

NONPROFIT INITIATIVES

International Collaboration

Picture a peaceful and sustainable Earth where biodiversity thrives, where forests and fish stocks are not dwindling, and where poverty and violence are not pervasive.



Achieving Global Goals

In 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, 189 countries endorsed eight goals to improve the lives of the world's poorest people by 2015. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aim to slash poverty, hunger, child and maternal mortality, preventable disease, and other pervasive problems. Each goal is associated with specific targets.

Imagine that even in the poorest countries, all children can go to school; child mortality is minimal, access to jobs and health care is widespread, and women are not tied down each day carrying water, pounding grain to make flour, seeking out scarce firewood, and cooking with fuels that generate unhealthy indoor air.

Although many of us already enjoy security and opportunity—especially in the developed world—the problems associated with poverty are pervasive in the developing world, and they affect all of us.

“Billions of people still don’t have resources to effectively feed their families, to have a better livelihood, and to have the jobs that they need to lift themselves out of poverty and have the dignity associated with not being poor. That reality is something that is going to trouble the world for decades to come—unless we pay attention to it,” says Sam Worthington, CEO of InterAction, a coalition of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that focus on international development and humanitarian action.

Fortunately, a wide range of internationally oriented organizations are paying attention by taking action in a variety of ways, collaborating with governments and NGO and drawing on the resources of individual donors and researchers.

Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other preventable diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

“The MDGs are truly significant in the sense that it’s the first time the world has come together around a great set of goals for reducing poverty,” says Lindsay Coates, executive vice president of InterAction, the largest alliance of U.S.-based NGOs focused on the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people.

Now, with only five years left to reach the goals, world leaders are set to meet in New York September 20–22, 2010, to assess current progress.

Meeting the MDG goals will require a global strategy for holding governments accountable to their commitments. In President Obama's historic speech to the UN General Assembly in September 2009, he said the MDGs are America's goals and announced that he would present a global plan to make the goals a reality at the September 2010 MDG Summit.

"U.S. leadership to meet the MDGs is essential, and we think the American public supports these goals. The public has made a huge investment through our members," says Coates. In addition to support from government and other sources, private support for InterAction members totaled nearly \$6 billion in 2006, including donations from individuals.

InterAction represents more than 180 member organizations, which work in every developing country to help expand opportunities, prevent conflicts, and respond to natural disasters. Members range from widely known organizations such as the American Friends Service Committee, United Way Worldwide, and the World Wildlife Fund to smaller, lesser-known groups—faith-based as well as secular.

Addressing Energy Poverty

Many development professionals believe that achieving the Millennium Development Goals will require alleviating energy poverty. The concept of energy poverty refers to the fact that people living in poverty often lack access to electricity and other energy services. Without access to modern, commercial energy, poor countries can be trapped in a vicious circle of poverty, social instability, and underdevelopment, according to an International Energy Agency (IEA) analysis.

Although energy access has increased in recent years, roughly 1.5 billion people today have no access to electricity. And more than 2 million rely on traditional biomass—such as wood, agricultural residues, and dung—for cooking and heating. Indoor air pollution from biomass is linked to millions of deaths each year from cancer, respiratory infections, and lung diseases.

Seeing access to energy infrastructure as integral to development, the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change has called for universal access to energy services by 2030. And at the September 2009 G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh,



Pa., world leaders pledged their support for improving energy access in the world's poorest countries.

Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, Director-General of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), says, "OFID is convinced that human development and energy use are intrinsically linked: energy is development, because without energy to fuel industry and support businesses, hospitals, and schools, there can be no economic or social progress."

The finance ministers of OPEC countries created OFID in 1976 as multi-lateral financial facility to channel OPEC aid to developing countries. It aims to foster social and economic progress in the developing world by financing much-needed projects in the world's poorest countries. Currently, for example, OFID is sponsoring a project in Haiti, where even before the January 2010 earthquake, less than 10 percent of the population had access to electricity. The Haitian government aims to reduce poverty by increasing the country's power generation capability and making electricity more affordable.

The OFID-sponsored project involves rehabilitating an aging hydroelectric plant at Haiti's Peleigre Dam. The plant is Haiti's primary source of renewable energy and provides about half the country's energy supply. However, the plant has been generating less than half its installed capacity, and one of its generators is completely out of service. The rehabilitation work will bring all three generators to full working capacity and reduce Haiti's need to import fossil fuels. Power from the refurbished plant will also free many households from the need to purchase wood for fuel.

Using a range of approaches from soft loans to outright grants, OFID aims to make energy available for basic human needs and for developing energy infrastructure to promote economic growth. OFID also partners with other development organizations to streamline its efforts and avoid overlap. The project in Haiti, for example, is made possible through a loan co-financed by OFID and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Resolving Conflicts

The battle against global poverty is not only a moral imperative, it is also crucial for global security. The reverse is also true: security is essential for social and economic development. Thus NGOs such as InterAction members focus not only on alleviating poverty but also on fostering conflict prevention.

Photo: Camp in Haiti; courtesy of InterAction

Access to electricity could transform life for millions of rural poor in developing countries.

Combating energy poverty

The challenge

Human development and energy are intrinsically linked. Without energy to fuel industry and commerce and to support public institutions, such as hospitals and schools, there can be no economic and social progress. Nonetheless, some 1.5 billion people (about one-fifth of the world population) do not have access to electricity.

OFID's response

OFID prioritizes energy for the poor by supporting the development of energy infrastructure, promoting international trade in energy products, and building institutional and human capacity in the field of energy supply. It is also working to improve incomes among the very poor so that energy becomes affordable and accessible.



