



Faith in Action: Working toward the Millennium Development Goals



An Action Toolkit for Religious Leaders and Communities



Religions for Peace

Second Edition



Introductory Messages

The Millennium Development Goals are a set of simple but powerful objectives which, taken together, constitute our common vision for building a better future. They represent a global partnership of donors, developing countries, civil society and major development institutions.

In that partnership, enlightened religious leaders and scholars of all faiths have a key role to play. People of faith are on the front lines of efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest and bridge chasms of ignorance and misunderstanding. Religious groups can also be powerful advocates in mobilizing political leaders and the public at large.

When 189 world leaders met in 2000 to draft the Millennium Declaration, they made a commitment at the highest level to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight achievable goals aiming to bring the poorest people out of poverty by 2015. The United Nations Millennium Campaign supports citizens' efforts toward holding governments accountable for these Goals, and with five years left, we must work harder than before in making this a reality.

Citizen mobilization toward greater accountability for achievement of the MDGs is an essential element of MDG progress, and faith-based groups have played an integral role in these efforts. Faith-based institutions have become common rallying points for both citizens and their leaders, and members of the faith community serve as negotiators between both groups by virtue of their respected and coveted positions in society. Organizations such as the World Conference of *Religions for*

The ongoing mobilization of civil society around the world, and the important decisions taken by all United Nations Member States at the 2005 World Summit, offer encouraging evidence of increasing political will to reach the Millennium Development Goals. We need to build on this momentum, and ensure that Governments around the world quickly put in place policies that will enable us to make the target date of 2015. I look to religious leaders and scholars everywhere to work hand in hand with us in that mission.

BAN KI-MOON
SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General,
United Nations

Peace work in all regions across the world, mobilizing their networks of everyday citizens to hold their governments to account for accelerated achievement of the MDGs. The active engagement of the faith community has been coordinated, committed, and passionate.

Therefore, as we near 2015, we hope that the faith community will look to this toolkit and related resources as inspiration for continued commitment toward these Goals. We must realize that this is not the responsibility of either developed or developing countries, but rather, we all have a shared responsibility to achieving the MDGs with a mutual accountability to keep the promise made to the world. They are achievable, they are affordable, and together, we can make it happen.

CORINNE WOODS
DIRECTOR
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Corinne Woods,
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Dr. William F. Vendley
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Poverty kills. Every day, people needlessly die from malnutrition and preventable diseases. Children miss the opportunity of an education, and over a billion people lack access to proper sanitation and clean drinking water. A woman dies nearly every minute in childbirth,¹ largely from complications that are preventable. The world doesn't need to be this way.

In the year 2000, 189 member states of the United Nations signed onto the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which lay out an achievable plan to combat global poverty. The Goals can be met, but only if stakeholders work together.

In 2006, at the Eighth World Assembly of *Religions for Peace* in Kyoto, Japan, we launched the first edition of Faith in Action: Working toward the Millennium Development Goals. This widely used toolkit, now available in several languages and designed to advance critically needed multi-religious action to end poverty, has been instrumental in shaping the faith-based response to international development. Religious leaders, youth and women's groups alike have all added their voices to the call for

an end to extreme poverty in our lifetime.

With the target date to meet these goals by 2015 just a few years away, the need to act is all the more urgent. While progress has indeed been made, the global community is still a long way from achieving these eight goals. We, as people of faith, have a role to play in mobilizing our communities, advocating with and monitoring our governments, and ensuring accountability and transparency.

The call to care for one another and to speak out against injustice is a central tenet shared by the world's religions. To remain silent while poverty kills, injures and thwarts the lives of so many violates the fundamental teachings of our religions.

Religious leaders and faith communities have an important role to play and the time to act is now. By taking action together, we can help stop the brutal, unnecessary and unconscionable devastation of poverty, and help to create a more peaceful, just and harmonious world. Cooperation among the world's religions is an irreplaceable key.

About the Organizations

Religions for Peace—the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition—advances common action among the world's religious communities for peace.

Religions for Peace consists of a World Council of senior religious leaders elected at World Assemblies, six regional and more than 70 National Inter-religious Councils and bodies, and networks of Religious Youth and Women of Faith. Guided by respect for religious differences and a vision of the world's religious communities cooperating effectively for peace, *Religions for Peace* assists religious communities to collaborate on deeply held and widely shared moral concerns.

The UN Millennium Campaign was established by the UN Secretary General in 2002. The Campaign supports citizens' efforts to hold their governments to account for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Development Goals were adopted by 189 world leaders from the north and south, as part of the Millennium Declaration which was signed in 2000. These leaders agreed to achieve the Goals by 2015. Our premise is simple: we are the first generation that can end poverty and we refuse to miss this opportunity. For more information, visit www.endpoverty2015.org

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Purpose of the Toolkit

This toolkit was created by *Religions for Peace* with feedback and collaboration from religious leaders from countries around the world. It was created to equip religious leaders and inter-religious councils to carry out advocacy and action campaigns that support achievement of the MDGs. This revised 2010 edition contains updated targets, indicators, case studies and information to help religious leaders and religious communities carry out these actions. With the target date of 2015 just a few years away, multi-religious advocacy on the MDGs remains urgent, and this updated resource guide will give the religious communities the tools they need to take action.

After introducing the MDGs, the manual will assist religious leaders to actively engage their faith communities in achieving the MDG process. It is designed to provide religious leaders with the information they need to:

- Raise awareness about the MDGs and empower their faith communities to take action.
- Build networks and coalitions with like-minded communities around the world.
- Monitor their governments, hold policy makers accountable to the commitments their countries made in signing the Millennium Declaration in 2000, and help ensure transparency in the process.
- Engage both local and national media to promote the MDGs.

The Time to Act is Now

In the year 2000, 189 United Nations member states voted for a compact among nations to end extreme poverty. In doing so, they pledged, for the first time, to unite behind a set of eight development goals to be reached by 2015. These Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs, set out specific, achievable targets on issues ranging from world hunger to HIV/AIDS to child mortality rates.

The goals, however, are about much more than governments and world leaders. They are about improving the lives of individuals and communities who suffer daily from the effects of extreme poverty. The goals address issues that are all too real for many in the human family—malnutrition and disease, inadequate access to education and health care, and growing socio-economic inequity. These crises threaten the very integrity of

life of the people they afflict.

Despite setbacks from the recent economic and financial downturn, achieving the MDGs is still within reach. The world does have the financial resources and scientific advances to eradicate extreme poverty, improve global health, and foster greater economic security for the world's poorest citizens. The time to act is now.

Our faith traditions and our values call us to be outraged at the ongoing tragedy of poverty at a time when we can do so much more. The time has come for religious communities worldwide to bring the full weight of their moral authority to bear on behalf of the poor and the voiceless. One of the ways people of faith can act together in support of justice is to build the spiritual and political will necessary to attain the MDGs.

This Toolkit is for You

Are you a religious leader, a member of an inter-religious council, a member of a religious women's organization or youth organization, or an engaged member of a religious community? If you are, this action toolkit is for you. It is designed for members of all of these groups at the community, national or international level. *Religions for Peace* created this resource in collaboration with religious leaders from countries around the world. Its purpose is to equip religious leaders and inter-religious councils to carry out advocacy and action campaigns—at the community, national, regional and global levels—to support achievement of the MDGs.

After introducing the MDGs, the toolkit will assist religious leaders in actively engag-

ing their faith communities in support of the MDG process. *Religions for Peace* designed it to provide religious leaders with the information they need to:

- Raise awareness about the MDGs and empower their faith communities to take action.
- Build networks and coalitions with like-minded communities around the world.
- Advocate that policy makers honor the commitments they made when they signed the Millennium Declaration in 2000.
- Monitor their governments to ensure accountability and transparency in implementation and attainment of the MDG targets.
- Engage both local and national media to promote the MDGs.

