

## ***What are the Millennium Development Goals?***

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, the United States joined 189 world governments in the commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight goals aimed at halving global poverty and hunger, ensuring universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, vastly reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and creating a global partnership for development, by 2015.

In 2009, the US government reaffirmed that the MDGs are “America’s goals.” In the Fiscal Year 2011 budget request, released in February 2010, President Obama requested \$58.5 billion for the international affairs budget — an increase of \$6.1 billion over FY2010 levels – including key investments in global agriculture and a more comprehensive approach to improving global health, including efforts to fight neglected tropical diseases and improvements to maternal and child health.

## ***How much progress has been made on the MDGS? How has Obama fulfilled his own commitment to making the MDGS “America’s Goals”? What can YOU do to help put the MDGS on the global agenda?***



### **MDG 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER**

“And so America will continue our historic effort to help people feed themselves...We will support the Millennium Development Goals, and approach next year's summit with a global plan to make them a reality. And we will set our sights on the eradication of extreme poverty in our time.”

– President Barack Obama, September 23, 2009

“With the combined investments proposed in global health, food security, climate change and humanitarian assistance, we will save lives and help make people less vulnerable to poverty and the threat of instability that extreme poverty breeds.”

– USAID Director Dr. Rajiv Shah, March 3, 2010

Between 1990 and 2005, significant progress was made, reducing the world’s population living in extreme poverty (less than \$1/day) from 50 to 25 percent. The global economic crisis in 2009 has severely altered the economic landscape, causing stagnation and even regression. An additional 35 million people recently reaching extreme levels of poverty, and for the first time in world history, the number of chronically malnourished has reached 1 billion.<sup>1</sup>

### **Spotlight on the Obama Administration:**

Agriculture is one of the strongest drivers of economic growth in developing countries – the primary tool for generating income, growth and meeting food security needs. Assistance to agricultural development, however, has been grossly underfunded for decades making new and better investments critical to ending the food crisis. President Obama is spearheading an effort to boost and improve investments in agriculture through the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. At the 2009 G8 summit, the U.S. committed to scaling up resources in 21 focus countries, spending at least \$3.5 billion over three years. In the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget proposal, President Obama requests include a total of \$1.762 billion for the "Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, (New York: United Nations, 2009).

<sup>2</sup> ONE, *ONE'S Analysis of the President's FY2011 Budget Request*, [www.one.org](http://www.one.org)

A tug of war between Congress and the Administration regarding the regulation of food aid reveals that fulfilling commitments may not be as easy as Obama hoped. While the Administration proposed to allow for 25 percent of Food for Peace: Title II, the USAID program that sends US food overseas for emergency and development assistance, to be locally procured within developing countries, the 2008 Farm Bill only allows for local and regional purchases of food of only \$60 million over four years. While sustained agricultural development is necessary, political roadblocks will impede progress on food security.



## **MDG 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION**

“We will open the doors of education to all citizens, but especially to girls and women.”

– Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, January 10, 2010

Today, over 100 million children in the world are not enrolled in primary school – 58 million of them are girls.<sup>3</sup> In order to implement universal primary education, it would cost an estimated \$10 billion a year – half of what Americans spend annually on ice cream.<sup>4</sup> Major accomplishments have been achieved for ensuring primary education on aggregate. Between 2000 and 2007, enrollment in primary education reached 88 percent, a 5 percent increase from 2000. Regions that have traditionally trailed behind the rest of the low-income countries, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, led these increases.

### **Spotlight on the Obama Administration:**

As part of his election campaign, President Obama pledged to capitalize a \$2 billion Global Fund for Education as a fast track initiative, demonstrating at least a rhetorical commitment to securing further progress toward achieving MDG 2. However, Congress only increased funding for basic education from \$103 million in 2001 to \$694 million in 2008. Lack of clarity regarding when and from where funding will be pulled for the Global Fund as well as lack of political capital for increased foreign assistance toward global education are significant hurdles to the initiative.

