention be accorded to income-poor and otherwise marginalised women – with due regard for better data and analysis on differences among women and intersectionality on grounds of age, 'race' and so on, and to ensuring that all goals have targets focused not only on redressing inequality, but which are "specifically designed to transform power relations between women and men".

Two issues which are perhaps particularly pertinent to the prospective efficacy of a broader range of gender equality initiatives in the post-2015 era, are, first, that something is done to reorientate the inexorable neoliberalisation of the world economy, which was heeded by many as a major obstacle to the realisation of women's rights under the MDGs.[26, 27] As Genevieve Painter articulated in a 2004 report produced by the Women's International

Stark gaps remain between wealthy/urban and poor/rural women in respect of early marriage and births assisted by skilled health professionals

It is now time to match women's manifold responsibilities with the full complement of human rights

Coalition for Economic Justice: "The MDGs have not un-seated the predominance of a neoliberal, economic growth-driven model of development that relies on women as instruments as opposed to agents of development."[28]

In light of this, GADN's call to make the private sector accountable, and to subject it to greater regulation is well advised.[29]

Leading on from this, a second major imperative is to place women's human rights at the very top of the post-2015 agenda, and to privilege an 'empowerment' rather than 'efficiency' principle, which has underlain so many anti-poverty initiatives such as microcredit and Conditional Cash Transfer programmes since the 1990s,[30, 31] and which continues to receive the endorsement of the 'business case' for agenda promulgated in continued World Bank exhortations to invest in women and girls as "smart economics", not least in WDR 2012,[32, 33] Here, Diane Elson's[34] identification that the World Bank itself succeeds in evading internal scrutiny needs revisiting.

For too long, women's contributions to development have been relied on, not to mention mobilised, in a largely veiled and unacknowledged manner: it is now time to match women's manifold responsibilities in households, communities and nation states, with the full complement of human rights that will enable them to challenge, nuance and shape the trajectory of a new – and with luck more equitable – world order, and to bring the support of more men on board in the process. ■

1, 14 Equality (TFEGE) (2005)*Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women* (London: Earthscan).

2 Sweetman, Caroline (2005) 'Editorial', in Caroline Sweetman (ed.) *Gender and the Millennium Development Goals* (Oxford: Oxfam) 2-8.

3 Kabeer, Naila (2005) 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Critical Analysis of the Third Millennium Development Goal', in Caroline Sweetman (ed.) *Gender and the Millennium Development Goals* (Oxford: Oxfam) 13-24.

4 Satterthwaite, David (2003) 'The Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction', in David Satterthwaite (ed.) *The Millennium Development Goals and Local Processes: Hitting the Target or Missing the Point?* (London: International Institute for Environment and Development) 7-46.

5, 9 World Bank Gender and Development Group (World Bank GDG) (2003) *Proceedings of the International Workshop on Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals, 19-23 November 2003* (Washington DC: World Bank, GDG).

6 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2003) *Millennium Development Goals: National Reports Through a Gender Lens* (New York: UNDP).

7, 21 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2005) *En Route to Equality: A Gender Review of National MDG Reports 2005* (New York: UNDP).

8 Johnsson-Latham, Gerd (2004) 'Understanding Female and Male Poverty and Deprivation', in Gerd Johnsson-Latham (ed.) *Power and Privileges: Gender Discrimination and Poverty* (Stockholm: Regerinskanliet) 16-45.

10, 11 Saith, Ashwani (2006) 'From Universal Values to Millennium Development Goals: Lost in Translation', *Development and Change*, 37:6, 1167-99.

12 Barton, Carol (2005) 'Where to for Women's Movements and the MDGs?', in Caroline Sweetman (ed.) *Gender and the Millennium Development Goals* (Oxford: Oxfam) 25-35.

13 United Nations Millennium Project (UNMP), Task Force on Education and Gender.

15 Hulme, David (2009) *Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goals: Politics, Ethics, Evidence and an 'Unholy Alliance'*, Working Paper No.105, (Manchester University: Brooks World Poverty Institute [BWPI]) (www.manchester.ac.uk/bwpi) (last accessed September 2012).

16 United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (2002) *Progress of the World's Women 2002, Volume 2* (New York: UNIFEM).

17 Rodenberg, Birte (2004) *Gender and Poverty Reduction: New Conceptual Approaches in International Development Cooperation*. Reports and Working Papers 4/2004. (Bonn: German Development Institute).

18 Chant, Sylvia (2006) 'Re-thinking the "Feminisation of Poverty" in Relation to Aggregate Gender Indices', *Journal of Human Development*, 7:2, 201-20.

19 Antrobus, Peggy (2004) 'MDGs – The Most Distracting Gimmick', in Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice (WICEJ) (ed.) *Seeking Accountability on Women's Human Rights: Women Debate the UN Millennium Development Goals* (New York:WICEJ) 14-16.

20 Antrobus, Peggy (2005) 'Critiquing the MDGs from a Caribbean Perspective', in Caroline Sweetman (ed.) *Gender and the Millennium Development Goals* (Oxford: Oxfam) 94-104.

22 Hayes, Ceri (2005) 'Out of the Margins: The MDGs Through a CEDAW Lens', in Caroline Sweetman (ed.) *Gender and the Millennium Development Goals* (Oxford: Oxfam) 67-78.

23 World Bank (2011) *World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development* (Washington DC: World Bank) (http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/EXTWDR2012/0,,contentMDK:23004468~pagePK:64167689~piPK:64167673~theSitePK:7778063,00.html) (last accessed September 2012).

24 United Nations (2012) *The Millennium Development Goals Report: Gender Chart 2012* (New York: United Nations). (www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/MDG-Gender-web.pdf) (last accessed 23 June 2013).

25, 29 Gender and Development Network (GADN) (2013) *Gender and Development Network Response to a 'A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development' – Report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda* (London: GADN). (www.gadnetwork.org.uk/storage/beyond-2015/GADN%20response%20to%20HLP%20report.pdf) (last accessed 19 June 2013).

26 Mbilinyi, Marjorie (2004) 'Lessons of Civil Society Engagement', in Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice (WICEJ) (ed.) *Seeking Accountability on Women's Human Rights: Women Debate the UN Millennium Development Goals* (New York:WICEJ) 10-12.

27 Zuckerman, Elaine (2007) 'Critique: Gender Equality as Smart Economics: *World Bank Group Gender Action Plan* (GAP) (Fiscal years 2007-10)'. Mimeo (Washington DC: GenderAction) (www.genderaction.org) (last accessed August 2009).

28 Painter, Genevieve Renard (2005) 'Linking Women's Human Rights and the MDGs: An Agenda for 2005 from the UK Gender and Development Network', in Caroline Sweetman (ed.) *Gender and the Millennium Development Goals* (Oxford: Oxfam) 79-93.

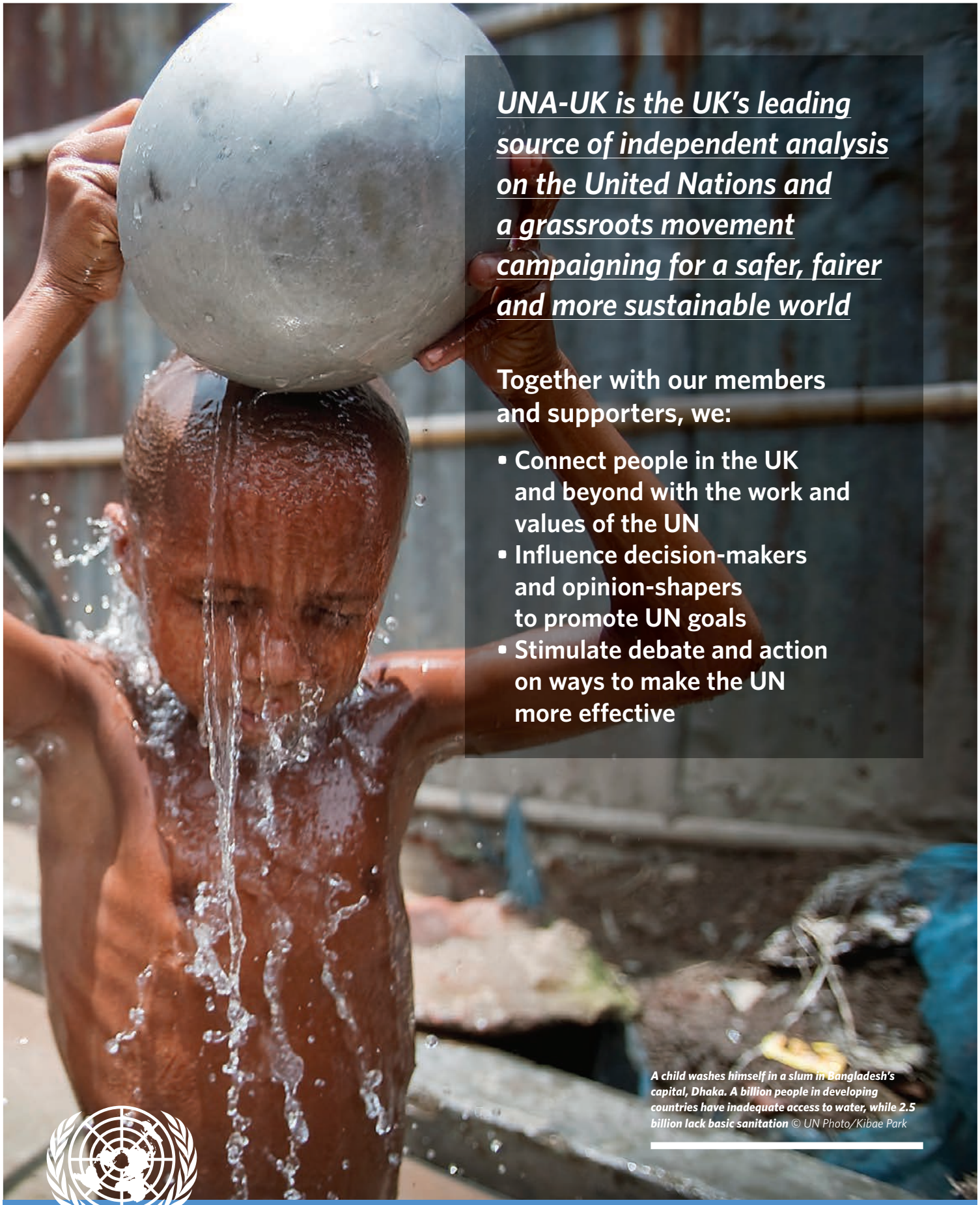
30 Mayoux, Linda (2006) *Women's Empowerment through Sustainable Micro-finance: Rethinking 'Best Practice'*. Discussion Paper, Gender and Micro-finance website www.seepnetwork.org/women-s-empowerment-through-sustainable-microfinance--rethinking--best-practice--resources-390.php (last accessed, 20 June 2013).

31 Molyneux, Maxine (2006) 'Mothers at the Service of the New Poverty Agenda: PROGRESA/Oportunidades, Mexico's Conditional Transfer Programme', *Journal of Social Policy and Administration*, 40:4, 425-49.

32 Chant, Sylvia (2012) 'The Disappearing of "Smart Economics"? The World Development Report 2012 on Gender Equality: Some Concerns about the Preparatory Process and the Prospects for Paradigm Change', *Global Social Policy*, 12:2, 198-218.

33 Chant, Sylvia and Sweetman, Caroline (2012) 'Fixing Women or Fixing the World? "Smart Economics", Efficiency Approaches and Gender Equality in Development', *Gender and Development*, 20:3, 517-29.

34 Elson, Diane (2012) Review of *World Development Report 2012*: Gender Equality and Development', *Global Social Policy*, 12:2, 178-83.



UNA-UK is the UK's leading source of independent analysis on the United Nations and a grassroots movement campaigning for a safer, fairer and more sustainable world

Together with our members and supporters, we:

- **Connect people in the UK and beyond with the work and values of the UN**
- **Influence decision-makers and opinion-shapers to promote UN goals**
- **Stimulate debate and action on ways to make the UN more effective**

A child washes himself in a slum in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka. A billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, while 2.5 billion lack basic sanitation *© UN Photo/Kibae Park*

UNA-UK

To find out more and to become a member, visit www.una.org.uk

Equality and empowerment



© Reuters

■ Andean women wait in line to enter a bank in Celendín, in Peru's northern region of Cajamarca

Discrimination against women and girls must be tackled. Gender equality will benefit families, societies, economies and governments

By **Lakshmi Puri**, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

Today, the majority of the world's poor people are women. Despite progress in the articulation of their rights and legal advances, discrimination against women remains entrenched in all spheres of life. This is holding back economic and social progress for all. The new international development framework, building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), provides an opportunity to place women's rights and gender equality at the centre of international efforts to tackle poverty and inequality and promote inclusion and sustainability.

The discrimination faced by women is manifested in stereotypes about gender roles; gender-based violence; lack of recognition of reproductive rights; women's marginalisation from decision-making; and unequal access to productive resources, such as land and credit, and to economic opportunities such as decent wage employment. It is also found in the unequal division of labour within the household, with women assuming a disproportionate share of taking care of the children and the elderly or sick, fetching wood and water, and preparing food. This burden, which is too often neither valued nor recognised, leads to lower levels of education for women and to an inability to seek better employment opportunities.

By breaking the cycle of discrimination against women in the home, economy, politics and society, we can strengthen women's economic independence and bargaining position, and spur greater progress. Mounting evidence shows that investing in women and promoting their rights is not only the right thing to do; it is essential for sustainable development. Women put their income back into their families and communities, driving down rates of hunger, illiteracy and mortality, and raising levels of productivity and economic growth.

A World Bank study found that managers could increase worker productivity by 25 to 40 per cent by eliminating discrimination against female workers and managers. The *Harvard Business Review* looked at 215 Fortune 500 companies over 28 years and found that organisations with a higher number of women executives performed better in terms of profits as a per cent of revenue, assets and stockholder equity, by a range of 18 to 69 per cent.

A Goldman Sachs study reveals that reducing barriers to female labour force participation would

increase America's GDP by 9 per cent; the Eurozone's GDP by 13 per cent; and Japan's by 16 per cent. And the UN Food and Agriculture Organization has found that giving women farmers the same access as men to seeds, tools and fertiliser can raise total agricultural output in developing countries by between 2.5 to 4 per cent, which could in turn reduce the number of hungry people in the world by between 12 to 17 per cent.

Global development frameworks can provide the impetus for international and national efforts to address these barriers. The MDGs have galvanised progress to reduce poverty and discrimination, and to promote education, gender equality, health, safe drinking water and sanitation. The goal on gender equality and women's empowerment tracked progress on school enrolment, women's share of paid work, and women's participation in parliament. It triggered global attention and action. It served to hold governments accountable, mobilise much-needed resources, and stimulate new laws, policies, programmes and data.

The post-2015 development framework must build on this progress and go further to address structural causes of discrimination and inequality. This includes ending violence against women and girls, guaranteeing women's right to own and inherit land and property, and the need to address the unequal division of household and care responsibilities that hold women back from full economic, political and social participation.

Persistent inequality

Today, no country in the world can rightfully claim that it has achieved equality between men and women. Gender wage gaps persist around the globe, with women being paid some 10 to 30 per cent less than men for comparable roles. Women continue to be under-represented in positions of power and over-represented in vulnerable employment. An estimated one in three women worldwide will suffer some form of gender-based violence during her lifetime. And 800 women die every day due to childbirth and other pregnancy-related complications.

To make greater progress, UN Women proposes a stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment, which is grounded in human rights and tackles unequal power relations. Addressing the structural causes of gender inequality and realising women's rights is essential for sustainable development.

We envision three areas that require urgent action. First, ending violence against women and girls must be a priority. It is one of the most pervasive human rights violations, and carries tremendous costs for individuals, families and societies. Violence against women and girls is a manifestation of gender discrimination that seriously inhibits their abilities to enjoy rights and freedoms on the basis of equality with men and boys.

Second, women and men need equal opportunities and women's economic empowerment is essential. Equal access to land and credit, natural resources, education, health services, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, decent work and equal pay need to be addressed with renewed urgency. Policies, such as childcare and parental leave, including for men, are needed to promote equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in caregiving and domestic work. This will relieve working women's 'double burden', so women and men can enjoy equality at work and at home.

Third, women's voices must be heard. Women are entitled to participate equally in decision-making in the household, the private sector and institutions of governance. Despite progress in recent years, women comprise just 20 per cent of parliamentarians and 27 per cent of judges. For democracy to be meaningful and inclusive, women's voices and leadership must be amplified in all public and private spaces.

UN Women is already working to support this agenda in very concrete ways. For example, in 2012, UN Women supported 67 countries in advancing women's economic empowerment. Working with a variety of partners, our programmes promote women's ability to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies determining growth and development. One critical area of focus involves advocacy to measure women's unpaid care work, and to take actions so women and men can more readily combine it with paid employment. In all our economic empowerment programmes, UN Women reaches out to women most in need, working closely with civil society. Particularly marginalised groups include rural women, domestic workers, some migrants and low-skilled women. Our aims are higher incomes, better access to and control over resources, and greater security, including protection from violence.

There is plenty of evidence to show that countries with a higher status of women also enjoy higher levels of social and economic performance. There is also evidence to guide countries on what works, from equitable labour market policies, to the removal of discriminatory laws and policies, from universal social protection and social services, to security and justice reforms that end impunity for violence against women and girls. The activism of women's movements everywhere has been critical in demanding and driving change in all of these areas.

The discussions to shape the post-2015 global development agenda offer a real opportunity to drive lasting change for women's rights, empowerment and equality. A comprehensive global goal on gender equality can galvanise efforts, rejecting discrimination against women and girls, and unleash the potential of half the population to fully contribute to a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. ■

Today, no country in the world can rightfully claim that it has achieved equality between men and women

Health at a crossroads



© Reuters

A baby is weighed by a doctor at the village dispensary in the village of Loro in the Oyam district of northern Uganda. Despite massive improvements in maternal mortality in Uganda, about 4,600 women died in childbirth in 2010. This compares to 40 deaths in Canada, a country with a population of comparable size

Over the last three decades, the international consensus has vacillated between strong support for social public expenditure and reliance on unfettered economic growth. Since 2000, massive increases in aid have yielded results but inequalities persist. What route should the international community now follow?

By **Dr Gorik Ooms,** Institute of Tropical Medicine; Coordinator, Go4Health

It is not easy to assess the impact of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We will never know what would have happened without them. Some argue they revolutionised development assistance, others feel they may have barred the emergence of a human rights and human dignity-based approach to international cooperation.

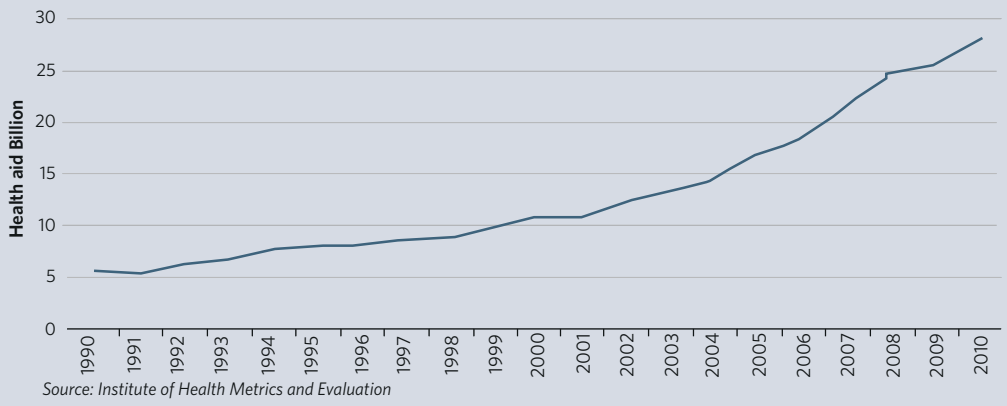
If we were to give the MDGs the credit for what changed in health aid, we would argue that the truth is in the middle: significant steps towards a human rights and human dignity approach have been taken, but whether they will be decisive in the long run remains to be seen.

What were the major changes in health aid, if we compare the decade before the 2000 Millennium Declaration with the decade after?

The most visible change is the volume of health aid (see Figure 1). While there was already a growth trend – from $5.74 billion in 1990 to $10.7 billion in 2000 – the further increase towards $28.2 billion in 2010 is even more substantial.

More revealing than the increase of health aid in absolute amounts is its increase as a share of all development assistance. In 1990, that share was less than 2 per cent. By 2000 it had climbed to 8 per cent and by 2010 to 12 per cent. As the high-income countries providing most of the health aid are spending on average 15 per cent of their domestic budgets on health, it may seem quite trivial

Figure 1



Source: Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation

The increase of health aid as a share of all development assistance can be seen as a departure from the Washington Consensus

that they are now also allocating a similar share of their international assistance to health.[1] But it is quite meaningful.

Aid was deeply influenced during the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s by the so-called 'Washington Consensus'. The Cold War was over and there was no longer a need to reward countries with aid for staying on the Western side of the divide. Aid had to become effective as a driver of economic growth, and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had a clear idea of how that would work.

In the words of Joseph Stiglitz, chief economist at the World Bank from 1997 to 2000, the Washington Consensus is "a set of policies predicated upon a strong faith – stronger than warranted either by economic theory or historical experience – in unfettered markets and aimed at reducing, or even minimising, the role of government".

Tide turns against Washington Consensus

During the 1980s and the 1990s, the World Bank and the IMF promoted 'structural adjustment' to developing countries, and that included downsizing the government, including its social sectors. Economic growth was seen as the precondition for the realisation of social human rights or human dignity.

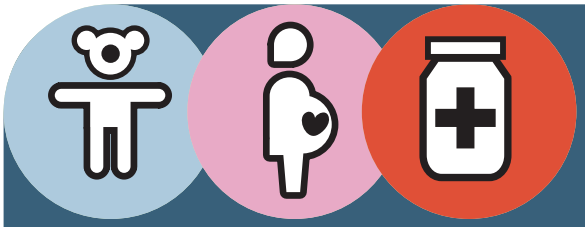
Most high-income countries followed the Washington Consensus recipe for economic growth, which left little space for aid to sectors that were supposed to shrink rather than expand. The pressure on social public expenditure was such that, in an attempt to reverse the tide – the UN World Summit for Social Development in 1995 adopted the '20/20 Initiative', calling for high-income countries to allocate 20 per cent of their aid and developing countries to allocate 20 per cent of their domestic resources to basic social services – healthcare, water, sanitation, nutrition and education.

Against the backdrop of this evolution, the increase of health aid as a share of all development assistance can be seen as a departure, albeit modest and timid, from the Washington Consensus. Can the MDGs be credited for that departure? At least we have to concede that the MDGs were expressed as goals to be achieved unconditionally – not as by-products of economic growth – thus placing human dignity before economic growth.

Another striking feature of the changes in health aid is that most of the increase went to low-income countries. The share of external resources for health in total health expenditure decreased from 0.5 per cent in 2000 to 0.3 per cent in 2010 in upper-middle-income countries, stagnated at 2.5 per cent in lower-middle-income countries (in 2000 and 2010), and increased from 14.4 per cent in 2000 to 26.3 per cent in low-income countries. Again, this may seem trivial, as low-income countries obviously are the ones that need aid most.

But it is less trivial if we consider that health aid is (or at least was until recently) supposed to be temporary, to help countries assume their own responsibility. From that perspective it does not make sense to increase health aid to countries that are already dependent on aid for 15 per cent of their health expenditure to more than 25 per cent. Increasing health aid to those levels implies that low-income countries will remain dependent on health aid for decades, and that high-income countries are willing to accept shared responsibility.

Thus the collective responsibility mentioned in the Millennium Declaration has been more than rhetoric; at least for the health MDGs, shared responsibility – or collective international responsibility in addition to individual national responsibility – is a reality.



