



MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

VOICES AGAINST POVERTY



International - United Nations Millennium Campaign

www.millenniumcampaign.org

Canadian – Make Poverty History

www.millenniumpromise.org

Calgary –Children without Poverty

www.makepovertyhistory.ca

childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca

Children without poverty monthly newsletter: August 2007

Please do your part.

The millennium campaign was created in 2000 by the United Nations to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Please help. Please read on to help and wear a white band to show your support. White bands are available for \$1 from www.millenniumcampaign.org.

“Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.” Nelson Mandela

How are we doing in achieving the MDGs? And solving world hunger?

Millennium Development Goals Report 2007

Halfway to a 2015 deadline, there has been clear progress toward implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, their overall success is still far from assured, a progress report by the United Nations has found, and will depend in large part on whether developed countries make good on their aid commitments. Here is the 2007 report from the United Nations website:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/mdg2007.pdf>

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success

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will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

United Nations Secretary-General

Canada's record on aid (May 2006)

- Canadian official development assistance (ODA) represented 0.34% of GNI in 2005. This leaves Canada far behind the average OECD donor country effort in 2005 of 0.47%.
- Through the 2003 budget, Canada pledged to increase international assistance by 8% each year for the foreseeable future. This would lead to a doubling of Canadian international assistance in nominal terms by 2010 over its 2001 level. However, projections suggest that this would still leave Canadian ODA very far short of the **.7% international ODA/GNI target in 2010**.
- Canada is one of the OECD donor countries that committed, 30 years ago, to providing 0.7% of its GNI in ODA. Canada is not only far from this target, but it has not set a schedule for its achievement. Canada was among a small group of countries once again called to meet this international obligation, at the 2005 UN World Summit.
- Canada belongs to the group of OECD donor countries that would like to see a watering down of the official definition of ODA. These countries would like to include anti-terrorism and other security expenditures included in ODA. While such expenditures are important and justified, they should not be made by diverting resources from poverty-focussed programs.
- Overall Canada's trade policies are more development-friendly than those of some other rich countries such as those in the European Union. A few years back, Canada put in place procedures to ensure the coherence of development and non-development policies, and this remains a priority under the new 2005 international policy statement. Nevertheless, the OECD has suggested that Canada could be even more proactive in analyzing the impact of non-aid policies, like trade, on development.
- Compared with other donors, Canada has a very high share of 'tied' aid, including food aid, although efforts are being made to untie aid particularly for less developed countries. In 2003, 19% of Canadian aid to the least-developed countries was tied. Untying aid is key to improving value-for-money for recipients. This is particularly important for food aid. The OECD estimates that untied food aid reaches up to 50% more beneficiaries than tied food aid.

