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**Why the MDGs are important,  
where we stand, and  
why we're falling short**



## The Millennium Development Goals and why they matter

We have the opportunity in the coming decade to cut world poverty by half. Billions more people could enjoy the fruits of the global economy. Tens of millions of lives can be saved. The practical solutions exist. The political framework is established. And for the first time, the cost is utterly affordable. Whatever one's motivation for attacking the crisis of extreme poverty—human rights, religious values, security, fiscal prudence, ideology—the solutions are the same. All that is needed is action.

This report recommends the way forward. It outlines a way to attain this bold ambition. It describes how to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

### **What are the Millennium Development Goals?**

The Millennium Development Goals are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions—income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion—while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights—the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter, and security as pledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Millennium Declaration.

How will the world look in 2015 if the Goals are achieved? More than 500 million people will be lifted out of extreme poverty. More than 300 million will no longer suffer from hunger. There will also be dramatic progress in child health. Rather than die before reaching their fifth birthdays, 30 million children will be saved. So will the lives of more than 2 million mothers.

There's more. Achieving the Goals will mean safe drinking water for another 350 million people, and the benefits of basic sanitation for 650 million, allowing them to lead healthier and more dignified lives. Hundreds of millions more

women and girls will lead their lives in freedom, with more security and more opportunity. Behind these large numbers are the lives and hopes of people seeking new opportunities to end the burden of grinding poverty.

Many countries are reaping the benefits of globalization and are on track to achieve at least some of the Goals by the appointed deadline of 2015. Between 1990 and 2001, according to World Bank estimates, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from 28 percent to 21 percent in the developing world. The number of people in extreme poverty dropped from 1.21 billion to 1.09 billion (Chen and Ravallion 2004). Many regions, especially large parts of East Asia and South Asia, experienced dramatic economic and social progress.

Yet broad regions are far off track. Sub-Saharan Africa, most dramatically, has been in a downward spiral of AIDS, resurgent malaria, falling food output per person, deteriorating shelter conditions, and environmental degradation, so that most countries in the region are on a trajectory to miss most or all of the Goals. Climate change could worsen the situation by increasing food insecurity, spreading vector-borne diseases, and increasing the likelihood of natural disasters; a prolonged decline in rainfall in parts of Africa has already wreaked havoc. Meanwhile, for some Goals, such as reducing maternal mortality and reversing the loss of environmental resources, most of the world is off track. The early target for gender parity in primary and secondary education—with a deadline of 2005—will be missed in many countries.

It is time to put the Goals on the fast-track they require and deserve. The Goals need to be achieved at the country—not just the global or regional—level (box 1.1). This report presents a practical plan for doing so, one based on work conducted by more than 250 of the world's leading development practitioners over the past two years in the context of the UN Millennium Project. Throughout, we stress that the specific technologies for achieving the Goals are known. What is needed is to apply them at scale. We have 10 key recommendations (pages xx–xxiii) and a more detailed set of underlying recommendations (appendix 1). More elaborate analysis and recommendations are set out in the 13 thematically oriented task force reports that underpin this plan.

### **Why the Goals are important**

As the most broadly supported, comprehensive, and specific poverty reduction targets the world has ever established, the Millennium Development Goals are too important to fail. For the international political system, they are the fulcrum on which development policy is based. For the billion-plus people living in extreme poverty, they represent the means to a productive life. For everyone on Earth, they are a linchpin to the quest for a more secure and peaceful world.

### ***The fulcrum of international development policy***

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000 the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their

**Box 1.1**  
**The Millennium**  
**Development**  
**Goals are**  
**country goals**

The UN Millennium Project interprets the Millennium Development Goals as country goals, since this is the spirit in which they are pursued the world over. While progress in China and India is to be lauded as a global-scale triumph, it would be a mistake to declare “victory” in cutting extreme poverty on the basis of progress mainly in two countries while dozens of other countries with hundreds of millions of the world’s poorest people are not meeting the Goals. It is the poorest countries making the least progress that the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals are meant to support, not the ones making the most progress even without the Goals. This is an important reason for continuing to pursue the Goals at the country level.