Also in this section:

Financing health **96**
Engaging communities **100**
Reducing child mortality **104**
Maternal health **107**
Eradicating malaria **112**

Aid as we know it will never be a decent substitute for domestic government revenue

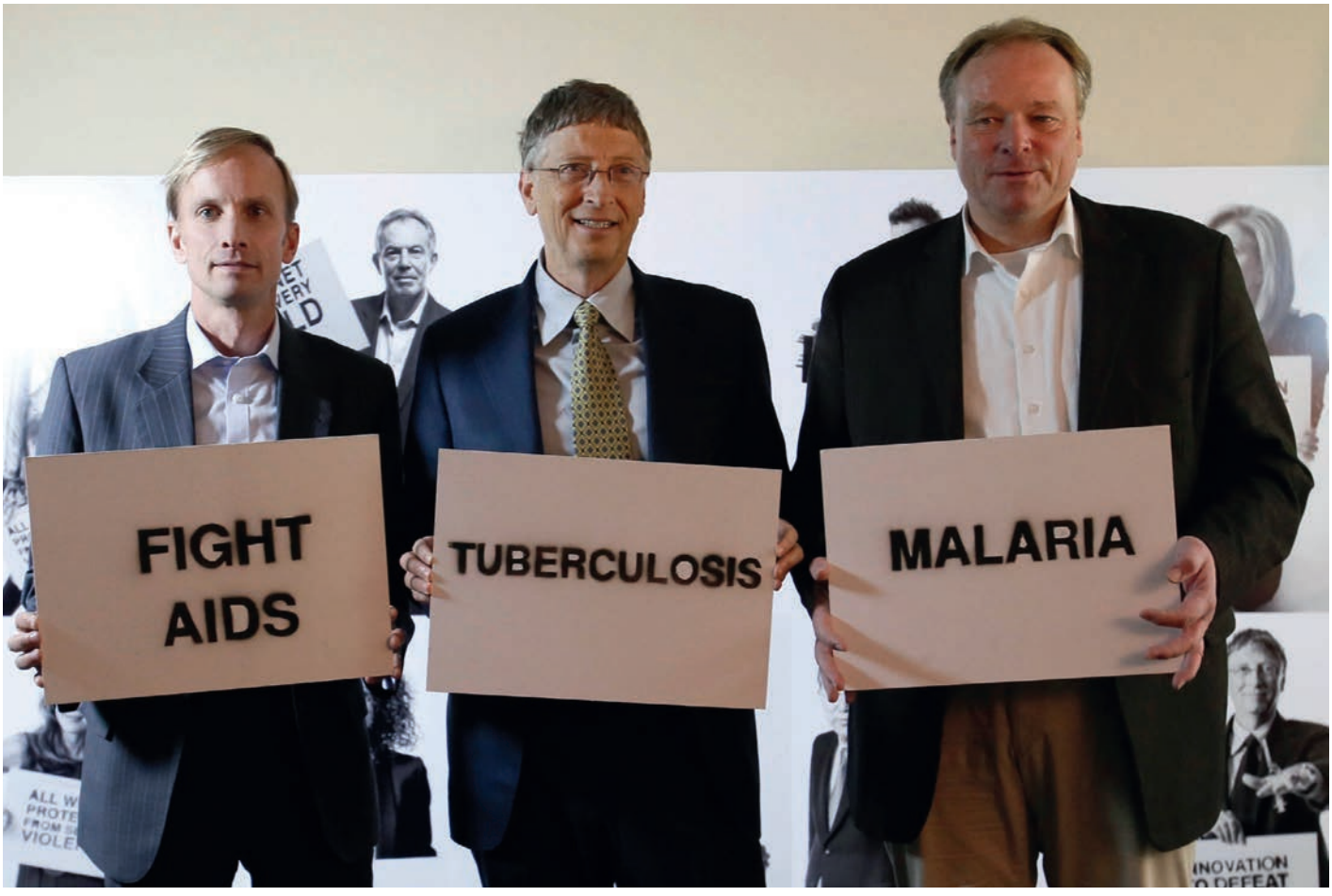
What can we expect from the new MDGs? First, it is important to highlight that health inequalities remain huge. For example, pulling together data from the World Health Statistics Report 2013 by the World Health Organization (WHO), we can estimate that about 4,600 women died while giving birth in Uganda in 2010. In Canada, a country with a population size comparable to that of Uganda, fewer than 40 women died while giving birth in 2010. A decade earlier, in 2010, about 7,500 women died while giving birth in Uganda. So there has been progress, but there is no room for complacency: maternal mortality is still a hundred times higher in Uganda. If the UN is serious about equity and equality, there still is a long way to go.

More health aid alone will not solve this. There are many factors that contribute to maternal mortality: the quality of healthcare is only one of them, financing is but one factor contributing to the quality of healthcare, and health aid is but one source of health financing. But in spite of all this relativity, it is difficult to imagine how real progress can be achieved without more health aid. Sure, many low-income countries can do more themselves: increase taxation and other forms of public revenue, and spend it more efficiently, on health, education, water and sanitation, food security and other essential services required to realise social human rights and human dignity. However, low-income countries are, by definition, countries where the average gross domestic product (GDP) is less than $1,000 per person per year. It is quite impossible for the governments of these countries – where close to a billion people live – to achieve the same social standards that are achieved by high-income countries (where another billion people live) whose populations enjoy a GDP of on average $12,500 per person per year or more.

Shouldn't we return to emphasising economic growth then? Should the new MDGs not focus on economic growth, as a precondition for the realisation of social human rights or human dignity? Aid as we know it will never be a decent substitute for domestic government revenue, if only because of the truth in the expression that "the hand that gives is always above the hand that takes" (attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte).

Problems with reliance on economic growth

First, the middle-income countries that enjoyed most economic growth during the past decades were not quite successful in decreasing inequality within their borders, as even the World Trade Organization admits – in a study published together with the International Labour Organization, with the title *Making*



© Reuters

From left: Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Bill Gates, philanthropist; and Dirk Niebel, Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. New international mechanisms such as The Global Fund are setting standards for shared responsibility

Globalization Socially Sustainable. Some argue that this failure to turn economic growth into more equity is a temporary phenomenon: over time, civil society and trade unions in these countries will demand and obtain stronger social protection, more redistribution, and thus more equity. Others argue that in order to benefit from global economic integration – and the global economic competition that results from it – emerging economies are obliged to keep wage costs low, and therefore to keep social protection modest, while 'established' economies are unsuccessfully struggling to maintain their social protection.

Second, carbon dioxide emissions in high-income countries reached about 12 tons per person per year; in middle-income countries the average is 3.5 tons per person per year and in low-income countries it is below 0.3 tons per person per year. Our planet could simply not absorb the carbon dioxide that would result from 8 billion people living like the people in high-income countries do.

While high-income countries must dramatically reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and people living there must change their lifestyles, middle- and low-income countries must be convinced to follow a different path towards more prosperity and human dignity. But how do we convince the people of Uganda not to try and live like the Canadians do, if living like the Canadians implies a hundred times fewer women dying while giving birth? High carbon dioxide emissions seem to be rather positive for population health, or so it seems.

While the UN adopted a resolution in favour of universal health coverage in 2012, that resolution was disappointingly silent about shared responsibility

Instead of returning to an unhealthy focus on economic growth, the answer could be to walk further on the path of shared responsibility for human dignity. Aid as we know it should be transformed into international cross-subsidies between national mechanisms of social protection, and that is nothing like higher hands giving and lower hands taking.

A global social protection regime would not only entail assessed cross-subsidies, it would also entail an agreement about minimum levels of social protection, thus taking asocial competition out of the global market. It would also allow the countries that benefit most from polluting economic activity to share those benefits with countries that pollute a lot less, to move towards convergence at socially and environmentally sustainable levels.

Would a global social protection regime be feasible? It may look highly Utopian, but with a benevolent eye, what has happened in global health since the formulation of the MDGs can be seen as steps towards a global social protection regime. New international mechanisms have been created, like The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and an accountability body for women's and children's health. These mechanisms are setting standards for shared responsibility and providing tools to implement shared responsibility – standards and tools that did not exist before the MDGs.

With a less benevolent eye, what has happened in global health recently can be seen as shared responsibility for shared problems only, not for human dignity. Why do we have a global fund for infectious disease control, and not for reducing maternal mortality? While the UN adopted a resolution in favour of universal health coverage in December 2012, that resolution was disappointingly silent about shared responsibility.

Could it be that many high-income countries are supportive of universal health coverage because – contradictory to what its name suggests – universal health coverage is formulated to be adapted to each country's reality, including its financial reality, and thus puts the spotlight on national responsibility?

Universal health coverage could also have a truly universal essential level, in line with the right to health, for which the international community accepts shared responsibility. There may be little appetite for the higher and more reliable transfers and domestic standards that such a formulation of universal health coverage would require, not least because of the global financial downturn. However, negotiations on the new iteration of the MDGs and the entirely new Sustainable Development Goals may yet create the political space that is required. There cannot be a global environmental policy without a global social policy. ■

Go4Health is a research consortium with members in five continents, tasked with helping to "ensure that the health-related development objectives for the period after 2015 are based on the best scientific evidence available and address the main shortcomings of the current MDGs." The positions taken in this comment are the author's own, but the positions of Go4Health can be found at www.go4health.eu.

1 According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, official development assistance from members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) was around 0.32% of combined Gross National Income in 2010, some way short of the long-standing target of 0.7%. DAC members are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA.

Financing a post-2015 health agenda

An increase in global health funding has seen significant progress made on MDG health targets. However, post-2015, funding mechanisms need to develop so that both disease-specific and health system intervention can be addressed

By **Temitope Foloranmi**, University of Oxford, and **Dr Devi Sridhar**, University of Edinburgh and University of Oxford

With fewer than 1,000 days to the Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs') 2015 deadline, various consultations have been held regarding the framework for a post-2015 development agenda. Despite mixed reactions on the performance of the MDGs, there is no doubt that the health sector has led some of the important successes we have achieved.

While it may not be possible to attribute accurately and specifically the direct contribution of the health MDGs (MDGs 4, 5 and 6, including targets under other goals that address significant determinants of health) to increased finance, it is clear that the last decade witnessed a massive increase in global health funding,[1] which has been effective in accelerating progress on the MDGs health target indicators globally.

Although it is unlikely that the world will achieve all of the MDG health targets by 2015, the number of deaths of children under five years of age has declined markedly from 12 million in 1990, to 6.9 million in 2011, globally. Similarly, there has been a significant reduction in the number of maternal deaths, from an estimated 543,000 in 1990, to 287,000 in 2010, globally. HIV infections declined by 24 per cent between 2001 and 2011 and global mortality due to tuberculosis (TB) has fallen 41 per cent since 1990. Malaria mortality has decreased by more than 25 per cent globally and by more than 33 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.[2] The progress made has been uneven across countries and regions and it is unlikely that many countries will fully achieve all the targets. However, these countries may be very close to achieving them in 2015.[3]

Health is central to sustainable human development; therefore, a robust framework is needed to drive the post-2015 health agenda. Beyond the comprehensive targets and ambitious goals being pushed for, an appropriate financing mechanism needs to be put in place if we are to achieve better results.



Lessons on financing

According to the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation's Financing Global Health 2011 Report,[4] development assistance for health has more than doubled between 2001 and 2010. However, the strong rate of growth was driven predominantly by an increase in funding for HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB. Funds for maternal, newborn and child health, and for non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and cancer, grew at a stable but less rapid pace during the same period.

With the creation of disease-specific financing initiatives, such as the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, development assistance for HIV/AIDS experienced strong growth and received the most funding out of all health focus areas. In fact, funding for HIV/AIDS accounts for 30.5 per cent of all allocable health focus areas spending in 2010. It is no surprise, therefore, that these disease-specific areas significantly improved over that last decade with



US President Barack Obama tours the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Youth Centre in Cape Town. With the creation of disease-specific financing initiatives, development assistance for HIV/AIDS received the most funding out of all health focus areas. In contrast, other health-related MDGs targets, such as nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and access to essential medicines, have not galvanised the same levels of support

© Reuters

accelerated reduction in malaria mortality, HIV new infection and TB mortality.

In contrast, other health-related MDG targets, such as nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and access to essential medicines, have not been very successful in galvanising popular and political support.[5] According to the Government Spending Watch Report 2013,[6] which covered 52 low- and lower-middle income countries, more than 70 per cent of spending on water, sanitation and hygiene is funded by donors through projects, while government spending accounts on these areas accounted for less than 0.5 per cent of GDP. This reflects the challenge of mobilising stakeholders' interest around targets that require both inter-sectoral action and attention to the underlying determinants of health at the national level.[7]

The 'vertical' nature of the goals has encouraged sector-specific responses and accountability structures that have resulted in the formation of parallel programmes operating in silos and a lack of coordination between sectors. This has contributed to fragmentation within the health systems in several low- and middle-income countries.

Developing countries that are allocating a greater share of government spending to health, education and agriculture are making faster progress on achieving the MDGs. According to a 2013 report by ONE, a grassroots organisation co-founded by musician Bono, the sub-Saharan African countries that are 'on track' to achieve their child mortality reduction targets are those that are making greater progress towards the health spending target of 15 per cent agreed in 2002.[8] The report found a robust positive correlation between sub-Saharan African countries' average social expenditures (on health, education and agriculture combined) as a share of their total expenditure over the past decade and their MDG Progress Index scores.[9]

However, there is a very weak correlation between total donor spending per capita on all three sectors combined and overall MDG progress. According

The 'vertical' nature of the goals has encouraged sector-specific responses that have resulted in parallel programmes operating in silos

More innovative financing approaches would enable a transformative and equitable redistribution of resources and power

to the report, there is a positive link between donor health assistance per capita over time and child health outcomes, but the opposite is the case with maternal mortality.

The positive correlation with child mortality reduction may be explained by the fact that "child health interventions [are] aligned around vertical funding and delivery mechanisms which are relatively inexpensive compared with other health interventions, and are often more straightforward to deliver" whereas "maternal mortality challenges often reflect broader health system obstacles that are harder to address through vertical health interventions".[10]

Diagonal funding

Various ideas have been put forward for inclusion in the framework for a post-2015 health agenda. These include: 1) inclusion of the current health MDGs in some form in the post-2015 goals; 2) a health system approach, which recognises that successful health outcomes depend on a variety of health (and non-health) inputs which have to be integrated at all levels;[11] and 3) increased country ownership and a focus on outcomes, among others.

Looking forward, if we want to improve the non-disease-specific MDG health focus areas, we need to look beyond 'vertical funding' and start thinking about a 'diagonal funding' that takes into consideration both disease-specific and system-wide approaches to health outcomes.

There is the temptation for donors to continue to fund programmes that show measurable results in a short timeframe.

The insufficiency of current health metrics in measuring outcomes of health system intervention provides little incentive for donors to fund it.[12] Despite this, it is widely acknowledged that successful health outcomes depend on a variety of determinants of health, health promotion and disease prevention, health system strengthening, and access to high-quality healthcare and financial protection.[13]

While there is currently no consensus on how financing should penetrate the system, we are of the opinion that in order to achieve a robust development result with the post-2015 health agenda, funding mechanisms that combine both vertical and horizontal interventions become imperative.

Moreover, there is a need to look beyond development assistance to more innovative financing approaches that would enable a transformative and equitable redistribution of resources and power between countries and within regions. National governments need to acknowledge the volatility of the donor funding and scale up their own allocation of resources for the post-2015 health agenda.

International and national policies that discourage capital flight, tax avoidance and evasion need to be put in place to help low-income countries to maximise their resources for development.

It is important to have a global health governance mechanism that commits states to provide minimum levels of social protection tailored to individual country needs and hold them accountable in order to achieve substantial development progress in the post-2015 health agenda.[14]

In conclusion, the lessons from the MDGs show that we need to look beyond the existing vertical funding mechanisms and shift to a more innovative finance approach that can combine both disease-specific and health system intervention in the post-2015 health agenda. ■

1, 3, 11 Schweitzer J.; Makinen, M.;Wilson, L.; Heymann, M. *Post-2015 health MDGs*. Result for Development Institute and Overseas Development Institute Report 2012. Retrieved from www.odi.org.uk/publications/6444-millennium-development-goals-mdgs-health-post2015

2 World Health Organization Millennium Development Goals Fact Sheets. Retrieved from www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs290/en/

4 Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). *Financing Global Health 2011: Continued growth as MDG deadline approaches*. Retrieved from www.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/publications/policy-report/financing-global-health-2011-continued-growth-mdg-deadline-approaches

5, 7, 13 Task team on global thematic consultation on health. *Health in the post-2015 agenda: Report of the global thematic consultation on health*. April 2013. Retrieved from www.worldwewant2015.org/health

6 Development Finance International and Oxfam International. *Government Spending Watch Report 2013: Putting Progress at Risk? MDG spending in developing countries*. Retrieved from www.governmentspendingwatch.org/research-analysis/health

8 In 2002, at a Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases, held in Abuja, Nigeria, African Union Heads of State committed themselves to allocating a minimum of 15 per cent of government expenditure to health.

9 MDG Progress Index is an analytical tool for measuring MDG progress among countries. Sub-Saharan African countries that are MDG 'trailblazers' allocate an average of 39 per cent of government spending to the three sectors (health, education and agriculture), while those that are 'laggards' allocate only 29 per cent.

10 ONE, 2013 data report: *Financing the fight for Africa's transformation*. Retrieved from www.one.org/c/international/datareport/4676/

12 Sridhar, Devi. *Seven challenges in international development assistance for health and ways forward*. Journal Law, Medicine and Ethics. Fall 2010.

14 Ooms, Gorik; Hammonds, Rachel: *Global Governance of health and the requirements of human rights. In: Global Policy, 2012*. Retrieved from: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1758-5899.2012.00201.x/pdf



Healthcare innovation: a vital part of the post-2015 development agenda

Good health is both a driver and an outcome of human development. Yet, the health of millions of people across the globe is impacted by the growing threat of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Philips supports the common view that reducing the burden of NCDs should be included in the post-2015 development agenda and that strengthening local healthcare systems is an essential strategy to reach that goal. But we go one step further.

We focus on medical technology in combination with a smart approach to healthcare system innovation, designed to increase access to quality care and improve outcomes in a cost efficient manner. We've seen needy communities benefit from quality diagnostics, informatics, telehealth, teleradiology, and remote care.

Making it work

We collaborate closely with local organisations to design and implement healthcare projects around the world. This results in the successful integration of technology, training, and community involvement.

We partner to expand and improve community-focused public health practices. The goal?

- Increase access to treatment/services and to healthcare facilities
- Enable rural community outreach programs and partnerships
- Educate/train community health workers



As an example, local health providers in Uganda are trained to capture high-quality ultrasound images in rural areas and send these via the internet to qualified clinicians who diagnose and offer treatment options. The local health workers also spread their knowledge and expertise to others, thereby expanding the skills for remote diagnostics across the country and ensuring a sustainable healthcare system.

A forward thinking solution

In May 2012, Philips helped Tygerberg Hospital of Cape Town, South Africa, create a 'step-down' unit, or Emergency Obstetric Newborn Care Unit (EmONC). The unit was designed to improve the ability of the busy Obstetric Critical Care Unit (OCCU) to manage high-risk pregnancies and complications. Stable patients are now moved from the OCCU to the EmONC, yet still receive critical monitoring care.

The EmONC has been extremely effective. The result of the pilot project shows the mortality rate decreased from 6 per cent to 0 per cent in just eight weeks and stayed at 0 per cent during the first full year. And this was accomplished with nurse assistants running the EmONC, leaving trained nurses to focus on the OCCU.

This cost-efficient solution is tailored to mother and child care at Tygerberg, but we are confident that similar approaches to smart use of technology and resources can strongly improve the control of NCDs and infectious conditions as well.

For consideration

Our 'Fabric of Africa' campaign develops meaningful partnerships with local and international stakeholders to improve healthcare delivery in the areas of NCDs, maternal and child health, healthcare infrastructure, technology and clinical training.

It is the kind of integrated healthcare system strengthening we feel deserves a more central role in the current proposals for the post-2015 development agenda.

Our continuing experience suggests accessible and integrated health systems save lives, create resilient communities, and thus must be a cornerstone for an ambitious development agenda. ■

Be sure to download our Africa Trends Report, available on our Fabric of Africa website at www.philips.com/fabricofafrica. While you are there, take a look at some of the exciting programs in which we are involved.

PHILIPS

Community engagement

Engaging communities in the post-2015 global health agenda is a necessity for human rights and social legitimacy

People must have the opportunity to shape the policies that will affect their health and human rights. Indeed, a critical element of the human right to health[1] is "the participation of the population in all health-related decision-making at the community, national and international levels", including as part of developing and reviewing a national public health strategy.[2] As the first UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health explained, states must "establish institutional arrangements for the active and informed participation of all relevant stakeholders, including disadvantaged communities."[3] The right to health, including its imperative on participation, must be integral to the post-2015 development agenda and processes, from establishing the post-2015 goals, targets and indicators, to translating them and implementing them at national and community levels, to monitoring them and holding officials accountable.

There is a compelling normative case for directly engaging the public in the decisions that affect their health. Society has allocated the power of making decisions on human health, and ultimately whether other people live or die, to certain governmental and other institutions. However necessary, this risks disempowering people in an area with the deepest implications for how – and whether – we live our lives. Regular opportunities for community engagement and meaningful ways for people to input into these life-shaping decisions can help resolve this tension between human equality and the power asymmetries in how health decisions and policies are made.

There are also a host of practical reasons for engaging communities at every step in making and ensuring the effective implementation of health policies. These include:

1) Ensure that health goals and policies meet people's actual health needs and understandings of their health

These understandings are often holistic. Community consultations in Chhattisgarh, a state in India, revealed the link between health, deforestation and agricultural practices: the shrinking forest limited access to produce, pesticides reduced crops' nutritional value, and the breakdown in the relationship between people



and the forest reduced food security. Policies to ensure people receive nutritious food, therefore, must be linked to environmental health. At the same time, certain populations may have particularised needs requiring tailored policies. Children with disabilities and the very elderly required special facilities, yet these were rarely present. A blanket approach to universal coverage would continue to leave people uncovered.

The Chhattisgarh consultations demonstrated a disjuncture between policymakers and community members. A policy linked the number of primary health centres to population size, but in areas with a low population density, this left some people too far from any health centre. Community members offered recommendations to increase healthcare access, such as opening clinics in the evening, rather than functioning only in the morning and early afternoon, when many people are in the fields.[4]

2) Develop enabling environments for health-related policies to have their intended impact, including on marginalised and vulnerable members of the community

This includes an environment where community members and civil society can speak freely, patients are ensured non-discriminatory, non-judgmental, respectful treatment, and cultural practices consistent with health are respected and community members lead efforts to change those that are not.

