



The Millennium Development Goals

- MDG 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- MDG 2 Achieve universal primary education
- MDG 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- MDG 4 Reduce child mortality
- MDG 5 Improve maternal health
- MDG 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- MDG 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- MDG 8 Develop a global partnership for development



Never before has the challenge of addressing uneven development between nations and eliminating poverty been so high on the international agenda.

Approximately one billion people, or one fifth of the developing world's population, live in extreme poverty. Some 800 million are under-nourished. Over 100 million primary school-aged children, 60 percent of them girls, do not attend school. 11 million children under the age of five die each year from preventable causes. The life expectancy of those living in extreme poverty is as little as 40 years, or just over half that of those living in rich countries.

An unprecedented international consensus occurred at the United Nations Millennium Summit, in September 2000, when 189 countries agreed to work together to reduce extreme poverty. They identified eight goals around which to rally their efforts, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These include such aims as reducing hunger, improving basic education and health and ensuring that women and girls do not get left behind in the process. One of the MDGs, MDG 8, calls on developed and developing countries to establish a "global partnership for development" based on more and better aid, trade and subsidy reform and debt relief, among other things.

Building on the Millennium Summit, the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development (held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002) adopted the Monterrey Consensus that set out the inter-connected factors that need to be brought to bear if a significant

change in development is to be achieved. The factors agreed upon were: good policies; improved governance and domestic resource mobilisation in developing countries themselves; private capital flows; Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Official Development Assistance (ODA); trade liberalisation; debt relief; and strengthening the international system's capabilities to underpin development.

Five years on from the Millennium Summit, the United Nations (UN) will consider progress towards meeting the MDGs at a high-level meeting in September this year. The development challenge will be considered in the light of Secretary General Kofi Annan's report *In Larger Freedom*, which sets development in relation to security and human rights, in the following terms:

"We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights."

The existence of so much poverty, in a world capable of reducing and substantially eliminating it, is regarded by many people as a moral affront and in violation of human rights. While governments may have led the way in bringing the poverty gap to the top of the international agenda, public opinion in many developed countries has been galvanised through the 'Make Poverty History' campaign and the Live 8 concerts, promoted by Bob Geldof, which drew attention to the need to double aid to Africa. G8 leaders subsequently announced at their July 2005 Summit plans to double aid spending by 2010 (an increase of US\$50 billion), with half going to Africa. This, coupled with the G8 debt cancellation plan, represents significant new resources for development. While the G8 also announced support for trade reform and ending export subsidies, their commitments were vague and need to be reflected in the positions of their trade negotiators to have any effect.

The Millennium Development Goals provide time-bound targets and indicators that will, if met, lead to a substantial reduction in poverty and poverty-related conditions for hundreds of millions of people. They are focused on eight key areas, or clusters of action, rather than representing a complete development agenda. For example, sexual and reproductive health and rights are critical for the achievement of some of the MDGs, but are not explicitly covered in the targets and indicators. The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) addressed the need for greater priority to be placed on

water and sanitation than is accorded by the MDGs if development is to be achieved.

New Zealand's MDG contributions should be seen in the context of a wider range of efforts to address the development challenges of our region and the wider world. These include Official Development Assistance (ODA), trade, debt relief, migration policy, peace operations, and the ways in which we operate through equitable and accountable partnerships, on a whole-of-government basis where appropriate. All these factors are pivotal pieces in New Zealand's overall development contribution.

New Zealand is part of the Asia-Pacific region and so it is influenced by the economic, social and security situation of the region. The flows of goods, people, funds (including ODA), and the quality of economic growth and social development in the region are of common interest. New Zealand sees its relationships in the Pacific and near Asia not through a donor/recipient lens, but as part of the society it lives in. The extent and quality of regional cooperation is also an important factor in contributing to building educated, healthy, well-governed, economically prosperous and safe societies.

New Zealand has been a long-standing supporter of regional cooperation in the Pacific, and is a founding member of all the major regional institutions. As Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum during 2003/04 the New Zealand Government promoted the drawing up of the Pacific Plan, to inject new life into regional collaboration and pursue greater efficiencies through enhanced cooperation. This plan will be finalised at the Forum meeting in Papua New Guinea in October 2005. New Zealand has also been a supporter of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) which provides a framework for the gradual integration of Pacific Forum Island Countries (FICs) into the international economy. Through PACER New Zealand has committed to provide technical assistance and capacity building to the FICs in trade and economic spheres.

NZAID, the government's international aid and development agency established in 2002, has a core focus on the Pacific, and over half of New Zealand's bilateral ODA is provided to the region through government-to-government, regional and thematic programmes. In addition the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has established a Pacific Security Fund, to assist Pacific Island countries with strengthening their border control and security environments, among other things.

New Zealand's key development goals in the Pacific are:

- Ensuring every child has access to a good education
- Helping reverse the growing incidence of lifestyle diseases and HIV/AIDS
- Meeting the basic needs of communities through the provision of access to clean water, good sanitation and adequate healthcare
- Improving the skills and knowledge of leaders and their officials
- Fostering sustainable economic growth and improved livelihoods, including through trade and development and fisheries
- Contributing to regional and multilateral approaches to the management of common challenges such as the pursuit of security and prosperity and preparation and protection against natural disasters.

Near Asia is also an area of development cooperation for New Zealand. While New Zealand is a relatively small contributor, it provides relevant expertise and ODA funding support in selected sectors in the poorer parts of South East Asia. Effective development contributions help underpin the security, investment and trading environment of the region. For example, New Zealand has been supporting the strengthening of governance by support for the Mekong Institute and by the provision of English language training for officials throughout the region, both of which have greatly enhanced the ability of governments to operate in today's world.

This report, New Zealand's first on the MDGs, is timely. In September 2005 the UN will meet to review global progress towards the MDGs over the last five years and discuss what needs to be done over the remaining ten if they are to be achieved. New Zealand has been invited to report on MDG 8 (develop a global partnership for development) but has taken the opportunity to also report on MDG 7 (ensure environmental sustainability) as its domestic environmental policies and issues can have global implications. This report also describes New Zealand's contribution to addressing global poverty through MDGs 1-6. The establishment of NZAID represented a watershed in New Zealand's official development assistance history and spurred closer alignment between its development policies and programmes and the MDGs.

As development is necessarily long-term, and effective development is always collaborative, it is difficult to directly attribute MDG-level outcomes to specific donors, policies or activities. This report does not provide a detailed account of the impacts of programmes and



activities on the MDGs as this information is available from New Zealand's developing country partners who are producing either national or regional reports that give more detail on MDG outcomes. The focus here is on how New Zealand has been incorporating the MDGs into its development and other relevant policies and programmes. Many of New Zealand's developing country partners are producing either national or regional reports that give more detail on MDG outcomes.

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

Section 2: examines New Zealand's policy and the MDGs. It looks at the national context focusing on the three pillars of aid, trade and debt and describes progress on the incorporation of the MDGs into NZAID's development policies and programmes; the strengthening of aid effectiveness; and policy coherence.

Section 3: provides a summary of New Zealand's key development responses to the MDGs with examples.

Section 4: describes how New Zealand is supporting developing countries to achieve MDGs 1 to 7.

Section 5: describes what New Zealand is doing domestically and in its international policy engagements to achieve MDG 7 (ensure environmental sustainability), and MDG 8 (develop a global partnership for development).

Section 6: identifies future challenges and priorities for New Zealand in its support for the achievement of the MDGs.