

MDG, Human Development and Poverty Cluster  
Regional Bureau and Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean  
United Nations Development Programme



## Nr. 12 – July 2012

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### BEST PRACTICE BRIEFS



#### GENDER EQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: TWO PRIORITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NICARAGUA

##### Background

Nicaragua is the Latin American country that received the most funding from the MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F), the well-known mechanism promoted and funded by the Government of Spain. Between 2009 and 2013 the Government of Nicaragua and the United Nations system, have been implementing over 39 million dollars through joint programmes in six priority areas: gender, environment, water and sanitation, culture and development, youth and food security. The six joint programmes prioritize the most vulnerable populations and communities, being the Caribbean coast the region with more interventions.

Recently finalized, the Joint Programmes on Gender and Environment have provided evidence of progress in individuals' empowerment to manage their development processes, as well as the promotion of rights, women's participation and institutional strengthening.

##### National context

Gender equality (linked to MDG 3) and environmental sustainability (MDG 7) are high priority objectives for the Government of Nicaragua. Progress is made evident by some key indicators.

On gender, women outnumber men in participation rates and school performance; women participation in the labour market and income levels have been increasing, particularly among young people with better educational skills, allowing for greater access to decent jobs. Yet some challenges remain, such as high levels of informality, employment vulnerability and lower wages among women. Progress is noticeable in terms of women's political participation. In May of 2012, women occupied

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42% of the Parliament seats. In relation to environmental sustainability, the Government has made remarkable efforts in changing the energy matrix. According to the Ministry of Energy and Mines, 64% of power generation in the country comes from renewable resources. On the other hand, the Ministry of Environment points out how the implementation of the National Reforestation Campaign has enabled the increase of land covered by forest and has allowed a reduction of 80% the hot spots in protected areas.

#### Main results of the implementation of the Joint Programmes

##### *Towards gender equity and women's empowerment*

Based on the institutionalization of gender, the Joint Programme on Gender "From Rhetoric to Reality: Towards gender equity and women's empowerment through participation and gender practice in national budgets" has been introduced.



Cooperative Omero Guatemala in Jinotega (September 2011)

This joint initiative contributed to strengthening social mobilization and women's empowerment, the adoption of gender practices in policies, plans and national budgets, including development plans and budgets in selected municipalities. The programme was implemented in 15 municipalities, including the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean coast, with the participation of 9 agencies of the United Nations, 10 central government institutions and the National Assembly and Regional and Municipal Governments.

The programme contributed to the achievement of MDG 3 "Promote gender equality and empower women" through the work in two areas that are central for the lives of women and their empowerment: development of economic activities and health from a holistic perspective, including sexual education.

Among the results is the incorporation of the "Municipal Planning Methodology and Human Development with Gender Practices" into the law of Municipalities. Moreover, 443 women leaders negotiated with municipal governments the incorporation of their proposals into the municipal budget of 2012.

"The two biggest outcomes of the Joint Programme at the country level are its link to the government's national development policies, and the incorporation of gender practices into municipal plans and budgets, coordinating their implementation with government institutions. We still have a long way to go but it is a start in terms of gender equity. The success of the JP is to know how to speak with the local and Government authorities - run in a timely manner." William Vasquez, Volunteer, Estelí.

One of the strategic achievements of the programme was the formulation and implementation of the "Methodological guide for the elaboration of the Institutional Medium-term Expenditure Framework and the Republic's General Budget with Gender Practices" carried out by the Ministry of Finance and with a high degree of ownership by the State institutions.

More than 8,500 women had access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including victims of sexual and domestic violence. Moreover, more than 1000 women developed economic activities and received training in business development and horizontal networks with gender practices.

Additional results on women beneficiaries of the joint programme, include the delivery of resources and productive assets, training on sexual and reproductive health, and technical assistance to women. This has provided them with greater empowerment, improvement of their quality of life and, particularly regarding food and nutritional security. The comprehensiveness of actions to promote greater awareness and knowledge about the human rights of women has been placed on the public agenda, with emphasis on the need to address their practical and strategic needs in the processes of planning and formulation of public budgets.

### *Environmental Services in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve*

The buffer zone of the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, is undoubtedly one of the most important protected areas of Central America and part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. The Joint Programme "Local environmental management to the management of natural resources and provision of environmental services in the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve" contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7).

With the backdrop of rapidly advancing agricultural boundaries, the impact of Hurricane Felix in 2007 caused high environmental, economic and social damage to the region. As a response, the programme focused on the municipalities of Bonanza and Waspam, in micro basins Waspuk, high Wawa and high Kukalaya, which promoted their planning with a focus on risk management and ecosystems restoration.

