

# ISSUES AND ACTIONS

March, 2007



Since embracing the Earth Charter, each community has done much to implement it.



#11 of the Earth Charter states: *Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.*

- a. *Secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them. Promote the active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal partners, decision makers, leaders, and beneficiaries.*
- c. *Strengthen families and ensure the safety and loving nurturing of all family members.*

As we listened, reflected and dialogued with others, we became aware of the relationship between the Earth Charter and the Millennium Development Goals. (MDG). We have chosen to focus on this integration during 2007.

**This month we are focusing on Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower Women.** Where the Earth Charter is not measurable, the Millennium Goals sponsored by the United Nations has definite time based goals.

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

The goals of the Millennium Declaration are not new; their key contribution is advancing international agreements and commitments on women's rights and girls. The MDGs promote the twelve critical areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by all 189 countries of the United Nations, a Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. It also endorses the commitments made in the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and ratified by 170 member countries. But the most important feature of the MDGs is the time bound quantitative targets of action.

Yemen was one of eight pilot countries selected by the UN Millennium Project to ensure achievement of MDGs by 2015. The questions addressed:

- . -What is the gap in women's participation and access in each sector?
- . -What are the barriers to women's participation?
- . -What are the interventions to redress gender inequality?

### **Framework of Analysis**

In undertaking a gender analysis some key assumptions were made by the group.

It is a well known fact that women experience poverty much more than men. Social norms and relations ascribe different roles and responsibilities to men and women. Social norms and structures reinforce this gender division of labor as a result of which women are responsible for household responsibilities (reproductive work) such as cooking, care of family, collection of water, etc., as well as income generation (productive work). In poor households with scarce resources women are forced to work much harder and longer to provide for the basic needs of the family. This is reflected in the poor gender development indicators – low education status of women, low health status in terms of maternal mortality as well as low participation in the labor force and employment.

### **What you can do...**

Save the date: **Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2007** at SHF Motherhouse for a retreat day with Joanna Bramble, CSJ on working to integrate the Earth Charter and the Millennium Goals.



Read more and join existing networks.

[Unmillenniumproject.org](http://Unmillenniumproject.org) (Un Millennium Project)

[Uscsb.org/global\\_poverty](http://Uscsb.org/global_poverty) (USCCB Catholic Campaign against Global Poverty)

[Crs.org](http://Crs.org) (Catholic Relief Services Advocacy Opportunities)

[ONE.org](http://ONE.org) (the One Campaign: The campaign to make Poverty History)

[Bread.org](http://Bread.org) (Bread for the World: One Spirit, One Will, Zero Poverty)

[Jubileusa.org](http://Jubileusa.org) (Jubilee USA Network to Drop the Debt)