What You Can Do

Religious leaders and their communities have the moral authority to raise awareness about the MDGs, engage in advocacy efforts and put pressure on their governments to fulfill their responsibilities. In the years since world leaders adopted the MDGs, local, national and global civil society coalitions have formed and taken action to raise awareness and pressure their governments to keep their promises. A number of governments of developing countries have developed concrete national plans for the attainment of the MDGs.

Some of these countries are making real progress on at least some of the goals. Other countries have not yet organized concerted efforts to attain the MDGs and have made less progress.

Developing countries are not expected to achieve the eight MDGs on their own. With specific targets to increase foreign aid, grant debt relief and develop fair trade policies, the MDGs call on rich countries to assist poorer nations in combating the global crisis of extreme poverty.

How to Use the Toolkit

Section 1 can be used to raise awareness and understanding of the goals themselves. It provides a general overview of the MDGs and describes how they came to be, who promised to fulfill them and why they are so important. This section lists the goals, statistics describing the problem addressed by the goals and reflections on how the goals relate to the world's religious traditions.

Section 2 offers steps that religious leaders and members of religious communities can take to support the MDGs. It explains the role of religious communities in the MDG process, underlines the importance of multi-religious collaboration and gives specific tips for actions in the following areas:

- Engaging religious communities.
- Advocating with and monitoring the government.
- Linking to civil society.
- Making use of the media.

Section 2 also includes general tips for advocacy campaigns and ideas on how to raise funds for your actions.

Section 3 provides trainers with tips and a training agenda.

Section 4 provides four tools to use in preparing educational outreach and creating handouts and posters for events, as well as a list of resources that can be used to find out more about the MDGs where you live, get more tips for action and to link to civil society campaigns for the MDGs locally and internationally. Each of these pages can be photocopied or adapted to use as a handout for events and actions.

1. A list of the eight MDGs, their 21 targets and the indicators to track the progress.
2. Quotes from faith traditions from around the world that support the MDGs.
3. An adaptable statement for printing and reading at religious services and multi-religious events.
4. Information on how to report back to *Religions for Peace* and the Millennium Campaign about events and actions.

What are the MDGs?

In the year 2000, leaders from 189 Member States of the United Nations signed the Millennium Declaration pledging to eradicate extreme poverty and to fulfill eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The MDGs correspond to issues that religious leaders and faith communities have

been actively supporting for decades and speak to a central concern of all faith traditions: the intrinsic value of each individual human life. The MDGs exemplify the synthesis of existing religious and civil society agendas into practical global policy.



What Makes the MDGs so Important?

Nearly 1 billion people live on less than \$1 per day, yet the world has never been so prosperous. At this point in history, the world has enough resources, money, and technology to end poverty forever. Despite the progress that has been made, it is not certain that the world will achieve the goals by their 2015 deadline. It is all the more urgent that we intensify our efforts and demand that the promises made to achieve the MDGs and end poverty are kept.

The MDGs are not new development targets. Religious leaders, in particular, already have a lot of experience working on these issues in their own communities. The goals are unique because they represent a contract between the world's major economic players. In this time of great hope and potential, religious leaders have a profound opportunity and responsibility to ensure that world leaders follow through in achieving the goals.

Millennium Development Goals

The Eight MDGs

MDG 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The Targets

1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.
2. Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.
3. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

The Reality

- 1 in 4 people in the developing world live on less than \$1 per day.²
- As a result of the economic crisis of 2009, the population-to-employment ratio and labor productivity declined and progress back-tracked.³
- Every four seconds a child dies from hunger and preventable diseases.⁴

The Progress

We are on track to meeting this goal in Eastern and South-eastern Asia, but are still far from halving poverty in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Triggered by the economic crisis, the deterioration of the labor market has led to a decline in employment, which has in turn led more families into extreme poverty. While the percentage of undernourished people has gone down since 1990, the global food crisis has led to a recent increase in undernourished people.

Faith in Action

Religious communities have long recognized and responded to the need to nourish people spiritually and physically. Now is the time to speak out on behalf of the hungry and most vulnerable. It is important to seize this opportunity to honor and serve the sanctity of all human life by uniting behind a common concern for the hungry and a deep faith in the ability of the world community to eradicate extreme global poverty.

From the Muslim tradition:

“Have you ever seen a human being who contradicts the essence of the religion? That is the person who pushes the orphan aside and does not promote feeding the needy.”
(Qur’an 107, 1-3)

In the spirit of forging a stronger partnership among different faith communities to work together for the well-being of all people in tackling poverty and injustice, a high-level global consultation of fifteen religious leaders and representatives of indigenous spiritual traditions was convened in New York in 2008. At the end of the conference, religious leaders committed to mobilizing their communities around issues of poverty and legal empowerment and called on policy makers to uphold the dignity and value of all people. The conference was organized by *Religions for Peace* in close collaboration with the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor.

Millennium Development Goals



MDG 2

Achieve universal primary education

The Target

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

The Reality

- More than 1 in 4 adults cannot read or write and two-thirds are women.⁵

The Progress

Although many poor countries have made tremendous gains in children enrolled in primary school, the outlook for this target to be met appears bleak. The figure is lowest in sub-Saharan Africa, where just 76% of all children are enrolled in primary or secondary school; worldwide this figure is 90%.

Faith in Action

Religious traditions celebrate the preciousness and promise of children. Children, boys and girls, need to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to rise out of extreme poverty and to develop greater inter-religious and multi-cultural understanding. It is vital to honor the sacred lives of all children. Their education is the greatest hope for achieving long-lasting global peace and social justice.

Guinean Proverb:

“Knowledge is like a garden: If it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.”

Religious leaders from the Inter-religious Council of Uganda have been working to break the barriers that prevent children from going to school. They identify orphans and other vulnerable children who are in need of support to stay in or to return to school. Their training in psycho-social support has enhanced the counseling they provide to parents and other caregivers to help them prioritize education for the children in their care. In addition, over 6,700 orphans have been provided with school supplies and mosquito nets to increase their regular attendance in school. The religious leaders have been participating in radio talk shows that discuss the various needs of orphans, especially those that prevent children from getting an education. They not only provide much-needed support to individual families, but are advocates for them at the community level.

Millennium Development Goals



MDG 3

Promote gender equality and empower women

The Target

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

The Reality

- Of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty worldwide, 70% are women.⁶

The Progress

As a whole, developing countries are close to meeting the target of gender equity in all levels of education. In 2008, there were 96 girls for every 100 boys in primary school and 95 girls for every 100 boys in secondary school. Despite these gains, challenges remain especially in Oceania, sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia. Poverty remains a major barrier to education, particularly among older girls. Lack of a formal education limits economic opportunities for women later in life.

Faith in Action

The world's religious traditions share a common respect and reverence for the gifts of all members of the human family. Religious traditions value all life on earth. They share a vision of a world in which neither women nor men suffer from poverty in its many forms and in which all women and men are able to achieve fulfilling lives.

Equal access to education must be provided at all levels so that women and men everywhere will have the necessary resources to contribute their gifts to the growth of their families and communities. It is important to seize this opportunity to build the capacity of women, uniting behind shared appreciation for their critical role in individual faith communities and in the global human family.

From the Baha'i tradition:

“Only as women are welcomed into full partnership in all fields of human endeavor will the moral and psychological climate be created in which international peace can emerge.” (Universal House of Justice 1985)

The Restoring Dignity Campaign, initiated by the *Religions for Peace* Global Women of Faith Network, is promoting gender equality and empowering women through its message of ending violence against women. An important activity of the campaign is the collection of testimonies from women who have survived violence in their life. By confronting the violence in their past, they are empowered to shape a message of healing and human dignity for other women.

Millennium Development Goals



MDG 4

Reduce child mortality

The Target

Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

The Reality

- 8.8 million children under the age of five die each year, most from preventable or treatable diseases.⁷

The Progress

Child deaths are falling, but not quickly enough to reach the target. Between 1990 and 2008, the under-five mortality rate in developing countries dropped 28 percent. Scaling up access to immunizations, improving prevention and treatment efforts for infectious diseases, and bolstering child nutrition could save millions of children's lives.

