

Millennium Promise 2010 Annual Report



Millennium Promise

2010 Annual Report

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Preface: A Letter from John McArthur

To the Partners of Millennium Promise:

I am pleased to present to you the 2010 Millennium Promise Annual Report. Showcasing highlights from a year of progress and achievement, this report summarizes activities in all of our initiatives, including the Millennium Villages Project (MVP), as well as nearly two dozen stories from Millennium Village residents, and updates on efforts in outreach, government affairs, monitoring and evaluation, and more.

Starting on the next page, you will read about some of the top highlights from the year at Millennium Promise, including the release of progress metrics after three years of the MVP, the visit from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the Millennium Villages of Mwandama (Malawi) in May, and the advances in information and communication technology (ICT) that are boosting our work in multiple sectors. You will also read about our strategic priorities as we enter the next five-year phase of the MVP and look ahead to 2015 and beyond.

As you can see, we are publishing our Annual Report online this year, with the first pages “browsable” here, and individual sections – or the full report – downloadable from the links bordering this page. Please let us know what you think of this new format as we work to create a positive reader experience while reducing reliance on paper. As always, we welcome your feedback on this report and our work – please do not hesitate to share your insights with me at john.w.mcarthur@millenniumpromise.org.

On behalf of everyone at Millennium Promise and the nearly 500,000 people in communities across sub-Saharan Africa who are working to lift themselves out of extreme poverty, thank you for your continuing vision and support. We are grateful for your ongoing partnership that makes all of this work possible.

John W. McArthur
CEO of Millennium Promise
New York City

Millennium Promise 2010 Annual Report



"I call on every country to look closely at this success. It is a case study in what is possible, even in the poorest of places in the world."

*- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, visiting the
Millennium Villages of Mwandama (Malawi)
May 2010*

1. Introduction & Overview

We are pleased to present the Millennium Promise 2010 Annual Report.

Millennium Promise continued through 2010 to advance its mission to accelerate progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the internationally agreed targets to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015.

Covering January 1 to December 31, 2010, this report presents an overview of activities at

Millennium Promise in 2010, highlighting major advances and key innovations. Updates on national scale-up initiatives, monitoring and evaluation, and key partnerships are also included. A summary report on 2010 activities in each of the 14 Millennium Villages clusters is included in the appendix along with select articles, transcriptions of speeches by the UN Secretary-General visiting the MVP in Mwandama (Malawi), and other supporting material.

2. Major Advances in 2010

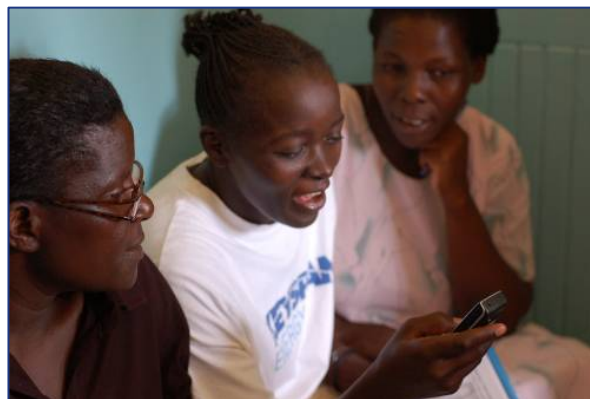
As an incubator for innovative solutions to ending extreme poverty, Millennium Promise supported a number of major breakthroughs and advances in 2010, including the following.

Mid-term Data Released in *Harvests of Development*

The MVP's early success is captured in the progress report released in May 2010, *Harvests of Development in Rural Africa*. The report presents examples of extraordinary progress in five Millennium Village (MV) sites over the first three years, with results that include the following:

- Maize crop yields have nearly tripled on average, supporting a 30% reduction in levels of chronic malnutrition among children under two years old
- Nearly 60% average reduction in malaria prevalence, resulting in part from a sevenfold increase in bed net utilization
- More than 80% of children receive school meals, leading to increased school attendance and improved learning
- Over 40% average increase in women giving birth with skilled birth attendants, reducing both infant and maternal illness and mortality
- More than threefold average increase in access to an improved water source, and nearly sevenfold increase in access to improved sanitation facilities

This data is derived from Year-3 household surveys conducted in five of the 12 original Millennium Villages compared with baseline values. Year-3 data from the other seven MVs is currently under final review, and Year-5 surveys have begun. The surveys are a key element of the MVP's four-tiered



Community health workers (CHWs) in Sauri (Kenya) receive the first text message through the ChildCount+ system.

monitoring and evaluation work. (Read more in the Monitoring & Evaluation section. See a list of articles appearing in peer-reviewed journals citing MVP data in 2010 in the Appendix.)

UN Secretary-General Visits MV in Malawi, Mentions MVP in Speeches

On May 30, 2010, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon joined Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University, in a visit to the MV of Mwandama (Malawi), marking the first-ever visit to a Millennium Village by a sitting Secretary-General. He said, "I congratulate the leadership of the village, and the whole country.... Today I call on every country to look closely at this success. It is a case study in what is possible, even in the poorest of places in the world." The Secretary-General also addressed the Parliament of Malawi. His visit, which coincided with the release of *Harvests of Development*, underscored the call by African leaders including the President of Malawi to scale up the MVP as part of national and African Union agendas.

The Secretary-General also held up the MVP as an example in his remarks to the UN General Assembly during the MDG Summit in September. He said that among his visits to dozens of countries in Africa, in the MVP of Mwandama “I saw innovation, integrated projects, and perseverance.” He continued to endorse the MVP approach, recommending that world leaders focus on “smart investments in infrastructure, small farmers, social services, and above all in women and girls.” (See Appendix for full text of the Secretary-General’s remarks.)

Business Development Sector Progresses

In 2010, the Project refined its business development efforts to prioritize four countries: Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Mali. Focusing on these countries first, the Project is facilitating the development of cooperatives by supporting the writing of business plans, developing the skills of local managers and entrepreneurs, fostering value chain development, attracting local service providers, and fine-tuning business development interventions and systems. The Project is also forging links with buyers, including the World Food Programme’s Purchase for Progress initiative, which is purchasing surplus from grain warehouses in two MV sites for distribution to communities in the region needing food aid. (See “Expanding WFP Partnership” below.)

Early results are promising. From cocoa extraction in Ghana and melon cultivation in Mali to fish farming in Kenya and cassava bakeries in Malawi, new businesses are taking root in communities throughout these countries. While the developed world continues to recover from the 2008 global economic crisis, many economies in the developing world are growing at high rates due in part to increased technology and other advances. Higher agriculture prices are a double-edged sword: a burden for people who buy all their food supplies,



Oil palm extraction is a promising business development initiative in Bonsaaso (Ghana).

but a profit opportunity for smallholder farmers. The Project is helping cooperatives to take advantage where possible in order to promote sustainable economic growth in the region. (For more, see the Agriculture & Business Development section below.)

Nigeria Advances Scale-up Initiative

The Government of Nigeria, led by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs (OSSAP/MDGs) Hajya Amina az-Zubair with full support of President Goodluck Jonathan, is presently using the MVP model in support of an ambitious effort to achieve the MDGs. The Earth Institute is leading an MVP-wide advisory effort in support of the OSSAP/MDGs as it uses lessons from the Millennium Villages to program more than \$1 billion in debt relief funds across the country’s poorest local governments areas (LGAs). Focusing

on health, education, water, sanitation, and nutrition, this "local government scale-up" will reach nearly one-fifth of the country's people with per capita investments of up to \$20. (For more, see section on National Scale-up Initiatives below.)

Enhancing the Community Health Worker (CHW) System

Serving as a critical link between families in remote communities and primary clinics, CHWs deliver a number of vital health services directly to households, from administering vaccines, supplements, and malaria tests to providing pre-natal check-ups and newborn care. In 2010, the Project made strides in enhancing the community health worker system in the MVs.

The CHW program is supported by innovations such as ChildCount+ (see "Cutting-edge ICT" below) and other mobile health technology for effective and efficient screening, treatment, and prevention of disease. In addition, the program directly addresses the acute shortage of trained health personnel in rural sub-Saharan Africa while providing opportunities for professional training to aspiring health workers.

Evidence shows that CHWs are a critical component for extending the reach of proven interventions and strengthening the continuum of care. The series on child health published in *The Lancet* in 2010 estimated that nearly 60% of under-five deaths could be prevented through provision of the aforementioned low-cost interventions to individuals at the household level.

Cutting-edge ICT Boosts Progress in All Sectors

Leveraging the technology behind today's mobile phone revolution, communities in the MVs are benefitting from new advances in service delivery and information gathering across all sectors. CHWs

are using mobile phone texting (SMS) technology to improve health record-keeping and household-level care delivery. Livestock breeders are using mobile phones to learn the day's market prices, sparing them from driving their herds to market only to find unfavorable prices. Classrooms and community centers are equipped with computers and wired for the Internet. And educational initiatives like Connect To Learn are leveraging broadband technology to enable rich learning experiences.

The MVP's ICT team, led by Earth Institute researcher Matt Berg who was named one of the 100 Most Influential People by *Time* magazine in 2010, continues to innovate. Building on the groundbreaking ChildCount+ system now in use in the MVs, a new Android-based GPS system was piloted in Nigeria in December to enable site teams to record and instantly map important data like locations and conditions of water points, dispensary stock-outs, and more.

Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS in Partnership with UNAIDS

Through the partnership with UNAIDS launched in September 2009, the Project is transforming all Millennium Villages into "MTCT-free zones," eliminating all mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV in MV communities. With technical support from Project health teams, health workers are providing HIV testing to pregnant women, helping mothers and children living with HIV, and educating communities on HIV prevention. A major new priority for the Project, establishing these protocols and providing training to health workers is expected to lead to breakthroughs in PMTCT. (For more, see the Health section below.)

Expanding WFP Partnership

One year after signing a partnership to end hunger and under-nutrition in the MVs, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the MVP have undertaken

country-led action plans that will tackle issues such as mother and child under-nutrition, nutrition therapy of HIV/AIDS and TB patients, and the school meals program.

In 2010, through WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, the WFP purchased 100 metric tons of maize at market value from the grain warehouse in Mwandama (Malawi), 200 tons from Gumulira (Malawi), and 55 tons of grain harvested in Ruhiira (Uganda) for regional relief aid as per contract. In support of value chain production in Bonsaaso (Ghana), the WFP donated micro-mills for converting palm fruit into palm oil. The WFP is also supporting the school meals program in Dertu (Kenya), Mwandama and Gumulira (Malawi), Toya (Mali), Mayange (Rwanda), and Potou (Senegal). (For more, see Key Partnerships section below.)

New Partnership with UNFPA Launched

In December, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the MVP announced an agreement to promote universal access to reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa in order to protect the lives of young mothers and infants. "We look forward to joining forces with the Millennium Villages Project to widen the availability of sexual and reproductive health services—including family planning, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care, and prenatal and postnatal care—across sub-Saharan Africa," said UNFPA's Executive Director, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid. "This partnership will go a long way in saving the lives of more mothers, and allowing more families to enjoy a life of prosperity and good health."

New Global Education Initiative Launched

In 2010, Millennium Promise launched a global call for quality secondary education for everyone by 2020, with a special emphasis on girls. During a site visit to the MV of Gumulira (Malawi) in April,



Secondary school girls in Koraro (Ethiopia).

Ericsson CEO Hans Vestberg, Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, and music legend Madonna announced the creation of Connect To Learn, a new global education initiative to support increased broadband connectivity in schools and greater access to secondary education, especially for girls. The focus on girls is important because research shows when a girl gets an education, she is better able to protect her health, make a good living, and raise a healthier family, improving the quality of her own life and the lives of those around her. CTL is a partnership initiative led by the Earth Institute, Ericsson, and Millennium Promise.

Launch of the Drylands Initiative

Drylands cover more than 40% of the African continent, and millions of pastoralists living in these areas face extreme challenges and high levels of poverty. With adapted policies, however, they can overcome the barriers to development and thrive. Launched in July 2010, the Drylands Initiative is working to improve living standards for these pastoralist communities, with the MV of Dertu in northern Kenya serving as a model. The initiative focuses on water sustainability, sound infrastructure, and better communication to help create functioning economies in currently failing ecosystems. (For more, see National Scale-up Initiatives section below.)

Addressing Challenges

Alongside great successes, there are still challenges posed in some MVs by uncontrollable factors like climate pressures. In 2010, Dertu (Kenya) faced another major drought, drought continues to afflict Mayange (Rwanda), and Toya (Mali) experienced severe flooding. The Project dispatched emergency response to these sites, with efforts led by the regional MDG Centres. While we have not yet solved the problem of resilience to these pressures, we are learning more about the best ways to minimize hardships caused by climate crises, and teams in these sites overall are still operating and progress is being made. (For more, see MVP site reviews in the Appendix, and an update on the



Livestock farmer in Dertu (Kenya).

Drylands Initiative in the National Scale-up Initiatives section below.)

3. Sector Updates

The MVP approach helps communities break the cycle of extreme poverty by supporting a coordinated rollout of community-led activities across multiple sectors: agriculture, business development, education, health, infrastructure and energy, water and sanitation, environment, gender

equality, and community development and local governance.

Highlights of activities in each sector in 2010 are presented below. For updates on progress across sectors in each MV cluster, please see the 14 individual MV Site Reviews in the Appendix.

Agriculture & Business Development

MVP Up Close: Fish Farming in Sauri

Fish farms, like the one pictured at right, have proven to be a highly successful and low-cost intervention in some MVs, including Sauri (Kenya). There are more than 300 ponds in Sauri today, measuring about 10 meters square and situated in the valleys where streams flow throughout the year. Each pond costs about \$240 to build and equip. The MVP invested \$4,800 in the Project, and the farmers themselves contributed \$2,400. The Project also set up hatcheries, and is providing training in how to raise fish.

As the fish farming initiative expands, the Project is beginning to focus on linking hatcheries, feed producers, fish farmers, and consumers. Plans are in place to increase the number of fish ponds to 1,550 by 2015, which will produce more than 700 tons of catfish and tilapia per year. This will involve



Fish farming is a growing business in Sauri (Kenya).

selecting committed entrepreneurs with business acumen from within the community to pursue a variety of business endeavors related to fish farming in order to build the local industry and provide a strong, sustainable revenue stream to the community.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

While working to maintain the improved staple crop yields that characterized the MVP's early success in the agriculture sector, in 2010 more farmers focused on finding opportunities for business

development through crop diversification and the formation of cooperatives. With technical support from the Project, farmers are organizing around specialty crops and value chains, gaining access to agricultural finance, and improving productivity by

learning new techniques and methods taught through extension services.

As mentioned in the section above, the Project refined its business development efforts to prioritize four countries in 2010: Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Mali. Businesses are beginning to take root in other MV sites as well. As a result, from the cassava bakery in Mwandama (Malawi) to the onion cooperatives in Potou (Senegal), agribusinesses are taking root across the MVs, bringing increased incomes to farmers and greater opportunity for community improvement.

In Tiby (Mali), for example, a 360-member women's cooperative is successfully cultivating melon, cucumber, and watermelon along the Tibybas Canal during the dry season when the waters recede. The farmers sell their high-value produce at the local market. After a promising first season, the women of the village of Koila-Markala expanded the area under cultivation from 13 to 22 hectares.

Korotimi Diarra is the president of the cooperative in Tiby. During her tenure, she has learned how to manage complex business operations and helped find a solution to challenges like how to calculate repayment amounts owed by members with garden plots of different sizes. By the end of the year, she had overseen collection of 100% of the loans distributed to the cooperative's members, totaling more than US\$5,000.

Mrs. Diarra described two positive effects of the project on the group and her family. First, she reports that the relationships among the women in the cooperative improved as they worked together to find common solutions to implementation challenges. This social cohesion was evident when women invested together in a fence to enclose and protect the garden area. Second, Mrs. Diarra said that as a result of her increased income from the



Taking a break from planting along the Tibybas Canal in Tiby (Mali).

melon harvest—the average income per hectare reportedly increased by 147% over the previous year—her sons did not have to leave the village to search for temporary labor in 2010.

The women's cooperative plans to further extend the acreage of the canal-bank gardens in 2011, and anticipates another year of strong cash crop yields and earned income.

Reports of progress from projects focusing on smallholder farmers in impoverished communities—including the MVP—are having an impact on international policy-making and funding agendas. On April 22, 2010, a core group of finance ministers from Canada, South Korea, Spain, and the United States, as well as the leadership of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, met at the US Department of the Treasury to announce an \$880 million initial contribution to a new fund to tackle global hunger and poverty. The new fund—called the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and promoted through the Feed the Future initiative—is a key element of the Obama Administration's initiative to enhance food security in poor countries.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

Some of the challenges facing the agriculture and business development sectors reflect hesitations to adapt to new systems. For example, the rollout of crop diversification has not yet met targeted numbers in sites where farmers prefer to wait and see how others fare with new crops rather than take risks themselves. As they observe early adopters benefitting from diversification, however, it is expected that more farmers will become interested as well. Delays in achieving widespread use of organic inputs seem to be following a similar curve.

As most MVs have graduated from subsidy programs to credit-based systems to acquire fertilizer and other agricultural inputs, another challenge in some sites is loan repayment. Greater success is found when outside lending institutions serve as lenders instead of the Project. For example, an initial input credit program for cocoa farmers in

Bonsaaso (Ghana) via Opportunity International resulted in nearly 100% repayment rate in 2010.

Linking farms in the MVs with local agro-dealers is also a challenge, as the Project directly provided agricultural inputs in the first years of the MVP and few agricultural supply businesses have opened near MV sites. The Project is working to improve this situation, and in some sites including Potou (Senegal), agro-dealers are starting to see the benefit of opening shops near MVs. Ensuring markets (local and beyond) for products is another challenging area that the Project is addressing.

While the entry point for the quick increase of staple food production has been mineral fertilizers, the agriculture sector has been promoting the use of organic inputs along with the fertilizers. However, progress in the use of organic inputs has been very slow and the agriculture sector is assessing the best options for widespread use of organic inputs.

Education

MVP UP Close: Koraro's Award-Winning Schools

In recognition for its outstanding achievements in primary education, the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia) received an award from Ethiopia's Bureau of Education in 2010.

The award recognizes that, since 2005, Koraro has significantly contributed to the expansion and strengthening of universal primary education in the Tigray region of the country, where the MV is located. Through partnerships with the government and local community, the MVP has worked closely with the Bureau of Education and other stakeholders to satisfy local education needs.

Pictured here is Koraro's Team Leader Aregawi Aklilu Tedella receiving the certificate and trophy



Koraro's Team Leader Aregawi Aklilu Tedella receiving award for outstanding achievement in primary education.

from the State Minister of Education Mr. Fuad Ibrahim and the head of the Bureau of Education in Tigray Ms. Fetelework Gebregziabher in a ceremony during the local education festival in December.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

With most of the planned classrooms now completed and levels of student enrollment, attendance, and performance increasing year after year, the Project's focus in 2010 was to expand the school meals program (SMP), further facilitate ICT in the classroom, and increase access to secondary school.

Throughout 2010, the Project continued to help make the SMP more sustainable as a long-term solution to improved student nutrition and elevated enrollment and attendance rates in the MVs. Project partners Table for Two, a foundation based in Japan, and the World Food Programme are providing key support to the SMP. In addition, most farming households in the MVs continue to harvest

strong yields of staple crops due to the early achievements of the Project, and a portion of annual surplus is contributed to the SMP. For example, all 16,000 children in primary schools in Sauri (Kenya) are now eating lunch at school, where the ingredients—including maize, beans, and vegetables—come mostly from local farms and the students' parents. As school management committees and parents continue to organize food contributions from local farmers, the amount of funding that the Project must contribute to the SMP decreases.

Some schools are also cultivating gardens to supplement the quantity and nutritional value of the staple-based school meals, and some are raising poultry and dairy cows for both educational and nutritional purposes. In addition, kitchens in many schools across the MVs are now outfitted with

energy-efficient stoves with lower fuel costs to make the SMP even more affordable.

In addition to the SMP, a number of interventions aimed at improving teacher and student performance in 2010. These included providing free learning materials, tutoring sessions for struggling students, teacher training along with monitoring and evaluation to improve quality of education, and community-led school enrollment drives, including one in Tiby (Mali) that resulted in 2,000 additional students signing up for primary school.

Equipping schools with computers and Internet access has further improved education in the MVs. “ICT can be a crucial resource for networking with other schools, as it facilitates knowledge-sharing and capacity building,” says Mr. Ssenkubuge, a teacher in Ruhira. He continues to describe that with ICT, “We can begin to work together as opposed to individually, pooling strengths for a more harmonized system of learning across the project area, and beyond.” MVP partner Lenovo delivered nearly 200 computers to the MVs in 2010, and all sites now have between four and 26 computers in classrooms and ICT centers for students to use. (See Key Partnerships section for more on partnership with Lenovo.)

As a result of these combined efforts, the Project has recorded that more students are now enrolling, attending, and performing at higher levels across the board. In the 2009/10 academic year, the site team in Mbola (Tanzania) reported that school attendance rose from 60% in 2006 to 96%, and that the enrollment rate there has gone up from 70% of the school-age population in 2006 to 95%. The team also reports that the ratio of girls to boys enrolling rose from 90% in 2006 to 98% in 2009, and it is now 1:1. The team in Ruhira (Uganda) reports that primary school enrollment grew from 68% in 2006 to 89% in 2010.



Students in Gumulira (Malawi) lining up to receive school lunch.

Beyond primary school, the MVP began to take steps toward increasing access to secondary education in 2010, recognizing that the secondary education gap must be addressed for true economic development to occur. In addition to the launch of the global education initiative Connect To Learn described in the introduction, in Ruhira (Uganda), the MVP and Millennium Promise Japan launched a secondary school scholarship program to support 11 girls who performed outstandingly in primary school. The Project pays their fees and provides continual guidance to ensure they maintain good grades.

Cumulatively since the Project began, in the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia), 132 girls have received secondary school scholarships, in Mwandama (Malawi) 24 girls and 23 boys, in Sauri (Kenya) 26 girls and 25 boys, and in Mayange (Rwanda) 18 girls and 32 boys have received scholarships. “This support means that I no longer had to miss class because I couldn’t pay fees, and this resulted in my performing better and earning a government scholarship,” reported Marthe Tuyizere, a student from Mayange.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

One of the challenges facing this sector is recruiting and retaining quality teachers in the rural, often-remote Millennium Villages. Some MVs have started to incentivize teacher positions by offering benefits such as housing, health care, fertilizer, and bank loans. Other MVs, such as Tiby (Mali), have built partnerships with local and district education authorities to help with recruiting and in some cases paying the salaries for new teachers.

Another challenge is motivating full participation of parents in contributing to the school meals program in some communities. To address this in Mbola (Tanzania), for example, focus is on ensuring that parents and the community understand the benefits of taking part in the school meals program. Village governors, in discussions with their community, introduced by-laws setting out agreed fines for people who defaulted on their commitments to the scheme.

Health

MVP Up Close: Newborn Resuscitation Classes

In January 2010, the MVP health team began offering newborn resuscitation training at the community level in two sites, Koraro (Ethiopia) and Ruhira (Uganda). This is a skill normally taught only in hospitals, yet is valuable for all health workers to know.

The efforts yielded positive results almost immediately: in just a six-month period, 33 newborns that would have either died or have suffered serious life-long neurological damage were successfully resuscitated and saved in Koraro. Results in Ruhira have also been quickly successful, and the Project plans to offer training in additional sites.



Health workers in Ruhira (Uganda) receive training in newborn resuscitation.

It is basic training like this that helps to ensure that the lives of thousands of babies will be saved in the years to come.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Reducing preventable deaths from treatable illnesses like malaria and improving health, especially among mothers and young children, are the MVP's key goals in the health sector. Today, free health care is available in all 14 sites, with Mali and Senegal eliminating user fees to join the other eight countries in summer 2010. ChildCount+ and newborn resuscitation programs are going well. And the CHW program is making great strides in improving health care in the MVs.

In keeping with the five-year plan of Phase I, major accomplishments in the health sector in 2010 were primarily systems-based, and while less visible than the infrastructure, staffing, and other operational

accomplishments of the first four years, no less important.

For example, beginning in January 2010, the MVP health team in Koraro (Ethiopia) began to provide training in newborn resuscitation at the community level, a skill normally taught only in hospitals. See the story above for details of results. As more health workers in more sites learn these important skills, the rates of infant mortality will decrease across the MVs.

Verbal autopsies are another example of how new systems are helping to improve health care in the MVs. Verbal autopsies, which Senior CHWs are performing successfully in half the sites, are leading to major breakthroughs in understanding the needs and gaps in health service delivery and policies.

For instance in Mbola (Tanzania), verbal autopsies have helped health teams to understand that government policies prohibiting “high risk” pregnancy cases from using health clinics are leading many mothers to stay at home to deliver rather than travel to a hospital. (Hospitals are generally considered to be higher-ranking facilities offering better quality care than clinics.) This decision to give birth at home places them in greater danger of dying from complications during delivery. The Project is working with government and advisors to change this policy so that “at risk” cases can go to the local clinics and benefit from institutional delivery.

Preventing mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV/AIDS is another systems-based priority for the Project, in partnership with UNAIDS. In Ikaram (Nigeria), for example, a community-based family planning and VCT (voluntary counseling and testing) campaign is underway. During routine household visits, CHWs are providing adult residents with counseling on HIV prevention, and offering testing either on site or at the local clinic. Since implementation started, marked increases have been seen in both uptake of family planning services and in HIV testing, the first steps toward eliminating MTCT and creating “MTCT-free zones” in the MVPs.

After being successfully piloted in Sauri (Kenya), the groundbreaking ChildCount+ health information system has been rolled out to all MVP sites. This mHealth platform is designed to empower communities to improve child survival and maternal health. The system uses SMS text messages to facilitate and coordinate the activities of CHWs. The text messages are coded to register patients and report their health status to a central web dashboard that provides a real-time view of the health of a community.



Monitoring a child for undernutrition in Bonsaaso (Ghana). The green marker indicates healthy body weight.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

A few gaps in progress in this sector remain. The two sites in Malawi—Mwandama and Gumulira—are still without a functioning, fully-equipped health clinic (although construction of two clinics in Mwandama was completed in 2010). In Mbola (Tanzania), piped water is not yet available in all clinics. And Koraro (Ethiopia) is still working on building a maternity center. The Project is working with these site teams to accelerate progress and complete these outstanding Phase I priorities as soon as possible.

Other challenges are arising due to the maturation of initiatives including the CHW program. As CHWs become professionalized, the Project is looking to the remuneration of their services. In late 2010, the Government of Kenya announced its endorsement of paying CHWs and pledged to provide a stipend and a bicycle to CHWs, reflecting a movement away from the association of CHWs with volunteerism. The MDG Centre for East and Southern Africa (the MVP’s regional center based in Nairobi) is further addressing this matter for other sites.