Regional distribution of foreign assistance for global education reveals significant irregularities that need to be addressed to evenly raise levels of education globally. More than 50 percent of US basic education resources are allocated to four countries in the Middle East and South Asia while 25 percent is given to Sub-Saharan Africa, home to approximately half of all children who lack access to universal primary education. Of that 25 percent, only 4 percent is directed toward basic education.<sup>5</sup>



## **MDG 3: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY**

“Millennium Development Goal 3, on gender equality, is the linchpin – the means to the achievement of all the other MDGs.”

– Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues Melanne Vermeer, March 3, 2010

Poverty disproportionately affects women – 70 percent of the world’s poor are women and children. According to UNICEF, women perform 66 percent of the world’s work (both paid and unpaid) but earn 10 percent of the world’s income and access 1 percent of the world’s resources, including land and credit. The global economic crisis is expected to plunge a further 22 million women into unemployment, which would lead to a female unemployment rate of 7.4 percent (versus 7 percent of male unemployment).<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup>State of the World’s Mothers 2005: The Power and Promise of Girls’ Education, Save the Children

<sup>4</sup>ActionAid, [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

<sup>5</sup>The Brookings Institution, *Making Africa a Priority in U.S. Foreign Assistance*, [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu)

<sup>6</sup>International Labor Organization (ILO), “Global Employment Trends for Women”, 2009.

### Spotlight on the Obama Administration:

Under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, gender equality and women's empowerment is at the core of US foreign policy and diplomatic engagement – establishing the first ever Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues within the State Department. In the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, the Senate appropriated \$2 million toward the Office of Global Women's Issues to integrate gender across all sectors that receive US foreign assistance with a specific mandate to consult with USAID, the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Health and Human Services, Justice, and other relevant federal agencies. International Organizations such as UNIFEM and the UNIFEM trust fund received 8.8 million, and UNFPA received an additional \$50 million. The Fiscal Year 2011 request includes \$2.146 million for the Office for Global Women's Issues, signifying an increase over FY10 levels.



#### **MDG 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY**

“What is it we will do between now and 2015? Remember what was expected of us. All governments will make access to reproductive healthcare and family planning services a basic right. We will dramatically reduce infant, child, and maternal mortality.”

– Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, January 10, 2010

About 29,000 children under the age of five – 21 each minute – die every day, mainly from preventable causes. More than 70 percent of almost 11 million child deaths every year are attributable to six causes: diarrhea, malaria, neonatal infection, pneumonia, preterm delivery, or lack of oxygen at birth. Research and experience show that 6 million of these children could be saved by low-tech, evidence-based, cost-effective measures such as vaccines, antibiotics, micronutrient supplementation, insecticide-treated bed nets and improved family care and breastfeeding practices.<sup>7</sup>

### Spotlight on the Obama Administration:

Promising that the United States “will not confront diseases in isolation”, President Obama has committed to invest in health systems to provide better care to women and children as part of his Global Health Initiative. Funding for family planning and maternal and child health are now being raised to approximately a half a billion dollars in 2010. Renewed emphasis on child and maternal health is reflected in the FY2011 budget request with a total increase of \$351 million. Though the request for maternal and child health is very welcome, the \$90 million allocated for The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) is far below what is necessary to fund the demand for vaccines for rotavirus and pneumococcal disease.



#### **MDG 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**

“In the Obama administration, we are convinced of the value of investing in women and girls, and we understand there is a direct line between a woman's reproductive health and her ability to lead a productive, fulfilling life.”

– Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, January 8, 2010

Every year, 536,000 women and girls die as a result of complications during pregnancy, childbirth or the six weeks following delivery – 99 percent of these deaths occur in developing countries.<sup>8</sup> Maternal mortality is among the health indicators that show the greatest gap between the rich and the poor – both between countries and within them.

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF, [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, (New York: United Nations, 2009).