The establishment of 25 watershed management committees – with 30% of members being women - and the participatory approach in management plans helped to strengthen local and municipal capacities for environmental governance. . Not only did this contribute to the advancement towards MDG 7, but it also ensured the sustainability of the programme's actions.



Training in Environmental education in Bosawás Biosphere Reserve (March 2012)

The programme promoted environmental education campaigns in schools, formed networks of communicators, and created 3 municipal radio stations with technical staff equipped and trained to educate about environmental management and care of the Bosawás Reserve. Activities under the programme were conducted in conjunction with regional and municipal, authorities, including Mayagnas, Miskitas populations and mestizos, promoting the integration and coexistence between the groups present in the area.

Pastora Obando Rojas, from Los Milagros community (Environmental Joint Programme), said: "my community today is now a model in water and sanitation; thanks to the level of organization we reached, women in our community got organized and we went to reforest the watershed."

For more information, please contact the MDG Fund Secretariat in Nicaragua at [secretariafodm.nicaragua@one.un.org](mailto:secretariafodm.nicaragua@one.un.org) or visit the website [www.fodm.org.ni](http://www.fodm.org.ni)



## THE FUTURE OF BELIZE EXPERIENCED THROUGH THE MINDS OF INNOVATIVE STUDENTS

### The initiative

The United Nations Development Programme in Belize in collaboration with Total Business Solutions Limited (TBSL), the local distributor of Esri Inc., launched on May 23rd 2012 the results of the 1st Annual "My Virtual City" Competition. Guided by the theme, "Designing our Future - Mobilizing People for Change!" the Competition challenged both primary and high school level students to imagine, design, and build the future cities of Belize. Student participants worked as teams to plan cities using Esri software; cities which respond to the prevailing national socio-economic and environmental realities. Apart from the virtual presentations, teams also constructed tabletop scaled models of special features of their city and presented city narratives which elaborated steps taken by the city designers to address population needs and sustainability.

Dedicated GeoMentors volunteered their time, over a four month period, to teach students the basics of ArcGIS 3D Analyst and provided technical backstopping as teams worked to create their cities. TBSL also worked alongside UNDP in the creation of targeted messages which introduced thematic areas for consideration as guidance in city design. These messages raised awareness among young participants as to the importance of Human Rights and the considerations of MDG target attainment in city design. Messages such as the one posted below were sent out on weekly basis to students and team mentors.

"The Ministry of Health's investment for the control chronic diseases continues to increase. The national incidence of malaria cases per 1,000 persons is decreasing. Does your city provide for medical services? How accessible are these services? Does your City design promote healthy lifestyles?"

The Gender Joint Programme brought positive changes to both women's lives and to their families as expressed by Eduarda Dormos: "The support they gave us changed our economic and social lives. Our family now does not suffer as before and my husband now respects me more. Now, he thanks me for the improvements we got through my efforts".

The competition hoped to ignite the imagination of the younger generation as they utilize GIS for planning and problem solving; addressing social, environmental and economic issues within their societies. "This competition is about more than just kids experiencing GIS; it's about working together to sustain our world. We have an opportunity here to create a more spatially literate and socially developed society," says Mrs. Regina Campbell of TBSL.

### Results

The resulting virtual cities motivated the more than 500 individuals who came out to the event. Final city designs demonstrated diversity in the students' application of the knowledge transferred, as well as innovation in finding solutions to common problems associated with city planning and city management. The insightfulness of the participating youths as it relates to prevailing national concerns on poverty, crime and violence, social service structure and environmental sustainability impressed the judges, invited guests and visitors to the displays.

The City of Arcadia's details to social services networks, its consideration of marginalized populations and environmental sustainability earned this City the UNDP prize for "Best Incorporation of MDGs".



According to Arcadia's young planners, "Arcadia is an eco-friendly, technology based city that provides safety first for its citizens and also allows for recreation and great entertainment. The city hopes to improve Belize and find its way on to the map as the best little city in the world". Brandon Bennett (10 yrs) and O'Sean Hyde (10 yrs), Horizon Academy.

High School students William Mahler and Exson Cruz, responsible for the design of the City of Terra Nova, invited all to visit and perhaps stay at Terra Nova. William explained that their team drew inspiration from the culture and economic realities and opportunities available in their home district of Corozal. Team Terra Nova was recognized by event organizers and invited guest, Minister of Education, Hon. Patrick Faber as being the overall winner of the competition.

The UNDP Belize CO thanks all participating students, parents, mentors, and supporters who embraced this initiative and have committed its support to the Ministry of Education as they work to develop the next generation of strategic decision makers.

"...we think that the children are the most important part of this city; because when children grow up, they are the ones who will work for and develop the city. That is why we let them go to college for free to get their education." Aidon Perera, Masaki Yanai, Rene Allen. St. Joseph Primary School (Global City).