In Guatemala, the government has provided interpreters in some health centres serving indigenous



A Kayapo chief in northern Brazil receives ophthalmologic attention following cataract surgery. Volunteer doctors build mobile hospitals to provide clinical and surgical treatments for indigenous tribes and residents from different parts of the Amazonian rainforest

© Reuters

populations, an appropriate step, but one that did not lead to community members significantly increasing use of health centres. Asked why not – but only afterwards – people explained that they were avoiding health centres not primarily because of language barriers, but because of the disrespect and discriminatory practices with which health providers treated them. The new policy failed to address this.[5]

3) Build local trust and ownership, use local knowledge, and tailor policies and actions to local circumstances, all leading to more effective health policies and programmes and better implementation[6]

Health system hierarchies can generate distrust, impeding policy reforms to improve equity. To address distrust between public officials and ordinary citizens, civil society organisations have developed participatory systems to monitor public policies and local health services. In Guatemala, a participatory monitoring system in six rural municipalities involves community leaders, municipal government authorities and health workers. Through a cycle of data collection, analysis, action plans and advocacy, this community engagement has led to concrete improvements: dismissal of health providers for poor performance and corruption, municipal coverage of ambulance fuel costs, improved water services for a district hospital, fewer absentee healthcare workers and more follow-up on complaints. In a country still recovering from the trauma of civil war, the trust the connection between citizens and public authorities engenders is important to rebuilding the social fabric and strengthening democratic practices.[7]

4) Improve accountability, to ensure that health policies are being effectively implemented, and to facilitate advocacy and policy adjustment to improve implementation

A study involving 50 communities in Uganda used a community scorecard approach to local accountability. Scorecards were developed based on surveys of community members and health workers. Disseminated to community members and health workers, scorecards then served as a basis for meetings of community members, health workers, and the two groups together, leading to joint action plans to improve health services. Communities using scorecards had a 33 per cent reduction in child mortality, reduced health worker absenteeism and other health service improvements.[8]

5) Contribute to the process of empowerment, fostering health-enhancing dynamics, as people see that their input is valued and can affect health policies and practices

This can lead people to further participate, including engaging local – and even higher level – health services and officials to ensure that they are responsive to their needs and accountable to them.

6) Account for the fact that civil society representatives often come from very different circumstances (the middle class) than communities whom they represent, and may have their own (however well-meaning) agendas

The importance of engaging communities is even greater for marginalised populations, whose voices are least likely to be heard and heeded in policymaking circles without deliberate and strategic engagement efforts. Power dynamics, discrimination, lack of information, or other obstacles may preclude such communities from meaningful participation even when there are mechanisms to engage communities. Additional measures beyond those for the mainstream population may be required to meet the health needs of socially excluded members of society.

What is more, if countries can develop the systems, policies, processes and practices that meet the health needs of, and create conditions of good health for, people with the fewer resources, poorest health and worst access, these approaches should be sufficiently robust and responsive to meet the health needs of the broader community.

The post-2015 development agenda and the process of developing and implementing it must respond to the importance of engaging communities. As members of the Go4Health consortium – a collaboration of academics and civil society tasked

Additional measures may be required to meet the health needs of the socially excluded

Members of marginalised communities and civil society organisations should have a formal role in the post-2015 negotiation process

with offering scientific evidence to the European Commission on the next set of global health goals – we seek to contribute in at least a small way to this imperative. We are consulting marginalised communities in 11 countries on their health needs, perceptions on accountability, and role in health policymaking. We are grappling with practical and ethical challenges, and recognise that we can only reach a handful of the diverse marginalised communities around the world.

We commend the UN for its extensive efforts to seek perspectives from people around the world to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda and for recognising the need to include traditionally excluded populations.[9] Broad participation should continue as the post-2015 agenda develops to ensure that it tracks with people's demands. We encourage the UN to ensure that its consultation processes incorporate a focused effort to include a range of marginalised communities, whenever possible through local partnerships enabling communities to benefit from this engagement beyond the consultations themselves. The UN and Member States should pay particular heed to their messages, how they can be incorporated into the post-2015 agenda, and how these communities can engage in local and national development and political processes.

Members of marginalised communities and civil society organisations should have a formal role in the post-2015 negotiation process. Besides joining national delegations, this could entail forming a committee or forum that is integrated into the negotiations and that must, with the agreement of UN Member States, endorse the post-2015 agenda before states adopt it. Further, marginalised communities must be central to processes to translate and implement the goals at the national level, and be ensured effective means to monitor progress and hold their governments accountable.

The importance of community engagement should be reflected in the goals and targets themselves. We welcome the target proposed by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: "Increase public participation in political processes and civic engagement at all levels."[10]

Such engagement must incorporate proactive measures to include marginalised communities. The post-2015 goals and targets should further prioritise related principles of human rights, accountability and equity. Giving life to these principles through specific measures is critical for this post-2015 agenda to be transformative.[11] ■

By **Eric A. Friedman**, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center, USA;
Walter Flores, Centro de Estudios para la Equidad y Gobernanza en los Sistemas de Salud, Guatemala;
Claire Brolan, School of Population Health, The University of Queensland, Australia;
Peter Hill, School of Population Health, The University of Queensland, Australia;
Sameera Hussain, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh;
Moses Mulumba, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development, Uganda;
Laila A. Latif, University of Nairobi, Kenya;
Natalie Eggermont, University of Ghent, Belgium;
Lawrence O. Gostin, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center, USA.

1 We use "right to health" as shorthand for "the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health". International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI) (1966), at art. 12. Available at: www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm

2 Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *General Comment No. 14, The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health*, UN Doc. No. E/C.12/2000/4 (2000), at paras. 11, 43(f). Available at: www1.umn.edu/humanrts/gencomm/escgencom14.htm

3 Hunt, Paul. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Paul Hunt*, UN Doc. A/HRC/7/11 (January 31, 2008), at para. 41. Available at: www.ifhhro.org/images/stories/ifhhro/documents_UN_special_rapporteur/3_4_2.pdf

4 Government of Chhattisgarh, India, *Human Development Report Chhattisgarh* (Government of Chhattisgarh, 2005), at 128, 134, 131-132, 146, 135. Available at: http://chhattisgarh.nic.in/book/hdr.pdf

5 Chew, Aiken; Sanchez, Silvia; Ceron, Alejandro and Flores, Walter. *Discrimination in healthcare services in rural Guatemala: understanding local expressions and typology of complaints as a step towards developing indicators for community-based monitoring*, (Preliminary report), (Centro de Estudios para la Equidad y Gobernanza en los Sistemas de Salud, May 2013).

6 Leavy, Jennifer; Howard, Joanna et al., *What Matters Most? Evidence from 84 Participatory Studies with Those Living with Extreme Poverty and Marginalization* (Participate/Institute for Development Studies, 2013). Available at: www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/ParticipateSynthesis-WhatMattersMost.pdf

7 Flores, Walter ; Gómez, Ismael and Zakus, David "Indigenous citizens and public health: how empowerment can make a difference," *Health Exchange News* (Summer 2010). Available at: http://healthexchangenews.com/2010/06/18/indigenous-citizens-and-public-health-how- empowerment-can%C2%A0make%C2%A0a%C2%A0difference/

8 Björkman, Martina and Svensson, Jakob "Power to the people: Evidence from a randomized field experiment on community-based monitoring in Uganda," 124(2) *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2009): 735-769

9 United Nations Development Group, *The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views for a New Development Agenda* (United Nations Development Group, 2013). Available at: www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/global-conversation-begins-web.pdf

10 UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* (United Nations, 2013), at 31, Available at: www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf

11 Amnesty International, *Human rights must play stronger role in post-2015 development agenda*, 5 June, 2013, www.amnesty.org/en/news/human-rights-must-play-stronger-role-post-2015-development-agenda-2013-06-05

DISPOSABLE BODY BATH WIPES
A MUST-HAVE IN CONFLICT ZONES

DESIGNED FOR

- Hospitalized patients or patients on bed rest.
- People with reduced mobility or nursing care home patients.
- People with scarce or no access to water.
- People affected by natural disasters or living in conflict areas.



TWO PRESENTATIONS

- With Chlorhexidine cleansing solution, a powerful antibacterial agent that kills 99.9% of bacteria on your skin. Ideal for patients before and after surgery.
- With cleansing solution, enriched in aloe vera and oat extract, a daily-use formula with natural components that helps hydrate and revitalize any type of skin.



ADVANTAGES

- Reduces patient bath time
- Prevents spills and stains on mattresses and bed linen
- One wipe cleans your whole body.
- Suitable for pediatric use.

SUSTAINABLE

Water, hygiene and energy, play a key role in addressing the needs of an ever-changing world. Our body bath helps save many liters of water and avoid contamination.

AlfaSanit

www.alfadmsargentina.com.ar

www.zkysky.com.ar

Reducing child mortality



© UNICEF/Holt

A woman weighs a child in a sling scale, at a crowded UNICEF-supported feeding centre in Chad's capital, N'Djamena

Of the 6.9 million child deaths in 2011, 5.2 million were treatable by proven, affordable commodities. UNICEF is working with national and global partners in order to save these lives

By **Dr Mickey Chopra**, Chief of Health, UNICEF

Fewer than 900 days remain until the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) deadline. Great advances have been realised: the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation recently reported a significant drop in global child deaths from over 12 million in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2011.[1] Still, much work remains. Seventy-five per cent of child deaths are due to pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and complications that arise in the first few days of life.

We know that proven, affordable commodities such as amoxicillin, oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc, and antenatal steroids for treatment of Respiratory Distress Syndrome in preterm babies, can save lives. Still, in too many countries, these life-saving commodities are inaccessible to the children and families who need them most.

Take diarrhoea for example. Death from this condition is completely preventable in nearly all cases. To save a life, caretakers need to recognise some simple signs of dehydration in a child, and treat her with either appropriate home-made fluids

or ORS. When these are combined with zinc, the risk of death is almost eliminated.

Countries such as Bangladesh and Rwanda that have focused on these simple solutions have reduced deaths from this disease by more than three quarters (more children now die of drowning in Bangladesh than diarrhoea). And yet more than three quarters of a million children die of diarrhoea globally every year – most of them because they didn't have access to ORS and zinc-treatments that cost only a few pennies.

For this reason, the UN Secretary-General established the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children in 2012,[2] which set out to build consensus around priority actions for increasing availability, affordability, accessibility and rational use of essential commodities for women's and children's health.

A set of ten concrete recommendations for action were launched at the UN General Assembly that year, and technical working groups of experts from global and local, public and private, academic and commercial sectors are tackling the key bottlenecks preventing access to an initial set of 13 commodities that can help end preventable child deaths. A Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Fund has been established to support the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

This is an example of the global development community, including the UN, working together to highlight opportunities to accelerate progress towards reducing preventable maternal and child deaths. If, working together, partners are successful in scaling up the coverage and usage of inexpensive commodities and medicines, it is estimated that more than 6 million lives will be saved by the end of 2015.[3] Reaching this goal with equity means reaching the most deprived and hardest-to-reach communities. How can it be done?

Country-led action to reach the MDGs

Countries are leading the action. Under the banner of the UN Secretary-General's global health movement, *Every Woman Every Child*[4], more than 175 countries have signed the *A Promise Renewed*[5] pledge to end all preventable child deaths by 2035. In pathfinder countries like Ethiopia and Nigeria, stakeholders are sharpening national health systems and plans for improving reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, with leadership from the national health and finance ministers and with high-level political support.

This means that UN agencies, bilateral donors, major foundations and other global development partners are working side by side with national-level partners to build systems that improve access to essential medicines and health services, while also making good quality data available to managers and policy makers in real-time. Collaboration to sharpen national plans and strengthen health systems focuses on:

- matching resources to strategies that increase quality and coverage of key maternal, newborn and child interventions;
- real-time monitoring and evidence-based planning for action at district, state and national level;
- enhancing monitoring and accountability mechanisms through the use of leading-edge information technology.

At the same time, national pledges as part of the *A Promise Renewed* movement are mobilising civil society support and engagement.

For example, as part of India's *Call to Action*[6] to accelerate reduction of maternal and infant mortality, the Government of India is mobilising substantial new resources across 184 high-burden districts through the National Rural Health Mission.

Activity at state level is creating an opportunity for priority districts to enhance evidence-based planning and programming, and redouble commitments to accelerate results. Engagement will build on existing systems and data, including effective use of data available through the Health Management Information System.

Innovative technologies and harmonised approaches take progress even further

New technologies provide an opportunity for more progress. In Uganda, SMS-based platforms allow both the users and the providers of health services to instantaneously provide data on quality and availability simply by sending or receiving a text message, creating a new source of data that improves accountability and monitoring in real time.[7] In Zambia, innovative household sampling strategies such as Lot Quality Assurance Sampling have allowed district managers to include targets on breastfeeding and postnatal care, which was not possible before. This has improved management decisions and district plans.

Technology can have an impact even in challenging settings; in Nigeria, the social mobiliser network has introduced the use of smartphones to transmit data on activities and results in the field.

Death from diarrhoea is completely preventable in nearly all cases, and yet more than three quarters of a million children die from it globally every year



© UNICEF/Holt

Women tend their sick children in the paediatric ward of a UNICEF-supported hospital in Mogadishu. Under-five mortality rates in Somalia are the second highest in the world and have not changed since 1990. In the same timeframe, global rates have declined from 12 million deaths per year to 6.9 million. This tragedy for Somali children is the result of poverty and drought conditions that cannot be addressed because of decades of war

This helps streamline information sharing and improves management and monitoring of field-level polio eradication activities. Other innovations, including the use of tablets to show training videos or mobile projectors that enable communities to watch informational videos, help to inform and engage even the hardest to reach communities.

Harmonisation across different parts of the health system also strengthens individual health programmes, and the system overall. The convergence of polio vaccinations with routine immunisation and other child survival interventions in collaboration with water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition has taken place in India, Angola and Chad, and lessons learned from these efforts will guide convergence in Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

At the global level, as part of the International Health Partnership,[8] development partners have committed to developing a common approach to ensure that global action supports national action, including joint assessments, harmonised systems and support for learning from good experiences, for example in South-South cooperation or 'triangular cooperation' (donor, emerging donor and beneficiary).

Working together to achieve the world we want

This year, the UN is convening a series of consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, as part of a global conversation toward a shared vision of 'The World We Want'.[9]

It is already clear that realisation of the right to health, including the goal of reducing child mortality, reaches beyond the MDG deadline and will figure centrally in the global agenda for sustainable development in 2015 and beyond. UNICEF, in collaboration with national and global partners, remains committed to ensuring that children are at the heart of sustainable development. ■

1 UNICEF (2012). *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality Report 2012*. Estimates Developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. www.childmortality.org/files_v10/download/Levels%20and%20Trends%20in%20Child%20Mortality%20Report%202012.pdf. Accessed 3 April 2013.

2 www.everywomaneverychild.org/resources/un-commission-on-life-saving-commodities

3 *Final Report of the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities* (September 2012). Available at www.everywomaneverychild.org/resources/un-commission-on-life-saving-commodities/report

4 www.everywomaneverychild.org

5 www.apromiserenewed.org

6 childsurvivalsummit.in

7 http://ureport.ug/; www.unicef.org/uganda/9903.html

8 www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/en/

9 www.worldwewant2015.org/

The prescription for women's health: the MDGs and beyond

Maternal health cannot be tackled in isolation. Closely linked to – and often dependent upon – the other Goals, most crucially it requires society to value women and respect their rights

By **Professor Albrecht Jahn**, **Dr Claudia Beiersmann** and **Professor Olaf Müller**, Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg, Germany

The Millennium Declaration, on which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are based, highlights the importance of gender and the sustainable empowerment of women. It promotes "gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease"; aims to combat "all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women";[1] to ensure "that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education"; and to reduce by 2015 "maternal mortality by three quarters".

Many, but not all, of these ideas have made their way into the MDGs. MDG 1, for example, aims to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" and promotes full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people. Nevertheless, the gender gap in employment persists, with a 25 per cent difference between men and women in the employment-to-population ratio in 2012 and a wide gulf between the wages of men and women.[2] This has an impact on health conditions as well as access to healthcare.

MDG 2, to "achieve universal primary education", is crucial, as education has consistently been shown to contribute significantly to maternal as well as child survival. There have been considerable improvements in primary school enrolment in the



A community health volunteer gives Vitamin A, iron and folic acid supplements to an expectant mother during a home visit in Panchthar District, in a remote, mountainous region of Nepal

© UNICEF/Khemka



© Robert Yates/Department for International Development

In 2010, Sierra Leone launched free healthcare for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children under five. This mother and baby are part of a crowd waiting for a children's hospital to open

developing world over the last 20 years, from 80 to 90 per cent of children enrolling in a school. While the gender gap has narrowed in primary education, the opposite – and worrying – trend has been observed in lower secondary school enrolment.[3]

MDG 3, 'promote gender equality and empower women', addresses the participation of women in education and politics and also focuses on their economic empowerment. As mentioned above, the gender gap in primary education is decreasing, but in many regions, such as in South Asia, there are still only 74 girls per 100 boys enrolled in primary school. Only 20 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide are female and – on current trends – it would take 40 years to reach parity.[4] The health implications of this under-representation are complex, but an increase of women in politics could, potentially, lead to an increase in policies that prioritise women's health.

MDG 4, "reduce child mortality", is closely linked to reducing maternal mortality, as appropriate care in childbirth benefits both mother and child, and a healthy mother is key to a child's survival. Statistics show that, on the whole, baby girls have a slightly higher chance of survival than boys. There may be a biological factor to this. One would expect to see, therefore, in an environment of parity in healthcare for males and females, a slightly higher under-five mortality rate in boys. This is observable in all regions except southern Asia, where the higher mortality in girls may reflect practices related to local preferences for male children.[5]

Approximately 10 per cent of all maternal deaths in sub-Saharan Africa can be linked to HIV and AIDS. MDG 6 ,"combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases" has contributed to a slowing down of the spread of HIV and AIDS, with a 21 per cent reduction in new infections during 2011, compared to 2001.[6] Additionally, the provision of much-needed insecticide-treated bed nets in combination with increasing access to intermittent preventive treatment has helped prevent malaria in pregnant women.

While all eight of the MDGs have direct or indirect implications for women's health, it is MDG 5 that specifically addresses this within the context of maternal and reproductive health.

Unequal progress

The aim of MDG 5 to "reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio and achieve universal access to reproductive health" has had a lengthy evolution. It developed from the Safe Motherhood Initiative of 1988, which aimed to reduce maternal mortality by half in the year 2000; and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, which put reproductive health and rights at the top of the international agenda. Improving reproductive health was not part of the original MDG targets – possibly due to politicking among UN nations – and only entered the list of goals as MDG 5b in the 2007 revision of the goals. As a result, MDG 5-related initiatives and funding still focus mainly on reducing maternal mortality.

Evidence suggests that there has been a significant reduction in global maternal mortality in recent years. Indeed, the maternal mortality ratio declined by 47 per cent over the past two decades, from 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 210 in 2010.[7] This success, however, should be put into context. Sweden achieved a similar ratio (230/100,000) as early as 1900, simply due to their midwives' skilled delivery care, and this at a time when modern surgery, antibiotics and blood transfusions were not available.

Today, progress on the reduction of maternal mortality continues to be distributed unevenly.

Only three regions (eastern Asia, southern Asia and northern Africa) achieved reductions between 60 and 70 per cent, and are likely to meet the target of 75 per cent by the year 2015. The majority of developing countries are likely to miss this target unless there is a dramatic (but unlikely) last-minute effort. Sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, had the highest maternal mortality – 850 deaths per 100,000 live births – in 1990. Although the region managed to achieve a reduction of 41 per cent by 2010, actually achieving the MDG target appears to be out of reach.

A similar pattern of unequal progress is also found with the availability of specific women's services, such as skilled delivery assistance and reproductive health services. In most regions the lack of effective family planning services has only improved slightly and improvements are least in areas where need is highest. So, within the last 20 years, unmet need for family planning fell only slightly from 27 to 25 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa and from 28 to 25 per cent in Oceania.[8] Disparities in this area are evident not only among regions and countries, but also within countries, for example, between rural and urban communities, and poor and rich populations. The fact that reproductive health has been a latecomer to the MDG agenda is likely a contributing factor.

A joined-up system

Without belittling the efforts of many countries and the international community, it has to be concluded that MDG 5 – a 75 per cent reduction in maternal mortality worldwide – is unlikely to be achieved by 2015 and will need increased attention and resources beyond this date.

However, it should be noted that ten countries had already achieved this target by 2010: Estonia (95 per cent), Maldives (93 per cent), Belarus (88 per cent), Romania (84 per cent), Bhutan (82 per cent), Equatorial Guinea (81 per cent), Iran (81 per cent), Lithuania (78 per cent), Nepal (78 per cent) and Vietnam (76 per cent). A further nine countries appear to be on track to achieve the goal by 2015,[9] Other low- and middle-income countries, such as Sri Lanka, had already achieved lower levels of maternal mortality prior to the drafting of the MDGs. It is therefore evident that reductions in maternal mortality are achievable.

While these countries did not all secure their reductions in the same manner, there are some common features to be observed, such as sound policies, primary healthcare facilities and skilled maternal care. Political commitment is needed to build an accessible network of primary healthcare facilities that provide skilled antenatal and delivery care. This must be backed up by referral systems and hospitals that are fit for this purpose, with comprehensive obstetric care facilities. Some of these countries, such as Nepal, have successfully integrated female community health volunteers into their model of service provision.

Overall, there is not one specific intervention that 'does the trick'. What is needed is a system of joined-up healthcare. It is difficult, however, to attribute the recent rise in maternal survival to improved healthcare alone.

Most of the successful countries are also on track with the other MDGs and have invested heavily in education and in the infrastructure of their countries. In addition, modern technologies, such as mobile phones – increasingly used for healthcare and advice – may also play a role. Maternal mortality is not just an indicator for the quality of maternity care, but for development in general.

Maternal and reproductive health need to remain global priorities in the post-2015 agenda. The question is whether the concept of disease-specific development goals should be preserved or if maternal health would be better served through a wider goal of universal health coverage.

There are several reasons for moving away from the current disease-specific health goals. The current goals contribute to a fragmentation of services that must work in a system as a consonant whole. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV is a case in point as it involves all three health-focused MDGs. It is systemically linked to antenatal care, involves voluntary testing and counselling services, requires comprehensive drug programmes, and the close monitoring of newborn babies in clinics designed for the under-fives.

Setting priorities at the local level remains of overall importance. Universal health coverage should be anchored in the right to health, which puts health needs of all people at the centre of the development goals.[10] ■

Maternal mortality is not just an indicator for the quality of maternity care, but for development in general

1 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women.

2 UN Women 2013. *The gender dimension of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. New York www.unwomen.org/2013/07/mdgs-report-2013, UN 2013. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*. United Nations, New York.

3, 4, 6, 7, 8 UN 2013. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*. United Nations, New York.

5 UN Women 2013. *The gender dimension of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013.*

9 WHO 2012. *Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2010*, World Health Organization, Geneva.

10 Ooms, G, Brolan C, Eggermont N, Eide A, Flores W, Forman L, Friedman EA, Gebauer T, Gostin LO, Hill PS, Hussain S, McKee M, Mulumba M, Siddiqui F, Sridhar D, Van Leemput L, Waris A, Jahn A. *Universal health coverage anchored in the right to health. Bull World Health Organ. 2013 Jan 1;91(1):2-2A. doi: 10.2471/BLT.12.115808.*

Johnson & Johnson and the Millennium Development Goals: Our commitment continues

The gains made in global public health in recent decades have been nothing short of remarkable: Among them, a 41% reduction in child mortality since 1990,[1] a 50% increase in mothers surviving childbirth,[2] and notable improvements in life expectancy and outcomes for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria.[3] The United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), established in 2000, have played a major role in fostering and accelerating this progress. Bold in their design, the MDGs prompted a new level of focus and engagement across nations and sectors, harnessing the strengths of a broad set of stakeholders to combat the world's most pressing social challenges.

Johnson & Johnson celebrates the MDGs and the progress they have spurred since the adoption of the UN Millennium Declaration. The opportunities we have had as a company to lead and support MDG-linked initiatives have affirmed for us the value of the MDGs in driving positive, meaningful change.

Johnson & Johnson's MDG Focus Areas for Women and Children: A range of efforts to support the MDGs' fulfilment

In 2010, Johnson & Johnson responded to the UN Secretary-General's call-to-action for a renewed global effort to advance the MDGs with a comprehensive, five-year commitment to reach as many as 120 million women and children per year by 2015, especially in areas where resources are most scarce. Some of the ways in which Johnson & Johnson has contributed to MDG health objectives (Goals 4, 5 and 6) are captured in our MDG Focus Areas for Women and Children:



Making childbirth safer

Every year, between 250,000 and 343,000 women are estimated to die from complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth[4] and at least 3.1 million newborns die in the fragile first month of life.[5] We partner with organisations around the world to help mothers and their newborns survive and thrive.



