

Local Authorities in the **NORTH**
and the Millennium Development Goals

NORTH

HLNOS

eight ways
to change the world



Eight Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000, world leaders came together at the United Nations for the Millennium Summit. At the Summit they firmly committed to fight together against poverty and hunger, gender inequality, environmental degradation, and HIV/AIDS, while improving access to education, health care and clean water, all by 2015. These wide-ranging commitments are encompassed in the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The MDGs are achievable ...

The Millennium Goals are achievable, but only if players at all levels work towards their achievement.

“It is not in the United Nations that the Goals will be achieved.

They have to be achieved in each country by the joint efforts of the Governments and people.”

United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan

National governments must keep their promises. Rich country governments must create the global conditions to allow poor countries to meet the Goals. Therefore they must provide more and more effective aid, more sustainable debt relief and trading opportunities for the world's poorest. Governments of developing countries, for their part, must implement the policies and budgets necessary to directly achieve Goals 1 through 7. They must also strengthen governance, accountability and transparency. In addition, they must ensure effective decentralisation to regional and local bodies. This will not only greatly enhance the efforts to meet the Goals but it will also allow more effective civil society and citizen monitoring of progress.

Eight ways

to change the world

Local authorities are crucial players in the efforts to achieve the MDGs

While it is national governments that bear primary responsibility for the implementation of the Millennium Goals, *actors at all levels must work together towards their achievement*. Local authorities are of course key: there are amazing possibilities for change in the millions of decisions taken every day by local politicians and policymakers. Indeed local authorities all around the world are already engaged in the global efforts to achieve the Millennium Goals by 2015.

You could say that these eight Goals constitute eight ways to change the world.

“We underline the important role of local authorities in contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.”

Para 173, Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: “Outcome document of the 2005 United Nations Summit”

In developing countries, local authorities can have a direct impact on the achievement of the Goals locally. Poverty and exclusion are experienced locally. It is primarily at the local level that the services and programmes to tackle poverty and under-development are delivered. In addition, local authorities are crucial players in generating the political pressure on national governments to ensure that they meet their promises on the Millennium Development Goals. Local authorities – in both rich and poor countries – have the political legitimacy to lobby national governments directly on the Millennium Goals on behalf of their local constituents.

The “Local Government Millennium Declaration”

On 10 June 2005, Mayors and local government representatives from around the world committed themselves directly to the global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by adopting their own “Local Government Millennium Declaration.” This was an important symbolic step that demonstrated the dedication of local authorities around the world and their citizens to the achievement of the MDGs. It also marked an important milestone in the relationship between local authorities and the Millennium Campaign. The Local Government Millennium Declaration was adopted at the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Council in Beijing.

Further, the UCLG World Council in Beijing also created its very own Millennium Development Goals Working Group. The new Working Group is chaired by the City of Rome and has an international secretariat coordinated by Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights, which is based in Perugia, Italy. The Working Group met at the 5th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) in March 2006, and presented its first Plan of Action, covering the period 2006-2007.

In Northern countries, local authorities must ensure that rich country governments keep their promises on aid, trade and debt. Local authorities in the North are key to raising awareness among local citizens about development issues and the Millennium Goals and, to generating citizen pressure for change by national governments. Northern local authorities can also ensure that existing partnerships with local authorities in the South are focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and that these partnerships are also used to increase awareness of development issues at home.

In this brochure you can find information on how local authorities around the world can work to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved by 2015.

To be more specific, in this half of the brochure you can find eight practical ways in which Northern local authorities can help to achieve the Goals. If you flip the brochure over there are also eight practical ways in which Southern local authorities can work directly towards achieving the Goals in their own communities.

UN Millennium Campaign Executive Coordinator, Eveline Herfkens meets with The Mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni, who is also the President of UCLG’s Working Group on the Millennium Development Goals.



Eight ways for Northern local authorities

to change the world

Agenda 21 displayed the potential of local authorities in OECD countries to promote international issues. Networks were established and concerted action was taken to advance issues of global concern. Now the Millennium Development Goals provide a more comprehensive platform for local actions and for forging new and broader alliances, and one which has been endorsed internationally at the highest political level. Further the Millennium Goals are unique in that they express objectives and aspirations that every citizen can relate directly to.

“The MDGs have provided a focal point for international concern, putting development and the fight against poverty on the international agenda in a way that seemed unimaginable a decade ago.”

Human Development Report 2005

Northern local authorities must bring the Millennium Goals home

Local authorities in the North have a crucial role to play in raising awareness and in contributing both directly and indirectly to generating political pressure on national governments. All Northern local authorities have to do is to bring the Millennium Development Goals home, to the communities and neighbourhoods in which they work daily.

First, local authorities must build awareness of the Goals among citizens. Public opinion polls show time and again that citizens in rich countries want to see the Millennium Goals achieved and want their national governments to play their role. However, they are also usually unaware of the commitments made by governments and so are unable to effectively apply the pressure necessary for change. Only citizens – and their elected representatives – can hold governments to account, and for this they need to be well-informed.

Further, local authorities in the North can exert pressure on national governments directly. As elected bodies, local authorities have the democratic legitimacy to canvass governments on behalf of their citizens. Direct pressure by local authorities can provide an effective short-cut to delivering local voices at the national level and to achieving policy change.

“As the level of government in everyday contact with their citizens, mayors and local governments have unparalleled expertise and experience in developing and implementing effective policies to combat the very problems targeted by the MDGs.”

Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor of Paris and co-President of United Cities and Local Governments

Only if we act together can we create a better and safer world for all of our citizens.

Engagement in the political process by Northern local authorities could have a massive direct impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals if we can ensure that national governments act to fulfil their responsibilities under the Millennium Declaration. Political engagement is a powerful tool which is complementary to the many other practical measures put in place by local governments and local leaders to achieve the Goals.

In the following pages you can find information on eight practical ways in which Northern local authorities can raise awareness and generate political pressure to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved.

Take action! Bring the Goals home and ensure that they are achieved!

Adopt a resolution in the local Council in favour of the Millennium Goals

One way to start building local awareness is to adopt a resolution or a declaration in the local Council in support of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. One excellent way of doing this is to adopt the UCLG Local Government Millennium Declaration, which has been already passed by more than a thousand local authorities worldwide (see box on page 4). Such a resolution or declaration – and the discussions within the Council that it generates – is a good starting point, as it helps to build awareness among local politicians, opinion leaders and media, and can unleash creative local initiatives. It can also send a strong signal to national Governments on the importance of the Goals. Debating and adopting a resolution may seem a small and token act, yet the political implications could be much greater, particularly if this act is backed up by engagement of your local civil society and if it is replicated across the country.