Estimates show that fewer than half of pregnant women in developing countries receive adequate prenatal care<sup>9</sup> and only 28 in 100 women are attended by trained health personnel during childbirth.<sup>10</sup>

### **Spotlight on the Administration:**

President Obama took strides early in his Administration to make maternal health a signature issue, establishing the Office of Women and Girls at the White House and rescinding the “global gag rule” – otherwise known as the Mexico City Policy. The “global gag rule” prevented US foreign assistance from being deployed to organizations overseas if they used their non-US funds to provide abortion information, services, counseling or participated in abortion rights advocacy.

Appropriations for maternal and reproductive health increased in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget; child survival and maternal health received \$549 million, approximately \$32.5 million more than the President Obama’s Budget request. In the Fiscal Year 2011 budget request, President Obama requested \$700 for maternal health, representing a staggering \$151 million dollar increase.



### **MDG 6: HALT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DEADLY DISEASES**

“We’re pursuing a comprehensive global health strategy – building on successes in the fight against HIV/AIDS and working to end deaths from malaria and TB and to end polio. But these efforts will only be sustained if we improve the capacity of public health systems to deliver care, especially for mothers and children.”

– *President Barack Obama, September 22, 2009*

While new HIV/AIDS cases have peaked, approximately 33 million people live with AIDS today with a high infection rate among children. Accurate knowledge of HIV/AIDS remains dismally low. Other global diseases – tuberculosis and malaria – kill more people than HIV/AIDS. Malaria kills an African child every 30 seconds.<sup>11</sup> Tuberculosis prevalence and mortality rates are falling, but not fast enough to meet global targets.

### **Spotlight on the Obama Administration:**

Fighting HIV/AIDS globally is a central aspect of the US Global Health Initiative; President Obama has made it clear that he will move beyond HIV/AIDS to focus on child and maternal health and tropical diseases. According to the Fiscal Year 2011 budget request, the total investment in HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria remains the majority of the United States’ global health portfolio; however, this budget maintains a slowing of increases to HIV/AIDS funding, particularly as investments in other areas of health have increased. In 2009, the percentage of total global health spending (in foreign operations) on AIDS was 77 percent; the request for FY2011 brings that figure to 69 percent. Although investments in other areas of global health are long overdue, the Obama Administration increased the treatment target for AIDS to at least 4 million people with the release of the Global Health Initiative details today, which will take much more significant increases in AIDS spending to accomplish and maintain this goal.<sup>12</sup>



### **MDG 7: ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

“No nation, however large or small, wealthy or poor, can escape the impact of climate change...The security and stability of each nation and all peoples -- our prosperity, our health, our safety -- are in jeopardy. And the time we have to reverse this tide is running out.”

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, (New York: United Nations, 2009).

<sup>10</sup> ActionAid, [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

<sup>11</sup> World Health Organization, [www.who.org](http://www.who.org)

<sup>12</sup> ONE, [www.one.org](http://www.one.org)

Climate Change has a disproportionate impact on the world’s poorest countries, which have contributed the least to the problem. Africa accounts for less than 3 percent of global emissions, yet its 850 million inhabitants face some of the greatest challenges from drought to disrupted water supplies. Furthermore, poor countries lack the basic infrastructure and financial means to respond adequately to these challenges.<sup>13</sup>

Dirty water and a lack of basic sanitation undermine efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and eliminate diseases in the world's poorest countries. Every day, 4,100 children die from severe diarrhea caused by poor sanitation and hygiene.<sup>14</sup> Fortunately, the world is ahead of schedule in meeting the 2015 drinking water target; yet, a number of countries face an uphill battle. Worldwide, 884 million people still rely on unimproved water sources for their drinking, cooking, bathing and other domestic activities. Of these, 84 percent (746 million people) live in rural areas.<sup>15</sup>

### **Spotlight on the Obama Administration:**

In May 2009, the Congressional Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairmen Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Edward J. Markey (D-CA) introduced the “American Clean Energy and Security Act”, a flagship bill that sets targets over the next 40 years to increase America’s energy efficiency, increase the country’s use of renewable energy resources and cut down on green house gas emissions; it is still not sufficient. The cuts in green house gas emissions focus on the long term (i.e. 2050) at a time when the world is looking to the United States to taking responsibility for its share of green house gas emissions, putting the country at a disadvantage. Additionally the Act allows for “green tariffs” on imported goods whose production methods do not meet the United States’ criteria for carbon emission standards, eliciting ill will from developing countries such as India and China that claim carbon tariffs are masks for US protectionism.