Reaching mothers with health information through their mobile phones

More than one billion women in low- and middle-income countries own a mobile phone. Together with partner organisations, we support programmes that deliver vital health information to new and expectant mothers through mobile phones.

Reducing mother to child HIV transmission

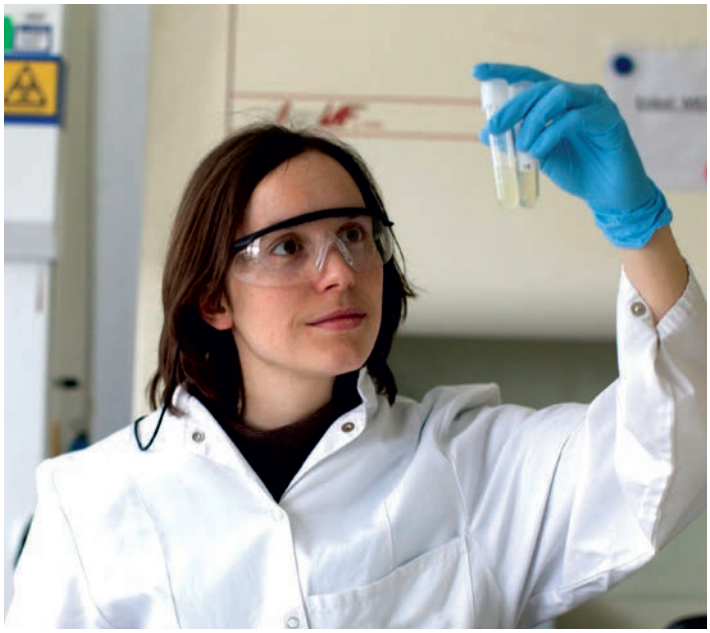
Every year, 330,000 babies become infected with HIV because they are born to mothers living with HIV. These infections are preventable with access to care and information. In collaboration with other organisations, we invest in proven programmes and pioneering groundbreaking models to reduce the number of children born with HIV and the number of mothers dying of AIDS.





Treating children at-risk for intestinal worms and preventing the cycle of reinfection
More than 600 million of the nearly 1.2 billion people infected by or at-risk of infection from intestinal worms are school-age children. Children Without Worms, a partnership formed between The Task Force for Global Health and Johnson & Johnson in 2006, is working towards a world where children are free of intestinal worms, and are able to play, learn and grow into healthy adults.

Increasing research & development for new medicines
We are committed to the ongoing research & development (R&D) of new medicines to treat diseases affecting people living in the developing world, including women and children. This commitment includes sustained research investments in tuberculosis and drug-resistant forms of the disease. The company has developed a number of antiretrovirals to treat HIV, as well as developing new technologies that may, in the future, prevent the transmission of HIV between adults.



Toward 2015 and beyond: a new Global Public Health organisation, established in Janssen, the pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson
This year, Janssen, the pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson, announced the creation of a new Global Public Health organisation (GPH). This organisation is dedicated in part to advancing our R&D commitments for the treatment and prevention of infectious and neglected diseases, including our MDG commitments.

In addition, GPH supports the design and implementation of innovative new models for ensuring patient access to our medicines – models aligned to the MDGs in spirit and scope. These novel access approaches are actualised through various channels, among them Janssen's Global Access Programmes and Partnerships (GAPP) initiative. GAPP's mandate, to support sustainable access to appropriate medicines for people living with HIV/AIDS in resource-limited settings, helps facilitate progress toward the fulfilment of MDG Number 6 and its sub-targets. GAPP strives to enable effective and sustainable access to our HIV medicines and to ensure that these medicines are used in the most appropriate way. Finally, as its name suggests, GAPP forges partnerships with a wide array of stakeholders at the local, national and supranational levels to help fulfil shared aims.

Progress through partnerships
Partnerships are the cornerstone of our Company's MDG-related efforts. Johnson & Johnson currently partners with more than 200 organisations to improve the health of women and children around the world, including Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, CARE, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, the International Partnership for Microbicides, mothers2mothers, Save the Children, the Task Force for Global Health, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, and health ministries in such countries as China, Brazil, India, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Looking ahead
As 2015 nears, and as the world reflects upon the status and future of the MDGs, this much is clear: There is immense value in the framework that the MDGs have provided to participants in the fight against poverty and its underlying drivers. Importantly, the MDGs have helped to expand the number and nature of the participants in this important fight. At Johnson & Johnson, we are proud to be among these participants, and we are pleased to be able to align our company's social responsibility efforts to the MDGs' guiding framework. The ultimate aim of the MDGs, of course, is to "advance the means to a productive life". That the MDGs recognise health as fundamental to a productive life reflects their inherent wisdom, and further validates the importance of the work. May the work continue. ■

Endnotes
1, 2, 3 (United Nations, 2013)
4 (Women and Children First)
5 (Cousens, et al., 2011)

Works Cited
- Cousens, S., Blencowe, H., Stanton, C., Chou, D., Ahmed, S., Steinhardt, L., et al. (2011). National, regional, and worldwide estimates of stillbirth rates in 2009 with trends since 1995: a systematic analysis. *The Lancet*, 1319-1330.
- UN (2013). *The Millennium Development Goals Report.* New York: UN.
- Women and Children First. (n.d.). *Maternal Health: The Statistical Picture* . Retrieved August 8, 2013, from www.womenandchildrenfirst.org.uk/what-we-do/key-issues/maternal-health-maternal-mortality/maternal-mortality-statistics

Johnson & Johnson

Don't forget malaria

The promising progress made on controlling this disease should inspire more, not less, action

By **Dr Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré**, Executive Director, Roll Back Malaria Partnership

With fewer than 900 days left to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the international community is stepping up efforts to reduce poverty, illness and inequality and build a sound foundation for sustainable development.

In recent years, malaria control has proven to be a highly cost-effective way of speeding up progress towards the MDGs in malaria-endemic countries. It has saved lives and improved child and maternal health, while removing obstacles to economic development and education.

Today malaria mortality rates are down by a quarter globally and one-third in Africa, compared to the year 2000. More than a million lives were saved from malaria between 2000 and 2010, most of them among children under five years of age.

In African countries, where malaria continues to be a leading cause of death among children under five, antimalarial interventions – such as insecticide-treated nets, home-spraying, diagnostic tests and effective treatment – have revealed a fast route to achieving MDG 4.[1]



Katuwala Saruwai, 10, embraces his sleeping baby brother Kalu at a health clinic in the Trobriand Islands in Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. Ten-month-old Kalu is suffering from severe malaria, a primary cause of child deaths in the country

© UNICEF/Pirozzi

Malaria control has been consistently singled out as one of the best public health investments. A recent study, conducted by McKinsey and Co, indicated that for every $1 invested in malaria commodities, a $40 return can be expected in the form of productivity from healthier, better educated, more industrious working communities.[2]

But despite ample proof of the effectiveness and multiple benefits of malaria control interventions, unstable funding remains a key risk to sustaining recent gains and marking further progress.

Whether malaria becomes the next major public health success or continues to thwart economic and social progress indefinitely will depend to a great degree on the resources that are committed to the current global and national efforts to end the disease.

Why malaria matters

Malaria is preventable and treatable but continues to kill a child in Africa every minute. In 2010 the disease caused an estimated 660,000 deaths, 90 per cent of them in Africa.[3] Almost half of the world's population is at risk of contracting the disease; 219 million illnesses were reported last year.

Malaria lays a heavy economic and social burden on families, communities and societies, draining African economies of an estimated $12 billion a year. When it doesn't kill, the disease can lead to permanent neurological and cognitive damage in children, thus impeding education, reducing career opportunities and lowering productivity in adult age. In regions where malaria thrives, jobs and school days are lost, productivity plummets and entire communities remain locked in an unbreakable cycle of disease and poverty. Clearly, high-burden malaria-endemic countries cannot make lasting progress towards the MDGs until they contain the ravages of the disease.

A long-standing problem

The fight against malaria in the 20th century constitutes an important chapter in the history of public health. Intensive control interventions were crucial to eliminating malaria from the United States, Italy, Greece and Spain in the 1930 to 1950s, clearing the way to faster economic growth, more stability and better life quality.

Successful malaria elimination campaigns at country level inspired an ambitious Global Malaria Eradication Program in 1955, lead by the World Health Organization (WHO). The programme contributed to eliminating malaria from Europe, North America, the Caribbean and parts of Asia and South-Central America,[4] but stopped short of reaching its goals in all target regions and came to a halt in 1969.

Moreover, the massive elimination efforts of the 1950s left malaria unscathed in sub-Saharan Africa, where the hot climate and particularly potent mosquito vectors contribute to extraordinarily high transmission rates.

As donor funding for malaria control dried up, control efforts weakened or were entirely abandoned in many poor countries. Malaria gradually resurged in certain areas of Asia and Latin America. It continued killing millions in Africa, without much of an international outcry.

A decade to roll back malaria

After long years of neglect and against the backdrop of a rising tide of malaria deaths, several international organisations – WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the UN Development Programme – established the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM) in 1998 to place malaria back on the global agenda and coordinate the malaria fight.

Over the past decade, RBM has evolved into a public-private partnership, aligning hundreds of partners from malaria-endemic countries, multilateral development organisations, the private sector, NGOs, foundations, and research and academia in a common global effort to end malaria.

RBM partners and members of the malaria community helped sound the alarm on malaria's comeback, raising awareness and funding, as well as spurring action in Africa and around the world.

At the 2000 Abuja Summit in Nigeria, African heads of state made historic commitments to reduce dramatically the disease burden. The commitment was echoed in one of the eight MDGs, adopted later that year by all UN Member States. A powerful response across and beyond the UN system followed, marking the start of a UN decade to Roll Back Malaria (2001-2010).

In 2008, recalling the Abuja pledges of 2000, the UN Secretary-General upped the stakes and called for universal coverage – providing effective diagnosis, prevention and treatment to every person at risk of malaria by 2010. He also appointed a Special Envoy for malaria to help galvanise additional global support and funding for the disease.

In the same year, RBM's Global Malaria Action Plan (GMAP) was adopted by the malaria community as a roadmap for malaria control and elimination over the next decades. It elaborated global and regional strategies for fighting malaria and quantified the resources needed to halve the malaria burden by 2010, achieve the MDGs for malaria by 2015 and move towards elimination.

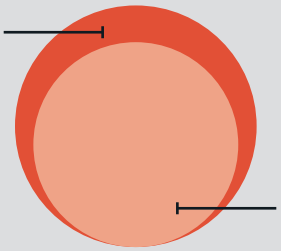
Resources for malaria control have grown substantially since the year 2000 – from only tens of millions a year at the start of the millennium to $1.84 billion in 2012.[5] International development aid, channelled through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the US President's Malaria Initiative, the World Bank Malaria Booster Program,[6] and the UK's Department for International Development have made up the lion's share of this dramatic increase, although other donor contributions

Malaria is preventable and treatable but continues to kill a child in Africa every minute. In 2010 the disease caused an estimated 660,000 deaths

HIV/AIDS at a glance

Target 6A
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

New infections 2011
2.5 million



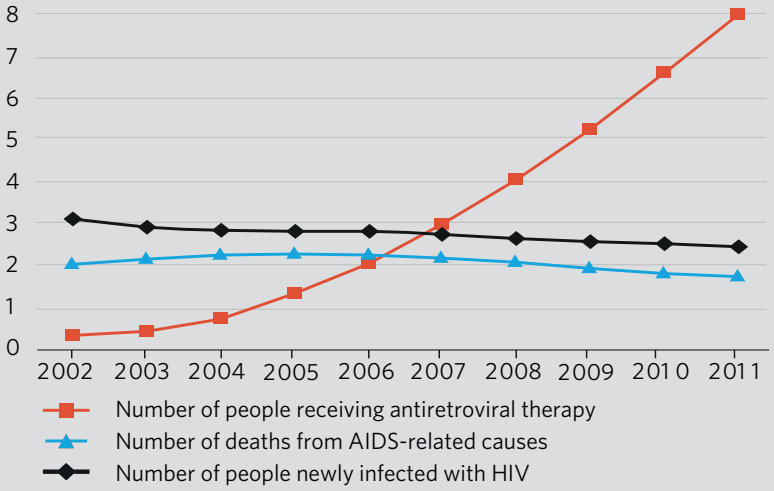
1.8 million in sub-Saharan Africa

1.7 million died of AIDS

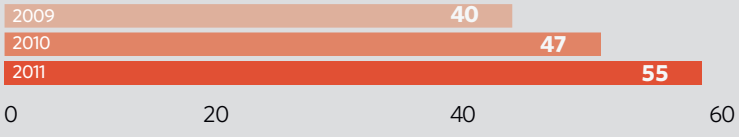
34 million living with HIV

-21% rate of infection 2001 to 2011

Target 6B
Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it



Proportion of people in developing regions living with HIV who are receiving antiretroviral therapy, 2009, 2010 and 2011
(Percentage)



Source: UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2013

and innovative funding are beginning to play an increasingly important role.

Despite these increases, the $2.3 billion that is currently available for malaria control falls short of covering even half of the estimated annual global need, projected at $5.1 billion annually until 2020. If the gap is not bridged quickly and malaria control efforts are relaxed, a decade of collective effort and an investment of more than $10 billion may be swept away in a single malaria season.

Finishing the job

Although the 2015 malaria targets are in sight in 50 out of the 104 malaria-endemic countries and territories that provide data on the disease,[7] the job is far from finished. Today 10 countries bear 70 per cent of the malaria burden, with the highest infection and death rates in Africa.

To make rapid progress, the malaria community needs to hit malaria hard in its stronghold in sub-Saharan Africa while keeping up the fight elsewhere on the continent and in the rest of the world. RBM partners have recently launched the Malaria Situation Room, a joint initiative to offer urgent, strategic support to the 10 hardest-hit countries in Africa[8] and to help resolve financing, human resources issues and interruptions in the flow of lifesaving medicines, diagnostic tests and mosquito nets.

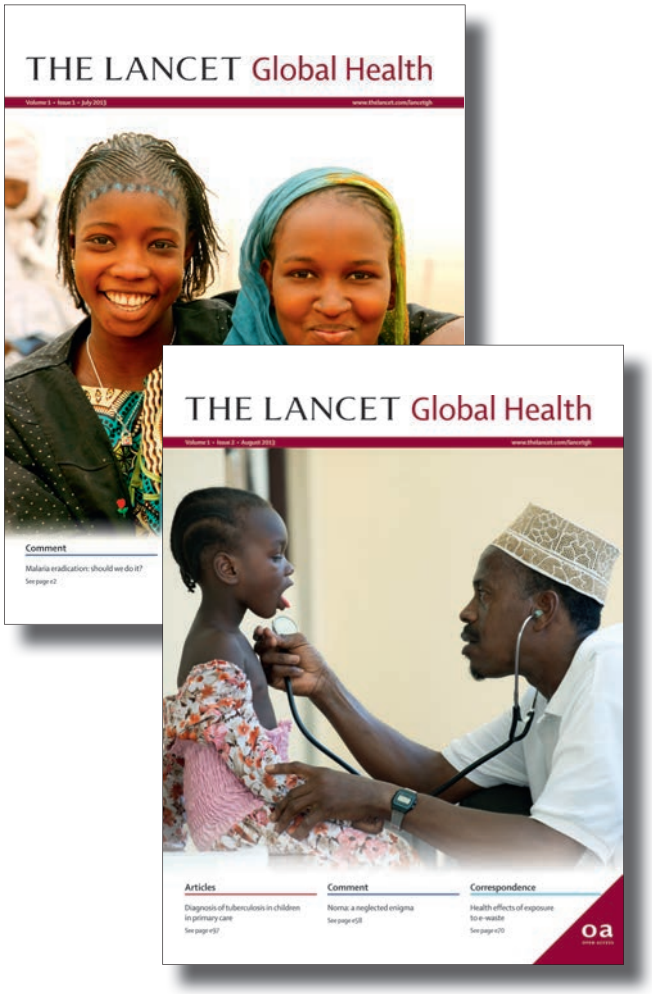
Today, endemic countries, backed by their international partners, strive to intensify their progress to reach their MDG targets. But the push to roll back malaria cannot afford to stop in 2015. The successes in countries need to be sustained for many years. Emerging resistance to currently available tools must be contained. Research for new tools, policies and techniques needs to continue.

The momentum, created by the ambitious MDG agenda, if sustained, has the power to lift the burden of malaria from Africa and the world. This is a rare opportunity in human history and one that is well worth seizing. ■

1 Reducing child mortality.
2 Chambers, Ray "World Malaria Day 2013: We cannot afford to wait," *Forbes* www.forbes.com/sites/skollworldforum/2013/04/25/world-malaria-day-2013-we-cannot-afford-to-wait/
3 World Health Organization, World Malaria Report, Geneva 2012.
4 Carter, R.; Mendis, K.N. *Evolutionary and historical aspects of the burden of malaria*. Clinical Microbiological Review 2002; 15:564– 94.
5 *World Malaria Report 2012*, Fact Sheet, available at: www.who.int/malaria/publications/world_malaria_report_2012/wmr2012_factsheet.pdf
6 The World Bank has announced its plans to wind down its support for malaria control over the next years.
7 50 countries are on track to reduce their malaria case incidence rates by 75 per cent, in line with World Health Assembly and Roll Back Malaria targets for 2015. (*World Malaria Report 2012*, Fact Sheet).
8 Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Niger.

ALL CONTENT IS FREE TO ACCESS

THE LANCET Global Health



The Lancet Global Health is the first online-only, open access journal in *The Lancet*'s now well established stable of monthly specialty journals.

Building on the foundation of *The Lancet* as a champion of global health research this new monthly journal will publish high-quality original research, commentary, correspondence, and blogs on many subjects as they pertain to low and middle-income countries

Why not acquaint yourself with the journal today?

- Browse through the journal issues online—all content is free to access
- Read more about the scope and aims of this open access journal and consider us for publication of your original research
- Stay informed about the journal's development by registering for email alerts of newly published articles and other relevant freely available online content published by *The Lancet*

Learn more at http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/latestcontent

JOIN US in delivering science for better health

THE LANCET Global Health

THE LANCET® is a registered trademark of Reed Elsevier Properties SA, used under licence





Helping society to develop

Mark Cutifani, Chief Executive of mining multinational Anglo American, explains how the company is an agent for change and actively contributes to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals

Mining is integral to the modern economy. The materials we produce are in themselves critical for economic development – iron ore and nickel for steel, copper for electrical wiring, platinum for the auto-industry and fuel cells, coal for energy, phosphates for food production. As an industry we have enormous power for good, creating positive change for the communities and countries in which we operate during the life of a mine and beyond.

Realising the great potential of the mining industry as an agent for broad-based change requires recognition of our responsibilities to our host communities, as well as the interdependencies between strong communities and long-term company performance.

Why do the MDGs matter to Anglo American?

With about 85 per cent of our operations in developing countries, access to the basic human rights described by the MDGs can be compromised by simple things: poor roads, costly construction materials, too few schools, and limited opportunities for commerce, for example.

We rely on the communities around our operations in order to be successful and believe we have a responsibility to help them thrive. While that's good business sense, it's also a vital ingredient in being a good corporate citizen. We were indeed the first mining company recognised to

AngloAmerican

■ **Left: Fishermen working in Corral de los Chanchos Bay, off the town of Chañaral, where our new desalination plant will secure a sustainable water supply while protecting the ocean environment**

have a commitment towards meeting the MDGs accepted under the UNDP's Business Call to Action.

How does Anglo American ensure communities benefit from its operations?

We believe our support has the most impact when it's closely connected to our core activities and the competences we've developed over decades of delivering major projects in developing countries around the world. By listening to and working with local stakeholders and applying the best practices learnt across our organisation we can make sure that local communities gain social value as well as economic returns.

What does 'social development' mean to Anglo American?

We take our socio-economic development role very seriously. Indeed, it's an integral part of the way we work and the way we plan new projects. With our strong footprint in the developing world we are well placed to make a difference, and we do.

We have been operating enterprise development programmes since the late 1980s, first in South Africa and subsequently in Chile and Brazil. These initiatives support more than 40,000 businesses around the world, which create or sustain more than 65,000 jobs.

Our approach to local procurement is already putting hundreds of millions of dollars of business into our host communities across the globe.

We run the largest workplace HIV/AIDS programme in the world, providing care and treatment to our employees and their dependents. We recently extended this programme to our contract workforce in South Africa.



Bafokeng-Rasimone Platinum Mine (BRPM) HIV education event held at the BRPM Clinic



Tumela Mine, Tlhabane West Primary School, Rustenburg, November 2011

How does Anglo American work with civil society to create social benefit?

Our strong relationships with the local and national governments in the countries where we operate are complemented by project-based partnerships with hundreds of NGOs as well as three strategic partnerships with leading NGOs on critical issues: CARE International on socio-economic development matters; Fauna and Flora International, on environmental conservation issues; and International Alert, on security and human rights.

We work with these NGOs very closely at group and site level and are similarly engaged with multilateral initiatives, such as the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Does this also cover the environment?

Yes, we have a range of commitments to minimise negative impacts from mining. We have established energy, water and carbon targets and have set a long-term goal for being able to design a carbon neutral and water neutral mine by 2013.

More than 72 per cent of the water our operations use is recycled: at our eMalahleni water treatment plant in South Africa we're now putting more water into the catchment area than we're taking out, while in Chile a desalination plant supplies our Mantoverde mine, which had historically taken water from local wells.

Shaping development goals post-2015

It's encouraging that discussions about the post-2015 goals are involving the private sector. As industry leaders we have an obligation to reconcile the greater good we create with the inevitable local disruptions this brings.

I am confident that by continuing to work with stakeholders and innovators from government, academia, civil society, mining and other business sectors, Anglo American will continue to deliver on the original vision of our founder Sir Ernest Oppenheimer in 1917 that the business should make profits but do so in such a way as to make a real and lasting contribution to the communities in which we operate. ■

For more information, visit:
www.angloamerican.com

@AngloAmerican

/company/Anglo-American



© Getty

China suffers from widespread water pollution. According to government data, more than 200 million Chinese currently do not have access to safe drinking water. Recent multilateral fora have delivered little progress on the environment, finding the topic too politically hazardous

Time to heed environmental limits

Where should environment sit within the post-2015 framework?

By **Alex Evans**, Senior Fellow at New York University's Center on International Cooperation

Climate, scarcity and sustainability are crucial issues for the future of development, and hence for the post-2015 agenda. But they are also among the most politically difficult. So how can policymakers best try to incorporate them into the post-2015 framework?

A good place to start is by acknowledging that MDG 7 – "ensure environmental sustainability" – has not worked. Aside from the imbalance of having one goal on environment and six on development, MDG 7's targets included some issues (biodiversity, drinking water and sanitation, urban slums), but omitted others (climate change, water depletion, land degradation, oceans, food security, sustainable agriculture, access to energy), apparently at random.

Nor was MDG 7 much better on practical delivery. Its laudable aim of mainstreaming sustainability into country policies lacked a clear plan of action, and failed to drive real change. Even more importantly, MDG 7 said nothing about developed countries' responsibilities to tackle their own unsustainable consumption – and how their failure to do so undermines development in poor countries.

But while few would argue for MDG 7 to be carried over as it is, there is no consensus on what



should replace it – not least because of the toxic political context for *any* multilateral environmental agenda. The recent track record includes minimal airtime for sustainability issues in the G20, and exceptionally weak outcomes at the 2009 UN Copenhagen Climate Change Conference and the UN Sustainable Development Summit in Rio in 2012.