Resolutions adopted by towns and cities

A number of cities in the U.S. have passed resolutions in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Los Angeles took this step in December 2003, while Houston, Nashville, and Oakland followed suit in 2004. The resolutions and the debates leading to their adoption attracted media interest and sent important signals to Washington, at a time when the U.S. government's commitment to the Goals was wavering.

In 2005, over twenty towns and cities in Canada passed city-wide resolutions or issued Mayoral proclamations to "Make Poverty History" by providing more and better aid, trade justice, debt cancellation and an end to child poverty. Many of these resolutions also adopted "Make Poverty History" days or weeks in their cities. For example, Vancouver adopted 17 October 2005 as Make Poverty History Day – in special commemoration of the international day for the eradication of poverty. Toronto chose 10 to 17 September as Make Poverty History Week in the city.

On 26 June 2005, 50,000 people gathered in the streets of Madrid in support of the Millennium Goals and the eradication of poverty.



Devote a percentage of the local budget to fund development cooperation

Devoting a fixed percentage of local public resources, however small, is important in showing the commitment of local authorities in the North to development and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It also sets an example for government at the national level. Moreover, like a resolution, it contributes to putting international issues on the local agenda, thereby generating public interest and awareness.

A commitment to funding development in Catalonia

The Generalitat of Catalonia in Spain has committed to provide 0.7% of its revenue to development cooperation by 2010. Not only is it committing funding, but it has also passed this commitment into law, unlike many national governments who have had 35 years to do this! This means that Catalonia is ahead of the pack and is setting international standards.

There are a variety of ways in which local authorities in the North can use this funding. Many local authorities already contribute funding for development through twinning or other decentralised initiatives. Local authorities can also contribute to existing initiatives by either non-governmental organisations, or national agencies or global initiatives. For example, there are some excellent global initiatives – such as the Fast Track Initiative for Education, which unfortunately has been under-funded to date.

In addition, local initiatives for awareness-raising and education can also be funded from such budgets. The OECD counts such public expenditures as Official Development Assistance (ODA) and experience has shown that these expenditures are a crucial investment in generating a solid political constituency in favour of development assistance.

On the second global day of action against poverty in 2005 “White Band Day 2,” the Catalan anti-poverty coalition, “Marxa Blanca” organised a march, concerts and street performances in support of the Millennium Development Goals in the centre of Barcelona. During the march, volunteers carried a one-kilometre-long white band.



Focus ‘twinning initiatives’ on the MDGs and involve local citizens and media

Many cities have “twins” in developing countries, and many local authorities have partnership projects in developing countries. To reinforce global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, it is important that a direct link be made between these initiatives and the achievement of the Goals.

Firstly, such programmes should – more and more - be aimed at directly achieving the Goals. In addition, twinning and decentralised cooperation should incorporate the best practice in international efforts to achieve the Millennium Goals. Specifically, the following lessons from many years of international development cooperation are fundamental: aid only works where it aligns with and supports home-grown local priorities and programmes; donors need to refrain from supply driven projects and expatriate advice; most key public services crucial to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (for example primary education and health), do not require new ‘investment’ funding (e.g. for new schools or hospitals), rather they require budgetary support for the recurrent costs of existing facilities (e.g. salaries of teachers or nurses). In short, the donor-led stand-alone project-based model of development cooperation hasn’t worked.

Just as important to ensure the maximum global impact of twinning and other decentralised cooperation initiatives is that they should actively seek to raise awareness of the Goals and development issues. This can be done by ensuring the maximum involvement of local citizens and media at home in the North. Twinning can provide a very personal link between citizens across the global divide. But more effort is required to increase awareness of twinning initiatives, so that larger numbers of people in rich countries understand the daily challenges faced by poor people in developing countries. If this is achieved, twinning can be used to leverage a greater commitment to development, which in turn should help build grassroots pressure for policy change by national governments.

On 1st July 2005, the French coalition against poverty, “Plus d’Excuses 2005” and the UN Millennium Campaign wrapped the Trocadero landmark in Paris with large white bands calling for the achievement of the MDGs. Actions like this attract great media attention and raise awareness while allowing local citizen participation.



Partner with civil society organisations in efforts to achieve the MDGs, including supporting local events of the global ‘White Band’ Movement

Local authorities can also seek partnerships with civil society organisations in their efforts to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Ideally, local civil society and local governments should pursue a common plan of action, each supporting the other in local MDG-related initiatives. For example, local authorities could promote civil society events such as marches, exhibitions or – less prominent, but equally important – they could help fair trade shops find suitable locations in the city, to increase their sales and outreach. Such joint action can enhance and deepen local democracy and participation.

The Perugia - Assisi Peace March, Italy

The Italian Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights - composed of 700 Italian local authorities - in partnership with more than 600 Italian civil society organizations, organised - in October 2003 and then again in September 2005 (on the second White Band Day) - a huge Peace and Justice March, travelling the 24 kilometers between the cities of Perugia and Assisi. Both editions of the March were dedicated to the fight against poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. More than 200,000 people participated and marched under the MDGs Arches. The March has proved to be a crucial opportunity to raise awareness on the Goals among both citizens and the media.

In September 2005, a 100-metre long white banner was carried under the MDG arches, during the Perugia-Assisi Peace March in which 200,000 people participated.



Wonderful examples of such alliances are the partnerships with local chapters of the global “White Band” Movement. The white band has become the emblem of a global coalition of civil society organizations called the “Global Call to Action against Poverty” (GCAP).

The UCLG campaign to display white banners on town halls

UCLG’s “Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign”, in collaboration with the UN Millennium Campaign, has asked cities around the world to hang white banners in prominent public spaces to show support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. More than a thousand towns and cities worldwide have already taken part in this initiative, wrapping local landmarks with the slogan “2015: No excuses! The world must be a better place.” Wrapping town halls or local landmarks and buildings is an easy and effective way of generating attention for the fight against poverty and for the achievement of the Goals.

Top right: The German anti-poverty coalition, “Deine Stimme gegen Armut” and the UN Millennium Campaign draped a large white band from the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

Top left: as part of the UCLG campaign, the city of Paris hung a white banner in support of the MDGs above the main entrance of the town hall.

Bottom: the Basque regional government supported the “White Band” movement by wrapping the entrance of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.



Host the ‘MDG Arches’ or the ‘Voices Against Poverty Box’

The UN Millennium Campaign is making available, to interested local authorities, two communications tools designed to help local government officials reach out to their citizens with the Millennium Development Goals message.

The first is the “MDG Arches,” an installation of eight large arches – one representing each of the Millennium Goals. The “MDG Arches” – with their colourful features – have proved very effective in transmitting messages on the Goals that were accessible to lay people. It is estimated that more than a million Europeans have already walked through the Arches on piazze, plazas and plätzen in more than 30 cities throughout Italy, Spain and Germany.