Faith in Action

The beauty, sanctity and ultimate value of children are emphasized in every religious tradition. Now is the time for religious leaders and faith communities to speak out on behalf of the over 20,000 children who die each day from the effects of extreme poverty and unnecessary illness. It is crucial to seize this opportunity to protect the most vulnerable citizens of our world, uniting behind a shared sense of outrage at the unnecessary loss of young lives.

From the Jewish tradition:

“By the breath of children, God sustains the world.” (Talmud Bavli, Shabbat 119b)

Religious leaders and religious communities have an active role to play in advocacy efforts to ensure child survival. One cost-effective approach is to scale-up access to immunizations. In 2005, *Religions for Peace* issued a statement from religious leaders in support of the International Finance Facility for Immunization, a new public-private financing partnership created to scale up access to immunizations in developing countries. The statement acknowledged that the faith community has a critical role in informing and encouraging parents to get their children immunized, and called on religious leaders and communities to take an active role in advocacy that promotes child survival.

Millennium Development Goals



Improve maternal health

The Targets

1. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate.
2. Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.

The Reality

- Every minute a woman dies in childbirth, and most of these deaths are preventable.⁸
- The lifetime risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth is 1 in 22 in sub-Saharan Africa, 1 in 120 in Asia, and 1 in 7,300 in developed countries.⁹

The Progress

The percentage of women receiving assistance during childbirth by skilled birth attendants rose by 10 percent between 1990 and 2008, although less than half of women giving birth in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa have access to a skilled birth attendant. Progress has been stalled in reducing the number of teen pregnancies, putting more young mothers at risk.

Faith in Action

Mothers appear in the sacred texts and oral traditions of religions all over the world. Their role in giving birth to all children and their contribution to the well-being of their communities are recognized and celebrated. Women's health and well-being are vital. Therefore, action must be taken to ensure that women everywhere have access to affordable and adequate maternal health care to honor and serve the mothers of this world, uniting behind common respect and gratitude for the life and care they bring to the human family.

From the Sikh tradition:

“We are born of women, we are conceived in the womb of women, we are engaged and married to women. We make friendship with women and the lineage continues because of women.” (Guru Nanak Dev, Var Asa)

Obstetric fistula is a severe medical condition resulting from prolonged or failed childbirth, and religious communities are actively working to prevent and treat this condition and thus improve maternal health. The condition can be prevented through improved access to obstetric care and trained birth attendants, and treated through a reconstructive surgery with a high success rate. One activity of the *Religions for Peace* Global Women of Faith Network has been to educate religious communities about this potentially life-threatening, but preventable condition. In turn, places of worship have also become facilities for public education, awareness and advocacy on skilled care for women during pregnancy and delivery.

Millennium Development Goals

MDG 6

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The Targets

1. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
2. Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.
3. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reduce the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

The Reality

- Approximately 33.4 million people are now living with HIV; more than 30 million people have died from AIDS-related complications since the beginning of the pandemic in 1981.¹⁰
- For every two people put on antiretroviral treatment for HIV, five people become newly infected.¹¹
- Malaria causes more than 240 million acute illnesses (nearly 90 percent in sub-Saharan Africa) and at least 850,000 deaths annually.¹²

The Progress

Currently, over 4 million HIV-positive people are receiving anti-retroviral drugs to prolong their lives; however, an additional 10 million people are in need of them and funding to put new people has stagnated since 2009. Distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria has increased five-fold between 2004 and 2009 and global procurement of anti-malarial drugs has risen rapidly. The incidence of tuberculosis, the second leading killer of infectious disease worldwide behind HIV/AIDS, is slowly declining.

Faith in Action

Religious leaders and faith communities share a tradition of responding to the needs of those affected by disease and sickness. The MDGs offer an important opportunity for religious leaders to continue the global struggle against HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other life-threatening diseases by putting pressure on their governments to do more. Now is the time to serve those who are suffering.

From the Buddhist tradition:

“May all beings everywhere plagued with sufferings of body and mind quickly be freed from their illnesses.” (The Bodhicharyavatara of Shantideva)

Religious leaders and communities are working together to positively impact the lives of people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Through the Ethiopian Inter-faith Forum for Development, Dialogue and Action (EIFDDA) and the Inter-religious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCPT), religious leaders are mobilizing their congregations and their communities to work together with local government and HIV service organizations to eliminate stigma and implement concrete support mechanisms for orphans and people living with the disease.

Millennium Development Goals

MDG 7

Ensure environmental sustainability

The Targets

1. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
2. Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.
3. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
4. By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

The Reality

- Over the last decade, 13 million hectares of the world's forests have been destroyed.¹³
- Nearly 17,000 species of plants and animals are known to be threatened by extinction.¹⁴
- 2.5 billion people—nearly half the population of the developing world—live without adequate sanitation.¹⁵
- Nearly 1 billion people live in slums.¹⁶

The Progress

The rate of deforestation shows signs of decrease, but the figures are still alarmingly high. With carbon dioxide emissions increasing each year, a decisive response to climate change is urgently needed. The world has missed the 2010 target for biodiversity, but is on track to meeting the clean drinking water target, although extensive progress is still needed in Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa. While over half of the population of the developing world remains without access to basic sanitation, this target is still far from being achieved.

Faith in Action

Many religious traditions celebrate the Earth as the sacred, hospitable home for human beings and all other creatures. It has become clear that the Earth and its natural resources are fragile and precious and that action must be taken to ensure access to the basic life-sustaining resources: food, clean water and shelter. It is important to seize this opportunity to honor this sacred planet so that the Earth can be a healthy, sustainable home for generations to come.

From the Hindu tradition:

“May there be peace on earth, peace in the atmosphere and in the heavens. Peaceful be the waters, the herbs and plants. May the Divine bring us peace.” (Atharva-Veda XIX-9)

In 2009 religious leaders committed themselves to work for environmental sustainability by adopting a Call to Action on Climate Change that urges world leaders to take bold actions to avert a climate change crisis. The Call to Action was subsequently delivered to all of the Permanent Missions at the United Nations. During the United Nations Secretary-General's Summit on Climate Change, religious leaders further committed themselves “to change our habits of consumption...to learning; to teaching our families, friends and faiths; to conserving the limited resources of our home, planet Earth, and to preserving the climate conditions upon which life depends...”

Millennium Development Goals

MDG 8

Develop a global partnership for development

The Targets

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable non-discriminatory trading and financial system.
- Address the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states—including more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies and the private sector, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries and make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

The Reality

- In 1970, 22 of the world's richest countries pledged to spend 0.7 percent of their national income on aid. Only five countries have kept that promise.¹⁷
- The UN estimates that unfair trade rules deny poor countries \$700 billion each year.¹⁸
- 67% of the world's population is mobile phone subscribers, having access to improved communication and technology.¹⁹

The Progress

Only five high-income countries are meeting the target for official development assistance. In addition to an increase in aid flow, greater policy coherence is needed from wealthy nations in order to achieve the MDGs. Least developed countries have benefited the most from tariff reductions, especially in the agricultural sector. Debt burdens continue to be relieved for developing countries, and relief is now at a historic level.

Faith in Action

Religious communities have extensive experience establishing and working through partnerships that cross political borders. Citizens across the globe are more interdependent than ever and now is the time to link existing religious and multi-religious networks to the global civil society campaign against extreme poverty. The MDGs offer an important opportunity to work with members from diverse faith traditions on issues of common humanity and of responsibility to care for one another.

From the Christian tradition:

“Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you...” (The Bible, Matthew 5:42)

The Women, Faith and Development Alliance (WFDA), is a powerful example of a global partnership. It combines the power of faith and secular communities to increase the political will and affect policy change to end global poverty through the advancement of women and girls. The mission of WFDA rests on the conviction that empowered women are agents for development, and that promoting the equality of women and girls helps to reduce poverty and to benefit entire societies.

