



*Fulfilling the promise
of the Millennium
Declaration:*

The MDG Achievement Fund experience



PRINCIPLES

Our inspiring principles



The Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F), with a budget of US\$ 900 million, is one of the largest and most comprehensive development cooperation mechanisms created to support MDG attainment.

Established through an agreement between the government of Spain and UNDP on behalf of the United Nations (UN) system, the MDG-F incorporates the goals and principles of three key international development agreements.

• Millennium Declaration

Signed in 2000 by 189 countries, to achieve by 2015 a set of eight measurable goals that range from halving extreme poverty and hunger to promoting gender equality and reducing child mortality.

• Delivering as One process

Starting in 1997 and including a UN General Assembly resolution on System-wide coherence (2008), promotes the coordination of UN Agencies for more integrated and effective development initiatives.

• Paris Declaration

of 2005, and subsequent agreements (Accra, 2008 and Busan, 2011), to improve aid effectiveness through national ownership and mutual accountability.

Thematic Window	Net funded budget (US\$ million)	Number of programmes
Children, Food Security and Nutrition	131.9	24
Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding	90.1	20
Culture and Development	90.2	18
Democratic Economic Governance	59.6	11
Development and the Private Sector	60.3	12
Environment and Climate Change	89.5	17
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	89.2	13
Youth, Employment and Migration	71.8	15



Photo: Carlos Ignacio García Busta



Photo: Liang Quankang



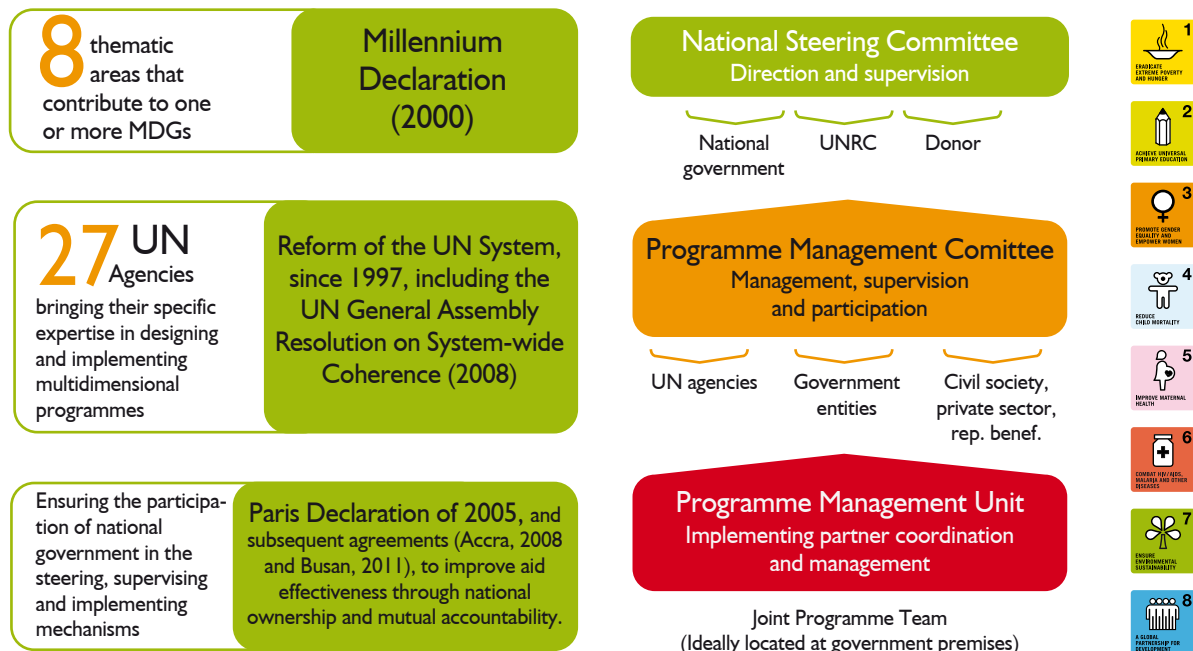
Photo: Carla Gachet/ Iván Kashinsky



Our approach

Turning principles into joint programmes that deliver results

Across its 130 joint programmes in eight different thematic areas, the MDG-F has used inter-sectoral approaches to increase development effectiveness. For each programme, the MDG-F has established governance mechanisms that ensure the full participation of national governments in their steering, supervising and management bodies. UN Agencies, working as one with the critical support of the UN Resident Coordinators, have coordinated their efforts and aligned their expertise to deliver concrete results.