In the background, of course, scientific indicators continue to worsen. Climate change impacts are making themselves felt faster and more severely than the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projected even just a few years ago. Resource scarcity, especially in the interconnected 'nexus' of land, food and water, has become a major global concern since the combined 2008 food and fuel spike. Emerging science on the earth's nine key 'planetary boundaries' is building awareness of the risk of abrupt and irreversible tipping points.

These challenges constitute a major threat to efforts to eradicate poverty after 2015, given that poor people are disproportionately reliant on natural assets and vulnerable to climate and scarcity risks. But at the same time, current models of development are also the main *driver* of unsustainability – most obviously in 'developed' countries, but increasingly also in emerging economies which, though far behind high-income countries in per capita impacts, are nonetheless helping push the world towards ecological tipping points.

Camp David revision?

The need for closer integration between poverty and unsustainability that these links imply was clearly recognised in the report of the UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This recognition was important: although the same logic was recognised by the Brundtland Commission in 1987 and the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, sustainability has not always been seen as a core concern by development advocates. The High-Level Panel's report is one sign that this now finally appears to be changing.

Yet the panel's report also shows how difficult it will be to make real progress. Its discussion of climate change was conspicuously muted, with the objective of limiting global average warming to 2°C relegated to a second-tier target rather than a headline goal. There was also little detail on exactly how prosperity and sustainability can best be pursued in tandem, other than vague references to green growth and "sustainable consumption and production".

These shortcomings are in turn the result of a basic disagreement between the UN's member states on how to tackle global sustainability – centred above all on the vexed issue of equity, fair shares within finite environmental space, and "common but differentiated responsibilities" .

On one side is the G77 group of developing countries, who argue that developed countries should take the lead on sustainability, and fear that environmental ladders will prevent them from growing their economies as developed countries have. On the other hand, developed countries point out that emerging economies' growing environmental footprint means that everyone must be part of the solution on shifting to a green global economy.

This impasse will be all too familiar to anyone who has followed the UN climate process, or indeed any other environmental issue, since the Earth Summit in 1992. Now, it is making itself felt in the post-2015 agenda. So where does this leave prospects for the future development agenda, and what can advocates of real integration between development and sustainability realistically hope for?

It already seems clear that, notwithstanding the public rhetoric about a north/south divide, there is actually tacit agreement between the US and key emerging economies (especially Brazil, China and India) that the best way of pursuing sustainability is through voluntary, technology-led, nationally driven approaches.

This de facto consensus was central to the rejection at Copenhagen of a global climate strategy based on binding targets and timetables, and now forms the basis of calls for nationally driven

Also in this section:

Planetary boundaries **122**

The ocean agenda **126**

Tackling resource scarcity **128**

Nurturing green growth **132**



© Getty

Access roads and terraced fields erase Sarawak's rolling lowlands. MDG 7's targets omitted a number of key issues, including land degradation

'green economy' strategies as the main driver of sustainability. A post-2015 framework based on this approach would therefore probably blend aspirational global goals with leaving governments free to decide how to pursue them – thus leaving open the key question of whether the sum total of 193 voluntary national strategies would actually prove sufficient to meet these global goals.

What remains unclear, then, is whether this approach would be likely to drive sufficient additional political action to shift the world on to a sustainable development path. Instead, it seems likely that countries would limit themselves to 'no-regrets' measures and avoid incurring any significant costs in the absence of assurances about other countries following suit – a problem that would be especially acute if the post-2015 agenda follows the High-Level Panel's lead by ducking the issue of what specifically developed countries should do to tackle their unsustainable consumption patterns.

So what might an alternative scenario look like? To start with, the post-2015 goals should explicitly recognise that all human activity takes place within the context of limits – not limits to growth, necessarily, but certainly limits to finite natural resources or the sustainable use of renewable resources.

Ideally, such a goal would be phrased in terms of 'achieving development within planetary boundaries', the formulation proposed by the UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Failing that, if the concept of planetary boundaries proves too difficult for some countries, governments should at least agree on a goal to 'live within world's environmental means and limit global average warming to 2°C'.

However, just as important as the question of goals will be whether Member States agree a credible and comprehensive delivery plan for making them happen.

If governments are determined to stick with voluntary national plans, then these should at least be buttressed by robust and transparent mechanisms for accountability and review. Governments should also commission international agencies to produce a regular joint global sustainable development outlook report that assesses not only progress on reducing poverty, but also the key environmental risk thresholds that the world faces, and how close projected global growth trajectories will take us to them.

But most of all, governments will need to think much harder about what a global partnership for development – the subject of the original MDG 8 – should look like. Given the reality of global environmental limits, together with the fact that developing countries clearly have the right to develop their economies, it is not hard to see that any successful approach will have to be based on clear recognition of the need for equity and convergence between countries at different stages of development. Whether developed and emerging economy policymakers and publics can face up to and act on that fact is likely to be the most important political test they will face between now and 2030. ■



© Nice and Serious / MSC



© Reuters

Dead fish in the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. According to local media, thousands of fish have been removed from the lagoon after oxygen levels dropped due to pollution

Setting a course within the boundaries

How can planetary boundaries be captured in a post-2015 sustainable development goal framework?

By **Professor Johan Rockström**, Executive Director, Stockholm Resilience Centre and Professor in Environmental Science, Stockholm University

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have focused on reducing extreme poverty. To succeed in alleviating poverty the Earth's life-support systems must be intact. The biosphere must be able to deliver the services and goods on which human prosperity depends, like clean water, clean air, a stable climate and food. Thus a post-2015 agenda that only focuses on poverty alleviation may undermine its own purpose.

Today there is overwhelming evidence that global sustainability has become a prerequisite for poverty alleviation and human well-being in general. The protection of Earth's life-support system and poverty reduction must be the twin priorities for

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[1] However, global sustainability must also be an overarching precondition for human prosperity.

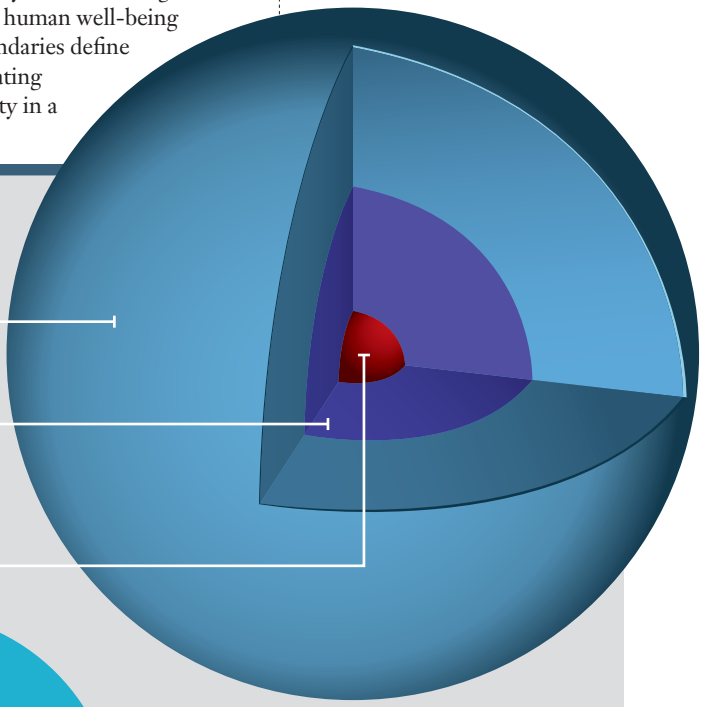
There is scientific evidence that humanity, over the past decades, has entered a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene, in which human actions have become the main driver of global environmental change. Human activities may now push the Earth's system outside the stable environmental state of the past 10,000 years that enabled the development of modern societies, with consequences that are detrimental or even catastrophic for large parts of the world.

There are risks of abrupt changes, often with irreversible consequences, where conventional economic assessment of costs and benefits no longer work. To meet these challenges science has proposed a framework based on 'planetary boundaries' that define the safe operating space for humanity with respect to sustaining a stable Earth system. The boundaries are associated with the planet's biophysical subsystems or processes that regulate Earth resilience. This is a possible framework to define global sustainability criteria in a post-2015 agenda as part of defining SDGs.

Nine planetary boundaries have been identified, namely climate change, biodiversity loss, change to the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, freshwater use, land system change, ocean acidification, stratospheric ozone depletion, chemical pollution and aerosol loading.

Out of the nine planetary boundaries identified, three boundaries are currently being exceeded: climate change, biodiversity loss and nitrogen emissions. The effects on human well-being are severe. Planetary boundaries define a science-based safe operating space for human prosperity in a

Development model for the Anthropocene



Environment
Materials use
Clean air
Nutrient (N and P) cycles
Hydrological cycles
Ecosystem services
Biodiversity
Climate stability

Updated Millennium Development Goals
End poverty and hunger
Universal education
Gender equality
Health
Environmental sustainability
Global partnership

Sustainable Development Goals
Thriving lives and livelihoods
Sustainable food security
Sustainable water security
Universal clean energy
Health and productive ecosystems
Governance for sustainable societies

Adapted from 'Sustainable development goals for people and planet', *Nature*, Griggs et al (2013)

Planetary boundaries are all interconnected... transgressing one boundary can increase the risk of crossing thresholds in another

world with growing development needs and rising environmental risks. This safe operating space for the human enterprise on Earth offers ample room for growth and human well-being, within fundamental biophysical boundaries that need to be respected in order to avoid dangerous and costly environmental impacts.

Planetary boundaries are all interconnected, adding to the complexity of the picture. For instance, climate change influences a broad range of processes including biodiversity, biogeochemical cycles, ocean acidification, freshwater flow and aerosol dynamics. Land-use change is a key driving force behind reductions in biodiversity and it influences water flows as well as biogeochemical cycles of carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus. Transgressing one boundary can increase the risk of crossing thresholds in another.

Reframing the UN paradigm

The planetary boundaries concept does not set economic boundaries. Instead it sets the boundary condition for social and economic development. There is, therefore, a need for reframing the UN paradigm of three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and instead view it as a nested and integrated framework. The global economy services society, which operates within Earth's life-support system. Sustainable development must imply a "development that meets the needs of the present while safeguarding Earth's life-support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations depends".[2]

Adapting this planetary boundaries work, and using recent credible scientific studies and existing international processes – such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – a list of sustainability 'must-haves' for human prosperity can be extracted. These are: climate stability, reducing biodiversity loss, protection of ecosystem services, a healthy water cycle and oceans, sustainable nitrogen and phosphorus use, clean air and sustainable material use (see graphic on previous page).[3]

A secure future demands sustainable economic development within the limits of the Earth system. This means 'growth within limits', rather than the current dominating economy guided by 'growth without limits'. To grow within limits means to grow within the safe operating space of planetary boundaries.

A secure social and economic foundation rests on principles of individual, societal and Earth resilience. With an expected human population of nine billion by 2050, definitions of sustainable development must include the security of people and the planet. Thus, the right and possibility to development by people living in poverty will require a transition of all people to sustainable lifestyles.

SDG development

To ensure society enjoys ecological integrity, social equity, and economic stability, and the well-being of human beings, the following issues are recommended to consider when developing the new SDGs:

First, acknowledging that global sustainability is an overarching precondition for human prosperity.

Second, understanding that a stable planet is a necessary condition for human prosperity in the world, and that a post-2015 development agenda should consider defining a science-based safe operating space defined by global sustainability criteria such as the planetary boundaries.

Third, recognising that human and natural systems are interdependent, coupled social ecological systems. Insights from current scientific work on planetary boundaries also highlight the need to consider flexible multilevel forms of state and non-state collaborations and partnerships; the importance of legitimate and inclusive international and regional scientific assessments; the important role played by international organisations; and the need for international policies that support social-ecological innovation.[4]

Fourth, taking into account the importance of developing scalable indicators for SDGs, since it is important to base information on the results of localised interactions. Using indicators that make sense on a local scale and that could be scaled up to the regional and global levels opens up the possibility to engage local stakeholder, citizen groups, indigenous groups and many other knowledge holders in the monitoring, reporting and development of the SDGs.

Fifth, considering the importance of adaptive governance, process-oriented targets, an inclusive process and to stimulate innovation. Technological novelties and social innovations in the form of new sets of rules and norms, new ways of thinking, new processes for action and decision-making, and novel designs for behaviour are important to understand and stimulate. Such value-driven 'responsible innovation' can assist in a transition of human societies towards a more sustainable future.

And finally, taking on board already agreed commitments and processes, including under international environmental agreements such as the UNFCCC. ■

1, 2, 3 Sustainable development goals for people and planet, *Nature*, Griggs et al (2013)
4 Olsson and Galaz 2012, Westley et al 2012 Ambio.

Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz
International Prize for Water

Recognizing Innovation

Invitation for Nominations 6th Award (2014)

Nominations open online
until 31 December 2013



PSIPW is an international prize for water-related scientific innovation. It was established in 2002 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia by HRH Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz and awards five distinctive biannual prizes to researchers and research organizations around the world.

The **Creativity Prize**, worth US$ 266,000, is awarded for a breakthrough in any water-related field. Universities, university departments, companies, and other organizations may nominate worthy individuals and research teams for this prize.

Four **Specialized Prizes**, each worth US$ 133,000, cover all aspects of the water research landscape. Researchers and organizations may nominate themselves for these prizes.



The Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2013. It is also an observing member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

www.psipw.org email: info@psipw.org



© Reuters

Sicilians fish for tuna during the traditional mattanza near the village of Bonagia, Italy

The planet's lifeblood

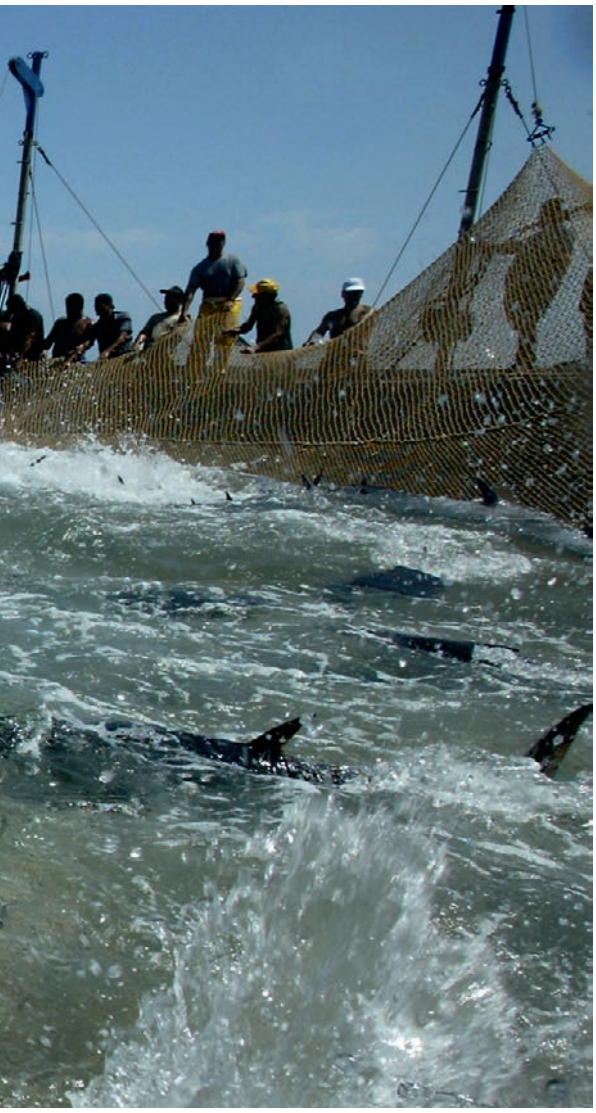
Ignored up until now, the oceans are critical to the development agenda

By **José María Figueres**, Co-chair, Global Ocean Commission and former President of Costa Rica

The global ocean is humankind's greatest reservoir of natural capital. It is our food store, our biggest single source of oxygen, a major sink for carbon emissions, our minerals stockpile, our busiest trade route and our widest telecommunications highway. It is a place for recreation and a source of inspiration.

Climate change provides a simple window on the ocean's importance. Through warming of the air, we experience just 1 per cent of the extra energy being trapped in the Earth system by our greenhouse gas emissions. Fully 93 per cent of that energy goes into the ocean. It is our greatest defence against catastrophic temperature rise.

But all is not well on the global ocean. Pirates menace shipping, which carries 90 per cent of international trade. Water is warming and acidifying, while pollution, invasive species and destructive fishing threaten ocean life. Vessels engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing are simultaneously a threat to national security, a barrier to science-based fisheries management and – unthinkably, in the 21st century – the scene of horrific human rights violations.



None of us, whatever our income, can live without the essential nutrition, oxygen and climate-proofing that the ocean supplies. Many, especially in the poorest nations, depend directly on a healthy ocean for their food and livelihood. So it is time that the ocean moved centre-stage in the development landscape – among other things, featuring large in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Unless we manage it sustainably, there is a risk that it will stop sustaining us in decades to come.

During my time as President of Costa Rica, I sought to move the national economy towards a sustainable relationship with nature. We protected important ecosystems on land and sea; we introduced natural capital accounting, putting a proper value on healthy, functioning forests. Many countries have followed suit and are genuinely richer as a result.

The challenge now before us is to make the same transition in that area of the world that has no direct government. The high seas lie beyond the jurisdiction of any single country or agency; and they encompass a vast area, nearly half of our planet's surface.

We need to value and protect the ecosystem services of the great global commons, and manage them sustainably.

A crucial task

On several occasions, most recently in June 2012 at Rio, governments have come close to beginning the reforms we need – before pulling back at the last minute, stymied by the appeal of business-as-usual and fear of change. But the unabated progress of issues such as ocean acidification, climate warming and depletion of fish stocks does not allow humanity the luxury of waiting around for a solution. The need is urgent.

This is why I accepted, late in 2012, an invitation to chair the Global Ocean Commission together with Trevor Manuel (Minister in the Presidency and Head of the National Planning Commission, South Africa) and David Miliband (former UK Foreign Secretary). Our job is to sound the alarm on ocean degradation, map the route to sustainable high seas management, and build a coalition of governments and other actors who are willing to take that route.

All of us on the Commission have held senior roles in government or business, whether that has entailed running a country (Paul Martin), building a business empire (Ratan Tata) or spearheading an intergovernmental agency (Pascal Lamy). We understand the issues that governments face as they seek to move forward on the ocean agenda. But, as an independent entity, beholden to no one, we can think and say things that serving ministers may find difficult. Reporting in the first half of 2014, we will provide leaders with a short and viable list of reforms that, if enacted, would restore the global ocean to ecological health and sustainable, equitable productivity.

Ours might sound like a gloomy task, full of grim statistics on degraded ecosystems, extinct species and victims of piracy. But what my colleagues and I see before us are development opportunities.

We can maximise economic gains and employment from fisheries through rational management, alleviating poverty in many coastal areas of the world. We can enhance the human rights of seafarers through proper monitoring of the high seas, improving national security as we do. We can safeguard the hugely valuable ecosystem services that the ocean provides, by highlighting the real value of those enigmatic waters far beyond the horizon.

Moving the ocean agenda is an important responsibility and a great opportunity. When all is said and done, "there is no Planet B". Preserving the ocean is crucial to our life on this planet. ■

Acidification, climate warming and depletion of fish stocks do not allow humanity the luxury of waiting

The pressures of resource scarcity

More constructive international cooperation is needed to tackle unequal access to resources

By **Rob Bailey**, Senior Research Fellow, Energy, Environment and Resources, Chatham House

Most economists would say that global resources are abundant. We produce more than enough food to support the global population; there is sufficient freshwater to meet our sanitary, agricultural and industrial needs; and there are more than enough hydrocarbons to cook the planet several times over. The issue is rather one of local scarcities and unequal access. This is most obvious in the case of water, where uneven geographic distribution means that 1.2 billion people live in areas of physical water scarcity.[1] Wide disparities in incomes and resource endowments translate to similarly stark inequalities for traded resources such as food and fuel. Estimates indicate that 870 million people are undernourished, while 1.4 billion are overweight or obese.[2] Per capita energy use in Qatar is more than 55 times greater than in Haiti.[3]

Though resources are not running out, as populations grow and economies develop, the challenges of accessing them are mounting. Increasing production in many cases will add to environmental pressures, for example the



Women bring their children to a community malnutrition screening in the town of Nokou, in Chad's Kanem region. They are arriving from villages up to 25km away

© UNICEF/Gangale

move towards 'difficult' hydrocarbon and metals extraction requires additional inputs, namely energy and water. Resource security is now a priority for governments the world over. Markets for many resources are likely to remain tight and unstable as demand growth outstrips production and stocks struggle to recover. Government interventions in resource markets, such as biofuel mandates and export controls, often make things worse. In the medium term, climate change will create local scarcities in vital resources such as food and water, increase market instability by disrupting production and trade, and by fuelling conflict.[4]

The era of cheap food and energy – the lifeblood of earlier industrialisations – is over. Climate change means earlier resource-intensive development pathways are no longer viable. Development models must adapt to this new reality. Five priorities for doing so are outlined below:

Improve governance and transparency

The quest for resources means that production frontiers are expanding into marginal areas in poor countries with weak governance and high vulnerability to climate change. Avoiding a plague of resource curses requires new institutions to protect natural capital, ensure transparency, mitigate corruption and invest resource revenues equitably. This will help attract responsible investors and safeguard against output disruption from political, social or environmental shocks.



Get the resource prices right

Whether in developed or developing countries, resource prices rarely incorporate environmental costs or reflect scarcities. Fossil fuel subsidies exceeded $0.5 trillion in 2011, presenting a major barrier to investments in energy efficiency and clean energy.

The widespread failure to price water appropriately costs between $200 and $300 million a year in implicit subsidies and is exacerbating groundwater depletion in water-scarce regions. While many developed countries have made real progress in removing the most damaging agricultural subsidies, significant levels of production distorting support remain in place, constraining investment in developing country agriculture where the greatest potential to increase yields lies.[5]

Unlock financing for clean development

Removing fossil fuel subsidies (both production and consumption) will help level the playing field in favour of clean energy, but low-carbon investments typically still carry an additional cost for poor countries embarking on untested, costlier development pathways.

Manage risk and reduce vulnerability

Exposure – of people and assets – to natural disasters is increasing due to rapid urbanisation and poor planning in developing countries. Climate change will increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events while simultaneously increasing vulnerability through creeping changes such as sea level rise and desertification. Environmental change and local resource scarcities will multiply pre-existing conflict risks. International markets (and import-dependent countries) will become increasingly vulnerable to supply disruptions in key resource producers, whether due to climate change, social instability or other stressors.

For development to be sustainable, risks to development must be managed. Disaster risk reduction, social protection and climate change adaptation must become key elements of the development toolkit.

Global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Without concerted action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, the end of the century could see global temperatures rise by 4ºC or more, with potentially profound implications for the incidence of food and water scarcity. Under these

Disaster risk reduction, social protection and climate change adaptation must become key elements of the development toolkit

Many countries may improve energy security by tapping newly recoverable reserves of hydrocarbons rather than developing renewables

conditions, the international political economy of resources could be strained to breaking point.

2015 provides a unique opportunity to build consensus and catalyse action around these (and other) issues. In addition to a new global development agenda to replace the outgoing Millennium Development Goals, the international community also has the opportunity to agree a new international framework on disaster risk reduction, and a global deal to tackle climate change.

However, the international community's recent track record on these issues is not encouraging. The failure of the 2009 Copenhagen climate conference still looms large over the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The G20 was hamstrung in its attempts to deal decisively with food price volatility in 2011 by the intractable politics of biofuels, export bans and agricultural subsidies. A year later, the UN's 'Rio+20' sustainable development summit agreed little of substance.