The second tool is the “Voices Against Poverty Box,” a mobile TV studio providing a unique opportunity for both citizens and their elected officials, to record a video message about global poverty addressed at world leaders. This project was tested for the first time in a central location in New York City in the run-up to the United Nations World Summit in September 2005. The “Voices Box” was also displayed at the General Assembly of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) that took place in Innsbruck, Austria in May 2006. The “Voices Box” attracted widespread popular and media interest. In New York, over 150 “voices” were recorded and the edited clips were aired on different TV channels and transcripts were published in local newspapers. In Innsbruck more than 40 European Mayors recorded a message against poverty and for the MDGs. Mayors and local officials are encouraged to take advantage of this tool to allow the voices of your constituents to be heard on local and national TV stations, and to raise awareness on the Goals. The voices of your citizens need to be heard far and wide – particularly by world leaders – for the Millennium Goals to be achieved!

The “MDG Arches” were displayed in Bonn during the celebration of the World Youth Day 2005.

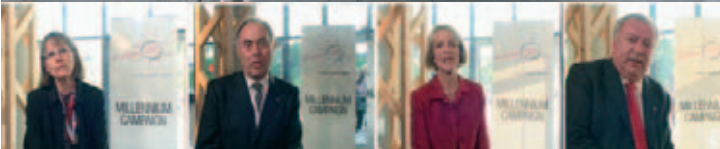


**“Voices Against Poverty”
recorded in the Millennium Campaign Voice Box
New York City, September 2005**

“Promises are being broken. We’re spending hundreds of billions on war. This money could be used to find a cure to AIDS, to ship medicine to Africa and to end poverty. So I’m urging the President of the United States and all the other world leaders on this planet to honour the promises you made in 2000.”
**Gary Richardson, resident of the Lower East Side,
New York City**

“For all it’s worth, I would like to see leaders put a little elbow grease in banding together and help towards eradicating poverty.”
Ellie Chan, resident of Astoria, New York City

In September 2005, the UN Millennium Campaign installed a mobile recording studio in a central location in New York City. This recording studio – the “Voices Box” – recorded messages against poverty by ordinary New Yorkers of all walks of life. These voices were later broadcast on local TV stations to increase awareness about development and the Millennium Development Goals.



During the 23rd General Assembly of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions – in Innsbruck, Austria in May 2006 – more than 40 mayors had the opportunity to record a message in support of the Millennium Development Goals. The voices of mayors were recorded in a specially-designed “Voices Against Poverty” box.

During the “Forum Barcelona” event in 2004 - which was focused on development - the MDG-arches were displayed as a best practice for awareness raising on development issues.



Educate the young about the MDGs

“The Millennium Development Goals are not just about yet another generation in poor countries not seeing the inside of a schoolroom. They are also about not yet another generation growing up in rich countries, ignorant of the way their peers live in poor countries and of the responsibility their own society shares for their plight.”

Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator of the UN Millennium Campaign

Where local authorities have a say in curricula for formal education, this is an excellent way of improving awareness and understanding of development issues and the Goals. An MDG-focused educational programme requires the development of a special curriculum, as well as training for teachers on development issues. However, implementing MDG-focused education involving teachers, parents and local civil society actors is an exceptionally cost-effective way of promoting development issues, while furthering engagement with local social actors. For example, in the fight to increase aid volumes, studies suggest that every \$1 spent on development education can result in a \$100 increase in aid volumes over time. That is incredible “bang for your ODA buck.”

Where local authorities cannot influence the formal curricula, there are ample opportunities to initiate extracurricular activities among primary and secondary schools. One example is running a competition for the best young advocates of the Millennium Development Goals.

MTV Italy Day

Each year MTV Italy organises a day of concerts and events aimed at young people. In September 2005, they teamed up with the UN Millennium Campaign to dedicate MTV Day 2005 to the MDG “No excuses” campaign. They organised an 8-hour long concert – one hour for each of the Goals – which was broadcast live. At the beginning of the concert they aired a message from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and throughout the day they broadcast several video-clips promoting the Millennium Goals and the Millennium Campaign. All artists and presenters wore white bands, and young people were encouraged to find out more about the Goals and sign up to the MDG campaign at a special information booth at the back of the concert venue.

U.S. public opinion

In the United States, 60% of registered voters think that U.S. spending on non-military foreign assistance should stay the same or increase. This is despite the fact that voters have a grossly inflated view of how much the U.S. government spends on official development assistance (ODA). They believe that 15-30% of the federal budget is spent on ODA, when the actual figure is around 1%.

MDG Campaign Research: A Survey of 1,000 Registered Voters, conducted between 13 and 18 April 2004. Talmey & Drake Research Strategies, Inc., Public Opinion Strategies, 2004.

Use your city's 'signature events' to promote the Millennium Development Goals

All regions and cities have regular or one-off events - such as festivals, markets, or sports events - which are an opportunity to showcase the unique identity of the city or region, its special features and the talents of its people. These events, which attract large crowds of local citizens and visitors, can also be a particularly fruitful opportunity to promote the Millennium Development Goals.

Promoting the Goals with key local events – examples from around the world.

Museum “White Nights,” Frankfurt

Each year, more than 30 museums in Frankfurt, Germany, stay open all night long (the “White Nights”) and offer special cultural programmes. In 2006, the UN Millennium Campaign teamed up with the “White Nights” and presented a host of MDG-themed events including: an opening event with German Development Minister Wieczorek-Zeul; a special MDG exhibition with MDG-themed artwork, a discussion forum on the MDGs and globalisation, the screening of a collection of ‘voices against poverty’ of local Frankfurt residents, and rap music performances around the MDGs.



The Milan Film Festival, Italy

The internationally renowned Milan Film Festival – attracting 85,000 festival-goers and 450 journalists – was used to promote the Millennium Development Goals in 2005. A special screening section was organised for “motion&picture against poverty” during which 12 films were screened, each depicting a different issue directly linked to the MDGs. Campaigners also used the opportunity to distribute MDG-related materials and white bands (the international symbol for the fight against poverty) to visitors in and around cinemas. During the festival a conference on cinema and development was organised with the presence of the Millennium Campaign Executive Coordinator, Eveline Herfkens, the President of the Province of Milan, Filippo Penati, and actress and anti-poverty activist, Emma Thompson.

The Rock in Rio festival, Lisbon

Rock in Rio for a Better World (RIR) is the world’s largest music festival. In the Summer of 2004 it was held in Lisbon, Portugal. The concert organisers used the event to promote the Millennium Development Goals, and specifically to educate tens of thousands of young people about the Goals. At the beginning of the concert, the Millennium Campaign’s Executive Coordinator, Ms. Eveline Herfkens was present to address the crowds and to deliver a personal message on the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, a pre-recorded message was sent by the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan. A number of international and local celebrity Public Service Announcements discussing the Goals were also aired on screens around the event.

