

Canadian Millennium Development Goal Report 2010

Executive Summary

Make Poverty History has prepared this report as a Canadian contribution to the global effort to develop a MDG Breakthrough Plan in advance of the United Nations MDG Summit in September 2010.

The Report concludes that Canada has made a positive contribution towards the global effort to achieve several of the Millennium Development Goals since they were adopted by world leaders at the United Nations in 2000. Canada has contributed to the eradication of hunger by increasing its food aid and directing more aid towards agricultural development and food production in poor countries (Goal 1). It has played a leadership role in promoting gender equality (Goal 3). Canada also helped to establish the Catalytic Initiative to save children's lives (Goal 4). And Canada has been giving its fair share of funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (Goal 6).

But Canada's contribution falls short of what is needed on achieving universal primary education (Goal 2), improving maternal health (Goal 5), and ensuring environmental sustainability (Goal 7). On its contribution to global partnership for development (Goal 8), Canada also compares very poorly with other developed countries on its foreign aid spending as a percentage of its national income. It currently ranks 14th out of 23 donor countries and is stuck at less than half way to the UN 0.7% aid target. The Report warns that the announced freezing of aid at the 2010 level will worsen this situation.

A majority of low income countries in Africa and Asia are making serious efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and have made poverty reduction a top priority. Although uneven, modest progress was underway until 2008 when the global food price crisis, the impacts of climate change and the global financial and economic crisis undermined their efforts. Rich countries, including Canada, have not kept their part of the bargain to increase aid and reform trade rules. G8 countries are now \$18 billion behind in aid commitments.

The current financial and economic crisis threatens to not only limit future progress on achieving the MDGs, but is already reversing some of the progress that has been made. Even though developing countries did not cause the current economic crisis, they are being severely impacted as markets for their exports have weakened, remittances from citizens living abroad have decreased and investment has slowed. It is more important than ever for donor countries to keep their promises to increase aid.

The Report urges Canada to assume a leadership role in 2010 to help get the MDGs back on track to achieve the targets by 2015.

First, Canada can lead by example through delivering on its own promises to increase and deliver ODA effectively. It must not freeze aid spending at 2010 levels, but adopt a 10 year plan to achieve the 0.7% aid target that it has promised.

Second, Canada needs to fully implement the Official Development Assistance Accountability Act passed unanimously by Parliament in May 2008. Canadian aid would then be driven by poverty reduction rather than trade, investment and security concerns.

Third, Canada has an opportunity to play a key leadership role by working in partnership with other countries to ensure effective aid delivery through the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

Fourth, Canada should lead a breakthrough initiative at the G8 on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health that would help mobilize the \$30 billion needed over 5 years to get back on track to achieving MDGs 4 and 5, which are the furthest behind.

Fifth, Canada should advocate for and ensure that the G20 Summit seriously considers proposals for a Financial Transaction Tax (or Robin Hood Tax) and insist that at least 50% of revenues generated from this or other similar taxes go to MDG related development and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Sixth, Canada should do its part to stop climate change from undermining poverty reduction efforts by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions in line with the ranges identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): 25-40% below 1990 levels in 2020 and 80-95% below 1990 levels in 2050.

Finally, Canada should go to the UN High Level MDG Summit in September of 2010 with the determination to do whatever is necessary to get the MDGs back on track.

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To read the entire report, please visit: <http://makepovertyhistory.ca/learn/issues/mdgs>