Managing supply chains and making sure enough medical supplies are stocked in health centers is

another challenge. In 2010, the MDG Centre for East & Southern Africa extended its partnership with Britain's National Health Service South Central (NHS) to help health officials upgrade systems to prevent stock-outs of essential supplies including childhood vaccinations, anti-malarials, and antiretrovirals. The goal is to ensure a continuous flow of supplies sourced from government stocks, donations, and purchased commodities.

Due to the often higher quality of health care offered at the MV clinics than surrounding facilities, some sites are facing a strain on resources posed by an influx of non-resident patients. In Ruhiira, for example, patients are coming from as far away as Tanzania for care. The health team in Ruhiira is addressing this challenge by offering training to health workers and village health teams from outside the MV cluster in order to help improve the quality of care outside the cluster.

Infrastructure & Energy



Ilolangulu-Mbola Road, before rebuilding.



After rebuilding the road, trucks delivering fertilizer can more easily access Mbola (Tanzania).

MVP Up Close: New Roads Boost Development

In many Millennium Villages, including Mbola (Tanzania), new roads are helping communities to connect to markets, hospitals, schools, and tourism, bringing greater opportunity for sustainable development to the area.

Before the MVP, it was difficult to reach Mbola from the main national road. The roads were rough, narrow dirt paths that would become muddy and difficult to pass during the rainy season.

The new Ilolangulu-Mbola Road is a 13-km all-weather road with culverts at each water-crossing

point and a gravel bed. The road connects health centers, schools, grain warehouses, and other essential community facilities. It also enables trucks to deliver shipments of fertilizer, as shown in the “after” photo, to support the efforts of farmers. Furthermore, the roads enable farmers’ cooperatives to reach larger markets to sell their goods at higher prices, and ambulances to more quickly transport emergency patients to hospital. Roads also facilitate tourism.

Mbola’s economy is growing as new roads facilitate trade and transit, helping the community to lift itself out of extreme poverty and become more self-sustaining.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Improvements to Roads and Transport

During 2010, most of the roadwork planned by the MVP was completed, dramatically improving accessibility to villages and markets. In Potou (Senegal), a 17 km access road was completed. In Bonsaaso (Ghana), the main road network has been

fully rehabilitated in partnership between the MVP (which did spot improvements) and the Government of Ghana (which fixed bridges and full stretches of road). In Tiby (Mali), more than 35 km of gravel roads are in the final stages of completion.

In the East African sites, Koraro (Ethiopia) has completed the extension of the main RR30 road to

Koraro village, which has resulted in an immediate increase in traffic volume and transport services in the area. Sauri (Kenya) has completed its rehabilitation plan and is working with local government and communities on maintenance and sustainability arrangements. Ruhira (Uganda) is on a similar path with more than 20 km of new road opened in 2010. In Mbola (Tanzania), the 13 km road connecting Mbola village with the national road network (pictured above) was inaugurated in October by the Deputy Prime Minister of Tanzania.



New solar lanterns arrive at a shop in Bonsaaso (Ghana).

Electricity Grid Extension

Projects to extend the electricity grid made major progresses in 2010 in several sites. In West Africa, Potou (Senegal) and Bonsaaso (Ghana) have completed the main portions of their plans and Pampaida (Nigeria) just started works to extend the grid to the three MV-2 villages added to the MV cluster in 2009. In East Africa, Mayange (Rwanda) and Koraro (Ethiopia) extended the grid to most parts of their respective village clusters through collaboration with the national governments and utilities. For some sites, off-grid solutions (mainly solar micro-grids, see below) are being implemented to bring electricity to as many households and local businesses as possible.

Micro-grids and SharedSolar

One major priority for the Project in 2010 was to develop solar micro-grid systems to serve areas too distant from the main electricity grid to receive service. The SharedSolar initiative, developed by Earth Institute Professor and Director of Infrastructure Programs for the MVP Vijay Modi and his team, is a pay-as-you go grid system designed to meet the electricity needs of rural village residents with low initial costs, lower administrative burden, higher reliability, and to provide electricity on-demand for close to 24 hours per day. SharedSolar systems are currently being installed in the MVs of

Tiby (Mali), Mbola (Tanzania), and Ruhira (Uganda), and if successful they will be rolled out to additional MVs.

Solar Lanterns

To address energy shortfalls, the MVP LED lantern program introduces cost-effective, high-quality, appropriate technologies that provide light and a source of power for cell phone charging to off-grid homes and businesses. After a successful pilot phase in the MVs of Mwandama (Malawi) where nearly 1,000 lanterns sold, the program was rolled out to 10 additional sites in 2010. In each site, training was provided to vendors and cooperatives to support successful commercialization of the program.

Energy-efficient Cookstoves

The MVP cookstove program identifies appropriate technologies that not only provide highly efficient combustion, but are also compatible with traditional cooking preferences. Eleven MV sites have launched the program for pilot testing, vendor training, and cooperative strengthening. In some sites, more than 1,000 stoves have been sold, and in others the program is just starting the pre-commercialization pilot phase, with positive results overall.

By coordinating bulk procurement of solar panels, lanterns, and stoves, the MVP is able to keep prices low for consumers, ensuring greater success of these initiatives than local procurement is having elsewhere.

It is anticipated that 75% of infrastructure projects across all sites will be completed by June 30, 2011 (the end of Phase I), and the remaining 25% by the end of 2011.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

Gaps in this sector include the need to work with site teams and local governments to plan for the transfer of responsibility for maintenance of the

new roads, water systems, and buildings over time to ensure their continued serviceability. In some communities, metered water systems are also posing a challenge, as many cannot afford the even nominal expense of paying for safer water without some degree of subsidy. The Project is working to address these challenges in coordination with the MDG Centres.

Bringing electrical power to the most remote and hard-to-reach areas is a continuing challenge, and while the Project has developed the micro-grid system described above as one solution, it will not be effective in all sites. The team continues to work on incubating ideas and finding solutions to reaching the most remote households with power.

Water & Sanitation

MVP Up Close:

Access to Water Helps Relieve Burden on Women

Mr. Keshi Woldenigus, an elder in the MV of Koraro (Ethiopia), recently articulated one unexpected change from improving access to safer water, such as from the water point pictured here. He said that until recently families in other villages did not want their daughters marrying men from Koraro because “They feared their daughters would be continuously... suffering by fetching water. In their words, marriage with this village means sending their daughter for punishment.”

Before the MVP, women and children would have to walk as far as three miles each way to collect water. “Even then, the amount of water I collected was not enough to satisfy the daily consumption of my whole family, let alone the diseases caused by the dirty water that used to affect them,” said Hadas Mariam, a 33-year-old mother from Koraro. Since



An improved water point in Koraro (Ethiopia).

the MVP began, the percentage of households with nearby access to improved water has nearly doubled to 80% and growing, and the village’s reputation is improving as a result.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Increasing access to improved sources of water and sanitation continues to be a focus for the MVP. Reliable, nearby sources of potable water are key to combating hunger and disease while reducing the labor burden on women and children. Improved sanitation facilities like gender-separate latrines help to support girls’ attendance at school and benefit the overall health of the environment.

Global statistics reflect that unsafe drinking water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene contribute to 88% of diarrhea-related deaths, and 4,000 children under the age of five die every day as a result of severe diarrhea around the world. Simple

hygiene practices such as hand washing with soap and running water after use of the latrine can cut rates of diarrheal disease by 60%.

Most MVs are on track to achieve the Project’s goals in this sector to ensure that all MV residents have access to 20 liters of improved water per day from a water point within 500 meters from the household and serving no more than 400 people, as well as an improved sanitation facility, usually a latrine, within 50 meters.

In 2010, main interventions in the Water & Sanitation sector included increasing access to improved water sources by installing more wells and pumps near households, schools, health clinics,

and markets; rehabilitating non-functioning boreholes and hand pumps; promoting the protection of springs; and continuing to develop piped water systems (both gravity and pumped), as well as and rainwater harvesting systems.

US-based PVC pipe manufacturer JM Eagle continues to be a major supporter of the MVP's work in this sector, by providing approximately 335 miles of pipes for water systems to eight MV sites. In 2010, pipes for seven sites were received in-country and are in various stages of distribution and installation. (Pipes for the eighth site, Potou, were delivered and installed previously, and the related water system is now fully operational).

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

One of the challenges facing this sector is that some sites are located in particularly difficult terrain. Ruhiira (Uganda), for example, is situated along the

top of a steep ridge, and drawing water by motorized pumps is very expensive and complex. While it is taking more time to bring improved water sources close to homes at this site, the Project continues to work with the government and private companies to develop the most efficient, sustainable plans for pumping water to the village.

Another challenge is maintaining the cleanliness of local water sources. To address this, the Project is promoting community awareness about spring protection and using latrines. In the meantime the Project is distributing water treatment tablets and water purification sachets in sites like Mbola (Tanzania) where the challenge is most pronounced.

Environment

MVP Up Close:

Soil Fertility Management Brings Results

Dalhatu Haruna is a farmer in the Millennium Villages of Pampaida (Nigeria) who is adopting soil fertility management practices that are better for the environment and for his income. In this photo, he is fertilizing his field with manure using techniques he learned through the MVP. He says that before the MVP, he tried to use manure but was applying it too early. He says, "I learned that it is better for me if I apply it just before I prepare my farmland for cropping. Now, every year I apply [manure] to a portion of my farm and I am seeing the results."

In addition, Mr. Haruna has arranged with local pastoralists to graze their herds on his land. The cows eat the leftover material from maize and



Farmer Dalhatu Haruna applies fertilizer to his field in Pampaida (Nigeria).

sorghum harvests, and their droppings can be incorporated to enrich the soil. When he needs more manure, he buys it from the pastoralists. He is also practicing crop rotation between grains and legumes to improve the fertility of the soil and increase yields.

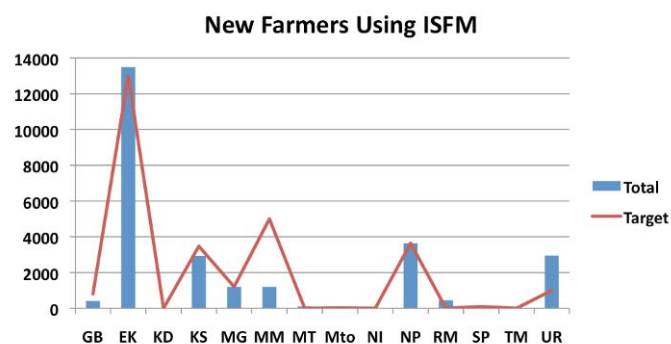
2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The MVP's objectives in the Environment sector are to reverse deforestation and desertification, mitigate climate change, and promote sustainable agricultural practices that protect biodiversity. In 2010, the top achievements toward these goals relate to tree seedling production and planting, use of integrated soil fertility management (ISFM), and an assessment of monitoring and evaluation for MDG 7, ensuring environmental sustainability.

Soil Fertility Management

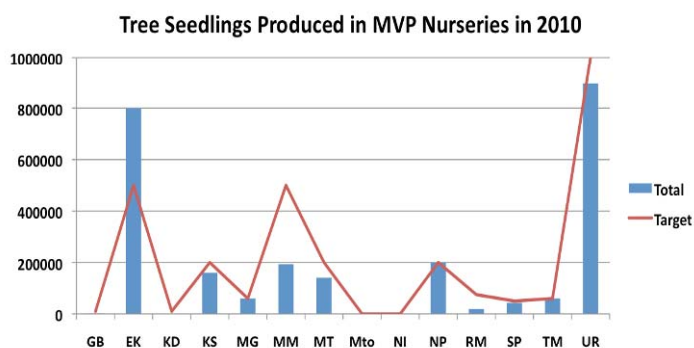
Soil management practices that incorporate ISFM/organic inputs alongside soil conservation techniques were promoted to sustain the initial increases in crop yields brought by mineral

fertilizer, by partially replacing and complementing the costly mineral fertilizers. ISFM has the added environmental benefit of rehabilitating organic matter in the soil. The site teams have focused on identifying ISFM activities that are appropriate for their site, and conducting training sessions and demonstration plots to convey the benefits of these practices to farmers.



Reforestation Efforts

Tree seedling production (linked to target 7.1, “proportion of land area covered by forest,” of MDG 7), continues to be a focus of the sector. All MV sites planned activities related to this target in 2010, ranging from training sessions in nursery management to production of high-value agroforestry trees to out-planting seedlings in degraded common land. Six sites produced over 100,000 seedlings, and all sites are producing at least four varieties of seedlings.



At sites where erosion is an issue, a variety of erosion structures (e.g., vegetative barriers, trenches, terraces) and preventative practices (i.e., grazing control) are being implemented at both the plot and landscape level. In Ruhiira (Uganda) in 2010, more than 6,000 new gully erosion structures were constructed, and in Koraro (Ethiopia), nearly 750 km of erosion-control terraces were constructed.

Assessment M&E Systems & Target-setting in Environment Sector

The monitoring and evaluation of the environment sector was assessed at a workshop in Nairobi in 2010, with coordinators from the science, agriculture, and environment sectors from all sites attending. The workshop included discussion of how to link global MDG 7 targets to MVP site

objectives. The teams concluded that, to be effective, global targets must be selected through a participatory process with the communities so they address highly variable local needs in a way that can be scaled to provide data relevant to national targets and MDG 7. A policy brief that conveyed the outcomes of this workshop was introduced at a side event during the UN MDG Summit in September 2010.

Partnerships with Tropical Agriculture & World Agroforestry Centers

As a core partner of the MVP, the Earth Institute, Columbia University (EI), provides the science and research behind the programs of the MVP. For the environment sector, EI's Tropical Agriculture and Rural Environment Program (TropAg) is a key contributor. TropAg is dedicated to addressing the interactions between agricultural production, environmental quality, and human well-being. The program's work focuses on the tropics, where the expansion and intensification of agriculture is needed to improve food security, but also threatens the long-term integrity of the environment, a local and global concern. The program uses science, technology, management, and policy tools to improve environmental quality, nutrition, and farmers' incomes through sustainable agricultural practices in developing countries.

The World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) in Nairobi is also a contributor to the environment sector's work, having collaborated with the MVP on environmental assessments in the MVP sites and on frameworks for socioeconomic measurements and analyses. Its mission is to generate science-based knowledge about the diverse roles that trees play in agricultural landscapes, and use its research to advance policies and practices that benefit the poor and the environment. ICRAF is part of the

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

A challenge for implementing environmental programs, such as ISFM or tree planting, at the sites is that the benefits of these programs may not be realized in the short-term. These activities may be put off in favor of those with more immediate benefits. To address this challenge, the Project is developing a pilot carbon project, where carbon credits would provide a financial incentive for activities such as ISFM, woodlots, agroforestry, and restoration of degraded lands. Additionally, the Earth Institute will convene a meeting on ISFM and use of organic matter in cropping systems at the

sites for the site team leaders and international experts. This will be a forum for teams to compare experiences across sites, and benefit from outside perspectives.

Another major challenge has been providing analysis of environment data in a time frame that allows it to inform management decisions at the site level. Many of the environment data sets require time-consuming methods to process and analyze. The team is developing an ICT-based strategy for agriculture and environment data. This identifies a subset of variables that are most useful to land managers and can be collected using mobile devices. This speeds up collection, cleaning, and analysis, providing more immediate feedback to stakeholders.

Gender Equality

MVP Up Close: Running a Restaurant in Ruhiira

Small businesses are launching all across the Millennium Villages, yet illiteracy can stand in the way of success. To address this, some communities offer Functional Adult Literacy programs to reach women and men who want to learn the basics.

“Before joining the literacy class, I struggled with my business as I didn’t know how to read and write. Today, I can do both,” said Tumushabe Boneconcila, a successful businesswoman who runs the lunch restaurant Fang Fang in Ruhiira (Uganda).

“When people give me money I can count it, keep a record, and maintain accountability. For me and my business this is a great achievement as now no one can cheat me.”

Besides running her business, Mrs. Boneconcila, like many women in Ruhiira, saves extra money in the SACCO, a cooperative village bank established and managed by a women’s group with support from the MVP. As more and more women in Ruhiira develop literacy skills, they will



Tumushabe Boneconcila has taken literacy classes to help her run her restaurant in Ruhiira (Uganda).

find more opportunities to increase their incomes and gain greater financial independence like Mrs. Boneconcila.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Gender mainstreaming is integral to the MVP approach, addressing MDG 3 to promote gender equality and empower women. From the outset of the MVP, all Project programs and initiatives have been developed and managed with gender equality centrally in mind. In 2010, efforts continued to ensure gender equality across all programs, and, while challenges remain, there is good progress on

improving gender equality in communities across the Millennium Villages Project.

At the community level, sensitization campaigns are one way that MVP coordinators work to promote gender equality across all sectors. In the education sector in 2010, site teams coordinated workshops for parents, educators, and school management committees addressing issues like gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and the

importance of education for girls. Schools in the MVs continue to cultivate a more girl-friendly environment with gender-separate latrines, girls' empowerment clubs, mentoring, and tutoring programs. Some sites have also implemented scholarship programs for outstanding students who cannot afford school, with an emphasis on girls; the Connect To Learn program launched in 2010 will help boost these efforts.

Gender equality also informs infrastructure priorities. For example, one of the benefits of installing water points closer to households is that it reduces the time and labor that women and children must spend to gather water from distant locations. (See story opening Water & Sanitation section above.) In the agriculture sector, women farmers in some sites have benefitted from grants of fertilizer, seeds, hand tools, and training to boost their productivity. In Koraro (Ethiopia), women make up at least half of all members sitting on various project committees, ensuring that their voices are heard whenever decisions are made about future plans for the village.

Groups of women are also organizing into "empowerment groups" in some sites for support in accessing social and financial support. In Ruhiira (Uganda) for example, one 36-member group of women has started paying monthly dues that are pooled into a fund. From the fund the members can apply for small loans to support their businesses and households. The groups also help to identify and fill gaps in their members' business skills.



Girls in school in Mbola (Tanzania).

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

Challenges to achieving gender equality include shifting cultural norms in some sites that favor early marriage and patriarchal social systems. In some locations, women are also battling low confidence in their abilities to serve on traditionally male-dominated committees as well as low levels of literacy needed to effectively participate in leadership positions.

The Project is addressing these challenges through various capacity-building efforts, including literacy classes like the one mentioned in the story above, and sensitization campaigns that promote more equitable attitudes to women and girls in society, school, and business. As more and more girls and women graduate from school, start businesses, and hold community leadership positions, women's empowerment will gain more traction and the MVs will come closer and closer to achieving gender equality.

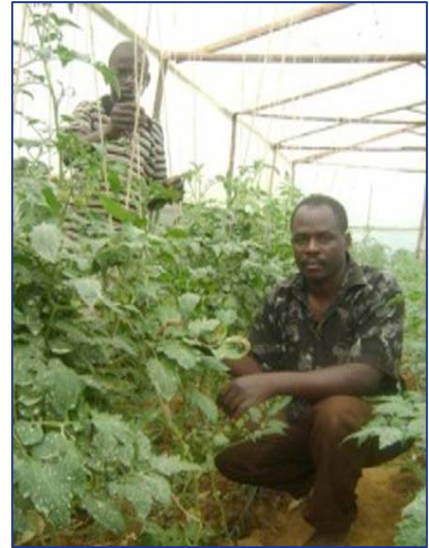
Community Development & Local Governance

MVP Up Close: A Model Farmer in Sauri

Esbon Owino is a farmer, a father, and a “community resource person” in the Millennium Villages of Sauri (Kenya). Community resource people have specialized knowledge or commitment to a specific issue, and the MVP invests in strengthening their skills so that they can share their knowledge with others and mobilize their neighbors to take action.

Since the Project began, Mr. Owino has adopted many of the agricultural interventions piloted by the MVP on his farm, and in turn provides training to other farmers in new techniques and methods. In 2010, his diversified farming activities included fish farming, raising poultry, and operating a greenhouse. He is also a masonry contractor and serves on construction committees to volunteer his skills.

These diversified activities and skills help him to earn a much higher income than he did before the Project began. A father of six, Mr. Owino can now afford to pay school fees for all his children and has built a new three room permanent house for the family.



Model farmer Esbon Owino in his greenhouse in Sauri (Kenya.)

Looking ahead, Mr. Owino says that he will continue his work as a farmer and community resource person. He says, “I’m convinced that with my experience I can be able to stand on my own and improve my economic and social status through agribusiness, and [through] serving as a resource person on a voluntary basis so as to be part of achieving the MDGs.”

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Folding MDGs into Local Planning

Since 2006, Community Action Plans (CAPs) have been developed annually with the villages in each MV cluster. CAPs document a shared work plan geared toward achieving the MDGs in the cluster. As such, they can provide useful guidance to

governments seeking to fold the MDGs into local development planning. Such is the case with Bonsaaso (Ghana) where, CAPs served as inputs to the District’s annual plan of action in 2009 and 2010.

Strengthening Communication & Accountability

In some sites, the MVP is helping to strengthen the relationship between local leaders and village residents. In Bonsaaso (Ghana), for example, the MVP, the National Commission for Civic Education, the Commission for Human Rights & Administrative Justice, and the District Department of Community Development are working together to implement a citizen-government engagement program. This partnership helps to foster proactive demand for accountability of unit committees in the use of public resources in delivering the agreed-upon MDG benchmarks outlined in the CAPs.

Preparing for Transition to Local Ownership

The MVP is investing to improve how unit committees function in part to support the transition to local ownership and management of development activities begun by the Project. This means ensuring that 100% of the unit committees in the MVs are fully functional and able to successfully coordinate activities among all stakeholders, from traditional leaders to community-run sector committees to members of government. In 2006, only 44% of these committees were recorded as functional; in 2010, 100% are not only functional but also steadily improving.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

One challenge in this sector is bringing skills and capacity of community institutions to a high level of performance. This stems from factors ranging from low literacy levels, the slow transfer of knowledge and skills, low levels of performance by technical and supporting institutions, limited access to information or bottlenecks in information-sharing, conflicts over control of resources, and shifts in legislation controlling local institutional arrangements. MV sites are addressing these

challenges in a number of ways, including developing management plans and investing in skills training and processes that improve stakeholder engagement.

Another challenge in some sites is insufficient capacity of local government to take full ownership of MV activities. This is manifested in unfulfilled pledges to perform mandated roles, unsatisfactory maintenance of infrastructure, and insufficient involvement of local elected officials. MV site teams are addressing these challenges by agreeing to jointly implement interventions targeted at improving the performance of sub-district governments, increasing sensitization and engagement of local government officials, increasing joint monitoring of MV activities in communities, and developing training plans in technical, managerial, and planning skills for local government officials.

4. Monitoring & Evaluation

A detailed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) platform has been established to assess progress toward the MDGs and to compare progress in MVP sites to national and regional trends, as well as with data collected in non-MVP villages. Lessons learned carry substantial potential to inform policy and program development in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere.

While the Project has not yet released a formal evaluation report, in May 2010 the MVP published a provisional progress report based on household surveys titled *Harvests of Development in Rural Africa: The Millennium Villages After Three Years*. (Key results are highlighted in the first pages of this report, and excerpts are included in the Appendix.) While the *Harvests* report presents data that provide insight into the early success of the MVP, it was primarily written to foster a public understanding of the Project and its potential to reduce extreme poverty in rural Africa. It is not intended to represent a final evaluation of the efficacy of the Project or its constituent interventions. Peer-reviewed results that provide scientific insight into the Project's progress have been subsequently published. (See Appendix for a list of articles appearing in peer-reviewed journals in 2010.)

It is important to clarify that the MVP emphasizes the deployment of low-cost interventions that have already been proven in earlier studies, especially in the first years of the Project. The Project was not launched to re-test the individual interventions, but rather to demonstrate the feasibility of their joint, simultaneous implementation. Likewise the main

research question is not "Does it work?" but rather how to overcome complex implementation and financial challenges in a diverse range of impoverished and remote rural settings in a manner consistent with achieving an objective set of MDG targets within a budget envelope previously agreed upon and supported by the global community. The simultaneous delivery of these interventions across multiple sectors, coupled with the community-based management of these delivery systems, is a major innovation of the Project.

The MVP is not claiming to provide the only model for achieving the MDGs. It is aiming to provide a workable model that fits the relevant budget constraints and that is adequate (sufficient) to achieve the MDGs by 2015. It does not claim uniqueness or even optimality. Yet given the pervasive shortfalls of the MDGs throughout rural Africa, adequacy of the MVPs in meeting the MDGs is of great practical and conceptual importance. We are not aware of any other initiative that is rigorously documenting the processes, systems, and budgets needed to achieve the MDGs at the scale of hundreds of thousands of people across distinct agro-ecological zones.

The MVP Study Evaluation Protocol was externally peer reviewed and registered with *The Lancet* in December 2009. In addition, the study has been registered with the United States National Institutes of Health at www.ClinicalTrials.gov (protocol number NCT01125618). The main elements of the platform are described below in terms of the four questions the M&E team's work seeks to answer.

1. What are the components of the MVP package, and in what sequence are the interventions introduced to and adopted by the communities?

Components of the MVP package vary from site to site depending on a variety of factors, including community priorities, national policy, pre-existing infrastructure, local economic opportunities, and the burden of disease. A standardized approach to documenting the timing, sequence, and uptake of interventions is critical to defining the contents of the intervention package and will assist in generating hypotheses to explain observed effects on MDG-related outcomes.

Methods and progress to date: A quarterly report system for 87 performance indicators has been developed, and the units of observation defined, after extensive consultation with sector heads and external experts. These reports are compiled quarterly at each site and are submitted to New York. A central information system for recording data remotely has been implemented for all sites, facilitating timely cross-site analyses.

Within the health sector, Vital Events Monitoring of all births and deaths is routinely performed through a cell-phone based system (Comm-care). This is supplemented by a Verbal Autopsy system that provides real-time information on the medical and social cause of death. Furthermore, as clinical record keeping in most sites remains rudimentary, an Electronic Medical Record system (OpenMRS) has been introduced in a number of sites. This system involves a simplified electronic patient encounter form that allows for rigorous reporting on the utilization of clinic services alongside patient diagnoses and outcomes.

2. Do the MVP interventions contribute to accelerating progress towards MDG targets?

The MVP has developed many evaluation tools for assessing impact. Performance indicators provide an assessment of real-time accomplishments, outputs, and outcomes. Using theories of change, they also help to assess the potential impact and effectiveness of programs. Detailed social, economic, and health surveys are another critical tool being employed to assess changes in MDG-related outcomes.

Methods and progress to date: At each of five evaluation rounds (at years 0, 3, 5, 7, and 9) over a ten-year period, the Project administers approximately 40,000 questionnaires and collects 25,000 biological specimens (for monitoring malaria, anemia, and neglected tropical diseases), 6,000 anthropometric measurements, and crop yield data from 500 farm plots. Data are available from villages receiving the interventions from the Project, matched comparison villages that are not receiving the interventions from the Project, as well as regional and national data sets.

