





The Tree of Life

PHOTO BY DAVID ROSE, COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN AID

Millennium Development Goal 1

ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 a day
- Every day, 800 million people go to bed hungry
- Every day, 28,000 children die from poverty-related causes

The Tree of Life is a sculpture made entirely of weapons reclaimed after Mozambique's long civil war. The civil war in Mozambique, which ended in 1992, lasted 16 years but many guns are still in circulation and more than half of the population live in poverty. The risk remains that the guns will be used in Mozambique or in neighbouring countries. The Tree of Life is part of the effort to encourage people to exchange weapons for useful implements such as sewing machines or farm equipment but is also a symbol of transformation and renewal.

In the 1980s and 1990s droughts added to the damage caused by war, leading to severe food shortages and famine for millions. In 2000, Mozambique was devastated by floods. It is now recovering and poverty has been steadily decreasing since 2003.

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Children at school in Adele Gosie Salen Primary School, Ethiopia.

PHOTO BY PATSY TOLAND, COURTESY OF SELF HELP DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL

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Our World Our Future
Millennium Development Goals

Millennium Development Goal 2

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- 115 million children are not in school—56% of them are girls and 94% of them live in developing countries
- 133 million young people cannot read or write
- All children complete primary school in only 37 of 155 developing countries

Education is a primary means of escape from poverty and of access to a better lifestyle. Literacy, numeracy and life-skills are essential to people's development. The education of girls is particularly important in maintaining the health and well-being of families, as they are usually the main carers. A new roof water harvesting system has been installed in this school to collect rain water during the rainy season, providing drinking water for all pupils during the school year. Pupils, up to now, have brought their own water to school.





Girls enjoy the craic collecting water in Haiti

PHOTO BY LIAM BOURKE, COURTESY OF CONCERN

The construction of wells on La Gonave island in Haiti has brought relief to thousands of people, who were previously forced to walk 18km per day to fetch water. The girls' mood here is lighthearted, their task far removed from the drudgery of long distance water collection which can be difficult, exhausting and dangerous.

The need for children, particularly girls, to contribute to their family's survival by daily work is a major factor in their missing out on schooling.

Millennium Development Goal 3

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- Two-thirds of those who cannot read are female
- Many girls cannot attend school because education of boys is considered more important or because they have to help at home to care for children and elder family members.
- Women held only 6% of cabinet posts in 2003, in other words 94% of decision-makers at government level were men. (UN, cyberschoolbus)

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Baby Haruna from Kilosa district, Tanzania

PHOTO: IRISH AID

Millennium Development Goal 4

REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

**Reduce by two thirds the
mortality rate among
children under five**

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- In 48 developing countries more than 1 in 10 children die at birth compared to 1 in 143 in developed countries
- Measles caused over half a million deaths in 2000. Vaccination would have prevented them all.
- 70% of deaths before age five are caused by disease or a combination of hunger and disease that could have been prevented.

Irish Aid helps fund training in primary health care. Health is one of the key sectors supported by Irish Aid. Good health is a fundamental human right. It is widely recognised that poor health both contributes to, and is the result of, poverty.

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Water from the well

PHOTO BY PATSY TOLAND, COURTESY OF SELF HELP

The family is getting water from the well in Adifinia in Eritrea, which borders Ethiopia. This area has seasonal water shortage and local people told of women walking up to 10km to the nearest well daily. This caused such hardship that pregnant women were losing their babies.

Millennium Development Goal 5

**IMPROVE
MATERNAL HEALTH**
Reduce by three quarters
the maternal mortality ratio

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- More than 500,000 mothers die giving birth every year.
- 99 % of those deaths occur in the developing world
- Pregnancy is the leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19 in developing countries

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A missing generation

PHOTO: IRISH AID

The devastation caused by the spread of HIV/AIDS has meant that many families, like this one, are composed of only grandparents and young children. In many cases children have to take up the burden of adulthood at an early age, caring for the whole family and missing out on childhood and schooling.

HIV/AIDS has left many children as the sole carer for younger children and for sick family members and elderly relatives.

Millennium Development Goal 6

COMBAT HIV/AIDS AND OTHER DISEASES

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other diseases

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- Currently more than 11 million children in Africa have lost at least one parent to HIV/AIDS. That number is expected to reach 20 million by 2010. (UNICEF)
- Around 2.5 million children under fifteen were living with HIV at the end of 2005.
- Over 3 million adults and children died from AIDS in 2005. 2.5 million of those deaths occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 2005, there were about 14000 new infections a day

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Woman at a stove in Ethiopia

PHOTO BY PATSY TOLAND, COURTESY OF SELF HELP

The photo shows a women in Ethiopia cooking on a stove, rather than on an open fire. This frees up time for the user, conserves wood and also shows an example of a cooperative venture.

