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United Nations: About 500 million people can escape from poverty

00:17 2005-01-18

[AIDS](#), resurgent malaria, falling food output, deteriorating shelter conditions and environmental degradation have put Africa "far off track" toward achieving the 2015 Millennium Development Goals.



This was the finding of the [United Nations](#) Millennium Project which presented its report to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday.

[Climate change](#) could further worsen Africa's situation by increasing food insecurity, spreading vector-borne diseases and increasing the likelihood of natural disasters, the report said. The Millennium Development Goals ambitiously aim to halve extreme poverty and "radically improve" the lives of at least one billion people in developing countries by 2015, reports the Xinhua News.

According to the Globe and Mail, in the coming decade, more than 500 million people can escape from poverty and tens of millions can avoid certain death if rich countries keep their promises to vastly increase development aid to the world's poorest countries, a UN-sponsored report said Monday.

"The system is not working right now v let's be clear," said Professor Jeffrey Sachs, head of the UN anti-poverty effort and lead author of the report. "There's a tremendous imbalance of focus on the issues of war and peace, and less on the dying and suffering of the poor who have no voice.

"The overwhelming reality on our planet is that impoverished people get sick and die for lack of access to basic practical means that could help keep them alive and do more than that v help them achieve livelihoods and escape from poverty," said Mr. Sachs, who heads the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

The report asks the 30 OECD members to move from their current average of 0.25 percent of GNP to 0.44 percent in 2006 and 0.54 percent by 2015. Additional emergency aid, such as the \$350 million the U.S. pledged to [tsunami](#), could bring each country's total to 0.7 percent, according to Sachs.

The U.S. has increased funding to fight AIDS and created the Millennium Challenge Account to increase its development assistance by \$5 billion next year, Sachs said. At the same time, he said no money has been disbursed from the account, and the gap between 0.15 percent and 0.7 percent is \$30 billion annually, informs Bloomberg.

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23:46

Condoleezza Rice: The time for diplomacy is now

Rice told members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee she couldn't give them any timetable. The focus right now is security for Iraq's elections, set for Jan. 30, Rice said. But the hearing underscored the dispute over the number of Iraqi forces that have been adequately trained to fight for their country [More details...](#)

Calendar

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World Analytical news

- Key week for Argentina's debt bid
- Venezuela halts ties with Colombia over guerrilla leader kidnapping
- Ukraine loses 4 million people in 13 years without war
- Third World War menace looming
- Iraq's perilous election and the need for exit strategies
- Chechen guerrillas finance The Economist?
- Tons of heroine from Afghanistan inundate Russia
- United States presents river patrol boats
- Russia's intention to arm Syria puts Russian-Israeli relations at risk

23:17

Oil-for-food program for Iraq

Samir Vincent, a naturalized American citizen, pleaded guilty to four charges as part of a plea deal with the government, which is investigating whether U.S. laws were violated in the \$64 billion program [More details...](#)

12:14

Mark Latham remains in the ranks

Mr Latham has been on leave since he was hit by a second bout of pancreatitis in December. In a statement on Tuesday he said: "In recent days, I have been able to get away to rest and recover and talk to my family about our priorities for the future. Our conclusion is that I should look after my health and pursue a normal life outside politics [More details...](#)

11:51

Mahmoud Abbas tries to stop Palestinian violence

Under pressure from Israel, which has threatened strong military action, and the United States, the chief Middle East peace broker, to rein in armed groups, Abbas ordered security forces on Monday to prevent anti-Israeli violence [More details...](#)

10:29

World Conference on Disaster Reduction started in Japan

The December 26 earthquake and tsunami, which claimed at least 162,000 lives in 11 nations, has focused new attention on the long-planned U.N. conference, where delegates are expected to work on plans for a tsunami warning system for the Indian Ocean similar to one on guard for killer waves in the Pacific [More details...](#)

00:44

Senator Kennedy: US policy in Iraq is blunder after blunder

America's ongoing military entanglement in Iraq has become President George Bush's Vietnam, US Senator Edward Kennedy, a leading member of the opposition Democratic party [More details...](#)

00:17

United Nations: About 500 million people can escape from poverty

AIDS, resurgent malaria, falling food output, deteriorating shelter conditions and environmental degradation have put Africa "far off track" toward achieving the 2015 Millennium Development Goals [More details...](#)

22:44

China take leave of Zhao Ziyang

Beijing recently stepped up security in Tiananmen Square and around his house. Zhao had been under house arrest since the crushing of the pro-democracy protests in the square almost 16 years ago [More details...](#)

22:36

Mahmoud Abbas is under pressure

Abbas was under growing pressure to move against militants following last week's attack at the Karni crossing between Gaza and Israel. Israel suspended ties with Abbas in response and ordered its army Sunday to do whatever was needed to stop Palestinian attacks [More details...](#)

22:19

Africa's situation is going to be worse

Climate change could further worsen Africa's situation by increasing food insecurity, spreading vector-borne diseases and increasing the likelihood of natural disasters [More details...](#)