During the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, the United States, along with China and dozens of other countries accounting for nearly 80 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, signed a voluntary accord to curb climate change. In his address, President Obama committed to: (a) cutting emissions in the range of 17 percent by 2020, and by more than 80 percent by 2050; (b) developing a mechanism to review whether countries are maintaining commitments and to exchange this information in a transparent manner; and, (c) financing for developing countries to adapt to climate change, particularly for the least-developed and the most vulnerable.

The United States refuses to set a concrete target, with many of the pledges made by the US contingent on Congress passing a climate bill. In February 2010, the Obama administration asked Congress to allocate \$1.4 billion in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget for international climate efforts, and the Administration pledged to mobilize \$100 billion in financing by 2020, if it is part of the broader accord. Demonstrating results in the immediate future is necessary if the Obama Administration is to show that the US is willing to work collectively to ensure environmental sustainability.



### **MDG 8: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT**

“Whether it is promoting gender equality and empowering women, combating human trafficking, feeding the hungry, improving maternal health, eradicating extreme poverty, or reaching out in a time of need to those affected by terrible natural disasters...we stand together united in addressing some of the world's most pressing needs.”

– Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, March 8, 2010

Disbursements of Official Development Assistance in 2008 increased to the highest dollar figure ever recorded, \$119.8 billion. Developed countries still have a long way to go in terms of providing foreign aid. Total aid amounts remain well below the UN’s target of 0.7 percent of gross national income by 2010. In fact, the only countries to reach or exceed the

<sup>13</sup> The United Nations Millennium Campaign, [www.endpoverty2015.org](http://www.endpoverty2015.org)

<sup>14</sup> ONE, [www.one.org](http://www.one.org)

<sup>15</sup> United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, (New York: United Nations, 2009).

target thus far are Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Prior to the financial crisis, global trade that benefited developing countries was on an increase. In 2007, significant improvements in the proportion of total developed country imports from developing countries admitted duty free by the developed countries. Most of this improvement was due to the elimination of tariffs under most-favored-nation (MFN) treatment, rather than an extension of true preferential treatment (importing free of duty while competitors products are subject to a tariff under MFN). Collectively, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) benefit from preferential trade access for most of their key labor-intensive exports (agricultural goods, clothing and textiles).

Additionally, for the average developing country, the burden of servicing external debt fell. In the latter part of 2008 export revenues of developing countries declined because of the financial crisis, making it increasingly difficult to service their debt.

### **Spotlight on the Obama Administration:**

#### ***Foreign aid***

In terms of volume, the United States is the leading donor of official development aid (ODA). The global community, however, regards ODA as a percentage of gross national income, not volume, as the best indicator of a donor country's relative contribution. With only a 0.19 percent ODA to gross national income (GNI) ratio, the contribution of the United States pales in comparison to many European countries and is far from reaching the goal of a 0.7 percent contribution.<sup>16</sup> According to the Administration, the FY2010 budget request "puts the United States on a path to double U.S. foreign assistance. This funding will help the world's weakest states reduce poverty, combat global health threats, develop markets, govern peacefully, and expand democracy worldwide."<sup>17</sup> While the amount allocated for foreign assistance in Fiscal Year 2010 is 33 percent higher than 2009, the amount is nonetheless \$3 billion less than the Administration's budget request. The consistent ambiguity and disorganization of foreign assistance in Washington prevents steady action on the MDGs as a policy priority.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton launched the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) in July to comprehensively assess the US approach to foreign assistance; however, the review will focus on USAID and Millennium Challenge Corporation not the complete range of 22 agencies that currently administer US foreign assistance without reporting to a central authority.