The World Youth Day

In August 2005, the World Youth Day was held in Bonn and Cologne, attracting over 1 million young Catholics from all around the world. The organisers decided to promote the MDGs in a number of ways through this event. The MDGs were the lead topic for the opening event and opening prayers, involving 50,000 participants. The MDG arches were displayed in the central square in Bonn, around which a special event was organised with various German organisations involved in development cooperation. The event was also an opportunity to capture ‘voices against poverty’ with the recording of video messages by participants and visitors, and through the collection of written messages on postcards.



The Milan Film Festival, Italy



Ph: Rui Gaudêncio/Publico

The Rock in Rio festival, Lisbon



The World Youth Day

The anti-Poverty March in Bilbao, Spain

On 16 December 2005 - to coincide with talks in Hong Kong at the World Trade Organization - the city of Bilbao organized a march with NGOs, union leaders, environmental groups, social movements, women's groups and youth associations to support the fight against poverty. The march started at 7pm and ran for two hours crossing the main streets of Bilbao. Following the march, a concert was held under the "MDG Arches" and associations of African immigrants organised food contests and performed traditional dances.



The Bayreuth Youth Festival, Germany

In cooperation with the organisers of the Bayreuth Youth Festival, a theatre and video workshop entitled "Young Artists United for the MDGs" was organised. A fascinating theatre play was produced about globalisation and poverty, and the whole process was documented in a film. The opening night of the play was attended by Mrs Koehler, the wife of the German President Horst Koehler and Eveline Herfkens, the Executive Coordinator of the UN Millennium Campaign.



Get the message to your national government

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NORTH

To ensure that governments deliver on their promises, bottom-up pressure is required. Important upward links for local authorities are their local representatives in national parliaments. It helps to make Members of Parliament aware of the fact that they will win – not lose – votes from their constituents if they speak up and hold the government to account for their promise to achieve the Millennium Goals. Engagement of local representatives with national parliamentarians has proved a very effective shortcut to influencing the national legislature and the national government, particularly if combined with action by civil society. Thus, it is important to involve representatives and parliamentarians in regional events and initiatives on the Millennium Development Goals.

Of course, local authorities can also raise development issues and the Millennium Development Goals directly with national governments. Local officials and elected representatives do this very effectively on a whole host of important local issues all the time. The time might now be right to also do this for the Millennium Goals!

The UCLG policy demands on the MDGs

The UCLG “Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign” has adopted a number of policy demands on the MDGs. These can be used by local authorities engaged in lobbying national governments. Local authorities have – for example – used these policy demands to send letters to members of national governments, and to discuss the MDGs with parliamentarians.

Italian Members of Parliament sign a Goal 8 petition – calling for more and better aid, debt cancellation, and fairer trade rules – at an “MDG Arches” event in Piazza Navona, Rome in 2004.



Eight ways for Local Authorities to Change the World:

Local authorities are essential to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They are the level of government closest to citizens, meaning that there are amazing possibilities for change in the millions of decisions taken every day by local politicians and policymakers. What we need is for local authorities to think globally and to act locally!

NORTH

Here is a recap of the eight practical ways in which **NORTHERN** local authorities can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

1. Adopt a resolution in the local Council in favour of the Millennium Development Goals.
2. Devote a percentage of the local budget to fund development cooperation initiatives.
3. Focus existing 'twinning initiatives' on the Millennium Development Goals and involve local citizens and media.
4. Support civil society initiatives in your city, including local events as part of the global 'White Band' movement.
5. Host the 'MDG Arches' or the 'Voices Against Poverty Box'.
6. Educate the young about the Millennium Development Goals.
7. Use your city's 'signature events' to promote the Millennium Development Goals.
8. Get the message to your national government that Millennium Development Goals are important to your – and their – constituents.

Please join the Millennium Campaign in our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

There are no excuses!

We are the first generation to have the resources and technology to achieve the MDGs.

H L N O S

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SOUTH

Here is a recap of the eight practical ways in which **SOUTHERN** local authorities can directly contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

1. Localise the Millennium Development Goals to the local situation and priorities.

2. Draw up a local development plan focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Ensure the greatest possible participation of citizens - including civil society organizations - in decisions on the planning, implementation and monitoring of local plans to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

4. Use the Millennium Development Goals to enhance local public accountability.

5. Invest in sustainable local monitoring systems for tracking progress against the Millennium Goals.

6. Mobilise local resources to fund efforts to achieve the Millennium Goals.

7. Partner with neighbouring local authorities and local authorities networks that are working for the achievement of the Millennium Goals.

8. Put pressure on national governments to fulfill their promises under the Millennium Development Goals: organize, mobilize and lobby!

Please join the Millennium Campaign in our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

NORTH

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Think globally act locally!

Ensure that we fulfil this potential. Make sure that your local authority acts now.

Put pressure on national governments to fulfil their promises under the Millennium Development Goals: organise, mobilise and lobby!

Local authorities in the South have an important job to do in bringing the Millennium Goals home, in localising them, and in working towards their achievement. However, the achievement of the Goals will not be possible unless national governments also pull their weight, including by putting in place the conditions which allow local governments to do their job. Having said this, local authorities can help to generate the political pressure on national governments to ensure that they fulfil their commitments.

To start with, local authorities must ensure that national strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals adequately reflect and respond to regional differences, priorities and challenges.

In particular – and this is certainly in the interest of local politicians – local authorities also need to ensure that national strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals empower and assign appropriate responsibilities to local authorities, and ensure that these responsibilities are matched with funding. In short, the national MDG strategies should ensure that decentralisation is actually implemented. And local authorities need to work together to lobby national governments to ensure that this happens. It is worth noting that individual local authorities, as well as national and multilateral associations, are already working to achieve exactly this.

Nicaraguan local authorities mobilise for devolution of financial resources to the local level

On 15 November 2005, more than 10,000 people marched peacefully to demand a transfer of resources from the national government to municipalities. The Nicaraguan Association of Municipalities (AMUNIC – a member of UCLG) organised the march and participants included 130 Mayors, municipal development committees, district representatives, municipal workers, neighbourhood associations and ordinary citizens from the country's 153 municipalities. In particular, marchers called for the national government to reverse its decision to repeal a law that mandated a transfer of 10% of national resources to municipalities by 2007.

International cooperation between local authorities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals: the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

In 2005 a pan-African local government association, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), was established. UCLGA's priorities include ensuring delivery of the Millennium Development Goals at the local level, by helping local governments implement sustainable development initiatives, and by supporting decentralization.

UCLGA's approach is firmly based on the principle of Africans learning from each other. UCLGA President Father Smangaliso Mkhatsiswa says "This (the UCLGA) promises better local government in Africa as it is only Africans that can understand the reality on its ground and the needs of its people. It is only Africans that can successfully have a direct impact on the quality of life of the people, as it is local government that is informed and experienced on the basic needs of the people at the most basic level of life in any society."