For more information, please contact Jay Coombs at [jay.coombs@undp.org](mailto:jay.coombs@undp.org) or visit the website [www.myvirtualcity.bz](http://www.myvirtualcity.bz) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/MyVirtualCityBZ](https://www.facebook.com/MyVirtualCityBZ)



## INNOVATION, KNOWLEDGE AND GENDER EQUALITY FOR LATIN AMERICA

### Background

As numerous studies pose – such as the report on inequality of the MDGs Achievement Fund presented at the 2010 MDG Summit, or the United Nations report on the progress of the MDGs – "If progress continues at the pace of the past five years, educational attainment, labour market entry and greater rights will not translate into greater welfare, recognition and equality between men and women". Building on the progress achieved, it is necessary to redouble efforts to advance the goals of gender equality.

In this context, it is necessary to trigger processes that accelerate the achievement of MDG 3 in the region, through building on strategies and products already generated by the contribution of the MDGs Achievement Fund, on lessons learned from the MDG-F Joint Programmes in Latin America, as well as on the learning of the application of the MAF (MDG Acceleration Framework) in various countries in the region.

It is essential to enhance gender equality as a matter of priority in the national and regional political agendas for the implementation of the Brasilia Consensus (2010), and ensure that respect for human rights, gender equality, decent work and environmental sustainability are incorporated as a key objective of development effectiveness.

This is why the Gender Area of the LAC Regional Centre of UNDP, with the support of the MDGs Achievement Fund, is driving the regional project "Innovation, knowledge and gender for Latin America", which seeks to develop on the strengths of two global initiatives supported by the MDGs Achievement Fund, under the leadership of UNWOMEN and UNDP: "Gender as a Cross Cutting Issue" and "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment". In addition, at the regional level, it seeks to strengthen some areas less visible such as decent work and political participation of women.

### What is the initiative about?

The main objective of this initiative, which began in February 2012 and will end in June 2013, is related to the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and it responds to the need to upgrade it after 20 years of breakthroughs but also deadlock. Therefore, we consider two key elements: the recent creation of the inter-agency and regional Group "Gender Equality and empowerment of women" and the installation in Panama of UN Women's Regional Centre in late 2011. In addition, we identified the regional and global agendas 2011-2012 as the main frame for action. The project proposes knowledge management, capacity building and information/communication for action as axes and articulating strategies thereof.

This initiative aims to achieve three main results oriented to capacity building, exchange and transfer of knowledge and communication as a tool to position the agenda.

First, through this regional project, the capacities of national and regional actors will be strengthened to institutionalize gender equality in policies, programmes and institutions and accelerate the achievement of MDG3.

Secondly, opportunities for dialogue and building partnerships will be provided to develop an agenda of equality in decent work and political participation goals of the MDG3 and violence against women, through transfer and exchanges of methodologies at regional level and generation of relevant knowledge products. And finally, a communication strategy, that allows positioning within and without the eradication of gender inequalities as a central theme of development and achievement of the MDGs, will be implemented.

With this process, we expect to create collective spaces for reflection, analysis and inter-agency exchange that allow us to implement a more articulate action for the agenda post-2015 from a regional perspective that contributes to global discussions. That is why, it is important to have presence in global networks, and therefore a permanent strategy of this initiative is to make visible the regional contributions to global networks of UNDP.

In turn, information/communication for action is a main focus of the proposal as we are working with key stakeholders (media, information networks, communication officers of UN agencies, etc.) to position both internally (UN) and externally (national and regional counterparts) the eradication of gender inequalities as a priority for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

America Latina Genera <http://www.americalatinaganera.org> and Teamworks are being used, in articulation with social networks (facebook, twitter and others), as technology platforms that facilitate the realization of these strategies.

For more information, please contact Ivonne Urriola at [ivonne.urriola@undp.org](mailto:ivonne.urriola@undp.org)

## MAF CORNER

*This section promotes activities around the “MDG Acceleration Framework” (MAF), endorsed by UNDG to accelerate progress towards the Goals. The MAF is a tool for countries to develop an acceleration action plan based on priority MDGs and building on existing programmes and policies. It also helps governments to focus on inequalities, a major cause of uneven progress, by emphasizing the needs of the most vulnerable groups. See more information here.*



### Costa Rica: Action Plan under final revision

The MAF Action Plan elaborated jointly by the UN Country Team and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security is on its final revision. The comprehensive document, composed by 5 chapters focuses on employment for people with disabilities in Costa Rica and presents the related national policies and regulatory framework. After detailing the main components that demand intervention to foster employment opportunities for people with disabilities, the document presents an action plan specifying the bottlenecks to be tackled, the solutions for accelerating progress, the expected impacts and the baselines. For more information, please contact Gerald Mora at [gerald.mora@undp.org](mailto:gerald.mora@undp.org).