The geographic distribution of aid is expanding though not broadly enough. In 2008, the United States provided 75 percent of its resources to countries that are not among the poorest in the world. Funding for LDCs represents barely more than 25 percent of overall development assistance. The Brookings Institution recently highlighted that the United States currently gives a smaller percentage of its development assistance to Africa than to any of the world's wealthiest nations.

#### ***Debt Sustainability***

The U.S. supports the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative (HIPC), and has contributed to the HIPC trust fund which finances multilateral debt relief under the initiative. In 2005, the United States supported the creation of the Multilateral Debt Initiative (MDRI) that built on the HIPC initiative by canceling debt to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), African Development Fund (ADF), and the Inter-American Development Bank that are projected to collectively provide approximately \$58 billion in debt relief to 41 countries. Under the MDRI, the United States agreed to "early encashment", a process through which the US provides early payment of its dues to the World Bank to generate credits used to pay back debt accrued by HIPC countries.

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<sup>16</sup> InterAction, *The United States and the MDGs*, (Washington, DC: InterAction, 2007).

<sup>17</sup> ONE, *The Data Report 2009*, (Washington, DC: ONE, 2009)

The United States is currently in arrears of \$149 million to the World Bank due to Congressional demands that the World Bank engage in transparency reforms before it authorizes payments, means that the US is not able to fund debt relief commitments under the MDRI. Rather its early payments are being held by the World Bank to pay missing IDA replenishment funds. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates that Congressional appropriations will need to total \$49 million to compensate for the rescissions.

In the Fiscal Year 2011 request, a full share of the negotiated annual US contribution to the IDA would total \$1.235 billion. The President includes \$1.285 billion which would fully cover the negotiated share and allocated \$50 million towards arrears.

### **Market Access**

Free trade remains a linchpin of the US economic policy though the global economic crisis has brought out US protectionist sentiment in Congress, suggesting the beginning of worrisome trends. The “Buy America Provision” included as part of stimulus legislation and “border tariff adjustments” to be imposed in 2020 threaten to undermine the global trade regime. “Buy America”, reminiscent of Great Depression legislation of the 1920s, provides a stipulation for receiving federal stimulus funding: government contractors must procure US goods and services.

The World Bank’s trade monitoring initiative reports that in the US, in spite of a low number of anti-dumping investigations launched since 2008, the number of new anti-dumping measures imposed jumped from just two in the first half of last year to twenty-one in the second half, which barring India, represents largest global increase.

The United States continues to fail in providing “duty-free, quota-free” access to the Least Developed Countries, a condition of the Millennium Summit. Unlike the European Union that provides 100 percent access to these countries, the United States upholds a 97 percent benchmark established at the World Trade Organization’s 2005 Hong Kong ministerial meeting. Ironically, duties imposed are for sectors in which LDCs have comparative advantage – agriculture and labor intensive light manufactures. Additionally, preferential access programs designed to assist LDCs to obviate trade restrictions, often do not apply to these sectors that fall outside the Generalized System of Preferences. Surprisingly, LDCs account for a mere 0.5 percent of total non-oil US imports. Even when adding the 24 small and poor category brings this share up to 1 percent, insignificant to American producers.

US Trade based assistance has gradually increased in the last several years. Having provided \$9.7 billion in “aid for trade” since 2000, the US committed \$2.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2008 alone. Additionally the US increased its allocation for capacity building assistance by 59 percent - \$2.24 billion - from 2007 to 2008. A great deal of this money was used to promote US interests in security and political stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan among others, revealing that unilateral trade assistance is not the norm.

### **What can you do?**

### **STAND UP, TAKE ACTION!**

**The Millennium Development Goals are a policy priority for the Administration.** Holding leaders accountable is our job. you can join the global movement of over 173 million people who refuse to stay seated or silent in the face of poverty by participating in [STAND UP, TAKE ACTION](http://www.standupagainstopoverty.org): Make a Noise for Ending Poverty taking place from Friday, September 17 – Sunday, September 19, 2010. Past events include rallies highlighting poverty and social injustices and concert performances. For more information on how you can participate in Stand Up, please visit [www.standupagainstopoverty.org](http://www.standupagainstopoverty.org)



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