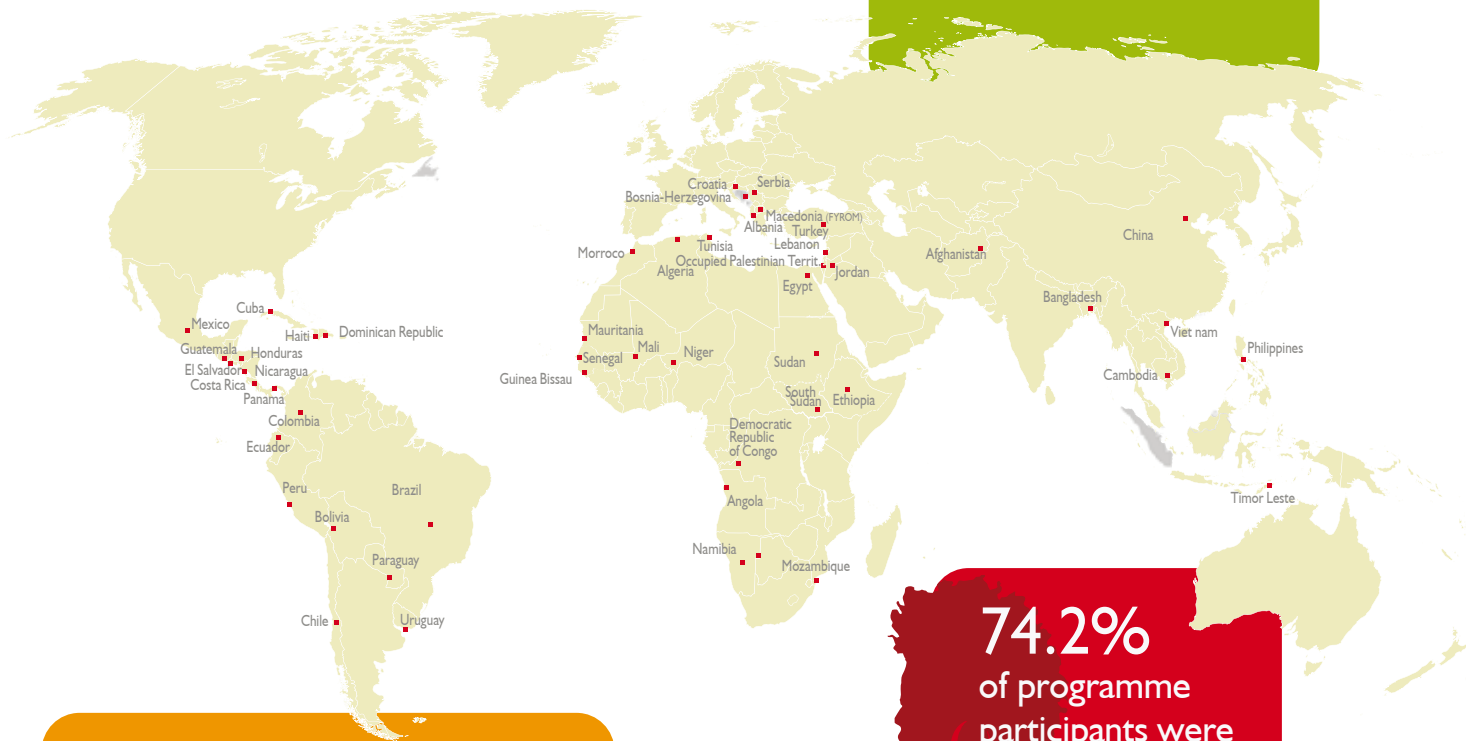


Participating UN Agencies:

UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, PAHO/WHO, PMA, UNESCO, ILO, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNWOMEN, IOM, WHO, UNEP, UNHABITAT, UNWTO, UNODC, UNHCR, ITC, UNRWA, UNCDF, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNOPS, IFAD, OHCHR, ECLAC, ESCAP

Our work

9 Estimated direct coverage:
million people



Targeted programmes addressing
specific populations reached
1.04 million indigenous people,
553,000 youth and
2.15 million children

74.2%
of programme
participants were
women and girls

OUR CONTRIBUTION

Our contribution to the post-2015 debate

From the MDG-F programmes' vast experience and its 130 joint programmes world wide, we have created a body of knowledge and best practices that will be essential for the post-2015 debate. An independent global and thematic evaluation is providing findings that may inform future cooperation mechanisms that opt to implement development initiatives through joint programmes. A series of partnerships with leading research institutions and specialized UN Agencies is allowing the MDG-F partners to distill lessons learned and promising practices.