In light of the consolidation of the global local authorities networks through the birth of the UCLG in 2004, and the creation of the UCLG Millennium Development Goals Working Group in 2005, and the creation of the UCLGA, there are many opportunities for individual local authorities and national authorities networks and organisations to link up with efforts to achieve the Millennium Goals around the world. There are plenty of opportunities to share experience, to learn about best practice, and to exploit synergies both at the local level and in lobbying national governments.

On Saturday 3 September 2005, to mark the second global day of action against poverty (White Band Day 2), a 15-hour long concert was held in Accra, Ghana. The concert was attended by hundreds of thousands of people demonstrating strong African support for action against poverty and in favour of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.





On 1 July 2005, to mark the first global day of action against poverty (White Band Day I), the Tanzanian anti-poverty coalition organized several events against poverty, including a march – involving hundreds of citizens – demanding quality basic public social services for all.

Ensuring that there is sufficient funding for the programmes and investments necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is crucial. While sources of revenue coming from outside of the locality will be important - e.g. funding coming through the national treasury, or funding from international governmental and non-governmental donors – it is equally important that local governments focus on generating revenues locally.

Not only can local revenues be an important source of funding, they can also reinforce local public accountability, by creating a demand for good local public goods and services. In turn, where local accountability results in better quality local services, this can result in improved tax collection. This is a proven virtuous circle where improved general public awareness of the use and effectiveness of local taxes encourages payment.

Local revenues can be increased by imposing property and land taxes, user fees for public utilities, and – often most importantly – by enhancing the capacity to enforce and collect existing taxes and levies. Improved collection may require updating records and simplifying procedures. But there may also be more logical and relevant local solutions to the problem of tax collection. Rural Uganda provides a very down-to-earth example: local tax revenue tripled when collectors were provided with bicycles!

However poor the district or village, a minimum level of own-resource revenue is key to ensuring the funding and the local accountability necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Mobilise local resources to fund efforts to achieve the Millennium Goals

Invest in sustainable local monitoring systems for tracking progress against the Millennium Goals.

While it is important for local authorities to put in place the procedures and processes which allow for monitoring and tracking by citizens and civil society groups, it is equally important for local authorities to put in place their own internal monitoring systems. If implemented properly such monitoring processes should allow for systematic tracking of progress against local MDG targets and indicators.

The starting point for any serious monitoring system is well-defined and relevant indicators and good local data. For this reason, local authorities should start – as soon as possible – to develop data sets relevant to the localised MDG indicators and targets. This requires investment. These data sets should be as disaggregated as possible, for example across different communities as well as across gender, ethnicity, age and location. This kind of baseline data is crucial. When drawing up a development plan it can provide the basis for consultations with citizens and local stakeholders, it can inform policy choices, and it can help to identify pockets of poverty and vulnerability.

Local Urban Observatories: multi-stakeholder monitoring working groups

Since 1999, UN-Habitat's Global Urban Observatory has been helping cities in developing countries develop policy-oriented urban indicators and statistics, by supporting the creation of Local Urban Observatories (LVO). LVOs are made up of a broad group of stakeholders all involved in both the collection and analysis of data. They are usually housed in the planning department of the municipality and tend to have strong links with other municipal departments, academia as well as civil society groups. LVOs have been instrumental in helping local governments to draw up an accurate picture of the urban situation in a base year and in tracking progress against key indicators. One example of a successful LVO is the one in Brazzaville, Congo. The Brazzaville LVO's Steering Committee includes the Mayor of Brazzaville – as well as Vice President of the UCLG MDG Working Group – as well as several members of the city's Executive Council.

Once a scheme for data collection is in place, a system can be devised to monitor the impact of policy and programme interventions and investments. It is important that local authorities put in place the resources to ensure that local monitoring systems can be sustainable.

Further information on best practice in monitoring the impact of local policies and programmes to meet the Millennium Goals see:

UN-Habitat's Global Urban Observatory.

The UNCDF report “Delivering the Goods: building local Government capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals” provides many examples of best practice in enhancing local public accountability, appropriate to resource- and capacity-poor environments in least developed countries (LDCs).

UN-Habitat’s “Toolkit to Promote Transparency in Local Governance” provides tools for enhancing accountability in local government and illustrative examples.

Further information on best practice in enhancing local public accountability:

The results of the survey were translated into quantitative measures of citizen satisfaction and presented in the form of ‘report cards.’ Media attention generated by the report cards forced eight of the twelve municipal agencies to respond to public dissatisfaction. For example, the worst rated agency – the Bangalore Development Authority – reviewed service delivery, re-trained junior staff and hosted a forum for NGOs and public agencies to find ways to solve high priority local problems such as waste management. The report cards also generated more sustained political momentum for reform, as regional media started to carry regular stories on report card findings. A further survey was carried out in 1999.

In 1993 and 1994, the Public Affairs Centre (PAC) – a non-profit organisation concerned by the deteriorating quality of public services in Bangalore – developed and implemented a citizen satisfaction survey to measure user perceptions of the quality, efficiency and adequacy of basic services provided by 12 municipal agencies.

Bangalore, India: citizen report cards

Local governments can invest directly in improved accountability by investing in local capacity. Notably, local authorities can invest in formal mechanisms of local accountability, for example by training local elected representatives on their role in enforcing accountability and good governance. In addition, local governments can invest in local civil society and non-governmental organisations, which play a crucial role in the independent scrutiny of local governments. Moreover these organisations are key to ensuring a two-way flow of information between governments and individual citizens.

With the help of experts, the mayor identified the key sources of corruption and used these to devise new organising principles for the city administration: competition, the reduction of bureaucratic discretion, and a new emphasis on accountability. Then followed radical measures: wholesale dismissal of city bureaucrats; a streamlining of the municipal workforce; the hiring of competent professionals; and decent salaries for all city staff.

La Paz became a more efficient and less corrupt city, and Mayor McLean-Abrao was rewarded by winning a second term. McLean-Abrao is one of the founders of the now well-respected organisation Transparency International, which is dedicated to exposing corrupt practices and offering practical advice for combating corruption around the world.

unable to function: the monthly payroll was equivalent to 120% of the city’s revenues. This situation was compounded by local government reform in Bolivia, where additional responsibilities were devolved to cities without additional resources.

Use the Millennium Development Goals

to enhance local public accountability

While deepening citizen participation is an important step in deepening democracy and strengthening the effectiveness of local authorities, reinforcing local accountability to citizens is an equally indispensable element in good governance. Local citizens must be able to hold local governments to account in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Accountability requires transparency and the provision of information by local authorities. If individual citizens or local communities do not know that there should be a new well dug in their village, then how can they hold policy-makers to account if it is not? If local civil society groups do not know what the local budgetary allocation for education should be, then how can they check whether or not these funds have been reallocated to other uses? A downward flow of information is crucial to allow budget-tracking and to allow for a monitoring of implementation.