International negotiations such as these are too easily hijacked by resource politics driven by domestic interest groups and following the logic of narrow self-interest and short-term competitiveness. Political risks are sharpened by perceptions of resource scarcity, making cooperation more difficult.

The prospects for agreement are greatest where solutions do not challenge resource politics. Pledges to invest in agriculture are easier to make than commitments to dismantle agricultural subsidies or biofuel mandates. Initiatives to improve transparency and governance may have traction at the international level, but will face challenges of implementation and enforcement at the national level, where they will come up against powerful interests.

Unfortunately, climate change faces the greatest resistance, as solutions are fundamentally about disrupting the entire political economy of energy resources: limiting and redistributing resource use; withdrawing rents and creating new ones.

But even for energy, resource politics can shift. They are doing so now. Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing have unlocked major reserves of shale gas and tight oil in the US. Although claims of energy independence in two decades are probably overstated, the US will nevertheless drastically reduce its dependence on petroleum imports and become a net exporter of natural gas.[6]

This has several important consequences for resource politics. First, the easy emissions savings from displacing coal with gas have opened the political space for national action on climate change, as demonstrated by President Obama's 2013 climate change action plan. In turn, the prospects for a global deal on climate change look a little better than perhaps they did at the first pass in 2009.

Less happily for climate change, the US Energy Information Agency estimates that, globally, technically recoverable reserves of natural gas have increased by 47 per cent.[7] Concerns about peak hydrocarbons have vanished. Should the technology prove to be transferable, many countries may improve energy security by tapping newly recoverable reserves of hydrocarbons rather than developing renewables. As displaced US coal is increasingly exported and burned overseas, the need for a second, countervailing disruptive technology – carbon capture and storage – has never looked more urgent.

Finally, the principal justification for US biofuel policy – increasing dependence on foreign oil – has suddenly evaporated. Newly accessible reserves of tight oil mean US petroleum imports will decline for at least the next two decades.[8] The early attraction of biofuels has waned as their economic costs and impacts on food price volatility have become apparent and their role as an indirect driver of deforestation better understood.[9] Nevertheless, it is probably premature to predict the demise of biofuel mandates, which remain a valuable source of resource rents for domestic farm lobbies.

Resource politics can change rapidly but will always take precedence over environmental and international development agendas, and will always trump sound economics or robust science. For this reason, international cooperation on sustainable development and a successful 2015 outcome depend upon creating a more constructive resource politics that favours cooperation over competition and creates the space for governments to pursue less reactive, more collaborative agendas.

As 2015 approaches, resource diplomacy is more important than ever. ■

---

1 IWMI (2007), *Water for Food, Water for Life: A Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture*, London: Earthscan.

2 FAO (2012), *State of Food Insecurity in the World – 2012*, Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization, and WHO (2013), Factsheet No. 311, Obesity and Overweight, Geneva: World Health Organization.

3 2010 per capita energy use, World Bank Development Indicators.

4 Lee, B. et al (2012), Resources Futures, London: Chatham House.

5 For example, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in the European Union the most distorting subsidies now account for less than 30 per cent of producer support compared to more than 90 per cent in the 1990s. However, in absolute terms this is still a large number – around $30 billion a year. See OECD (2011), Evaluation of Agricultural Policy Reforms in the European Union, OECD: Paris.

6 Mitchell, J (2013), *US Energy: the New Reality*, Chatham House: London.

7 EIA (2013), *Technically Recoverable Shale Oil and Shale Gas Resources: An Assessment of 137 Shale Formations in 41 Countries Outside the United States*, US Department of Energy.

8 Mitchell, J. (2013).

9 Bailey, R. (2013), *The Trouble with Biofuels: Costs and Consequences of Expanding Biofuel Use in the United Kingdom*, Chatham House: London.

Safeguarding cotton, an essential natural resource

Cotton is one of the world's most important natural fibres. It's used by nearly everyone on Earth every single day, and around 300 million people worldwide depend on it for their livelihoods. It's a flexible natural resource used for food, packaging, medical supplies and the textile industry. It's also a renewable resource, but only if we manage it responsibly.

All of us want a future where we can grow enough cotton for our needs sustainably. While there are farmers who produce cotton responsibly, serious threats still exist. Damaging crop protection practices, decreasing biodiversity, water depletion, soil erosion, unsafe working conditions and practices such as child labour – these all endanger the livelihoods of the farming communities depending on this valuable crop, and threaten the sustainability of the industry.

In 2009, a group of top organisations came together to figure out what could be done. Because something had to be done. "There has to be a better way", they said. It turns out there is. It's called Better Cotton.

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) was founded to develop global systems and standards for Better Cotton, as a not-for-profit organisation bringing together stakeholders across cotton's complex supply chain. BCI exists to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in and better for the sector's future. Our aim is to transform global cotton production by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity.

The Better Cotton system tackles environmental, social and economic sustainability, and directly targets two key Millennium Development Goals: ensure environmental sustainability, and create global partnerships for development. Together, the Millennium Declaration and Decent Work (as defined by ILO) form the cornerstones of BCI's Production Principles: a set of rigorous standards to which all members commit.

From the start, BCI has focused on ambitious but realistic criteria and traceability for Better Cotton. Our Better Cotton Tracer launches in 2013, and we work closely with well-known sustainability initiatives to agree equivalent standards for producing cotton. BCI also believes in transparent dialogue in a sector where controversial issues need to be tackled. We want to get 'Better' in our own activities, and we're dedicated to continuous improvement in the entire sector.

■ **Creating better practice for cotton farming: harvesting Better Cotton in Mali (©BCI)**





■ **Better Cotton moving up the supply chain: Better Cotton ginners in India (©BCI)**

Five countries now produce Better Cotton – Brazil, China, India, Pakistan and Mali – with harvests in Tajikistan and Turkey to follow next year. Using quantitative data from hundreds of thousands of farmers, and an increasing amount of qualitative data, we can already show that Better Cotton is improving lives since the first harvest in 2010-11. The challenge now is scaling up to reach more farmers, more members, and bring systematic change to the entire system. It requires a tremendous balancing act of different actors' needs, supply and demand, and short-term expectations with long-term goals.

But BCI members are committed to taking on this challenge. They understand that it's about having impact on the ground and changing how they work with their supply chain. And they understand that we're in this for the long-term.

Membership is growing all the time: smallholder farmers, large farmers, ginners, mills, traders, manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, brands and civil society organisations in a unique global community. BCI has membership options to suit everyone and help mainstream Better Cotton. More members means BCI can reach more regions, train more farmers and produce more Better Cotton for the entire supply chain. The aim is that by 2015, Better Cotton farmers will be producing 2.6 million metric tonnes of Better Cotton.

Join the growing movement to safeguard the future of cotton. Learn more at www.bettercotton.org. ■

Be part of something Better.

BCI Better Cotton Initiative



© Getty

Nurturing green growth

While an agreed definition remains elusive, developed and developing countries alike can still push forward the green agenda

By **Varad Pande**, Officer on Special Duty to India's Minister for Rural Development

'Green growth' seems like such a warm and fuzzy term that, at one level, who could not like it? 'Growth' is what we all want more of in order to make our citizens more prosperous, while 'green' denotes that we are approaching growth in a sustainable way that is less damaging to the planet.

While definitions vary, a broad definition of the term 'green growth' is that it is a way of achieving sustainable development by utilising a country's natural resources more efficiently, using new technologies and innovations. It is meant to prioritise long-term sustainability and the environment over short-term growth.

It is also seen to be shifting the definition of growth from purely economic terms (GDP) to one involving well-being, as well as enhancing quality of growth and development by explicitly giving value to natural resources and the environment.[1] As a concept, green growth has tremendous potential to contribute positively to the post-2015 development agenda.

The flashpoints

So why has green growth, as a concept, been controversial and not had the universal acceptability one would expect at first glance?

First, many developing countries feel that green growth may become a tool to constrain their growth, something they badly need to eliminate the scourge of poverty, which is their overarching objective. They argue that much of the environmental degradation we see now was caused by developed countries, leaving little 'environmental space'[2] for them to grow.

Imposing further environmental guidelines and restrictions on them, which green growth could entail, would slow their growth. It could also make the growth process more expensive as it could impose an additional financial burden in the short to medium term, as green growth often requires more expensive upfront investments. Many see green growth as a 'post-material' concern, a luxury that developing countries can scarcely afford, given their immediate material challenges of basic development.

Some even see green growth as a conspiracy by developed countries to put up new non-tariff trade barriers to unfairly protect their own industries (or alternatively, to create markets for their industries, which tend to have a lead in 'green' technologies), and as an excuse to impose new conditionalities on official development assistance.[3] Also, many see the green growth agenda as an attempt by developed countries to abdicate their own responsibilities to become more sustainable societies with sustainable consumption and production patterns, and instead get developing countries to pay for the environmental 'clean up' of the world – a problem for which the richer countries bear historical responsibility.

Lastly, many see green growth as a violation of the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", which is embodied in the original 1992 Rio Summit declaration.

The 'trade-offs' of green growth

In some ways, green growth is a classic issue of the 'global commons', where the benefits are often global, dispersed and long term, while the costs are specific and short term. Conspiracy theories aside, the real question facing the green growth agenda is, therefore, about 'trade-offs'. How will 'green' technologies be shared, and what are the terms? Who will pay for incremental costs that the green growth agenda imposes, especially on developing countries, in the short term? What financial instruments will be available to enable sustainable financing of green growth investments? And what analytical and capacity-building support will be available to make the transition? It is these questions that will define how far and how fast the green growth agenda progresses.

Rio as an important milestone

The UN's 2012 Rio+20 Conference was an important milestone for the green growth/green economy

A Cambodian Buddhist monk with children displays Buddhist flags on a tree in the Aural wildlife sanctuary, some 100km west of Phnom Penh to protest against illegal logging. Following Rio+20, Cambodia was one of the first countries to adopt the green growth concept with its National Green Growth Master Plan

We must continue to push ahead with tangible efforts and the 'low-hanging fruits' of the green growth agenda

agenda. With several important reports leading up to the conference, and with an extensive discussion on the subject in the final document, green growth has for the first time become an integral part of the sustainable development discourse.

A minimum shared understanding of what it does (and does not) mean was agreed, giving a sound basis for future work. At Rio+20, states agreed, after much debate, that green growth (or the green economy) is "one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development",[4] even though it is "not a rigid set of rules".[5] The idea was seen more as a set of guidelines, and so the countries eventually reached a "minimum common denominator" agreement[6] with each country given the freedom to choose its own approach.

Nothing legally binding was put in place, but countries were encouraged to collaborate. Governments were encouraged to "create enabling frameworks that foster environmentally sound technology, research and development, and innovation".[7] Partnerships between the public and private sectors were also stressed.

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) was also incorporated as an international organisation at Rio to provide intellectual and analytical support for green growth planning in countries across the world, with an expanding membership base. GGGI has already begun to show good results in many countries, giving tangible form to the green growth concept on the ground – whether it is the 'Climate Resilient Green Economy' strategy for Ethiopia or the 'National Green Growth Master Plan' for Cambodia.

The road ahead

The impetus of Rio+20 now needs to be sustained. The key is to resolve the trade-offs discussed above. This will be a long, arduous and painstaking process, which will be intertwined with creation of a successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals.

In the meantime, however, we must do more than just wait for the outcome of these processes. We must continue to push ahead with tangible efforts and the 'low-hanging fruits' of the green growth agenda. This will not only ensure that we don't lose valuable time, but it will also create a momentum of its own that will have a salutary effect on the wider sustainable development discussions.

Two concrete ideas

First, since the major trade-off involves finance, how about an international fund to finance green growth investments, especially in developing countries? A number of innovative instruments could be deployed to leverage the fund's resources – grants, co-finance, viability gap funding, etc.

The Green Climate Fund is meant to do something similar, but will probably have a wider



Ecuador's President Correa and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon react before a high-level meeting on the Yasuni ITT initiative in New York. This groundbreaking plan to protect a globally important habitat has now foundered due to lack of international financial backing

© Reuters

mandate. A fast-start fund, focused on green growth investments, with a pooled disbursement structure and unified governance, would help kickstart the process. The best way to overcome intellectual arguments about new concepts is to show results on the ground – this international fund could play that role.

Previous models of global cooperation, such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, which facilitated the first Green Revolution in agriculture; the Montreal Protocol, which financed the phase-out of CFCs; and more recently, the International Finance Facility for Immunisation and AgResults initiatives show us that such an approach is feasible if the world community puts its mind to it. Initially, a group of like-minded countries could launch the fund, with others coming on board over time.

Second, a major initiative to promote valuation of ecosystem services and mainstream 'green' national accounts at the global level should be pushed. Existing initiatives, such as The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, and the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services Partnership already provide a sound basis for this.

India, for example, has already embarked on a major green national accounting initiative, with a government-appointed expert group, chaired by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, submitting its report, which calls for a new paradigm of 'national wealth' and economic growth that adequately includes environmental wealth.

Such efforts ensure that nations make more sound choices on investments based on data. Such an initiative needs to be made an integral part of the 'data revolution' that the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel has recommended for the post-2015 development agenda.

Conclusion

Green growth is here to stay. But how important it will be in the post-2015 agenda will depend on addressing the key short-term 'trade-offs', especially the issue of finance. A major new initiative on green growth funding, and another on ecosystem valuation and green accounts, will help generate trust and ultimately determine how quickly and easily this agenda is mainstreamed. ■

1 The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Putting Green Growth at the Heart of Development.* 2013.

2 Khor, Martin. *Preliminary Notes on the Green Economy, in the context of sustainable development*. 2010

3, 6 Savaressi, A. *The green economy at Rio+20. Who said what?* International Center for Climate Governance. 2012.

4 Report of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. *The Future We Want.* 2012. p.10.

5 Ibid.

7 Ibid.p.13.

Botswana's perspective on the MDGs

Despite being land-locked, Botswana pulled itself out of least developed country status – the first country to achieve this. It has avoided the resource curse suffered by most of its peers through prudent management of its natural resources.

By Charles T. Ntwaagae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the UN

Botswana stands out as one of Africa's political and economic success stories, where the state wisely and prudently managed the country's natural wealth for the benefit of its citizens. At Independence in 1966, Botswana was one of the poorest countries in Africa. However, over the past four decades, the country has consistently maintained impressive rates of economic growth.

Minerals, specifically diamonds, have been the main source of the country's economic fortunes. Revenue derived from minerals has largely been invested in the provision of basic social services, as well as in human resources development, education, health, water, sanitation, telecommunications and other forms of infrastructure.

Underpinned by the quest for human development and improvement in the quality of life of the people, Botswana's National Vision 2016 lays out the roadmap towards prosperity for all. Botswana has fully embraced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and mainstreamed them into the national development planning process as well as into the National Vision 2016.

Botswana's strategy of integrating the MDGs and the National Vision 2016 into its national development agenda was based on the realisation that successful delivery of this greatest international promise to poorer nations was inextricably linked to its own national development aspirations and priorities.

Recognising the fight against poverty as an economic and moral imperative, the Government of Botswana is committed to ensuring that no one of its citizens should live an undignified life on account of abject poverty. To this end, in the country's national development efforts, utmost priority is given to the implementation of poverty eradication programmes. In addition, there is increasing emphasis on the implementation of programmes which focus on promoting broad-based growth for sectors that create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

Different categories of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, old age pensioners, destitutes, people with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children, as well as home-based care patients, must have access to food, health, education and other basic necessities of life. Substantial investment of public resources has been made in developing the health infrastructure, which is premised on an extensive and efficient primary healthcare system. The coverage of maternal and child health interventions such as immunisation, ante-natal and post-natal care, supplementary feeding as well as prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV have increased significantly over the years.

In more than a decade of experience in working towards the achievement of the MDGs, we have learnt that focused global development efforts can make a difference to the lives of our people. We therefore share the view that there is an urgent need for the international community to accelerate action in order to close the gaps and address challenges that still remain in the short period before the 2015 target date.

The time to act is NOW. Now is the time to step up our efforts towards building a more just, secure and sustainable future for all. Enhanced political will and commitment, as well as international cooperation and solidarity, are critical in order for this to be achieved.

Botswana stands ready to lend support to the international community's efforts in this regard.



© Reuters

Renewing global partnership for development

How can financial mechanisms foster sustainable and equitable growth?

By **Wu Hongbo**, Under-Secretary-General,
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The concept of a global partnership for development is believed to have originated from the 1969 report of the Commission on International Development, entitled *Partners in Development*. The report proposed that donors would provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance (ODA), to be achieved by 1975, or at latest 1980 – a target that remains unachieved by many donors even today.

The rationale of ODA is based on two principles: (1) a moral principle that those who are fortunate have a duty to help those in need; and (2) an enlightened self-interest that, in an interdependent world, economic improvement in developing countries is also beneficial for developed countries.

For many decades, this model of partnership has entailed developed countries providing development aid, technical assistance, and granting trade preferences to developing countries. The offers of assistance were generally accompanied by donor policy advice for developing countries, sometimes coordinated by the international financial institutions through 'conditionality' agreements.

Global partnerships and the MDGs

By the time of the new millennium, this model of global partnership was slowing in momentum. In

■ **The G8 leaders at the 2013 summit, which has been heavily criticised for yielding too little for developing nations. UK leader David Cameron failed to win support for his proposed tax reforms and the communique on tax and transparency has been described as "simply a wish list". Also, the trade agreements made were bilateral deals between powerful developed world trading blocs**

response, donors increasingly shifted the objectives of their assistance, to focus more on social concerns, such as poverty, gender inequality, health and education. Donors increasingly left it to international private capital flows to help finance capital formation in developing countries.

The Millennium Declaration of 2000 provided an opportunity to revive the global partnership for development. In the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Goal 8 is "develop a global partnership for development". The Monterrey Consensus in 2002 further strengthened the global partnership. Indeed, since Monterrey, governments have taken important steps, including new pledges by major providers of ODA, the work to increase aid effectiveness, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative of 2005, and a few other initiatives.

Monitoring partnership commitments

In order to monitor the progress towards realising the international commitments covered by MDG 8, the Secretary-General established the MDG Gap Task Force in 2007, to track the implementation of the commitments made by developed countries to the global partnership. According to these indicators, the momentum built by the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus has tapered off again in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.

For example, ODA fell by 4 per cent in 2011 and 2012 from the level it held in 2010, with multilateral ODA suffering the greatest reversal. Sixteen of the 25 Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members decreased their ODA contributions, partly because of the fiscal austerity measures adopted by many developed countries.

As a result, by 2012, the combined DAC donors' ODA was equivalent to 0.29 per cent of their gross national income, widening the gap from the target of 0.7 per cent of the donors' gross national income.

With two years left before the target date for achieving the MDGs, Member States and the international community need to redouble the efforts to accelerate the progress towards the MDGs, including Goal 8.

Accelerating progress on Goal 8

All countries, particularly donor countries, should continue to try their best to deliver on past commitments, including ODA commitments. Donors should reverse the two-year contraction in ODA flows. World Trade Organization members should forge ahead to reach a balanced, development-oriented conclusion of the Doha Round. The international community should also reverse the decline in 'Aid for Trade' and strengthen developing countries' export capacity. The access of developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), to medicine and technology should be increased.

The global partnership for development is anchored on political will: the political will of both developed and developing countries. The early dose of the political will that was enthusiastically gathered in early 2000 certainly needs a boost.

Partnerships in the post-2015 development agenda

The ongoing global process to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015 provides a critical opportunity to renew the global partnership for development building on MDG 8.

However, a renewed global partnership for the post-2015 agenda has to take into account the changes in the global economic and political landscape in the past decade, particularly the growing role of many developing countries in driving the world economy.

Other challenges facing the international community, such as climate change, should also be taken into account.

The global partnership for development is anchored on political will: the political will of both developed and developing countries

A new global partnership for the post-2015 agenda should be stronger in honouring commitments, broader in scope, and more dynamic, flexible and innovative in its structure.

The global partnership generated through UN intergovernmental agreements should be reaffirmed and reinvigorated. This should be supported by a wide range of other forms of partnerships among multi-stakeholders, including private investors and philanthropists; South-South partnerships; partnerships on science and technology to promote innovation; partnerships among businesses to strengthen their commitment to environmental and socially responsive programmes; and partnerships to boost development-friendly trade.

Partnerships for better global governance

Furthermore, the relationship between a renewed



Also in this section:

Private sector responsibility **142**

Almost five years after the financial crisis, the international financial system continues to be plagued by vulnerabilities

global partnership for development and global economic governance needs to be rethought. In addition to strengthening the role of developing countries in decision-making, there are several areas where improved global governance is necessary; including trade, sovereign debt distress and systemic issues related to the global financial system.

Trade: The global trading system today is complex and fragmented with more than 300 bilateral, regional or inter-regional free trade agreements. It is, thus, crucial that the Doha Round be concluded, with a view to empowering the multilateral trading system to address the 21st century economic challenges, particularly those of LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

Looking ahead, Aid for Trade would be important in addressing the supply constraints faced by developing countries, especially LDCs. In addition, changes in trade patterns have become more pronounced, including the growing weight of developing countries in world trade, particularly through South-South trade.

Debt: The external debt of developing countries does not currently portend a systemic problem, though vulnerabilities remain, with 20 developing countries at high risk of debt distress. However, sovereign debt distress continues to be a challenge in some countries in Europe. The debt crisis in Europe illustrates the need for a timely reform of the architecture for debt restructuring. The central issue for domestic and international policy is how to reduce and prevent debt distress and give countries, where necessary, a fresh start.

There is now, however, an increasing recognition that the status quo in dealing with debt problems is costly for everyone. There is ongoing work in this area in the UN system. TheFinancing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has been organising high-level panel discussions and expert group meetings to discuss alternative measures to enhance the effectiveness of the debt-restructuring process, including statutory approaches.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development has set out principles for responsible borrowing and lending as a tool of crisis prevention.[1] Convoking an international working group to examine options for enhancing the international architecture for debt restructuring can be an important first step in seeking options going forward and garnering consensus.

International financial system: There is an increasing awareness that substantial financing will be needed to meet global development challenges. Given the scope of the financing needs, both private and public sector funds will be necessary, underscoring the importance of sound financial sectors capable of providing stable long-term financing for sustainable development. Yet, almost five years after the financial crisis, the international financial system continues to be plagued by vulnerabilities. The sovereign debt crisis and economic recession in the euro area, continued financial deleveraging, and monetary policy stances in developed countries have added to uncertainty and volatile market conditions.

In this regard, policy options to mitigate the potentially adverse impacts of volatile capital flows have recently received increased attention at the national level. Such policy measures need to be complemented by global efforts to better coordinate macroeconomic policies and strengthen the global financial safety net. In addition, steps have been taken to strengthen international financial regulation, focused on ensuring the safety and soundness of the financial system, primarily in the banking sector through Basel III. However, it is equally important for policy makers to ensure that stability of the banking system is balanced with its other goals, including the provision of finance for long-term sustainable growth.

At the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, in Rio de Janeiro, governments recognised the need for significant mobilisation of resources to promote sustainable development. For this purpose, they agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on sustainable development financing. This is an important step towards creating a renewed partnership for sustainable development and realising the future we want. ■



© Reuters

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff is welcomed by South African President Jacob Zuma before the start of the fifth India-Brazil-South Africa summit in Pretoria, 2011. South-South partnerships will be key to re-invigorating the global partnership

1 See http://unctad.org/en/Docs/gdsddf2011misc1_en.pdf

MANGO's commitment to corporate social responsibility

The public sector and companies from around the world have long faced the arduous task, and (at least moral) obligation, of establishing effective measures and policies to guarantee the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The UN plays a fundamental role in this sense by guiding and motivating the international community to establish a sustainable, fair model, accessible to one and all.

MANGO, a Spanish world fashion leader, has had a programme of corporate social responsibility (CSR) for more than 11 years, with the fundamental pillars of continuous dialogue with all stakeholders and the development of policies and actions that meet their expectations, all within the framework of the principles of the UN Global Compact through its Spanish network.