• A solid mechanism of cooperation

The MDG-F's programmes have demonstrated that joint programmes with multidimensional and inter-sectoral approaches can bring integrated solutions that are more effective in tackling complex problems. The case of nutrition and food security can serve as an example. By bringing together the expertise of various UN Agencies, the MDG-F programmes have put in place multi-sectorial approaches that include important issues such as nutritional education, gender equality and empowerment of women, agricultural production and health, among others. Joint programmes are helping to overcome the limitations of the traditional sectorial approach (the "silo" approach) to development initiatives.

• Thematic approaches

MDG-F programmes have also directed the attention of development practitioners to other strategies. For example:

- Using a **dual strategy** to achieve **gender equality**, by combining gender-specific programmes with a gender perspective that crosscuts all other areas of work.
- Understanding the critical importance of **culture** and cultural specificities to improve the impact of public policies worldwide.
- Responding to the call of **indigenous peoples** for recognition of their own perspective on development goals, which could serve as a platform to end discrimination and poverty.
- Making **youth employment and migration** the cornerstones of societies' development.
- Creating democratic and transparent mechanisms for **water and sanitation** governance which are truly participatory and culture-sensitive.



Photo: Great Ethiopian Run



Photo: Edwina Stevens/ Small World Stories/ Ethiopia Delivering as One



**24 programmes,
US\$131.9 million and
11 UN Agencies**

Twenty-four programmes have worked to halt preventable deaths caused by child hunger and poor nutrition. Interventions ranged from providing low cost nutritional packages that can save lives and promote healthy development to engaging with pregnant and lactating mothers to ensure they are healthy and aware of key nutrition issues. Advocacy for mainstreaming children's right to food into national plans and policies is also a key element of the fight against under nutrition.

Story of change, Bangladesh



Photo: WFP/GMB Akash

Children, nutrition and food security

results

▶ **1.67**
million children and
800.000
mothers have
improved nutrition

▶ **1.2**
million mothers and
children benefitted
from breastfeeding
programmes and
policies

▶ **82,900**
health workers,
6,495
health centers,
2,533
schools and over
8,000
local and national
institutions part-
nered to fight
malnutrition

*Participating UN Agencies: UNICEF, FAO,
PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, WFP, UNDP, UNIDO, UNODC,
IOM, ILO, UNESCO.*

▶ When Sheuly Begum's son started getting fortified biscuits at school, he became much more attentive in class, and his enthusiasm towards his studies motivated his younger sister to start going to school, too. His family participated in an MDG-F programme to boost children's nutrition and empower women in Bangladesh.

**11 programmes,
US\$ 59.6 million and
13 UN Agencies**

Good governance is an influential factor in achieving the MDGs. Our 11 programmes in this area have strengthened the capacity of national institutions to design and implement water policies and regulations and to provide communities with efficient water and sanitation services. We have also tackled the barriers that indigenous populations and women face in accessing water and sanitation services. Encouraging investment in services to poor communities, we have contributed to the development of new and innovative mechanisms to finance water supply and sanitation infrastructures and services to the most marginalized populations.



Story of change, Nicaragua

Democratic economic governance

results

► **440,000**
citizens gained access to safe affordable drinking water and

► **31.7**
million people improved their lives through

41 new laws,
78 policies and
157 plans to boost water and sanitation services

► **669**
community organizations and

665
local providers have been strengthened or created to promote community empowerment and participation in water management

Participating UN Agencies: ECLAC, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNHABITAT, UNODC, UNESCO, UNFPA UNICEF, UNIDO, UNDP, PAHO/WHO

► In Nicaragua's North Atlantic Autonomous Region, less than 20 % of the population has access to water and sanitation. Despite being surrounded by rivers that spring from the Bosawas Biosphere, Central America's most important rainforest, the small community of Venus had no drinkable water. None, until some community women decided to put an end to the situation and approached the mayor of their municipality with a proposal to create the Potable Water Committee (CAP) of Venus, a network that would supply drinking water to the entire community. Inhabitants of Venus contributed 296,000 córdobas (US\$11,800) to the project, with the MDG-F contributing an additional 1.6 million córdobas (US\$64,000). Today, more than 400 villagers enjoy access to safe drinking water.

