

BACKGROUND

- Nearly half of the world's population lives on less than US\$2 a day.
- 1.2 billion people live in abject poverty.
- 50,000 people die from poverty-related causes every day.
- Every three seconds a child dies from poverty related causes.
- 800 million people go to bed hungry every night.
- 880 million people lack access to basic healthcare.
- 46% of girls in the poorest countries have no access to primary education.
- The UN estimates unfair trade rules deny poor countries \$700 billion every year.
- In October 2006, over 23 million people world wide called for an end to global poverty.

CANADA AT A GLANCE

OECD Figures for 2005

- According to the Development Assistance Committee at the OECD, Canada gave 0.34% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA). Without debt cancellation for Iraq, Canada gave only 0.30% of its GNI to ODA. Still well below the internationally agreed- to figure of 0.7%.
- Canada was ranked 14th out of 22 donor countries.

CCIC Estimates of Canadian ODA

- For last year, 2005/06, ODA totaled \$4.5 billion or 0.34% of our GNI. Aid for last year benefited from more than \$320 million in last minute one-off additions in the May 2006 budget.
- For this year, 2006/07, ODA will total \$4.53 billion or 0.32% of GNI. This includes \$180 million for the special Liberal/NDP budget package from 2005 and more than \$350 million for debt cancellation, including Iraq.
- For next year, 2007/08, ODA is expected to drop to approximately \$4.5 billion or 0.31% of GNI.

- Aid will likely decline as a proportion of our GNI because there are no special one-off programs or large debt cancellations planned after 2006/07. There is only a commitment to an 8% increase. A timetable for growth (at 15% to 16% per year) will allow for predictable increases necessary to reduce poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals.
- The average increase in Canadian aid between 2001-02 and 2005-06 was 11%.

UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)

All UN Member States pledged in 2000 to meet the MDGs by 2015. The goals aim to:

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

Six years on, prospects for meeting the MDGs by 2015 are bleak. Global poverty levels have increased since 2000, as have inequality levels within and between countries.