There are two other important reasons. First, the Goals need to be operational, and most key economic policy decisions and development assistance activities take place at the level of individual sovereign states. Virtually the entire development assistance process—including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, donor-country negotiations, and debt relief—is designed at country level. The UN Millennium Project stresses the need for stronger regional and international programs, to meet cross-country and global needs. But the core of development practice is likely to remain at the country level in the period to 2015.

Second, the Goals need to be applied at the country level so governments can be held accountable for signing on to them. Global or regional interpretation of the Goals diffuses responsibility and lessens the accountability of individual leaders to make every effort for poverty reduction.

A concern often voiced both in low-income countries and in donor countries is that the Goals are “unrealistic” because they require too much progress too fast. This view places a tremendous downward pressure against aspirations for the Goals and needs to be rebuffed wherever possible. It is based, implicitly, on an extrapolation of current trends, which will indeed miss the Goals in dozens of countries. Yet our analysis suggests clearly that by fulfilling the commitments at Monterrey and elsewhere, the Goals can still be met in most if not all countries of the world. Dismissing them now would be to act on hunches rather than rigorous assessment—and would be cruel to the hopes and possibilities that the Goals have engendered.

nations to a new global partnership to reduce poverty, improve health, and promote peace, human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. This unprecedented joint commitment was not a one-off affair. The partnership between rich and poor countries was reaffirmed at the November 2001 launch of the Doha Round on international trade. Soon after, world leaders met again at the March 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, establishing a landmark framework for global development partnership in which developed and developing countries agreed to take joint actions for poverty reduction. Later that same year, UN member states gathered at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, where they reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goals as the world’s time-bound development targets.

The framework established in the Monterrey Consensus describes the nature and importance of new global partnership as follows:

Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration, demands a new

partnership between developed and developing countries. We commit ourselves to sound policies, good governance at all levels, and the rule of law. We also commit ourselves to mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief, and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial, and trading systems (UN 2002a).

While the Monterrey Consensus rightly affirmed that poverty reduction is the primary responsibility of developing countries themselves, it also set forth a balanced approach to economic growth that recognizes the interwoven nature of individual economies and how some countries need more international support (box 1.2). For instance, Monterrey outlined the need for better policies and increased assistance, for more trade and more aid. It also outlined the special development assistance needs of the least developed, African, small island, and landlocked economies. Moreover, it restated the long-standing development assistance target of 0.7 percent of gross national product (GNP). The UN Millennium Project supports these balanced principles and considers the Monterrey Consensus to be the international point of departure for detailing the specific steps to achieve the Goals.

Couched in these landmark Millennium and Monterrey pledges, the Millennium Development Goals drive a new era in international development. They are the first international goals to recognize, at the highest political levels, that poverty in the poorest countries can be dramatically reduced only if developing countries put well designed and well implemented plans in place to reduce poverty—and only if rich countries match their efforts with substantial increases in support. No well intended but impoverished country is to be left, under “business as usual,” solely to its own resources. Under the auspices of the Goals, countries have agreed to hold each other to account, and citizens of both high-income and low-income countries are empowered to hold their own governments to clear standards.

### ***Advancing the means to a productive life***

For the billion-plus people still living in extreme poverty, the Millennium Development Goals are a life-and-death issue. Extreme poverty can be defined as “poverty that kills,” depriving individuals of the means to stay alive in the face of hunger, disease, and environmental hazards. When individuals suffer from extreme poverty and lack the meager income needed even to cover basic needs, a single episode of disease, or a drought, or a pest that destroys a harvest can be the difference between life and death. In households suffering from extreme poverty, life expectancy is often around half that in the high-income world, 40 years instead of 80. It is common that of every 1,000 children born,

**Box 1.2**  
**The Monterrey**  
**Consensus as a**  
**framework for**  
**global partnership**

Source: UN 2002a.

The Monterrey Consensus offers a valuable framework for international action, though many of its key commitments remain unfulfilled. Some important but often overlooked highlights are as follows.