Millennium Development Goals

How are We Doing?

The Millennium Development Goals in Low and Middle Income Countries

MDG 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Population living below US\$1 per day	1990 33.7	2005 25.2	2008 No Data
Population undernourished (%)	1997 17.1	2006 16.0	2008 No Data

MDG 2 Achieve universal primary education

Primary School Completion Rate (%)	1991 79.6	2005 84.8	2007 87.8
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MDG 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary and secondary education	1999 90.6	2005 94.5	2007 95.6
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	1999 11.0	2005 14.8	2009 17.7

MDG 4 Reduce child mortality

Mortality rate of children under 5 (deaths/1,000 births)	2000 88.1	2005 78.4	2008 72.8
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MDG 5 Improve maternal health

Births attended by skilled health staff (%)	2000 59.6	2005 No Data	2008 63.4
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MDG 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Estimated adult (15-49) HIV prevalence (%)	1999 0.96	2005 0.94	2007 0.89
New tuberculosis cases per 100,000 people (#)	1999 156.5	2005 165.6	2008 161.9

MDG 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

Land area covered by forest (%)	1999 31.5	2005 31.0	2007 30.8
Proportion of population with improved drinking water source	2000 79.4	2006 84.0	2008 No Data

MDG 8 Develop a global partnership for development

Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services	1999 22.1	2005 13.2	2008 9.5
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Source: World Bank Data Catalog on the Millennium Development Indicators, <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog>

Take Action

What Religious Leaders Can Do

Religious leaders, often the most respected figures in their communities, are uniquely equipped to lead activism and mobilize broad action to support the MDGs. Advocating for the eradication of extreme poverty has the power to renew our faiths by enhancing our appreciation for the moral implications of our traditions and by challenging us to collaborate with others as we put our religious beliefs and moral convictions into action.

Achieving the MDGs will not be a success if we merely meet the targets according to a global average, but only if we achieve positive results in every country of the world—especially in least developed countries. By standing up together, demanding accountability, and expressing our expectations to meet the MDG targets, we send a powerful message to our governments that the time to act is now.

The Value of Multi-Religious Collaboration

The world's religious communities have enormous potential to improve conditions for billions of people worldwide. Multi-religious cooperation unleashes the hidden assets of religious communities and is more powerful, both substantively and symbolically, than the efforts of individual faith communities acting alone. Religious communities possess spiritual, moral and social assets that can be brought to bear utilizing the full range of existing structures – leadership, local congregations, women's groups, youth groups, and specialized agencies. When religious communities recognize their shared values, mobilize their collective assets, and work together, they can have a decisive impact where it is most needed.

Religious leaders and faith communities are the largest and best-organized civil institutions in the world today, claiming the allegiance of billions of believers and bridging the divides of race, class and nationality. Religious communities all over the world have a long-standing tradition of addressing issues of extreme poverty and social injustice in creative and effective ways. The funda-

mental sanctity of each individual human life, a central moral tenet shared by the world's major faith traditions, motivates individuals and faith communities to serve the poor in a myriad of ways. In addition to religious traditions' moral assets, the sheer scale of religious infrastructures in many countries is of tremendous value in mobilizing large numbers of persons to act. Existing religious communities are the necessary building blocks for worldwide civil society action in support of the MDGs.

Advocating for the achievement of the MDGs is an act that mobilizes and connects faith communities throughout the world. In a time when religion is too often manipulated as a source of division and a false motivation for violent conflict, multi-religious collaboration behind the MDGs offers an opportunity for diverse faith communities to work together on issues that remind of us our common humanity. Religious leaders and faith communities have the power to ensure that world leaders work to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Take Action

I. Engaging Religious Communities

Collaborate with other religious leaders and communities

Bring the power of multi-religious collaboration to the MDG campaign by organizing events through multi-religious forums or inter-religious councils in your country and networking with leaders of other faith groups in the community.

Engage all the members of your community

Religious leaders, women's organizations, youth organizations, schools and other faith-based groups can take an active role in raising awareness of the MDGs and in enabling community members to become effective advocates for them.

Partner with other organizations

Initiate or join existing mechanisms that bring faith-based humanitarian, development and peace organizations together to address the root causes of poverty, share experiences, and foster collaboration.

Actions to Take

Hold special religious services:

Incorporating the MDGs into religious services is a simple, but very powerful way to raise awareness about the Goals within your community.

- Encourage involvement of lay leaders, women, men and youth in planning and holding these events.
- Pick a theme that focuses on all of the MDGs together or highlight each goal individually at separate services or events.
- Select a day to link the MDGs to special observances or holidays throughout the year. Incorporate the MDGs into an existing worship service or hold a special MDG-related event.
- Choose prayers, songs, meditations, mes-

sages and other elements of worship that support the goals of ending poverty and advocating for socio-economic justice. If the event is multi-religious, ensure that material is drawn from the whole range of traditions that will be participating.

- Invite all of the members of your community, local political leaders and representatives of civil society organizations.
- Include educational handouts on the MDGs in service handouts or on posters and tables at community events.

Key Dates for Action

International observance dates provide excellent opportunities to highlight the MDGs through workshops, the media, and in religious services. Here are some key dates:

March 8: International Women's Day

April 22: Earth Day

September 21: International Day of Peace

October 16: World Food Day

October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

December 1: World AIDS Day

Link the MDGs to actions your community is already taking: Does your community feed the hungry, work with people affected by HIV/AIDS or work to improve the lives of the poor?

- Use the work your community does for the common good as a tool for education about the MDGs. For example, if you raise awareness about MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) as part of local efforts to feed the hungry, you will make the MDGs more meaningful to your community.

Take Action

- Have information available on the MDGs whenever you take action on an MDG-related issue. Make copies of the tools on pages 29-32 or create your own materials using this manual and the resources listed on pages 34-35.
- Document unmet needs in your community and the work you do to address them. Use this information when you advocate for the MDGs or speak with the media.

Engage women leaders and religious

women's organizations: Women of faith are often on the frontlines of caring for the sick and the neediest in their communities. They are also active agents for positive change in their societies. At the same time, women are often among the most vulnerable to the effects of poverty. Many of the MDGs, including: Goal 2 (Achieve universal primary education), Goal 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women), and Goal 5 (Improve maternal health), address issues that specifically effect women. Women's perspectives and concerns are essential to achieving all of the MDGs.

The leaders of religious women's organizations and inter-religious women of faith networks can engage women of faith in supporting the MDGs by holding workshops and special events and by linking the MDGs to actions in which women are already involved. Given their intimate knowledge of the needs of their communities, women of faith can be effective advocates and agents for change.

- Engage women of faith in the planning, organizing, and facilitating events and actions around the MDGs.
- Ensure that the presence, the perspective, and the concerns of women of faith are included in local and national dialogues around the MDGs and civil society.
- Hold educational workshops with women of faith groups to raise their awareness of

the MDGs and to facilitate the sharing of experiences and perspectives.

Work with youth: MDGs affect youth and the world they will inherit from their parents. Today's children will grow into the leaders of the future, the leaders who will carry on our work for development and socio-economic justice. Young people also bring creativity and energy to advocacy work and campaigns for positive change. Below are examples of some different types of activities that are useful in engaging young people.

- Hold educational events for youth on the MDGs.
- Link youth of different faiths through inter-religious council events or partnerships between local religious communities.
- Engage youth organizations in your advocacy campaigns.

Engaging Youth in Advocacy around the MDGs

It is estimated that only 10% of the 2008 global military expenditure would be sufficient to ensure that the MDGs are met by 2015. This has inspired the *Religions for Peace* Global Youth Network to launch and promote the Arms Down! Campaign for Shared Security. Religious youth from around the world have been mobilizing and educating their communities and others to advocate and take action to urge governments to reallocate military spending to support urgently needed development as set forth in the MDGs.