Using information to promote accountability: the Tanzania

Government Notice-Board:

The Tanzania Government Notice-Board is a website which collates and presents information that is useful for strengthening transparency and accountability in Tanzania. It is organised by a non-profit non-governmental organisation called "Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)".

The information posted on the website focuses on budgetary and financial data, and includes information from the national government budget, the Auditor General's reports, and data from anti-corruption monitoring reports. The data allows stakeholders to scrutinise government performance against commitments. For example, if a citizen wants to know the audit results of his or her home district for the past five years and how these results compare with neighbouring districts, this information can be found in a few minutes after a few easy-to-follow steps. REPOA also has training materials on how to use the data to best hold government to account, aimed at civil society organisations, journalists and Parliamentarians.

REPOA is also working with local authorities to roll out the Notice-Board to villages and districts – in these cases using physical rather than electronic Notice Boards.

Local authorities need to develop procedures to reinforce accountability at all levels. These should be simple and streamlined, and should minimize the risk of funds leaking away because of corruption. They should also ensure that policies and programmes are implemented as designed, and that funds and efforts are not diverted to other (often legitimate) purposes along the chain of implementation.

Rooting out widespread corruption, La Paz, Bolivia

In 1985 Ronald McLean-Abaroa became the first elected mayor of La Paz. After taking up office, he quickly discovered that corruption was rampant within the city administration. Corrupt practices ranged from petty extortion, the renting out and sale of municipal property, to collusion between tax collectors and tax payers. The result was that the city was



On 10 December 2005, to mark the third global day of action against poverty (White Band Day 3), the Kenyan anti-poverty coalition launched a "Caravan of hope in solidarity with the poor" which marched through seven informal settlements in Nairobi. The coalition – which included public service unions and youth networks – also organised events to entertain and educate people on poverty issues. The Caravan and related events reached out and educated an estimated 50,000 people.

UN-Habitat's "Participatory Budgeting Toolkit" and "Frequently Asked Questions on Participatory Budgeting" provide further information on participatory budgeting.

UN-Habitat's "Tools to support participatory urban decision making" provides further information on participatory planning processes.

The UNCDF report "Delivering the Goods: building local Government capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals" provides many examples of best practice in participation, in resource- and capacity-poor environments in least developed countries.

Further information on best practice in participatory processes:

Participation should also be regarded as a goal in itself: it deepens democracy and is an essential element of good governance. It is at the local level that democracy can anchor and consolidate. Participation should not just involve direct public participation: it should include promoting and strengthening the role of formal representative bodies, such as council committees and assemblies, in decision-making processes.

What is more, ensuring that local plans and priorities are pro-poor and that programmes reach vulnerable and excluded groups, means that methods of participation and consultation must be specifically designed to capture the voices of these groups. All too often meetings that set priorities are dominated by more articulate and educated people, who, moreover, have the time to attend. This may mean that the views of the poor are not heard at all. There are ways in which this tendency can be countered, for example by training facilitators in participation, or by consulting vulnerable groups in their communities.

World Development Report 2004: Making Services Work for Poor People, World Bank

"There have been spectacular successes and miserable failures in the efforts of developing countries to make services work. The main difference between success and failure is the degree to which poor people themselves are involved in determining the quality and the quantity of the services they receive."

Partner with neighbouring local authorities and local authorities networks

that are working for the achievement of the Millennium Goals

There is much to be gained from partnering with other local authorities in your efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Generally, such partnerships may be useful ways to share experiences and learn about best practices. Neighbouring local authorities can also actively seek synergies between their individual efforts to meet the Goals. This could help to maximise the impact of their efforts at a regional level.

Networks of local authorities – both at a national and international level – can also work together specifically to enhance local efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Networks can become repositories of information on good practices which are made available to individual local authorities. Or they can facilitate partnerships between individual local authorities. What is more networks can more effectively lobby national governments to meet their commitments on the Millennium Development Goals and to deliver decentralization.

In addition, national local authorities networks have been partnering at the international level – both through bilateral relationships with other national networks and through multilateral networks such as the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The UCLG has created a “Millennium Development Goals Working Group” to “promote the commitment of cities and local governments in support of the MDGs.” (See box on the UCLG on page 4.)



On 3 and 4 September 2005, ahead of the United Nations 2005 World Summit in New York, more than 10,000 people from across South Asia attended the South Asian Peoples’ Summit Against poverty in Delhi, India.

Ensure the greatest possible participation of citizens including civil society organisations

Ensuring that localised MDG targets and indicators fit the local situation, that the local MDG-focused development plan meets the needs and aspirations of local citizens, and that actual delivery of public goods and services is in line with plans and needs, requires the participation of local citizens at all levels of planning, decision-making and programme implementation.

Specifically, local authorities should involve individual citizens, communities and civil society organisations in the following:

- the process of establishing local priorities;
- decisions on budgetary allocations;
- project design;
- maintenance and oversight of the delivery of public goods and services.

The involvement of citizens should be as great as possible. They should not only be consulted, they should also be involved in the process of making decisions. Only if this is the case, will decisions really reflect needs and priorities, and only then will there be broad ownership of the local development process.

Participatory budgeting: Rosario, Argentina

In 2002, the city of Rosario initiated citywide citizen participation on its budget. In the first year alone, 4000 of the city's 1 million residents were involved in the decision process resulting in the allocation of \$8 million of the annual city budget.

To start with, a round of neighbourhood-level meetings were held in each city district, during which citizens could propose projects and works for public funding. During these meetings, citizens also elected representatives to join "District Participation Councils." These Councils – each covering a different theme or sector – worked with municipal technical teams to develop citizens' ideas into fully-fledged project proposals. A second round of consultation was then organised consisting of a single meeting in each district. During these meetings, fully-developed project proposals based on citizens' original ideas - the joint work of the District Participation Councils and municipal teams – were presented to citizens in a "project fair". Based on the detailed project information presented at the fair, residents chose projects for implementation in their district.

In September 2005, as part of the UCLG "Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign," the city of Bogotá hung a large white banner in support of the Millennium Goals with the slogan "2015: No Excuses! The world must be a better place."



When ranking proposals for investment and budgetary priorities, one means of ensuring that local development policies and programmes are pro-poor is to give extra weight to those proposals generated by or benefiting the poor. Another means of ensuring pro-poor policy is to ensure that the poor have access to cost-free services. This can be ensured by putting in place progressive user fees for other groups and ensuring cross-subsidisation across social services.