First, the world committed to a broad-based development agenda, not a narrow one, taking into account not only growth but also poverty reduction and environmental sustainability:

*Our goal is to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system (paragraph 1).*

Second, the Consensus distinguished between developing countries that have adequate infrastructure and human capital to attract private investment (mainly middle-income countries) and those that must rely on official development assistance to build up infrastructure and human capital (mainly low-income and especially Least Developed Countries):

*Official development assistance (ODA) plays an essential role as a complement to other sources of financing for development, especially in those countries with the least capacity to attract private direct investment. ODA can help a country to reach adequate levels of domestic resource mobilization over an appropriate time horizon, while human capital, productive, and export capacities are enhanced. ODA can be critical for improving the environment for private sector activity and can thus pave the way for robust growth. ODA is also a crucial instrument for supporting education, health, public infrastructure development, agriculture and rural development, and to enhance food security (paragraph 39).*

Third, the Consensus noted that trade is a critical engine of growth and that low-income countries need two kinds of help to improve trade: improved market access and financial resources to remove supply-side constraints through investments in trade infrastructure, technology, and institutions:

*In cooperation with the interested governments and their financial institutions and to further support national efforts to benefit from trade opportunities and effectively integrate into the multilateral trading system, we invite multilateral and bilateral financial and development institutions to expand and coordinate their efforts, with increased resources, for gradually removing supply-side constraints; improve trade infrastructure; diversify export capacity and support an increase in the technological content of exports; strengthen institutional development and enhance overall productivity and competitiveness (paragraph 36).*

Fourth, the Consensus identified several regions where ODA is particularly necessary to meet the Goals:

*For many countries in Africa, Least Developed Countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries, ODA is still the largest source of external financing and is critical to the achievement of the development goals and targets of the UN Millennium Declaration and other internationally agreed development targets (paragraph 39).*

Fifth, the Consensus recognized that significant increases in aid would therefore be needed, and the donor countries committed to provide those additional resources, including the long-standing target of 0.7 percent of GNP:

*We recognize that a substantial increase in ODA and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration. To build support for ODA, we will cooperate to further improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness (paragraph 41).*

*In that context, we urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 percent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries (paragraph 42).*

more than 100 die before their fifth birthday, compared with fewer than 10 in the high-income world. An infant born in Sub-Saharan Africa today has only a one-in-three chance of surviving to age 65.

For people living in extreme poverty, the Goals are ends unto themselves, directly representing the ambition for a longer, healthier, and more fulfilling life. But they are also “capital inputs”—the means to a productive life, to economic growth, and to further development in the future (chapter 3). Extreme poverty is found all over the developing world—not only in low-income countries but also in middle-income countries that have “pockets of poverty,” such as remote regions and ethnic or racial minorities. So, the Goals are relevant wherever poverty exists.

Consider a typical village of subsistence farm households in a poor country, such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, or Papua New Guinea. The village lacks access to a paved road and motor transport. Also lacking electricity, its energy needs are met by extracting wood from the diminished secondary forests and woodlands. Drinking water is unsafe, and latrines regularly serve as a reservoir of infection through contamination of food and the local water supply. The children are sick from diarrhea, pneumonia, or malaria.

In an African village, adults are dying of AIDS and TB, without hope of treatment. Farmers toil but do not even produce enough food to feed their families. The soils were long ago depleted of nutrients, especially nitrogen. The rains fail and there is no backup of irrigation.

In these settings, women carry a triple burden, caring for children, the elderly, and the sick, spending long hours to gather water and fuelwood, to process and produce food, and working on farms or in family enterprises for little or no income. Impoverished families have more children than they desire because of poor access to education, contraception, decent employment opportunities, and sexual and reproductive health information and services. Education seems at best a luxury to most citizens. And since there is no emergency obstetric care, mothers die in childbirth at a hundred or more times the rate in the rich world.

Market forces alone will not rescue the village. Indeed, markets tend to bypass villages with little if any monetary income, and no ready means to earn it, given the low productivity and poor connections with the regional and world economy. The village barely lives off its own food production. Without money it cannot attract doctors, teachers, or transport firms. Without electricity or access to modern fuels it cannot run food processing equipment, irrigation pumps, computers, or electric tools for carpentry or apparel. Villagers do not have enough income to save. And since infrastructure and a skilled work force are lacking, private investors do not come. Young men and women, particularly the literate, leave the village—and the best educated, the country.