Take Action

Incorporate the MDGs into religious education: Working with religious schools to integrate the MDGs into religious education curricula can be a great way to make traditions and teachings come alive to the younger members of your faith community. Include information on the MDGs, the problems they address and the role of citizens in advocating for them in school curric-

ula and in school events. Below are examples of different types of groups to engage.

- Youth networks in inter-religious councils.
- Religious educational institutions (schools, religious education programs, camps, universities).
- Religious youth groups and organizations.

Engaging Religious Communities in Advocacy around Climate Change and Displaced Persons

An estimated 200 million to 1 billion people will be forced to give up their homes due to climate change within the next 40 years, and Small Island Developing States are at risk of being swallowed up entirely by rising sea levels. In the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region, people are already becoming displaced because of the effects of climate change on farming lands in that region.

In 2009, the Pacific Council of Churches gathered ecumenical leaders to adopt the Moana Declaration, which calls on action from churches, religious bodies, governments and international actors to address the plight of the

small island states in the Pacific Islands and beyond. "Pacific islands like Tuvalu and Kiribati will probably disappear in the coming decades because of rising sea levels. So churches in the region are already addressing the issue of resettlement," said Dr. Guillermo Kerber, WCC Climate Change Programme Executive.

In 2010, ecumenical leaders met with UN member states during the World Council of Churches UN Advocacy Week to press for international laws and commitment to protect the human, political and cultural rights of Climate Displaced Peoples. Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General and Director

of the Bureau for Development Policy at the UN Development Programme, told the group in an opening keynote address that religious groups around the world have yet to realize the real impact they could have on moving governments to address climate change immediately as well as other justice concerns. "You have an enormous economic clout as well that is too rarely recognized even amongst yourselves. ... You reach more people on a regular basis than any other institutions in the world today," Kjørven told the group of religious leaders.

*Source: World Council of Churches
<http://www.wcc-coe.org>*

Take Action

II. Advocating with and Monitoring the Government

To achieve the MDGs in each country, governments are ultimately responsible for:

- Translating the goals and targets into clear national development goals.
- Developing and beginning to implement a national plan—with benchmarks and timetables—to achieve the goals.
- Making a commitment to routinely report on progress.

Advocacy and lobbying are essential to ensuring that government officials have the political will to integrate the MDGs into public policy at the local, national, and global levels so that the MDGs can be achieved by 2015.

Thus, one of the primary responsibilities for religious communities is to monitor their governments' progress in each of these areas and advocate for better practices.

Actions to Take

Learn about policy: Make yourself aware of changes in law and social policy, with a particular focus on health, education, and social welfare policies.

Monitor budgets: Raise awareness of your government's budget process and advocate for responsible and effective distribution of funds.

Develop a system to ensure accountability: Develop a community monitoring system to ensure that funds actually reach the targeted beneficiaries and are spent in the most efficient and effective way. Check to see, for example, if funds from the national government reach the intended schools and hospitals in your community and that they are spent appropriately at each of these facilities.

Greater Accountability

In order for the MDGs to be achieved, there must be greater accountability by governments from both developing countries and rich nations. Religious leaders and communities can be key partners in ensuring accountability and transparency. Leaders of faith traditions need to be full partners in emerging global, regional and national alliances to work for better governance.

Faith communities can lead by example through multi-religious advocacy and monitoring of governments.

Actions to Take

Develop shadow reports: Through creating alternatives to governmental reports with their own conclusions and observations, civil society has the opportunity to report on progress being made at the country level from the citizen's lens.

Create citizens' score cards: Just like a report card, citizens' score cards grade governments A-F in keeping their commitments on the MDGs in wealthy and developing countries alike.

Participate in poverty hearings: Poverty hearings give witnesses and advocates from civil society an opportunity to voice their concerns and experiences on the progress of the MDGs.

Speak with your members of parliament: Members of parliament can play a role in holding the executive branches of their governments accountable to achieve the MDGs.

Take Action

Tips

Write letters: Send a letter to a local, regional, or national leader expressing interest and concern regarding your country's progress on the MDGs.

Request meetings: Identify local, regional, or national leaders who you can access and request a meeting to discuss policies related to the MDGs.

Educate yourself: Know who the appropriate government officials are for your issue and what public policy areas you want to influence or change.

Collaborate: Find out what other religious and/or civil society organizations have done some sort of advocacy or lobbying already and talk to them about their insights, best practices, and the possibility of working together.

Stay in touch: Maintain relationships with decision-makers by sending them more information about the MDGs, offering to help gather public support, thanking them when they support an issue and inviting them to events.

Religious Leaders' Involvement in Ensuring Accountability and Transparency

One way that religious leaders can be involved in ensuring accountability and transparency is to be involved in social budgeting frameworks. The Inter-religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) has been working with the Kenyan Ministry of Planning and the Kenyan Government's economic development plan, Vision 2030, in this regard.

IRCK is training religious leaders through the local inter-faith network and equipping them with the necessary skills needed to actively engage in the process and be represented at all levels. This will provide an opportunity for religious leaders to ensure the process takes into consideration the MDGs and makes them a priority in the overall framework.

Source: Inter-religious Council of Kenya



Religious communities meet in Kenya to plan advocacy and action around the International Criminal Court

Take Action

III. Linking to Civil Society

Of the world's six billion citizens, five billion identify themselves as members of religious communities. With one of the largest civil society constituencies, religious leaders are in a unique position to lead and engage with the world community in mobilizing individuals for the advancement of the MDGs at local, national, and international levels.

Local and National Actions

Many countries already have a civil society coalition in place to advocate for the MDGs. Religious leaders can enhance the effectiveness of existing coalitions by contributing their moral authority and extensive networks to campaigns within and beyond their own communities.

Collaborate: Invite civil society organizations and key civil society actors to your religious community's MDG-related events.

Educate: Keep your religious community informed about other campaigns for the MDGs in your country and encourage them to take part in civil society actions.

Global Actions

International MDG campaigns offer important opportunities for religious leaders and communities to contribute their strong moral voices to the global fight against extreme poverty. The governments of wealthy nations need to be held accountable to their promises for more effective aid, fair trade and less debt. Linking the work of

To Find Out More:

To find out more about national and international civil society campaigns for the MDGs, visit: www.endpoverty2015.org and see the Resources Section on pages 34-35.

your religious community to international campaigns will strengthen advocacy for the MDGs worldwide.

Connect

Use your voice: Use international networks within your own religious community to get the word out about the MDGs. Ask to make a presentation or organize a panel on the MDGs at the next local, national or global assembly of your faith community.

Link up: Join the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), a worldwide alliance established in 2005 to hold world leaders accountable for combating global poverty. GCAP consists of a broad range of civil society organizations, including existing coalitions, community groups, trade unions, individuals and religious communities. Similarly, the ONE Campaign is a broad network of individuals committed to ending extreme poverty and its effects. Individuals and organizations can find out more information about these networks in the Resources Section on pages 34-35.

Day of the African Child: Coming Together for Action

In partnership with GCAP-Africa and the Millennium Campaign, the Senegalese Campaign, a civil society network in Senegal around the MDGs, organized a huge event to raise awareness and advocate for the achievement of the MDGs on June 16th, the Day of the African Child. Over 500 children participated in the call for greater action against global poverty, and several children joined in a lobby meeting with Senegal's President, Mr. Abdoulaye Wade. This is an example of how the voices of every person, large and small, can make a difference.

Source: The Millennium Campaign, <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org>

Take Action

IV. Making Use of the Media

“Development objectives such as the MDGs are all very well but unless they are publicized, explained and discussed, their impact will be small.”

–The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



Dancers from the Wolomei Group perform at the Standing Tall Against Poverty concert in Africa in Ghana.