### El Salvador: bottlenecks mapped and relevant counterparts identified

The UN System in El Salvador and the Government of El Salvador have jointed efforts to implement the MDG methodology to accelerate the achievement of MDG 4 and 5. They are currently designing a preliminary report detailing the main bottlenecks and mapping the relevant counterparts to be engaged in the process. El Salvador is drawing lessons from child and maternal mortality MAFs implemented in other countries and regions. For more information, please contact Salvador Aguilera at [Salvador.Aguilera@one.un.org](mailto:Salvador.Aguilera@one.un.org).

### Colombia: Assessment of MAF at the local level in Colombia



UNDP Colombia has conducted a workshop to review and assess the experience with the MDG Acceleration Framework in Colombia. This workshop took place on June 27 and 28 in Bogotá, with support from the MDG Unit of UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) and the Regional Service Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (RSC LAC). The meeting examined the activities and results of MAF roll-out; identified lessons learned; examined the extent of the implementation of the Action Plans; and suggested practical ways to improve the monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plans. Overall this is part of an assessment that will aim at producing a systematization document and a video. The workshop was attended by national government officials, local government officials, main stakeholders, and UN actors. The discussion focused on the relevance of the MAF at the subnational level, the continuity of the process and the identification of elements to replicate the MAF in new regions. For more information, please contact Fernando Herrera at [fernando.herrera@undp.org](mailto:fernando.herrera@undp.org).



### Jamaica: national consultation for defining off-track MDG

With technical support from UNDP Country Office and future support by UNDP Regional Bureau and Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean and BDP, the Government of Jamaica, through the Planning Institute of Jamaica, will be planning a national consultation for defining the goal to be prioritized. For more information please contact Machel Stewart at [machel.stewart@undp.org](mailto:machel.stewart@undp.org).



### Grenada and the Commonwealth of Dominica: MAF as a tool to implement national strategies

UNDP Barbados in conjunction with the Governments of Grenada and the Commonwealth of Dominica are initiating discussions to apply and implement the MAF in both island countries. MAF would complement and serve as a tool to implement the Commonwealth of Dominica's Growth and Social Protection Strategy and the Grenada Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2012-2015. For more information, please contact Marsha Caddle at [marsha.caddle@undp.org](mailto:marsha.caddle@undp.org).

## THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

*This section provides highlights on the growing discussion around the post-2015 development agenda, including publications, presentations, news and events, with the aim of promoting this debate across the region.*

### NEWS AND EVENTS

#### The outcome document for Rio+20 drives forward the post-2015 framework



The outcome document for Rio+20, entitled "The Future We Want", allowed the 193 Member States of the United Nations to renew their political commitment to sustainable development, to agree to establish a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), and to establish a high-level political forum on sustainable development. According to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the SDGs will build on the advances under the Millennium Development Goals, and they will be an integral part of the post-2015 development framework. Access [here](#) Mr. Ban's speech on the outcome of Rio+20. The document "The Future We Want", which is available in the six UN official languages, can be accessed [here](#).

## Announcement of co-Chairs to compose the High Level Panel for the post-2015 agenda



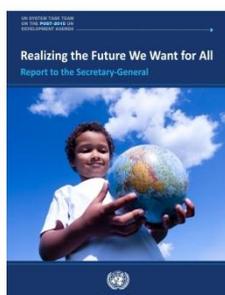
Mr. Ban Ki-moon announced to the UN General Assembly the names of the co-chairs that together with David Cameron will lead the High Level Panel on post-2015: Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the Liberian president, and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, of Indonesia. He added his intentions to conduct further consultations regarding the composition of the High-level Panel, “mindful of the appropriate balance across geography, gender, generations, and constituencies” and plans to announce the full panel following the Rio+20 Summit Meeting. [Here](#) is Mr. Ban’s full speech at an informal meeting of the General Assembly on which he took the opportunity to announce the two names.

## Growth and employment: the focus of the first consultation on the post-2015 development agenda



The first of a series of global consultations on the post-2015 development agenda took place in Tokyo, Japan, on 15-16 May, organized by UNDP and ILO and hosted by the Government of Japan. The meeting discussed both the broad outlines of the new development agenda, as well as specific challenges and policies for growth, structural transformation and employment. Inequality, well-being and employment were brought up as key orientation issues toward which the new agenda should be oriented. The [ILO website](#) features more detailed information. The [Tokyo Meeting Space](#) in Teamworks releases several background documents as well as the draft report of the meeting.