The stove is a labour saving device funded by the local Savings and Credit Co-ops (SACCO). The stoves are twice as efficient as an open fire and allow women to halve the time spent in collecting firewood, which can take up a full day per week.

Millennium Development Goal 7

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- 2 million children die every year from infections spread by dirty water or the lack of toilets
- 1.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water.
- The collapse of fish stocks around the world threatens to increase hunger and poverty among poor coastal communities throughout the developing world.
- Climate change affects everyone.

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014)

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development specifically combines the areas of environmental and human development. There can be no long-term economic or social development on a depleted planet. Education to develop widespread understanding of human interdependence and dependence on earth's resources is at the core of education for sustainable development.

The span of the Decade parallels that of the Millennium Development Goals whose target date is 2015.

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**Millennium
Development Goal 8****DEVELOP A GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

Develop an open trading and financial system that does not discriminate against developing countries. It includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- Europe's cows receive \$2 a day in subsidies, more than the income of half the world's population
- Developed countries have pledged to give 0.7% of their national income in aid. But only 5 countries are living up to the commitment. By 2012, Ireland will have achieved this target.
- Fair trading rules could help lift 300 million people out of poverty by 2015

**Fair Trade**

PHOTO BY FELICIA WEBB/IPG COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN AID

Celina Francisco Moiane, 30, has been a cane cutter for 2 years, working for the Illovo Sugar Factory, Maragra, Maputo Province, Mozambique.

The cane is burnt before harvesting to remove leaf material and some of the waxy coating. It burns quickly and the cane and its sugar content are not harmed.

It is dirty work but can employ lots of people in areas where jobs are scarce.

Fair trade means a fair market and a fair return for labour.





A family from the Sodo region of Ethiopia show off their produce.

PHOTO BY PATSY TOLAND, COURTESY OF SELF HELP

Mr. Habti is a farmer in Gogoti, Ethiopia. Both he and his wife are members of local co-ops and credit unions, allowing them to finance poultry and crop production. The local credit union or Savings and Credit Co-op (SACCO) enables communities to pool resources to promote self-development.

Sacco

Saccos (Savings And Credit Co-operatives) in Africa are credit unions, much the same as those in Ireland. They are an important way for communities to share their resources and become self-reliant by setting up useful businesses. (See Unit 3: Lesson 2)

Pooling of resources by communities, access to technology, fair international rules and self-reliance are the foundation of stable development. Partnership for development through credit unions between Ireland and the Gambia (Africa) is explored in Unit 3: Lesson 2.

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Immunisation day at Ulaya Health Centre, the centre was built by Irish Aid Kilosa district, Tanzania:

PHOTO: IRISH AID

IN OUR WORLD TODAY:

- Malaria causes more than one million deaths each year.
- Tuberculosis kills around 2 million. (World Health Organization)
- Vaccine-preventable diseases cause more than 2 million deaths every year, of which 1.4 million occur in children under age five. (The Global Fund)

Preventable diseases kill many people annually, mostly in less developed countries where immunisation and the most effective drugs are less available. Irish Aid supports this immunization programme in Tanzania.

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Travellers Rights
are
Human Rights

Travellers Rights
are
Human Rights

PAVEE POINT
D-T-E-D-G
TRAVELLERS

TRAVELLERS'
RIGHTS
ARE
HUMAN
RIGHTS



Pavee Point
Travellers' Organisation



A Travellers' march in Dublin

PHOTO BY DEREK SPIERS, COURTESY OF PAVEE POINT TRAVELLERS CENTRE

Travellers are the largest ethnic minority in Ireland. In 2002, Travellers and settled people from all over the country marched to protest at new trespass laws introduced by the Government. Travellers felt that the new laws were targeted directly at them and threatened their right to live their traditional life-style.

IRISH TRAVELLER ISSUES

Lack of equality is an issue, not just for women and girls, but for other groups too. Irish Travellers are an example of such a group.

- Male Travellers can expect to live nearly 9.9 years less than settled men
- Female Travellers can expect to live 11.9 years less than settled women
- Although 5,500 Traveller children attended primary school in 2003, only 62 were enrolled in the final year of secondary school (Pavee Point Travellers Centre, Census 2002)

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The South Asian Tsunami December 2004

PHOTOS: IRISH AID

TSUNAMIS

- The epicentre of the 9.0 magnitude earthquake, which caused the 2004 tsunami, was under the Indian Ocean, near the Indonesian island of Sumatra.
- It was the second most powerful recorded earthquake after the Great Chilean Earthquake of 1960
- It travelled nearly 5,000 kilometres arriving in the North East coast of Africa with enough force to kill people and cause destruction.

These scenes from Aceh in Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, show the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami. Over 200,000 people died in the South Asian tsunami, most in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Many were also displaced. Before the tsunami, the United Nations listed seventeen million people across the globe as displaced. The tsunami added close to two million to that number as people sought shelter and fled the coast.

Natural disasters cause most damage to people living in poverty.

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