By the end of 2010, data from Year-3 surveys (as well as Year-5 surveys in Sauri and Koraro) had been collected, cleaned, and analyzed from all MV sites as well as from each site's matched comparison village. Year-5 data collection will begin in mid-2011. *Harvests of Development* presents Year-3 data on five MV-1 sites.

3. What is the actual cost of the project, and how does it compare to the estimated annual cost ceiling of \$120 per capita?

A fundamental component of the MVP model is the assumption that the Project's costs will be shared by multiple stakeholders. In addition to funding from the MVP itself, significant contributions of resources are made by national and local governments, private donors, partner organizations, and the village community members. Systematically

documenting the source and cost of all Project inputs is essential not only to analyzing the costs and benefits of the Project, but also to informing issues of sustainability, local buy-in, and scale-up.

Methods and progress to date: A Costing Evaluation has been introduced as a strategy for monitoring all Project inputs, including those from external sources, and including in-kind contributions such as labor, land, and material donations. Expenditure and budget records, supplemented by detailed interviews with government, donor, and community stakeholders at each site, are used to track the inputs contributed by all stakeholders over the entire project period.

Costing Evaluations have been completed in 8 MV sites, with plans for completing the evaluation in 4 more MV sites underway for 2011. The Costing Evaluation was also extended to the matched comparison villages in 2010, with evaluations completed at 3 comparison sites. The MVP expects to publish its first Costing Evaluation in the months immediately following the publication of this Annual Report.

4. What factors have impeded the Project's implementation, and what factors have aided it? What lessons can be applied to future replication or scaling-up of the MVP?

Systematically documenting the process of implementation of a complex multi-sector intervention such as the MVP is essential to maximizing the lessons learned from the Project. A qualitative Process Evaluation has been implemented for this purpose.

Methods and progress to date: Key informant interviews are conducted with project recipients, community leaders, sector heads, Project management, government officials, and donors. These discussions form the basis of an assessment of program *feasibility and effectiveness* (did it achieve its goals?), *relevance* (were the right interventions undertaken?), *efficiency* (where they undertaken in the right way?), and the *sustainability* of various components of the MVP package. It also formally documents the institutional memory of the program, provides contextual perspectives, and generates lessons for replication and transfer to other contexts.

Following the piloting of the methodology in two sites in 2009, the Process Evaluation was completed in six additional sites by the end of 2010, with plans to complete the evaluation in the remaining four sites by mid-2011.

In summary, the MVP's portfolio of research methodologies balances scientific rigor with practical, real-world questions of feasibility, impact, and cost across some of the poorest and hardest to reach communities on the planet. It addresses broad questions about whether the MDGs can be achieved, and, more importantly, it seeks to identify the most practical and locally appropriate strategies for doing so. By including this comprehensive range of methods, we hope the Project provides a template for a balanced and diversified approach to evaluating large-scale programs to achieve the MDGs.

5. National Scale-Up Initiatives

A core objective of the Project is to support scale-up of the MVP approach to regions around existing MVs and to other countries. Project scale-up includes the introduction of MV-inspired development projects to new geographic areas, expansion of existing Project interventions (e.g., farmer field schools, the community health worker program) to broader coverage areas, and expanding the boundaries of existing Millennium Village clusters from the current scope of 500,000 people to reach “Millennium Districts” of a cumulative four million.

In 2010, there have been several noteworthy developments on the scale-up front, most notably in Ghana, Nigeria, and Mali. The MV concept is also finding traction in several other countries where governments and communities are developing and implementing MVP-inspired plans. In West Africa, Benin, Cameroon, and Liberia are implementing the concept while Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Niger, and Sierra Leone have requested help to develop project documents and select sites. The two regional MDG Centres—in Nairobi, Kenya, and Bamako, Mali—play a key role in supporting these scale-up initiatives. (See Site Reviews in Appendix for more on the MDG Centres.)

Scale-Up in Nigeria

The Government of Nigeria, led by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs (OSSAP/MDGs) Hajya Amina az-Zubair with full support of President Goodluck Jonathan, is presently using the MVP model in support of an ambitious effort to achieve the MDGs. The Earth

Institute is leading an MVP-wide advisory effort in support of the OSSAP/MDGs as it uses lessons from the Millennium Villages to program more than \$1 billion in debt relief funds across the country's poorest local governments areas (LGAs). Focusing on health, education, water, sanitation, and nutrition, this “local government scale-up” will reach nearly one-fifth of the country's people with per capita investments of up to \$20.

With two Millennium Villages—Ikaram and Pampaida—Nigeria is a country whose leadership has been exposed to, involved with, and impressed by the results of integrated development demonstrated by the MVP. Scaling those lessons across the nation and implementing them through existing government institutions provides the MVP model opportunity for both scope and sustainability.

The policy expertise gained through the MVP is complemented by the M&E team, which is building a nationwide MDG monitoring system based on the innovative Millennium Villages Information System (MVIS). In addition, the MDG Centre for West Africa has overseen a large-scale costing exercise which is being used as the basis for the planning and granting for the LGA scale-up in 2011. Already, more than 800 people have been deployed to conduct baselines and needs assessments across the country, with more expected throughout 2011.

Drylands Initiative with COMESA

The Drylands Initiative was launched in July 2010 to address the challenges facing pastoralist communities living in Africa's arid regions of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and

Uganda, reaching more regions in time. Africa's drylands, which receive less than 650 mm annual rainfall, cover more than 40% of the continent. This initiative focuses on water sustainability, sound infrastructure, and better communication to help create functioning economies in currently failing ecosystems.

The MDG Centre for East and Southern Africa is organizing efforts toward the initiative in partnership with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The Millennium Village of Dertu in northern Kenya is serving as a model for the initiative. Through mobile technology, for example, the community has gained better access to markets and is able to integrate into the mainstream economy.

Scale-Up in Mali (Initiative 166)

As previously reported, in June 2008, the Government of Mali presented a strategy to scale-up a Millennium Villages-inspired approach to support the country's 166 most food insecure *communes* (or districts) in achieving the MDGs. "Initiative 166" is a five-year multi-sector program which aims to address food and nutrition security, education, health, water supply and sanitation, energy, and roads and transport. The initiative will reach approximately 2 million people, with special emphasis on northern regions of the country. The government is committed to financing 45% of the initiative and has asked the donor community for support for the remaining 55% of the budget. Millennium Promise aims to help the government mobilize official donor resources to implement this scale-up initiative.

6. Key Partnerships

"In my view, investing in the MDGs... is not only vital to help save lives, it's not only vital to insure that children have a chance for their futures, but it's also vital for peace on the planet and... for human well-being, so I want to thank all of you as partners in this effort."

- Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs

ABOUT OUR PARTNERS

Our partners are a growing alliance of public, private, and nonprofit entities and individuals who share our commitment to sustainable development and the scaling up of effective ideas. A number of our partners provide in-kind contributions of essential materials such as water pipes, medical equipment, and technical expertise. Others underwrite the costs of building schools, clinics, or grain warehouses. Some support individual villages or programs. And government partners are essential to financing and executing road-building and other larger-scale projects.

Together, these partners make our work possible by directly empowering communities to reach new frontiers of opportunity, laying the foundation for ongoing innovations and local entrepreneurship. Some of our key partnerships are highlighted below.

CORE PARTNERSHIPS

The Earth Institute, Columbia University (EI)

The Earth Institute is the world's leading academic center for the integrated study of the Earth, its environment, and society. EI provides research and expertise on the development of science-based solutions for the Millennium Villages Project.

Millennium Promise

Millennium Promise is the leading international nonprofit organization solely committed to accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Villages Project is the flagship initiative of Millennium Promise.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP is the United Nations' global development network, an organization that advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience, and resources to help people build a better life. The UNDP helps coordinate village- and national-level activities and supports the scaling up of the Millennium Villages Project to the national level.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

Agrium Inc.

After a successful first year of partnership, in September 2010 Mike Wilson, President and CEO of Agrium, announced that this Canada-based company is doubling its commitment in 2011 to \$1 million, including 1,300 metric tons of urea fertilizer and shipment from the company's plant to five Millennium Village sites: Koraro (Ethiopia), Mwandama (Malawi), Pampaida (Nigeria), Potou (Senegal), and Ruhiira (Uganda). Agrium's previous

donation, made through Millennium Promise, reached 5,000 farmers, and this year the company expects to reach 25,000, directly addressing MDG 1 to reduce hunger. The fertilizer will be distributed to farmers on credit, and repayments will be used to create a revolving capital fund for future agricultural loans.

Armajaro

In partnership with commodity trader Armajaro's Ghanaian subsidiary, Armajaro Ghana Limited, farmers in Bonsaaso (Ghana) have started selling their cocoa harvests into a traceable supply chain. Traceable cocoa yields a premium payment that will benefit the communities from which the cocoa is sourced. In 2011, the MVP (through Millennium Promise) will work with Armajaro to have 1,500 farmers certified by The Rain Forest Alliance; certified cocoa earns a premium of as much as five times the rate of traceable cocoa.

Benton, Dickinson and Company (BD)

Benton, Dickinson and Company, a global medical technology company, supports the Earth Institute's work related to HIV/AIDS in developing countries. BD's commitment includes funding for the Project's global HIV/AIDS coordinator and other health coordinators, as well as collaborating on diagnostic, clinical infrastructure, and core competency needs. BD has also helped to identify top staff in Africa for the Millennium Cities initiative.

Ericsson

A key partner in supporting telemedicine and mHealth systems like ChildCount+ in the MVs, in 2010 Ericsson joined the Earth Institute and Millennium Promise as a core partner in Connect To Learn, the new global education initiative to bring broadband technology to the classroom and make secondary education more accessible, especially for girls.

JM Eagle

Through partnership with the Earth Institute, JM Eagle has been providing project support and in-kind donations of PVC pipes for water systems in the MVs since 2007. JM Eagle has donated 350 miles of pipes (estimated value of \$2,500,000) shipped in 73 containers to eight MVP sites: Bonsaaso (Ghana), Sauri (Kenya), Mwandama (Malawi), Tiby (Mali), Mayange (Rwanda), Potou (Senegal), Mbola (Tanzania), and Ruhira (Uganda). Installation is complete in Potou and underway in the other sites.

Lenovo

The MVP and Lenovo are partnering through the Earth Institute to scale up the presence of ICT across all 14 MV sites. In 2010, Lenovo distributed more than 180 computers among all MV 14 sites. These desktops, netbooks, and laptops have been installed and connected to the Internet in school computer labs and ICT kiosks, both on and off the electricity grid. As part of the partnership, Lenovo is finalizing construction of some facilities and purchasing and installing complementary equipment such as solar panels (for off-grid locations), modems, cables, and more as needed.

The Mosaic Company

In 2008, Mosaic committed to contributing di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer to benefit 55,000 farming households (approximately 277,000 people) in seven MVs. In 2010, Mosaic successfully delivered its annual contribution of DAP fertilizer to benefit Koraro (Ethiopia), Sauri (Kenya), Mwandama (Malawi), Tiby (Mali), Pampaida (Nigeria), Mbola (Tanzania), and Ruhira (Uganda), and is poised to do so again in 2011 through partnership with Millennium Promise.

Sumitomo Chemical

This vital early partner that donated 330,000 anti-malarial bed nets in 2006 made a new pledge in 2010 to donate 400,000 more Olyset® long-lasting insecticide treated nets to the MVs. Valued at more than \$2 million, this gift makes Millennium Promise the single-largest recipient of Sumitomo Chemical's corporate philanthropy. The first shipment of 100,000 nets bound for the MVs of Sauri (Kenya), both sites in Malawi, both sites in Mali, and Pampaida (Nigeria) have been received at respective ports and are in the process of being cleared for transport to their final destinations. The remaining 300,000 nets will be shipped to other MV clusters in early 2011.

Time Warner Inc. and former Time Warner Chairman Richard Parsons

In addition to providing facilities to host the 2010 Millennium Promise Partners' Meeting at the Time Warner Center, this generous donation of \$125,000 will support education programs in Gumulira (Malawi) in memory of Mr. Robert Joffe, long-time advisor to Time Warner Inc.

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNAIDS

UNAIDS and the MVP are partnering to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV/AIDS. The partnership, announced in September 2009, aims to create "MTCT-free zones" in MVs where the coordinated, science-based application of emerging best practices in the prevention of MTCT can be demonstrated in a cross-section of rural communities across the continent. In 2010, health teams began to implement protocols on preventing MTCT, such as increasing voluntary HIV testing of pregnant women, and site teams continue planning for further interventions toward this initiative.

UNFPA

In December 2010, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the MVP announced an agreement to promote universal access to reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa in order to protect the lives of young mothers and infants. "We look forward to joining forces with the Millennium Villages Project to widen the availability of sexual and reproductive health services—including family planning, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care, and prenatal and postnatal care—across sub-Saharan Africa," said UNFPA's Executive Director, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid. "This partnership will go a long way in saving the lives of more mothers, and allowing more families to enjoy a life of prosperity and good health."

World Food Programme

In 2010, through its Purchase for Progress initiative, the World Food Programme purchased 100 metric tons of maize at market value from the grain warehouse in Mwandama (Malawi), and 55 tons of grain harvested in Ruhira (Uganda) for regional relief aid as per contract. The WFP also supports the school meals program in a number of sites.

FOUNDATIONS

Adessium Foundation

Based in Reeuwijk, the Netherlands, Adessium Foundation aspires to contribute to a world in which people live in harmony with each other and their environment. Adessium Foundation supports the village of Anyiko in the Millennium Villages cluster of Sauri (Kenya).

Eureko Achmea Foundation

The Eureko Achmea Foundation was established in 2006 to actively contribute to a sustainable improvement of the socio-economic environment of those in need in society, both within the

Netherlands and abroad. The Foundation is supporting the village of Katete in the Millennium Village cluster Mwandama (Malawi).

Nike Foundation

The Nike Foundation invests exclusively in adolescent girls as the most powerful force for change and poverty alleviation in the developing world. The Foundation's support has been key in implementing a robust set of interventions and strategies to address obstacles facing adolescent girls in the Millennium Villages of Koraro (Ethiopia), Sauri (Kenya), and Potou (Senegal).

Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development

The Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development supports the village of Ilolangulu in the MV cluster of Mbola (Tanzania). In addition, Novartis is supporting a ground-breaking telemedicine initiative in the MV of Bonsaaso (Ghana) that will improve the quality of health care and reduce unnecessary referrals by establishing a tele-consultation center to provide structured decision support to health workers.

Stichting Blossom

Stichting Blossom, a Dutch non-profit organization, supports the village of Mswaswa in the Millennium Villages cluster of Mwandama (Malawi).

Table for Two

This nonprofit organization based in Japan contributes to the school meals program in a number of MVs including Koraro (Ethiopia), Mwandama (Malawi), Mayange (Rwanda), and Ruhira (Uganda). In 2010, Table for Two's donations helped the Project provide meals to thousands of students, contributing to better nutrition and performance of students in the MVs.

UN Foundation

In partnership with *GOOD* magazine and the United Nations Foundation, Millennium Promise launched a new public service announcement on becoming involved with the MDG Pledges through www.mdgpledges.org. The PSA ran five times per hour every day through the month of September on Toshiba's jumbotron in Times Square. The video may be viewed at:

www.youtube.com/user/MillenniumPromise#g/u.

Only the Brave Foundation and Diesel Founder Renzo Rosso

On September 14, 2010, Only the Brave Foundation's Renzo Rosso, founder of Diesel, hosted a press conference in New York City to announce the new partnership in support of the MV of Tiby (Mali). During the press conference, Mr. Rosso was named a Millennium Promise MDG Global Leader.

The Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation

On June 23, 2010, the Tommy Hilfiger Group launched a five-year campaign through the Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation to support Millennium Promise and the Millennium Villages of Ruhira (Uganda). Named a Millennium Promise MDG Global Leader, Mr. Hilfiger will engage and encourage corporate leaders and consumers to join him in the movement to end extreme poverty. Following a \$2 million pledge in 2009, this is the Corporate Foundation's single largest international investment to date in its outreach strategy. As part of its support, the company donated a customized Jeep for auction on Charity Buzz with proceeds donated to Millennium Promise.

YND Foundation

Celebrated Senegalese singer and influential figure in Africa and beyond, Youssou NDour has been a friend of Millennium Promise and the MVP since

the Project's beginning. Through appearances and concerts he is helping to boost the profile of the MVP and generate greater interest in the Project. In recognition of his outstanding advocacy and support, Mr. NDour was named a Millennium Promise MDG Global Leader in 2010.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Carleton University

Spurred by a global call to action on the MDGs, undergraduate students at Carleton University in Ottawa (Canada) successfully mobilized thousands of students to pass a university-wide referendum that would help support the Millennium Villages Project. Student organizers collected thousands of signatures first to put the measure on the ballot, and then to secure a majority of votes for its passage, ensuring that the \$6 per student levy will be applied toward efforts to help end extreme poverty for more than ten years. Millennium Promise is proud to partner with Carleton and other universities throughout North America to raise awareness of the MDGs, and to develop tangible calls to action that can be readily embraced by student populations everywhere.

7. Outreach, Advocacy, & Government Affairs

Millennium Promise's 2010 advocacy, outreach, and government affairs goals included increasing direct engagement with senior US government officials and policy-makers, prioritizing outreach to international governments, and amplifying thought leadership through earned media and high-visibility public fora. Abroad, Millennium Promise worked with policy-makers in Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Commission, and the African Union.

Throughout the year, Millennium Promise served as an issue expert on the MDGs and the underlying policy mechanisms required to meet the MDGs, and also provided a breadth of opportunities for different constituencies to play a role in the achievement of the MDGs.

These activities were bolstered by a robust earned media strategy, which included pick-up in the *Wall Street Journal*, BBC, the *Economist*, NPR, and numerous publications throughout Africa. (See Appendix for a selection of earned media pieces.)

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

John McArthur Testifies on the MDGs before Congress

In July 2010, Millennium Promise CEO John W. McArthur served as an expert witness in the first-ever Congressional hearing on the MDGs. Speaking before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Dr. McArthur offered a set of recommendations for crafting a US action plan for the MDGs. (See Appendix for full text of Dr. McArthur's testimony.)

New Government Affairs Office

In September, a new Government Affairs office based in Washington, D.C., opened to raise the profile of Millennium Promise and the Millennium Villages Project within the US government, including the executive branch and Congress. The Government Affairs office organized numerous meetings with officials from the White House, the Department of State, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Agriculture, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The purpose of these meetings was to educate US government officials and policy-makers about Millennium Promise's work with the goal of building support for the MVP approach to development and increase cooperation and collaboration between the US government and the MVP.

In addition, the Government Affairs office has built relationships with the foreign aid think tank community in Washington, including the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Brookings Institute, and the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, as well as the World Bank and organizations such as InterAction. Going forward, the office will explore areas of collaboration with USAID on the Global Health Initiative, the Feed the Future Initiative, and the Innovation programs.

MDG Summit and Reception

Corresponding with the UN MDG Summit in September 2010 and in celebration of the Secretary-General's leadership on the MDGs, Millennium Promise co-hosted the MDG Reception

with the ONE Campaign, the UN Foundation, and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria. The event was broadcast live online and featured speeches by HRH Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Raymond Chambers, Tommy Hilfiger, Bob Geldorf, and Ted Turner, and was attended by many eminent MDG Advocates, supporters, and innovators from around the world.

Public Outreach

Millennium Promise's public outreach in 2010 was driven by messaging that promoted the accessibility of the MDGs. For example, through MDGpledges.org, an initiative launched by the Young Global Leaders and originally branded as the People's Plan of Action, Millennium Promise worked with a broad consortium of individuals, organizations, student group, and businesses, among others, to make practical, time-bound commitments to help play a role achieving the MDGs.

Youth Engagement

The summer launch of the Millennium Promise Young Professionals group (now New York Promise) has directly engaged over 850 young people and students through social events that promote Millennium Promise's thought leadership and action on the MDGs. The MPYP model developed in New

York City will be launched in new locations around the world, supported by the new online engagement vehicle under development, and will provide the basis for long-term engagement with a vocal and committed followership. Additionally, John McArthur addressed thousands of students at events across the US and Canada in 2010.

Digital Strategy

Continued online outreach led to a tripling of Millennium Promise's Facebook reach to nearly 10,000 and a doubling of our Twitter reach to over 4,000. In October, Millennium Promise formed a partnership with the digital advisory firm Undercurrent, which has committed up to \$1 million in pro-bono staff time to help Millennium Promise build a world-class set of digital partnerships to advance awareness- and fund-raising efforts.

In the coming year, Millennium Promise will launch a new storytelling and public engagement engine, manifesting primarily in a new website, and supported by the technical infrastructure to enable rapid outreach to targeted communities where they live, play, and work online and offline.

8. Strategic Priorities for 2011 and Beyond

In most Millennium Villages, Phase I activities will conclude in June 2011, and the next five-year phase of the Project will begin. During Phase I, the MVs largely accomplished the first essential set of development interventions, as described in the chart below.

PHASE I INTERVENTION TIMELINE					
	Year				
	1	2	3	4	5
AGRICULTURE					
Seed and fertilizer support					
Extension training & storage					
Crop diversification					
HEALTH					
Bed nets, vaccinations, Vit. A, deworming					
Clinic construction and staffing					
Referral hospitals					
Community health workers					
EDUCATION					
School staffing					
Construction & classroom refurbishment					
School meals					
INFRASTRUCTURE					
Water & Sanitation					
Roads					
Grid infrastructure					
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT					
Microfinance					
Cooperative-based businesses					

As we transition to Phase II and head forward to 2015 and beyond, Millennium Promise is organizing around two major strategic priorities:

- 1) Steward continued success of the MVP by:**
 - a. Ensuring successful transition to second five-year phase
 - b. Amplifying business development initiatives in the MVs, with a focus on commercializing farming activities
 - c. Promoting Millennium Villages-inspired scale-up
- 2) Launch new high-impact partnership initiatives to help achieve the MDGs by 2015:**
 - a. Community health workers (CHWs)
 - b. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS
 - c. Universal secondary education for girls

The following pages describe these priorities in greater detail.

STEWARD CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE MVP

As Millennium Promise's flagship initiative, the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) will continue to be a key priority moving forward. As the MVP enters its second five-year phase of operations (Phase II), Millennium Promise will work to ensure that MVP communities continue on a path to self-sufficiency through sustainable business development including, and importantly, the successful transition to commercialized farming, and to support national scale-up efforts.

Ensure Successful Transition to Phase II

Ensuring that the MVP's systems can function sustainably is a key goal for the Project overall and Phase II especially. Objectives toward this end include performance success, operational sustainability, and economic sustainability.

Performance success means achieving all the MDGs in the Millennium Villages by 2015, the original and overarching mission of the MVP. Operational sustainability hinges upon successfully handing over complete control of management, oversight, and financing to local governments and communities by 2015. At the same time there will be a gradual stepping down of financial input from the MVP and a stepping up of input from private and government partners over the next five years.

Amplify Business Development Initiatives

To ensure economic sustainability, Millennium Promise will continue to launch agribusiness models to develop self-sustaining income streams. The creation of farmers' cooperatives will be a critical component of this strategic approach, along with providing technical support and phased grant support for start-up costs. Business development financing increasingly will be done on a "patient capital" basis, whereby private donor/lenders make funds available to borrow with better terms than loans available on the open market.

During the Phase II transition period, the MDG Centres in Nairobi, Kenya, and Bamako, Mali, as well as the MV site teams themselves, will play an increasingly central role in implementing the Project. They will take the lead in designing business development strategies and working in close collaboration with African governments at all levels.

Promote Scale-up of the MVP Approach

The MVP was designed to demonstrate how developing communities in the poorest regions of the world can achieve the MDGs through coordinated roll-out of science-based innovations. To help the Project achieve its full potential, Millennium Promise advocates for scale-up and provides technical support to governments seeking to adopt the MVP model and deliver interventions at the regional and national levels. Countries seeking to launch scale-up initiatives require full participation of national governments, adequate financial resources, and a strong technical partnership with the global MVP team and the two MDG Centres. Government-driven scale-up initiatives are currently underway in a number of countries including Ghana, Mali, and Nigeria. (See National Scale-up Initiatives section above.)

LAUNCH NEW PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

As an incubator of high-impact and innovative approaches to help end extreme poverty, Millennium Promise strives to launch promising new partnership initiatives that are anchored in the lessons learned from the Millennium Villages Project. New partnership initiatives in recent years include Malaria No More, MDG Pledges, and the Master's in Development Practice program based at Columbia University with partner universities around the world. Going forward, Millennium Promise will continue to leverage its unique convening power to form alliances that will effect systemic change in support of the technical and systems-based breakthroughs that are helping to end extreme poverty.

Most immediately, Millennium Promise has identified three areas to focus on in the coming years that are catalytic to achieving the MDGs, viable for gaining global momentum, and anchored

in the practical insights generated by the MVP and the programs of partner organizations. These three areas of focus are community health workers (CHWs), prevention of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV/AIDS, and universal access to secondary education for girls.

In order to support the launch of these initiatives, Millennium Promise aims to work with an alliance of partners, including the new MDG Advocates of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to be a part of a public awareness campaign around these scale-ups. This massive organizational, public health, educational, and financial challenge will require support of many partners including governments, academia, civil society, the private sector, and the donor community.

Community Health Workers (CHWs)

The objective of this partnership initiative is to secure by 2015 one million trained, supervised, and paid CHWs. CHWs play an invaluable role in the delivery of basic medical services to expectant mothers and young children, and are crucial to ensuring that MDGs 4, 5, and 6 can be achieved. Each year, more than 8 million children and 300,000 expectant mothers around the world die from entirely preventable causes such as malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia, and malnutrition, and the CHWs are a crucial link in providing monitoring, vaccinations, and other basic services to help reduce this rate.

Each CHW in the MVP strives to reach approximately 100-150 households (500-750 people). While there are nearly 1,100 CHWs currently working in the Millennium Villages, hundreds of thousands more will be needed to close the enormous gap in access to healthcare throughout rural sub-Saharan Africa. The CHW system, developed through the MVP with input and expertise from a range of partners and similar

initiatives undertaken by other organizations, are proving successful and are ripe for scale-up as one of the most effective and affordable interventions to improve access to health care and general health status in rural Africa.

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS

While mother-to-child transmission has been virtually eliminated from industrialized countries, it remains prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. While an estimated 100 babies were born with HIV in the US in 2010, in sub-Saharan Africa approximately 370,000 babies were born HIV+, mostly due to MTCT. This shows that knowledge, technology, and medicines are available today to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS by 2015. It is an effort that will require access to antenatal care, safe delivery, family planning, and provision of effective care for HIV-positive pregnant women and mothers.