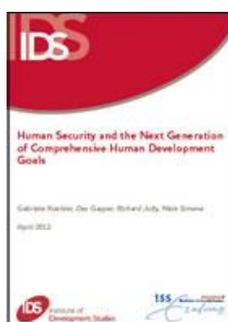
## RESOURCES FOR THE POST 2015 DIALOGUE



### *Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General*

UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda  
2012

This report of the UN System Task Team aims to serve as a reference to orient the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 agenda and the broader consultation process taking place among governments, the UN system and other international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. The report will also inform the work of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons to be appointed by the Secretary-General to advise him on the post-2015 process and it will provide technical inputs to the process for developing sustainable development goals (SDGs) that was agreed in the Rio+20 Outcome. The full report is available [here](#).



### *Human Security and the Next Generation of Comprehensive Human Development Goals*

Gabriele Koehler, Des Gasper, Richard Jolly and Mara Simane

Institute of Development Studies - IDS

April 2012

This paper proposes the extension of the MDGs beyond 2015 but with a significant reshaping: to prioritize economic and social equity and environmental sustainability, to make progress towards goals more explicitly rights-based and participatory, to insist on the centrality of employment and decent work, and to move away from the North-South dichotomy. For this purpose, the authors advocate for the concept of human security, both as a conceptual approach and as a framework for a policy approach that can address and redress the complex risks and vulnerabilities facing countries, communities, households and individuals, boldly and with a social justice vision. The full paper can be accessed [here](#).



### ***Advancing the UN Development Agenda Post-2015: Some Practical Suggestions***

Jan Vandemoortele

January 2012

This report, which was submitted to the post-2015 UN Task Force, advocates for a participatory, inclusive and bottom-up approach to the post-MDG consultation process. The author also offers some practical suggestions for the formulation of the successor arrangement to the MDGs. The full document is available for download [here](#).



### ***Beyond the Millennium Development Goals: Agreeing to a Post-2015 Development Framework***

Alex Evans and David Steven

Managing Global Order

April 2012

The paper provides an overview of the MDGs and their expected status in 2012. It describes the background to, and options for, a post-2015 framework and, discusses how governments can best navigate the political challenges of agreeing to a new set of development goals. The complete document can be accessed [here](#).



### ***Getting to Zero: Finishing the Job the MDGs Started***

Global Agenda Council on Benchmarking Progress, convened by the World Economic Forum

April 2012

The paper prepared by members of the Global Agenda Council on Benchmarking Progress (GAC), convened by the World Economic Forum, provides guiding thoughts to contribute to the framing of the post-2015 discussions by analyzing what the MDGs have achieved, why they have been successful and where they need improvement. It highlights that Belize, Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua are among the top 10 MDG Achievers. The complete paper can be downloaded [here](#).



### ***Blog Revista Humanum: El ámbito local: principio y fin de una agenda para el desarrollo post-2015***

The article authored by Mr. Roberto Valent, UNDP El Salvador's Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator, advocates for the post-2015 consultations at local level by presenting El Salvador's experience which is one of the first countries to implement this approach. The consultations are done through workshops organized by the local actors and technically, methodologically and financially supported by the UNDP CO. Among the results of the dialogues is the list of the principles that should be the base for the post-2015 agenda: equality, equity, inclusion, transparency, citizen partnership and sustainability. The participants also suggest that a programmatic framework with targets and indicators should be focused on the local level. The complete article can be accessed [here](#).

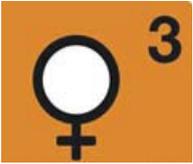
## MDG BITES QUICK FACTS FROM THE REGION



Central-America faces malnutrition and chronic disease, with an increase in overweight and obesity among adults as well as high numbers of chronically undernourished children. In times of high food prices, the double burden increases and obesity and undernutrition may coexist within the same household and the same person. Poor families switch away from nutritious food and buy "empty calories," as is the case in Honduras and Guatemala.



Crises may be transitory events, but their impacts on young children are not. Poor children who were under the age of three during Ecuador's 1998–2000 crises showed increased stunting and lower vocabulary test scores (a measure of cognitive development) in 2005 when they were five to seven years old.



Increased women's income, through access to better jobs as a benefit of the provision of child care in urban poor communities in Guatemala yield better nutritional outcomes for their children through increased consumption, more diverse diets, and better quality of care.



In Latin America, conditional cash transfers have shown significant results on nutritional outcomes. Recent research points to the positive impact of programmes such as Progresa/ Oportunidades in Mexico and Familias en Acción in Colombia on children's height. In the case of Nicaragua, the conditional cash transfer pilot, Atención a Crisis, has brought positive impacts to the nutritional and early childhood development.



Growth failure in early life in rural Guatemala, as measured by low height for age (stunting) at 36 months, affects a wide range of adults outcomes, such as health and fertility. The data are based on interviews between 2002 and 2004 of participants in a nutrition supplementation trial between 1969 and 1977. Women had 1.86 more pregnancies and were more likely to experience stillbirths and miscarriages.



Latin America and the Caribbean is the second region with the highest prevalence rate of adults with HIV/AIDS, where 0.5 percent of adults are infected. Almost 40% of LAC countries are not improving the progress toward reversing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and only 20% of the countries have halted and reversed the epidemic.