United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan says: “(The) urban context is a critical part of our work to meet the Millennium Development Goals. In adopting the Millennium Declaration, Member States committed themselves to achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. While that is the only formal target specifically addressing urban poverty, the urban connection runs through the full list of goals. How can we expect to reach the MDGs, and advance on the wider development agenda, without making progress in areas such as education, hunger, health, water, sanitation and gender equality? Cities and local authorities have a critical role to play in all of these areas. Ultimately it is in the streets of your cities and towns that the value of what’s decided here will be tested.”

Prioritising the concerns of slum dwellers in cities
 Slum dwellers are often excluded from basic public services. Millennium Development Goal 7 contains a specific target on slum dwellers, but this target will not be achieved unless efforts across-the-board to achieve the Goals prioritise the needs of slum-dwellers.

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is about ensuring that basic human rights, such as the right to education, are fulfilled. As such all plans, policies and programmes which are designed to achieve the Goals must pay special attention to the groups which are most often denied their basic rights. This means the poorest and the most vulnerable, as well as groups which are most frequently ignored or excluded, such as women, slum dwellers or indigenous peoples.

Ensure that all local processes - from planning to budgeting to service delivery - are pro-poor, gender sensitive and pay due attention to excluded groups ...

Most key poverty reduction services – including primary education, health care and agricultural extension – are staff- and recurrent-cost intensive. However, allocating the majority of funding for recurrent expenditures runs counter to the bias of both donors and local politicians, who tend to prefer investment “projects” such as new hospitals or schools. In order to ensure that local plans are really focused on achieving the Millennium Goals, particular effort needs to be made to counter such biases.

... and ensure that there is not a bias towards investment expenditures.

Further it is important to support the self-employed in the informal sector with access to credit and vocational training. Without these types of actions, which provide people with the opportunity of a sustained livelihood, poverty will never be eliminated.

Draw up a local development plan focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Once targets are localised, they need to be incorporated into local development plans and budgets, in a way that can be monitored by local citizens and civil society. After all, local public spending to achieve the Millennium Development Goals – as with all public spending – needs to be used effectively, efficiently, equitably and with accountability. Local development plans focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals must be comprehensive, tangible and time-bound, with targets both for 2015 and for intermediate years.

The first Southern municipality to adopt legislation making the Millennium Development Goals the framework for strategic planning: Carapegua, Paraguay

In 2003, the municipality of Carapegua adopted legislation making the Millennium Development Goals the principal framework for strategic planning. In addition, the legislation calls for citizen participation in decisions on municipal action plans and institutionalises citizens' role in advising on and monitoring the provision of local public goods and services.

The 2003 legislation came into force after a one-year long process of consultation and discussion led by 30 community leaders and involving as many as 1,400 local citizens. One key policy outcome has been that 15% of the municipal budget is devoted to local human development projects.

Ensure that a cross-sectoral approach is used...

When drawing up a local strategy for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and when designing MDG-related services, a multi-dimensional and cross-sectoral approach is needed. The design of policies and programmes must reflect the fact that progress in one sector will both benefit from and depend upon progress in other sectors. When drawing up MDG-focused local development plans, local authorities should actively seek synergies between policies and investments across different sectors. For example, the lack of schools is often not the only factor that impedes school enrolment – integrating the efforts of various departments of the local council is essential to getting kids into schools.

...which goes beyond the social sectors...

Often when policymakers think about achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, they focus on expenditures in the social sectors. While improving social service delivery is essential to the achievement of the Goals, it is equally essential to provide people with income-generating

Localise the Millennium Development Goals

SOUTH

Because the Millennium Goals respond to the needs and rights of individual citizens, they can only be delivered at the local level. This requires that each local authority develops a strategy to deliver the Goals to their local communities. In short, local authorities must bring the Goals "home;"

Localising the Millennium Development Goals, Naga City, the Philippines:

In Naga City, the Philippines, the core philosophy of "Growth with Equity" is underpinned by a model of good governance. City leaders believe that the process of empowering citizens is as important as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and Targets. Poverty, after all, is not merely the lack of income or a limited life expectancy, but it is also the disempowerment of the individual. Naga City's efforts to localise the Millennium Goals have therefore explicitly sought to empower local citizens, including by: (a) translating the targets and indicators to local realities through the Naga City People's Council; (b) setting baselines for key indicators; (c) reorienting the city's reporting system to match the MDG indicators, and (d) monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals based on sample data, complemented by full surveys during election years – which serve as benchmarks for the new administration.

In each town, city, or rural area, there will be a local reality which must be taken into consideration. The first step in drawing up a strategy is to adapt the Goals to this local reality. National objectives and targets must be transformed into tailored local indicators and targets. The local context, local needs, local capacities and voices, must be decisive in this process, as local situations will differ. Not every MDG target might be a priority in every area, while additional indicators or objectives might need to be added. For example, in some areas transport might be the most crucial issue, while in others it will be access to electricity, or garbage collection.

Further information on best practice in localising the Millennium Development Goals:

For cities see:
UN-Habitat's "Localising the MDGs: A guide for local authorities and partners;"
Also UN-Habitat's "Urban Indicators Guidelines: Monitoring the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals;"
For poor rural areas see the UNCDF report "Delivering the Goods: building Local Government capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;"
For additional information or more detailed advice, please contact UN Resident Offices.

On 1 July 2005, to mark the first global day of action against poverty (White Band Day 1), the Filipino anti-poverty campaign "GCAP Philippines" organised a large march through the central financial district of Makati City. Marchers carried a banner saying "End Poverty Now!"



The Millennium Goals are a way to connect with the international donor community

The international donor community uses the Millennium Development Goals as the overarching framework for their international development efforts. In addition, donors are increasingly interested in engaging at the local level.

By adopting the MDG framework, local authorities will be able to express their plans and priorities in the “common language” connecting national and international development policies. Using this language should enable you to access the funding available from international donors, and ensure that it is spent on local needs and priorities.

“Up to 70% of the Millennium Development Goals should primarily be achieved through local governments working in consultation with national governments and other stakeholders at a local level.”

Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General

“Successful implementation of the Goals will depend on a myriad of actions involving many actors. As with the Agenda 21 process, and its flowering into Local Agendas 21, the level of the city and local authority may become the most suitable for successful implementation, because of the increasing importance of decentralisation, the closeness of this sphere of government to citizens, the likelihood of engaging a range of non-institutional actors, and the opportunity for placing the poor at the centre of this process.”

United Nations Millennium Project Taskforce Report: A Taskforce on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers: A Home in the City”

Only if we act together can we create a better and safer world for all of our citizens.

In the following pages you can find information on eight practical ways in which Southern local authorities can work directly to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in their own communities.

Take action! Bring the Goals home and ensure that they are achieved!

In most developing countries, the Goals reflect the needs of the majority of the population. As such, taking the necessary steps to ensure the achievement of the Goals at the local level has a clear political return for local politicians.

