

# ISSUES AND ACTIONS

April, 2007



We continue to align the Earth Charter principles that we have adopted with the Millennium Goals. Our focus for April is:

**Earth Charter Principle 7:** *Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard earth's regenerative capacities, human rights and community wellbeing.*

*e: ensure universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.*

**Earth Charter Principle 9:** *Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social and environmental imperative.*

The United Nations Millennium Goals are designed to put flesh on the bones of the Earth Charter principles. These goals are seen as possible for achievement by the year 2015.

In line with Principles 7 and 9 are Millennium Goals 5 and 6:

**Goal 5 Improve Maternal Health - Goal 5 seeks to reduce by  $\frac{3}{4}$  the maternal mortality rate throughout the world. An essential step toward this is the preparation of skilled health personnel for the care of mothers and infants at the time of delivery.**

**Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases - Goal 6 aims at halving diseases by 2015, as well as reversing the spreading of HIV/AIDS. To accomplish this, universal health care is a requisite.**

Achievement of these goals requires international financial support, policy reform, and program coordination from donor governments and society.

As of January 2007, progress toward these goals has been slow, as well as uneven.

Who has the power to transform health systems? Integral to the health crisis is the fact of poverty – the scarcity of adequate food, shelter and sanitation, as well as lack of medical care.

What role does the United States play in this? It is reported that “the root causes of world poverty are often connected to international and U.S. policies that perpetuate inequity and injustice. Policies and procedures related to such issues as migration, food aid, trade, international assistance and extractive industries all make enormous impact on the lives of the poor around the globe.”

In our commitment to advocacy for the poor and for families, what can we do? Some suggestions:

1. Write your political representatives. Tell them that you support the MDGS and Millennial Project’s recommendations for achieving them. Urge them to increase U.S. financial aid to these projects.
2. Organize letter writing campaign. Amplify your voice by enlisting others in your personal networks.
3. Write letters to newspapers. Check the site, *results.org*, for ways to get the attention of politicians and media.
4. Work with existing networks. Check the Millennial [links page](#) for groups that are supporting the Millennial Project Goals.
5. Work to adopt a “quick win.” Quick win campaigns seek to support the goals by direct, concrete actions in a specific place for a specific result.

### **A Challenge:**

World Health Day is celebrated on April 7; Earth Day is on April 22. Perhaps between these two dates, each of us can initiate one action in support of the Millennial Goals, or at least visit one of the Millennial web sites to grow in greater understanding of the grave issues involved.

Also, save the date: **Monday, June 18, 2007** at MSJ to hear Joanna Bramble, CSJ for inspiration regarding the Millennial Goals.

Some networks to check: [unmillenniumproject.org](http://unmillenniumproject.org); [crs.org](http://crs.org); [one.org](http://one.org); and [jubileeusa.org](http://jubileeusa.org)