Keeping the media informed is a vital component of any successful advocacy and public education campaign. Media coverage will expand the impact of your actions because it will increase public awareness of the MDGs and will ensure that the broader public is aware of your views on these issues.

Using the media can also be a way of campaigning on its own. Newspapers, television, magazines and radio all play a strong role in shaping opinions of voters, politicians and other important decision makers. Building public support for the MDGs and influencing policy makers requires creative and diverse efforts to get the message out. The more people who know about the MDGs and the plans to achieve them, the more likely it is that governments will be motivated to keep their promises to work toward the goals.

Engaging the media

- Write letters to the editor of local and national newspapers or magazines.
- Arrange radio or television interviews with religious leaders or other advocates in your faith community.
- Distribute press releases about events or campaigns.
- Organize press conferences.

Producing a Visual Impression with the MDGs in Latin America

Juan David López, a United Nations Volunteers artist in Colombia has drawn from the history and culture of Latin America to create a series of icons that inspire people of the region to support and promote the MDGs. The project informs the population with easy images to understand that transmit the global campaign's objectives from a regional perspective. For example, the owl, symbol of the wisdom of the scholars and the Aztec warriors of Mexico, represents the MDG 2 (universal education),

while MDG 3 (gender equality) is represented by a Peruvian tapestry in which two human figures appear equal and contrary. Images such as these produce a strong impression, whether one is calling attention to the media or carrying out activities in a specific community.

Source: The Millennium Campaign
<http://www.spanish.millenniumcampaign.org/> See also VNU Colombia, <http://unv.nacionesunidas.org.co> and the Campaign of Colombia, www.colombiasinpobreza.org

Take Action

Inter-religious Collaboration and the Media

When leaders cross traditional boundaries of faith or community to unite behind a common goal like the MDGs, people take notice. Religious readers can work through inter-religious councils or form partnerships with local leaders of other faiths to issue joint state-

ments to the press, give joint interviews, and demonstrate their shared commitment to advocate for the MDGs. Such action by trusted moral leaders can encourage similar action throughout the community, leading to a unified voice for positive change.

- Extend invitations to reporters to cover your events or to report on the specific concerns of your community.

Not all methods are suitable for all events or situations, so it is a good idea to take some time to discern which actions work best for your aims.

Actions to Take

Publicize events

- Invite the media to cover inter-religious events or special worship services.
- Inform the media that you are meeting with government officials.
- Circulate a press release when you join civil society campaigns.
- Announce upcoming events or campaigns and report on events after they happen.

Call attention to government actions

Write editorials and letters to the editor or give interviews to call attention to government actions and decisions. Any government action that affects issues of budget, disbursement of aid, health, education or development, affects the country's progress towards the MDGs. Encourage involvement in the political process.

Things to remember

Many religious communities have their own newsletters or other media. They can be effective means of outreach in addition to public or secular media. Members of your religious community may also have experience working with the media. Draw on their expertise when you plan your media outreach.

Pay attention to set times and dates for the submission of news stories and letters and to rules about content and length. Readers, viewers and listeners are the media's primary concern. Keep in mind the various audiences that different media institutions attract when approaching a newspaper, television or radio editor with your story.

For more resources to help with these actions, see the links to the "Campaigning Toolkit" from CIVICUS and the Millennium Campaign in the Resources section on pages 34-35.

Take Action

General Tips for Action

Record and publicize what you do

Let local and national media know what you are doing. Take pictures and get feedback from participants. Write a report. Include what worked best and what did not work so well (See the “Report Back” tool on page 33).

Identify and involve key stakeholders and send an invitation

Stakeholders include people affected by the problem and the proposed solution, and others who are involved in similar efforts.

- Community members
- Religious leaders of all levels
- Local and international civil society organizations
- Government officials
- Political representatives

Mobilize volunteers

This is an effort that can use everyone’s talents and energy. Find out who in your community wants to get involved.

Identify your primary audience

Religious leaders and communities have great interest in the moral and religious significance of the MDGs. Government officials are often influenced by data and understanding the consequences and benefits of change. Political representatives like to know

who will be affected by policy changes and how their contribution will help make a difference. The media want messages that are simple, direct and captivating.

Carefully develop and then stick with your message

A message should answer the questions: What do you want? Why is it important? and How can it be achieved? Create a message that is short, concise and inspiring, and then be sure to stick with your message throughout your event or campaign.

Promote your event

- Make colorful posters
- Distribute flyers
- Talk to people
- Use SMS messages

Make it personal

- Share stories
- Tie the MDGs to issues that face your community

Incorporate music, dance, theater and art

Invite musicians, dancers and other artists to perform at your events. Draw on the music and art of your faith and other traditions to express your ideas.

Leaders gather in South Africa for inter-religious cooperation and peacebuilding



Take Action

Fundraising and Resource Mobilization

Convening workshops, producing educational materials, holding events and traveling for advocacy all require time, energy, funding and other resources. This section contains some information on fundraising and resource mobilization that may be helpful in supporting your efforts for advocacy and action around the MDGs. Depending on the size and scope of your event, your fundraising needs will differ but identifying your project goals and needs and communicating them effectively to potential supporters will remain essential. Keep in mind that it is often easier to get funding for work on a specific MDG than for general MDG work. The following are important steps for fundraising.

Identify your project goals and needs

Begin with clear plans and measurable goals for your project. What is the need in your community? Who will this project benefit and how will they be helped? What short-term changes are expected? What long-term results are anticipated? Your analysis of fundraising needs and opportunities will form the basis of your “case for support.” Your case for support will be an important part of any proposal for funding that you prepare. Proposals may also include: background information on your group and other groups involved, a clear budget, expected outcomes and measures of evaluation.

Identify potential donors

Sources of possible financial support for projects and administrative costs include: a) religious communities, organizations and groups; b) individual donors; c) local companies and foundations; d) social, health, educational and humanitarian units of local and national governments; e) public and private international funding organizations; and f) international multilateral funding organizations and initiatives. Conduct research on

prospective donors’ interests, current funding activities and guidelines to determine if there is a strong match of interests. Collaborate with participating religious and secular communities in seeking local support and identifying potential partnerships with national and international funding sources.

Your program can be greatly strengthened through collaboration with other organizations conducting similar advocacy efforts. Consider exploring joint ventures with other movements, umbrella organizations and religious and secular organizations that could be supported by local, national and international funding sources.

Prepare requests to donors

Follow the donors’ guidelines in preparing written proposals and requests for support. Provide needed accompanying materials (brochures, reports, news articles and publicity, lists of participating leaders and descriptions of past and current activities) that illustrate the benefit for the donor as well as the target population.

Communicate your successes

It is important that you share the outcomes of your program with donors by complying with all reporting requirements. Communicate your successes to the wider community through the media in order to increase your visibility and your credibility for future funding from new donors.

Be sure your organization complies with local laws and regulations regarding fundraising activities and the expenditure of donated funds, services and materials. Exchange information on best practices and sources of support with other religious and secular groups working on similar issues in your area.

Training Guide

MDG Workshop Module

This section includes a guide for a one-day workshop on the MDGs for religious leaders and other activists and leaders. A more in-depth training guide that covers a three-day “training of trainers” (TOT) event is available from *Religions for Peace*. Contact info@religionsforpeace.org for more information.

If you would like to carry out a training using this toolkit, here are some things to remember:

Know your audience

The training can be for religious leaders, the leaders of religious women’s organizations or youth groups and/or community leaders at the local or national level. It is, therefore, imperative that training materials and activities be accessible for people with different levels of education and be sensitive to other important differences. Here ten facts facilitators should know about participants when planning a training:

1. Number of participants
2. Age of participants
3. Gender of participants
4. Professional positions of participants
5. Religion of participants
6. Level of education completed
7. How they came to participate
8. Participants’ expectations
9. Any previous exposure to the subject to be discussed
10. Depth of knowledge about the subject to be discussed

Training facilities

The workshop should take place in a well-lit room that is large enough to comfortably accommodate all participants all day.