The same downward spiral applies to many urban areas. On arrival, migrants from rural areas might find employment, though informal and insecure, and



they are faced with inaccessible and unaffordable housing. They take refuge in ill-serviced and overcrowded informal settlements. Many of the largest urban agglomerations in the low-income world are like extended villages, and rapidly growing cities in middle-income countries are often very poorly planned, with large areas bereft of functioning infrastructure, employment, and environmental management.

A generation or more of migrants from the countryside, combined with rapid natural population growth, results in a sprawl of densely settled humanity lacking the basics of healthcare, education, electricity, water supply, sanitation, solid waste disposal, and access to transport. People living in slums are largely excluded from enjoying their political, social, and economic rights. Some slums are so densely populated that it is not even possible to drive an ambulance into them. Diseases like TB spread like wildfire. HIV is often rampant.

Without basic infrastructure and human capital, countries are condemned to export a narrow range of low-margin primary commodities based on natural (physical) endowments, rather than a diversified set of exports based on technology, skills, and capital investments. In such circumstances, globalization can have significant adverse effects—including brain drain, environmental degradation, capital flight, and terms-of-trade declines—rather than bring benefits through increased foreign direct investment inflows and technological advances.

Yet practical steps can be taken to turn the tide. Both the villages and the cities can become part of global economic growth if they are empowered with the infrastructure and human capital to do so. If every village has a road, transport, a clinic, electricity, safe drinking water, education, and other essential inputs, the villagers in very poor countries will show the same determination and entrepreneurial zeal of people all over the world. If every city has a reliable electricity grid, competitive telecommunications, access to transport, accessible and affordable housing for the poor, a water and sanitation system, and access to global markets through modern ports or roads, jobs and foreign investment will flow in—rather than educated workers flowing out.

Investing in core infrastructure, human capital, and good governance thus accomplishes several things:

- It converts subsistence farming to market-oriented farming.
- It establishes the basis for private sector–led diversified exports and economic growth.
- It enables a country to join the global division of labor in a productive way.
- It sets the stage for technological advance and eventually for an innovation-based economy.

At a deeper level, achieving the Goals is about making core investments in infrastructure and human capital that enable poor people to join the global economy, while empowering poor people with the economic, political, and

social rights that will enable them to make full use of infrastructure and human capital, wherever they choose to live (box 1.3).

Infrastructure, human capital, and human rights are vital complements to a healthy private sector. In a market-oriented economy, as long as individuals and businesses have the tools offered by infrastructure and human capital, the private sector can develop rapidly. Private sector-led growth in agriculture, industry, and services will then generate jobs and incomes, which reduce poverty and the future dependency on foreign aid. The goal, then, is to combine the critical public investments in infrastructure and human capital with market-oriented economic policies to ensure the dynamism of private sector growth. As economies grow richer, the private sector can also provide an increasing share of core infrastructure services.

### *The Goals are critical for global security*

The Goals not only reflect economic targets, global justice, and human rights—they also are vital to international and national security and stability, as emphasized by the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change (UN 2004a). Poor and hungry societies are much more likely than high-income societies to fall into conflict over scarce vital resources, such as watering holes

#### **Box 1.3** **The means to a productive life**

The key elements of adequate human capital include:

- Basic nutrition.
- A health system that enables people to live a long and healthy life.
- Sexual and reproductive health.
- Literacy, numeracy, and marketable skills for twenty-first century jobs.
- Technical and entrepreneurial skills to adopt existing but underused technologies and scientific expertise to advance new knowledge.

The essential infrastructure services include:

- Safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
- A sustainably managed and conserved natural environment.
- Farm inputs, including soil nutrients, reliable water for agriculture, and improved seed varieties, plus vaccines, veterinary pharmaceuticals, and feed and fodder for livestock.
- Energy, including electricity and safe cooking fuels.
- Paved roads and transport services that are safe and reliable, including nonmotorized options.
- Modern information and communications technology.