**17 programmes,
US\$ 90.1 million and
14 UN Agencies**

Violent conflict is often a symptom of social exclusion. These 17 programmes have worked on solutions to overcome conflicts by promoting access to justice, providing peaceful dispute resolution and legal mechanisms, forging intercultural dialogue and building a culture of peace. Innovative and integral approaches to citizen security have reduced crime rates. Sports, arts and culture have been used to channel youth energy towards the construction of positive relations.



Story of change, Serbia

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding

results

► **400,000**
youth engaged in
actions to build
peace and prevent
conflicts

► **40**
laws, policies and
plans were put in
place to build
dialogue spaces for
conflict resolution

► **63,000**
citizens accessed conflict
resolution and reconcilia-
tion services and

78,000
gained increased access to
justice

Participating UN Agencies: ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNRWA, UN Women, UNODC, UN-HABITAT, OHCHR, FAO

► Communication barriers have become a significant problem in South Serbia, with young people from different ethnic communities unable to understand each other. At an MDG-F-supported Day of Peace celebration, Serbian, Albanian and Roma youth gathered to write messages of peace and express their hopes for the future as part of a broader MDG-F's peace-building programme in southern Serbia, one of the poorest parts of the country. The programme aimed at strengthening dialogue, improving access to and quality of public services, and stimulating equitable economic development.

**13 programmes,
US\$ 89.2 million and
18 UN Agencies**

Progress on the status and role of women over the past decades has been slow and uneven. The MDG-F has supported programmes that bolster women's representation in formal decision-making structures, using disaggregated data to push for gender responsive planning and policy development. Ending the epidemic of gender-based violence was a common thread in most programmes, which focused on strengthening women's capabilities (as measured by health and education), improving their access to resources and opportunities, and reducing their vulnerability to violence and conflict. In addition, a dual strategy approach resulted in the inclusion of a gender perspective across our other thematic windows.



**Story of change,
occupied Palestinian territory**

Gender equality and women's empowerment

results

▶ **630,000**
women and girls
gained access to
violence prevention
and protection services

▶ **1,523**
public institutions and

449

private organizations
strengthened their capacities to work more responsively towards gender equality

▶ **24,000**
women increased
their income and

3,000
accessed public
decision-making
positions

Participating UN Agencies: FAO, ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNCDF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, UNESCO, UNRWA, IOM, UN-HABITAT, UNAIDS, UNIDO, BIT, UNHCR, UNODC

- ▶ The MDG-F has empowered women in the occupied Palestinian territory by supporting women's football. After these girls won their match, three women were elected to the Palestinian Football Federation Council - a first.

**18 programmes,
US\$ 90.2 million and
14 UN Agencies**

Respect for cultural diversity promotes vibrant and inclusive societies. We have supported efforts to promote the inclusion of minorities in social, political and cultural life and harness the potential of the creative sector for job creation, economic growth and poverty reduction. Strengthening creative industries and protecting natural and cultural heritage have proved to be effective instruments of economic development. We have worked with indigenous communities to safeguard their cultural heritage and to build health and education services that respond to their worldviews.



Story of change, Namibia

Culture and development

results

► New and renovated cultural infrastructures are serving

2.3 million
citizens

► **12,300**
cultural entrepreneurs have increased their income by accessing new markets

► **50**
inventories have been created to protect cultural and natural heritage and two new sites have been included on UNESCO's World Heritage list

► **1,450**
cultural public institutions and
14,198
civil servants have strengthened their capacities through MDG-F programmes

Participating UN Agencies: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNWTO, UNFPA, UNIDO, UN Women, PAHO/WHO, ITC, UNHCR, UN HABITAT, UNEP

► The MDG-F worked with members of the San community in northeastern Namibia - the last hunters and gatherers in southern Africa - to take a central role in preserving their cultural heritage through the promotion of tourism. Staff at the visitors' reception in Tsumkwe Cultural Village were trained in financial management and tourism strategies.

