

*From politics to security to public health, from crime to the environment, a growing agenda of development issues can no longer be managed within the boundaries of any single nation. Global, regional and national coalitions for action are emerging centred around the United Nations' indispensable role. The UN can bring together governments, civil society, multinational corporations and multilateral organizations—coming together around particular issues of concern and looking for innovative ways to address them.*

— Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of UNDP  
and Chair of the UN Development Group

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE UNDP ROLE

In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. Placed at the heart of the global agenda, they are now called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Summit's Millennium Declaration also outlined a consensus "road map" for how to proceed, with a stronger focus on human rights, good governance and democracy.

At the International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey, Mexico earlier this year, leaders from both developed and developing countries started to match these commitments with resources and action, signalling a global deal in which sustained political and economic reform by developing countries will be matched by direct support from the developed world in the form of aid, trade, debt relief and investment.

The MDGs provide a framework for the entire UN system to work coherently together toward a common end. Partnered with the rest of the UN Development Group (UNDG), UNDP's global development network is at the centre of those efforts. On the ground in virtually every developing country, UNDP is uniquely positioned to advocate for change, connect countries to knowledge and resources, and help coordinate broader UN efforts at the country level.

The world is making progress toward the MDGs—but it is uneven and too slow. A large majority of nations will reach the MDGs only if they get substantial support—advocacy, expertise and resources—from outside. The challenges for the global community, in both the developed and developing world, are to mobilize financial support and political will, re-engage governments, re-orient development priorities and policies, build capacity and reach out to partners in civil society and the private sector.

### **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2015**

- ◆ **Halve extreme poverty and hunger**  
*1.2 billion people still live on less than US\$1 a day. But 43 countries, with more than 60 percent of the world's people, have already met or are on track to meet the goal of cutting hunger in half by 2015.*
- ◆ **Achieve universal primary education**  
*113 million children do not attend school, but this goal is within reach; India, for example, should have 95 percent of its children in school by 2005.*
- ◆ **Empower women and promote equality between women and men**  
*Two-thirds of the world's illiterates are women, and 80 percent of its refugees are women and children. Since the 1997 Microcredit Summit, progress has been made reaching and empowering nearly 19 million poor women in 2000 alone.*
- ◆ **Reduce under-five mortality by two-thirds**  
*11 million young children die every year; but that number is down from 15 million in 1980.*
- ◆ **Reduce maternal mortality by three-quarters**  
*In the developing world, the risk of dying in childbirth is one in 48. But virtually all countries now have safe motherhood programmes and are poised for progress.*
- ◆ **Reverse the spread of killer diseases, especially HIV/AIDS and malaria**  
*Diseases that have erased a generation of development gains. Countries like Brazil, Senegal, Thailand and Uganda have shown that we can stop HIV in its tracks.*
- ◆ **Ensure environmental sustainability**  
*More than one billion people still lack access to safe drinking water; however, during the 1990s, nearly one billion people gained access to safe water and as many to sanitation.*
- ◆ **Create a global partnership for development, with targets for aid, trade and debt relief**  
*Too many developing countries are spending more on debt service than on social services. New aid commitments made in the first half of 2002 alone, though, will reach an additional \$12 billion per year by 2006.*



FAST FACTS

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown, as Chair of the undg, to coordinate the MDG campaign and country-level monitoring activities. For UNDP, this means working on four key dimensions:

**Practical assistance in support of country priorities:**

Working through the undg, UNDP is helping to integrate the MDGs into all aspects of the UN system's work at the country level, in response to the priorities identified by each country. UNDP's own staff, working closely with those of other UN agencies, and a steadily expanding circle of partners are supporting developing nations with practical advice and assistance to design policies and programmes, build capacity and test innovations, as these countries map out their own paths to reach the goals.

Our own focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of Poverty Reduction; Democratic Governance; Crisis Prevention and Recovery; Energy and Environment; Information and Communications Technology and HIV/AIDS.

**Monitoring:**

UNDP is working with the rest of the UN system, the OECD/DAC and in many cases the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to support MDG Reports for every developing country. These Reports, which are in a growing number of cases the product of collaboration between a country's government, the private sector and civil society, highlight where countries are on track to meet the Goals, where urgent efforts are needed, and how money is being spent. Nine MDG Reports have been completed, about 40 should be ready by the end of 2002 and nearly every developing country should produce its first by the end of 2004. These country-level Reports will complement and provide inputs for the UN Secretary-General's global Millennium Declaration reports, the first of which will be released in September 2002.

**Research leader:**

UNDP is setting-up the United Nations' Millennium Project, which will generate new research and ideas by mobilizing networks of scholars from developing and developed countries working with experts from within the UN system. Headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the MDGs, this global effort will help identify what is needed—in terms of policy, expanded capacity, required investments and their financing for countries to meet all the goals.

**Advocate:**

UNDP is working with the UN system and with international and civil society partners to drive a series of advocacy and awareness-raising Millennium Campaigns within countries, based on national strategies and national needs. In the developed countries, the campaign's primary focus will be on raising awareness and galvanizing public opinion as a means to boost development assistance, trade, debt relief, technology and other support needed to reach the MDGs. In the developing world, the aim is to build coalitions for action and help governments set priorities (including budget priorities) and use resources more effectively.

In October 2002, Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Eveline Herfkens, former Development Minister from the Netherlands, as his Executive Coordinator for the MDG Campaign. Ms. Herfkens will be working closely with Mark Malloch Brown to lead country-level monitoring activities and UN efforts around the Campaign. She will help spread awareness of the MDGs and build new coalitions for action to achieve them in both developing and developed countries. ■

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