The PMTCT campaign will support the work of UNAIDS and governments in increasing access to continued HIV treatment and the use of quality regimens and services for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. The MVP is embracing this approach through its new initiative piloted in 2009-10 to establish “MTCT-free zones” in all MVP sites in partnership with UNAIDS. This initiative creates an important opportunity to provide practical, on-the-ground examples of what effective PMTCT programs might look like in a diversity of sub-Saharan African contexts. As this work advances, Millennium Promise will develop a broad coalition of partners to eliminate MTCT throughout Africa.

Universal Secondary Education for Girls

While the MDGs include the goal of achieving universal primary education, research shows that secondary education, especially for girls, has a

broad positive effect on communities, and of course the lives of girls and women in particular. When a girl gets an education, she is better able to protect her health, make a good living, and raise a healthier family, improving the quality of her own life and the lives of those around her.

Moving forward, Millennium Promise will prioritize universal secondary education, especially for girls, and in 2010 launched the partnership initiative Connect To Learn (CTL) toward this goal. CTL is a

global education initiative designed to ensure a 21st century secondary education for everyone by providing scholarships for secondary school, and using ICT to connect classrooms and improve access to quality educational resources for students and teachers around the world, even those in the most remote villages. In support of this mission, Millennium Promise will work to build a dynamic global network of partners to bring universal secondary education to all students by 2020.

9. Conclusion

Millennium Promise relies on a broad network of partners from around the world to support its work, including our most important partners: the communities themselves, and each of the individual farmers, leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, healthcare providers, mothers, and more who have embraced the Millennium Villages Project, Connect To Learn, and Millennium Promise's other initiatives.

The nearly 500,000 residents of the Millennium Villages are the ones who do the work every day that, over time, fulfills the goals to escape the cycle of extreme poverty and become thriving, self-sufficient communities. The MVP site leaders – all of whom are from the region – and their teams work long hours and put in extraordinary effort to bring about the results in which we can all take pride.

We are profoundly grateful to our partners for enabling Millennium Promise and the MVP to go from being an idea on paper to a stunning transformation of 500,000 lives across sub-Saharan Africa, while providing insights for approaches that can be replicated to reach millions more people as the lessons learned in the MVP are taken to scale throughout the region.

We will continue to strive to support this transformation, and remain solid in our commitment to the work begun with support from our partners to see the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 and the end of extreme poverty in our lifetime.



Amina Osman, student at Inonelwa School in Mbola (Tanzania).

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Appendix A

2010 Annual Report Site & MDG Centre Reviews

Millennium Villages of Koraro (Ethiopia)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 11 | Population: 84,610 | Households: 16,750 | Primary schools: 22 government, 6 alternative
School year: Sept - July | Health centers: 14 | CHWs: 352 | Crop season: June planting - Nov harvest (teff, maize)

MVP Up Close: Model Farmer in Koraro

Ato Gebrehiwot Tsigab is a model farmer in Koraro for the success of his orchard over the past five years near the Agefet River. In addition to a thriving vegetable garden, he cultivates oranges, mangos, avocados, and papaya to sell at the market and nourish his family.

Mr. Gebrehiwot started his orchard after learning new skills like crop management and compost production at training sessions organized by the MVP. The MVP also supplied him with the initial vegetable seeds and tree seedlings to start his garden. For irrigation, Mr. Gebrehiwot began with a treadle pump but now uses two motorized pumps that he purchased through a loan made possible by the MVP.



Model farmer Ato Gebrehiwot Tsigab receives orange seedlings for his successful orchard in Koraro (Ethiopia).

Today, farmers from around Koraro visit Mr. Gebrehiwot's farm to learn from his experience and find inspiration. Encouraged by the progress he has made with irrigated farming, he plans to plant more land next season.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Irrigation Systems Extended

Irrigation systems are a top priority in Koraro for the agriculture, business development, and infrastructure sectors. In the remote, semi-arid region of northern Ethiopia where the MVs of Koraro are located, new irrigation systems are supplementing rain-fed agriculture to help farmers boost productivity and protect against irregular or

insufficient rainfall. In 2010, the Project made irrigation equipment available to farmers, including treadle pumps (319), single-line drip systems (68), and diesel-powered water pumps (100 with 300 more forthcoming). This equipment is sold to farmers on credit with a 25% down payment and three-year loan term. A smaller number of pumps and drip systems were distributed and used successfully in 2009. These irrigation pumps are in

addition to the Afridev hand pumps installed for public use and provided to the community for free.

The pumps and drip lines connect to a dug well (IDW) system that the Project is implementing. In 2010, the Project constructed 148 IDWs, as well as five boreholes and a micro-dam at Degum, (which is in addition to the five existing micro-dams already in use) to support the irrigation systems. Bids are being solicited for the construction of further irrigation sources to benefit thousands of farming households in the cluster.

Megab-Koraro Road Completed

Connecting the Millennium Villages of Koraro to the national road network, the 18.8 km all-weather Megab-Koraro Road was completed in 2010. Two-thirds of the cost of the road was covered by the Project and the government paid for the remaining one-third. The government is also responsible for routine maintenance and rehabilitation of the road, its seven bridges, and dozens of culverts. Already the road has started attracting commercial transportation as well as tourist vehicles from Hawzen and Mekelle to the Koraro Mountains and rock-hewn churches. With 20,000 people living within 2 km of the road, it is also making distant health facilities more accessible.



Megab-Koraro Road, before.

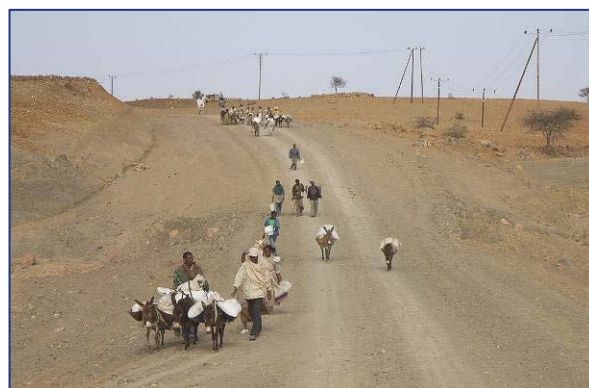
Girls' Empowerment Boosted

Empowering girls is a major focus of the MVP's efforts in Koraro. In 2010, the Project provided support for girls' empowerment clubs in all 22 primary schools, and installed more water points closer to households reducing the labor and time burden on women and girls who would otherwise have to walk for hours to collect water.

In addition, forty girls are now enrolled in secondary school thanks to the MVP's scholarship program. These efforts to empower girls are not only to help girls stay in school, but also to improve their vision for their future. One of these students, Miss Kidan, says, "My aspiration is to graduate from university and be a female representative of my community in the federal parliament of Ethiopia. In the future, I would like to raise community awareness in Koraro... on gender based violence."

Addressing Challenges: Farming Skills Gap

One of the greatest challenges reported by the team in Koraro is the learning curve many of the farmers face in regard to planting, pest control, disease management, water management, and other agricultural skills necessary to successfully implement Project interventions. To address these gaps, the Project offers training sessions and technical support, helps connect farmers to the government district office for agricultural extension services, and organizes farmer-to-farmer experience sharing.



Megab-Koraro Road, after.

Millennium Villages of Bonsaaso (Ghana)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 6 | Population: 31,790 | Households: 6,360 | Primary schools: 22 | School year: Sept - June
Health centers: 8 | CHWs: 41 | Crop season: March planting - July harvest (maize)

MVP Up Close: Business Woman in Bonsaaso

Women in Bonsaaso are finding more and more opportunities to get involved in business and local government, with women like Paulina Addai paving the way.

Mrs. Addai is an active member of the Watreso Oil Palm Processing women's group, and through her leadership she helped start a women's business cooperative. Her own income has steadily increased from the sale of oil palm as well as cocoa (which she is spreading out to dry in the picture at right), and she plans to expand her businesses by applying for a loan from the local branch of Opportunity International.

Having gained respect as a local entrepreneur, Mrs. Addai ran for office and, in December, won a seat representing her community. She was soon appointed to serve as Chair of the unit committee.



Farmer Paulina Addai spreads cocoa beans to dry. She is also an active oil palm farmer in Bonsaaso (Ghana).

Mrs. Addai's personal initiative and leadership are breaking ground for other women to feel empowered to participate in business and government, helping to bring gender equality and greater economic development to Bonsaaso.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

School Meals Program Expanded

With the support from the World Food Programme, the MVP, and the Bonsaaso community, the school meals program was expanded to cover all 22 schools in the cluster serving more than 8,000 students, contributing to increased enrollment and attendance.

Childbirth Risk Reduced

In 2010, the health team focused attention on reducing rates of post-partum hemorrhaging, especially among pregnant women who deliver at home. Through careful monitoring of blood loss, the lives of women having difficult childbirths can be saved. In collaboration with the Ghana Health Service, the MVP is currently distributing

misoprostol tablets which may be administered (under supervision) immediately after childbirth to reduce excessive blood loss.

Electricity and Roads Improved

The MVP received government approval to extend the electricity grid to six communities in Bonsaaso in 2010—including the dressmaker's shop pictured left—and work is progressing steadily. In addition, a 1.1 km stretch of road on a steep slope was resurfaced to reduce the danger of accidents. Once completed, these improvements to infrastructure will help make Bonsaaso a more favorable place for business and thereby boost local economic development.

Agriculture-based Businesses Grew

Oil palm, cocoa, and solar lantern businesses all reported strong development in 2010. Extraction of oil palm fruit continues to evolve as a sustainable business with a 40% increase in harvest volume over 2009. The oil palm micro-mills donated by the World Food Programme are nearly ready to operate.

Cocoa farming is also developing well, with buyer Armajaro establishing a Purchasing District in Bonsaaso. From November 2010 through January 2011, more than 385 tons of cocoa have been purchased at a premium.

An initial input credit program for cocoa farmers through Opportunity International (OI) resulted in



Access to electricity makes it easier for shops to stay open after dark, like this one in Bonsaaso (Ghana).

nearly 100% repayment rate in 2010. The bank established a branch office in Bonsaaso to facilitate savings and provide microloans to farmers and small businesses. MVP and OI plan to expand this program to cover about 1,000 farmers in the 2011 harvest season.

Challenges Addressed: Gold Mining

The widespread resurgence of small-scale gold mining activities in the cluster is a serious challenge. Gold mining attracts young people with the allure of quick wealth, and many have abandoned farming for mining, even though the work is risky and detrimental to the local environment. The site team is working promote other business opportunities as one strategy to combat the lure of gold mining.

Millennium Village of Dertu (Kenya)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

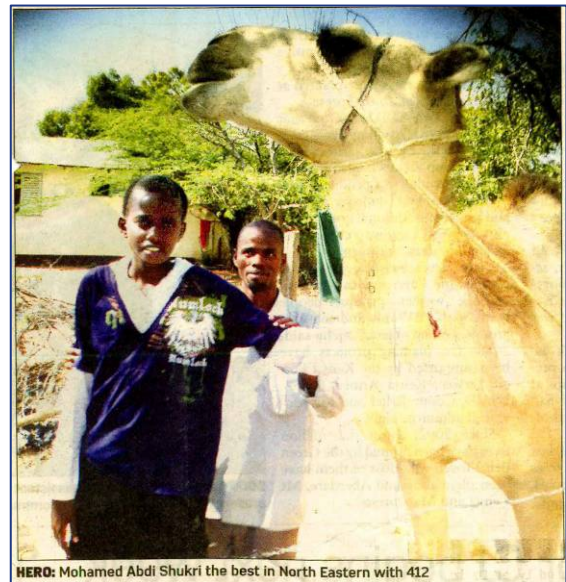
Villages: 1 | Population: 6,150 | Households: 990 | Primary schools: 3 stationary, 3 mobile
Health centers: 2 | CHWs: 7 | School year: Jan - Dec

MVP Up Close: Star Student in Dertu

Mohamed Abdi Shukri, a resident of Dertu born in 1997, recently captured national news headlines when he became the top-scoring student from the entire North Eastern Province on Kenya's national primary school exam, the KCPE.

The news came as a big surprise to everyone in the community, including his mother. "I knew that my son was bright and hardworking, but it never occurred to me that he would be the leading student in the whole province," she said. His mother attributes his great success to the unrelenting efforts of the teachers at Dertu's primary schools as well as her good nurturing skills.

Mohamed is the second-born in a family of six and enjoys playing football. Currently enrolled at the prestigious Alliance High School, he aspires to be a civil engineer when he grows up and to help build



HERO: Mohamed Abdi Shukri the best in North Eastern with 412

This photo of top-scoring student Mohamed Amin Abdishukri of the MV of Dertu (Kenya) appeared in a national newspaper.

infrastructure in the long-neglected rural parts of Garissa. He also intends to encourage and inspire his siblings and other kids to study hard in school.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Maternity Wing Completed & Health Facilities Equipped

The health team in Dertu opened a new maternity wing in 2010. This is helping to increase the number of women giving birth at the clinic with skilled attendants. The midwife in Dertu reported 10 births at the clinic by mid-month in December alone, significantly up from the average 2-3 clinic births recorded per month last year. In addition, the

Ministry of Health equipped four new health facilities.

Mobile Outreach Clinic in Service

Each month, Dertu's mobile clinic brings health care services to about 500 people in the pastoralist community. The mobile clinic is accompanied by village leaders and elders. Services include monitoring mothers and newborns, and delivering essential medicines to those who need treatment for illnesses.

Schools Further Developed

In Dertu, there are three mobile schools currently serving a total of 485 students. Mobile schools have helped increase the overall enrollment rate in Dertu because of their convenience for pastoralist families—in the picture at left, a new camel is being received by the mobile school staff. In Dertu's three stationary schools, two computer labs were constructed and equipped with nine computers in 2010, and the Project is offering sessions in computer literacy training.

New Borehole Installed

To replace the borehole that had become saline in Dertu, the Project drilled a new borehole at Garigubane near Boransis. The water quality is good, within the WHO standards, and the water pressure is strong. Construction of a pump house and fencing of the compound are nearly complete.



A mobile school in Dertu (Kenya) receives a camel to help transport school materials.

Addressing Challenges: Effect of Drought on Livestock

Drought continues to be a challenge in Dertu. Among other effects, drought threatens the herds of livestock the community relies on for income. In 2010, the MVP helped to replace livestock that perished in the drought through a restocking program. The Project is also helping the community to diversify livelihood strategies. The Drylands Initiative is working to further address the challenge of managing livestock during drought. (See the National Scale-up Initiatives section for more on the Drylands Initiative.)

Millennium Villages of Sauri (Kenya)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 11 | Population: 64,960 | Households: 13,530 | Primary schools: 33 | Health centers: 9 | CHWs: 109
School year: Jan - Dec | Crop season: March planting - Aug harvest (maize)

MVP Up Close:

A Family Saving for the Future in Sauri

Jennifer Akinyi Awuor, a widow with 10 children, is finding new opportunity and promise for the future through the tree nursery that she launched with support from the MVP. She started off small and now has a thriving nursery of her own, selling seedlings to customers for about 10 US cents each.

Her profits have allowed her to invest in a dairy cow, three sewing machines, new furniture for her house, and a mobile phone to ease business communications. Mrs. Akinya has also managed to extend piped water to her house to irrigate seedlings and use at home. To supplement her income, she sells piped water to her neighbors and earns enough money in four days to pay her entire



Jennifer Akinyi Awuor waters her garden in Sauri (Kenya).

monthly water bill. Earnings from the rest of the month are profit.

Having embraced the culture of saving, Mrs. Akinya said her aim is to save enough money to buy land so that she can move out of her in-law's compound and build a house for her own family.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture Businesses Further Developed

In 2010, the Project successfully introduced more farmers to high-value agricultural enterprises including aquaculture (fish farming), apiculture (bee keeping for honey production), horticulture, dairy farming, and poultry farming. Other cooperatives further developed their efforts; for example the New Yala Dairy Cooperative produced, packaged, and sold yogurt, and its managers and members received training in record keeping, animal husbandry, and other essential business skills. Fish

farming initiatives also continued to grow and thrive, and are proving to be a highly viable business model in Sauri. In addition, dozens of farmers installed water-efficient irrigation systems, and hundreds are benefitting from financial services from Equity Bank, enabling them to purchase agricultural inputs on credit.

Tree Cover Increased

To help improve and protect the environment, communities in Sauri raised more than 750,000 tree seedlings in 2010, and planted more than 25,000 as part of the hilltop reforestation program.

Thousands of additional seedlings were planted to define farm boundaries, as forage trees for bees, and to create buffer zones near natural springs. Dozens of farmers have been recruited to run orchards to produce and sell seedlings (including Mrs. Akinya from the opening story).

Emergency Polio Vaccination Campaign

In response to a polio outbreak in neighboring northern Uganda, the health team in Sauri launched a mass door-to-door immunization campaign in the surrounding districts. The Project team cooperated with government authorities to minimize the spread of the outbreak to Kenya.

Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV

First steps to make Sauri an “MTCT-free zone” were taken in 2010. These included creating a strong laboratory network for early infant diagnosis in partnership with ICAP (International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs), Kenya’s Center for Disease Control, and the Ministry of Health. Laboratory procedures were streamlined so that the turn-around time for blood sample results was reduced to less than one month. In addition, an MTCT module was put in place to track all pregnant women from their first antenatal care visit to delivery, and all infants from birth to 18 months.



A health worker administering an HIV test in Sauri (Kenya).

Today almost all pregnant women are tested for HIV in Sauri, a critical step in preventing MTCT.

Addressing Challenges: Transition to Credit Lowers Fertilizer Use

Since moving from a grant- to a credit-based system for agricultural inputs, there has been a decline in fertilizer use and, as a result, a dip in maize yields. These outcomes are not unexpected as the community becomes more self-sufficient and less reliant on subsidies. The Project is helping farmers to adopt integrated soil fertility management practices like composting, and encouraging farmers to continue investing in fertilizer for increased yields.

Millennium Village of Gumulira (Malawi)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 1 | Population: 6,700 | Households: 1,200 | Primary schools: 2 | Health centers: 1 | CHWs: 6
School year: Jan - Nov | Crop season: Nov planting - April harvest (maize)

MVP Up Close:

Pass-Along Goat Beneficiary in Gumulira

In 2007, Filoniya Anderson and her husband, farmers in Gumulira raising 10 children and five dependents, received two breeding goats as part of the MVP's pass-along goat program. Mrs. Anderson repaid the donation the next year by passing along two of the goats' offspring to a neighbor.

Since then, the family has successfully bred 16 goats and counting, which they are able to sell in exchange for a range of necessities, from household supplies and furniture to fertilizer and maize milling services. They have also opened a savings account with Malawi's New Building Society, and are saving to purchase a dairy cow. When their daughter married, they had such a wealth of goats they were able to slaughter several for the wedding feast, and had plenty remaining to continue breeding.



Filoniya Anderson and her family are beneficiaries of the pass-along goat program in Gumulira (Malawi).

Mrs. Anderson says that because of the MVP, "For me and my family, we are no longer poor. I can manage to buy my own bags of fertilizer from the sale of a goat." She continues, "The Millennium Villages Project is a good project and those who follow the technical advice from the Project facilitators and other government change agents will succeed as my family has done."

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

New School Built

Designed to serve 120 students, an additional school block with two classrooms and two sets of latrines was constructed in Gumulira to facilitate access to education and enhance students' chances of completing primary school. The community provided the bricks, sand, and labor, and construction was completed in partnership with BuildOn. As of the close of the year, a contractor was identified to construct two additional school

blocks and two teacher's houses and latrines, which will further boost education in the MV.

Outreach Health Clinics

The health team continued to provide health services on an outreach basis in 2010, as Gumulira does not have its own permanent health clinic at this time. The outreach clinics reduce the distance village residents have to travel to access health services from 10 km to about 2 km on average. Bids for constructing a health clinic are being reviewed and work should begin in early 2011.

Chandawe Cooperative Established

To coordinate farmers into business groups, the Project helped organize the Chandawe Cooperative in 2010. With its 24 initial members, the cooperative is registered with Malawi's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

In 2010, the cooperative sold 200 metric tons of maize at higher-than-market price to the World Food Programme (WFP) as per the site's contract with the WFP's Purchase for Progress program. This maize will be distributed to communities in the region requiring food assistance, and represents a dramatic turn-around for Gumulira which was itself food-aid dependent until recently.

New Community Center Completed

Gumulira's new multi-purpose community center was completed in 2010. Part of the new building is serving as a training center for groups of up to 20 people, while a larger room is used for community meetings. Another space is warehousing maize to be sold to the WFP, as well as some construction materials. Seven community volunteers have received training to manage the community center.



The World Food Programme buys surplus grain from Gumulira's farmers. Here workers are loading a WFP truck outside the grain warehouse.

Addressing Challenges: Health Services Delivery

While outreach clinics are helping to improve health service delivery in Gumulira, the absence of a physical health facility remains a challenge. As mentioned above, the site team is in the process of reviewing bids for building a clinic, and has engaged the District Assembly to support the building of staff housing to accompany this initiative.

Millennium Villages of Mwandama (Malawi)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 7 | Population: 34,260 | Households: 8,580 | Primary schools: 14 | Health centers: 2 | CHWs: 43
School year: Jan – Nov | Crop season: Nov planting - April harvest (maize)

MVP Up Close:

New University Student in Mwandama

Friday Pharaoh is a secondary school scholarship success story. After attending Nswaswa and Gala Primary Schools, both located within MV cluster, in 2005, Friday passed the Primary School Leaving Certificate and was accepted at the government-run Masongola Secondary School.

His single mother struggled to pay his school fees, so she sought out assistance. When she learned that the MVP has a scholarship program, she approached the village leadership. After fulfilling all requirements, her son Friday was awarded a secondary school scholarship.

Friday worked hard to achieve his ambition to go to college, and in 2010 he passed his exams and received an offer of admission at the University of



Friday Pharaoh is the first MVP secondary school scholarship recipient from Mwandama (Malawi) to go on to university.

Malawi. He is the first MVP secondary scholarship recipient from Malawi to go on to university, and he hopes that his success will inspire students in Mwandama to work hard and pursue higher education as well.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

School Enrollment Up

Enrollment continued to increase in 2010 due in part to wider availability of the school meals program. In partnership with Table for Two and the World Food Programme, the Project served school meals to nearly 12,000 students in all 14 primary schools in Mwandama in 2010.

Small-scale Irrigation Cooperatives

Five new locations were selected for small-scale irrigation cooperatives in 2010, joining the 30 established the previous year. Farming communities built dams at each location to divert some of the river water to their fields during the off-season. Off-season maize farmers are able to sell their maize through the cooperatives, providing a strong source of extra income.

Selling Surplus through the Grain Warehouse

In addition to selling to local processors and buyers, Mwandama's grain warehouse has begun trading with the World Food Programme's Purchase for Progress program through a direct contract arrangement. The WFP purchased a total of at least 100 metric tons of maize directly from the warehouse in 2010. This maize will be distributed to communities in the region requiring food assistance, and represents a dramatic turn-around for Mwandama, which was itself food-aid dependent until recently.

Cassava Cooperative & Bakery

Activities supporting this business development initiative continued in 2010, with a new cooperative organized to take the lead in processing roots and producing cassava flour. Two new cassava bakery groups were also formed with a total of 55 women participating. One of these groups donated all the bricks needed to build their oven, and double-ovens are being procured for other groups. Some bakeries are beginning to diversify by making sweet potato bread as well as cassava bread.

Health Clinics Constructed

Construction of two health clinics (in Maera and Mwandama) was completed in 2010, though they are not yet operational. The Project is currently working to install solar power and piped water, and



Cooperative members bake rolls from cassava flour and run a thriving bakery business in Mwandama (Malawi).

to build staff housing. Once complete, the clinics will offer 24-hour health services.

Addressing Challenges: Transition to Credit Lowers Fertilizer Use

Since moving from a grant- to a credit-based system for agricultural inputs, there has been a decline in fertilizer use and, as a result, a dip in maize yields. These outcomes align with predictions as the community becomes more self-sufficient and less reliant on subsidies. The Project is helping farmers to adopt integrated soil fertility management practices like composting, and encouraging farmers to continue investing in fertilizer for increased yields.

Millennium Villages of Tiby (Mali)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 11 | Population: 74,350 | Households: 5,550 | Primary schools: 27 | Health centers: 6 | CHWs: 155
School year: Oct - June | Crop season: June planting - Oct harvest (millet, rice)

MVP Up Close:

Piped Water System Helps Improve Life in Tiby

Today, an ambitious new piped water system is bringing safer water to more convenient locations throughout the MV of Tiby (Mali). The Project is drilling boreholes, installing pumps, erecting water towers, and connecting it all with pipes donated by US-based manufacturer JM Eagle. These new water points at health centers, schools, and village centers have increased drinking water coverage to more than 40%, and more coverage is on its way.

"Before the arrival of the new water system, village residents filtered rainwater with their clothes to drink," says the Chief of the Kominé village in Tiby, Mamafing Coulibaly. "But now, with the drilled boreholes and especially with the new piped water system, we have experienced a reduction in waterborne illnesses."

"Our goal is to reduce the rate of death and disease for the people and also help them become more self-sufficient," says JM Eagle President and CEO



Women have access to safer water closer to home through improved water points in Tiby (Mali), thanks in part to water pipes donated by partner JM Eagle.

Walter Wang. The company has provided pipes for water systems in eight MVs, including Tiby.

Piped water systems are a vital part of the transformations taking place within the Millennium Villages, and dynamic collaborations with partners like JM Eagle are helping to bring this positive change to bear.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Clinic User Fees Eliminated

One of the goals of the MVP is to provide free health care to all village residents, as is now the case in all MVs. With technical support from the Project, in July 2010 a new local policy was approved to finally eliminate user fees at the clinics in Tiby. In only three months, this new policy

sparked as much as a sixfold increase in the number of people using the health clinics in Tiby, greatly improving the chances for health interventions to succeed there.

Micro-grid System (SharedSolar)

SharedSolar is an innovative energy service solution for remote villages that, because of their size and isolation, would not have access to electricity

through traditional utilities in the near future. SharedSolar was tested in Tiby in 2010, and eight micro-grid solar systems are being installed. Set up on a pre-paid meter system, SharedSolar will bring power to households that will not be reached by the World Bank-funded national grid extension project also currently underway.

Business Development Initiatives

Progress toward launching a dairy business in Tiby continued in 2010. The team researched how other small dairies are run and how the dairy sector operates in Mali. The equipment needed to operate the dairy project has been identified and much already purchased. A building in Dioro has been remodeled to serve as the dairy center. Three cooperatives have been established, and initial discussions have been held on milk pricing and locations for collection points.

In addition, the Tibybas Canal garden cooperatives are also progressing well, with the area under cultivation increased from 13 to 22 ha in 2010. Sales of melon, cucumber, and other high-value produce have been strong, and the group plans to expand operations in 2011.



Primary school students in Tiby (Mali).