Since the beginning, our policies have always focused on the organisation's supply chain, the preparation of a code of conduct and a complete system of internal and external auditing to help to ensure that the code is observed. However, social demands and increased international human rights initiatives have made it necessary for the company's commitment to be more thoroughly tested and proven in all aspects.

Direct engagement

Just as in companies we seek formulae to improve our competitiveness, we must continue contributing to the positive development of our surroundings. We must make commitments so that our activities benefit society in the countries where we produce and operate.

The MANGO Sustainability Report, produced by our CSR department, shows all the projects in which we have engaged and the social action performed during the last year.

Now it is time to act more directly and personally and at MANGO we are convinced of this. Therefore, in recent years we have encouraged direct communication with our suppliers and have increased their training not only in technical aspects (giving them very valuable know-how), but also concerning human rights, environment, and health and safety.



Professional development

We believe that it is only through dialogue and cooperation with all parties that we can improve and move forward to achieve the MDGs.

I am fortunate to have had first-hand experience of how CSR has evolved over these years in all its aspects. I have been able to see how many of our suppliers and collaborators have become aware over time that CSR is not an invention of Western multinationals, but rather a tool that can help them develop professionally. They know the sector better and are capable of promoting improvements on all levels and, most importantly, see the human side of their business activities.

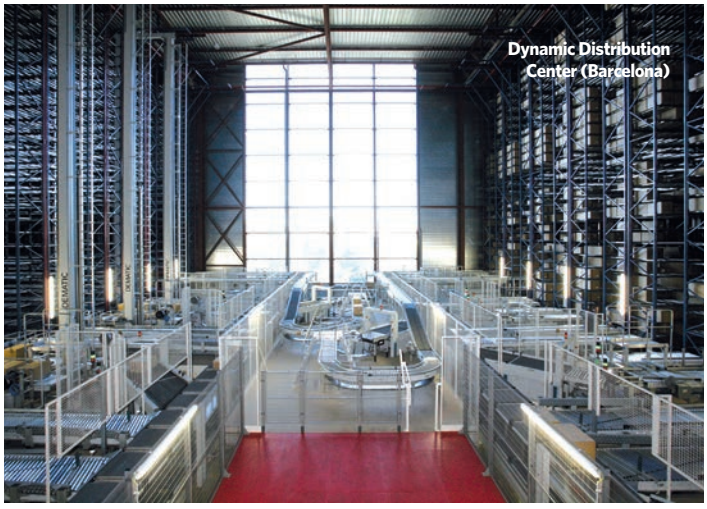
I personally have learnt that CSR can very often provide life lessons and is worth fighting for. ■

Beatriz Bayo
Deputy Manager,
CSR Department

MANGO



Workers in a factory in Morocco



Dynamic Distribution Center (Barcelona)



The social and economic potential of gold and gold-mining



By Aram Shishmanian, CEO

WORLD GOLD COUNCIL

Responsible gold-mining is an agent for social and economic development. Responsibly undertaken, gold-mining can bring a range of benefits to local communities and host countries, including improvements in healthcare, education and infrastructure. The direct and indirect economic contribution of gold-mining creates opportunities for the nations, communities and individuals impacted by it. Gold, produced in conformance with high safety, environmental and social standards, plays an important role in meeting development goals and is a vital source of jobs, skills, foreign direct investment and tax revenues.

Economic contribution

Over 72% of new gold production originates in non-OECD countries. In many countries, gold-mining is a major contributor to economic growth and development. This contribution can be made through a number of routes including: macroeconomic development; job creation; infrastructure; building supply chain capabilities; human capital investment; and governance.

The ability of many countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as their aspirations for material progress for their populations is linked to the benefits the countries and communities accrue from responsible gold-mining.

Jobs, foreign direct investment and foreign exchange

Gold-mining leads to jobs, foreign direct investment and foreign exchange. In addition, jobs in the gold-mining sector have a significant multiplier effect. For example, the Chamber of Mines in South Africa estimates that, while employment in the industry is just under 190,000, it probably supports around 2 million people in total.

Responsible gold-mining companies also look to source the products and services they need from national suppliers, building up local supply chains and supporting broader economic development. A study of four major gold mines in Peru (produced by the World Gold Council in 2012) showed that the four largest gold mines purchase 90% of their ongoing goods and services from Peruvian-based companies.

Life-Cycle Assessments carried out by the World Gold Council and International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) have shown that, the macro-economic and fiscal contributions made by gold mines need to be viewed across their lifecycle. During mine construction the biggest contribution

will come from foreign direct investment and job creation. Once production begins the number of direct jobs may decline and the mine will typically become a significant foreign exchange earner. During the early years of operation the mine will need to pay back its investment before becoming a major contributor to government revenues. The supply chain opportunities will be likely to rise substantially, enhancing the indirect employment and value added opportunities created by mining.

Infrastructure, education and healthcare

Mining can help provide social services to remote communities, improving access to healthcare and basic utilities. Gold mines frequently operate in remote locations, so companies often have to invest in building infrastructure, such as power supplies, piped water or roads, which can bring important benefits for the surrounding region and local economy.

Many mining companies are noted for making a contribution to improving healthcare provisions in the vicinity of their mines through investing in primary care clinics and hospitals. Many gold miners are recognised for pioneering programmes in the testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS and in groundbreaking programmes to combat malaria.

Gold also plays an important role in healthcare technologies.

The fight against malaria is being transformed by Rapid Diagnosis Tests (RDTs) which use tiny amounts of gold to identify patients in less than 20 minutes. Malaria kills more than 660,000 people every year and recently published research from the World Health Organization suggests that the death rate remains high because malaria is often not diagnosed in time: RDTs contain a thin layer of nano-particles of gold. These gold particles help to produce a simple colour change which indicates if malaria is present in the patient's blood sample. RDTs are cheap, costing no more than $1 per test, and do not require electricity. In 2011, WHO estimated 155 million RDTs were sold for malaria diagnosis, each containing nano-particles of gold.

Improving governance

Leading gold companies recognise the importance of governance in enabling countries to secure significant internal investment for the benefit of the population. Gold miners are at the forefront of the national implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in major gold producers like Ghana, Tanzania, Indonesia and Peru. Many gold miners are also closely involved in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

The World Gold Council

As the global advocate for gold, the World Gold Council plays a key role as part of a responsible mining industry committed to sustainable development. Our members regard the management of the local environment and relationships with local communities as paramount considerations during the lifetime of any mine project. Together, we work to ensure the industry as a whole is delivering benefits to all stakeholders. ■

"Gold-mining has always played an important role in the economies of several low- and middle-income countries; its extraction offers major development potential, given responsible management."

Rachel Kyte
Vice President, Sustainable Development
World Bank Group

The Conflict-Free Gold Standard

Unlawful armed conflict in gold-producing areas presents the risk of gold-mining not contributing to sustainable development for local communities. The Conflict-Free Gold Standard provides a common approach through which gold-mining companies can provide assurance that their gold has been extracted in a way that does not cause, support or benefit unlawful armed conflict, or contribute to human rights abuses or breaches of international humanitarian law.

Gold's value and portability are well-recognised. Regrettably, these characteristics have made it a potential source of finance for illegal armed groups involved in civil wars and insurgencies. Whilst the proportion of newly-mined gold tainted by such conflict is extremely low, it is important that responsible actors take steps to exclude gold misused in this way from entering their supply chains.

The Conflict-Free Gold Standard is global in scope and is based on established international benchmarks such the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Designed to integrate and strengthen systems and process already in place, the Standard "operationalises" the OECD Due-Diligence Guidance on Responsible Supply Chains for Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas.



Work on the Conflict-Free Gold Standard began in 2010 and it was developed through an innovative and comprehensive programme of stakeholder engagement involving governments, international organisations, business, civil society and supply chain actors across five continents. Conformance with the Standard requires gold miners to:

- Assess whether they are operating in a 'conflict-affected or high risk' area.
- If they are operating in such an area, ensure that they have the right corporate processes in place to be able to mine responsibly and that they have sufficient controls to prevent the misuse of gold.
- Conduct due diligence in their purchase of gold from external sources (if this occurs).
- Provide a statement of conformity to the refiner of the gold, which can help them meet their due-diligence requirements.
- Publically disclose conformance with the Standard, and receive external assurance on this disclosure.

The Conflict-Free Gold Standard is the first industry-led initiative that seeks to codify responsible mining in conflict-affected areas. If companies can demonstrate that they are operating responsibly, their activity should be encouraged so that the social and economic developmental benefits associated with gold-mining be realised.

"The Government of the United States supports the Conflict-Free Gold Standard. We think it can serve as a model for other industries, outside of gold production, and it shows what can be done when the will is there."

Ambassador Barrie Walkley
Special Advisor to the African Great Lakes Region
United States of America

Private sector responsibility and potential

A sustainable approach to business and finance can extend the reach of the MDGs

By **Georg Kell**, Executive Director, UN Global Compact

Business has been a force for rising living standards around the globe over the last two decades. The private sector and enterprises owned in whole or in part by states have played a central part in notable Millennium Development Goal (MDG) achievements such as poverty reduction, the spread of telephony and digital systems, disease rollback and water access.

With many corporations and investment institutions looking for more stable means to build long-term value, and the growth of enterprises and financial resources in the developing world, the potential impact of the MDGs today and into the post-2015 era is vast.

The corporate sustainability movement holds a key to unlocking this potential to its fullest extent. Businesses in growing numbers are identifying long-term interests, successful brand management and opening of new markets with adherence to core sustainable development precepts. There is a corollary in the growth of the responsible investment movement.

It is not only the growth in numbers that is making an impact. There is also a broadening of the front along which progress is being made. Firms that integrate sustainability into their business models are now joining forces in platforms oriented to a wide range of social and environmental issues, and are taking part in more creative multi-stakeholder partnerships.



Smoke billows from a controlled burn of spilled oil off the Louisiana coast of the Gulf of Mexico coast line, 2010. Corporate negligence led to an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, killing 11 workers, causing catastrophic damage to the environment and threatening the health and livelihoods of Gulf residents

© Reuters

Many are joining value-based global associations such as the UN Global Compact, which has some 7,500 participating corporations and 4,000 stakeholder organisations. Besides pledging to respect and uphold universal principles endorsed by the UN, these Global Compact participants are joining initiatives in areas such as climate and energy, women's empowerment, children's rights, anti-corruption and water management. New platforms under development focus on sustainable agriculture and food, business and education, and business for peace. They were featured during our triennial Leaders Summit this September.

Extensive reach

The global partnership for development, specified by MDG 8, is increasingly complemented by public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships taking place regionally, nationally or locally. The UN Global Compact has 101 networks at the country level, with the fastest growth taking place in emerging economies. The more established networks are already liaising with national governments on policy issues such as planning for a post-2015 agenda, and have the capacity to convene, organise and implement business-led solutions to existing local challenges based on a country's distinct economic, cultural and linguistic needs.

These business-led formats have a reach that in some ways extends beyond that of traditional public-sector-led activity for the common good, including official development assistance (ODA).

For one, when respecting laws and social principles and seeking to build long-term value, companies can provide a basis for sustainable development activism that is, in a word, *sustainable*. With a steady income base, corporate activity can continue indefinitely. The principle of sustainable funding emerges most clearly in impact investing. Under this model, individuals or companies launch enterprises with the main intent of addressing a social or environmental need, and pursue profit primarily to establish a durable funding base.

Second, corporate sustainability and multi-stakeholder partnerships tend to adhere to a network model. Business, government departments, NGOs, think tanks and academic institutes align spontaneously around perceived opportunities or in response to impending crises. Innovation – a calling card of the corporate as well as the R&D and academic sectors – is consequently encouraged.

Business activity can help extend the reach of traditional public sector policies for the common good, and also work in tandem. Dramatic reductions in extreme poverty rates, for instance, can be attributed to the expanding role of business in the developing south. And through the efforts of governments of developing countries to improve public health and education, and the overall spread of more inclusive, democratic governments, enabling environments have laid the



Farming techniques in Ethiopia are centuries old. Picture by Monne Tuinhout

Brewing a better future

Multinational companies are uniquely placed to assist developing countries, through technology transfers and local sourcing. HEINEKEN pursues a shared value approach to its African operations

The HEINEKEN company has a more international footprint than any other global brewer. Our beers are sold in 178 countries around the world and we have operations in over 70 countries. In Africa particularly, we have a long-standing presence, and one that is still expanding. As recently as 2011, we acquired two breweries in Ethiopia and we have announced plans to build a third.

But brewing and selling beer is not our only ambition: earlier this year, we launched a barley programme in Ethiopia together with Dutch and Ethiopian governments. The Memorandum of Understanding we signed was the official start of a four-year programme (2013-2016) named CREATE (Community Revenue Enhancement through Technology Extension). This regional platform covers the Ethiopian programme for malt barley, as well as agricultural developments in Rwanda with maize and in Sierra Leone with sorghum.

The programme will provide much-needed income to small-scale farmers. We will be offering access to agricultural expertise and technologies on the one hand, and we will sustain demand for the resulting produce on the other. Both are powerful stimuli in reducing poverty.

This initiative fits well with our business philosophy to be partners for growth in the communities we operate in – creating shared value and improving the livelihoods of our employees, their families, our suppliers and our customers. In our global sustainability programme 'Brewing a Better Future' we have made a commitment to source at least 60 per cent of raw materials from the African continent by 2020.

Through our local sourcing initiatives we are increasing our chances of meeting that ambition. Our local sourcing programmes are already improving the livelihood of 100,000 farmer families in eight countries across the continent. And we continue to grow this ambition – to brew a better future together.

Panel sponsored by HEINEKEN

HEINEKEN



© Reuters

A worker is seen through dried coffee beans at the Santa Adelaida coffee cooperative in La Libertad, on the outskirts of San Salvador, El Salvador. This organically grown coffee is certified by the non-governmental organisation Rainforest Alliance, whose mission is to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods

foundation in which corporations and investors stand the chance to flourish.

The complementary nature between the two sectors is increasingly endorsed by governments in many poor countries. They see the rise of domestic business as a dependable means to build productive capacity, with a large multiplier effect in terms of social advance.

A corollary and complementary movement to corporate sustainability is underway within the fields of private finance and investment.

Those who try to scratch out a living on small tracts of land or in informal individual enterprises are in fact engaged in business

Institutional and retail portfolio investors, banking and project finance providers, insurance underwriters, and foundations and philanthropic organisations are supporting sustainability through a number of market enablers. A key factor in all of these formats is the provision of information on enterprise performance and impact on environmental and social conditions within their spheres of influence.

Rapidly evolving investor movements seeking to generate and secure long-range financial returns while also contributing to sustainability solutions include the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment, a portfolio investor coalition representing more than $30 trillion in capital, and the Equator Principles, a coalition of banking and similar financial institutions incorporating environmental and social risk into project finance transactions that covers more than 70 per cent of all international project finance debt in emerging markets.

Also to be considered is foreign direct investment (FDI), which reached $1.6 trillion in 2012 and is close to recovering its 2007 peak of $2 trillion, according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). UNCTAD finds that FDI is increasingly geared toward assessing sustainability qualities in potential investment destinations, such as social and environmental stability, infrastructure and overall good governance. At the same time, host governments are examining incoming bids for investment in terms of their overall impact on national welfare. The once-feared 'race to the bottom' has potential to become a race to the top.

The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit explored these new frontiers in business engagement, multi-stakeholder partnerships and private sustainable finance.

Reaching the extremely poor

Finally, one area very much worth mentioning is the position of smallholder farmers and participants in the informal sector. The great bulk of those trapped in extreme poverty can be found in these two sectors, and a disproportionately high concentration of women who work outside of the household are also found here. By and large, the dispersed or isolated nature of these individuals and families has stymied efforts by the public sector to improve their lot.

It should be noted that those who try to scratch out a living on small tracts of land or in informal individual enterprises are in fact engaged in business, and can be reached in ways that traditionally have been used to support small businesses.

These means may include broader access to credit, including mini-credit to fill the gap between micro-credit and large-scale financing mechanisms; financing from either private or public sectors, or some mix of the two; transport and storage infrastructure for farm goods; full recognition of property and other rights, especially for women; supportive government regulation and elimination of graft and restrictive red tape; and, especially, openings provided by domestic and transnational corporations to become part of supply chains and national or even global markets.

The MDGs have performed a service of historical dimensions in identifying the vast extent of poverty, and related conditions of illiteracy, disease and oppression of women, and posing for the first time its eventual eradication. The initial target of a 50 per cent reduction has been reached. With greater deployment of *all* the resources of contemporary society, including business, we can soon finish the job. ■

A UNDP regional project transforms Africa's private sector





Most sub-Saharan Africa countries are making good efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set for 2015. While progress toward some MDGs is quicker than toward others – particularly those related to education, gender and health – reports show that the continent as a whole still has more to do to eradicate poverty, reduce child mortality and ensure environmental sustainability.

Key to unlocking the region's potential to achieve these goals is the private sector. For all sectors involved, however, human capital development remains a crucial starting point for business growth and sustainability, while also maximising profits. 'Development impact' may not be a phrase often used in the business community, but through UNDP projects like the African Training and Management Services (ATMS) project, many businesses have added human resource development as an important target.

Initiated in order to further Africa's economic development and currently operating in 20 sub-Saharan countries, the project provides human capital solutions that help develop skills and create wealth both in the private sector and in commercially-operated state enterprises. It achieves this through two separate but interrelated organisations: the African Management Services Company (AMSCO), which serves as the operational unit of the project; and the ATMS Foundation, which provides grants for client enterprises in Africa that are assisted by the ATMS project.

The ATMS project has a unique approach to business development in the private sector focusing on the sustainability and global competitiveness of locally managed companies. AMSCO sources and recruits experienced professional expatriate managers for client companies, usually for a contract lasting three years. AMSCO designs and coordinates comprehensive training programmes for local managers and staff to ensure that they can maintain the performance of the client company after the AMSCO manager leaves.

Over the past two years, the ATMS project has also worked with key stakeholders to implement technical assistance programmes designed to encourage the growth of businesses by addressing widespread capacity constraints. This has had great results and there is the potential for greater rewards to be gained in the future.

It needs only a few key industries, such as agriculture, information and communications technology, health, tourism, energy and finance to promote innovation, job creation and economic growth, as well as to put the MDGs to practical application.

In these and other sectors, ATMS/AMSCO was able to contribute significantly to the regional economy. In 2012 alone, the ATMS project supported 83,769 jobs in client companies. This is 24,081 more jobs than the previous year, with a visible and positive impact across Africa.

Many small and medium-sized enterprises have potential but lack sufficient capital to be able to develop the skills of their personnel. In 2012, the ATMS Foundation was able to commit US$2,350,531 towards management and capacity-building initiatives across various sectors in 70 companies, including those perceived as key to the attainment of the MDGs.

Portfolio monitoring indicators have recorded improvements in African companies' operational and financial efficiency; the installation of effective management systems has enabled local managers to take over when the AMSCO managers leave at the end of their term of office. In addition, governments continue to reap the rewards of taxes paid by ATMS-supported enterprises, which assist in the alleviation of poverty in the continent.

The ATMS project has plans to build on its private sector development initiatives, with a renewed focus on agriculture/agribusiness, financial inclusion, inclusive business, and also in regions where there is instability in conflict-affected countries. ■





ATMS A Regional Project of the UNDP

AMSCO African Management Services Company

IFC International Finance Corporation

UNDP

A just and sustainable world

The global commitment to achieving the MDGs has helped to improve the lives of billions, yet much remains to be done. The post-2015 development agenda must address the unmet challenges and combat the more complex threats facing the world

By **Amina J. Mohammed**,
UN Special Advisor, Post-2015 Development Planning

In September 2000, when the leaders of the world adopted the Millennium Declaration, they made a promise to the world's poorest and most vulnerable to build a "more peaceful, prosperous and just world" based on the "principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level". The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were subsequently introduced to reaffirm and monitor the implementation of this declaration, have mobilised governments as never before. They have catalysed dynamic new partnerships and have brought about huge changes at both the national and global levels, helping to set global and national priorities and fuel action on the ground.

By putting people and their immediate needs at the centre of national and global public policy, the MDGs have reshaped decision-making, raised awareness and set a broad vision that remains the overarching framework for development work across the world. They have enabled the creation of a global movement that encompasses Member States, civil



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon participates at a roundtable event on 'The Future We Want – MDGs Post-2015 and Agenda 2025' in Maputo, Mozambique. He is accompanied by Graça Machel, a member of the UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

©UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

society, private sector and individuals the world over. In the past decade, progress towards the MDGs has resulted in improving the lives of billions.

While there is much to celebrate, much remains to be done. As the international community looks forward to the post-2015 development agenda, it must first fulfil its commitments – to the extent possible – to achieving the unfinished business of the MDGs. Since 2010, there has been an alarming trend of stagnation or even backtracking on the commitments made by the international community. Although acceleration efforts are underway, we need to face the risk that some of the MDGs will not be fully met by 2015, the target date for achieving them. Others, even if met, were designed only to address part of the challenge. In addition, new challenges have emerged since the MDGs were launched. As a result, a seamless transition will be needed to arrive at a post-2015 development agenda that fulfils the promise of the MDGs and addresses the challenges of our times.

A single, universal development agenda

Over the past year, the United Nations (UN) and its partners have been engaged in consultations at an unprecedented scale at the country, regional and global levels to define the blueprint of the post-2015 development agenda. The UN mobilised the business, academic, scientific and civil society communities through its vast networks. At the national level, 88 countries were invited to conduct consultations on the post-2015 development agenda while stakeholders and constituencies were mobilised around 11 thematic issues at the global level. Harnessing the power of social media, people in 193 countries have voted their priorities for the future development agenda through the My World Survey. In total, the UN and its partners have heard the voices of more than a million people.

Most prominent among the multilevel processes launched by the UN was that of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by President Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister Cameron of the UK. The Panel also engaged in extensive consultations to make recommendations to the UN Secretary-General in its report, *A new global partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development*. This work is complemented by similar efforts by the UN Global Compact, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Regional Commissions and the UN Task Team, which have all submitted recommendations and proposals to the Secretary-General on the future development agenda.

The outcomes of the multilevel process, consultations and reports indicate a broad consensus emerging on some key issues that are helping to shape the post-2015 development agenda. First and foremost, there is an indisputable call by the international community for a single, universal development agenda that is truly global and in keeping with the spirit of common but differentiated responsibilities. Given the diversity within and among countries, there is also a strong demand for flexibility to adjust and adapt the global agenda to meet the realities and needs at the national and local levels.

Paradigm shift

The agenda should be based on a long-term vision that is people-centred and planet-sensitive with eradicating poverty and sustainable development at the core. In accordance with the 'Rio+20' UN Sustainable Development Conference Outcome, sustainable development with its three interconnected objectives – economic development (including the end of extreme poverty), social inclusion and environmental sustainability – will provide the conceptual framework for the post-2015 agenda. Even if the specificities remain to be defined, the concept of sustainable development points to the legitimate aspiration of all people to fulfil their potential within the finite resources of planet Earth.

For this ambitious development framework to take shape, there is general agreement among the international community that a business-as-usual approach is neither desirable nor feasible

For this ambitious development framework to take shape and unfold there is general agreement among the international community that a business-as-usual approach is neither desirable nor feasible. A paradigm shift must take place to bring about a radical change of action. This is most concretely illustrated in the High-Level Panel report, which proposes five transformational shifts to bring about a profound transformation for sustained prosperity for all. These include leaving no one behind; putting sustainable development at the core; transforming economies for jobs and inclusive growth; building peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; and forging a new global partnership.