11 programmes,
US\$ 60.3 million and
17 UN Agencies

Programmes supported the development of pro-poor growth policies that increase the participation and benefits of the poor in private sector development. Interventions sought to bolster economic sectors where the poor are strongly represented, opening markets to improve opportunities and stimulate small and medium enterprises.



Story of change, Peru

Development and the private sector

results

► Technical assistance services reached

21,500

farmers, entrepreneurs and small businesses

► **85**

cooperatives and

182

farmer associations were strengthened or created

► **159**

new instruments
(17 national and 31
local policies and five
national strategies)

Participating UN Agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNWTO, ITC, UNESCO, UN Women, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, WFP, UNEP, UNICEF

► The MDG-F has worked to alleviate poverty in four of Peru's most disadvantaged regions by developing creative industries in tourism, handi-crafts, organic agriculture and gastronomy. Some 2,500 families in the High Andes used their tradi-tions to increase their household incomes, and improved their livelihoods while conserving their customs and, at the same time, caring for the environment.

**15 programmes,
US\$ 71.8 million and
14 UN Agencies**

With 1.8 billion young people living in the world today, the opportunity for injecting new energy and ideas into the way we do things is limitless. But young people face incredible challenges as they transition into adulthood, particularly in finding decent work opportunities. To address this, the MDG-F has created community employment services, encouraged new job opportunities, promoted legal frameworks and tackled migration with new policies and awareness-raising campaigns.



Youth, employment and migration

results

► **642,000**
people have directly improved their lives through these programmes.
Among them:

127,170 youth;
24,072 migrants,
98,399 citizens, and
365,000 boys and girls

► **190,000**
youth acquired new skills through training programmes

Participating UN Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNOPS, UN Women, UNODC, UNWTO, PAHO/WHO

► In the Philippines, where the MDG-F worked to provide young people with decent jobs as an alternative to migration, close to 1.5 million young people were unemployed in 2010. Among other initiatives, the programme provided training and materials on entrepreneurship, life skills and safe migration to teachers, out of school youth, local partner organizations and thousands of secondary schools. Hundreds of at-risk high school students have received educational subsidies designed to reduce drop-out rates in public schools.

**17 programmes,
US\$ 89.5 million and
15 UN Agencies**

Progress on the MDGs can only be sustained by a healthy planet. Poor people's livelihoods rely heavily on natural resources, and environmental changes and fluctuations often have a devastating effect on their ability to survive, preventing them from fully accessing basic services like water, sanitation and energy. Our programmes improved local management of environmental resources, strengthened communities ability to deal with the effects of climate change and integrated sustainable development principles into national policy frameworks.

Story of change, Ethiopia



Photo: Edwina Stevens/Small World Stories/Ethiopia Delivering as One

Environment and climate change

results

▶ **231,500** citizens, civil servants and students have been directly involved in programmes to improve resilience to climate change

▶ **1.4** million citizens have organized themselves to effectively participate in natural resource management initiatives

▶ **113,000** people gained access to improved sources of water and

▶ **87,000** people strengthened their capacity to adapt to climate change

Participating UN Agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, IFAD, UNEP, UNIDO, UN-HABITAT, UN Women, UNWTO, IOM, WFP, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, ILO, ESCAP

▶ The MDG-F worked with the government in four regions of Ethiopia to mobilize pastoralist communities to restore rangelands, build community water facilities, diversify their livelihoods and set up better animal health services.

The MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F) was established through a landmark agreement between the Government of Spain and the UN system, with the aim of accelerating progress on the MDGs. With a total contribution of about US\$ 900M, the MDG-F has financed 130 joint programmes in eight thematic areas in 50 countries around the world, in addition to global partnerships and thematic knowledge management initiatives. Our programmes cover nutrition, youth and employment, gender equality, environment, culture, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, water resources management and private sector development.

For more information: www.mdgfund.org



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Photo: Great Ethiopian Run. The MDG Achievement Fund partnered with the Great Ethiopian Run, the biggest road race in Africa, to galvanize support towards MDG attainment.