Addressing Challenges: School Capacity

In 2010, there was a substantial increase in school enrollment, which while a good mark of progress on one hand is a challenge on the other because the enrollment numbers exceed the MV's capacity. School administrators are trying a "double division" and "double vacation" policy to accommodate all the students. Temporary classrooms are also being built and the MVP is purchasing more desks and study materials to help fill the gaps until more permanent schools can be built.

Millennium Village of Toya (Mali)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 1 | Population: 11,020 | Households: 1,270 | Primary schools: 5 | Health centers: 4 | CHWs: 12
School year: Oct - Jun | Crop season: June planting - Nov harvest (irrigated rice)

MVP Up Close:

Future-thinking Community Member in Toya

Elhadj Agaly Ag Mahmoud is a farmer in the pastoralist community of Dag Allal in arid northern Mali. In part through Mr. Agaly's encouragement, the community of about 100 families recently began to settle an area about 45 km from Timbuktu. There, the MVP installed a new water point greatly relieving the burden on the community – and mostly the women and children – of collecting water every day.

Settling in an area with easier access to water has enabled the community to build their farming capacity and increase their income. Traditionally reliant on raising livestock, with the MVP's support, Mr. Aglay and his neighbors are diversifying their activities to include market gardening, fodder



Farmer Elhadj Agaly Ag Mahmoud dreams of “greening the dunes” in the arid farmland around Toya (Mali).

production, rice cultivation, and tree planting. His children are able to go to school and his wife is starting a business through micro-credit.

Bringing water to the Dag Allal community has made his dream of “greening the sand dunes” begin to take hold.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Multi-Season Agricultural Productivity

Farmers in Toya are starting to grow food year-round by increasing the number of annual plantings with the help of irrigation, bringing new opportunities for income. A revolving fund is helping farmers to buy irrigation pumps, and in 2010, farmers irrigated more than 20 ha of rice using newly-installed pumps, financed with support from Pepsi Co. Farmers are organizing into

cooperatives, and the recently-established revolving fund is enabling farmers to purchase fertilizer and seeds on credit. Crop yields will rise, income will grow, and food security will improve as more farmers engage in multi-season production.

Health Clinic User Fees Eliminated

One of the goals of the MVP is to provide free health care to all village residents, as is now the case in all MVs. In October 2010, through collaboration with the national health insurance

system, the MV of Toya received the technical support it needed to make health care services more easily available to residents through the elimination of clinic user fees.

Partnership with UNIFEM

In partnership with the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the MDG Centre for West and Central Africa, the MVP team developed and implemented a gender equality strategy in Toya in 2010. This strategy is designed to increase the involvement of women in the community by supporting agricultural productivity and market gardening, promoting women entrepreneurs, and boosting access to school for girls. In addition, the partners have established a regional consultative framework on gender to pool efforts toward gender equality and empowering women in northern Mali.

Addressing Challenges: School Enrollment

Increasing school enrollment has been a challenge in Toya. In order to encourage more parents to



CHWs learn to use malaria rapid diagnostic tests in Toya (Mali).

enroll their children in school, the education team organized a registration campaign for children ages 6-8 in the MV. The campaign established community-level committees to identify school-age children, reached out through radio broadcasts, religious leaders, and theatrical presentations on the importance of education, and distributed free school supply kits to newly enrolled children.

Millennium Villages of Ikaram (Nigeria)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 3 | Population: 18,220 | Households: 4,170 | Primary schools: 16 | Health centers: 4 | CHWs: 48
School year: Sept - July | Crop season: March planting - July harvest

MVP Up Close:

Aspiring Computer Engineer in Ikaram

Situated in a peri-urban area, communities in Ikaram rely more on commercial activity than farming (unlike most MVs). Computers with Internet connections are helping village residents and students develop valuable skills that can lead to better access to information, improved incomes, and greater self-sufficiency.

In this interview excerpt, twenty-year-old student Deborah Adeola shares her perspective on the computer initiatives supported by the MVP. She begins by explaining that computer training “is aiming to accomplish the objective of eliminating the digital divide and enhancing communication in the Millennium Village.”

MVP: Are there also adult participation classes?

Adeola: Yes, the computer program is for all the categories of people in Ikaram village: teachers, retirees, pensioners, farmers, graduates, and health workers.



Deborah Adeola, a student in Ikaram (Nigeria), aspires to become a computer programmer.

MVP: What software programs are you learning?

Adeola: Microsoft Word, Excel and CorelDRAW [graphic design software].

MVP: What are your favorite things to do on the computer?

Adeola: Typing, designing, surfing the ‘net, and playing computer games.

MVP: What would you like to do as a profession?

Adeola: I will like to be a computer engineer.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Self-Sustaining ICT Centers

ICT and “youth-friendly” centers are earning income through partially subsidized monetized services. The funds generated are used to pay staff and operating costs. Local ICT management committees are

responsible for day-to-day operations, and each center manages a bank account.

Improvements to Water & Sanitation Facilities

The MVP provided additional improved water sources in 2010, including a new hand pump, five solar-powered motorized borehole pumps, and five protected dug wells in pastoralist settlements. The

Project also built 170 sets of ventilated pit latrines with gender-separate compartments, as well as dozens of hand-washing stations in primary schools, health centers, community centers, and markets.

Business Development Initiatives

In 2010, the MV made further progress developing small businesses. A fish pond pilot project engaged a group of women in cultivating and harvesting catfish with satisfactory results; the Project will expand this initiative in 2011. The snail cultivation business has started slowly, with 15 households participating in the pilot; the Project will expand to 500 households if the pilot is successful. And a plan to begin cultivating and marketing cashews has

been drafted; the Project is exploring the possibility of partnering with a financial institution to create a revolving fund to support development of this business.

Addressing Challenges: Sanitation Structures

One challenge the team faces in Ikaram is low adoption among households of UNICEF's sanitation platforms (i.e., latrine slabs). The Project is working to re-design and reinforce the platform structure, and has also agreed to provide support to households in building latrine superstructures. With these efforts, it is expected that use of improved latrines will increase in Ikaram.

Millennium Villages of Pampaida (Nigeria)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 4 | Population: 26,600 | Households: 4,050 | Primary schools: 10 | Health centers: 3 | CHWs: 25
School year: Sept - July | Crop season: June planting - Nov harvest (maize)

MVP Up Close:

Small Business Entrepreneur in Pampaida

Mr. Matthew Yusuf lives in the village of Katsinawa Nakunne in the MV cluster of Pampaida. He runs a small seed supply business, multiplying early-maturing, drought-resistant maize seeds to sell to other farmers. From proceeds of his business, Mr. Yusuf was recently able to purchase a car, which he runs as a taxi during the off-season. Not only is his diversified income helping him become more financially empowered, the taxi service also fills a need in the community for more transportation options.

During a recent conversation with the Project's business development coordinator, Mr. Yusuf said,



Entrepreneur Matthew Yusuf recently purchased this car to run as a taxi during the farming off-season.

"Things have never been this great for me. I thank the Project for this support and all that they have been doing in the areas of education, health, water provision, and rural infrastructure."

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture-based Business Development

Pampaida has more than 100 farmers' cooperatives today, ranging in specialty from maize to poultry to fish. Skills training has been provided to the heads of all of these cooperatives, including accounting and record-keeping. One large cooperative, the Saulawa District Farmers Union Ltd., with more than 3,600 members, is in the process of formally registering with local agriculture authorities. For the last planting season, which started in May, 1,000 farmers in 20 cooperatives received inputs on credit in equivalent to US\$138,000 from PHB Bank, a commercial bank in Nigeria.

Access to Energy-efficiency

After local vendors tested the commercial viability of selling energy-efficient products to village residents, businesses are taking off. The retail sale of energy-efficient cookstoves is underway, and approximately 650 stoves were sold within the MV through 2010. Pilot testing of the commercialization of portable energy-efficient lanterns continues, with plans to help small vendors import and sell them if the test is successful. These products help reduce both fuel costs and indoor air pollution for families in Pampaida.

Health Clinics Renovated

The Project completed renovations of three health clinics in Pampaida in 2010. These clinics are located in the areas that were incorporated into the MV cluster of Pampaida in 2009.

Addressing Challenges: Irrigation

Lack of irrigation infrastructure is a major challenge in Pampaida. To address this, the MVP tested different irrigation kits currently on the market to determine which are best suited to local conditions, including a drip irrigation system. The Project will further pursue a solution to the irrigation challenge in the Pampaida in 2011.

Millennium Villages of Mayange (Rwanda)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 4 | Population: 22,900 | Households: 4,900 | Primary schools: 5 | Health centers: 1 | CHWs: 105
School year: Jan - Nov | Crop season: March planting - June harvest (maize, beans)

MVP Up Close:

Women's Basket Cooperative Member in Mayange

Jeanne D'Arc Mukamurigo and her colleagues weave beautiful baskets, placemats, handbags, and more to improve their livelihoods through a cooperative in the Millennium Villages of Mayange (Rwanda).

"As a widow," says Mrs. Mukamurigo, "I was not financially stable, so I decided to join the cooperative... Recently, I got a loan from the cooperative and installed electricity in my house..."

"Now, everyone in this cooperative can buy clothes, eat a balanced diet, live in clean areas, look after vegetable gardens, drink clean water, all that is needed for good health."



Jean D'Arc Mukamurigo weaves baskets with the the Women's Basket Cooperative in Mayange (Rwanda).

Visit the Millennium Promise YouTube channel to watch a video about the basket cooperative in Mayange ("Fabric for the Future") and more videos from the Millennium Villages Project.

(www.youtube.com/user/MillenniumPromise#g/u)

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Electricity Grid Extended

The national electricity grid was extended to reach 600 households and numerous market centers and other locations through Mayange in 2010. The work was conducted in partnership with the community, the MVP, and RECO, the national energy company.

In anticipation of increased economic development resulting from grid extension, businesses have started to spring up along the new power lines, including shops selling electrical equipment for leveraging and using the grid. A tourism

cooperative, restaurant, and entertainment area are also being built, and plans for a new airport are underway as residents prepare for an influx of people coming to the area and doing business.

Cassava Processing Plant Expanded

Cassava processing began in Mayange in late 2009. In 2010, the processing plant increased its capacity from 6,200 kg per month to 22,000 kg. The plant also expanded its drying facilities from 1 ton to 5 tons, financed through a loan from the Mayange Community Development Fund. Staffed by a manager, a cashier, and five casual laborers, the

plant has established marketing partnerships with supermarkets in Kigali and Nyamata.

Educational Resources Improved

In the education sector, two new classrooms were opened in 2010 along with a school store and a headmaster's office at the Mbyo Primary School. Teachers in Mayange received training in gender equality. Three computer labs were opened in schools across Mayange with 10 new computers each, and students are learning how to use a variety of software applications.

Challenges Addressed: Surviving Drought

Due to very low rainfall levels during the 2010 rainy season (September-December), widespread crop failures posed a challenge in 2010. However, because the community had been storing surplus the grain warehouse, and because cassava



Child being measured by CHW in Mayange (Rwanda).

cultivation has been intensified in Mayange, food security was maintained and the community was not as hard-hit by the drought as they might have been prior to the Project.

Millennium Villages of Potou (Senegal)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 6 | Population: 31,690 | Households: 3,250 | Primary schools: 50 | Health centers: 21 | CHWs: 55
School year: Oct - July | Crop season: July planting - Oct harvest (millet, beans, groundnuts)

MVP Up Close: President of the Women's Business Association in Potou

Khoudia Diaw is the President of Bokk Jomm, the women's business association of Leona village in the MV of Potou. The group's name in Wolof translates to "determination," or "together in pride," reminding members that one must do something every day to improve their lives.

She is also the President of the federation of women's associations in Potou, overseeing 125 member associations. Each of these is organized as a cooperative wherein each member pays between 2,500-5,000 CFA (about US\$5-10) into a revolving fund that makes loans to the women in the group. The members of these 125 associations run many different businesses, from farming vegetables and cultivating hibiscus to making clothing and producing cookstoves. The cooperative also provides training for members like nutrition education, farming techniques, and other valuable skills.



Khoudia Diaw, the President of the federation of women's associations in Potou (Senegal).

Mrs. Diaw is pictured here behind the counter of her shop in the Leona market where she sells fabric and makes tailored clothing. She says she would like to develop the hibiscus trade in Potou, exporting it abroad and maybe bottling concentrated bissap juice. Entrepreneurs like Mrs. Diaw and members of associations like Bokk Jomm set the pace for others in Potou to strive every day to improve their lives.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Dairy Industry Emerging

Dairy farming is an emerging industry in Potou. The local Livestock Farmers' Economic Interest Group, *Galle Aynabe*, has over 2,000 members today, compared with about 250 in 2007. A nationally sponsored artificial insemination program is helping farmers to breed heartier breeds of dairy cows, and

a revolving fund for animal feed is helping farmers to finance larger herds. The Project team is preparing a plan for milk collection and commercialization, and a market study of milk demand in St. Louis and Dakar is nearly complete.

Onion Production Developed

Onions are in high demand in Senegal, and the AMAP, Potou's vegetable producers association, is

helping to develop opportunities for onion producers. The AMAP has 1,500 members and growing. In 2010, it successfully lobbied the national government to impose a temporary ban on onion imports in order to give local producers a better chance at capturing the market. At the same time, Potou's onion producers have diversified and are raising more varieties of onions than ever before. As a result, Potou's onion producers are able to sell their increased production at higher prices and are earning greater income from their efforts.

ChildCount+ Launched

Through an agreement with the regional cellular service provider Tigo, the health team in Potou officially launched ChildCount+ in late 2010, and this groundbreaking system is now fully operational in the MV cluster. CHWs, equipped with cell phones, are now able to send text messages to the central medical record database to record child and maternal health information, and can receive instant diagnoses of tests for malaria.



Women watering onion field in Potou (Senegal).

Addressing Challenges: Connecting to Regional Markets

Connecting Potou's agricultural producers to regional markets is a challenge. The Project is addressing this by facilitating meetings between producers associations and regional suppliers and buyers, supporting lobbying activities of local business associations, and making improvements to infrastructure that enables buyers to access the MV cluster more easily. For example, the 17-km road linking the MVs of Potou to the regional quarry in Bolting was completed in 2010, providing improved access for construction activities and to the markets of the neighboring town of St. Louis.

Millennium Villages of Mbola (Tanzania)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 6 | Population: 38,740 | Households: 6,470 | Primary schools: 17 | Health centers: 6 | CHWs: 40
School year: Jan - Dec | Crop season: Nov planting - May harvest (maize)

MVP Up Close: School Girl in Mbola

"Before I started school, I used to work in the fields and look after the goats," says Asia Musona, a young girl who lives in the Millennium Villages of Mbola.

"I was told that I had better stay at home. They said I would be foolish to go to school."

With support from the MVP, school is now a more viable option for both girls and boys in Mbola. Classrooms have been renovated, books and desks provided, and latrines installed. The community has also become more receptive to sending girls to school.

Now, Asia attends school every day, and she is seizing the opportunity to work toward her aspirations for the future.



Asia Musona is pursuing her education with a vision of a better future for herself and her community in Mbola (Tanzania).

Visit the Millennium Promise YouTube channel to watch a video about Asia and her experience in school ("A Promise to Educate Tomorrow's Leaders") and more videos from the Millennium Villages Project.

(www.youtube.com/user/MillenniumPromise#g/u)

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Improved Student Performance

The academic performance of Mbola's students on national exams improved compared to the previous year. In 2010, the passage rate was 61% compared to 42% in 2009. This is higher than district performance, which was 31% in 2009 and 52% in 2010. About 95% of the passing students are enrolling in secondary schools in Mbola.

Access to Water Increased

In 2010, the Project completed construction of 20 shallow wells and four new boreholes equipped with AfriPumps. The community participated in the construction of the shallow wells, while borehole drilling was contracted out.

The piped water scheme using pipes donated by JM Eagle is now about 80% complete with most of the infrastructure installed. The water source has just been drilled and enough water found. The pump station (pump house construction and pump

installation) remain to be built before the system can become operational.

Infrastructure and Building Projects Completed

A number of building and road projects were completed in 2010, including the 13-km Ilolangulu-Mbola Road (see Infrastructure & Energy section for before and after photos). Two new health dispensaries were also completed, in Ibiri and Isenga. And the Ilolangulu Health Center continued to be built and improved.

Addressing Challenges: Loan Repayment

A low repayment rate for loans given to farmers for agricultural inputs last year meant that some farmers could not purchase fertilizer and seeds on credit again in 2010. The low repayment rate is attributed to a persistent culture of dependency, and the Project is working with the community and the local government to improve the situation.



Child being weighed at a clinic in Mbola (Tanzania).

Working together, an Agricultural Input Task Force was established in 2010, staffed by both Project team members and district staff, to help sensitize the community on the importance of repaying loans and the link to higher crop yields. This has already led to a doubling of the repayment rate, and the team will continue to work on this issue until the credit system is working effectively.

Millennium Villages of Ruhiira (Uganda)

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Villages: 8 | Population: 51,710 | Households: 10,270 | Primary schools: 21 | Health centers: 6 | CHWs: 48
School year: Feb - Dec | Crop season: Sept planting - Jan harvest (maize)

MVP Up Close:

Healthy Mother & New Twins in Ruhiira

Maternal health is greatly improving in the MVs of Ruhiira through a combination of improvements in antenatal care, the referral system between community health workers (CHWs) and clinics, medical facilities, and midwife assistance during labor.

When Mary N. was going into labor, she was referred to her local Nyakitunda Health Centre by her CHW. The midwives there realized that Mary's twin babies were in breach. The community ambulance quickly shuttled Mary to the larger clinic in Kabuyanda that is equipped with emergency obstetric care equipment. By recognizing the emergency, the midwives were able to get Mary the care she and her babies needed in time for the twins to be delivered safely.

Moreover, being HIV+, Mary had received consistent counseling from the health team on how to prevent transmission to her babies during pregnancy, and



Healthy twins delivered in Ruhiira (Uganda) thanks to improved maternal and child health services.

how to stay healthy and prevent transmission after childbirth. Along with the caesarian delivery, this will ensure that the chances of the twins also being HIV+ are less than 2%.

No amount of technology can equal the value that midwives and good health workers bring to the wellbeing of women throughout a community. They are the driving force behind the hope that has been restored in the institutional healthcare system in the MVs.

2010 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Banana Sales Grow

Through improved techniques, farmers who were once harvesting only 6-10 bunches of bananas per cutting are now yielding 20-30 bunches. The farmers have formed cooperatives to market their harvests collectively and thereby earn higher prices.

In addition, the Project has made improvements to the road network in Ruhiira, making it easier for buyers not only to reach the farmers, but also to arrive in larger trucks. As a result, farmers are selling their increased harvests at higher prices, bringing an exponential increase in income and opening up opportunity to further develop the banana market.

School Meals for All Primary Students

More than 10,000 students and 275 teachers in all 21 primary schools received school meals during the year. Meals in Ruhiira are based on maize meal and beans with vegetables and soybeans from school gardens. Parents contribute 5 kg of beans per term, as well as firewood and pay for the cooks. As a result, enrollment and attendance are up and students are performing better.

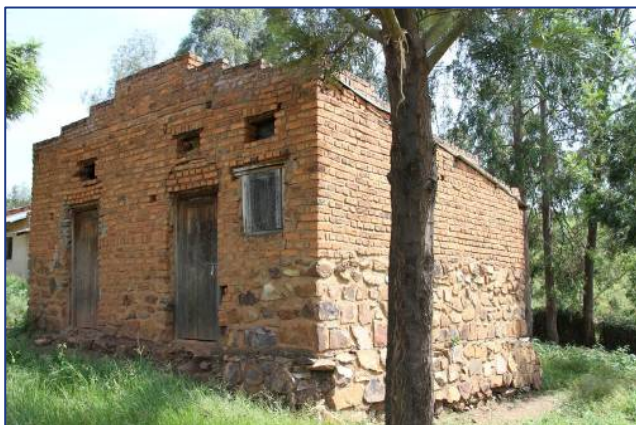
Roads Improved

The Project completed a number of road improvements in 2010 through grading, gravelling, and drainage works. This increased the percentage of people living within a 2-km radius of an all-weather road. Over 50 km was graded and much more improved for easy movement of goods to

markets. Priority was given to improving roads to schools, major water points, and health facilities.

Addressing Challenges: Health Care Capacity

Due to the higher quality of health care at the clinics in the MV, there has been an influx of patients from areas outside the cluster to Ruhiira's clinics. This is a challenge in Ruhiira as well as many other MVs as it stretches resources. The health team in Ruhiira is addressing this challenge by offering training to health workers and village health teams from outside the MV cluster in order to help improve the quality of care outside the cluster. The health team has also proposed to support more widespread screening for TB and to distribute bed nets within a 5-km radius of the cluster to help reduce clinic visits.



A school in Ruhiira (Uganda) before renovation.



New school in Ruhiira.

Regional MDG Centres for West & Central Africa and East & Southern Africa

January 1 – December 31, 2010

The MDG Centres are key partners of the MVP, offering an unparalleled resource of Africa-based expertise and support for achieving the MDGs.

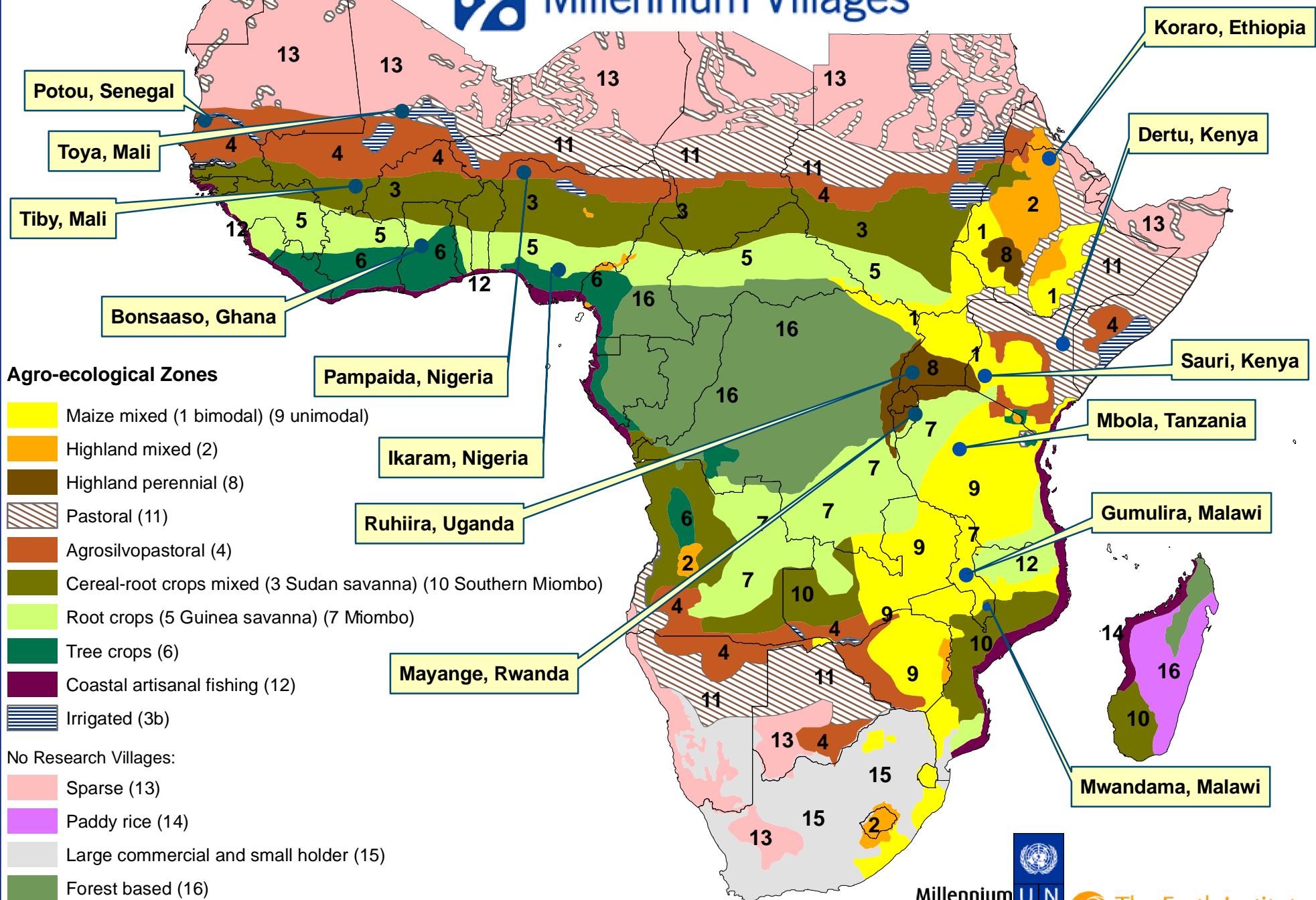
The two MDG Centres – one based in Bamako, Mali, for West and Central Africa, and one based in Nairobi, Kenya, for East and Southern Africa – were established in 2004 to bring together teams of experts specialized in the technical, political, and institutional underpinnings of the MDGs. Staffed by sector specialists and headed by regional directors (Dr. Amadou Niang at MDG West and Dr. Belay Begashaw at MDG East), the MDG Centre teams provide support to the MVP and national MDG-focused development plans.

In addition, the MDG Centres cultivate strategic and technical partnerships, integrate lessons learned

from the MVP and other development projects into policy discussions, and work with governments and NGOs to identify and implement quick-impact initiatives to accelerate achievement of the MDGs.

In 2010, the MDG Centres continued to play a key role in the oversight and scale-up of the MVP in Africa. For example, MDG East signed an agreement with COMESA (the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) to launch the Drylands Initiative for Africa's arid regions of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda. In West Africa, the MDG Centre is providing planning and implementation support to the governments of Ghana, Mali, and Nigeria as these countries work to scale-up the MVP approach. (For more details, see National Scale-up Initiatives section in the main body of this report.)