The core political, social, and economic rights include:

- Equal rights, including reproductive rights, for women and girls.
- Freedom from violence, especially for girls and women.
- A political voice for every citizen, including through civil society organizations.
- Equal access to public services.
- Security of tenure and property rights for shelter, businesses, and other assets.

and arable land—and over scarce natural resources, such as oil, diamonds, and timber. Many world leaders in recent years have rightly stressed the powerful relationship between poverty reduction and global security (box 1.4). Achieving the Millennium Development Goals should therefore be placed centrally in international efforts to end violent conflict, instability, and terrorism. As the High-Level Panel recommends, countries that aspire to global leadership through permanent membership on the UN Security Council have a special responsibility to promote the Goals and to fulfill international commitments to official development assistance and other kinds of support vital for achieving them. We endorse the Panel's recommended criterion of 0.7 percent of GNP in official development assistance for developed countries aspiring to permanent membership.

Poverty increases the risks of conflict through multiple paths. Poor countries are more likely to have weak governments, making it easier for would-be rebels to grab land and vital resources. Resource scarcity can provoke population migrations that result in conflicts between social groups, as in Darfur, Sudan, in the wake of diminishing rainfall. Without productive alternatives, young people may turn to violence for material gain, or feel a sense of hopelessness, despair, and rage. Poor farmers who lack basic infrastructure and access to agricultural markets may turn in desperation to narcotics production and trade, such as growing poppy in Afghanistan or coca in the Andes. Many slums are controlled by gangs of drug traffickers and traders, who create vicious circles of insecurity and poverty. The lack of economically viable options other than criminal activity creates the seedbed of instability and increases the potential for violence.

While violent conflicts surely result from a combination of factors, research suggests a strong causal impact of poverty and adverse income shocks on the onset of conflict. The risk of civil conflict declines steadily as national incomes increase. Negative economic growth shocks increase the risk of civil conflict dramatically (chapters 3 and 12). The implications are twofold: investing in development is especially important to reduce the probabilities of conflict, and development strategies should take into consideration their possible effects on reducing (or inadvertently increasing) the risks of conflict.

### **Structure of the report**

In proposing a global framework that will enable all countries to achieve the Goals, this report is structured in four parts. The rest of part 1 presents an overview of worldwide progress, highlighting regions and Goals that are particularly off track (chapter 2). It then presents an analytical framework for understanding why parts of the world are falling short of achieving the Goals. It also describes the important relationship between the Goals and economic growth, and the centrality of public investments to achieve the Goals in the poorest countries (chapter 3).

**Box 1.4****Poverty reduction and global security**

Source: Abdullah II 2004; Blair 2004; Bush 2002; Chirac 2004; da Silva 2004; Koizumi 2004; Mkapa 2003; Obasanjo 2004; Schröder 2001.

Many world leaders have stressed the fact that the fight for global security—to stop war, internal violence, terror, and other ills of profound instability—requires success in the battle against poverty as well. Here are some of their statements, emphasizing the broad range of agreement on this vital point.

**King Abdullah of Jordan, January 23, 2004**

“Opportunity is a powerful force in giving people a stake in a peaceful future. It is in our hands to create a global growth economy, access to education and technology, and, most important, justice, to show young people, that ours is a world of fairness, openness, and hope. The Millennium Development Goals need to be reinforced with new benchmarks for assessing progress, for ensuring better and fairer trade, and for forging new global links.”

**Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, October 7, 2004**

“The rest of the world cannot stand by—because we cannot afford to, because what happens in Africa affects and will affect the rest of the world. Poverty and instability leads to weak states which can become havens for terrorists and other criminals.”

**President George W. Bush of the United States, March 14, 2002**

“Poverty doesn’t cause terrorism. Being poor doesn’t make you a murderer. Most of the plotters of September 11th were raised in comfort. Yet persistent poverty and oppression can lead to hopelessness and despair. And when governments fail to meet the most basic needs of their people, these failed states can become havens for terror.