Loss of forests threatens the livelihood of poor people, destroys habitats that harbor biodiversity, and eliminates an important carbon sink that helps to moderate the climate. Net losses since 1990 have been substantial, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa, and these losses are only partially compensated by increases in Asia and high-income economies.

The information for this section was extracted from the [Global Monitoring Report 2012: Food Prices, Nutrition and the Millennium Development Goals](#), published by The World Bank.

### The outcome document for Rio+20 underscores the commitment to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs



The 193 Member States of the United Nations that agreed on the outcome document for Rio+20, entitled “The Future We Want”, reaffirmed their commitment to the full and timely achievement of the MDGs. The Member States are determined to make every effort to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 and recognized the MDGs as a useful tool for national priority-setting and for mobilization of stakeholders and resources towards common goals. The full document that mentions the MDGs in 18 paragraphs is available for download in the six UN official languages [here](#).

### Rio+20 voluntary commitments to achieve the MDGs



The Rio+20 Secretariat, together with the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, has received over 700 Rio+20 voluntary commitments. These commitments were made by all stakeholders, including governments, UN system & IGOs, the private sector, civil society and NGOs. Collectively, these tangible commitments mobilize more than \$500 billion in actions towards sustainable development. Among the registered commitment includes many related to the achievement of the MDGs. The list and details of all voluntary commitments can be accessed [here](#).

### United Nations launches "Y tú sin enterarte" campaign



The United Nations Millennium Campaign launched in Madrid the initiative “Y tú sin enterarte”, with the purpose of publicizing the relevant accomplishments in the fight against extreme poverty in the last decade. From 6 to 20 June the campaign asked all citizens to, “donate a space” through Facebook and Twitter profiles, in order to act as a protagonist in publicizing those accomplishments. There is a plan to launch the campaign in Latin America in the second semester of 2012. The campaign website containing all relevant information can be accessed [here](#).

### UN Secretary-General issues recommendations to bolster AIDS response



The 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS is the first report to the General Assembly since the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held in June 2011. At that meeting, which reviewed progress made during the previous decade, Member States embraced the vision of a world with zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. The report provides a road map towards this vision, adopting 2015 as the deadline for achieving concrete results. The report is available in the 6 UN official languages. Here you can access the [English](#) and [Spanish](#) version.

### Launch of online platform to track the MDGs commitments



The United Nations launched an online platform that tracks the progress on the financial and policy commitments made by countries towards achieving the MDGs. The Integrated Implementation Framework (IIF) website provides an overview of all international commitments made in direct support of the MDGs since 2000. It also provides information on the nature of these commitments, track their delivery, demonstrate inconsistencies and identify gaps between the support provided and the support that is required for achieving the MDGs. The IIF initiative is funded through voluntary contributions and has so far received funding from the Governments of Canada, Nigeria and the Republic of Korea. The online platform is available [here](#).

## News conference on global progress towards achieving the MDGs



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the UNDP Associate Administrator Rebeca Grynspan and Jeffrey Sachs, the UN Special Adviser on the MDGs led a news conference on March 2012 about the global progress towards achieving the MDGs. Mr. Ban stressed that focused financing and partnerships for development have resulted in great strides in the global efforts to combat extreme poverty and facilitate social development, noting that the number of impoverished people is declining across the world. However, he noted, challenges remain, including massive disparities in social development between and within regions and countries. He urges the international commitment to be united and steadfast in the decision to accelerate progress and achieve the MDGs. More detailed information is available [here](#). Mr. Ban's speech can be accessed [here](#).

## Local governments and social organizations receives the MDG Brazil Award



20 Brazilian's best practices of social organizations and local governments across the country that contribute to the achievement of MDGs received on May 30th MDG Brazil Award - 4th edition. The ceremony, held at the Presidential Palace in Brasilia, counted with the presence of President Dilma Rousseff and the Administrator of the UNDP, Helen Clark, among other authorities. The website of the MDG Brazil Award with detailed information on the best practices can be accessed [here](#).

## Cátedras del Milenio: Magdalena y Nariño



Through partnerships with universities across the country, the MDG Achievement Fund delivers the Millennium Lectures, a series of talks on the Millennium Development Goals. The lectures feature guest speakers from UN agencies and UNDP thematic experts. The main goal of this strategy, developed by UNDP Colombia, is to engage faculty and students and raise awareness on the importance of the MDGs and promote public debate around economic and social issues. In May 2012 two lectures were developed: (a) Cátedra del Milenio Universidad del Magdalena: took place in Santa Marta on May 3rd and 4th; attended by over 400 students ; (b) Cátedra del Milenio Universidad Mariana de Pasto: this event was organized in association with Nariño's MDGF Peace Window. Participants to these events were presented with the MDG Progress Reports of Magdalena and Nariño, prepared by UNDP Colombia with local universities. Both reports are available in Spanish here: [Madgdalena](#) and [Nariño](#).