Stakeholders also concur that a new development agenda must be underpinned by the principles of good governance; respect for human rights; equality

©UN Photo/Olivier Chassot



Rwandan soldiers from the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in Omar, north Darfur. Building peace is one of the five transformational shifts proposed by the High-Level Panel report

of opportunities and access; peace and security; and right to development for all countries in both the global South and North.

Sustaining global development into the third decade of the millennium will require greater cooperation and stronger partnerships among a wide range of old and emerging actors. Financing and global partnership for development must move from the periphery to the centre of deliberations on the new development agenda. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing Strategy, mandated by the Rio+20 Conference, and the UN General Assembly consultations to strengthen financing for development will be key processes which must come to fruition as the post-2015 development agenda takes shape.

The intergovernmental process of the Experts' Committee will be assessing financing needs and reviewing the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks as well as other new initiatives. Its aim will be to propose options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilisation of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

While it is particularly important that national budgetary constraints should not further erode official development assistance, the international community must strive for innovation in finding solutions to financing gaps. Alternative funding sources must be tapped into and harnessed while greater efforts are made on all fronts to ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness of financing for development in line with the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration.

Moreover, as the international aid landscape changes with increasing diversification of actors and

Sustaining global development into the third decade of the millennium will require greater cooperation and stronger partnerships

instability, there is also a growing acknowledgement that official development assistance cannot serve as the key tool and means for development. A renewed global partnership for development will be more critical in supplementing the gaps. In many ways, it would entail the strengthening of MDG 8 by incorporating the missing elements of partnership such as migration and movement of people; broadening the scope of technology transfer especially in health, renewable energy and energy efficiency and agricultural productivity; and trade initiatives in favour of least-developed countries and in reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers; as well as enhanced global governance and institutions.

While it is understood that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is the mechanism for negotiations on climate change to take place, there is pervasive recognition of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the clear and present danger it poses. Climate change threatens to roll back development gains and is placing future development objectives in jeopardy. As such, the new development agenda must be able to mobilise all stakeholders in the fight for sustainable development and must include efforts to curb human-induced climate change.

On 25 September 2013, the United Nations General Assembly convened a special event to take stock of the MDGs' current status, to reaffirm commitment to accelerating efforts towards the achievement of the MDGs, and to chart the way forward for the next two years in elaborating a post-MDG agenda.

The United Nations System will continue to support and provide technical services to Member States as they deliberate and negotiate the post-2015 development agenda. It will also ensure that the voices of the people will be lifted up and brought to the attention of Member States throughout the intergovernmental process, through its networks of civil society, academics, scientists, businesses, parliamentarians and local governments.

Expectations are high that by September 2015, this process will bring the international community to a single cohesive agenda backed by a solid financing strategy to be adopted by the heads of state and government. ■



© Getty

A transformative agenda for 2015-2030

Ensuring that no one is left behind will require a profound change in lifestyles and mindsets

By **Natalie Samarasinghe**, Executive Director, United Nations Association – UK

Picture the world in 2030 – the end point for a new development framework proposed by the UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

On a cold September morning, the Secretary-General sits down to broadcast her opening remarks to the General Assembly's Crisis Management Summit:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I am deeply honoured to welcome you. Never before have the leaders of all 200 UN Member States come together – a sign not only, I hope, of the depth of the challenges we face, but also of our growing resolve to tackle them.

Thirty years ago we experienced a similar moment of unity. World leaders adopted an inspiring agenda for the 21st century, which included the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Their first decade saw the fastest-ever reduction in poverty. The goal to halve the proportion of people living on less than $1.25 a day was met ahead of the 2015 schedule. Over two billion people gained access to safe drinking water. Maternal and child mortality fell, as did deaths from malaria, tuberculosis and measles.

Progress was uneven. If you were elderly, disabled, from a rural, minority or conflict-affected community, you were less likely to benefit from the MDGs. Critics warned that they incentivised pursuit of the easiest gains. They described the Goals as top-down and narrow – prioritising quantity over quality; neglecting sustainability and human rights; and rooted in existing development trends.

The Goals did coincide with sustained economic growth, particularly in the large emerging economies which saw the biggest poverty reductions. But they also played a crucial role in generating consensus and commitment on development.

Hong Kong shrouded in smog. Unless the current course changes, disparity between rural and urban populations will increase, with most living in heavily polluted mega cities

Global goals can provide a framework and minimum standards, but implementable targets must be created at the local level

Many of you watching will remember the push to create a successor framework in the lead-up to 2015. You will recall too that progress was derailed by a series of multiple shocks – finance, fighting, food and fuel. Governments struggled to balance recovery with stability, and freedoms with security. Public trust in decision-makers eroded. Unrest spread.

Major catastrophes like Syria and the Sahel strained global cooperation and threatened to reverse development gains. With few drivers of progressive action, the new development agenda was not implemented. Now, 30 years since the MDGs were first adopted, the challenges we face have grown.

The gap between rich and poor remains glaring. The top one per cent of the world's eight-billion strong population owns more than 40 per cent of its wealth. These figures have barely shifted since the start of the century, despite a doubling of global output.

While the proportion of people living on less than $1.25 a day will reach a low of 5 per cent this year, billions languish just above that level, grappling with hunger and mass unemployment. As funding dried up, gains in containing preventable diseases were not maintained. Patent disputes limited the impact of the HIV vaccination.

The poor and middle classes have found it equally hard to escape stagnation. Greater disparities are now found between increasingly disconnected rural populations and those living in mega cities. In the latter, prosperous gated communities shut themselves off from the polluted urban sprawl. The extreme poor are largely found in conflict areas.

Climate change is fuelling resource wars. The cost of water exceeded $100/barrel last year. Most ecosystems are now degraded. The world still produces enough to feed its people, but increased demand, bad policies and waste have seen food prices soar.

The price tag for adapting to temperature rises is estimated at $100 billion per annum. The human and environmental costs of our inaction also increase every year. Inequality has now reached crisis levels. And I am here to ask you what are you going to do about it?

This gloomy prognosis is based on trends taken from this collection of articles, the latest UN MDGs publication and the report of the High-Level Panel, with a healthy dose of speculation thrown in. There is, of course, a positive alternative (see box). Together, they remind us of what is at stake, and that profound change is possible.

Across these pages, our contributors celebrate MDG successes, point to gaps, and offer their views on next steps. They agree that across the world, discrimination and inequality are holding back progress. People want secure incomes, real participation and accountable institutions. Like their governments, they shy away from adjusting to the planet's limitations. To address these challenges, our authors make a raft of recommendations, many of which resonate with the High-Level Panel's report. Below are five recurring themes which deserve greater attention:

Outcomes, not numbers

A new development framework should place greater emphasis on qualitative outcomes. For example, just one indicator for MDG 2 on universal primary education is devoted to educational outcomes. Future targets must include job and life skills, with decent work and responsible citizenship as outcomes.

This is part of a broader challenge to look behind the numbers. Aggregate data can obscure who is left behind and mask the negative impacts of policies. Without a rights-based approach, poor people can be harmed by projects carried out in the name of progress. Monitoring inequalities can go some way to redress this. Although it was criticised for not including a standalone 'inequalities goal', the High-Level Panel report calls for targets to be considered 'achieved' only if they are met for all relevant income and social groups.

Better data

The hardest to reach are often invisible. Over 40 countries currently lack sufficient data to monitor even straightforward poverty indicators. Better data – and results – might be achieved if more emphasis was placed on real-life outcomes (e.g. access to health care or school completion) rather than statistical extrapolation. Registration drives, such as India's identity project, and the Panel's proposal on legal identities, will be vital for developing targeted policies.

Crowd-sourcing will need to supplement government initiatives. Accessible public data can encourage people to participate if they feel it will enhance their ability to make informed decisions and hold authorities accountable. To facilitate this, the Panel's proposed 'Global Partnership on Development Data' should address issues of data privacy and security.

Balancing 'local' and 'global'

Global goals can provide a framework and minimum standards, but implementable targets must be created at the local level. Partnerships should not just occur between and within countries, but between cities, rural communities and vulnerable groups that are facing similar challenges across the world. Communications technology will be key, as will projects such as capacity-building NGO Barefoot College. The structures developed for the public post-2015 consultations should be preserved for this purpose.

Governments and publics must look outwards too, to problems that need shared solutions. Increasingly, economies and societies should be managed in a way that protects global commons. This should include closer cooperation on issues from agricultural planning to managing consumption, trade rules to welfare policies.

A first step would be to agree a solid financing plan for the post-2015 agenda. According to the International Monetary Fund, foreign direct investment, remittances, and portfolio equity flows have all overtaken Official Development Assistance. While aid remains a life-saving tool, it does not break the cycle of dependency. Responsible business, immigration and investment policies are equally important. Innovative financing projects like UNITAID's airline ticket levy and Kiva's crowd-sourced micro-lending website should be extended and replicated.

Sound institutions

Such a shift will only be acceptable if there is confidence in institutions. Many development actors prefer specific interventions like bed nets to bolstering public services. This is understandable. They are easier to manage and monitor. But most development needs require trained professionals and adequate resources and facilities.

Job creation, effective taxation and long-term policies need solid infrastructure and investment in research and innovation. The High-Level Panel notes that "many countries are using public social protection programmes and social and environmental regulations to bring down high levels of domestic inequality… while also transforming their economies so that growth is sustained over the long term".

Changes are needed to international institutions too. Several of our contributors call for better economic governance, from trade rules to debt restructuring. More broadly, they argue that the UN – with its unique reach, remit and legitimacy – must remain at the heart of global action.

A profound transformation

In his introduction, UNA-UK's Chairman, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, says that the "most significant achievement would be to convince everyone that a new set of development goals is sensible self-interest". For individuals, the quality of information, their access to it, capacity to understand it and ability to influence the agenda will be key to managing this transformation. Governments and corporations will need to be convinced by the benefits of acting in the global interest and the downsides of a short-term perspective.

The decisions made in the lead-up to 2015 could bring an end to extreme poverty within sight. They could spur action on equitable growth within the planet's environmental boundaries. Or they could maintain the status quo or, even worse, reverse the gains of the last decade.

As the Secretary-General of 2030 might conclude: people around the world are hoping that we will come together, as we did in 2000, and deliver on our promise of a safer, fairer and more sustainable world for us all. ■



© GPE/Tara O'Connell

■ A primary school in Timor Leste, supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). GPE helps deliver quality education to marginalised children, coordinating education's many actors and following local leadership – these forms of partnership are key to the new development agenda

Examples of the potential impact of a transformative development agenda

By 2030 the world would have:

- 1.2 billion fewer people hungry and in extreme poverty
- 100 million more children who would otherwise have died before they were five
- 4.4 million more women who would otherwise have died during pregnancy or childbirth
- 1.3 billion tons of food per year saved from going to waste
- 470 million more workers with good jobs and livelihoods
- 200 million more young people employed with the skills they need to get good work
- 1.2 billion more people connected to electricity
- 190 to 240 million hectares more of forest cover
- $30 trillion spent by governments worldwide transparently accounted for
- People everywhere participating in decision-making and holding officials accountable
- Average global temperatures on a path to stabilise at less than 2° C above pre-industrial levels
- 220 million fewer people who suffer crippling effects of natural disasters

Source: The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Agenda, p. 19

Universal goals, national targets

The following illustrative goals have been proposed by the UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda – they are guided by five principles: equality; sustainability; inclusive growth; peace and good governance; and global cooperation

1 Candidates for global minimum standards, including 'zero' goals.
2 Indicators to be disaggregated.
3 Targets require further technical work to find appropriate indicators.



1. End poverty

1a. Bring the number of people living on less than $1.25 a day to zero and reduce by x% the share of people living below their country's 2015 national poverty line[1, 2]
1b. Increase by x% the share of women and men, communities and businesses with secure rights to land, property and other assets[2, 3]
1c. Cover x% of people who are poor and vulnerable with social protection systems[2, 3]
1d. Build resilience and reduce deaths from natural disasters by x%[2]



2. Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality

2a. Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against girls and women[1, 2, 3]
2b. End child marriage[1, 2]
2c. Ensure equal right of women to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register a business and open a bank account[1, 2]
2d. Eliminate discrimination against women in political, economic and public life[1, 2, 3]



3. Provide quality education and lifelong learning

3a. Increase by x% the proportion of children able to access and complete pre-primary education[2]
3b. Ensure every child, regardless of circumstance, completes primary education able to read, write and count well enough to meet minimum learning standards[1, 2]
3c. Ensure every child, regardless of circumstance, has access to lower secondary education and increase the proportion of adolescents who achieve recognised and measurable learning outcomes to x%[1, 2]
3d. Increase the number of young and adult women and men with the skills, including technical and vocational, needed for work by x%[2, 3]



4. Ensure healthy lives

4a. End preventable infant and under-5 deaths[1, 2]
4b. Increase by x% the proportion of children, adolescents, at-risk adults and older people that are fully vaccinated[1, 2]
4c. Decrease the maternal mortality ratio to no more than x per 100,000[1, 2]
4d. Ensure universal sexual and reproductive health and rights[1, 2]
4e. Reduce the burden of disease from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and priority non-communicable diseases[2]



5. Ensure food security and good nutrition

5a. End hunger and protect the right of everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food[1, 2]
5b. Reduce stunting by x%, wasting by y%, and anemia by z% for all children under five[1, 2]
5c. Increase agricultural productivity by x%, with a focus on sustainably increasing smallholder yields and access to irrigation[3]
5d. Adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild designated fish stocks to sustainable levels[1]
5e. Reduce post-harvest loss and food waste by x%[3]



6. Achieve universal access to water and sanitation

6a. Provide universal access to safe drinking water at home, and in schools, health centres and refugee camps[1, 2]
6b. End open defecation and ensure universal access to sanitation at school and work, and increase access to sanitation at home by x%[1, 2]
6c. Bring freshwater withdrawals in line with supply and increase water efficiency in agriculture by x%, industry by y% and urban areas by z%
6d. Recycle or treat all municipal and industrial wastewater prior to discharge[1, 3]



7. Secure sustainable energy

7a. Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
7b. Ensure universal access to modern energy services[1, 2]
7c. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency in buildings, industry, agriculture and transport
7d. Phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption[1,3]



8. Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and equitable growth

8a. Increase the number of good and decent jobs and livelihoods by x[2]
8b. Decrease the number of young people not in education, employment or training by x%[2]
8c. Strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure such as transportation and ICT[1, 2, 3]
8d. Increase new start-ups by x and value added from new products by y through creating an enabling business environment and boosting entrepreneurship[2, 3]



9. Manage natural resource assets sustainably

9a. Publish and use economic, social and environmental accounts in all governments and major companies[1]
9b. Increase consideration of sustainability in x% of government procurements[3]
9c. Safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
9d. Reduce deforestation by x% and increase reforestation by y%
9e. Improve soil quality, reduce soil erosion by x tonnes and combat desertification



10. Ensure good governance and effective institutions

10a. Provide free and universal legal identity, such as birth registrations[1,2]
10b. Ensure people enjoy freedom of speech, association, peaceful protest and access to independent media and information[1, 3]
10c. Increase public participation in political processes and civic engagement at all levels[2,3]
10d. Guarantee the public's right to information and access to government data[1]
10e. Reduce bribery and corruption and ensure officials can be held accountable[3]

11. Ensure stable and peaceful societies

11a. Reduce violent deaths per 100,000 by x and eliminate all forms of violence against children[1, 2, 3]
11b. Ensure justice institutions are accessible, independent, well-resourced and respect due-process rights[1, 2 , 3]
11c. Stem the external stressors that lead to conflict, including those related to organised crime[3]
11d. Enhance the capacity, professionalism and accountability of the security forces, police and judiciary[3]



12. Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long-term finance

12a. Support an open, fair and development-friendly trading system, substantially reducing trade-distorting measures, including agricultural subsidies, while improving market access of developing country products[3]
12b. Implement reforms to ensure stability of the global financial system and encourage stable, long-term private foreign investment[3]
12c. Hold the increase in global average temperature below 2ºC above pre-industrial levels, in line with international agreements
12d. Developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20% of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries; other countries should move toward voluntary targets for complementary financial assistance
12e. Reduce illicit flows and tax evasion and increase stolen-asset recovery by $x[3]
12f. Promote collaboration on and access to science, technology, innovation and development data[3]

Glossary

Aid for Trade – 'Aid for Trade' refers to assisting developing countries in improving their ability to trade and to benefit from the multilateral trade regime.

Common but differentiated responsibilities – Contained in the UNFCCC, the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' acknowledges that all states have a common and shared responsibility to protect the environment, but recognises that due to their differing contributions to environmental degradation and their particular circumstances, their responsibilities in this regard also vary.

g7+ – The g7+ is a voluntary association of countries that have been affected by conflict and are now witnessing development. Their objective is to share best practices for ending conflict and poverty, and to improve the way the international community engages in conflict-affected areas.

Gini coefficient – The Gini coefficient is a commonly used index for measuring income inequality. It evaluates the income distribution in families in a country. It varies between 0 and 1, representing complete equality and inequality respectively.

Global Compact – The Global Compact is a UN initiative, which calls on businesses to adopt 10 voluntary principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption to guide their operations.

Green growth – Green growth is a form of sustainable development. It refers to achieving economic development while also protecting the environment.

High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda – The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was set up in 2012 by the UN Secretary-General. Released in May 2013, its report contained recommendations on what should succeed the Millennium Development Goals, which are due to expire in 2015.

IPCC – Established in 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific body under the auspices of the UN that reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information produced worldwide on climate change.

LDCs – The UN classifies least developed countries (LDCs) on the basis of three criteria: low-income, human assets and economic vulnerability. Examples of LDCs include Haiti, Senegal and Togo.

LLDCs – Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) are those countries which do not have access to the sea. Many LLDCs are also classified as least developed countries. Examples of LLDCs include Burundi, Chad and Rwanda.

Millennium Declaration – The Millennium Declaration was adopted by UN Member States at the Millennium Summit. It sets out proposals for development, human rights, security and environment priorities for the international community. The Declaration was the basis for formulating the Millennium Development Goals.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international goals aimed at eliminating global poverty and inequality. All UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve them by 2015.

Millennium Summit – The Millennium Summit was held between 6-8 September 2000. At the meeting, UN Member States reaffirmed their faith in the organisation and adopted the Millennium Declaration.

Planetary Boundaries – The term Planetary Boundaries refers to nine planetary boundaries identified by a team of 28 scientists in 2009, within which humans can continue to exist. They include climate change, land systems and ocean acidification. The scientists evaluated the extent to which these boundaries have been breached and how this impacts human survival.

1992 Rio Summit – The 1992 Rio Summit refers to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to discuss issues such as poverty, inequality and environment.

Rights-based approach to development – A rights-based approach to development views respect for human rights as essential for development and addressing discrimination. This approach is premised on empowering the people whose rights have been violated and making the governments accountable to them.

Rio+20 – Rio+20 (also referred to as Rio 2012 or the Earth Summit 2012) is the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. It was held 20 years after the first Rio Summit.

SIDS – The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were identified at the 1992 Rio Summit. They usually have small markets and battle with high transportation and infrastructure costs. Examples of SIDS include Fiji, Jamaica and Seychelles.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an outcome of the Rio+20 Summit, at which UN Member States agreed to work towards an international framework to help countries better target and monitor progress on social, environmental and economic development. A UN working group on the SDGs is due to report in September 2014.

Sustainable Development Goals Working Group – The Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (also referred to as the SDG Working Group or the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals) was an outcome of the Rio+20 process. It refers to a 30-member group set up in 2013 to formulate sustainable development goals.

Triangular cooperation – Triangular cooperation is a model for providing international development assistance involving two donors and one beneficiary. The donors usually are a traditional donor country from the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and an emerging country. The beneficiary is a developing country.

UNFCCC – The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a treaty that arose from the 1992 Rio Summit. It serves as a mechanism for states to consider action on limiting global temperature increases and addressing the impacts of climate change. It produced the Kyoto Protocol, which legally binds developed countries to emission reduction targets.

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network – The Sustainable Development Solutions Network was launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2012. 12 thematic groups are a part of this network, which includes academics, practitioners and experts.

Washington Consensus – The term 'Washington Consensus' was formulated in 1989 by economist John Williamson. It refers to 10 policy outcomes, such as tax reform and trade liberalisation, which were promoted at the time by Washington-based financial institutions (such as the International Monetary Fund) and the US government.

Editor
Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK

Assistant editors
Hayley Richardson, UNA-UK
Mrinalini Singh, UNA-UK

Sub-editors
Suzy Chisholm
Samantha Guerrini

Designers
David Cooper
Nicola Macro

Sales director
Mo Rami

Sales
Alex Ford
Edmund Robinson
Cristina Peñalba Vilches
Isa Wurie

Operations manager
Geraldine Brennan

Publishing director
Claire Manuel

Publisher
Hugh Robinson

Chairman
Anthony Hilton

Published by Witan Media Ltd
The Leathermarket, 11-13 Weston St,
London SE1 3ER
Tel: +44 (0)20 3327 3730
www.witanmedia.com

On behalf of United Nations Association – UK
3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL
Tel: +44 (0)20 7766 3454
www.una.org.uk

Images: Getty, Reuters, UNICEF, DfID, Global Partnership for Education
Cover: children playing in the favela, Espírito Santo, Brazil (Getty)
Printed by Wyndeham Grange
ISBN: 978-0-9571871-7-7

© 2013. The entire contents of this publication are protected by copyright. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means: electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher. The views and opinions expressed by independent authors and contributors in this publication are provided in the writers' personal capacities and are their sole responsibility. Their publication does not imply that they represent the views or opinions of United Nations Association – UK or Witan Media Ltd and must neither be regarded as constituting advice on any matter whatsoever, nor be interpreted as such. The reproduction of advertisements in this publication does not in any way imply endorsement by United Nations Association – UK or Witan Media Ltd of products or services referred to therein.

About us

The United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) is the UK's leading source of independent analysis on the UN and a vibrant grassroots movement campaigning for a safer, fairer and more sustainable world

In 1945, the creation of the UN offered war-weary publics hope for a better future. Since then, UNA-UK has enabled ordinary people to engage with that promise, by connecting people from all walks of life to the UN and influencing decision-makers to support its goals.

Today, the need for the UN has never been greater. Thanks to initiatives like the Millennium Development Goals, millions of people now live longer, healthier lives. But many have been left behind. Far too many people still die each year from violence, disasters and deprivation. In some countries, low birth rates and ageing populations have governments worried about pensions and elder care. In others, children are being born into terrible conditions.

Human rights violations persist in all corners of the globe. Humanitarian emergencies are set to increase while a robust response to climate change continues to elude us. And despite the tragic lessons of the past, the ongoing crisis in Syria is a grim reminder that we have still not managed to make a reality of the words "never again".

These problems are not confined to one country. Nor can they be tackled in isolation. As governments shy away from acting in the global interest, the UN is the only organisation with the reach, remit and legitimacy to forge solutions.

UNA-UK serves as a bridge between governments, the UN and the public. We lobby for joined-up thinking and action on peace, development and human rights. We work with experts and practitioners to find new ways to tackle the challenges we face. Through education, training and volunteering, we equip young people to play a role in international affairs. And by demonstrating why the UN matters, we encourage people to act on their responsibilities as global citizens.

Our members and supporters multiply these efforts at the local level, and our sister UNAs around the world do so internationally. Together, we form a critical mass of support for a strong, credible and effective United Nations. ■

To find out more and to join our growing movement, visit www.una.org.uk

If you are interested in working with us, please contact us on: +44 20 7766 3454 or info@una.org.uk



Since 1961 Kuwait Fund has supported development projects in more than 100 countries

KUWAIT FUND *helping people help themselves*

www.kuwait-fund.org

الصندوق الكويتي للتنمية
Kuwait Fund For Development
يساعد الناس على مساعدة انفسهم
helping people help themselves