Participants should be seated at a large square- or u-shaped table or at enough round tables to accommodate all participants. Because many workshop activities will require working in small groups, you will also need enough indoor or outdoor locations to accommodate all small groups.

Although some funding may be available from your community or organization for these workshops, it is likely to be a relatively modest amount. In some places, workshop hosts may also have modest facilities and resources. Therefore, these workshops should not require rental of expensive equipment or facilities.

Learning objectives

At the end of the one-day training, participants will have:

- Increased their knowledge of the MDGs and MDG-related activities in their country.
- Identified how and with whom to engage in advocacy in support of the MDGs locally, nationally and globally.
- Taken the first steps toward planning MDG-related activities in their community and country.

Materials needed

For all workshop sessions, you will need:

- Name tags.
- Flip charts or large sheets of paper.
- Easels (or wall space and tape) in the main room and for each small group.
- Markers, pens, pencils, paper clips and writing paper or pads.
- Folders for each participant.

Training Guide

Instructions for facilitators

All workshop participants will have knowledge to contribute. The role of the trainer is to stimulate the sharing of ideas and discussion within the structure of a workshop's agenda. Keep a record of the events of the training: a list of participants, a record of future plans, copies and summaries of participant evaluations. Use these materials to report back to your community or organization.

At the beginning of the session

Use icebreakers to raise the level of motivation, arouse interest, clarify objectives, share her/his expectations and clarify participants' expectations. Emphasize the importance of listening, thinking, questioning and responding. Remind participants that all questions are welcomed.

During the session

- Call on participants by name.
- Listen to the body language as well as spoken language of participants.

- Avoid lengthy exchanges with only one participant.
- Use questions and comments to draw others into the discussion.
- Encourage the use of stories or personal anecdotes to make concepts clearer.
- Invite participants to give their feedback on how the workshop is going.

At the end of the session

Ask participants to write an evaluation of the workshop. Invite participants to share their thoughts on the workshop with each other. Thank participants for their feedback.

After the session

Stay after the session to talk to participants and answer questions or direct them to appropriate resources. Incorporate lessons learned from the workshop and participants' feedback in planning the next workshop.



Training Guide

Sample one-day workshop agenda

Although this workshop has six sessions, the time needed for a given session will actually depend upon the number of participants, the complexity of the topic and participants' general level of knowledge of the subject.

Keep in mind that training participants may not know each other or know each other well. Hence, the workshops should use introductions and small group activities to introduce participants to each other, build rapport among them and give the most reserved participants an opportunity to participate.

Session	Purpose and Content
1: Opening and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put participants at ease. • Set an open and inclusive tone for the workshop. • Build participants' interest in promoting the MDGs.
2: The MDGs—Origin, purpose, context and content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce participants to the background, context, purpose and content of the MDGs. • Enable them to put a “human face” to the statistics. • Raise their awareness of existing actions.
3: Advocacy for the MDGs—Who, why and how	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce participants to their government's stated positions on the MDGs. • Raise their awareness of the importance and methods of monitoring of government compliance with its positions. • Raise their awareness of groups, networks and coalitions engaged in action to promote the MDGs.
4: Interfaith community support for the MDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage participants in a process of discussion and decision-making regarding the religious community's engagement in promoting the MDGs.
5: MDG Support—Planning for action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable participants to develop action plans for the activities in which they are most interested.
6: Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable participants to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide feedback on the workshop. This can be done through an anonymous written evaluation or an informal discussion. -Thank each other. -Make commitments to ongoing action.

The Millennium Development Goals

The eight MDGs have been broken down into 21 measurable targets, each with indicators for monitoring progress. As the MDGs will not be fully realized until every goal is met in every nation on earth, religious leaders and faith communities have an important role to play in monitoring their governments and ensuring accountability so that each of the goals are achieved.

GOALS AND TARGETS

INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

- 1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day
- 1.2 Poverty ratio gap
- 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

- 1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed
- 1.5 Employment-to-population ratio
- 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP per day)
- 1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

- 1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age
- 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

- 2.1 Net enrollment ratio in primary education
- 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary school
- 2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, women and men

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

- 3.1 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
- 3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
- 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

- 4.1 Under-five mortality rate
- 4.2 Infant mortality rate
- 4.3 Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

- 5.1 Maternal mortality ratio
- 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

- 5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate
- 5.4 Adolescent birth rate
- 5.5 Antenatal coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)
- 5.6 Unmet need for family planning

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

- 6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years
- 6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex
- 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years

Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

- 6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs

GOALS AND TARGETS	INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS
<p>Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</p>	<p>6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria 6.7 Proportion of children under five sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets 6.8 Proportion of children under five with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs 6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course</p>
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
<p>Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources</p> <p>Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss</p>	<p>7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest 7.2 CO₂ emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP) 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used 7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction</p>
<p>Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation</p>	<p>7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility</p>
<p>Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers</p>	<p>7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums</p>
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	
<p>Target 8.A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system</p> <p><i>Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally</i></p> <p>Target 8.B: Address the special needs of the least developed countries</p> <p><i>Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced program of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction</i></p> <p>Target 8.C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)</p> <p>Target 8.D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</p>	<p><i>Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, land-locked developing countries and small island developing States.</i></p> <p>Official development assistance (ODA)</p> <p>8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income 8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) 8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied 8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes 8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes</p> <p>Market access</p> <p>8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty 8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product 8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity</p> <p>Debt sustainability</p> <p>8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative) 8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives 8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services</p>
<p>Target 8.E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries</p>	<p>8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis</p>
<p>Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p>	<p>8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population 8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population 8.16 Internet users per 100 population</p>

The Millennium Development Goals:
Grounded in the the
Faith Traditions
of the **World**

Support for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be found in all of the religious traditions of the world. They are not a new idea, but rather a new way to respond to the call of caring for each other that has been sounded by religious leaders, prophets, and scriptures throughout the ages. In each tradition there is a call to treat other people as we would like to be treated.

Baha'i Faith

Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself.

– Baha'u'llah, Gleanings

Buddhism

Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

– The Buddha, Udana-Varga 5.18

Christianity

In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

– Jesus, Matthew 7:12

Confucianism

One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct...loving-kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself.

– Confucius, Analects 15.23

Hinduism

This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.

– Mahabharata 5:1517

Islam

Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.

– The Prophet Muhammad, Hadith

Jainism

One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated

– Mahavira, Suttrakritanga 1.11.33

Judaism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it.

– Hillel, Talmud, Shabbath 31a

Sikhism

I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all.

– Guru Granth Sahib, p.1299

Taoism

Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain and your neighbour's loss as your own loss.

– Lao Tzu, T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien, 213-218

Unitarianism

We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

– Unitarian principle

Yoruban Indigenous Traditions

One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts .

– Yoruban Proverb

Zoroastrianism

Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself.

– Shayast-na-Shayast 13.29

Adaptable Statement for Religious Leaders

You can read this statement at religious services, inter-religious events, or other actions. Adapt it with references to your own community or faith tradition. Add to it appropriate prayers or scriptures.

Our faith celebrates life. It calls us to confront the devastation wrought by poverty. In our community and in our world, we have seen the human face of poverty. Today, over one billion people struggle to survive on less than US\$1 a day. Every four seconds, somewhere a child dies of preventable causes. Over 20,000 children are lost each day to the effects of poverty. The health of our communities is threatened by HIV/AIDS, malaria, and maternal and child mortality. The future of our community depends on access to good education for all of our children. The time has come for us to bring the full weight of our moral convictions to bear on behalf of the poor and the voiceless. The needless suffering of one billion of our brothers and sisters – at a time when others are enjoying the benefits of unprecedented levels of prosperity – is an affront to our core beliefs.