## Honduras will adopt the Millennium Villages project to improve live conditions in 3 country's departments



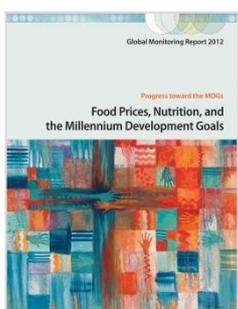
The Government of Honduras will apply the concept of the Millennium Villages in the departments of Yoro, Choluteca and Francisco Morazán. The main idea of this initiative is that impoverished villages can transform themselves and meet the MDGs if they are empowered with proven, powerful and practical technologies. For that purpose, the Secretariat of Social Development, which is leading the process, gathered civil society, cooperation agencies, and government representatives in a meeting to discuss and explore ideas to implement the model. More information can be accessed [here](#). Details about the UN Millennium Project in which the Millennium Villages is embraced are available [here](#).



### ***The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012***

United Nations  
2012

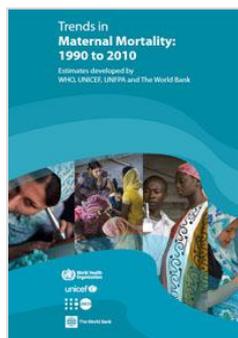
A new United Nations report stresses the need for a true global partnership to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the 2015 deadline. The 2012 MDG Report offers “the most comprehensive picture yet” on global progress towards the Goals, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said as he launched the report at the annual session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Globally, the targets of poverty reduction, slum dwellers and water have been achieved. For the LAC region, challenges persist for achieving poverty and decent work goals, as well as most of the health goals (particularly maternal mortality). On the other hand, the region on average appears to be on track to achieve the hunger, gender (in education and wage parity), child mortality, water and sanitation targets. While useful, regional averages can hide inequalities, one example being persistent differences in rural-urban child nutrition in the LAC region. See [full report here](#), and 2012 [progress chart](#) here.



### ***Global Monitoring Report 2012: Food Prices, Nutrition and the Millennium Development Goals***

The World Bank  
2012

The Global Monitoring Report 2012: Food prices, Nutrition and the Millennium Development Goals examines the impact of food price spikes on developing countries’ ability to make progress toward the MDGs and how they reacted to the last two food price spikes of 2007/08 and 2001. GMR 2012 details solutions for making countries and communities more resilient in the face of food price spikes, exemplifying the targeted cash transfers as one response to rising food prices that has worked for Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Nicaragua. For Latin America and the Caribbean it states that in times of high food prices, the double burden of malnutrition and chronic disease that affect several countries of the region increases and obesity and under nutrition may coexist within the same household and the same person. The full report can be downloaded from the GMR 2012 website, which link is available [here](#).



### ***Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2010***

WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and The World Bank  
2012

The number of women dying of pregnancy and childbirth related complications has almost halved in 20 years, according to new estimates released by the WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank. The report Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2010 shows that from 1990 to 2010, the annual number of maternal deaths dropped from more than 543,000 to 287,000 – a decline of 47 per cent. While substantial progress has been achieved in almost all regions, many countries particularly in sub-Saharan Africa will fail to reach the MDG target of reducing maternal death by 75 per cent from 1990 to 2015. All developing regions experienced a decline in MMR between 1990 and 2010, with the highest reduction in the 20-year period in Eastern Asia (69 per cent) followed by Northern Africa (66 per cent), Southern Asia (64 per cent), Sub-Saharan Africa (41 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (41 per cent), Oceania (38 per cent) and finally Caucasus and Central Asia (35 per cent). The complete estimates as well as other related links are available at UNFPA website which can be accessed [here](#).



### ***Can we still achieve the Millennium Development Goals? From Costs to Policies***

Development Centre Studies, OECD  
2012

This study contributes to the current debate on achieving the MDGs, their relevance and what can be done after 2015, by looking at estimates of the cost of reaching the goals in 2015. In particular, it sizes the additional resources needed in developing countries to attain the goals. The full document (84 pages) is available for purchasing at [OECD web site](#) in both English and French. The Executive Summary is available here. The 70-pages free preview is available only in English and can be accessed [here](#).



***Análisis de la situación socioeconómica de la población afroperuana y de la población afrocostarricense y su comparación con la situación de las poblaciones afrocolombiana y afroecuatoriana***

Ramón Díaz and Oscar Madalengoitia  
United Nations Development Programme  
2012

Published by the “Afrodescendant Population of Latin America” regional project this document presents relevant aspects of the living conditions of the afrodescendant population of Peru and Costa Rica: inequality and poverty, education, employment and labor market, demographic characteristics, and the situation of women. The study is based exclusively on the analysis of data from household surveys and population censuses, and the results found in both countries are compared with the situation of the afrodescendant population in Ecuador and Colombia. The book also includes brief historical reviews about the afrodescendant population of Peru and Costa Rica. The full publication which is only available in Spanish can be accessed [here](#).