Millennium Villages



Adapted from Dixon et al. 2001. Farming Systems and Poverty. FAO

Appendix C. Millennium Villages by Type, Funding Source and Implementing Partner

Exhibit C1. List of Millennium Villages implemented in partnership by the Earth Institute, Millennium Promise, and UNDP (as of December 31, 2010)

Country	Site	MV Type	Number of Villages	Source of Funding	Local Implementing Organization	Launch Date
Ethiopia	Koraro	MV-1	1	EI	MDE	Feb. 2005
		MV-2	10	MP	MDE	June 2006
Kenya	Sauri	MV-1	1	EI	ICRAF	Aug. 2004
		MV-2	10	MP	ICRAF	June 2006
	Dertu	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP/ ICRAF/ EI	June 2006
Ghana	Bonsaaso	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP	June 2006
		MV-2	5	MP	UNDP	June 2006
Malawi	Mwandama	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP	June 2006
		MV-2	6	MP	UNDP	June 2006
	Gumulira	MV-2	1	MP	UNDP	Oct. 2006
Mali	Tiby	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP	June 2006
		MV-2	10	MP	UNDP	June 2006
	Toya	MV-2	1	MP	UNDP	Jan. 2008
Nigeria	Ikaram	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP	June 2006
		MV-2	2	MP	UNDP	June 2006
	Pampaida	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP	June 2006
		MV-2	3	MP	UNDP	Jan. 2009
Rwanda	Mayange	MV-1	1	EI	MVP Rwanda (EI)	June 2006
		MV-2	3	MP	UNDP	June 2006
Senegal	Potou	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP	June 2006
		MV-2	5	MP	UNDP	June 2006
Tanzania	Mbola	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP	June 2006
		MV-2	5	MP	UNDP	June 2006
Uganda	Ruhiira	MV-1	1	UNHSTF	UNDP	June 2006
		MV-2	7	MP	UNDP	June 2006
TOTAL			80			

Exhibit C2. List of new Millennium Villages implemented by UNDP

Country	Site Name	MV Type	Number of Villages	Source of Funding	Implementing Organization	Launch Date
Benin	Banikoara	MV-3	3	CEF	UNDP	Q1 2011
Cameroon	Maroua	MV-3	2	CEF	UNDP	Q4 2010
	Meyomessi	MV-3	2	CEF	UNDP	Q4 2010
Liberia	Kokoyah	MV-3	3	Norway	UNDP	Sept. 2008
Madagascar	Sambaina	MV-3	1	Korea	UNDP	June 2008
	TBD	MV-3	TBD	CEF	UNDP	TBD
Mozambique	Chibuto	MV-3	1	UNDP/Portugal	UNDP	Jan. 2007
	Chokwe	MV-3	1	CEF	UNDP	Sept. 2009
	Lumbo	MV-3	1	Portugal	UNDP	Jan. 2007
	Alto Molocue	MV-3	1	CEF	UNDP	Sept. 2009
	Monapo	MV-3	1	CEF	UNDP	Sept. 2009
TOTAL			16 +			

Exhibit C3. List of new Millennium Villages implemented by MP, EI, and a third parties

Country	Site Name	MV Type	Number of Villages	Source of Funding	Implementing Organization	Launch Date
Tanzania (Zanzibar)	Pemba	MV-2/ MV-3	1	KPMG	MP & EI	Jan. 2011

List of acronyms:

- CEF: Community Empowerment Fund, through which the Government of Japan's support for most MV-3s is channeled
- EI: Earth Institute at Columbia University
- ICRAF: World Agroforestry Centre
- MDE: Millennium Development Ethiopia, a locally registered not-for-profit organization
- MP: Millennium Promise
- MV-1: A research Millennium Village, funded through EI or the UNHSTF, where the Earth Institute conducts additional data collection for scientific investigation
- MV-2: A Millennium Village supported by financial resources from Millennium Promise
- MV-3: A new Millennium Village financed outside of Millennium Promise and usually implemented by the UNDP
- MVP Rwanda: Millennium Villages Project Rwanda, a locally registered not-for-profit organization operated by the Earth Institute
- UNHSTF: UN Human Security and Trust Fund, through which the Government of Japan's support for MV-1s is channeled
- UNDP: The United Nations Development Programme



Millennium Villages

Harvests of Development in Rural Africa

The Millennium Villages
After Three Years

THE EARTH INSTITUTE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Millennium
Promise
Extreme Poverty Ends Here

Executive Summary



At the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration, committing nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and address pressing challenges of hunger, gender inequality, illiteracy, and disease. The year 2015 has been affirmed as the deadline for reaching these Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets.

The Millennium Villages Project was piloted in Kenya and Ethiopia in 2005 and then launched at scale in 2006 to reach nearly half a million people across ten countries. The goal is to show how an integrated approach to community-level development can translate the international MDG agreements into ground-level breakthroughs throughout rural sub-Saharan Africa. Villages are located in deeply impoverished rural areas that were considered hunger hotspots—with at least 20% of children malnourished. Sites were selected to reflect a diversity of agro-ecological zones, representing a range of challenges to income, food production, disease ecology, infrastructure, and health system development. The projects are locally led by host communities and governments, which receive support from the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Millennium Promise, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in addition to an array of other key partners.

The Millennium Villages Project is a ten-year initiative spanning two five-year phases. The first phase focuses on achieving quick wins, especially in staple crop production and disease control, and on establishing basic systems for integrated rural development that help communities escape the poverty trap and achieve the MDGs. The Project involves the coordinated community-led delivery of a locally tailored package of scientifically proven interventions for agriculture, education, health, and infrastructure. Over the first five-year phase, interventions are delivered at a modest cost, totaling approximately \$120 per capita per year, of which MVP brings about half to complement funds from the host government, the local community, and other partners. The second five-year phase will focus more intensively on commercializing the gains in agriculture and continuing to improve local service delivery systems in a manner that best supports local scale-up.



Progress to Date

The Millennium Villages are underpinned by a robust monitoring and evaluation platform. Detailed socio-economic and health surveys, including biological and anthropometric measurements, and biophysical data on crop yields, take place at Project initiation and are repeated after three and five years of program exposure. An economic costing study measures the contributions of Project partners to all cluster-level activities. Finally, qualitative process evaluation systematically documents the experience of implementers, Project partners, and beneficiaries.

This report highlights the early results after three years of implementation across five initial Millennium Village sites in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda. Progress toward achieving the MDGs are derived from recently completed mid-term (year three) surveys. All data contained in this report compare baseline values to year-three assessments, among a sample of several hundred households across each cluster. A summary of these findings is presented in this report. A more detailed description of the overall evaluation methodology is provided in the Appendix.

Further scientific results, including comparisons with other villages, will be published later this year, including in peer-reviewed scientific literature. We therefore emphasize the provisional nature of the results presented here, both in the sense that they are after only the third year of a ten-year project, and in that they represent only part of the third-year evaluation underway this year. We are presenting these partial results now in order to foster a better public understanding of the Project and its potential to help reduce extreme poverty, hunger, and disease in rural Africa. We hope that this report contributes to the public discussion in the lead-up to the MDG Summit in September 2010.



Program Impacts

One of the first interventions introduced was the provision of long-lasting insecticidal bednets (LLINs) for every sleeping site. Three years later, there is a seven-fold increase in bednet utilization rates and a 60% reduction in malaria prevalence on average across the sites. Levels of measles immunization, an intervention that can be delivered through coordinated campaigns, have increased to over 80%. In agriculture, input support for improved seeds and fertilizers accompanied by training of farmers in agronomic techniques has resulted in well over a doubling of staple crop yields. This has contributed to a 35% reduction in levels of chronic undernutrition (stunting) among children under two years old (those conceived since the start of the Project). Through partnerships with communities and local farmers, who donate a portion of their crop surplus, 80% of children now receive a school meal—an intervention linked to increased school attendance and better learning outcomes.

Alongside supporting quick wins, the Project initiated parallel efforts to improve access to basic infrastructure and services. In education, classrooms were renovated, schools were electrified, and the supply of learning materials was increased. Levels of gross primary school enrolment were maintained at high levels.

In health, clinics were built or refurbished, and supplied with appropriate levels of staff and equipment including essential drugs, water, and electricity. Free primary health care at the point of service has been the cornerstone of the Project, to remove access barriers for patients. Local hospitals were strengthened to support emergency referrals and obstetric services—a process enhanced by access to emergency transport, road improvements, and critical partnerships to expand mobile phone coverage. Some of these longer term effects are beginning to show—as evidenced by a threefold increase in HIV testing rates and a 30% increase in women giving birth in the presence of skilled birth attendants—an important intervention for reducing the number of maternal deaths.

Finally, through partnerships between the government, local communities, and the Project, major gains have been made in improving access to basic infrastructure—including more than a threefold increase in access to safe water and a sevenfold increase in access to high quality sanitation facilities.

Next Steps

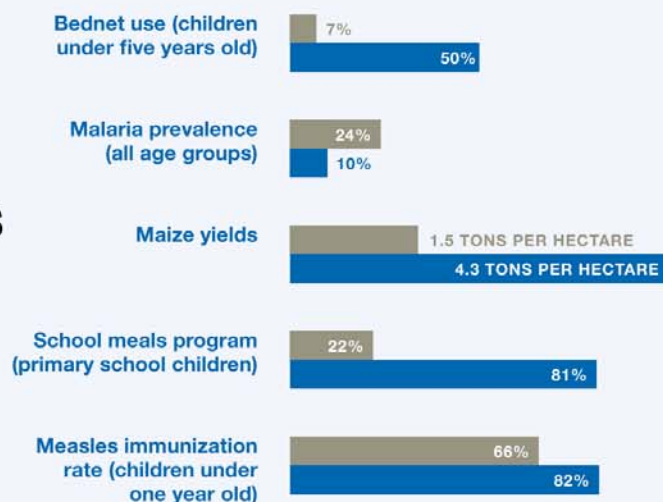
While encouraging evidence of solid progress has been made on a number of fronts, consolidating these gains and ensuring their durability will require effective coordination between Project partners in the final two years of the Project's first phase. In agriculture, this will entail efforts to enhance the diversity of crop production, increase market access, and extend the value chain through agro-processing and business development interventions. In education, efforts to enhance the enrolment of girl learners in some sites, improve school quality, and facilitate the transition to secondary school are a clear priority. In health, with basic infrastructure present in most sites, improving the continuum of care, extending intervention coverage to the household level through a community health worker program and linking all the components into a self-correcting system all remain a critical focus. The application of mobile phone-based technologies to generate real-time information on program performance will greatly enhance these efforts. Finally, ongoing efforts to complete major infrastructure projects while developing locally appropriate strategies for their ongoing maintenance remains a major priority.

The September 2010 UN MDG Summit heralds the final five-year push toward the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs. The experience highlighted in this report suggests that with political support, effective partnerships, and modest financial resources well within the bounds promised to Africa by the donor countries (though not yet delivered), villages across rural Africa can achieve the MDGs and escape the poverty trap. This report provides information on the range of sector strategies employed at these Millennium Village Project sites, as well as a more detailed description of site-specific progress, and barriers and facilitators to implementation. It is our hope that the early and still-provisional lessons drawn from this experience, even after just three years of a ten-year effort, will provide guidance to governments in scaling up their efforts to address extreme poverty in a holistic manner. We believe that the integrated, community-led, rural development approach described here, properly tailored to local conditions, marks a key strategy for ending extreme poverty and achieving the MDGs. ■

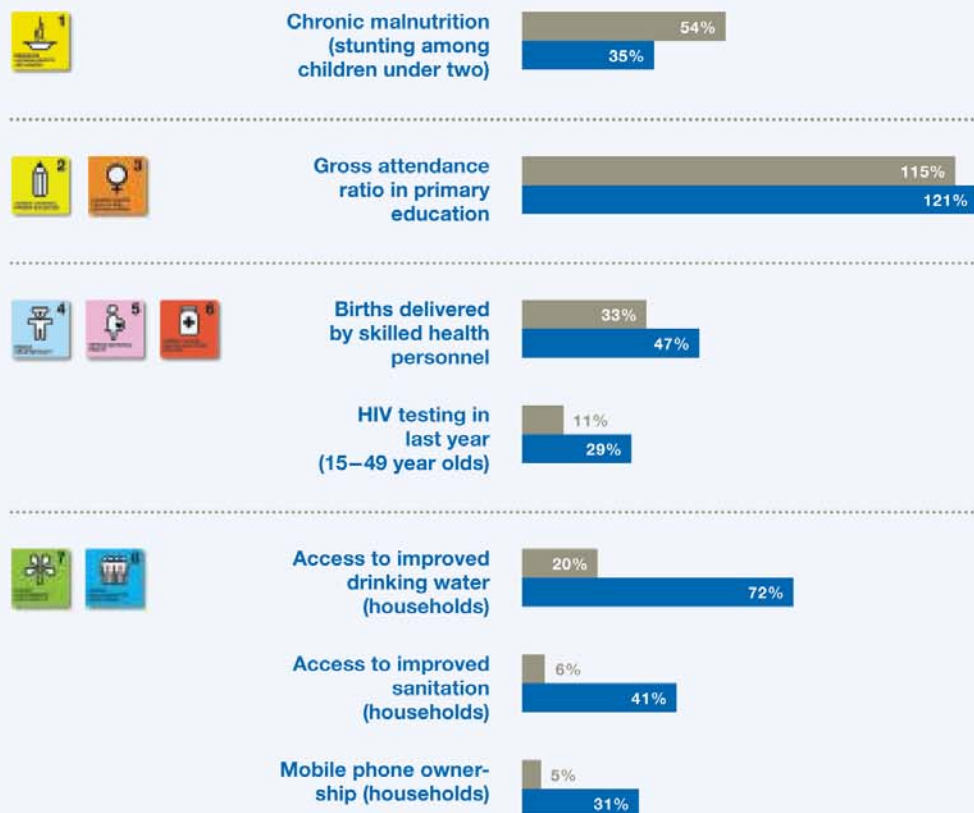


Average MDG Progress Across Five MV Sites

AVERAGE QUICK WIN PROGRESS



AVERAGE PROGRESS ON OTHER KEY MDG INDICATORS



BASELINE
YEAR THREE

Appendix E

May 30, 2010

UN Secretary-General's remarks to the media, Millennium Villages of Mwandama (Malawi)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and also farewell.



As my visit to Malawi comes to a close, I would like to thank President Mutharika and the people of Malawi people for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

I depart with tremendous optimism for the future, in part because of what I have seen here.

This is a crucial time for African development. And this Millennium Village of Mwandama is in many ways a model for how to do it.

Five years ago, one of every three people in this village was not getting enough to eat. Most children did not go to school. Exposure to HIV/AIDS was dangerously high.

Today, I met with many of the people who live here. They told me their stories. I heard what life was like in the past, and how it is today.

The good news is that people's lives are far better. The vast majority of families now have enough food. I saw that for myself at the community Grain Bank. Thanks to new fertilizers and seeds, the area's small farmers produce a surplus of grain.

Mwandama has seen dramatic improvements in health and education. Bed-nets have been distributed to all households. Nearly everyone now has clean drinking water. Significantly more children go to school, including many more girls. Roughly 40 per cent of vulnerable people now get tested for AIDS.

I saw many people using cell phones and even solar-powered lights.

The key to these successes is strong leadership and good policy – specifically, well-integrated investments in education, health, agriculture and technology.

These programmes are all pragmatic, results-oriented and scaled to the real needs of real people. And this is only the beginning.

I congratulate the leadership of the village and the whole community – especially the women of Mwandama – for their hard work and their commitment to a better life for their children and for generations to come.

Today, I call on every country to look closely at this success. It is case study in what is possible, even in the poorest places in the world.

The message I want you to take away is this: we should support these ambitious strategies for meeting the MDGs. They work.

They offer real-world, real-people evidence that we can achieve the Millennium Goals – on schedule and with the resources world leaders have already committed to.

All we have to do is try.

Thank you.

May 29, 2010

**UN Secretary-General's address to the Parliament of the Republic of Malawi
Lilongwe, Malawi**

Rt. Honourable Joyce Banda, Vice President of Malawi, Rt. Honourable Chimunthu Banda, Speaker of Parliament, Honourable Goodall Gondwe, Leader of the House.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

Ndafika! [I have come!]

Thank you for your warm welcome. And thank you for the honour of being the first guest to speak in this magnificent new parliament, which was opened just a few days ago. I would like to congratulate you most sincerely for this most magnificent parliament building. This is a fitting monument to modern democracy, representing the will of the people. This roof over us will make a great contribution to fuller democracy and the government of this great country that is Malawi. The United Nations consists of 192 Member States. Now I understand that you have 193 members - that is one more than us.

It speaks of a nation on the move, looking to the future. You will achieve great things here, we can be sure.

And I am pleased to see so many women parliamentarians in the audience.

It is often said that women are the backbone of any society. As you know, the backbone starts at the head, Madame President.

You can be proud of all you have accomplished since the last elections. Nearly twice as many women as before.

Will it double again, next time Malawi votes?

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am excited to be in Malawi to see first-hand what everyone in the development community has been talking about for so long now.

In a few short years Malawi has gone from famine to feast, from food deficit to surplus, from importer to exporter.

Some may call this a miracle. But there is nothing miraculous about it.

What we see in Malawi - and what we are beginning to see elsewhere in Africa - is the result of one simple truth:

That is, where we try, we succeed. When we don't try, we fail.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is the message I will take to the G-20 summit in Canada, together with President Mutharika, and state it in harmony.

I will deliver the same message to the MDG summit in September in New York.

It is a message of success.

We can achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We know what to do. We know how to do it. We can succeed.

As I see it, success is a matter, first of all, of commitment.

The Millennium Development Goals are above all a commitment, a promise made by world leaders to the world's most vulnerable people.

We do not need new pledges. Developed countries have only to deliver what they have promised in Gleneagles, at summit meetings of the G-8 and G-20 and at the United Nations.

There are far too many promises, too often not fully delivered.

The money involved is modest.

Official development assistance currently stands around \$120 billion a year.

Fulfilling the 0.7 per cent Official Development Assistance target would take approximately \$350 billion a year.

If pledges already made are fulfilled, the money is there. It just needs to be better used.

In addition to more funding, there must also be more room for free trade.

It is time to reach a deal in the current round of trade talks.

The World Trade Organisation has promised more equitable trade - yet another promise, yet another commitment to the world's poor.

Africa must be able to export its way to prosperity.

Africa's products should not be priced out of markets by heavy import taxes.

African farmers should be able to fairly compete, without running up against unfair agricultural subsidies in the developed world.

This is my second element for success: we need to unleash Africa's own potential.

At the African Union summit in Addis Ababa last January, President Mutharika had this to say:

"Africa is not a poor continent", he said, "but the people of Africa are poor".

Too many people, particularly people who do not live here, see Africa as a continent of famine, poverty and strife.

This simplistic picture overlooks important developments. In fact, Africa can and will surprise us.

I know, just as you know, that Africa is rich - rich in resources, rich in human potential.

Malawi is showing just how powerful a force that is.

Malawi is keeping the promise. It is showing the world that the Millennium Goals are within reach.

Your programme to boost small farmers is one example.

You have made great strides in reducing child mortality.

So have Ethiopia, Mozambique, Niger and many other countries in the African continent.

Across Africa, progress is being made against disease - malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS.

I am particularly grateful for Malawi's commitment to the fight against AIDS and for the replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Global Fund supports over 70 per cent of the 250.000 patients who started antiretroviral drugs in Malawi.

And on malaria, through the work of my Special Envoy and the partners in the Roll Back Malaria partnership, we are now on track to achieve universal coverage throughout sub-Saharan Africa by the end of this year - and zero deaths from malaria by 2015.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I sometimes say that this is Africa's moment.

Africa is poised to capitalize on its potential, its amazing human and material wealth.

One billion people, half of whom are under the age of 25, 90 per cent of the world's cobalt, 64 per cent of the world's manganese, 50 per cent of the world's gold, 40 per cent of the world's hydroelectric potential.

Africa's people need neither pity nor charity.

They need only the tools to create jobs and generate incomes.

A level playing field when it comes to global trade - plus targeted development assistance - will go a long way towards bringing a new dawn to the continent.

This brings me to my third element for success: we need to do development differently.

We should view the MDGs as a comprehensive fight against poverty, hunger and disease.

We need to address all the Goals in a coordinated manner, not make the mistake of trying to pick and choose.

We should focus on empowering countries to scale up investments in agriculture, education, health and infrastructure.

At September's MDG Summit, I will request governments to come up with a practical and results-oriented action plan, with concrete steps and timelines.

Africa needs true partnership, a partnership where donors listen to recipients and tailor their assistance to Africa's needs.

All our goals can be achieved using existing tools and technologies.

For example, most of the world's poor are small farmers and their families.

By targeting them, we can dramatically reduce extreme poverty and food insecurity, as well as create work for the continent's young people.

Since last year's G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, there is new political and financial commitment for agriculture and food security.

We need similar commitment for a global Joint Action Plan on women's and children's health. This is an absolutely essential investment. Women and children's health is a keystone for any stable and productive society.

We need to look beyond simply controlling epidemic diseases and focus on fully functional and accessible health systems.

Maternal health is the Millennium Development Goal where we have lagged furthest behind. Yet if we can succeed here, we will touch off a virtuous ripple effect through all the Goals.

Recent indicators show some progress. Now is the time to consolidate our efforts. Now is the time to step up the momentum - to push, and push hard and harder.

We need to combine the efforts of donors and recipients with private sector and civil society initiatives.

By creating these new partnerships, there is no reason why we cannot achieve the same success on maternal and child health - or on HIV-AIDS - as we are seeing with malaria. Our efforts on each will reinforce each other.

I am grateful the G-8 Summit has placed this issue front and centre on its agenda, in support of our ongoing global efforts.

The G-8 must also support green growth, so that Africa can leap-frog from an era of energy poverty to energy abundance.

We know that climate change is a threat to development, a threat to stability and a particular threat to Africa.

Africa needs help in reducing its vulnerability.

Last year's Copenhagen climate conference marked a significant step forward in a number of areas: a goal of limiting global temperature rise to within 2°C by 2050, mitigation actions by all countries, progress on addressing deforestation and forest degradation and funding for developing countries for adaptation and mitigation.

My High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing is working to mobilize new and innovative public and private funding to reach our annual \$100 billion target by 2020.

This funding will support mitigation and adaptation strategies in developing countries.

It will help countries like Malawi to reach the Millennium Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have spoken about the developed world's responsibilities in keeping the promise.

Africa, too, has a promise to keep.

This is my fourth element for success.

In January, President Mutharika pledged the African Union's commitment to peace and security, democracy and good governance.

I cannot emphasize this enough.

Sustainable development can only be built on the firm bedrock of good governance.

Over recent years, Africa has moved steadily from a principle of “non-interference” in one another's affairs toward a new and more modern principle of “non-indifference”.

We cannot allow the will of the people to be thwarted by electoral fraud.

We cannot accept unconstitutional changes of government.

We cannot countenance manipulations of the law to preserve the privileges of those in power.

In any democracy, power ultimately resides with the people.

That means we cannot turn a blind eye to corruption, nepotism and tyranny.

Nor can we stay quiet when people are denied fundamental rights - whatever their race or faith or age or gender or sexual orientation.

It is unfortunate that laws that criminalize people on the basis of their sexual orientation exist in some countries. They should be reformed.

In this regard, I am delighted to learn that President Bingu Wa Mutharika has just decided to pardon the two young men convicted and sentenced to 14 years of prison. This was a very courageous decision by President Mutharika. I highly applaud the President's leadership.

Distinguished members of the Parliament, I am confident that you will take appropriate steps to update laws discriminating based on sexual orientation in line with international standards.

For make no mistake: your achievements are an inspiration.

That is why I am here.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Tomorrow, I will visit the Millennium Village at Mwandama with Professor Jeffrey Sachs, my Special Adviser on the Millennium Development Goals.

I will meet teachers and schoolchildren. I will learn about school feeding programmes and Malawi's outreach and training programme for primary care.

I will see how Mwandama's farmers have diversified production and increased crop yields by more than four times.

I will see how new roads, improved water supplies and higher rates of school enrolment are invigorating society - not just in Mwandama, but in many other parts of the country.

I will take these lessons away with me - to Canada and to New York - United Nations - in September.

There are so many examples of how we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Millennium Villages throughout Africa are showcasing the impact of smart, targeted development policy.

We are seeing how effective an integrated strategy for health care, education, agriculture and small business can be.

We are seeing how to make the most of new technologies.

And we are seeing how empowering women can empower whole societies.

The bottom-line is clear: we can do this.

You are helping show the way.

What do we need to succeed? The right policies. Delivery on promises. Adequate investment and international support. And above all, leadership - leadership by you and leadership by the President.

Yes, the challenges are immense. But they can and will be overcome.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me today. It is an extraordinary honour.

It has been a pleasure to be here with you today and an important part of my visit to Malawi.

Please be assured: I am looking forward to telling the world the news from Malawi.

If other countries do all that you are doing, we can - and we will - achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you very much.

A New Spirit of Partnership for the Millennium Development Goals

John W McArthur
Chief Executive Officer
Millennium Promise Alliance

July 27, 2010

House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the honor of inviting me to testify today, and for your leadership in convening this important hearing on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at a critical juncture in their history. The MDGs were established by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. As a series of specific, quantified, and time-bound targets to address the integrated challenges of hunger, education, health, infrastructure, environmental management and gender equality, the Goals have galvanized a global effort of unprecedented, if still imperfect, coherence to the challenges of the one fifth of humanity still living under the most extreme conditions of poverty, generally measured as less than a dollar per day.

On September 20-22, the last major check point MDG summit will convene world leaders to agree on the actions required to achieve the Goals by the agreed deadline of 2015. Global ambitions for the summit were set last year, when President Obama asserted in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly that, “[The United States] will support the Millennium Development Goals, and approach next year's summit with a global plan to make them a reality. And we will set our sights on the eradication of extreme poverty in our time.”

The MDGs are the world's goals. Their emphasis on outcomes has prompted a global effort to address issues of scale, metrics, finance, and joint accountability between developed and developing countries. Since they were established 10 years ago, the developing world has seen many remarkable breakthroughs. The number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by at least 200 million people, thanks mainly to Asia's transformational economic growth. Global improvements in child survival have accelerated, and more than 5 million developing country AIDS patients are now on proper treatment, that number having increased more than 1 million people in 2009 alone.

Sub-Saharan Africa (hereafter “Africa”) remains the region that endures the greatest burden of extreme poverty and the most gradual long-term progress towards the MDGs, although the past decade has seen many great successes across the continent. Average economic growth has been its most robust in decades. Primary school enrollment has jumped by more than 40 million children since 1999. Measles deaths have declined more than 90 percent. Malaria has seen decisive breakthroughs in the past five years alone.

There are important country-level successes too. Malawi, for example, began a national program five years ago to help its farmers obtain fertilizer and seeds. This doubled the country's food production, kick-started economic growth, and helped re-energize the international community's attention to agriculture. President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and USAID Administrator Shah have each played key roles in advancing the global agricultural agenda over the past 18 months. Continued progress in smallholder agriculture will yield a crucial double dividend for both hunger and economic growth.

The challenge today is to accelerate progress in the poorest countries where the MDGs are not on track. In general, the starkest MDG gaps are in the areas of agricultural productivity, maternal health, water, and economic infrastructure. I would be pleased to share more details with the Committee regarding MDG successes and gaps, but for now let me stress these as the areas where an especially concerted push is needed.

The United States and the MDGs

The MDGs should be, but have not been, a strategic priority for the United States. The President's recent national security strategy placed a strong emphasis on development in the poorest countries. Part of this is grounded in an understanding that human suffering in any part of the world can ultimately present a strong risk to American interests, as the poorest countries face the greatest risk of violent conflict and instability. Part is anchored in an ambition simply to promote American values. Part is based on the knowledge that there is much greater risk of instability in predominantly rain-fed agricultural African economies that are enduring significant climate stress. The concentration of global population growth in low-income countries with high child mortality and increasing environmental scarcity only amplifies the need to invest in MDG-consistent development strategies in all parts of the world.

In the United States, however, the MDGs have had a complicated history. In 2002, the spirit of the Goals was incorporated into the establishment and naming of the Millennium Challenge Account, and in turn the Millennium Challenge Corporation, although that institution has not in practice focused on the Millennium Development Goals. The wording disconnect has caused confusion in much of Washington, since "Millennium" tends to be associated with the growing pains of a new institution rather than the internationally agreed targets that have been driving the global anti-poverty agenda throughout the rest of the world.

Nonetheless, in 2002 President Bush joined world leaders in Monterrey Mexico and committed the United States and other developed countries to "make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 percent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA [official development assistance] to developing countries." Fortunately the MDGs are feasible within this commitment, since the financing requirements are modest – approximately one half of one percent of the rich countries' collective national incomes.

U.S. foreign assistance continues to rank among the very lowest of advanced economies, at 0.2 percent of national income. This is a point of frequent confusion to the American public, since America is also the largest aid giver. Private giving has been increasing, including the transformational investments of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, but in relation to its income the U.S. still gives less foreign aid than most other countries because it is the world's largest economy.

Few people outside of Washington are aware that, as a share of national income, U.S. foreign assistance actually hit its all-time low in 1997. Under the Bush Administration, the U.S. made an important change in direction, led by targeted programs that focused on HIV/AIDS and malaria, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. Congress' bipartisan commitment to global health is to be applauded. It has had a significant multiplier effect in leveraging additional commitments from around the world.

The Obama Administration has continued its predecessor's support for global health, although there are concerns that support in this area is flat-lining much too prematurely. As mentioned, the Obama Administration has also played a pivotal role in advancing the global agriculture agenda. A successfully scaled launch of the Feed the Future initiative will be crucial to tackling extreme poverty and achieving the MDGs in the poorest countries.

The United States foreign assistance program can be compared, for example, to that of the United Kingdom. In the U.K., there is an all-party commitment to the MDGs and to reaching the 0.7 percent aid target by 2013. Prime Minister Cameron's recent budget asserted that it will protect its commitment to international development and health, while implementing major cuts throughout the rest of government. The Conservatives have made clear that they will not burden solutions to the U.K.'s fiscal crisis on the backs of the world's poorest people.

It is also worth noting how the United States foreign assistance budgets compare to other contemporary aggregate figures. In 2009, for example, Wall Street bonuses were at least \$20 billion. In the same year, total US aid flows to Sub-Saharan Africa were \$7.5 billion. Whatever one thinks about the merits of these bonuses, the numbers underscore a deep truth of how the U.S. economy allocates resources.

Millennium Promise and the Millennium Villages

Many eminent business and non-governmental leaders throughout the United States have expressed strong and growing interest in the supporting the MDGs. It was against this backdrop that Millennium Promise was launched in 2005 as the first U.S.-based organization explicitly committed to supporting the achievement of the Goals. The co-founders were Mr. Raymond Chambers, the path breaking business leader, and Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, the eminent economist. The founding leadership group of board members ranged from Mr. Donald Keough, former CEO of Coca-Cola, to Mr. Quincy Jones, the American music legend. Today I have the privilege of serving the organization as CEO.

Millennium Promise's flagship initiative is the Millennium Villages project, implemented jointly with the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the United Nations Development Program. The project works with approximately half a million people living in rural communities across 10 countries in Africa to implement an integrated approach of low-cost, high-impact interventions such as fertilizer, modern seeds, anti-malaria bed nets, school meals, pit latrines and basic water points.

Importantly, the Millennium Villages are grounded in a joint venture strategy whereby programs are implemented through direct collaboration between local communities, local organizations, local African governments, and international partners. All the staff on the ground in Africa are Africans. To their great credit, these talented professionals have done a magnificent job in demonstrating the remarkable progress that can be made across a variety of challenging rural environments when modest resources are linked to an integrated package of targeted interventions.

By focusing holistically on communities' integrated priorities in agriculture, education, health, gender equality, infrastructure, and business development, the project has achieved breakthrough results. Our recent report, *Harvests of Development in Rural Africa*, presents the following metrics from five program sites after only three years:

- A tripling of maize yields, which typically means a leap from not growing enough food to feed a family to growing enough to enable selling, saving and investing;
- More than a 50 percent reduction in malaria prevalence;
- A three fold increase in access to improved drinking water, from 20 percent to 72 percent; and
- A remarkable one-third reduction in chronic child malnutrition.

Partnerships are critical to the success of the Millennium Villages, and since the project's launch four years ago its network of partners has grown dramatically. The Governments of Japan and Korea have both been instrumental partners. A majority of the innovation-focused effort has been backed by private philanthropists aiming to support a new results-based approach to integrated rural development, most notably the pioneering philanthropist Mr. George Soros.

Many corporate partners have also joined to contribute their technologies and expertise. Ericsson, for example, is helping to introduce "3G" wireless data connectivity into all the Millennium Village sites. Sumitomo Chemical has piloted mass distribution of its long-lasting insecticide-treated nets. General Electric has made key contributions for surgical equipment and Novartis has made major contributions of both anti-malaria medicine and direct program support. Agrium and Mosaic, the agricultural companies, have made major contributions of fertilizer. Tommy Hilfiger Corporation directly supports a community in Uganda while the musician John Legend supports one in Tanzania. Each of these companies, and many others, has identified a way not just to contribute their own comparative advantage to the MDGs, but to *leverage* their contribution by ensuring it is implemented as part of an integrated multi-sector strategy.

The results of the Millennium Villages have inspired important efforts at scale-up. In Mali, for example, the government has put forward a strategy to expand a Millennium Village-inspired model to 166 of the most food insecure parts of the country. Impressively, the Government of Nigeria has set aside the resources freed up by international debt relief to launch a program that will support expansion of integrated local government programs for health, education and agriculture to 20 million people across the country.

MDG Partnerships

As with the Millennium Villages, the MDGs have inspired a broad and results-oriented approach to public-private partnerships in the fight against extreme poverty. Malaria No More is one of the more notable recent such efforts. The alliance-focused organization was incubated by Millennium Promise and is now chaired by Peter Chernin, former President of News Corporation, who, along with Ray Chambers, has provided magnificent leadership in working with media leaders, celebrities, government leaders, private foundations like the U.N. Foundation, and other non-governmental organizations to support the extraordinary breakthrough in malaria control in Africa.

As another important example, the World Economic Forum's community of Young Global Leaders took inspiration from President Obama's September 2009 U.N. speech to launch a "People's Plan of Action for the MDGs" earlier this year. The simple idea is that every person and organization has an ability and responsibility to make a measurable, action-oriented pledge to support the achievement of the MDGs. More than 65 million people in the developing world will be reached thanks to the first five dozen pledges that this community has made. They include Johann Koss, the Olympic legend and founder and CEO of Right to Play; Zainab Salbi, the founder and CEO of Women for Women International; Sheryl Sandberg, the Chief Operating Officer of Facebook; and also the prize-winning economists Esther Duflo and Kristen Forbes of MIT and Michael Kremer of Harvard. There is a broad public hunger to act, even where governments are lagging.

Recommendations for an MDG Action Plan

Less than two months remain until the MDG Summit in September. Following President Obama's speech last year, the world has been anxiously waiting for the United States to present its draft action plan. Unfortunately, despite the Administration's talent and commitment on these issues, it has not yet presented a substantive proposal to set the stage for the MDG Summit. The Administration has very recently presented a 2-page outline of its draft strategy, but this is only a loose statement of general directions. It does not identify any delivery targets, policy vehicles, financing mechanisms and amounts, partnership strategies, nor accountability structures between developed and developing countries. If the United States is to provide leadership for the MDGs, it is imperative that the Government presents a draft action plan in matter of days, not weeks.

In cases where MDG breakthroughs have take place over the past decade, at least five common success factors can be identified. (1) Policies have focused on implementation

of known technologies; (2) Programs have hinged on developing country-driven national implementation strategies; (3) National strategies have been evaluated through independent technical review and support; (4) Programs have been driven by a clear emphasis on performance metrics; and (5) Adequate public finance has been available.

The following are recommendations for the Administration and Congress to consider in crafting the U.S. Action Plan, which will be pivotal to this September's outcomes and in turn to the fate of the MDGs:

- Fully fund the Feed the Future strategy, in particular through the new multilateral Global Agriculture and Food Security Program.
- Support a new Global Fund for Education, as proposed by President Obama and Secretary Clinton, and include secondary education in its mandate, with special focus on the needs of girls.
- Continue to scale up the U.S. global health leadership by focusing on the problems that still need to be solved rather than pausing based on the achievements of the past decade. This has two parts:

First, commit full financing for the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief and the President's Malaria Initiative; and increase the US annual contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria from \$1 billion to \$2 billion, recognizing that \$1 dollar from the U.S. leverages \$2 dollars from other advanced economies.

Second, endorse the U.N. Secretary-General's proposed Joint Action Plan for child, maternal and newborn health, and launch a new multilateral effort on maternal and child health anchored in the Global Fund, with initial U.S. financing of \$2 billion per year that again leverages the 1-to-2 ratio.

- Support a major scale-up of African economic infrastructure, as recommended by the MDG Africa Steering Group, with U.S. funding of at least \$5 billion per year, including allocations through the World Bank's International Development Association and African Development Bank's African Development Fund.
- Work with African countries to support holistic rural development scale-up strategies like the Millennium Villages.
- Launch a new MDG Innovation Fund to scale-up successful programs that present new delivery mechanisms for MDG achievement in low-income countries.
- Set a 12-month timetable for the proposal and adoption of a proper international mechanism to achieve the water and sanitation MDG targets.

Third Annual Millennium Promise Partners' Meeting Summary Note

Celebrating innovation and a spirit of partnership, Millennium Promise convened nearly 200 partners and supporters to hear about new commitments and efforts supporting continued progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Presentations included highlights of success in Millennium Promise's flagship initiative, the Millennium Villages Project (MVP), which is demonstrating to the world that the MDGs are practical and achievable. The meeting, which took place September 21, 2010, at the Time Warner Center in New York City, also marked the fifth anniversary of Millennium Promise, and highlighted priorities for the next five years.



*Youssou NDour opening the
2010 Partners' Meeting.
(All photos by Harry Zernike)*

Session I: The Promise We Made

The opening session showcased Millennium Promise's history and mandate to accelerate achievement of the MDGs, and was set against the backdrop of the MDG Summit taking place at the United Nations. **Mr. Youssou NDour**, the iconic Senegalese musician, philanthropist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, opened the session, speaking of how efforts like the distribution of bednets are transforming communities by helping to wipe out malaria. He also spoke of the value of African leadership, a point which underscores Millennium Promise's priority of local community leadership, saying: "It is very important that African leaders and African intellectuals listen to what is happening and make decisions for their own continent themselves."

Next, the heads of the two MDG Centres joined Mr. NDour on the dais to share their experiences working with the MVP.

Dr. Belay Begashaw, regional leader in East & Southern Africa and former Minister of Agriculture for Ethiopia, said that in his many decades working in rural development "I would say I have never seen [such a] strong, persuasive and extremely powerful program as the one we are now pursuing at the village level." He said that while in the past there have been other efforts labeled as "integrated development programs," the MVP is different. "[T]his integrated development program [is] trying to tackle the poverty trap and trying to crack poverty from different angles in a very voracious manner, and doing everything simultaneously, [which] is the great part of this program."

"I have never seen
[such a] strong,
persuasive and
extremely powerful
program as the one
we are now pursuing
at the village level."

*- Belay Begashaw,
MDG Centre East*

Dr. Amadou Niang, regional leader in West & Central Africa, affirmed that "the Millennium Villages have demonstrated that development can be achieved rapidly, massively and quickly. What

we did in four years is transform the [living] condition of people, and you can see it, you can feel it... We have only to put the people and local government in the driver's seat as the engine of change." He concluded, "We need to support the MVs because they are working for the poor."

Dr. John W. McArthur, CEO and Executive Director of Millennium Promise, conferred on Mr. NDour the title of **Millennium Promise MDG Global Leader** in recognition of the outstanding work he is doing on behalf of the MDGs. Mr. NDour joins Mr. Tommy Hilfiger and Mr. Renzo Rosso, founder the Diesel brand, in this distinction.

Dr. McArthur then spoke briefly about Millennium Promise's fifth anniversary, looking at how far the organization has come, and where it is going. He described the founding principles for Millennium Promise as an organization capable of providing a new approach to achieving the MDGs:

"This isn't just about governments... We need ways for people, for businesses, for communities and for scientists to connect to achieve these Goals, and we need much more leadership by example. We need ways to translate [governments'] big-picture promises and turn them into real results that can help the world understand how the Goals can be achieved in the places they need to be achieved the most."

He continued by highlighting the dramatic progress Millennium Promise and the Millennium Villages Project have made toward meeting the MDGs, including supporting commitments to smallholder agriculture by G-20 countries, as well as putting rapid diagnostic tests in the hands of community health workers enabling them to diagnose and treat malaria patients in their homes. Accomplishments like these, he said, would have been unheard of five years ago.

"What starts as crazy becomes normal so quickly, and that's what I see we're learning from the Millennium Villages," said Dr. McArthur. "What feels hard today? What people are telling me is crazy today is what we are going to look back on in 2015 and say, 'Well of course we do that!' That's how I'm thinking of the next five years."



*Amadou Niang,
MDG Centre West*

"What feels hard today? What people are telling me is crazy today is what we are going to look back on in 2015 and say, 'Well of course we do that!' That's how I'm thinking of the next five years."

*- John W. McArthur,
Millennium Promise*

Dr. McArthur outlined two key priorities for Millennium Promise leading up to 2015:

- 1) To support the leadership in countries like Ghana, Malawi, Mali and Nigeria that are designing and implementing plans to scale up the lessons of the MVP to achieve the MDGs at the national level.
- 2) To sustain the gains made in the Millennium Villages toward achieving the MDGs and expand opportunities for business development through local commercial credit support.

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, President and co-founder of Millennium Promise and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, was introduced by Dr. McArthur, who described Prof. Sachs as "not just a ballast to the international system, but a source of pragmatic inspiration for how this can all move forward."

Dr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS, was introduced by Prof. Sachs. Dr. Sidibé participated in the Partners' Meeting one year earlier, when the partnership among UNAIDS, Millennium Promise and the Earth Institute at Columbia University was announced. The objective of this partnership is to create mother-to-child HIV transmission-free zones in the Millennium Villages, in support of MDGs 4, 5 and 6. He spoke of his recent experience visiting the Millennium Villages of Sauri (Kenya) and Pampaida (Nigeria). Dr. Sidibé said, "What I saw there wasn't just amazing. What I saw... is a revolution in practice because it is democratizing problem-solving," and he went on to cite how mobile phone technology, for example, is assisting community health workers in registering and diagnosing children. He also highlighted the integrated nature of the MVP. "Not just thinking about integration as an abstract term, but integration as part of their life. And that was part of the beauty of what I saw." Dr. Sidibé concluded by emphasizing the importance of forging links between different levels of government, thereby "changing completely the framework [of] thinking by bringing a new architecture" in order to "ensure that innovation will be made available to the poor people in their respective settings."

"What I saw [in the Millennium Villages]... is a revolution in practice because it is democratizing problem-solving."

- Michel Sidibé,
UNAIDS

Prof. Sachs then returned to the podium and highlighted the work of two key partners, Sumitomo Chemical, which provides long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets in support of malaria control, and the Novartis Foundation, which provides the anti-malaria medicine Coartem to the Millennium Villages, addressing MDGs 4 and 6. Prof. Sachs described how these two innovations together "are



Jeffrey D. Sachs

the one-two punch that is bringing malaria decisively under control in large parts of Africa right now." Referring to the bednets and the Coartem, he continued to say that it is amazing "to have a tool that's so good you think you're dreaming, and then to have it produced at scale and have it available at scale, and that combination takes the technology, it takes the business sense and it takes the moral sense."

Prof. Sachs concluded, "In my view, investing in the MDGs... is not only vital to help save lives, it's not only vital to insure that children have a chance for their futures, but it's also vital for peace on the planet and... for human well-being, so I want to thank all of you as partners in this effort."

Session II: Partners as Part of the Promise – New Partnership Announcements

A continuing feature of the Millennium Promise Partners' Meeting is the opportunity to showcase the new commitments to achieving the MDGs among a diverse cross-section of partners.

Mr. Jeffrey Walker, Chairman of the Millennium Promise Board of Directors, introduced some of Millennium Promise's many key partners.

Mr. Hans Vestberg, President and CEO of Ericsson, spoke of his company's partnership with Millennium Promise in the MVP and also the launch of the new secondary education initiative, Connect To Learn, in collaboration with the Earth Institute and Millennium Promise, going above and beyond MDG 2 to achieve universal primary education. He spoke of the need for equal access to education noting that access to a quality education should not be dependent upon "where you're

born or where you live.” Mr. Vestberg concluded, “I’m a proud partner of Millennium Promise, and I think that we all should continue to [press forward] on this [initiative]... The challenges are big... but we also have great possibility to use mobile technology to actually reach out and evaporate some of those challenges.”

Mr. Hiromasa Yonekura, Chairman of Sumitomo Chemical, shared how Sumitomo Chemical developed the Olyset® long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito net, and how these nets have made a positive impact on the lives of residents of the Millennium Villages by reducing malaria prevalence. He cited statistics including how malaria costs Africa more than \$12 billion in lost GDP each year, and noted that “better health allows parents to work their way out of poverty, children to attend school and communities to direct more resources to spurring economic development.”

“With only five years remaining until the 2015 MDG deadline, now is the time to step up our efforts and accelerate the pace of change.”

- Hiromasa Yonekura,
Sumitomo Chemical

Mr. Yonekura announced a new commitment to Millennium Promise of 400,000 nets—valued at more than \$2 million—to be distributed in 2010-2011 to every Millennium Village, intended to cover every sleeping site. This commitment follows the company’s original gift of 330,000 bed nets in 2006. “With only five years remaining until the 2015 MDG deadline,” said Mr. Yonekura, “now is the time to step up our efforts and accelerate the pace of change... [We] are honored to continue to be part of the global effort to achieve the MDGs. Let us work together to make a world of difference.”

Mr. Mike Wilson, President and CEO of Agrium Inc., appeared next via video. He spoke of his company’s work to supply fertilizer to the farmers of the Millennium Villages, commenting, “[It is] an exciting program for us. It’s more than just writing a check.” He continued,

We partner with Millennium Promise and through that we work with farmers in needy parts of the world to ensure that they get higher efficiencies, higher yields. As a result of that, they have a good harvest, and of that good harvest they make money, they make good profits. This allows them to both educate and provide good health for their families.

Mr. Wilson then announced that Agrium is doubling its commitment in 2011 to \$1 million, including more than 1,400 metric tons of urea fertilizer and shipment from the company’s plant to five Millennium Village sites. Agrium’s previous donation reached 5,000 farmers last year, and this year the company hopes to reach 25,000, directly addressing MDG 1 to reduce hunger.

Mr. Walker highlighted additional important partners, including the following:

- The Government of Japan for its support of the Millennium Villages during the first five years
- Ms. Rieko Suzuki Kitaoka for her leadership of Millennium Promise Japan
- Table for Two, a nonprofit organization based in Japan that is contributing to the school meals program in the Millennium Villages of Koraro (Ethiopia), Mayange (Rwanda), Mwandama (Malawi) and Ruhiira (Uganda)
- The Only the Brave Foundation, which has made a \$2 million commitment to support a village in Mali, and founder Renzo Rosso
- The Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation, which is supporting a Millennium Village in Uganda
- Time Warner, which is supporting education in Malawi, and for generously providing the space for the Partners’ Meeting

- The Schaden Family Fund, which supports Millennium Villages in Sauri (Kenya) and Tiby (Mali), as well as supporting Millennium Promise's Marketing & Communications programs
- Armajaro, a London-based commodities company, and Millennium Promise UK Board member Anthony Ward, who are promoting business development efforts in Ghana
- The Novartis Foundation and Klaus Leisinger, for significant support of a telemedicine project to be launched in the Millennium Villages in Bonsaaso (Ghana)
- Nestlé, which is supporting food and nutrition systems in the Millennium Villages

Mr. Walker also mentioned Millennium Promise's presence in social media networks and a new website called **mdgpledges.org**, a collaborative effort among Millennium Promise, the United Nations Foundation and Right to Play. The initiative was originally launched by the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders and is now expanding to capture public MDG pledges by individuals and organizations around the world.

Dr. McArthur also announced a new partnership between the **UN Population Fund (UNFPA)** and the Millennium Villages Project. The partnership will address the challenge of sexual and reproductive health and expand voluntary access to reproductive health services across all Millennium Villages.

Session III: Partners as Part of the Promise – Key Role of MVP Partnerships *en Route* to the MDG 2015 Deadline

Dr. McArthur then introduced the next panel discussion on the value of partnerships for success toward achieving the MDGs.

Ms. Josette Sheeran, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), spoke first, discussing the important partnership between WFP and the Millennium Villages to cut hunger and malnutrition in the Millennium Villages, addressing MDG 1. She remarked, "[T]he future of all our work is to look at catalytic platforms, not giving knowledge or even transmitting food as an answer, but providing these catalytic platforms." Such platforms, she explained, could include increasing crop yields to enable the sale of locally-produced food. She described how the WFP is working to make the Millennium Villages into purchase centers



*Left to right:
Ray Chambers, Josette Sheeran,
Ambassador Dho Young-Shim*

"The future of all our work is [providing] catalytic platforms."

*- Josette Sheeran,
World Food Programme*

for the WFP's humanitarian work. For example, in Ruhira (Uganda), the WFP helped to build a grain warehouse and is purchasing grain at market prices from the community for distribution as food aid elsewhere in the region. She said that the village is proud that they're helping people less fortunate. Ms. Sheeran also presented a red cup, a symbol of how little is needed to ensure that no child in the world goes to school hungry, and noted that when "you fill this cup with locally produced food, you're starting to create a value chain and a great business opportunity, and to overcome the malnutrition that is weakening that population."

Ambassador Dho Young-Shim, Chairperson of the UN World Tourism Organization's Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty (UNWTO ST-EP) Foundation which is helping to support the Millennium Villages of Mbola (Tanzania) and Ruhira (Uganda), followed Ms. Sheeran. She told the story of how South Korea grew from an impoverished nation to the 13th largest economy over the course of her lifetime, and how now South Korea is ready to assist in helping others out of poverty and serve as a bridge between developed and developing nations. Ambassador Dho, who has been

appointed as an MDG Advocate by the UN Secretary-General, said the key is changing a country's mindset so that the recipient nation can be a true partner. With Millennium Promise, she said, "It's a wonderful partnership, it's a good partnership because there's always someone who can benefit, but it's not only [the villages] who are benefitting, we ourselves are also benefitting from it."

Mr. Ray Chambers, co-founder of Millennium Promise, UN MDG Advocate and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria, concluded the panel discussion by saying, "We can't achieve the MDGs without true and effective partnerships... [T]hanks to all of you for being such great partners with Millennium Promise and let's walk shoulder to shoulder as partners as we reach 2015 and achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

"Let's walk shoulder to shoulder as partners as we reach 2015 and achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

- Ray Chambers,
Millennium Promise
co-founder

Session IV: The Power of the Promise – Business & Service Delivery Innovations in the MVP

Presenting the final panel of the day, Dr. McArthur introduced three Millennium Village team leaders to talk about some of the exciting business and service-delivery innovations making a positive impact in their communities and helping them to reach the MDGs.

Mr. Bala Yunusa, Operations Manager and Team Leader for the MV of Pampaida (Nigeria), spoke first about agricultural finance. He explained that as crop yields increase year to year, profits also grow, and the community has been able to establish a development fund and set up a 25% equity contribution from a major commercial bank in Nigeria. As a result, the cluster's farmers are now able to obtain agricultural credit, which had previously been nearly impossible for resource-poor farmers to access. He continued, "As we move into the second phase, this we believe is the way forward. We believe the farmers are hard working, but they didn't have access in a sustainable way to finance their agricultural activities. With this initiative we're able to start something this year." Dr. McArthur pointed out that this is the first stage of commercializing agriculture and getting on the second rung on the ladder of economic development.



Left to right:
Millennium Village Team Leaders Bala Yunusa, Niyi Onabanjo and Bocary Kaya with John McArthur

Dr. Bocary Kaya, Team Leader and Science Coordinator for the MV of Tiby (Mali), spoke next about putting communities, especially women, "in the drivers seat of their own development." He explained that by putting development funds in the hands of women farmers, the project is able to achieve three objectives at the same time: 1) Improving the quality of food and nutrition in the villages by adding more vegetables in the diets, 2) Raising the income level for women, and 3) Selling and buying in cooperatives in order to elevate these income levels.

Mr. Niyi Onabanjo, Operations Manager and Team Leader for the MV of Ikaram (Nigeria), spoke about how ICT (information and communications technology) interventions have benefitted the community. Before the MVP, he said, the cluster had only two computer centers with limited service. A survey of the community found that young people

"What's so amazing about this innovation is that control is now in the hands of community members."

- Niyi Onabanjo,
MV Ikaram (Nigeria)

wanted greater access to ICT, and so the project established four ICT and “youth friendly” centers in the cluster, which provide high-speed Internet connectivity through the partnership with Ericsson. “What’s so amazing about this innovation is that control is now in the hands of community members... The MV team is just backstopping technically.”

Following this discussion of ICT, Dr. McArthur mentioned other ICT innovations coming out of the Millennium Villages Project, such as ChildCount+, a mobile-phone based technology that community health workers are using to register all children, a breakthrough toward MDGs 4 and 6 that earned the project’s ICT team leader Matt Berg a place in the 2010 “Time 100” list.

Mr. Matt Berg, Director of ICT for the Millennium Villages Project, said, “Having a platform like the project... is what makes it possible to show what you can do with the mobile phone. So if it wasn’t for this project our team would never have gotten recognition, we’d have never gotten to show what we are able to do.” He continued, “Really the key to all this has been the community health worker teams who wake up every morning to try and provide better health for their communities. They’re at the front line and they’re the ones that do all the work, so all we can do is try to empower them.”

“If it wasn’t for this project our team would never have gotten recognition, we’d have never gotten to show what we are able to do.”

- Matt Berg,
Director of ICT for the MVP

Session V: Fulfilling the Promise

In his closing remarks, Dr. McArthur presented the partners with a challenge and a call to action: “What are the things that we’re thinking about today as hard, too hard, and really needing a solution for these Goals to be achieved? And what are the things that we need to solve in the MVP moving forward over the next five years to make sure the MDGs are achieved?” He continued,



*Dr. John W. McArthur,
CEO of Millennium Promise*

I want to let this be the start of a conversation but also a call to action for each of us... How are we going to make sure these gains are sustained? How are we going to help build and support the next entrepreneurs in the villages?... How are we going to make sure that this becomes the leading effort... of what I think is the last major frontier of Africa’s transformation, which is commercializing smallholder agriculture so they get out of the business of needing help... and can make that transformation... of financing their own destiny completely.

Overall, the 2010 Partners’ Meeting was an afternoon filled with inspiring stories and bold new commitments that are helping to build the momentum needed to propel Millennium Promise further toward supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Showcasing the MDG Conditional Grants Initiative: Bringing Debt Relief Gains to Nigeria's Local Governments

Preceding the Partners' Meeting, a convening of government ministers from Nigeria took place at the Time Warner Center. Nigeria is in the process of undertaking a major MDG-focused nation-wide scale-up of a Millennium Villages-inspired program focusing on 113 of the country's 774 local governments selected through a proposal competition. "Ownership is important to be sure we're not putting on Band-Aids but getting long-term results," pointed out Hajiya Amina Az-Zubair, the Senior Special Adviser to the President of Nigeria on the MDGs. Financed by debt relief funds, this program, called Vision 20:2020, is focusing on health and education across Nigeria, with the ambitious goal of becoming one of the top 20 economies in the world by 2020. The meeting also featured comments by the Honorable Christian Onyebuchi Chukwu, the Nigerian Minister of Health; the Honorable Ruqayyatu A. Rufai, the Nigerian Minister of Education; and the Honorable Dr. Shamsudeen Usman, the Nigerian Minister of National Planning; as well as Professor Jeffery D. Sachs and Dr. John W. McArthur.



Senior Special Adviser Hajiya Amina Az-Zubair

Launch Reception for Connect To Learn

Following the Partners' Meeting, many participants proceeded to the launch reception for Connect To Learn at Grand Central Station's Vanderbilt Hall. The reception included speeches by Irina Bokova, Director of UNESCO; global education advocate Graça Machel; Sunil Mittal of the UN Broadband Commission; António Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; Hans Vestberg, CEO of Ericsson; Jeffrey Sachs; and John McArthur. A video appeal featuring Madonna, Connect To Learn's global spokesperson, also made its debut. The event featured "Powerful Technology for Good," a documentary photo exhibition illustrating the positive impact of mobile broadband around the world, and concluded with a musical performance by Youssou NDour.



Mrs. Graça Machel

MDG Reception

Held in celebration of the Secretary-General's leadership on the MDGs, Millennium Promise co-hosted the MDG Reception with the ONE Campaign, the UN Foundation and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria. The event was broadcast live online and featured speeches by HRH Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Raymond Chambers, Tommy Hilfiger, Bob Geldof and Ted Turner, and was attended by many eminent MDG Advocates, supporters and innovators from around the world.



The evening's speakers, left to right: Jeffrey Sachs, Ted Turner, HRH Queen Rania of Jordan, Ray Chambers, Derrick Ashong, Bob Geldof and Tommy Hilfiger (not shown).

Appendix H. 2010 Media Coverage of the Millennium Villages Project

Media coverage of the Millennium Villages Project in 2010 include the following highlights.
(Link to full article by clicking on URL.)

Find more media coverage @ www.millenniumpromise.org/nws_newshome.php

Follow us on Twitter @ <http://twitter.com/endofpoverty>

Follow us on Facebook @ <http://www.facebook.com/millenniumpromise>

1. The New Times

“Mayange’s Anti-hunger Campaign Commended”

January 2010

(<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/index.php?issue=14138&article=24723>)

2. Modern Ghana

“Dr. Jeffrey Sachs Meets President Mills”

January 15, 2010

(http://www.modernghana.com/news/259201/1/dr-jeffery-sachs-meets-president-mills.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GeneralNews+%28Ghana+News%29)

3. Africa.com

“Why Mwandama Now Laughs at Hunger”

January 18, 2010

(http://www.africanews.com/site/Why_Mwandama_nowLaughs_at_hunger/list_messages/30116)

4. New York Times

“Beekeeping in Koraro”

January 19, 2010

(<http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/19/beekeeping-in-koraro/>)

5. New York Times

“Shower of Aid Brings Flood of Progress”

March 9, 2010

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/09/world/africa/09kenya.html>)

6. Africa News

“Madonna Launches Connect To Learn”

April 7, 2010

(http://www.africanews.com/site/list_message/26865)

7. The Independent (UK)

“David Cameron & Jeffrey Sachs: Educated women hold the key to ending poverty”

April 18, 2010

(https://www2.millenniumpromise.org/pdf/news/The_Independent_David_Cameron_Jeffrey_Sachs.pdf)

8. Time Magazine

"The 2010 Time 100"

April 29, 2010

(<http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/0,28757,1972075,00.html>)

9. Afrique en Ligne

"Ban Says Africa Doesn't Need Charity"

May 31, 2010

(<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/ban-says-africa-doesn%27t-need-charity-2010053150143.html>)

10. Wall Street Journal

"Designer [Tommy Hilfiger] Pledges \$2 Million to Antipoverty Program"

June 23, 2010

(<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704853404575323144176190232.html>)

11. InterAction's Monday Developments

"The MDGs: Reframing the Global Movement to End Extreme Poverty"

July 22, 2010

(http://www.millenniumpromise.org/pdf/news/InterAction_JMcArthur_excerpt.pdf)

12. The East Africa

"Millennium Development Village: A Case Study"

August-September 2010

(<http://mdg.ei.columbia.edu/east/sitefiles/file/East%20African%20on%20Mayange%20-%20Aug%2010.pdf>)

13. AllAfrica.com

"Giving the Millennium Development Goals a Human Face"

September 12, 2010

(<http://allafrica.com/stories/201009120011.html>)

14. Women's Wear Daily (WWD)

"Renzo Rosso Launches Philanthropic Effort"

September 16, 2010

(<http://www.wwd.com/markets-news/renzo-rosso-launches-philanthropic-effort-3277962>)

15. NPR

"UN Convenes to Assess Global Progress"

September 21, 2010

(<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130018505>)

16. Associated Press

"State of the World: Progress in a Small Kenyan Village"

September 21, 2010

(<https://www.facebook.com/notes/ap/state-of-the-world-progress-in-a-small-kenyan-village/10150298801150651>)

17. The Economist

“The Future of Giving to Africa”

October 1, 2010

(http://www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2010/10/millennium_development_goals)

18. The Standard

“Sauri Villages Chases Millennium Goal”

October 12, 2010

(<http://www.millenniumvillages.org/docs/sauri-article.pdf>)

19. New Vision

“Uganda Urged to Develop Mobile Network”

November 9, 2010

(<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/220/737644>)

20. AllAfrica.com

“Africa: New UN Partnership Seeks to Promote Reproductive Health in Africa”

December 13, 2010

(<http://allafrica.com/stories/201012131964.html>)

The New York Times

SAURI JOURNAL

Shower of Aid Brings Flood of Progress



James Hill for The New York Times

Test scores in Sauri have shot up, propelling one local school to second in the region, from 17th.

By **JEFFREY GETTLEMAN**

Published: March 8, 2010

SAURI, Kenya — In the past five years, life in this bushy little patch of western Kenya has improved dramatically.



James Hill for The New York Times

A health worker on her rounds in Sauri. Researchers are asking if there is a way to magnify the results seen here by many times.

Agricultural yields have doubled; child mortality has dropped by 30 percent; school attendance has shot up and so have test scores, putting one local school second in the area, when it used to be ranked 17th; and cellphone ownership (a telltale sign of prosperity in rural Africa) has increased fourfold.

There is a palpable can-do spirit that infuses the muddy lanes and family compounds walled off by the fruity-smelling lantana bushes. People who have grown bananas for generations are learning to breed catfish, and women who used to be terrified of bees are now lulling them to sleep with

smoke and harvesting the honey.

“I used to think, African killer bees, no way,” said Judith Onyango, one of the new honey makers. But now, she added, with visible pride, “I’m an apiarist.”



The New York Times

Sauri was the first of more than 80 projects across Africa

Sauri was the first of what are now more than 80 Millennium Villages across Africa, a showcase project that was the dream child of Jeffrey D. Sachs, the Harvard-trained, Columbia University economist who runs with an A-list crowd: Bono, both Bills (Clinton and Gates), George Soros, Kofi Annan, Ban Ki-moon and others.

His intent was to show that tightly focused, technology-based and relatively straightforward programs on a number of fronts simultaneously — health care, education, job training — could rapidly lift people out of poverty.

In Sauri, at least, it seems to be working. Some of the goals were literally low-hanging fruit, like teaching banana farmers to rotate their crops. Other programs were more sophisticated, like the battle against malaria, which employs cutting-edge mobile technology against a disease that kills more than one million children each year.

The other day, a community health team in Sauri stooped through the doorway of a home of several sick children, said hello to Grandma and got to work. Within minutes, a health worker had pricked a child, sent a text message with the blood results by cellphone to a computer server overseen by a man named Dixon in a town about an hour away and gotten back these instructions: “Child 81665 OKOTH Patrick m/16m has MALARIA. Please provide 1 tab of Coartem (Act) twice a day for three days.”

These small miracles are happening every day now in Sauri, population 65,000. But the question for Mr. Sachs and his team remains: Is this progress, in development-speak, scalable? In other words, is there a way to take a place like this one and magnify the results by 1,000 times or 10,000 times and wipe out poverty across the developing world?

Hundreds of millions of dollars may hinge on the answer, because African nations and Western donors are closely following the data emerging from the Millennium Villages. Mr. Sachs and his team will publish their midterm review later this year, though influential

donors like Mr. Soros are already betting on Mr. Sachs to the tune of several million dollars each year.

Colleagues say Mr. Sachs, 55, has single-handedly done more for foreign aid than just about anybody in recent years. "We need Jeff," said Nancy Birdsall, president of the Center for Global Development, based in Washington. "His combination of passion and analytic acuity has been really important for development."

But there are Sachs detractors. One of the most dogged is William Easterly, a former World Bank economist and author of "The White Man's Burden," a book that critiques aid projects.

Mr. Easterly argues that the Millennium approach would not work on a bigger scale because if expanded, "it immediately runs into the problems we've all been talking about: corruption, bad leadership, ethnic politics."

He said, "Sachs is essentially trying to create an island of success in a sea of failure, and maybe he's done that, but it doesn't address the sea of failure."

Mr. Easterly and others have criticized Mr. Sachs as not paying enough attention to bigger-picture issues like governance and corruption, which have stymied some of the best-intentioned and best-financed aid projects.

For example, one can easily picture what would happen in Kenya, where corruption is essentially a national pastime, if there were a free, donor-supported fertilizer program for the entire nation. The fertilizer would very likely never reach its intended target and would disappear like the national grain reserves that were plundered during a famine in 2008, or the billions of dollars of foreign aid that have ended up in the pockets of Kenyan politicians, according to numerous reports by human rights groups and financial auditors.

Mr. Sachs says he is the first to admit that he cannot do it all.

In Kenya, he says, to eradicate poverty nationwide, the country's leaders would need to improve infrastructure and urban industries substantially.

"What we're focusing on," he said, "is about one-third of the problem."

Another criticism is that Mr. Sachs is not evaluating his programs in a rigorous, scientific way. Many aid experts have suggested that the only way to really know if the Millennium

Villages are worth the expense (around \$110 per capita, per year) is to collect data from similar “control” villages that are receiving no help.

“No one would dream of ‘scaling up’ the use of a new pharmaceutical in the U.S. without rigorous evidence comparing people who got the medicine to people who did not,” said Michael Clemens, a research fellow at the Center for Global Development.

But Mr. Sachs says that “Millennium Villages don’t advance the way that one tests a new pill.”

Beyond that, he does not like the idea of going into a village, subjecting poor people to a battery of questions and then leaving them empty-handed, though other aid specialists have said that studying poor people without giving them anything in return is done all the time.

“It pains me to be in a village that doesn’t have bed nets” to protect against malaria-carrying mosquitoes, he said, adding that some comparison studies were under way.

It also pains him how out of touch the American public seems.

“The mood in the country right now is very anti-aid, and they don’t connect the dots very well,” he said, before launching into a discussion about the links between poverty and terrorism.

A few years ago, Mr. Sachs said, he came back from Yemen, which has recently become a haven for Al Qaeda, and spoke to American officials about how the country was “broken by hunger, water-stress, disease and poverty” and “sliding closer to the cliff.”

“I told our government all about this,” he said. “But all I got back was a blank stare.”

A version of this article appeared in print on March 9, 2010, on page A9 of the New York edition.



The 2010 TIME 100

In our annual TIME 100 issue we name the people who most affect our world

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Matt Berg

By KATRIN VERCLAS Thursday, Apr. 29, 2010

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ROBERT WRIGHT FOR TIME

Matt Berg looks very calm for a man who will have 100,000 children to look after. That might be because of his humble cell phone.

Berg, 32, is leading the push to track disease in Africa with 160-character text messages, or SMS. As technology director for ChildCount+, he helps oversee a network of community-health workers who regularly examine local children, treat their ills and then text back the status of every sick child they find. This allows for improved health monitoring, faster interventions and better immunization and treatment campaigns.

ChildCount+ has been in existence for only nine months and has already reported more than 20,000 nutrition screenings, 500 cases of malnutrition and 2,000 of malaria. Berg and his colleagues are now scaling up to monitor more than 100,000 children under 5.

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The use of technology in Africa has long been Berg's passion, and he's made it his mission to nurture homegrown talent too. He helped establish the Rural Technology Lab in Mali, so local students can take over the job of ensuring their communities' health. Remarkable as Berg's work is, its greatest achievement will come when he's no longer the one doing it.

Verclas is a co-founder of [MobileActive.org](#)

NY HEARD & SCENE | JUNE 23, 2010

Designer Pledges \$2 Million to Antipoverty Program

By SHELLY BANJO

Designer Tommy Hilfiger is looking to bring the idea of ending global poverty into fashion.

On Wednesday, he will announce the formal launch of a five-year campaign to support Millennium Promise, a nonprofit founded by former private-equity financier Ray Chambers and economist Jeffrey Sachs in 2005 to help achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to halve extreme poverty by 2015.



TOMMY HILFIGER

Earlier this month, Mr. Hilfiger visited Ruhiira, a rural community of 55,000 people in Uganda, where Millennium Village has worked since 2006.

"I never expected poverty to be so extreme," Mr. Hilfiger says. "We saw firsthand how Millennium Village helps communities lift themselves out of poverty."

Millennium Village uses community-led, science-based approaches to fight poverty. It seeks to address a broad spectrum of needs—from teaching farmers how to improve crop yields to providing access to clean water.

Renzo Rosso Launches Philanthropic Effort

by DAVID LIPKE

Posted THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

From WWD ISSUE 09/16/2010

WWD



Renzo Rosso, founder of Diesel and its holding company, Only the Brave Srl, has been named a Global Leader by Millennium Promise, a group seeking to halve extreme poverty around the world by 2015.

A key element of Rosso's role is Only the Brave Foundation's sponsorship of the village of Dioro, which is in the African nation of Mali and has a population of 20,000. In addition to providing funding for agriculture, health and education in Dioro, Rosso will serve as an ambassador for Millennium Promise, encouraging corporations and young people to get involved in its programs. Millennium Promise was founded in 2005 by economist Jeffrey Sachs and businessman and philanthropist Ray Chambers.

The Only the Brave Foundation on Wednesday started an interactive Web site, otbfoundation.org, which allows users to learn about Dioro and its people, provides information on Millennium Development Goals and advises how to help. It also presents an overview of the foundation's philanthropic efforts in Italy and elsewhere.

Rosso is Millennium Promise's second Global Leader, joining Tommy Hilfiger in that designation. Last year, Hilfiger's corporate foundation pledged \$2 million for Millennium Promise, and in June launched a five-year campaign to support the organization. Hilfiger's efforts focus on



Africa

Baobab

Millennium Development Goals The future of giving to Africa

Oct 1st 2010, 11:46 by J.L. | NAIROBI and NEW YORK

0 Like 72

JOHN MCARTHUR is the brain behind the brain of Professor Jeffrey Sachs. Mr McArthur heads [Millennium Promise](http://www.millenniumpromise.org/) (<http://www.millenniumpromise.org/>), the philanthropic arm that oversees Mr Sachs's oft-praised and much-criticised [Millennium Villages](http://www.millenniumvillages.org/) (<http://www.millenniumvillages.org/>). Week in, week out, he tries to persuade companies and rich individuals to underwrite some of the running costs of the villages. There are 80 of them, in 10 countries. Mr Sachs conceived the villages as a solution to the end of rural poverty in Africa. A \$1.5m* disbursement to each village, over five years, in a range of projects, was meant to germinate success in surrounding communities. Many of the villages have been successful, lessons have been learned, but they have not yet been scaled up to a point of significance.

Mr McArthur, who is a strategist and academic as well as a fundraiser, represents the pro-aid school of thought, which argues that aid to poor countries has been insufficient and poorly spent. Sceptics say projects like the Millennium Villages hog too much money and dialogue for too little in return. For a typical exchange between the two sides, listen [here](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130018505) (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130018505>). Baobab talked to Mr McArthur about aid to Africa and the continent's prospects.

Baobab: Tell us about Millennium Promise. What are your ambitions? What have you achieved so far?

John McArthur: Millennium Promise was established in 2005 as a charity dedicated to helping achieve the [Millennium Development Goals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/) (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>). We focus on scalable models that can help the poorest communities escape extreme poverty, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Our flagship initiative is the Millennium Villages project, which shows how a targeted and integrated set of low-cost practical investments can help tackle the challenges of agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, gender equality and business development. We pursue the project through a partnership with the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the United Nations Development Program. Our recent report, [Harvests of Rural Development](http://www.millenniumpromise.org/pdf/MVP_Midterm_Report.pdf) (http://www.millenniumpromise.org/pdf/MVP_Midterm_Report.pdf), showed breakthrough results, including three-fold increases in maize yields and access to drinking water, a 30% reduction in child stunting, and a more than a 50% reduction in malaria parasitemia.

Millennium Promise has also helped to launch new initiatives focused on specific issues. For example, we incubated Malaria No More, a partnership aiming to end malaria deaths by 2015. More recently we have launched Connect To Learn, a partnership with the Earth Institute, Ericsson and [the pop star] Madonna, that focuses on dramatically expanding access to secondary education, especially for girls, while leveraging modern communications technology to improve the quality of that education.

Baobab: The [Millennium Development Goals jamboree](http://www.economist.com/node/17090934) (<http://www.economist.com/node/17090934>) in New York City last week passed off last week with little fanfare. There is clearly a lack of political will in many rich countries to meet their aid commitments to Africa. Do we have any chance of realistically meeting the MDGs by 2015?

JM: One of the most remarkable things about the aid discussion is how much it varies from country to country. The Cameron government's commitment to maintaining the UK's aid trajectory reflects inspired political leadership alongside a strong commitment to aid among the British public. South Korea became an official OECD donor this year and is highly committed to doing more. On the other hand, the situation is tough in Italy, France and Germany, which have fallen so far behind on their promises for 2010, with little internal consequence.

Many low-income countries are already on track to achieve individual MDGs, so the key is to make sure they have the resources available to achieve all the MDGs. The MDGs require much more than money, but they cannot be achieved in low-income countries without adequate money since the nurses, medicines, bednets, fertiliser bags, safe water points and so forth all come with a price tag attached. As long as rich-country aid budgets are stuck at around 0.3% of national income, there won't be enough resources available for every developing country to achieve all the MDGs—even setting aside countries in conflict or which are governance disasters.

Baobab: It seems to me that rural Africa has to go hi-tech and low-tech, avoiding consumptive middle technologies. Can you tell us a few of the technologies for African villages you are most excited about.

JM: I'm most excited about two types of technology. One is rapid medical diagnostics. I was recently at a clinic in rural Tanzania and watched a community health worker with a primary school education use a pin prick method to test a child's blood for malaria within 15 minutes. The ability to provide simple, low-cost diagnosis and treatment protocols offers transformational opportunities for rural health service scale-up. The other big technology is mobile connectivity, since it allows all sorts of "leapfrogging" across all sectors. Mobile phones are connecting markets, expanding access to banking systems, and overhauling the way health services can be delivered in the rural areas where most Africans live. Wireless-enabled computers will undoubtedly soon start to penetrate classrooms in the same previously remote areas. I anticipate we will soon see agricultural support services start to leverage mobile technology much more as well.

Baobab: Where do you stand on the aid debate? Do you accept any of the arguments put forward by sceptics, to the effect that in some cases aid creates dependencies that damage countries more than they help them?

JM: It is a distraction to debate if aid is good or bad. It is crucial to focus on where large-scale aid has worked, why it has worked, and how those lessons of success can be scaled across the board. I think there are actually two aid debates, one that aims at provoking public attention and one that aims at solving practical problems. The public debates are a bit mysterious because they typically reward hyperbole and misframe issues and people as if they represent polar opposites. The practical debates typically have more convergence. Most people agree that aid systems should be focused on scaling known technologies, with measurable results backed by clear points of accountability.

Baobab: To what extent do you think Africa will suffer the effects of climate change? Is it something we should be preparing for?

JM: The decline in precipitation in the Sahel since the 1970s is one of the world's most significant changes in climate patterns. It is of major consequence, since major drops in precipitation and increases in temperature are clearly linked to conflict—likely due to the social strain caused by crop failures. A water strategy for irrigation and livelihoods, including insurance systems, has to be part of any long-term view, especially for dry bits of Africa.

Baobab: Africa has 1 billion people, half of them children. It is likely to have 2 billion before 2050. What are the political risks associated with this? In light of such rapid growth, should the aid industry be displaying a greater sense of urgency?

JM: The worst political risks are that we have an additional billion people living in places of extreme environmental and economic strain, and these conditions can be ingredients for conflict, locally and beyond. The demographic challenge remains one of the world's least appreciated. The underlying demographic momentum is a deep trend, but the strains can still be curtailed through efforts to support a voluntary reduction in fertility rates around the world, including through reductions in child mortality and increases in girls' education. Fortunately there are countless pioneering Africa professionals who are helping to make the best-case scenario possible.

Baobab: Finally, can you give us some sense of your best and worst case scenarios for Africa in the medium term?

JM: A best case includes child mortality dropping from 1 in 8 to 1 in 30, secondary education rates soaring, core economic infrastructure taking hold, and an African Green Revolution taking off in agricultural productivity across the continent, which underpins transformational growth in agribusiness, services, and manufacturing, backed by a competitive real exchange rate. A majority of African countries can escape the need for foreign aid within a generation. A worst case includes economic stagnation amidst ongoing disease burden and extraordinary demographic and environmental pressures. I think the best case scenario is doable, and we all want to see it.

Related item: read *The Economist's* take on the [Millennium Development Goals](http://www.economist.com/node/17090934) (<http://www.economist.com/node/17090934>) .

* Correction: the original figure given of \$5m was spread over three years in installments of \$1.5m. Sorry.



Africa: New UN Partnership Seeks to Promote Reproductive Health in Africa

13 December 2010

The United Nations has teamed up with the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) to promote universal access to reproductive health in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing mainly on young mothers.

The partnership between the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and MVP will use the Project's primary health-care provision strategy and the UN agency's expertise to promote reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health.

The MVP initiative seeks to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - eight anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline - in African countries within five years through community-led development.

Infant mortality rates are almost double among women who have children before the age of 20, compared to mothers in other age groups, a factor that makes it necessary to improve maternal and child health by providing voluntary family planning, medical supplies, training and education among younger women.

The UNFPA-MVP partnership will help local governments to provide supplies to clinics and hospitals in Millennium Village clusters. It will also identify trainers for health personnel.

"We look forward to joining forces with the Millennium Villages Project to widen the availability of sexual and reproductive health services - including family planning, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and prenatal and postnatal care - across sub-Saharan Africa," said UNFPA's Executive Director, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid.

"This partnership will go a long way in saving the lives of more mothers, and allowing more families to enjoy a life of prosperity and good health," she added.

Jeffrey Sachs, the Director of the Earth Institute, said: "Many programmes such as those in the Millennium Villages show that scaling up primary health systems in rural and remote areas plays a decisive role in reducing child and maternal mortality.

"It is partnerships like these that will make a difference and enable us to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 in the toughest parts of Africa," Mr. Sachs added.

MVP, a partnership between the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Millennium Promise, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and governments, provides a new approach to fighting poverty.

Currently covering approximately 500,000 people, the Project has shown that an integrated package of development interventions, supported by a modest financial investment, about \$110 per person annually over 5 to 10 years, can facilitate the achievement of the MDGs.

Appendix I. MVP Data in Peer-reviewed Journals in 2010

MVP data appeared in a number of peer-reviewed journals in 2010. Highlights include the following.
(Link to full article by clicking on URL.)

1. Studies in Health Technology and Informatics

“Combining Vital Events Registration, Verbal Autopsy and Electronic Medical Records in Rural Ghana for Improved Health Services Delivery”

By Seth Ohemeng-Dappaah, *et al.*

(<http://booksonline.iospress.nl/Content/View.aspx?piid=17400>)

2. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

“Identifying Potential Synergies and Trade-offs for Meeting Food Security and Climate Change Objectives in sub-Saharan Africa”

By Cheryl Palm, *et al.*

March 2010

(<http://www.millenniumvillages.org/docs/resources/PNAS-2010-Palm-0912248107.pdf>)

3. Nature Geoscience

“Tripling Crop Yields in Tropical Africa”

By Pedro Sanchez, *et al.*

May 2010

(http://www.millenniumvillages.org/docs/resources/Tripling_yields_Africa-Nature_May_2010.pdf)

4. Energy for Sustainable Development

“Field Testing and Survey Evaluation of Household Biomass Cookstoves in Rural sub-Saharan Africa” and “Testing Institutional Biomass Cookstoves in Rural Kenyan Schools for the Millennium Villages Project”

By Edwin Adkins, *et al.*

July 2010

(http://www.me.columbia.edu/fac-bios/modi/resources/Adkins_HHstovepaper_9-28-10.pdf)

(http://www.millenniumvillages.org/docs/resources/Adkins_ESD_InstitutionalBiomassStovePaper.pdf)

5. Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes

“High Rates of AIDS-related Mortality Among Older Adults in Rural Kenya”

By Joel Negin, *et al.*

October 1, 2010

(<http://www.millenniumvillages.org/docs/resources/2010%20Negin%20et%20al%20High%20rates%20of%20AIDS-related%20mortality%20-%20JAIDS.pdf>)

6. Advances in Agronomy

“The African Green Revolution: Results from the Millennium Villages Project”

By Generose Nziguheba, *et al.*

October 2010

(<http://www.millenniumvillages.org/docs/Nziguheba-agronomy.pdf>)