



[HoustonChronicle.com](http://www.HoustonChronicle.com) -- <http://www.HoustonChronicle.com> | [Section: World](#)

Jan. 18, 2005, 12:01AM

Report: Ending poverty possible

22 rich nations asked to double aid to improve the life of 500 million

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS - Global poverty can be cut in half by 2015 and eliminated by 2025 if the world's richest countries including the United States, Japan and Germany more than double aid to the poorest countries, hundreds of development experts concluded in a report Monday.

At stake is life or death for tens of millions of impoverished people, it said.

The report spells out the investments needed to meet the U.N. goals adopted by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in 2000 to tackle poverty, hunger and disease and promote education and development, mainly in African and Asian countries.

RESOURCES

[Graphic: Combating World Poverty](#)

"What we're proposing is a strategy of investment to help empower the lives of very poor people that lack the tools and sometimes even the basic means to stay alive, much less be productive members of a fast-paced world economy," said professor Jeffrey Sachs, head of the U.N. anti-poverty effort and lead author of the report.

The investments range from schools, clinics, safe water and sanitation to fertilizer, roads, electricity and transport to get goods to market.

According to the report, one billion people live on a dollar a day or less, many of them going to bed hungry every night; life expectancy in the poorest countries is half that in high-income countries.

Every month, for example, 150,000 African children die of malaria because they don't have bed nets to keep out mosquitoes, a tragedy Sachs called the "silent tsunami."

In 1970, the world's nations agreed to provide 0.7 percent of their gross national income for development assistance, and that figure was reaffirmed by the U.N. conference on financing development in Monterey, Mexico, in 2002.

So far, only five countries have met or surpassed the target — Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Six others have made commitments to reach the target by 2015 — Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Spain and Britain.

But 11 of the 22 richest donors according to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development are far from the target and have not set timetables to reach it — including the United States, Japan and Germany.

If all 22 rich countries come up with the money, more than 500 million people can escape poverty and tens of millions can avoid certain death in the next decade, the report said.

ADVERTISEMENT

\$160,000 Mortgage for Under \$735/Month!
Click Your State & Refinance

Bad Credit OK
Lower MyBills.com

© 2004, LowerMyBills, Inc.



[HoustonChronicle.com](http://www.HoustonChronicle.com) -- <http://www.HoustonChronicle.com> | [Section: World](#)
This article is: <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/world/2996673>