

## The Millennium Development Goals









“Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made, and can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.”

- Nelson Mandela



The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 191 member countries of the United Nations, including Australia, during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.

“We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanising conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected” - Millennium Declaration 2000

1.  **END POVERTY & HUNGER**
2.  **ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL EDUCATION**
3.  **PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY**
4.  **IMPROVE CHILD HEALTH**
5.  **IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**
6.  **COMBAT HIV/AIDS & OTHER DISEASES**
7.  **ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**
8.  **DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP**

## The PLEDGE

“We are standing now with millions around the world on this symbolic day, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, to show our commitment to the fight against extreme poverty and inequality. We are standing because we refuse to accept more excuses in a world where 50,000 people die every day as a result of extreme poverty and the gap between rich and poor is getting wider.

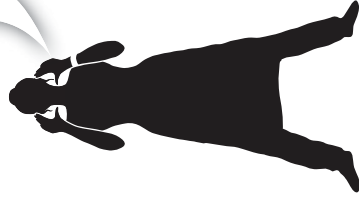
We are standing because we want our leaders to honour their promises to meet the Millennium Development Goals – and we ask them to exceed these goals.

We join in solidarity with people from hundreds of countries to say:

To the leaders of the wealthy countries – We urge you to keep your promises on poverty – debt cancellation, more and better aid, trade justice and gender equality. We urge you to commit yourselves to tackling climate change – to reach a fair and equitable global agreement that dramatically reduces the impacts of climate change on the poorest of the world.

To the leaders of poorer countries – make it your first responsibility to save the lives of your poorest citizens. We ask you to tackle inequality, to be accountable to your people, to govern fairly and justly, to fight corruption and to fulfil human rights.

We are asking not for charity but for justice. We are millions of voices standing in solidarity to say, no more excuses - end poverty now. //



Micah Challenge



Australian Government  
AusAID

**MAKE POVERTY HISTORY**

# STAND UP TAKE ACTION

**A guide on how to Stand Up  
in your church.**



**END POVERTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**18 OCTOBER 2009**



**MAKE POVERTY HISTORY**

**END POVERTY  
2015**  
millennium campaign

# What is Stand Up?



Stand Up is the world's largest mobilisation.

It is a worldwide initiative seeking to end poverty, address its causes and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In 2008, 117 million people worldwide joined together through Stand Up (a Guinness World Record), including over 207,000 Australians who participated in Stand Up events around the country. The 2008 Stand Up participation led to direct action and policy changes in many developing countries, where leaders saw that people in their country were passionate about ending poverty. However, many more steps need to be taken.

This year join us as more and more people come together to urge world leaders to keep their promises and do their fair share to end poverty and climate change.

You can Stand Up in your school, university, workplace, church or community group to add your voice to the growing worldwide movement that will not remain seated in the face of poverty.



# Why Stand Up?

Every day over 50,000 people die of easily preventable and treatable causes. Millions of people all over the world are living in extreme poverty. We can either stand-by and watch or stand up, show that we care and make a difference.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), agreed in 2000 by 191 heads of government, set out the pathway and promises of all to reach poverty reduction targets by 2015. Progress towards the MDGs is slowing and will slow even more unless climate change is also urgently addressed.

This October, join with millions calling on world leaders to take urgent action towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

# How to Stand Up in your church

Stand Up is a simple yet powerful idea.

Get your church, school or group active with you by taking part in Stand Up together as part of the huge global movement to eradicate poverty. It's an easy starting point for people to encourage our leaders to give more and better aid and tackle climate change in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

## Here's how to organise a Stand Up event:

### Plan a time

Talk to your church leaders/school teachers/group organisers to plan a time to 'Stand Up' between Friday October 16 and Sunday October 18 – as part of your youth group, mother's group, church service or prayer meetings.

### Register your event

Register your event at: [www.standupagainstopoverty.com.au](http://www.standupagainstopoverty.com.au)

### Remember the poor

During the service, you may like to have a time of reflection or prayer for those who live in poverty everyday. The following page has a prayer that focuses specifically on climate change and environmental degradation that could be read out, or you can write your own.

### At the event

- Stand up, read the pledge together, and count the number of people participating.
- Pray for the poor, and for world leaders going to the Copenhagen meetings using the sample prayer in this kit.

### Extra ideas

- Have someone speak about how the MDGs are relevant to your church group and suggest further actions to take. Ideas on the Stand Up website.
- Take a photo of your event and send it to your MP with a personal note.
- Make a commitment as a group to take further action.

### Make sure your Stand Up counts!

After your event submit your participant numbers by email to [info@standupagainstopoverty.com.au](mailto:info@standupagainstopoverty.com.au) (no later than 6pm EST Monday 19 October 2009) to make sure your numbers are included in the Guinness World Record attempt.

# A prayer to use during your event

Lord God,



We celebrate you who offers healing and hope - spiritual, physical, emotional and social healing for all people.

We thank you for the example of Jesus who appreciated and valued the poor and those who were at the edges of society.

- Be with the hungry and homeless who cry out to you.
- Be with parents who work long hard hours toiling for their families. Give them rest.
- Be with those who are ill and tired from overwork and disease. Restore them to health.
- Be with mums and dads who dream that life will be better for their children. May their hopes not be in vain.
- Be with all who live fearfully because of violence and war. Protect them.

Help us to work for justice for the most vulnerable ones in the world.

Help us to stand up and speak out for the defenceless.

In the name of Jesus, our example and our Saviour,

Amen.

# Ideas to make your event a success

- Create a notice for your church bulletin advising of the upcoming stand up action
- Create your own Stand Up and take action against poverty prayer
- Create a list of bible passages, prayers for use during Stand Up

For more information, please visit the Stand Up website: [www.standupagainstopoverty.com.au](http://www.standupagainstopoverty.com.au)