

Commission on Women  
and Development



Gender and the Millennium Development  
Goals : 2000 – 2015

2010 :

Where do  
we stand ?

As Mr Ban Ki Moon said, improvements to the life of people living in poverty are intolerably slow in arriving. Even though there have been some victories, climate change, and the economic and food crises have prevented progress. However the Millennium Development Goals represent the most important world initiative in the fight against poverty.

Amongst the 1.5 billion people who subsist on a dollar a day or less, in the main, we find women. In addition, the gap between women and men caught in the poverty cycle has continued to widen during the past decade. We speak of the “feminisation of poverty” to put a name on this phenomenon. Women earn on average a half of what is earned by men, which is not chance but the result of persistent gender inequalities. Women suffer multiple discriminations; they can be deprived of their rights both because they are women and because they are members of a marginalised group. Those living in poverty also suffer from discrimination simply because they are poor. Discrimination can deprive women of access to justice, to protection and to services. In some countries discrimination against women is inscribed in law; in many others it persists in spite of the equality legislation. Women often have to subordinate themselves to the needs of their family; they are often less well remunerated than men for the same work, sometimes have no security of employment and have limited access to resources like land, credit and rights to inherit.

Implementing the Millennium Development Goals cannot be carried out without there being a basis in and reference to women’s fundamental rights and without the inclusion of gender at all levels and across the board.

The analysis and inventory that the Commission for Women and Development proposes here constitutes an interim evaluation and the opportunity to demand permanent awareness in this area.

It is drawn up by reference to the document “Women beyond millennium goals” produced by the Commission for Women and Development in 2005.



## Millennium Development Goal 1

# Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger

### Gender, poverty and hunger

Over the past years, the raw materials price crisis, the financial crisis, and the environmental crisis have had an impact on world food security. According to FAO figures, in 2009, 1.02 billion people in the world were hungry, the highest figure since 1970. And since last year more than 100 million people have been added to this figure. Africa is the continent which is most affected by malnutrition. The greatest paradox is that 70% of those who are hungry live in rural areas. The hardest hit are, again, women and children. However, today, the importance of the role of women in family food security appears to be an established fact, accepted by everybody. Their role in agriculture, production and processing is fundamental in attempting to attain equilibrium in nutrition.

In Belgium, women who have financial difficulties are often single (60%), separated or divorced or widowed (74%), living alone with children (38%) or have less than €1000 per month (39%). The cost of living which is very high compared to a salary which is too low, non-participation and too small a financial contribution by the ex-spouse are also factors which aggravate this situation because one woman in every two is financially dependent upon her partner. Those in poverty, above all those in rural areas, have the largest families; their fertility rate is often one of the highest. They have no access to primary health information and services, to such an extent that both women and men are unable to decide independently when and how many children they want to have. This has consequences in terms of hunger and poverty - please also see reports four, five, and six. Taboos surrounding financial problems are also aggravating factors to be taken into account. Those surrounding them are often not up-to-date with the problems that people living in poverty meet; very often they hide their financial problems, not daring to ask for assistance.

We observe a close negative relationship between the level of education given to mothers and the mortality rate (inadequate education given to mothers results in food of low quality nutrition and low childcare). As is seen throughout the world and in particular in Africa, women as a whole enjoy lower rights as compared with men: for example access and control of land (or the security of holding this land), access to finance, to means of production. Women are also forced to look for land at a distance from home, which increases their workload and sometimes places them in a situation of risk (violence, breach of the law because of lack of information relating to common grazing land). This violation of women's rights constitutes one of the main causes of food insecurity that the majority of rural households experience.

Exclusion, violence and discrimination against women are the principal factors which engender and aggravate poverty. They stop them from accessing services, resources and programmes which are appropriate to this fight.

In many cultures, it is the rule that boys and men are fed before girls and women, resulting in the latter suffering more frequently from an unbalanced diet and in particular one deficient in proteins. The current neo-liberal inspired development model encourages, amongst other things, growing commercialisation of agriculture and the practice of agriculture for export, which has no benefit for peasant agriculture and even less for agriculture for family consumption which is often the responsibility of women, therefore putting family nutrition at risk. Thus, in Africa, women represent 60 to 80% of labour producing foodstuffs for household consumption and local sale. They are also responsible for 90% of the work of supplying water and fuel.

For women, violence is both a cause and a consequence of poverty. Violence keeps women in poverty and poor women are very vulnerable to violence. Women who suffer violence lose money and their capacity to earn a living is also reduced. Because of their poverty these women are forced into choices which expose them to violence. Women who depend financially on a violent partner often do not have the means to meet their needs or those of their family if they attempt to leave. Young women who find themselves pregnant as a result of rape risk being excluded from school, which limits opportunities to find work and to enable future emancipation.

As far as the fight against poverty is concerned the right to dignified work for all is an essential precondition. Macro-economic and national policies which are insensitive to gender have the effect of ghettoising women in the informal sector without security of employment or protection of rights and in the lowest paid, least stable jobs in the formal economy. Household tasks and care work carried out in their family and community are not taken into account in the national GNP. The gap in salaries between men and women is 23.46% and women continue to receive salaries which are less than for men for equal work and are always radically underrepresented at all levels of decision-making.

To be sustainable and effective any plan to fight poverty needs to take into account this situation and attack structural causes of gender inequality. Millennium goals pass beyond this structural nature of poverty and gender disparities. 2015 could serve as the lever for placing back on the table measures proposed at Beijing and at CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of types of discrimination Against Women), ratified in 2004 by 179 countries.



# 1 Millennium Development Goal

Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger

These multiple discriminations are closely linked to violence against women. They determine the type of violence which women suffer. They also make some women more vulnerable to certain types of violence because these latter have a social status which is inferior to those of other women and because the authors of violence know that the victims present less of a risk of making a complaint to the authorities by asking for help. In signing the CEDAW convention, governments undertook to take measures to guarantee women their rights and to ensure that they have access to financial resources essential to reduction of poverty. It is therefore their responsibility to safeguard gender equality at work. Legislation, the body politic and government departments must guarantee equal rights to women in terms of property, contracts and loans both in financial life and in the context of marriage and family life. Women must have access markets, to finance and to technology. Women in rural areas must be able to exercise their rights to land, to housing, to a sanitary infrastructure and to the supply of water.

Women must have the right to land and access to resources such as finance and education.

If they themselves can have land and the revenue that this brings, they will have more chance of attaining food security.

## A critique of indicators

Indicators are too quantitative and limiting. Poverty has a multi-dimensional character for which some qualitative data has not been taken into account.

## Recommendations to Belgian actors

Continuing analysis of critical links between commerce, development, poverty and gender is important in the understanding of and in tackling structural inequality in the world's economic systems.

The fight against poverty must be multi-dimensional and sectorial. Improvement to women's education as far as their rights are concerned promotes the prevention of poverty. It promotes access to the legal system and it therefore increases their chances of owning land, of obtaining finance and eventually of having their own revenue, travel with their own passport and having the right to registration at birth, thus increasing their independence.

It is essential to enlarge the definition of poverty and to fully use the indicators to measure progress. Women must also be recognised as completely separate players in development and their major role in the fight against poverty must be recognised; not considering them as tools enabling better economic growth to be achieved. Dialogue and participation by women from various levels of the

Given that 70% of those in poverty are women, it is absolutely essential that data is differentiated by gender and preferably also by region to arrive at a sustainable and effective policy.

With regard to nutritional security, it is essential to provide gender indicators capable of measuring change relating to access and control of small producer resources.

## Alternative indicators

Proposals from the Beijing action platform and from CEDAW are essential references to take into account.

A few examples are :

- The proportion of women at work in the formal and informal market sectors;
- Access for women to information, education, training, finance, technology and to land (property and inheritance rights);
- Access for women to basic services such as health care, education and water supply;
- Access for women to family income;
- The access and control of natural resources by women.

community at all phases of the programme cycles (from identification to evaluation) are absolutely essential.

These dimensions are included in the human development indicators according to gender and their empowerment (UNDP). All of the partner countries in bilateral Belgian cooperation have developed a Strategic Framework for the Fight against Poverty (SFFP). If they are to be effective and sustainable the gender dimension must be strongly present in these programmes for the fight against poverty which must enable :

- Verification that the participative conditions of civil society, in particular women's organisations (from women's right to free movement to childcare facilities) are fulfilled;
- Supporting and strengthening civil society in partner countries active in the area of gender and women's rights (e.g. women's organisations, NGOs or even agencies for emancipation or equality of opportunity) in order that women can participate effectively;
- Extending women's participation to the phases of creation and execution;
- Ensuring gender assessment and awareness monitoring by the SFFP.



## Millennium Development Goal **2**

# Achieving Universal Primary Education

### Gender and primary education

If there has been significant progress in relation to access to primary education for boys and girls over the past years, a gap still exists, most particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and in South and West Asia.

- The poorest young girls have 3.5 less chance than the richest of receiving education at school and four times less chance than boys of going to school.
- Two thirds of those who are illiterate, representing 780 million of the total population, are women and 66% of children not receiving an education at school are girls.
- If women were to receive the same education as men, agricultural returns could be increased from 7% to 22%.
- If girls could be educated in as large numbers and over as long a period as boys, the repercussions for themselves and for society as a whole would bring great change.
- In having access to primary education and in completing the full educational cycle, personal benefit to girls is considerable. Education at school is an opportunity given to girls to become aware of their rights, to acquire greater dignity and a more favourable family and social status. In the long term the whole of society would benefit from these changes. The acquisition of knowledge can enable women in the future to take part, as a result, in public life, whereas today, participation by women is still practically non-existent. This educational background could arouse in them the wish to take part in decision-making in a formal or informal way and give them the strength to do so. It is therefore essential to guarantee gender equality in access to primary education but even more so in the opportunities given to complete the primary cycle.
- Education constitutes in itself an opportunity for girls to acquire knowledge which will enable them to change their productive (work resulting in payment in cash or kind) and reproductive (domestic and care work) roles in their families and communities which have been culturally assigned to them. Remaining for the longest possible time at secondary school and in higher education, moreover, delays the age of first pregnancy and reduces child numbers.
- Mothers who have been educated are often more able to educate their own girls.
- Finally, having received more education, new economic opportunities might present themselves to them which

could contribute to reducing the extreme vulnerability of the poorest women on the labour market. To reduce production costs, employers can easily replace this unqualified labour by machinery or by other female workers showing more willingness to submit to accepting an even lower wage. This right to education could make them capable of defending themselves and generate better conditions of work.

Access to training and to primary education therefore constitutes an essential condition for the emancipation of women and their inclusion in development but is not sufficient in itself to achieve it. The attitude of the whole of society towards women and their place in it has to change. This also assumes the acceptance of a redistribution of power both in the family and the community and a recognition of their capability of becoming independent players in society.

### A critique of indicators and alternative proposals

We must turn again to gender-specific and qualitative indicators. Quantitative indicators on their own are not sufficient to judge the specific progress of girls to the end of the cycle.

- Means need to be developed so as not to limit studies to purely national circumstances. Indicators used must enable regional disparities existing within the same country to be highlighted.
- None of the proposed indicators take into account the diversity of girls in education or to be educated: their family origins, their ethnic and geographic origins, their age etc.
- Looking into the reasons for failure in primary education, and into the reasons for dropping out, is most useful as is looking into the quality of teaching provided. Upon the quality of the teaching depends the future of the children.
- Access to basic services must also be taken into account, for example access to water, to assess more precisely the reality of the children's schooling and more particularly that of the girls, who are often responsible for carrying water.
- The idea of giving children the opportunity to fruitfully complete the primary cycle supposes that they have the time and the right conditions for complete attention to schoolwork.



### Recommendations to Belgian actors

It is necessary to take positive discriminatory measures in favour of girls in the area of education. However no tangible way of achieving this is proposed. Here are some ways of surmounting the obstacles to their education. It goes without saying that an approach which is tailored to individual countries is necessary.

- Access for girls to primary education must be targeted, above all giving them the means to complete the full cycle. This means that in certain cases education will need to be adapted to enable girls who carry out seasonal work not to leave school. Informal education should be encouraged if necessary. As far as child workers are concerned, appropriate forms of education need to be found enabling them to have access to real education.
- Making parents aware of the personal and economic issues relating to the education of their daughters.
- Families need to be helped to find practical solutions to release young girls from the burden of carrying wood and water, above all in rural areas. To release them in part from their role of babysitter to their brothers and sisters and from domestic work is essential to giving them the opportunity of a high-quality apprenticeship. Too often young girls are not perceived as having economic use in their family.
- Working to change parental mentality. A good number of them still believe that boys have priority in matters of formal education because of their future role. Such a perception of education has been at the origin of an educational imbalance and educational discrimination for a number of years. It is also necessary to work to change persistent ways of thinking about the feminine condition working with local women's organisations.
- Pressurising government authorities in order that education remains a basic public service. The financial cost of private education constitutes a brake not only to education generally but further, because of what has already been said on the subject of patriarchal, dominant mentalities, to the education of girls.
- Making the way to school safe for all children.
- Helping governments to provide people with educational infrastructures in sufficient numbers both in urban and rural areas, to train teachers capable of providing a high-quality education and to provide awareness of the education of children by educating using "the gender approach". Teachers play a decisive and referential role in society.



## Millennium Development Goal 3

# Promoting gender equality and empowering women

### Gender Equality

This millennium goal is specifically aimed at gender equality. In spite of all of the dialogue, concrete commitment and financing are still lacking in a clear way towards equality. Statistics remind us that the gap between men and women is far from being bridged.

If differences between boys and girls being educated in primary school are greatly reduced, they have still not been bridged in 2010: 95 girls for every hundred boys are registered in primary school. These disparities remain marked in secondary education. If differences have been reduced and girls become the majority in secondary schools in certain regions, the situation has worsened in others. In sub Saharan Africa, the ratio of girls to boys was reduced from 82 in 1999 to 79 in 2007, in Oceania this ratio decreased from 89 to 87 and for the CIS the drop was from 101 to 98 over the same period.

The situation in higher education is much more disparate: if globally there are more girls than boys at this level (the ratio increased from 96 in 1999 to 108 in 2007), fewer girls have access in sub Saharan Africa and south-east Asia and Oceania. It is primarily girls from poor families from rural areas who do not have access to education that maintains the vicious cycle of poverty.

The share that women have in remunerated work still remains low on several continents where work opportunities are poor. Most women work either in the home or they take on non-visible and unrecognised tasks whether as care helpers without status or again in the informal market where they create their own activity.

Where they have remunerated employment, the difference in their salary to that of men remains wide and decent conditions of work are not found. The 2009 food and financial crisis has increased women's burden and the ILO estimates that female unemployment will increase further than that for men. Equality is a fundamental right and women's independence is an end in itself. Investing in girls' education and above all in retaining girls in secondary school proves to be a very effective way of supporting development. Education, in effect, opens up social emancipation to young girls, giving them greater access to a trade and participation as a citizen. Women's economic emancipation contributes to improving their decision-making powers in the home and in their community. And studies carried out on several continents demonstrate that greater participation by mothers in household decision-making results in an improvement in the dietary situation for the children (both boys and girls) and their participation in education. Education, financial

independence and greater self esteem stimulate women to take a greater part in collective life including taking part in politics. Participation by women in Parliament has continued to grow over the past years in particular with the application of equality law but it still remains low, notably because of the electoral systems in use (amongst others, majority voting). It has risen to 19% worldwide and women occupy 30% of seats in just 24 countries. In a third of developing countries women make up less than 10% of members of Parliament.

This contribution to decision-making centres, particularly at local level, enables the implementation of public policies which are less "blind" to the specific needs of women, which the CEA in particular recommends in its AGDI<sup>1</sup> indices. But it is clear that to progress towards parity it is essential also to make men, decision-makers and heads of religion more aware and to show them the interest and need of including women in the processes and taking of decision-making.

Gender Equality and the emancipation of women must therefore figure amongst the eight great priorities for the millennium in development. It is regrettable that the seven other goals inadequately include the gender dimension.

### Other MDG awareness to gender

Since the MDG's were first conceived, women's movements and UN specialist agencies have unceasingly reminded us of the limits of MDG 3.

In effect, MDGs ignoring the gender dimension constitutes a retreat in relation to the rights set out in the Beijing Action Platform and the Cairo Declaration.

Moreover goal three has been translated in a very selective and partial way in four indicators and one sole target. Women's empowerment is quite another thing.

Finally none of the other goals takes account the gender dimension either in the analysis of causes of development problems or in the presentation of adequate responses for populations as a whole. This means that effective and efficient achievement of all of the development goals prove to be immediately compromised. Differentiation by gender (equally by age by urban/rural environment) could give important information on groups of the population to target to achieve an increase over the average indicator. Having data which is broken down by gender separately from all other goals certainly enables the challenges and the responses to be made to be determined.



## 3 Millennium Development Goal

Promoting gender equality and  
empowering women

### A critique of indicators

Goal 3 is transposed in the indicators relating to education, political participation and the labour market. But as the only target refers exclusively to participation in education (and marked moreover “where possible”) only those indicators which relate to it are used, the two other indicators being in practice relegated to the background.

It is of course most important to reduce the disparity in matters of education between boys and girls and participation in education is for many girls a step towards equality in other areas. However such a simplistic approach is not acceptable. The method of assessing gender equality in education is in fact very selective. Quantitative indicators are excessively emphasised and qualitative aspects completely ignored. If one examines solely the total rate of registration of boys and girls, no account is taken of essential elements such as the type and level of education, the rate of school drop-out, the models and content of the education or yet again the intensity of participation for which there exists a marked disparity between boys and girls.

The contribution of women to the economy is greatly underestimated by the indicators used: women are in effect more often to be found in the caring economy, the informal and subsistence economies which are not valued, recognised or accounted for. They themselves, carrying out their work in the home, do not always consider that they are working.

### Alternative indicators and new challenges

Identifying indicators which are appropriate to such a complex idea as “emancipation” demands, in fact, a differentiated approach by country and by region and participation by local players.

In the area of gender, there already exist indicators which are more appropriate and which are the object of wide consensus, that is the Gender related Development Index (GDI) and the Women’s Participation Index (WPI)

updated in 1995 by the United Nations development programme. The advantage of these indicators rests on the fact that they have already been tried and tested. The collection and input of this information does not therefore even require additional research. The GDI is a Human Development Indicator (HDI) corrected for disparities of gender which gives an indication of investment made in human capacity (amongst others in relation to education) of men and women whilst the WPI reflects the actual results that men and women can achieve thanks to these capacities, amongst others in the matter of politics and participation in the labour market.

These indicators are capable of improvement: for example with respect to employment, there is a lack of recognition of women’s work which is unpaid or poorly paid, which can justly claim to be decent employment and a salary which enables a dignified life to be led.

But to draw up a proper image of gender equality and empowerment there is a need to take into account a number of dimensions both individual and collective of empowerment. The CFD has developed a guide proposing alternative methods of creating indicators which are both quantitative and qualitative relating to the various empowerment dimensions: “interior power” (which refers to self estimation) “power from” (which refers to knowledge and abilities) and “power with” (which refers to the capacity for collective action).

---

1 De index voor ontwikkeling en ongelijkheden tussen de seksen in Afrika (IDISA) is een instrument om de genderongelijkheden in Afrika te meten en een beoordeling te kunnen maken van wat regeringen doen om deze ongelijkheden weg te werken. De index is tweeledig: de index van de positie van de vrouw (IPV) is een kwantitatieve maatstaf en het Scorebord voor de Bevordering van de Vrouw (SBPMA) is een kwalitatieve graadmeter. De IDISA is een hulpmiddel bij het beoordelingsproces Beijing +10. Het helpt beleidmakers, de civiele samenleving en de ontwikkelingspartners een strategische benadering uit te werken voor essentiële gebieden die aan de hand van de IPV of de SBPMA in kaart werden gebracht. De IDISA is dan ook een belangrijk instrument voor ontwikkelingsplanning in Afrika. Dit document is van de hand van de Economische Commissie voor Afrika.

### Recommendations to Belgian actors

Those responsible for Belgian policy-making have on a number of occasions indicated that gender equality and the MDGs today represent important guidelines for policy and that they intend to increase their efforts in this area. The strategic note on gender from the Belgian Development Cooperation offers a useful framework for an energetic gender equality and emancipation policy. The Gendermainstreaming law passed in 2007 is an important

legislative framework which defines the responsibilities of each Belgian agency to increase equality in their field of work.

It is essential now to implement the policy actions and directions as defined by these various provisions in the implementation of development projects based on results and to release necessary human and financial resources for this (via Genderbudgeting).



## Millennium Development Goal 4

# Reducing child mortality

### Gender and infant mortality

Every day 28,000 children under five years of age die. This represents the death of one child under five years of age in six in the least developed countries and the death of only one child under five in 167 in developed countries. As an example, 90% of child deaths occur solely on the African and Asian continents. Child mortality is directly related to poverty and the disadvantaged position of women in society.

The link between poverty and child mortality is explicable by the disastrous effect of the mothers' malnutrition on the health of the foetus, and of the baby at the time of its birth on the chances of its survival. The absence of proper care given by qualified people in a healthy environment also has a critical effect on child mortality. Nearly 80% of maternal deaths and 30% of new natal deaths could be avoided if there were access to elementary care.

The rate of child mortality is also linked to "standards" and values in terms of gender. The absence of education from which many girls and women suffer influences the child mortality rate: an educated woman would tend to know and apply basic hygiene principles, controlling the number of births using contraception for example. A correlation has also been made between the level of education and delaying the age of the first pregnancy. The child of a very young woman (from 15 to 19 years of age) will have a 60% greater chance of dying before it is one than the baby of a more mature woman. Violence suffered by women has here again serious consequences: genital mutilation of women for example, in addition to being a violation of human rights, results in a number of complications at the time of childbirth which can cause the death of the mother or of the child.

So discrimination presents problems; where tradition favours boys over girls, selective abortion or infanticide exist. Another influential aspect: priority is often given to boys to the detriment of girls in the area of healthcare and nutrition. At policy-making level, discrimination means that policy is for a great part made by men who do not make the female condition a priority and consequently do not solve the problems of high level child mortality.

### A critique of indicators

Given that infant mortality is directly related to undernourishment, to the education of women, to violence against women and to discrimination between genders, it is necessary not only to measure the rate of mortality but also to examine the prevalence of undernourishment in children under the age of five as well as changes in these other factors relating to women.

It is also necessary to establish clear indicators relating to well monitored child vaccination in the poorest population groups as their vaccination rate is lower than those in the richer population groups. These indicators must be adapted to the fight against regional illness.

### Alternative indicators

It would be preferable to use or to add alternative indicators which could be the subject of more regular monitoring, giving more reliable results.

For example at medical level:

- The prevalence of average or serious retardation in growth in children under the age of three;
- The prevalence of average or serious weight deficiency in children under the age of three;
- The prevalence of medical treatment of diarrhoea in children;
- The prevalence of medical treatment of respiratory infections in children;
- The proportion of health centres per thousand inhabitants.

Care must be taken of course to differentiate all indicators according to gender and social class.

At the level of the influence of women's condition on infant mortality:

- Women's level of education;
- The percentage of women who are victims of violence (sexual mutilation/physical violence);
- The presence of women in decision-making bodies;
- The place given to women in the family system.



## 4 Millennium Development Goal

Reducing child mortality

### Recommendations to Belgian actors

Given that maternal health is a determining factor in children's survival, the importance of the mothers' health and the care given to mothers and children cannot be overemphasised. For this reason, it is essential to invest in good quality, accessible sanitary structures for the most deprived population groups, re-examine financial and geographic accessibility of care centres, and integrate sexual and reproductive health services. In this context, it proves just as important to give sufficient attention to

information and to family planning services. A mother's health and that of her children run a greater risk where a woman has more children and pregnancies and childbirths succeed one another too rapidly. Risks are also greater where the mother is under 19 years of age: prevention policies, the use of contraceptives and the prohibition on the marriage of under-aged women must be set up. Finally education plays a major role in delaying the age of first pregnancy and in knowledge and attention given to questions of hygiene and health.



## Millennium Development Goal 5

# Improving maternal health

### Gender and Maternal Health

In 2008, 342,900 women died throughout the world because of complications during pregnancy or childbirth, this being the principal cause of death for girls between the ages of 15 and 19. According to estimates, the 20 million unsafe abortions carried out each year result in the death of 80,000 women, the majority being young girls between the ages of 15 and 19. It is true that the rate of maternal mortality has dropped overall, reducing from 422 per hundred thousand births in 1980 to 320 in 1990 (the reference year for MDGs), to 251 in 2008. However more than 50% of all maternal deaths in 2008 took place in just six countries (India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and the maternal mortality rate in Asia and in sub Saharan Africa has not changed over the past two decades. Only 23 of the 181 countries in the world will probably succeed in reducing maternal mortality rate by 75% by 2015. Additionally, 32% of deaths for women aged between 15 and 44 are related on a global level to sexual and reproductive health.

Several factors are responsible for this macabre situation:

- Difficulty of access to care and medicines: access to necessary care during pregnancy and childbirth are still too difficult for many women in the world, centres where care can be provided are insufficient in number and statistics show that one death in three due to pregnancy could have been avoided if women had access to effective contraception methods. It is important to underline that the situation is so much more difficult in areas of conflict or of post-conflict. Resources available to civilians being even further limited, pregnant women and young mothers are that much more vulnerable.
- Violence against women: child marriage, a phenomenon that is ignored because a child loses the status of a child at the moment of marriage, genital mutilation, food restrictions placed on women and physical violence against women must be fought against to reduce the rate of maternal mortality.
- Discrimination against women in decision-making bodies: in order that policies in favour of women can be put in place and become a priority, women must be involved and take part in policy-making decisions.
- The absence of sexual and birth control education for women: young girls from 15 to 20 years of age run twice the risk during their pregnancy and childbirth than older women, a birth control policy would therefore be appropriate. It is recognised that the more women are educated the further the age of the first pregnancy is delayed.
- The absence of hygiene and access to sources of clean water.

### A critique of indicators

It should be observed that the Goal in itself is far too limited. It reduces women to those who become pregnant and give birth to children and singles them out for care. The theme should be placed in a wider context of women's sexual and reproduction health.

Health, sexual and reproductive rights assume an essential importance in development, in the fight against poverty and in achieving MDGs generally. In fact women who have the opportunity of improving the planning of their family life, its size and to receive training, have easier access to the labour market (acquiring their own income), take greater care of their own health as well as that of the family.

Meetings at an international level have demonstrated that references to sexual and reproductive rights are meeting ever greater resistance throughout the world linked to various forms of fundamentalism.

It is therefore important that indicators relating to this Goal refer to overall accessibility to services and information on the subject of sexual and reproductive health including the young and the inclusion of the role of men in order that the various responsibilities are assumed as defined in the Cairo action programme.

Three developments on a global level also interfere in carrying out this MDG: climate change, the food crisis and the financial and economic crisis. These crises slow advance or even reduce it and States set aside lower financial means to back their health policies and enabling the development of the private sector does not guarantee health for everybody. Delay by countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and weakened States are unacceptable. Amongst Belgium's partner countries, there are four (Morocco, Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi) where military expenditure is greatly in excess of expenditure relating to health. Moreover the DRC and Morocco are, with Vietnam, Belgium's only partner countries where the native maternal mortality has not decreased.

Because of their position in society which is often inferior, women are particularly vulnerable to family violence and to forced sexual relations, a situation which is accentuated in conflict and post-conflict contexts; women are vulnerable because of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/Aids. Often, however, women do not have the opportunity of negotiating sexual relations or methods of contraception. Sometimes they accept sexual relations in exchange for material promises or to survive. Unfortunately the indicators have nothing to say on the subject.



## 5 Millennium Development Goal

Improving maternal health

Another aspect which continues to be completely unheard of, is that of high-risk abortion, which is however, one of the main causes of death for women and young girls in the South. High-risk abortions are related to insufficient access to ad hoc family planning services.

### Alternative indicators

The Goal itself should include clear reference to sexual and reproductive health and target universal access to sexual and reproductive health services via a primary health care system, from now to 2015. This implies of course strengthening health systems and an improvement in their accessibility for all of the most deprived population groups. In the 2008 parliamentary report on Belgium's actions to carry out the MDGs we find the target of universal access to reproductive health with indicators on the prevalence rate for contraceptives, birth rates amongst adolescents, prenatal care and lack of access to family planning. This target and these indicators have disappeared from the 2009 report.

- We call for the following indicators to be added :
- The prevalence rate of modern contraceptives including adolescents ;
  - The proportion of requests for family planning which have been met ;
  - Accessibility and availability of emergency obstetric care ;
  - The availability of services or referential systems for legal abortion ;
  - Fertility rates amongst adolescents ;
  - Marriage and pregnancy rates amongst children/ adolescents ;
  - The use of reproductive health services by child/ adolescent mothers ;
  - Access to sexual and reproductive services for women and girls of reproductive age in particular in cases of instability ;
  - Analytical criteria enabling forced marriages to be detected.

### Recommendations to Belgian actors

European governments and heads of government must continue to adopt a progressive point of view in the subject of health and reproductive and sexual rights, leading the plea for a more adequate breakdown and for the inclusion by cooperative partner countries of this MDG in their national policies.

This should also have repercussions at a policy and budgetary level. The Belgian government must free up greater resources and funds to strengthen health care in general and reproductive and sexual health in particular and monitor the impact of its actions. The targets and indicators in the 2008 development cooperation policy should moreover be readopted (the 2008 parliamentary report was more exhaustive than that of 2009).

Belgium should support the proper functioning and accessibility of health systems everywhere at the international community level and at national level. This aid should include an integrated approach to essential aspects of sexual and reproductive health (including the fight against STD and violence) the presence of skilled birth attendants, access to emergency obstetric assistance, where there are complications during pregnancy and

high risk abortions, access to safe abortion services and safe homes for victims of sexual violence as well as an improvement in the mobility of users (infrastructures, roads, transport costs and physical safety during transport). At the same time, Belgium should help to develop a system of justice which punishes the authors of sexual violence. Sexual education must be an integral part of education programmes for adolescents. Additionally, information about sexuality, reproductive health and HIV/ Aids should be gender specific and generally available for women as well as men, for boys as well as for young girls as well as for groups at specific risk as for example the prostitute system.

The 2008 general policy from the Ministry of Cooperation and Development and the strategic note on sexual and reproductive rights in the Belgian cooperation dated March 2007 and the strategic note relating to the respect of children's rights in cooperation and development dated March 2008 should be applied.

Children and adolescents not receiving schooling or in countries at war, constitute an important at-risk group, which cannot be reached by usual channels. They must therefore receive special attention.



## Millennium Development Goal **6**

# Combating HIV/Aids, Malaria and other Diseases

### Gender and HIV/Aids

The World Health Organisation (WHO) explicitly recognises that gender has an important impact on health. In 2007, it published a guide entitled «Women's health and human rights: monitoring the implementation of CEDAW». In fact, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women establishes human rights in relation to health, the State-parties undertaking to implement them and to protect them. It is in this world-wide context that this update of the contribution from the CFD relating to HIV/Aids is to be placed. Thus the fourth African conference on health and reproductive rights held in February 2010 examined the relationship between sexuality and HIV/Aids in order to explore how the application of the framework of human rights to sexuality could provide new perspectives in the development of work aiming to reduce the propagation of HIV, as well as to map out innovative strategies for programming and funding.

Each day, nearly 7,500 people are infected by the virus and 5,500 people die of Aids because they do not have access to HIV prevention and treatment services. According to estimates, 15.5 million women and 15.3 million men throughout the world lived with HIV in 2007, compared with 14.1 million and 13.8 million respectively in 2001. Men and women are affected throughout the world, a count of nearly 22 million in sub-Saharan Africa resulting in 75% of Aids related deaths in 2007, about 380,000 in North Africa, 5 million in Asia and 1.7 million in Latin America.

Whilst at a world level there have been approximately as many women as men suffering from HIV, in some African countries, the number of girls infected with HIV/Aids is six times higher than that of boys and the proportion of women infected has grown in each region since 1990 with the overall figures hiding the considerable disparity in the implication of the illness for men and women.

Women are very vulnerable in the area of sexual relations: in addition to being financially dependent and in an inferior position legally compared to their husband, women are also victims of rape, sexual traffic, forced marriages, exploitation etc. Rape is a weapon of war, which, in transmitting HIV becomes a slow and massively destructive weapon.

The importance of education and prevention in the fight against Aids should not be neglected. In fact according to estimates, Aids is spreading twice as fast amongst young uneducated girls, and the use of contraceptives must be given priority.

Even though 80% of infections are contracted via sexual contact, 10% of them are by transference from

mother to child. Only 11% of pregnant women infected with Aids receive care to stop the transmission of the illness to the child. It should be remembered that in too many cases medicines are still too expensive or simply not available.

However a commitment has been made on a world scale to widen and intensify access to prevention, treatment, care and support in matters of HIV, called "Commitment towards universal access" as 9.7 million people are still without treatment against just 4 million who receive it. Additionally, for every two people starting antiretroviral treatment, five others are infected by the virus. Thanks to universal access, about 6.7 million people could benefit from antiretroviral protective treatment, 2.6 million new infections could be avoided and 1.3 million human lives could be saved. Success in the process of widening universal access is dependent on participation by all national partners. In this, civil society and people living with HIV play an essential role in the contact that they make with marginalised populations whose interests they represent, and in concentrating efforts against stigmatisation, discrimination and gender inequality.

Finally it should also be remembered that work in the area of HIV/Aids - caring for infected persons and those affected by the virus, preventing propagation of the epidemic and protecting the most vulnerable, is inextricably related to gender issues. This undoubtedly explains why the 53rd session of the CSW held in March in New York concentrated on the theme of "Equal Sharing of responsibilities of Women and Men including caregiving in the context of HIV/Aids".

### A critique of indicators

It is true that information on HIV/Aids is often lacking. But if we seriously wish to attack HIV/Aids it is not sufficient to merely provide information. It is, above all, indispensable to ensure that three essential aspects are taken into account:

- Complete sexual education (included in this, aspects such as relationships and respect for the other person) from a young age. In this respect it is important to teach women and young girls the techniques of saying "no" and to defend themselves against sexual abuse.
- Knowledge of the content of human rights. In effect, an approach based on human rights is essential. UNOIDS has affirmed that: "The best way of enabling individuals to become masters of their own destiny faced with HIV and Aids is to protect their fundamental rights – all of their rights – whether they be civil, economic, political, social or cultural".



## 6 Millennium Development Goal

Combating HIV/Aids, Malaria and  
other Diseases

- Using the Law. The best way for people to exercise these rights is to exercise them in the form of legal action and practical fighting action or, as necessary, to argue for their implementation in their own countries and within their communities.

Indicators relating to MDG 6 should include a clear reference to sexual health. 80% of HIV infections are in fact contracted via sexual contact. The indicators concerning the percentage of the population between 15 and 24 years of age having knowledge of HIV/Aids should be adapted and refer to complete overall sexual knowledge.

One of the main obstacles to the prevention of the propagation of HIV/Aids and the assurance of access to treatment is the stigma that surrounds this illness. This constitutes one of the reasons which pleads in favour of the acquisition and examination of knowledge not only from a quantitative but also from a qualitative point of view.

And the addition of an indicator tracing the change over time in the percentage of persons infected by HIV and having access to medicines appears to be indispensable.

Finally an additional indicator should be concerned with progress achieved in the treatment of pregnant women and mothers.

### Recommendations to Belgian actors

#### Basic services

HIV/Aids, sexual and reproductive health services should be subject to more determined integration. This group of basic services should be part of primary health care and include the following elements: prevention, care and treatment of unwanted pregnancies, of HIV/Aids, of STDs and unsafe abortions. These services should be developed in their approach to activities in the area of violence against women and other gender disparities. We recommend therefore that Belgian advocates and legislators encourage a greater integration of prevention, care and treatment initiatives for HIV/Aids with those of other illnesses as appropriate in war-torn countries. Women who are the victims of sexual violence must be cared for. There therefore needs to be specific management of this problem.

#### The use of contraceptives

The use of contraceptives is not always a negotiable issue for women. Where they are victims of sexual violence they are not in a position to demand the use of a contraceptive. In this context usual prevention methods are not sufficient. We recommend to Belgian advocates and legislators that they invest in research into new methods of contraception in order that women are able to protect themselves from infection by HIV.

#### Women's contraception

In France efforts are made in the promotion of this type of contraceptive as it is now the only means of contraception and protection against HIV and STDs which is entirely under the woman's control. Whilst knowledge of it is still too limited in its diffusion, it is a matter of urgency to provide information on it and to encourage women to use it, thus inviting them to choose for themselves their own protection.

#### Access to antiretrovirals for all (men and women)

Aids now results in many more deaths than traditional killer pathologies like malaria or diarrhoea-based illnesses. In addition to this alarming statement, it must be added that antiretrovirals available for treatment remain out of the reach of countries in the South because of their high sales price.

This is why we recommend Belgian advocates and legislators to ensure access to antiretrovirals for all, where the advance of the illness requires it. Prevention and care alone are not sufficient. This aspect is extremely important in terms of removing the stigma of HIV infection.



## Millennium Development Goal 7

# Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

### Gender and Environmental Sustainability

We need to take into account, amongst other things, the different roles of men and women in the use, management and conservation of natural resources. The survival of people living in poverty depends upon their access to land, water, forests and plants. It is women who carry out the essential agricultural work and food production for the family. For generations they have accumulated traditional knowledge in this area which is seen today as threatened with disappearance as large-scale agriculture takes over. In terms of sustainable development women have a different but at least as important a role as that of men.

Access to water is a striking illustration. Women hold an important place in the care economy and in the reproductive area (the provision of community services and unpaid household tasks – for which water is essential), they are therefore the first affected by the consequences of the lack of water. Water can be scarce and difficult to access because of environmental factors but also because of price increases following, for example, privatisation.

More difficult access to water increases the load of traditional tasks with which women are burdened in meeting their family needs: they have to spend more time finding clean drinking water which leaves them less time for other work, such as earning their own income, personal development or participation in politics (local). In spite of the fact that they are responsible for supplying the family's water, women serve themselves last. The high price of water forces families to use water of doubtful quality and results in an increase in the number of illnesses and deaths of women and children who quite literally have to content themselves with the dregs of water (therefore the least clean). Lack of water can have dramatic consequences for pregnant women and the newborn.

Water is one of the essential elements of life: therefore democratic and transparent management of water needs to be put in place, based on the differentiated needs of the population – and above all taking into account the needs of women who carry out 80% of water related work.

It is quite clear that the MDGs cannot be achieved if they are not placed in a world-wide economic, social and ecological context. To achieve these goals and follow up results, structural changes are required on a world-wide scale. A number of studies demonstrate for example that the South will suffer the main consequences of climate change. These consequences can already now be seen (drought, floods etc.) and above all affect women who have a central role in supplying water. Important impacts are also observable with regard to food security; they seriously hinder the achievement of goals.

Industrialised countries have great responsibility in terms of limiting the effect of climate change: sustainable development will only be achievable if world-wide production models and consumption behaviour change.

One of the principal components of sustainable development is participation by the local population. It is now commonly agreed that projects and programmes have little chance of achieving the hoped-for results if they are not supported by the target population. It is therefore essential that women and men take part on an equal footing in the design, execution and assessment of projects and programmes.

In certain countries the World Bank has encouraged the use of property as security and for access to financial credit markets. It has however been noted that this has had some unwanted consequences. In places where, customarily, the law grants land management to women, it has had the effect of placing the land into a structured market and has often given the property shares to the men. This results in a different share of income between men and women to the detriment of the latter and has repercussions on children, health and education.

Equality and justice are an integral part of sustainable development. It will not be sustainable if it is not designed, and implemented in a different way with the active participation of the other half of the human race.

More than 1.6 billion people need better access to sanitary hygiene. Green house gas emissions are increasing but those which are impoverishing the ozone layer are rapidly retreating. As far as access to drinking water is concerned, great progress has been recorded since 2000 even if efforts need still to be made in rural areas. As for drainage, it remains a problem. So, in spite of the construction of social housing, nearly 1 citizen in 10 lives in an unhealthy habitat. Throughout the world about 2.6 billion people do not have a clean secure place to satisfy their natural needs – people do not have this basic necessity, toilets. This well-concealed scandal constitutes a terrible affront to human dignity on a grand scale. Good hygiene and in particular good sanitary installations as well as drinking water are of course essential elements to ensure good health. It is still the case today even though sanitary hygiene has been considered the greatest medical advance over these past 150 years, 2.6 billion people or 40% of the world's population do not have access to basic sanitary installations. The consequences in terms of suffering and economic loss are enormous.

Sanitary hygiene strengthens dignity, private life and security and in particular for women and girls. Sanitary installations in schools enable girls at puberty in particular to remain in the educational system.



It is important to take account of the situation of women in environmental problems. Women are in certain conditions more vulnerable than men. Without a minimum of hygiene and adequate installations young girls are subject to some illnesses. Supplying advanced sanitary installations helps in the emancipation of women and girls whilst providing substantial advantages to the community as a whole.

Access to land is still these days difficult if not impossible for some women.

This results from the fact that in traditional law which replaces law in the national domain, the main means of accessing farming land is by inheritance, notably in Africa. In reality the other major difficulty for women from the point of view of access to land concerns poverty. Effectively you need money to buy it and to bring it into condition which is not always obvious when one only has a small income from small-scale commerce.

### A critique of indicators

In spite of the work carried out by NGOs the situation of women still remains less favourable than that of men particularly in access to resources. The impoverishment of women has dramatic consequences on the food and health situation of the people in their charge.

Sustainable development is not limited therefore to purely ecological aspects, far from it, but this is not

apparent at all in the MDGs, any more than the specific role of women with regards to sustainable development. New indicators need to be fine-tuned to make up for these omissions. Agenda 21 (the 1992 United Nations conference on the environment) should be a source of inspiration in this respect. Differentiation of data according to gender is a necessary precondition to effective analysis of problems and fine tuning of effective and sustainable measures.

### Alternative indicators

- The number of people having sustainable access to natural resources and particularly water and land. To drinking water access, access to wells, and making available a local water tap concerns, should be added that this access should be free and that the effects of desertification, making supply very difficult if not impossible, needs to be taken into account.
- The number of women having access to land. Efforts to obtain agreement should be in the direction of acquiring land for their needs. In this particular area, technical cooperation and civil society have an important role to play. Government authorities should also take time to improve the jurisdictional and legal framework taking into consideration gender issues at the time of writing law. The example of Burundi can be cited where the acquisition of land is a limited right for women. These latter are neglected, marginalised put aside in the area of land; they have no voice in the subject.

### Recommendations to Belgian actors

- Draw inspiration from Agenda 21 and the undertakings taken by Belgium in this respect. Prepare for the Rio +20 Summit in bringing up-to-date recommendations and integrating them in a gender approach.
- Give priority to programmes aimed at prioritising sustainable (in social ecological and economic areas) access to natural resources and their control by women.
- Promote and develop women's knowledge and techniques.
- Recognise access to water as a human right and prevent privatisation of the supply of water which can for example result from agreements like the GACS, the General Agreement on Commerce and Services (Accord Général du Commerce des services).
- Give particular attention to the impact of water policies on women and girls.
- Bring women into the decision-making process and the democratic management of water at all levels of power (country, region, locality, district etc.).
- Comply with the undertakings made in the context of the Millennium Development Goal n° 8 to increase funds allocated to international solidarity with particular priority for projects facilitating access to water.



## Millennium Development Goal 8

# Developing a Global Partnership for Development

### Gender and a Global Partnership for Development

Although the key role played by women on the growth and development level has been recognised by the EU, macro-economic and national policies which are insensitive to gender have the effect of ghettoising women in the informal sector without security of employment or protection of rights. They inherit the least well-paid and least stable jobs in the formal economy, because the number of decent jobs still remains lower for women than for men, and the traditional division of household work constricts the capacity of women and girls to emancipate themselves economically and socially by going to school or in taking part in productive activities outside of the home. Household tasks and the care that they give (to children, to the aged and to the sick) are not however taken into account in their countries' GNP. And the impact of HIV/Aids has added to the burden of responsibility that women have in terms of household work, care provision and income. Finally, women continue to receive salaries which are less than for men for equal work, and are still radically underrepresented and marginalised at all levels of decision-making. Deprived of rights to land and inheritance rights, confronted by economic policies such as the privatisation of water and reductions in social and sanitary services, women hardly have the possibility of owning, managing and using natural resources whilst subordinating their own needs to those of their families. The survival strategies that poor women in rural environments have developed are sorely tested throughout the world by economic policies which claim to be neutral but which in practice risk the intensification of inequality between the North and South and between men

and women. Both international institutions and national governments must recognise the varied impacts on men and women and in consequence take action, carrying out analysis according to gender in the design, execution and assessment of their policies. Development cooperation as well as foreign, financial and commercial policy must target consistency and attack inequality between the North and South, between men and women.

### A critique of indicators

The achievement of goals 1 to 7 largely depends on the extent to which the United Nations, national governments, international commercial and financial institutions succeed in achieving Goal 8, setting up an effective partnership for development. These current targets and indicators deal with matters such as Public Development Aid, commerce, debt and access to markets, but remain too vague and do not attack either the structural inequality or balance of power which fundamentally compromise the achievement of the MDGs. Equally there are few reliable indicators measuring changes in reliable results for female employment, the underpaid domestic economy, civil rights, property rights or on women's representation and participation in decision-making. Emphasis is placed rather on the measures which poor countries should take to achieve the MDGs than what the principle international players owe in return (rich countries, commercial institutions and international financial organisations) in terms of development. The current balance of power is demonstrated in the fact that MDG 8 has not put together indicators or quantifiable instruments on the basis of which countries, institutions and businesses should justify themselves.



## Recommendations to Belgian actors

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD 2002) formulated strategies in the context of partnerships to achieve the MDGs and the wider development agenda which includes peace, the rights of man, equality and sustainability. It is necessary to implement strategies which take into account sexual equality and provide the means which are necessary for it. Belgium can also play a major role as leader in this respect.

The United Nations task force report on education and the equality of the sexes (UN Task Force on Education and Gender Equality) explicitly recognises that no development is possible without women's emancipation, it speaks in favour of certain measures such as women's property rights, access to basic services including those relating to sexual and reproductive health, the fight against violence against women and a greater participation in politics etc. This idea is corroborated by the EU which recognises gender equality as a necessary precondition to growth, full employment and social cohesion.

Continuing analysis of critical links between commerce, development, poverty and gender is essential in understanding and tackling structural inequality in the world's economic systems. Current dominant macro-economic and social policy must be reviewed and adapted with complete and equal participation by women with a view to achieving the goals recommended by the Beijing action platform.

- Redirecting expenses using budgetary analysis which is sensitive to gender (Gender Budget Analysis) promoting women's economic possibilities, equal access to production resources and the satisfaction of the basic needs of the poorest and above all women
- Working towards equitable trade:
  - By putting a brake on free-market liberalisation: the markets in the South must refuse to apply imposed rules relating to intellectual property. Numerous developing countries are not ready for competition on the international market and need, first of all, diversification and strengthening of their production and export capacities and support in this from the North. Free-market liberalisation leads to greater erosion in social services which are particularly damaging to those who are most deprived, 70% of whom are women;
  - In stopping dumping, particularly agricultural products;
  - By ensuring that the South has better access to markets.
- The introduction of a tax on financial speculation. This will have a positive effect on the stability of national economies and revenue derived could also be invested in a gender-aware sustainable development policy. Belgium adopted the Tobin-Spahn tax in November 2004, being one of the first countries to do so, it has played a leading role in the European Union in encouraging other member countries to subscribe to this initiative and to ensure that this tax is effectively implemented. There should be no relaxation of these efforts.
- The majority of countries in the Third World will remain well short of the MDGs if at the same time they continue to repay their debt. In spite of the Initiative in Favour of Poor Highly Indebted Countries undertaken in 2006, planning to make available more than \$53 billion dollars in debt discount to 27 low revenue countries over the next 20 years, our claim is straightforward: the debt of the poorest developing countries must be completely cancelled.
- Aid which is more consistent and of greater overall quality but also more particularly centred on projects and programmes which promote gender equality. Belgium set itself an undertaking which is legally binding in its budget to contribute in carrying out these millennium goals and is about to pass the goal of 0.7% of its Gross National Product (GNP) devoted to development aid, whilst other countries like Germany have reduced their aid. We demand that specific funds for gender equality are more explicit and identifiable and that they be increased, notably by allocating 2% of additional funds in the growth of ODA to 0.7%.
- Good governance: both at national and international level. This means amongst other things:
  - More power for United Nations socio-economic organisations (including via ECOSOC);
  - Greater voting power and real participation by Third World countries in specialist institutions like the IMF and the World Bank;
  - The presence of women in 50% of the positions in decision-making organisations which undertake to act for the quality of opportunities between the sexes and women's emancipation;
  - The policies both of these institutions and Belgium representatives should be the subject of obligatory reports and audit by the Belgian parliament;
  - The government should affirm its control and power over the economy and stock markets which implies amongst other things establishing a restrictive code for multinational businesses. There is also room to refine restrictive regulation for private players in the financial sector.



# Millennium Development Goal

## Sources and references

<http://www.un.org/fr/millenniumgoals/>

### Millennium Development Goal 1 : Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger

The UNO News centre The Millennium Goals, “Ban appeals to the world to keep its promises” THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION SERVICE, 29/11/2010.

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=22303&Cr=%E9conomie&Cr1>

MEDEIROS Marcelo et COSTA Joana, “What do we understand by the feminisation of poverty?” THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ACTION IN FAVOUR OF THE POOR, New York, 02/07/2010.

<http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/fra/IPCOnePager58.pdf>

«Mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes»- «Pauvreté, opprobre et discrimination», p.57 à 69, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, 2004.

<http://www.amnesty.org/fr/library/asset/ACT77/001/2004/fr/abb4d1aa-d64e-11dd-ab95-a13b602c0642/act770012004fr.pdf>

Commission on the Status of Women, ONU, 10/03/2006.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw50/frenchweb.htm>

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/poverty.htm>

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw>

### Millennium Development Goal 2 : Achieving Universal Primary Education

“Education for all by 2015”, UNESCO, 19/01/2010.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001548/154820f.pdf>

«Les femmes de l’an 2000», ONU, 05 and 09/06/2010.

<http://www.un.org/french/womenwatch/followup/beijing5/session/fiche2.html>

LICHIELS Carl, pour BTC CTB EMPOWERING DEVELOPMENT, “Belgian Corporation picks up the challenge” : 8 technical cooperation projects to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, CTB.

<http://www.btcctb.org/>

### Millennium Development Goal 3 : Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women

“The high level Copenhagen conference on gender equality and the independence of women”, The liaison service of the UNO with NGOs, Copenhagen, 19/04/2010.

[http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=article\\_fr&id\\_article=2383](http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=article_fr&id_article=2383)

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE : [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

IDISA, The development index and gender inequality in Africa, CEA.

<http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article3630>

SOMMESTAD Lena et MABUDAFHASI Rejoice, “Promoting women’s independence”, UNEP.

<http://www.unep.org/ourplanet/imgversn/152/french/sommestad.html>

Les recherches en «genre et développement» pour des politiques de développement appropriées». <http://orbi.ulg.ac.be/handle/2268/38089>

[http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/binaries/note\\_strategique\\_egalite\\_gender\\_fr\\_tcm313-66236](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/binaries/note_strategique_egalite_gender_fr_tcm313-66236).

### Millennium Development Goal 4 : Reducing child mortality

“Children: reducing mortality - factsheet N°178”, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, 01/11/2009.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs178/en/index.html>

«Making Change Happen: Actions Necessary to Accelerate the Achievement of all Millennium Development Goals»; UNIFED

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/millennium\\_development\\_goals/](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/millennium_development_goals/)

«Millennium Development Goals Factsheet Child Mortality», WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST (UK), 01/11/2007.

<http://www.wcf-uk.org/northsouth/extra3.nsf/2/WCF%20Advocacy%20Toolkit%20%28May%202008%29?OpenDocument>

«The State of the World’s Children 2009 : Maternal and Newborn Health», UNICEF, New York, 01/12/2008.

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc09/report/report.php>

«The Unfinished Agenda : Balance Sheet of Progress and Backlogs on Gender Equality», UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN.

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/millennium\\_development\\_goals/](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/millennium_development_goals/)



## Millennium Development Goal 5 : Improving Maternal Health

« Making Change Happen : Actions Necessary to Accelerate the Achievement of all Millennium Development Goals », UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN.

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/millennium\\_development\\_goals/](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/millennium_development_goals/)

« Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement ; Rapport 2010 », ONU, New York, 15/06/2010.

<http://www.un.org/fr/millenniumgoals/report2010.shtml>

« The Unfinished Agenda : Balance Sheet of Progress and Backlogs on Gender Equality », UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN.

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/millennium\\_development\\_goals/](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/millennium_development_goals/)

## Millennium Development Goal 6 : Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria & Other Diseases

“ For reduced risk pregnancy ”, OMS.

[http://www.who.int/making\\_pregnancy\\_safer/topics/mdg/fr/](http://www.who.int/making_pregnancy_safer/topics/mdg/fr/)

“ Millions of children die unnecessarily ”, UNICEF.

<http://www.unicef.org/french/mdg/disease.html>

“ Stopping the increase in HIV/AIDS and starting to reverse current trends ”, THE NATIONAL STATISTICS INSTITUTION.

<http://www.stat-niger.org/NigerInfo/page/omd/omd6.html>

<http://www.un.org/fr/millenniumgoals/aids.shtml>

[http://unworkplace.unaids.org/francais/pages/other\\_issues/gender.shtml](http://unworkplace.unaids.org/francais/pages/other_issues/gender.shtml)

<http://vertigo.revues.org/1844>

## Millennium Development Goal 7 : Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

BATENBAUM Jean-Charles, “ For Ban Ki-Moon sustainable development is the priority for 2010 ”, ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS, 13/01/2010.

<http://www.actualites-news-environnement.com/22597-Ban-Ki-Moon-developpement-durable-2010.html>

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/index.htm>

## Millennium Development Goal 8 : Developing a Global Partnership for Development

« Reducing debt under the initiative in favour of very indebted poor countries (PPTE) », IMF, Washington, 18/02/2010.

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/fire/hipcf.htm>

« Communication de la Commission au Parlement européen et au Conseil - L'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes et l'émancipation des femmes dans la coopération au développement [SEC(2007) 332] », UNION EUROPEENNE, Bruxelles, 08/03/2007.

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga\\_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!DocNumber&lg=fr&type\\_doc=COMfinal&an\\_doc=2007&nu\\_doc=100](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!DocNumber&lg=fr&type_doc=COMfinal&an_doc=2007&nu_doc=100)

« La contribution de l'UE aux objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (MDG) », UNION EUROPEENNE.

[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/development/general\\_development\\_framework/r12533\\_fr.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/development/general_development_framework/r12533_fr.htm)

“ Part time working suffered in France ”, THE INEQUALITY OBSERVER, 15/01/2010.

<http://www.inegalites.fr/spip.php?article410&id-mot=103>

« Peu de femmes dirigent des entreprises », OBSERVATOIRE DES INEGALITES, 10/12/2009.

<http://www.inegalites.fr/spip.php?article1126&id-mot=103>

« Stratégie pour l'égalité des genres dans la politique de développement », UNION EUROPEENNE.

[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/development/sectoral\\_development\\_policies/r13005\\_fr.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/development/sectoral_development_policies/r13005_fr.htm)

« Tendances Mondiales de l'Emploi des Femmes », GENRE EN ACTION, 2007.

<http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article5505>

[http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/press\\_release1104.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/press_release1104.pdf)

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/reports2.htm#02>

- **Millennium Declaration**

Signed by 191 governments at the Millennium Summit in 2000. The Millennium Declaration is based on human needs and requirements and recognises the central role that women play in the development process.

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

- **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

The MDGs were set up as a kind of road map for implementing the Millennium Declaration. They are quantifiable, measurable and have been given a deadline (2015). There are 8 Millennium Development Goals and 48 indicators.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

- **Gender and the Millennium Development Goals**

The Millennium Declaration reflects international awareness that the empowerment of women and gender equality are matters of international justice and human rights. The Millennium Development Goals do not demonstrate the same awareness. Gender equality is included as a separate goal, but in a limited form and with many shortcomings.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Publications/20169280/gendermdg.pdf>

But since the MDGs are measurable, specific and time-bound, they do offer an extra instrument for holding governments and international institutions accountable – including with respect to previous commitments such as the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted following the World Conference on Women in 1995.

## The Commission on Women and Development

The Belgian Commission on Women and Development (CWD) was set up to support and bring into closer focus the issue of equality between women and men in the formulation and implementation of Belgian policy on development cooperation.



The missions of the Commission on Women and Development are :

- to advise and challenge the Minister and the administrative department in the preparation and implementation of development cooperation policy with regards to its implications for gender equality in both partner countries and vis-à-vis the different actors involved in cooperation, and in the preparation and implementation of various provisions on the aid granted by Belgium;
- to issue and disseminate, on its own initiative or at the request of the Minister, opinions and recommendations on gender equality in development cooperation;
- to support and promote initiatives in the sphere of exchange of information, coordination, consultation and networking;
- to engage in political lobbying and public awareness-raising on gender equality, within the scope of cooperation programmes, as well as that of the development-oriented education of children and citizens in Belgium.

## Working Group MDG+10

The following NGOs have participated in drawing up this document :

Amnesty International Belgique francophone ;



CNCD (National Center for Cooperation and development)-11.11.11 ;



Le Monde selon les Femmes ;



Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad.



With the participation of:

Barate Pascale ; Charlier Sophie ; Guillaume Marine ; Guillitte Françoise ; In't Zandt Katinka ; Kakunga Sabine ; Martin Céline ; Monkasa Suzanne ; Moutenet Solene ; Poppe Maggi ; Roquet Pascale ; Ryckmans Hélène.

## Secretariat of the Commission on Women and Development

Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs

Development cooperation

Rue des Petits Carmes 15 (Na 59 – B305) - 1000 Bruxelles

Phone +32 (0)2 501.44.43 - Fax +32 (0)2 501.45.44

cvo-cfd@diplobel.fed.be

[http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development\\_cooperation/CWD/index.jsp](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development_cooperation/CWD/index.jsp)