***World of Work Report 2012: Better Jobs for a Better Economy***

International Labour Organization  
April 2012

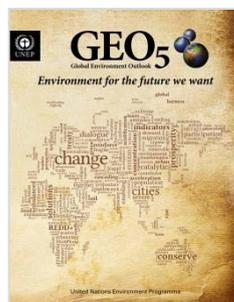
The World of Work Report 2012 provides a comprehensive analysis of recent labour market and social trends, assesses risks of social unrest and presents employment projections for the next five years. Latin America and the Caribbean have already recovered from the global crisis that erupted in 2008. The employment rate, at 61.5% in 2011 is 0.6 percentage points above its pre-crisis level. Colombia and Uruguay show the highest increases in employment rates – 5 and 3.7 percentage points, respectively, between the third quarters of 2007 and 2011. The complete report which is only available in English can be downloaded from the ILO website by clicking [here](#).



***Equidad y sostenibilidad en el avance hacia los ODM: Once ejemplos exitosos en América Latina y el Caribe***

Hernando Gómez Buendía  
2012

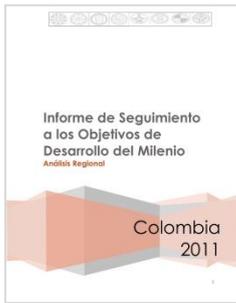
This publication is part of the MDGs and Poverty Series developed by UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean with support from the International Development Research Centre from Canada. The document advocates for the approach of equity and sustainability to achieve the MDGs by presenting 11 success stories from Latin America and the Caribbean on which the strategies to attain the MDGs focus on providing sustainable solutions to the most deprived persons. The full document which is available only in Spanish is available [here](#).



***Global Environmental Outlook 5***

UNEP  
June 2012

The world continues to speed down an unsustainable path despite over 500 internationally agreed goals and objectives to support the sustainable management of the environment and improve human wellbeing, according to the new and wide-ranging assessment coordinated by the UNEP. The fifth edition of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-5) assessed 90 of the most-important environmental goals and objectives and found that significant progress had only been made in four. The document highlights that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region that is home to 23 per cent of the world’s forests and 31 per cent of its freshwater resources. Yet population growth and unsustainable consumption patterns have driven the decimation of natural environments for agriculture and raw material extraction, with impacts on the region’s biodiversity. The full report in English, the regional summaries per region and other related materials are available in UNEP website which is available for access [here](#).



### ***Informe de Seguimiento a los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: Análisis Regional***

Colombia 2011

Colombia launched a new MDG progress report which brings updated information on the status of the achievement of the MDGs at a national and regional level. The report states that 9 MDGs indicators (18%) were achieved before the deadline (2015) and 26 indicators (52%) have progressed to a level higher than 50%. According to the document, at a national level progress is observable in almost all indicators. Nevertheless, regional gaps remain the key challenge for the country. The full report available only in Spanish can be accessed [here](#).

## LINKS

### **[UNDP-MDG Portal](#)**

UNDP's webpage on the MDGs

### **[UNDP Regional Service Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean](#)**

UNDP's Regional Centre offers support to Country Officer to strengthen their capacity in project management, and to endorse the creation of strategic alliances and distribution of knowledge in high-priority areas of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **[Revista Humanum \(UNDP\)](#)**

A journal about human development developed by the Poverty Reduction, MDGs and Human Development area of UNDP from Latin America and the Caribbean region.

### **[UN - MDG Portal](#)**

A gateway to the UN System's work on the MDGs

### **[Millennium Campaign](#)**

End poverty by 2015. This is the historic promise 189 world leaders made at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 when they agreed to meet the MDGs.

### **[ECLAC - MDG Portal](#)**

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's work on the MDGs

### **[UNDG MDG Acceleration Framework Portal](#)**

This website is dedicated to the acceleration towards achieving the MDGs by 2015.

### **[MDG Achievement Fund](#)**

The MDG Achievement Fund is an international cooperation mechanism funded by Spain's Agency for International Cooperation and Development

### **[World Bank - MDG Portal](#)**

World Bank's web page on the MDGs

For additional information on MDGs in the LAC region please visit the UNDP Regional Centre's MDG website: <http://www.regionalcentre-lac-undp.org/en/poverty-reduction-and-mdg>

For queries or contributions to *MDGs in LAC* please contact Diana Costa ([diana.costa@undp.org](mailto:diana.costa@undp.org))