The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)

Parkring 8 • A-1011 Vienna • Austria

Tel: +43-1-515 64-0 • Fax: +43-1-513 92-38

Email: info@ofid.org

Conflict prevention and management are the primary focus of the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), an independent, bipartisan organization established and funded by the U.S. Congress. USIP aims to prevent and resolve violent international conflicts, promote post-conflict stability and development, and increase conflict management capacity around the world.

In Afghanistan, for example, USIP experts are training local community leaders in peace negotiation and conflict resolution. They are also training local leaders as facilitators who can then train other Afghan community leaders in conflict resolution. The goal is for more people to develop the skills to resolve disputes before they start turning into violent conflicts. In this way, peace-building becomes a person-to-person endeavor.

Peace-building is also part of USIP's educational role in Washington, D.C. In September 2011, USIP plans to open a public education center in its new building on the northwest corner of the National Mall. Using interactive exhibits and simulations, visitors will be able to learn about why people fight, what they fight over, and how to deal with different stages of conflict. They will also learn

“U.S. leadership to meet the MDGs is essential, and we think the American public supports these goals.”

*—Lindsay Coates,
Executive Vice President, InterAction*

about actual conflicts around the world and the tools used for resolving them.

Supporting Bilateral Partnership

Even after establishing peace, countries can strengthen their bilateral relationships through programs that promote mutual understanding and partnership.

In a program to foster bilateral understanding with Germany, young professionals who are citizens of the United States, Russia,

or China can apply for a one-year fellowship in Germany for professional development, study, or research. The German Chancellor Fellowship program is administered by Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which awards ten fellowships per year to applicants from each of the three countries.

Candidates from any profession or discipline may apply, but the program is particularly interested in applicants with background in the humanities, law, social sciences, or economics. Prior knowledge of German is not required since fellows receive intensive language training.

German Chancellor Fellowship

International Opportunity for Young Professionals



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awards ten **German Chancellor Fellowships** annually to young professionals in the private, public, not-for-profit, cultural and academic sectors who are citizens of the United States. The program, which also includes fellowships for citizens of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, sponsors individuals who demonstrate the potential to strengthen ties between Germany and their own country through their profession or studies. The fellowship provides for a stay of one year in Germany for professional development, study, or research. Prior knowledge of German is not a prerequisite. Fellows are provided with intensive language training prior to and during the fellowship.

The program begins September 1, 2011, and lasts twelve months. It is preceded by three months of intensive language classes in Germany. Candidates must have received their bachelor's degree after September 1, 1999. **Application deadline for U.S. applicants: October 15, 2010.** Applications and FAQs available at:

www.humboldt-foundation.de (applications)

www.americanfriends-of-avh.org (alumni website)

***Economics • Environmental Affairs • Finance • Government
Intl. Relations • Journalism • Law • Management • Public Policy***

Peacebuilding

“I am certain that our decision to establish the United States Institute of Peace will be regarded by those who come after us as one of the best investments in the future that our nation has ever made.”

Senator Jennings Randolph

For over twenty-five years, the **United States Institute of Peace** has promoted efforts to prevent, manage, and end violent international conflicts. In early 2011, the Institute will move to its new building on the National Mall. With a Global Peacebuilding Center, a professional education and training academy, and world-class conference center, the facility will be a working headquarters for the Institute and will serve the American people, the federal government, and the international community as a center for research, education, training, and policy development on matters of international conflict.



UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Washington, D.C. • www.usip.org • 202.457.1700

As a German Chancellor Fellow in 2001–2002, Natasha Bajema researched German nuclear policy in Berlin and Bonn. Previously, she had earned her B.A. from Calvin College in Michigan and worked for international organizations in New York City. Following her tenure as a German Chancellor Fellow, Bajema received an M.A. at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, Calif., and a Ph.D. at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She is now a research associate at the Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction at the National Defense University.

Wendy Boxx, a 2007–2008 Fellow, is a University of Iowa graduate who earned her M.A. in public administration from International Christian University in Tokyo as a Rotary World Peace Fellow. She then worked in the Clinton White House, served in the Peace Corps in Romania, and researched women's issues in India. As a German Chancellor Fellow, she studied recent German policy changes regarding human trafficking, prostitution, and public policy concerning illegal migrant women. She is now continuing her research as a Ph.D. candidate at the Ludwig Maximilians Universität in München, Germany.

Derrick Sutter, a 2009–2010 German Chancellor Fellow, is conducting research at the Free University of Berlin on environmental

and energy cooperation among China, Germany, and the European Union. As an undergraduate, he spent the 2006–2007 academic year studying in China, then received his B.A. in East Asian Studies and Political Science from Yale University in 2008.

U.S. alumni of the German Chancellor Fellowship program have an active online network through the American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and meet in person one weekend each year. In addition, former Fellows and other Alexander von Humboldt Foundation program alumni, known as Humboldtians, form a network of more than 24,000 professionals from all disciplines in more than 130 countries worldwide. ■

The articles in this supplement were prepared by Nancy Henderson, a Washington, D.C.-based freelance writer, in conjunction with the business department of FOREIGN POLICY, and did not involve the editorial staff of this magazine.

Design: Cinda Debbink, Design Partners

Copy Editor: Carlotta Ribar

Senior Advertising Account Executive: Maria San Jose
202/728-7313, maria.sanjose@foreignpolicy.com

© 2010 WASHINGTONPOST.NEWSWEEK INTERACTIVE, LLC.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Millennium Development Goals

Yes, they really do affect foreign policy.

U.S. Foreign Policy

Defense

MDGs

Diplomacy

Visit www.InterAction.org to learn more

InterAction
A UNITED VOICE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE