

Special Edition

NEWSLETTER

THE OUTCOMES OF THE UN MDG SUMMIT

UK LEADERSHIP ON DEVELOPMENT WAS DESCRIBED AS 'VISIONARY' BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg and the Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell have returned from the UN Headquarters in New York having agreed upon an action agenda to meet the MDGs by 2015 and lift millions of people out of poverty.

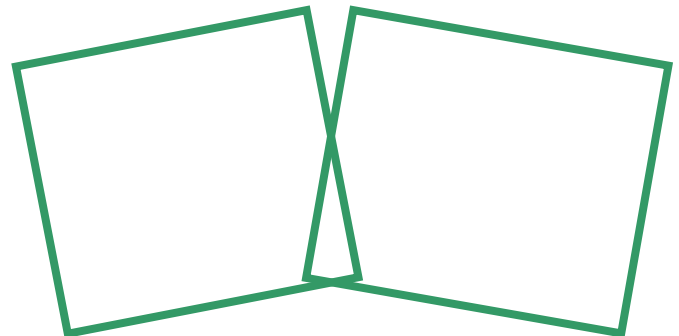
Speaking at UN MDG Summit Nick Clegg Deputy Prime Minister said:

"The last decade has seen some important progress."

"That progress has, however, been uneven, and, on a number of our goals we remain significantly off track."

"So my message to you, from the UK government, is this - we will keep our promises; and we expect the rest of the international community to do the same."

"For our part, the coalition government has committed to reaching 0.7% of GNI in aid from 2013 – a pledge we will enshrine in law."



Nick Clegg and Andrew Mitchell at the UN MDG Summit in New York. Credit: UN Photo/Ky Chung and DFID

At the UN MDG Summit the UK committed to:

- save the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, 250,000 newborn babies and enable 10 million couples to access modern methods of family planning over the next five years;
- help halve the number of deaths caused by malaria in at least ten African countries by 2015 by increasing access to malaria prevention, diagnostics and treatment;
- support the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) roadmap and campaign.

Summary of the key outcomes from the UN MDG Summit:

Last week at the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Summit over 140 world leaders, civil society organisations and prominent figures from the worlds of business and entertainment gathered to agree on the action needed to meet the MDGs by 2015.

The UK focused on securing a major push on the most off-track MDGs, particularly women's and children's health. Malaria was another key priority for the UK. The UK co-hosted an event which challenged leaders from both rich and poor countries to do more to save lives lost every day to this disease. The UK pledged to help halve the number of deaths caused by malaria in at least ten African countries by 2015 by increasing access to malaria prevention, diagnostics and treatment backed by an increase in funding to as much as £500 million per year by 2014. The UK also announced its support for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) '1,000 days' campaign at a side event co-hosted by Hilary Clinton.

In his speech to the General Assembly, the Deputy Prime Minister showcased overall UK leadership on international development issues. He reiterated the UK's commitment to reaching 0.7% of GNI in aid by 2013 and challenged others to live up to their promises.

The Summit ended with the formal adoption of the outcome document 'Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals'. This important document offers us a path towards meeting the MDGs. The UK Government will now spend the next five years making sure that the international community, as well as the UK, lives up to its promises.



For more information about
DFID's work on the MDGs, write
to us at:

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Or visit:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/MDG-summit/>



A woman rests her two new bed nets on her head. Picture: William Daniels for Malaria Consortium

A view from the ground

Fatima is two years old. She's a happy, healthy child, full of life. But less than six months ago, she was extremely weak, having convulsions and suffering from severe malaria.

Aisha, her mother, took her to the local clinic where she was admitted. Thankfully, after a stay of two weeks, Fatima was well enough to return home.

However Aisha didn't know how to protect her family in the future - she didn't own a mosquito net at the time. Then Aisha heard from the town announcer they were going to give out free nets to stop malaria. "Now I have covered our bed and there will be no more mosquitoes in here, and no more fever."

Aisha's new nets arrived thanks to UKaid from the DFID. Radio broadcasts promote the benefits of the nets and community leaders educate people about the importance of hanging them up every day. Town criers, like the one that Aisha heard, announce the delivery of the nets to their village.

So far DFID has helped to deliver 14.2 million bednets to countries with high malaria burdens.



A mother receives care from a doctor in the maternity ward of a rural health clinic in Nepal. Photo: Storyline/DFID

UK'S CONTRIBUTION HELPED SECURE UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL COMMITMENTS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

UK leadership put saving women's and children's lives firmly on the agenda. UN Secretary-General's Ban Ki-moon's Every Woman Every Child event launched a Global Strategy aimed at saving the lives of more than 16 million women and children. At the event Nick Clegg announced that the UK will save the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, 250,000 newborn babies and enable 10 million couples to access modern methods of family planning over the next five years.

The event generated an unprecedented \$40 billion in resources for maternal and child health, but as important as the financial commitments was the wide range of partners that came behind the strategy. Developing countries were prominent: Afghanistan and Yemen pledged to increase access to family planning and safe births and Nigeria committed to spend a share of oil revenues on healthcare. Significant new commitments also came from the private sector, charities and NGOs and international organisations.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said:

"Development starts with healthy mothers and children, without whom we will never build strong societies.

"Britain has for months been making the argument that the world must make a step change in its efforts on maternal health. Today the world showed that it had finally heard that message.

To find out the latest on the UK's contribution to the UN MDG Summit, visit

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/MDG-summit/>

For more information on the UN MDG Summit visit the website:

<http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/>