02:35

US to invest in tsunami detection and warning system

Spurred to action by the devastating southern Asian tsunami, top Bush administration science officials Friday pledged to double the country's investment in a warning system by greatly expanding detection technology in the Pacific Ocean and extending it into the Atlantic [More details...](#)

01:43

Golf: Maruyama is on top at Sony Open

Shigeki Maruyama countered a double-bogey on the opening hole by acing the fourth and completed the third round of the US\$4.8 million PGA Sony Open with a one-shot lead over Brett Quigley [More details...](#)

01:21

Bush made Social Security his top legislative priority

Over the objections of many of its own employees, the Social Security Administration is gearing up for a major effort to publicize the financial problems of Social Security and to convince the public that private investment accounts are needed as part of any solution [More details...](#)

00:58

81 Afghan prisoners were released from US custody

About eighty Afghan detainees were released from US custody at Bagram air base, ahead of the Muslim festival of Eid as part of an attempt to bring moderate Taliban supporters in from the cold [More details...](#)

00:37

Andre Agassi is a 100% starter for the Australian Open

Andre Agassi is set to play in the Australian Open despite a hip injury that forced him to quit an exhibition match leading up to the year's first Grand Slam tournament [More details...](#)

00:12

Sharon gave his military a free hand against militants in Gaza

The leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization has urged militants to end attacks against Israel,

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saying such violence "harms our national interest [More details...](#)

13:58

Tsunami relief operations will be continued

The US, whose military is playing a key role in aiding stranded victims in Indonesia's badly-hit Aceh province, meanwhile pledged to turn a new page in military ties with the world's largest Muslim nation in the wake of the December 26 tragedy [More details...](#)

05:01

Oracle goodbyes with 5,000 workers

Piper Jaffray & Co. analyst Tad Piper believes Oracle still intends to reach its original target of 6,000 layoffs, but expects the company to make the remaining job cuts very gradually [More details...](#)

03:53

Sri Lanka wants to be independent

S.P. Thamilselvan, head of the political wing of the Tamil rebels, said the Sinhalese-dominated government had ruined the chance for peace. The rebels are fighting to establish an independent state on Sri Lanka [More details...](#)

03:40

A new round of talks to abandon Korea-s nuclear weapons programmes

The offer came shortly after the six-member bipartisan US congressional delegation concluded talks with senior communist officials in Pyongyang. The US, North and South Korea, China, Japan and Russia have struggled to arrange a new round of talks aimed at persuading the north to abandon its nuclear weapons programmes. [More details...](#)

03:14

Mahmoud Abbas doesn't waited for immediate results

Awad said Mubarak, who has been pushing hard to speed the peace process since Yasser Arafat's death in November ushered in a new Palestinian leadership, believed Israel should work with Abbas as its "Palestinian partner for peace" [More details...](#)

02:28

Sri Lanka: Tsunami-displaced children were recruited by rebels

UNICEF said three tsunami-displaced children were reported to have been recruited in Sri Lanka's east, where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam control large pockets of jungle [More details...](#)

01:42

Saturn's moon Titan may provide clues to the life on Earth

Drainage channels, canyons, rivulets winding their way to a vast ocean of methane: these were some of the initial impressions of scientists to the first photos taken of Saturn's moon Titan which could provide clues to the origins of Earth [More details...](#)

01:18

Middle East conflict: Abbas is in an extremely difficult position

Mahmoud Abbas has been sworn in as Palestinian president, but his call for a ceasefire was overshadowed as Israel killed eight Palestinians in Gaza and cut ties with him over a deadly militant attack [More details...](#)

00:49

Mandela's son died of AIDS

A frail-looking Nelson Mandela buried his last son in a remote South African field on Saturday, wearing a red AIDS ribbon to symbolize the fight against the disease that killed him a week ago [More details...](#)

00:23

Abu Ghraib: Graner sentenced to 10 years for prisoner abuse

US Army Specialist Charles Graner has been sentenced to 10 years jail, five years less than the maximum sentence possible, and a dishonourable discharge for beating and sexually abusing prisoners at the US-run Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq [More details...](#)

01:57

High blood pressure to become a global health problem

Hypertension will become a paramount global health problem by 2025, according to a study which predicts that 20 years from now the proportion of adults with high blood pressure will rise from one in four to one in three [More details...](#)

01:35

North Korea nuclear talks: US hostile attitude

U.S. lawmakers returning from the North Korean capital are optimistic about the resumption of talks to deal with the North's nuclear weapons programs. Republican Representative Curt Weldon told reporters in Seoul Friday he believes six-party talks about the North Korean nuclear issue can resume in weeks rather than months [More details...](#)

00:46

Boeing to end production of the 717 jetliner

Boeing Co. will take a \$615 million pretax charge to write down development costs for a delayed Air Force refueling tanker contract and to end production of the 717, its smallest jetliner [More details...](#)

00:22

Israel - Palestine: Bumpy road to the peace talks

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Friday ordered all government officials to cut ties with the new Palestinian government until it curbs attacks, a day after militants killed six Israelis on the Gaza border [More details...](#)

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