“The Goals and targets coincide with the agenda of any good mayor who wishes to improve his or her city: reducing poverty and unemployment; increasing access to education and health services; combating inequality, including gender discrimination; improving the lives of the poorest residents; enhancing the quality of infrastructure and services; and protecting the environment.”

**United Nations Millennium Project Taskforce Report:
“Taskforce on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers:
A Home in the City”**

The MDG framework is a useful management framework for local authorities in the South

The MDG framework is a great management tool for local authorities in its own right. It can facilitate planning by providing a framework for a comprehensive local development plan. Not only does it help local governments set priorities, it can also help local budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, because it has a results-focus, and is time-bound and measurable.

“Our message to you today is this: we are committed to the

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and we are

ready to support the United Nations Secretariat in its efforts. We

are convinced that states must keep the promises they made in

2000 and we are here today to show how effective we can be when

we work together.”

Paco Moncayo, Mayor of Quito and co-President of the

United Cities and Local Governments

What is more the MDG framework can help local authorities convince national governments of the need for decentralisation

The Millennium Development Goals provides a means for local authorities to demand greater autonomy and increased funding from national governments, in line with the responsibilities of local authorities for designing, managing and providing the local services to meet the Goals.

Decentralisation and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the local level can also be a powerful force in deepening democracy and strengthening the pressure for accountable government.

“Our experience with decentralisation has opened up many new possibilities for us in addressing our poverty issues. We have found that development efforts are more effective when they are planned and executed in partnership with local communities.”

Luisa Dias Diogo, Prime Minister, Mozambique

Eight ways for Southern local authorities to change the world

Developing country national governments signed up to the Millennium Development Goals in New York in September 2000. However, global goals, even when adapted to the national country situation, are meaningless unless linked to local realities and local people. The Millennium Development Goals must be brought “home” by local authorities in the South to be achieved.

“We firmly believe that local authorities, as the sphere of government closest to the people, can support the United Nations, both in the achievement of the MDGs and in raising awareness among citizens of the main global governance issues.”

Smgalisso Mkhatswa, Councillor in Tshwane and co-President of the United Cities and Local Governments

The Millennium Goals sum up the rights, needs and aspirations of your communities

While countries are committed to the Millennium Development Goals at the highest political level, the Goals are fundamentally about the rights and aspirations of individual citizens. And while the Millennium Goals are “global” goals, people live in local communities. Their main concerns are about whether there is a school or a health clinic nearby, or whether they have access to clean water in or close to their homes. It is these local aspirations and needs that are embodied in the Goals.

“It is important to realise this: even though the MDGs are global, they can most effectively be achieved through action at the local level. (...) It is at the local level that safe drinking water is provided, that children are able to go to school, that garbage is collected and that food is sold at markets. In each city and town, there will be a local reality to be taken into consideration, and indeed the MDGs should be adapted to meet this reality. This is also the only way to make the most of local social capital and get the community involved. Of course, national level plans and actions are critical. But experience has shown that national plans must be linked with both local realities and people to be successful.”

Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-Habitat



UN Millennium Campaign Executive Coordinator, Eveline Herfkens meets with The Mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni, who is also President of the UCLG's Working Group on the Millennium Development Goals.

In this brochure you can find information on how local authorities around the world can work to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved by 2015.

To be more specific, in this half of the brochure you can find eight practical ways in which Southern local authorities can help to achieve the Goals. If you flip the brochure over there are also eight practical ways in which Northern local authorities can raise awareness and generate political pressure to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are achieved.

In Northern countries, local authorities must ensure that rich country governments keep their promises on aid, trade and debt. Local authorities in the North are key to raising awareness among local citizens about development issues and the Millennium Goals and, to generating citizen pressure for change by national governments. Northern local authorities can also ensure that existing partnerships with local authorities in the South are focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and that these partnerships are also used to increase awareness of development issues at home.

The "Local Government Millennium Declaration"

On 10 June 2005, Mayors and local government representatives from around the world committed themselves directly to the global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by adopting their own "Local Government Millennium Declaration." This was an important symbolic step that demonstrated the dedication of local authorities around the world and their citizens to the achievement of the MDGs. It also marked an important milestone in the relationship between local authorities and the Millennium Campaign. The Local Government Millennium Declaration was adopted at the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Council in Beijing.

Further, the UCLG World Council in Beijing also created its very own Millennium Development Goals Working Group. The new Working Group is chaired by the City of Rome and has an international secretariat coordinated by Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights, which is based in Perugia, Italy. The Working Group met at the 5th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) in March 2006, and presented its first Plan of Action, covering the period 2006-2007.

Local authorities are crucial players in the efforts to achieve the MDGs

While it is national governments that bear primary responsibility for the implementation of the Millennium Goals, actors at all levels must work together towards their achievement. Local authorities are of course key: there are amazing possibilities for change in the millions of decisions taken every day by local politicians and policymakers. Indeed local authorities all around the world are already engaged in the global efforts to achieve the Millennium Goals by 2015.

You could say that these eight Goals constitute eight ways to change the world.

“We underline the important role of local authorities in contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.”
Para 173, Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: “Outcome document of the 2005 United Nations Summit”

In developing countries, local authorities can have a direct impact on the achievement of the Goals locally. Poverty and exclusion are experienced locally. It is primarily at the local level that the services and programmes to tackle poverty and underdevelopment are delivered. In addition, local authorities are crucial players in generating the political pressure on national governments to ensure that they meet their promises on the Millennium Development Goals. Local authorities – in both rich and poor countries – have the political legitimacy to lobby national governments directly on the Millennium Goals on behalf of their local constituents.

Eight Millennium Development Goals

SOUTH

In September 2000, world leaders came together at the United Nations for the Millennium Summit. At the Summit they firmly committed to fight together against poverty and hunger, gender inequality, environmental degradation, and HIV/AIDS, while improving access to education, health care and clean water, all by 2015. These wide-ranging commitments are encompassed in the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The MDGs are achievable ...

The Millennium Goals are achievable, but only if players at all levels work towards their achievement.

“It is not in the United Nations that the Goals will be achieved. They have to be achieved in each country by the joint efforts of the Governments and people.”
United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan

National governments must keep their promises. Governments of developing countries must implement the policies and budgets necessary to directly achieve Goals 1 through 7. They must also strengthen governance, accountability and transparency. In addition, they must ensure effective decentralisation to regional and local bodies. This will not only greatly enhance the efforts to meet the Goals but it will also allow more effective civil society and citizen monitoring of progress. Rich country governments, for their part, must create the global conditions to allow poor countries to meet the Goals. Therefore they must provide more and more effective aid, more sustainable debt relief and trading opportunities for the world's poorest.

Local Authorities in the SOUTH and the Millennium Development Goals

eight ways to change the world

NORTH

SOUTH