“Poverty prevents governments from controlling their borders, policing their territory, and enforcing their laws. Development provides the resources to build hope and prosperity, and security.... Successful development also requires citizens who are literate, who are healthy, and prepared and able to work. Development assistance can help poor nations meet these education and health care needs.”

**President Jacques Chirac of France, May 26, 2004**

“The world economy as a whole is held back when the lack of development condemns entire regions to poverty and a seeming lack of prospects. It is also a political necessity, because the security and stability of the world are under threat from the reactions of populations that are deprived of their basic rights.”

**President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, September 21, 2004**

“The path to lasting peace must encompass a new political and economic international order, one that extends to all countries real opportunities for economic and social development.”

**Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, September 21, 2004**

“The protection and empowerment of individuals and communities is the foundation of international peace and security.... There will be no stability and prosperity in the world unless the issues of Africa are resolved.... Peace and security, economic and social issues are increasingly intertwined.”

**President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, January 10, 2003**

“We should address the situations and factors that have the potential to sow terrorism, namely, poverty, denial, deprivation, oppression, and injustice.”

**President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, September 23, 2004**

“Our quest for global peace and security will prove unsuccessful unless we intensify international cooperation for development and the reduction of poverty.”

**Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany, 2001, Program of Action 2015**

“Extreme poverty, growing inequality between countries, but also within countries themselves, are great challenges of our times, because they are a breeding ground for instability and conflict. So reducing worldwide poverty is, not least, essential to safeguarding peace and security.”

Part 2 presents the UN Millennium Project's central recommendations for operationalizing the Goals in developing countries. Chapter 4 outlines the content and processes of the core framework for pursuing the Goals: MDG-based poverty reduction strategies that are designed, owned, and implemented at the country level and anchored in a 10-year framework that maps out priorities by working back from the 2015 targets. Chapter 5 synthesizes the core recommendations of the UN Millennium Project's task forces for the basic interventions to be included in national MDG-based poverty reduction strategies. Chapter 6 describes the key elements for building systems to scale up these interventions.

Chapter 7 outlines the key domestic governance issues to address in a MDG-based poverty reduction strategy. It emphasizes the practical steps in building the various components of a governance system relevant to pursuing the Goals, including the advance of public sector management, human rights, civil society organizations, and private sector growth. Chapter 8 describes the important contributions of civil society organizations to national and international efforts to achieve the Goals. Chapter 9 describes the critical role of the private sector.

Chapter 10 identifies the priorities—particularly the investment priorities—in Sub-Saharan Africa, clarifying the frequent misunderstanding that African countries are stuck in a governance crisis, when they tend more to be stuck in a poverty trap. Chapter 11 follows by evaluating priorities in the other regions of the world, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable countries. Chapter 12 examines the special conditions for countries in or emerging from conflict, recommending that any international or national strategy to achieve the Goals include a focus on conflict and conflict prevention.

Part 3 discusses the implications of the MDG-based poverty reduction strategy approach for the international system. Chapter 13 outlines how the donor system of development partnership is not yet up to the task of the Goals and recommends specific steps for reform. Chapter 14 discusses the role of trade reform for the Goals, making specific recommendations for the current Doha round of trade negotiations. It emphasizes the need to distinguish effects of trade reform by country. It also addresses the supply side of developing countries' export competitiveness in addition to market access issues. Chapter 15 outlines the regional and global goods that need to be addressed in national poverty reduction strategies and through regional and global strategies and institutions. Chapter 16 then presents steps for bold and immediate action in 2005 to inaugurate 10 years of MDG success. It outlines ways to put the Goals on the fast-track they require and deserve.

Part 4 concludes the report by outlining the estimated costs and benefits of a decade of bold ambition through 2015. Chapter 17 evaluates the cost implications of country-level MDG investment strategies, and presents a Monterrey-based cofinancing approach to supporting these strategies through

increased domestic resource mobilization and increased official development assistance. Chapter 18 concludes with an estimate of the benefits of achieving the Goals and an assessment of the possibilities for the world in 2015. The Goals represent a mid-station en route to ending poverty within a generation.