And so today, we commit ourselves to join with thousands of people around the world as part of a global movement to advocate for an end to the crises of poverty through achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

We know all too well that the problems the MDGs seek to address are not new. Indeed, many of us have been working for decades to free our brothers and sisters from their effects. But the MDGs are much more than a rallying cry. They are extremely important; and there are several reasons why we must seize this opportunity. The MDGs are the first and only compact among nations to end world poverty. People of good will all over the world are engaged in campaigning to support them. But most importantly, they are, in fact, achievable in a world that has the economic, social, and technical resources to finally end extreme poverty.

And so, we are here to answer this call to put our faith into action again. We will pray, reflect, and act in collaboration with other faith communities in our country and around the globe.

We will remember and draw lessons from our community's long tradition of not just comforting the poor and the afflicted, but also working to end the causes of their deprivation and suffering.

[This would be a good place to use examples of past or ongoing community activism]

We recognize that, in signing the Millennium Declaration in the year 2000, 189 world leaders have taken a major step forward; and we believe that we must walk beside them to ensure that they have the political and spiritual will to take the steps now needed to attain the MDGs. We acknowledge that the MDGs will not be fully achieved until progress is made in every country of the world.

It is our role as a community first to learn about the 8 goals and accompanying targets for 2015, to build awareness of them among our fellow citizens, to raise our voices for, and with, the poor and vulnerable who live among us, and to hold our government accountable for keeping their promises.

Tools and Resources

Report Back

The sharing of experiences, lessons learned, and best practices is a crucial part of making the MDGs a successful global effort. It also can inspire others to act and lets the world know how religious communities are involved. Let the world know what you are doing! Send the information below by mail or e-mail to *Religions for Peace*.

Description of the action

You may want to include:

- Name of the action
- Dates
- Location
- Goals of the action
- Lessons learned
- Results

Other questions to consider

What other groups or organizations were involved? If you had an event, did the media report on it? About how many people participated? Who was there? What types of groups were represented? Were community leaders present? What are your future plans?

Does *Religions for Peace* have permission to share information about your event or action with its network and the Millennium Campaign? Is there other information you would like to share about your group's efforts.

Also include contact information

- Organization or community group name
- Contact person(s)
- E-mail (if applicable)
- Address and telephone

If possible, please include: copies of any press coverage, pictures, promotional materials, hand-outs from events or other materials.

Send this information to:

E-mail: info@religionsforpeace.org

If you don't have access to e-mail, you can mail your information to the address below:

Action on the MDGs
Religions for Peace
 777 United Nations Plaza
 New York, NY 10017
 USA

Ugandan religious leaders come together for inter-religious collaboration on conflict transformation and advocacy



Tools and Resources

Resources

Religions for Peace

website: <http://www.religionsforpeace.org>
e-mail: info@religionsforpeace.org
Mailing address: 777 United Nations Plaza
 New York, NY 10017 USA

About the Millennium Development Goals

The UN Millennium Campaign

Tips and tools for advocacy on the MDGs and stories of local, national and global campaigns. The site includes separate sections for each country as well as an events calendar for each continent.

website: <http://www.endpoverty2015.org>
Mailing address: 304 East 45th St., FF-610
 New York, NY 10017 USA

The United Nations website on the MDGs: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>

The United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals

For a complete report on the progress of the MDGs, detailed statistics and indicators, analysis, and recommendations on strategies to achieve the goals visit:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202010%20En%20r15%20-low%20res%2020100615%20-.pdf>

Country-specific Reports

Find out how your country is doing from the United Nations Development Programme website:

<http://www.undp.org/mdg/countries.shtml>

“What will it take to achieve the MDGs?”

Based on evidence from over 50 countries, this International Assessment by the United Nations Development Program lays out an eight-point action plan to reduce global poverty and advance sustainable development.

http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=2620072

MDG Good Practices

A publication by the United Nations Development Group that presents almost 200 good practices from 75 different countries that demonstrate innovative ways of overcoming obstacles to accelerate progress on the MDGs.

<http://www.undg-policy.net.org/?q=node/11>

Millennium Development Goals Report Card

Initial findings from an ongoing review by the UN Millennium Campaign and the Overseas Development Institute.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4908.pdf>

Get Connected

Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Campaign contacts for individual countries; information on white band days, national campaigns and other resources.

website: English: <http://www.whiteband.org>
 Français: http://www.whiteband.org/index_html/switchLanguage?set_language=fr

Tools and Resources

Resources

GCAP National Coalitions: GCAP alliances have formed more than 100 national coalitions around the world. To find out if there is a GCAP coalition in your country, and to find out how to contact them, visit: <http://www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/what-is-gcap/gcap-national-coalitions>

ONE Campaign

A broad network of individuals engaged in advocacy to end extreme poverty and the associated effects.
<http://www.one.org>

The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service

An inter-agency program of the United Nations mandate to promote and develop constructive relations between the United Nations and civil society organizations.
<http://www.un-ngls.org>

The Millennium Campaign

A campaign that supports and inspires people from around the world to take action in support of the MDGs.
<http://www.endpoverty2015.org>

Tools for Action

Campaigning Toolkit

An in-depth guide to planning, carrying-out and following up on actions around the MDGs. Includes tips for writing letters, giving interviews, and other important steps:
<http://civicus.org/mdg/title.htm>

Millennium Campaign Key Demands

A document on global key demands presented at a July 2010 high level meeting on the MDGs. The document calls leaders to be accountable for delivering on their commitments around the MDGs.
<http://endpoverty2015.org/en/keydemands>

Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals

Sharing the tools needed to address the concerns and perspectives of women in relation to all of the MDGs. From the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality and the Multilateral Development Bank Working Group on Gender.
<http://www.mdgender.net>

Some International Faith-Based Organizations Involved with the MDGs

Find out what groups from your religious community are involved. Many local and international aid organizations are taking steps to link their work to the MDGs.

Caritas: <http://www.caritas.org>

Christian Aid: <http://www.christian-aid.org>

Ecumenical Women: www.ecumenicalwomen.org

Justitia et Pax – Netherlands: <http://www.justitiaetpax.nl> Micah Challenge: <http://www.micahchallenge.org>

Muslim Aid: <http://www.muslimaid.org>

Tearfund: <http://www.tearfund.org>

Acknowledgements

Religions for Peace would like to thank the UN Millennium Campaign for its support of this project and for use of their resources. The content of the toolkit was developed with material from the *MDG Campaign Toolkit* created by CIVICUS and the Millennium Campaign, as well as from the United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals and civil society publications, including the Millennium Campaign *Youth Action Guide*. Special thanks are also due to the African Council of Religious Leaders-Religions for Peace, member of inter-religious councils (IRCs) and *Religions for Peace* staff who have contributed to the development and review of this toolkit.

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Religions for Peace wishes to acknowledge the work of Katherine Clark, K. Parker Diggory, Cherri D. Waters, Felicity Maxwell, and Angela Oliver in developing the original MDG Toolkit published in 2005.

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The UN Millennium Campaign supports citizens' efforts to hold their governments to account for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This toolkit is an independent publication. This publication does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme or their Member States.

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Text Credits

Material for Section 2: Actions adapted from the *MDG Campaign Toolkit* and *Y Youth Action Guide* cited above.

Quotes for "The Millennium Development Goals: Grounded in the Faith Traditions of the World" (p. 31) collected by Scarborough Missions (except the Yoruban proverb).
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End Notes

1. World Health Organization
2. World Food Programme
3. *United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals*
4. *United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals*
5. Action Aid; Millennium Campaign
6. World Revolution; Millennium Campaign
7. United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals
8. UNFPA; Millennium Campaign
9. UNFPA; Millennium Campaign
10. UNAIDS
11. *United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals*
12. *United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals*
13. *United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals*
14. *United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals*
15. *Why do the Millennium Goals Matter?*
United Nations <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/brochure.htm>
16. *United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals*
17. Save the Children; Millennium Campaign
18. Christian Aids; Millennium Campaign
19. *United Nations 2010 Report on the Millennium Development Goals*

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